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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"

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 5

MARCH, 1998

Annual Fund Campaign Kicks Off! "For a Stronger PVAMU"

Prairie View A&M University president, Dr. Charles A. Hines, is concerned that a growing economic trend in higher education is making it harder for students to afford an education at his university. "PVAMU is constantly challenged to provide educational opportunities for the many young people who desire to improve their lives and become contributing members of society," the president stated.

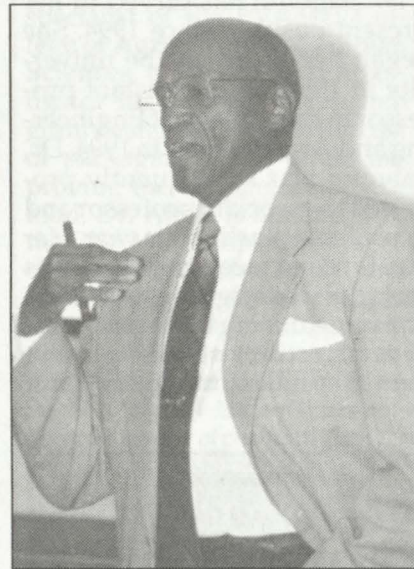
Citing an average college cost which has risen 111% since 1990, Dr. Hines is adamant that all students be given the opportunity to attend PVAMU who have a desire to attend. "Nothing saddens me more than to have deserving, qualified students overcome numerous personal obstacles to achieve scholastic excellence and reach the doors of our university, only to learn that we do not have enough scholarship dollars to support their education at PVAMU," said Dr. Hines.

Presently, Prairie View A&M University has \$7.5 million dollars in scholarship endowments but has set its sights on increasing it to \$20 million dollars. Plans are to solicit \$7.5 million through corporate and individual donations for which the University is prepared to match \$5 million from the Available University Fund (AUF). This will provide the additional \$12.5 million to reach the overall \$20 million scholarship endowment goal. As an endowment, these funds will remain with the University

in perpetuity and only the interest from such funds will be used to offer scholarships to deserving students.

President Hines has announced the kickoff of a new **Annual Fund Campaign** designed to raise \$1.5 million dollars toward the \$20 million goal by August 31, 1998. The 1998 Annual Fund Campaign will help generate dollars for more athletic scholarships, academic scholarships and to support the greatest needs of the university.

Alumni, faculty/staff and friends of Prairie View A&M University are asked to help make the 1998 **Annual Fund Campaign** a success by making a donation to the scholastic progress of our students. For information about the **Annual Fund Campaign**, contact: Mrs. Carolyn Bradley-Oliver, Direc-



Dr. Charles A. Hines

tor of Institutional Development, P.O. Box 4129, Prairie View, Texas 77446. Office: (409)857-4091, fax: (409)857-3806.

Dr. Rod Paige Speaks at PVAMU "Urban Education for the 21st Century"

Houston Independent School District superintendent, Dr. Rod Paige, began the Spring Freshman Honors Colloquium at Prairie View A&M University, Wednesday, February 11, with a challenge to the nation. Paige cautioned the public not to permit what one writer describes as "...a raging epidemic of dumb, poor, children in the richest nation on earth."

"We face the certainty that these children will grow up with no allegiance to this country or

any other country or to their elders who will be viewed as discarding them," said the superintendent. He challenged the audience to find a solution saying, "...the promise of education is the promise of democracy."

The progressive superintendent stated, "Unlike private schools, public schools must take every student who comes...strong or fragile, rich or poor, gifted or not! This is public education's

Dr. Sabouni Receives Regents Professor Service Award

Associate dean, director of the College of Engineering and Architecture and professor of architecture at Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Ikhlas Sabouni, has been presented the distinguished, meritorious Regents Professor Service Award. The award was presented by the Texas A&M university System Board of Regents at their January 22 meeting.

Dr. Sabouni has served in her present position since 1994. She began her tenure at the university in 1989, as an assistant professor in the College of Engineering and Architecture. In 1994, Dr. Sabouni was subsequently promoted to associate professor and to professor earlier this year. Her outstanding accomplishments include: redesigning curricula and reorganizing the department of architecture; obtaining more than \$1 million in research and

development grants; creating career opportunities for students and establishing a Women in Architecture chapter at PVAMU. She received Ph. D. and master's degrees in architecture from Rice University and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Damascus in Syria.

Dr. Sabouni received the award along with Dr. John W. Tunnell Jr., director of the Center for Coastal Studies and professor of biology at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi.

Texas A&M University System chancellor, Dr. Barry B. Thompson, said, "This prestigious award recognizes the significant professional contributions they have made to the A&M System and their respective fields."

Each recipient is designated a "Regents Professor" title that will remain with them for the rest of their services with the A&M System. Recipients also receive a \$9,000 monetary award (\$3,000 for three consecutive years), an A&M System medallion to wear with academic regalia and a commemorative plaque and certificate.

To be eligible for the annual award, a candidate must be a



Dr. Ikhlas Sabouni

full-time professor or equivalent with a minimum of five years employment at an A&M System university or agency and have a distinguished record of public service, teaching and creative or scholarly activity. Candidates also must demonstrate a sincere commitment to their university or agency.

Having met these eligibility requirements, individuals must be nominated by an institution-level selection committee and recommended to the chancellor and board by their institution's president or agency director.

Faculty Staff News

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DR. ROD PAIGE SPEAKS AT PVAMU

"Urban Education for the 21st Century"

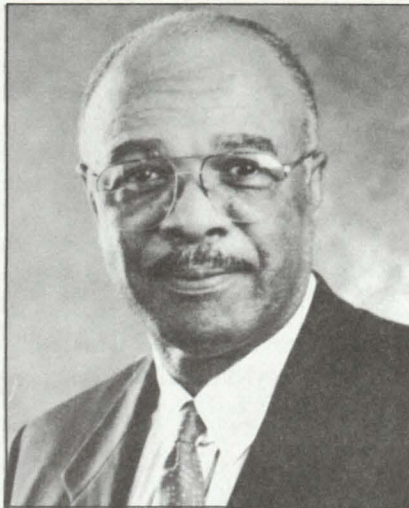
Continued from page 1

burden but it is also public educations' glory."

Dr. Paige intimated that society needs to be reformed more than do the public schols. If the segmentation that characterizes society and the public schools (between rich schools and poor schools) is not corrected, we face the same fate as the Titanic. He commented, "The Titanic sank because of the strength of the walls which separated the compartments on the ship. Just as the Titanic could not survive this kind of rigid compartmentalization, neither can a nation."

Superintendent Paige offered five courses of action in response to the current crisis in public education: • "Teaching" must be redefined to mean "Learning"; • governance of public schools must be changed and depoliticized; • We must have more "Open Market" ideas in public education; • Pedagogical and business administrative systems in schools must be separated; • Texas has a shortage of math teachers and the solution is to use the idea of "supply and demand". We might offer math teachers higher salaries than teachers in other areas.

Dr. Rod Paige concluded saying, "If we are to meet the challenge of improving our schools, we must find school personnel who can and will get the job done



Dr. Rod Paige

under the prevailing circumstances."

Future lectures in the University Scholars Program Series include Dr. Ordina Limar Gee, educational psychologist, Wednesday, March 25. She will speak on "Variation in Cognitive Learning Styles and Implications for Education". On April 8, the Honorable Calvin Botley, Magistrate, U.S. District Court, Houston, will speak on "Understanding Law and Justice in the 1900s: Reflections on the Judicial System".

University Scholars Program Series lectures are held in Room 122, Harrington Science Building (6:00 p.m.) on selected Wednesdays at the Prairie View A&M University campus.

PVAMU & TAMU Team to Lessen High Cost of Food Packaging

Prairie View A&M University and Texas A&M University researchers are knee deep in MRE's (meals-ready-to-eat) studying options designed to reduce the cost of packaging military meal rations while maintaining the flavor and preservative quality of food.

Dr. Rahmat Attaie, research specialist of the PVAMU College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, is the principal investigator for a \$499,109 research grant designed to lessen the cost of packaging MREs while improving the keeping quality of food. Dr. Attaie is a member of the PVAMU Cooperative Agricultural Research Center who investigates the flavor changes in foods under different temperature conditions that simulate actual field operations. *Foods exposed to abused temperatures undergo a number of chemical changes that give rise to formation of different odors and off flavors.*

Drs. A. Dale Whittaker and Elena Castell-Perez, of Texas A&M University, are collaborating with Dr. Attaie as co-principal investigators seeking to reduce the cost of packaging food for the Army. Both are a part of the Texas A&M University Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

The researchers are charged with finding a low cost way to eliminate the use of foil in the packaging of MREs. They will investigate the feasibility of using plastics to cut the cost of current more expensive foil processes while preventing moisture loss, microbial activity and transmigration of flavoring compounds from packaging materials to foods.

The military hopes that the scientists can cut the cost of packaging MREs in half.

SUPPORT

1998 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Raising \$1.5 Million by

August 31

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March '98

March 2 - 3

Second Annual Texas Higher Education Law Conference

University of North Texas,
Denton, Texas

Contact: UNT Office of the Vice
Chancellor and General Counsel,
(940)565-2717

March 2 - 3

Peace Corps Day at PVAMU
Peace Corps Ambassador Invited

March 19

Jesse H. & Mary Gibbs Jones
Building Dedication

March 25

Founders' Day and Honors
Recognition Convocation

University Scholars Program

Spring Lecture Series

Speaker: Dr. Ordia Limar Gee,
Southern University professor

Topic: "*Variations in Cognitive Learning Styles and Implications for Education*"

April '98

April 1-2

Special Item Site Visit of the Senate Finance Committee and the Legislative Budget Board

April 6-7

Spring Industry Cluster Conference

April 8

University Scholars Program
Spring Lecture Series

Speaker: Honorable Calvin Botley,
U.S. Magistrate Judge, U.S. District
Court at Houston, Texas

April 16-19

Black College Reunion Weekend
Daytona Beach, Florida

Contact: Helen Riger,
voice (904)258-4543

April 22-26

Youth Entrepreneur Symposium
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Program Sponsor

Astrodome Hotel, Houston, Texas

Contact: Beverly Spears, Ext. 2517

e-mail: ba-spears@tamu.edu.

web site: <http://www.agnr/users/kidbiz>.

SUPPORT

1998 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

"FOR A STRONGER PVAMU"

Seeking to Raise \$1.5 Million by
August 31, 1998

supporting athletics scholarships, academic
scholarships and the greatest needs of the University.

Contact: Mrs.Carolyn Bradley - Oliver
PVAMU Office of Institutional Development
P.O. Box 4129, Prairie View, Tx. 77446-4129
(409) 857-4091 fax: (409) 857-3806