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FACULTY/STAFF N • E • W • S

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New Waller County Community Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony set for December 14, 1998

By BRYAN H. BARROWS

In a rural setting such as Waller County, community centers are not exactly a dime a dozen. It is therefore patently important that Prairie View A&M University, the Waller County Judge and Commissioner's Court have announced a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new county community center. Beginning at 10:00 a.m., Monday, December 14, the inaugural ceremony will mark the completion of a dream held by many in the Waller County area for common-ground.

Announcing the ceremony, President Dr. Charles A. Hines declared, "The State of Texas, Texas A&M University System and Prairie View A&M University proudly present the completion of an idea, a quest, and a commitment to serve all, embodied in the Waller County Community Center. From this center will flow ideas and energy to make Waller County a great place to meet, live and work," said the PVAMU president.

The new community center is located at Loop 1098 (next to the U.S. Post Office) in Prairie View, Texas. Officials praise the fact that the new community is easily accessible to Waller County residents by taking University Blvd. exit off Highway #290 to Loop 1098.

Project architect, Ron Kent, said, "A community center needs to do several things. It is a shelter where people can come anytime to visit with their neighbors, exchange ideas, plan events



New Waller County Community Center

and have positive interaction." He further commented, "This building is flexible in that meeting spaces can easily flow from inside to outside by merely opening the atrium doors. The plaza area-- with a view of the campus creek and future park-- is well shaded, has access to craft rooms and the kitchen, and is a great place to meet friends."

The center has a meeting area that can expand to accommodate over three hundred persons with overflow areas on the adjacent plaza. PVAMU professor of Architecture, Marshall Brown, whose students contributed to the project illustrated, "The functions of the building are differentiated through separate volumes and separate size structural framing to accommodate each space." He believes the center, "...will service the community well."

During cooler months, the library has a fireplace for intimate enjoyment. As Ron Kent says, "A center also needs to be a community landmark--a building that is creative, colorful and fun to visit."

Project director and dean of

the PVAMU School of Architecture, Dr. Ikhlas Sabouni commented that "This project was initially conceived as a partnership endeavor with PVAMU, HUD (in Washington, D.C.) and the surrounding communities. We were trying to create a center that would become a gathering place for the people of these communities." According to Dr. Sabouni, the center would be a place for seminars, workshops and clinics--providing instructional endeavors in which the PVAMU faculty could participate and become involved in enhancing the community.

Waller County Commissioner and PVAMU Governmental Affairs Officer, Frank D. Jackson said, "Our community center will enable excellent opportunities for collaboration and partnering between the Community and the University." He further said, "It will keep us all on the cutting-edge of new technologies, strategies and ideas believed necessary for growing the type of world we want in the 21st Century".

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PVAMU Commencement Nears

Prairie View A&M University graduating seniors don't have long to wait now because graduation day is just around the corner. In fact, Commencement is scheduled to be held Saturday, December 12, at 10:30 a.m., in the William "Billy" Nicks, HPE Building on campus. The public is invited to attend the commencement activities.

Friday, December 11, at 8:30 a.m., prospective graduates should gather at the Billy Nicks Building for Commencement Rehearsal. All prospective graduates are urged to attend.

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Special Agent Don Clark

FBI Special Agent, Don Clark to be Commencement Speaker

Don Clark, Special Agent in Charge for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), will be the featured speaker for Winter Commencement at PVAMU, December 12.

A native Texan, Clark received a B.S. degree in engineering and a regular Army commission as a 2nd Lieutenant from Prairie View A&M University, in 1967. He attended Long Island University and completed course work for an M.S. degree in Public Administration and graduated from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government for Senior Managers in Government.

Lt. Clark served in the U.S. Army from May, 1967, to November, 1976, attaining a rank of captain in the Infantry. In 1973, he was selected by the Chief of Staff of the Army to command an Airborne Ranger Company in a newly created ranger battalion where he served prior to joining the FBI.

Mr. Clark entered duty as a Special Agent of the FBI in 1976, and has served in Miami; New York; Los Angeles; Newark; San Antonio and Washington, D.C. He has had assignments as an investigative agent

and manager in the FBI including foreign counterintelligence, counterterrorism, violent crimes, organized crime/drugs and other FBI investigative programs. During the Iranian Hostage Crisis, in 1979, Clark supervised the Iranian Terrorism Investigation and handled the movement of the Shah of Iran from New York City, to San Antonio, Texas. In 1985, Mr. Clark played a key role in the supervision of the terrorist attack aboard the Achille Lauro ship which claimed the life of passenger Leon Klinghoffer. In 1987, he returned to Washington, D.C., where he served on the investigative team assigned to investigate the Iran-Contra Affair.

Challenging assignments didn't end there as Clark was assigned to the New York FBI Office to serve as Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Criminal Division where he was in charge of the Violent Crimes Program. In 1993, Don Clark was assigned to manage the World Trade Center Bombing Investigation, and in 1994, he managed all counterterrorism investigations in the New York Office. Later, he was

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FBI Special Agent, Don Clark to be Commencement Speaker

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named Special Agent in Charge of the New York Office.

Moving in 1994, to San Antonio, Texas, he was Special Agent in Charge of the San Antonio FBI Division and while serving in that capacity, he was detailed to serve as one of the Special Agents in Charge of the Freeman Crisis in Jordan, Montana. And, he was appointed by FBI Director Freeh, as Special Agent in Charge of the Houston Division (one of the FBI's Top Ten Field Divisions).

Don Clark is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. He has attended the FBI's Executive Development Institute, and is a SWAT member, bombing instructor and police training instructor. The veteran FBI man has numerous achievements, including having been high school class valedictorian, has been elected to Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities, was a Distinguished Military graduate (receiving a regular Army commission) and has many awards of recognition from both the Army and the FBI. The most notable are two Bronze Stars for Bravery while serving in Viet Nam and the FBI Medal for Meritorious Achievement during law enforcement action.

Mr. Clark is married, has two daughters, two stepdaughters and a grandson. He is an avid runner and enjoys golf. Clark has dedicated his accomplishments to his grandfather and mother and has committed himself to the development of excellence in our youth.

KPVU Poised for 21st Century With General Manager Larry Coleman at the Helm

Larry Coleman can remember it as if it were yesterday when KPVU-FM officially signed on the air (Thanksgiving Day, 1981), seventeen years ago. As a PVAMU graduate student, Coleman was at the controls the day the station first signed on the air. "It was a very exciting moment for the entire university, as well as the community, who gave their all out support," Coleman said.

Now, seventeen years later, KPVU still captivates its listeners with a blend of contemporary jazz, gospel, soft soul, blues, reggae and oldies interspersed with news (local and National Public Radio), as well as educational and informational programs.

Under Coleman's direction (he has been general manager since March '98), the station's audience has changed dramatically, much in part due to a change in the music format which is primarily smooth jazz. KPVU's audience is 73% African American, 11% non-Black or Hispanic, and 16% ethnicity not ascertained, according to the Arbitron Company Audigraphics Audience Research Analysis data (October '97). Sixty-three percent of KPVU FM listeners are female.

Major support for KPVU comes from PVAMU, as well as its affiliation with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Public Radio. Coleman also credits KPVU listeners for their loyalty and contributions (donations, volunteerism, etc.) and the community/business sector for their support. "We're getting a lot of calls and letters of support for our efforts and it's a good feeling," Coleman commented.

The general manager is proud of KPVU's economic stability, which Coleman attributes to continued community support, increased sales underwriting, Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) funding and



(L-R) Neitra Blair, PV student; Larry Coleman, General Manager; Dave Cassels, Chief Engineer; Olivia Siner, Promotions/Development.

sound business decisions. He also is beholden to his staff for making his transition to general manager a lot easier. He adds, "We're working as a team and the results are reflected in our achievements."

According to Coleman, KPVU has applied for a power increase from 10,000 watts to 50,000 watts in an effort to reach more listeners and businesses, as well as the PVAMU family. Plans are also underway to produce a new CPB funded public affairs program for national distribution.

KPVU has state-of-the-art equipment featuring digital audio studios, computerized music programming, advanced production/training facilities, satellite (downlink) capabilities and access to the Internet.

Licensed to Prairie View A&M University, KPVU serves as a training laboratory for students interested in careers related to the radio industry. Community volunteers are also welcome to participate.

For further information, call (409) 857-4511 or write: KPVU-FM, P.O. Box 156, Prairie View, Texas 77446.

Local Educator receives National Award to Study in Laboratory of University of Texas Medical School at Houston Scientist

E. Gloria C. Regisford, Ph.D. of Prairie View A&M University was selected to work and study in the laboratory of Barbara M. Sanborn, Ph.D. at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology during the summer of 1998. This was one of five Visiting Professorships awarded nationally by the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Minorities Affairs Committee (MAC).

The ASCB, with the financial support of the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program of the National Institute for General Medical Studies of the National Institutes of Health, sponsors this science education partnership to acquaint professors of science with the latest research tools and techniques, help them build a network with com-

munity scientists and institutions, and bring the excitement of research science into the classroom. This program recognizes and promotes the concept that professional scientific societies and their member scientists have a significant role to play in the improvement of science education through providing professors of science with opportunities to enhance their science research experiences, coupled with follow-up support.

Dr. Regisford's goals were to develop a research project that covers the areas of cell biology and reproductive physiology. She was aiming to determine the role of Heparin Interacting Protein (HIP) in the testis, using biochemical and molecular biological techniques. Dr. Regisford planned to continue this research at Prairie View A&M University and involve her students in learning sci-

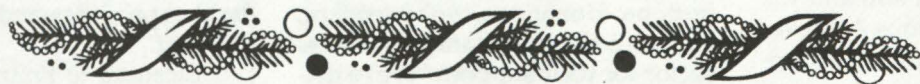
entific research skills. These students would have the opportunity to participate in joint research projects involving Dr. Sanborn's laboratory.

To be eligible for the ASCBMAC Visiting Professorship Program, professor and member scientist were required to plan and submit a research project together and submit it with a follow up plan for the academic year. According to ASCBMAC member Dr. Maria Elena Zavala, each application was scored in a variety of categories: the proposed research and the quality of planned interactions for the professor; the intended relationship between professor and sponsoring lab in the future; benefit to teaching; the qualifications of researcher and professor, and the potential impact on minorities and schools with high minority enrollment.

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Happy Holidays

Prairie View A&M University



Faculty and Staff

