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## Faculty & Staff News - December 1999-January 2000

Prairie View A&M University

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# FACULTY/STAFF N • E • W • S

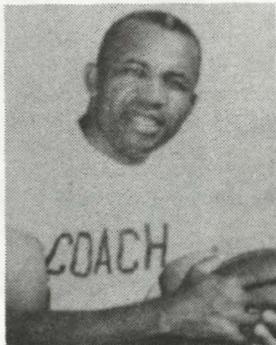
A Monthly Publication for Prairie View A&M University  
"A Member of the Texas A&M University System"

VOL. 3 NO. 8

DEC/JAN, 2000



## Legendary PVAMU Physician Dr. Emery R. Owens Passes



## Winningest PVAMU Coach William J. "Billy" Nicks Dies



## Former Athletics Director Dr. George Stafford Expires

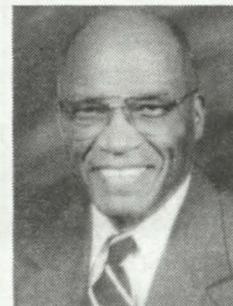
## Dr. Charles A. Hines Receives BUFT Award

President, Dr. Charles A. Hines was honored for his development efforts at PVAMU by Black United Fund of Texas, October 16. Dr. Hines received his award at the organization's 10th Evening of African American Excellence held at the Marriott West Loop.

President Hines was duely awarded the "Walter Bremond Achieving Against the Odds" prize for the massive building program he has mounted at PVAMU in the last four years.

The PVAMU president received his award before a capacity crowd, as fifteen men and women from throughout the US were honored in nine select categories. Participants were treated to dinner, dancing and awards.

PVAMU math professor, Dr. Freddie Frazier, was honored with the Garvey-Woodson Empowerment Award for teaching excellence. He was also spotlighted for a television documentary which is running nationally, *The Man From Woodville*.



Dr. Charles A. Hines, Pres.

## Communications Students and Faculty Join Hands to Help Others

Faculty and students from the Language and Communications Department have joined hands to help fund a special program designed to assist students who are having difficulty buying books for school.

Faculty members assisting in the joint effort were Dr. Sharon Honore, Jacqueline Davis, Mattye Smith and Bryan Barrows.

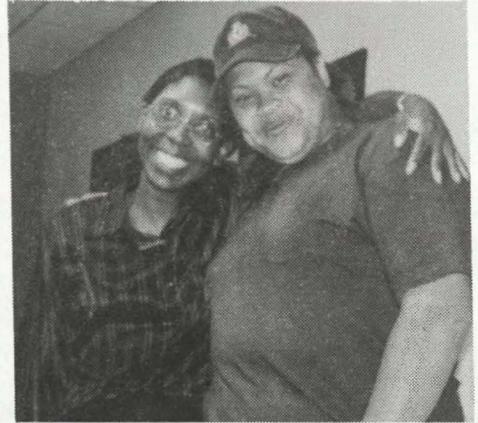
Students identified by faculty within the Department of Language and Communications will be eligible to receive small gift certificates which they can use to buy needed books. The criteria to be used to qualify students for the one time offering will be made available to students at a later date.

Tuesday evening, November 23, faculty and students held a Pre-Thanksgiving Giveathon with turkey, dressing and all the trimmings as they sought to solicit small donations to the book supply effort.

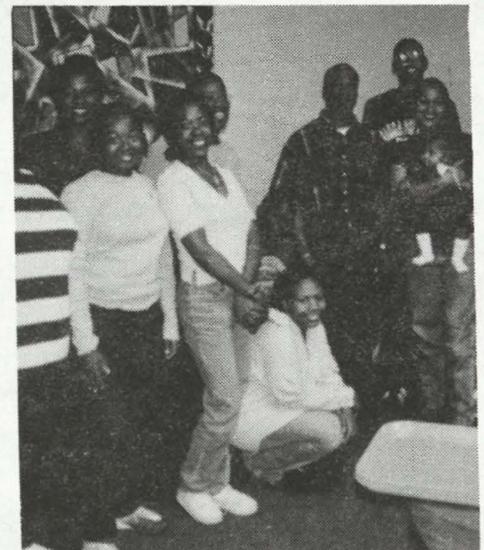
Dr. Sharon Honore, department head, said, "The efforts of our students and faculty in caring for others bring credit to our department, the College of Arts and Sciences and the university in general."

Students from Bryan Barrows' three speech communications classes were the primary initiators of the dinner and the volunteer effort to help others

Anyone who would like to contribute to the book fund should contact Dr. Sharon Honore at ext. 2229 or visit the Communications Office in Hilliard Hall on campus.



Miss Jacqueline Davis  
Miss Sabrina Woods



PVAMU students and family members enjoyed a feast to remember Nov. 23, 1999

### Faculty Staff News

**PUBLISHER**

Dr. Charles A. Hines

**EDITOR**

Bryan H. Barrows, III

*"Making A Difference"*

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KPVU FM Radio

91.3

Partners In Progress

Thursday at

10:00 a.m.

Partners In Progress

**Thanksgiving**

**Feast**

**Provides**

**Helping Hand**

**for**

**Others!**

# PVAMU News Briefs

## Dark of the Moon

### Wins for Charles Gilpin Players

Prairie View A&M University's Charles Gilpin Players have found a wonderful way to celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> year of theatrical excellence. November 4, the renowned theatre team won eleven top honors at the American College Theatre Festival, held at San Jacinto College Central (in Pasadena, Texas), in 13 categories.

The Charles Gilpin Players presented **Dark of the Moon**, as they competed against colleges and universities as far away as Abilene Christian University and as near as North Harris College (Houston). C. Lee Turner, director of the Charles Gilpin Players, has made a point of yearly producing winners at the Texas State Festival II of the American College Theatre Festival. This latest win is another link in the long chain of theatrical excellence which Turner has fostered at PVAMU.

(Award List Below)

Critic's Choice Award---Dark of the Moon

Director's Choice Award---Dark of the Moon

Excellence in Directing---C. Lee Turner

Excellence in Set Design---Joseph Raibon (student)

Excellence in Light Design---Kelly Babb-Light

Excellence in Costume Design---Ann Yancey

Excellence in Sound Design---Kelly Babb &  
C. Lee Turner

Best Technical Crew---Cortheal Clark (Tech Dir.)

Superior Acting Awards

(Irene Ryan Scholarship Nominees)

Ronnie Hall--Actor (role, John the witch boy)

Taryne Metcalf--Actress (role, Barbara Allen)

Excellence in Acting Award

Samuel Jackson--Actor (role, Marvin Hudgens)

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### Christopher Houston Texaco Employee and PV Alum Brings \$50,000

Texaco chemical engineer II, Christopher Houston, came home to his beloved alma mater, Prairie View A&M University, recently to present a check for roughly \$50,000.

According to Mr. Houston, qualified students within the computer science and engineering fields at Prairie View A&M will be eligible to receive \$1,500 to further their academic and professional careers.

Houston, who graduated from PVAMU in the fall of 1996, possesses a BS degree in chemical engineering which he earned from the College of Engineering.

"I've been with Texaco for two years," says Houston as he looks forward to a bright future with the company. He credits Dr. Freddie Frazier as being his academic and professional mentor, saying, "Doc kind of pushed me to take higher mathematics such as calculus and trigonometry."

Christopher hopes that aspiring students will heed this lesson from his life, "Study hard and learn the core curriculum and the best is yet to be!"

# PVAMU News Briefs

Dr. John Fuller and Faranza Haider presented a research report on "Seminoles, Guardians of the Border" at the Center for Big Bend Studies of Sul Ross State University, October 15-16.

PVAMU hosted the US Department of Agriculture's 1890 Task Force meeting October 12-14. The task force meeting was headed up by Dr. Alfred L. Parks, associate dean and research director in the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC).

## Call for Papers

The Pacific and Asian Communication Association is calling for papers at it's PACA Convention 2000, Honolulu, Hawaii, August 10-11.

Send submissions in triplicate through May 1, to Steve Mura, Dept. of Communications, U. of Hawaii at Hilo, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720-4091.

## Book Signing

KPVU Radio held a book signing for author, Sarah-Freeman Smith in the lobby of the station Oct. 5. Freeman is the author of Turning Stones Into Gems, an inspirational, self-development system which inspires individuals to take the next step to achieving personal and career goals.

Sarah and her husband have recently published her third book, How to Self-Publish & Market Your Own Book.

## Power Increase

KPVU FM has announced that it has applied for a power increase of 50,000 watts with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) effective September 20, 1999.

If approved, the power increase would dramatically enhance KPVU's ability to reach more potential listeners within the area.

## MD Anderson V.P. Visits

Dr. Harry Gibbs, associate vice president for Diversity Programs at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, visited the campus recently at the request of the Dept. of Languages and Communications. The visiting v.p. was given a tour of the campus, a briefing and he spoke to a group of faculty and staff who gathered at the Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Agricultural Building.

**PVAMU  
Commencement  
Saturday,  
December 18th  
10:30 a.m.  
Nicks Bldg.**

**Featured  
Speaker:  
*Lois Jean Moore,  
Spec. Asst. to  
the President &  
Retired Pres. &  
CEO of Harris  
County Hospital  
District***

## **University Holidays**

**Christmas/New Years  
(7 days) Dec. 23-31**

**ML King Jr. Day  
(1 day) Jan. 17**

**Memorial Day  
(1 day) May 29**

**Emancipation Day  
(1 day) June 19**

**U.S. Independence  
Day (1 day)  
July 4**

# Dr. George H. Stafford Passes

Remembered for Honesty, Integrity and Excellence

*By Bryan H. Barrows III*

Prairie View A&M University mourns the passing of Dr. George H. Stafford, director of the PVAMU Academic Advising Center and former university athletic director. Stafford, who died Wednesday, November 17, will forever be remembered as a man of honesty, integrity and excellence.

Born in Italy, Texas, young George Stafford was raised by two loving parents who stressed "the Golden Rule" and instilled a love for excellence. Stafford enrolled at PVAMC, where he received a B. S. degree in agricultural education in 1948. He also received his M. Ed. in administration and supervision, along with agricultural economics from PVAMC.

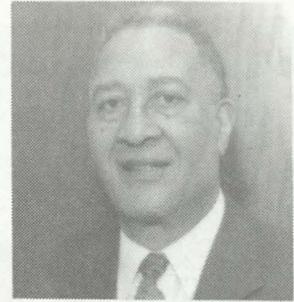
The pinnacle of Stafford's academic attainment was the receipt of a doctorate in agricultural education with emphasis in agricultural economics and agronomy at Cornell University, New York. He later did post-doctoral study at New York University

During his time as a student at PVAMC, Dr. Stafford was a pillar of strength on the football team. Stories of his strength and tenacity as an opponent, on the teams coached by the much heralded William J. "Billy" Nicks, are of legendary proportions. Dr. Stafford was captain of the PVAMC Football team, played baseball, semi-pro baseball and was given "Honorable Mention" as an All American and All Conference player in football.

George Stafford was awarded the "Bronze Star" by the U. S. Army for valor as a result of his heroic actions in saving the lives of members of D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 365 Infantry Regiment, 92<sup>nd</sup> Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Army, while severely wounded during WWII.

Over the years, Dr. Stafford worked as a coach and vocational agriculture teacher at Pickard High School in Brenham, Texas. Later, he returned to his beloved PVAMU as an acting assistant teacher-trainer. From there, he served as an assistant principal (Hunt Memorial); a science and math teacher; a teacher-counselor (PVAMU); a program director and director of counseling services (PVAMU); and director of pupil personnel services (George Jr. Republic, N.Y.).

Dr. Stafford was known as a progressive individual, perhaps that is why he was an integral part of the Prairie View-United States-Liberia Project from 1957 to 1961.



The late Dr. George Stafford Beginning as director of counseling services at PVAMU in 1963, Dr. Stafford commenced a long and illustrious career at PVAMU, which spanned more than thirty years.. In the interim, he served as director of admission; director of counseling and guidance; director of Institute to Train Veterans for Jr. College Counseling; and was a frequent educational consultant.

From 1989-1990, Dr. Stafford gave distinguished service as director of athletics during one of the most turbulent times in sports history at PVAMU. He is credited for having been an honest, diligent professional as he dealt with the substantive issues of the day. In 1990, Stafford assumed the positions of coordinator of the Academic Advising Center and coordinator of Testing, where he oversaw developmental education and Title III programs. His scrupulous adherence to detail was a distinguishing mark of his overall effectiveness as an administrator.

Dr. Stafford is survived by his beloved wife Eula M. (Patrick) Stafford and their children Gwendolyn; Sharon; Patrick; Pamela; Lisa and Paul.



Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith (middle)  
Mr. Salvador Quinte (left) Dr. Phillip Uzdawinis, (right)  
Director, NMHU Foundation

## **PVAMU's Dr. Thomas-Smith Honored by New Mexico Highlands Univ. & Senator Pete Domenici**

U.S. Senator Pete Domenici captured the sentiments of many as Prairie View A&M University provost and vice president of academic affairs was honored by New Mexico Highlands University as a distinguished alumna in October. New Mexico Highlands named Dr. Emma Joahanne Thomas-Smith a "distinguished alumna" at their 1999 Alumni Assn. Homecoming Awards Banquet held at NMHU Student Center, in Las Vegas.

Senator Domenici stated, "I am aware of your deep commitment to education, of your vision for expanding curricula. It is especially gratifying to note your strong voice for racial and gender equality." The senior senator also commented, "For your many contributions to education and to your community, we are all in your debt."

NMHU has consistently honored alumni "who have distinguished themselves through professional accomplishments, public service to communities and larger causes and made outstanding contributions to the human family," according to a NMHU document.

Dr. Thomas-Smith is recognized and respected as a leader and mentor at Prairie View A&M University, as well as in her community, Houston, Texas. Her many students have become part of her family, receiving moral and financial support as they moved on to graduate school and employment. Dr. Thomas-Smith is a professional dedicated to racial and gender equity while accomplishing high ideals, nurturing achievement and unstinting service.

Provost and Vice President Thomas-Smith became a faculty member at PVAMU in 1968. She received her master's degree in educational administration and English at NMHU in 1966. The administrator is a graduate of Tuskegee U. (BA, 1965) and Washington State University (Ed.D, 1976).

Dr. Thomas-Smith completed post-doctoral work at Northeastern University (Boston) the University of Texas in Arlington and the Governor's Executive Development Program at Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.

Seen as a seasoned administrator, she is known as a positive and visible ambassador promoting the interests of the university at large. As such, Dr. Thomas-Smith directed major planning initiatives at the university, directed the Title III Program for nine years and worked untiringly to connect the university to external sources of support. Together with the deans and department heads, she has supported and expanded academic opportunities.

Through her leadership, PVAMU became one of the six university partners in the University Center in the Woodlands, where bachelor's and master's degrees are offered on a community college campus.

Dr. Thomas-Smith has also been very active in serving her community and her church. She has been recognized for her service to Houston Habitat for Humanity and at United Methodist Church Committee on Relief in Conroe. The provost has also been a volunteer for women and children in Houston and at local nursing homes.

Dr. Emma Joahanne Thomas-Smith's greatest companion in her activities is

(cont. on page 7)



Dr. Thomas Smith and  
NMHU President

Dr. Selimo Rael

(Dr. Thomas-Smith Cont.)

her husband, Rev. Sam I. Smith, pastor of China Chapel United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Texas, and a teacher at Barbara Jordan High School for Careers in Houston.

Vice President and Provost Thomas-Smith was presented a beautiful, framed medal marking this hallmark event in her life by the New Mexico Highlands University Alumni Association.

### OCR Committee Meets at PVAMU

The Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of Civil Rights Committee (OCR) met at the John B. Coleman Library Nov. 8th. The newly appointed committee received a review of statistics, goals and objective of the university by senior officials.

The OCR is a crucial committee studying and defining issues related to the Texas Higher Education System, PVAMU and Texas Southern University. The committee also met Dec. 6 at Texas Southern University.

### Moore to Speak at Commencement December 18<sup>th</sup>

Fall commencement exercises are set for **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> (10:30 a.m.)** at Prairie View A&M University in the **William J. "Billy" Nicks, Sr., Health and Physical Education Building** on campus. Graduation rehearsal will be held **Friday, December 17 (8:30 a.m.)**, "Billy" Nicks HPE Bldg.

Commencement speaker for the December graduation will be Mrs. Lois Jean Moore, special assistant to the president at PVAMU and retired president and CEO of Harris County Hospital District.

Mrs. Moore received a nursing diploma from PVAMU School of Nursing. She possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Texas Woman's University and a Master of Education from TSU.

Previous to becoming Hospital District CEO, Moore was an administrator at Jeff Davis Hospital and director of Nursing at Ben Taub General.

Over the years, she has established a reputation for excellence having been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Human Letters from Our Lady of the Lake University.

She was presented the Distinguished Professional Woman's Award by the UT Health Science Center. In 1977, she was named, "Nurse of the Year" by the Houston Area League of Nursing.

### Teen Leadership Connection Conference Jan 26-28, 2000

by Gloria Mosby

A conference to present and provide training for an exciting, new youth leadership development curriculum called "Teen Leadership Connection" will be held Jan. 26-28, 2000. The Cooperative Extension Program at PVAMU is sponsoring the Teen Leadership Connection Conference.

"The TLC project, developed in 1997, is a partnership between the Cooperative Extension Program and the City of Houston Enhanced Enterprise Zone which provided a \$400,000 grant to implement the curriculum in Houston ISD middle and high schools situated in enterprise communities.

Conference topics will cover various TLC curriculum modules including life/social skills, conflict resolution, the arts, diversity and leadership. "A trained staff of professionals and experts in the field of youth development and related topics will conduct the workshop sessions, and we expect participants to attend each workshop so that they can fully understand this curriculum which can be used in 4-H groups, school-based prevention programs and other community-based youth programs," said Beverly Spears, interim program leader-4-H & Youth, Cooperative Extension Program at PVAMU. For Info, call (409) 857-2517.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HOSTS AT - RISK WORKSHOP

By Dr. Reuben L. Wright,  
Health and Human Performance Department

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999, the Academy for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership, as part of the College of Education, hosted the first of several workshops designed to provide teachers and administrators alike professional development activities throughout the school year. This valuable training is funded through grants from the Sid Richardson Foundation and the Teacher Education Agency.

The workshop was kicked off with welcoming remarks and purpose of the meeting by PVAMU's president, Dr. Charles A. Hines. A panel of noted experts in the field of teaching at-risk students shared their research and experience with workshop attendees. The panel consisted of Dr. Robert Houston, a professor, a Moores Distinguished University Scholar, and the executive director of the Institute for Urban Education, University of Houston; Dr. Patricia Taylor, instructional specialist for Career and Technology Education in the Spring Branch Independent School District; Ms. Maricela Grun, a coordinator of Head Start programs for Neighborhood Centers in Houston, TX.; and Ms. Mary Hosking, principal of Kennedy Elementary School in Alief Independent School District.

Following the panel's presentations, a question and answer session was conducted. The workshop attendees were then divided into groups for discussion of specific problems associated with their respective schools. The conference attendees included teachers and administrators from the surrounding school districts and graduate students in the College of Education's Masters Program.

## FOR YOUR WELLNESS

by Dr. Reuben L. Wright,  
Health and Human  
Performance Department

### KEEPING KIDS SMOKE - FREE

Everyday in the United States at least 3,000 teens and pre-adolescents start smoking cigarettes. More than 80% of adult smokers started before they were 21 years of age; half of them before age 18. Strong influences lead kids to start smoking. These include friends and family members who smoke, advertising, experimentation and lack of education about smoking's harmful effects.

Warn your children of the serious damage smoking causes - *a third of smokers die prematurely of tobacco-related diseases*, usually with ill health and disability long before death. Start your discussion by asking them why they want to smoke. Help your teens recognize that smoking is an addiction that is very hard to fight.

Kids are twice as likely to smoke if their parents do. If you smoke, learn about tobacco's harmful effects and get motivated to quit for your sake and your family's.

For additional information please feel free to contact the American Cancer Society at 1 800 ACS 2345 or send an email to Dr. R. L. Wright, HUPF Department at [reuben\\_wright@pvamu.edu](mailto:reuben_wright@pvamu.edu).

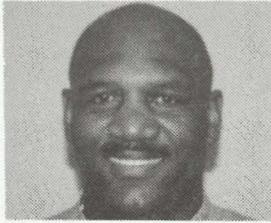
\* (Source: American Cancer Society, 1997)

**KPVU FM 91.3**

**News on the Hour**

with

**Gwendolyn Richie**



## FOR YOUR WELLNESS

By Reuben L. Wright,  
Health and Human  
Performance Department

**FLEX TIME AT YOUR DESK.** For people who sit on the job, your body can quickly become cramped, tired and ready for a break. A touch of mental tension and anxiety can make the problem worse. But you've got work to do and cannot get away.

What you can do is check your posture and keep your muscles moving. Treat yourself to a 2 to 3 minute mini-workout at your desk. For example, while sitting at your chair, you can:

- \* Gently and slowly circle your ankles, wrist and head.
- \* Lift you heel off the floor and lower them back down again. Repeat several times.
- \* Rotate your shoulders to eliminate stiffness.
- \* Make tight "fist" with your hands and feet, then relax them.
- \* Tighten and release your buttocks muscles.
- \* Flex and point your feet.
- \* Close your eyes for a minute and relax your neck by letting your head gently fall forward, then backward, then to each side.

Stand up whenever possible to stretch your legs and back. You can do this while talking on the phone or reading your mail. On your breaks, take a brisk walk - even 10 minutes will work wonders to relax your muscles and improve circulation.

Please feel free to send comments and/ or suggestions about information provided. My email address is reuben\_wright@pvamu.edu or, if you have a particular topic that you want a personal response prepared. I look forward to hearing from you!!!

# Happy New Year!

## Journey toward a New Millenium!



Fulbright  
Scholar  
Arrives at  
PVAMU

## Dr. M. Khairul Hossain

Fulbright Scholar, Dr. M. Khairul Hossain, made the trip from his home university in Bangladesh recently to PVAMU where students will now benefit from his expertise in economics and finance.

Dr. Hossain is being hosted as a Fulbright Scholar by the PVAMU College of Business. The topic of Dr. Hossain's Fulbright research is, "Regulatory Framework and Development of a Stock Market in Bangladesh: Lessons from the U.S. Experience."

Dr. Hossain is currently professor and chairman in the Department of Finance and Banking at the University of Dhaka (Bangladesh). The professor is also provost and councilor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange. He received his a Master's of Science degree in Economics and a Ph.D. in statistics, in 1983, from the prestigious Moscow Institute of Nat. Economy.

The Fulbright Scholar is proficient in the English, Bangla and Russian languages.

He holds membership in the Bangladesh Economic Association, the United Nations Assn. of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Statistical Assn. and the Bangladesh Population Assn.

Dr. M. Khairul Hossain has also brought his wife and three children with him as he moves to Houston, Tx., for his new PVAMU Fulbright assignment.

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**Merry Christmas**

**and a**

**Happy New Year**

**to  
all**

**Prairie View A&M  
University  
Employees!**