

Prairie View A&M University

Digital Commons @PVAMU

Newsletter Collections

Academic Affairs Collections

8-1946

Newsletter- August 1946

Prairie View University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/newsletter>

Recommended Citation

Prairie View University. (1946). Newsletter- August 1946., *Vol. XVI, NO. 12* Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/newsletter/211>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Academic Affairs Collections at Digital Commons @PVAMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newsletter Collections by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @PVAMU. For more information, please contact hvkoshy@pvamu.edu.

Ms. O. J. Baker

VOLUME XVI

NUMBER 12

NEWS LETTER

In This Issue

Calendar
News Letter
Intersession
Orientation Period
The Month of August !

August - 1946

NEWS LETTER

PRAIRIE VIEW UNIVERSITY

PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

VOLUME XVI

AUGUST - 1946

NUMBER 12

A. CALENDAR -

1. August - 1946

- a. Special Exercise for Graduating Seniors - W R Banks, Principal. August 4
- b. Graduation Exercises - Mrs G V Banks August 7
- c. Annual Farmers Institute August 12-15
- d. Summer School Ends August 15
- e. Intersession August 12-31

2. September - 1946

- a. Orientation Period September 4-18
Note: This orientation period will include faculty, freshman students and registration.
- b. All staff members are expected to be present by the beginning of the Orientation Period - September 4.

B. NEWS LETTER -

There is always the need for some medium through which general information regarding the program of an institution may be channeled, with profit, to faculty members, employees and friends. During the process of the development of the work at Prairie View University the idea previously mentioned was conceived. In consequence, in 1932 a monthly News Letter made its first appearance and has appeared continuously until now. Bound volumes of the News Letters may be found in the institution's Library. A casual reading of the fourteen years of the News Letters will reveal some most interesting and important facts. Those who wish to read through these volumes may contact Mr O J Baker, Librarian, and he will be happy to let you see them.

C. INTERSESSION -

We are pleased to announce that another Intersession will be held at Prairie View University from August 12-31. More than three hundred applicants requesting an Intersession made it necessary to make provisions to satisfy these demands and requirements. At the moment we are not in position to say what courses will be offered but we feel such courses will be offered as will meet the needs of most of the three hundred people applying.

D. ORIENTATION -

For several years the Orientation Period at Prairie View has not only included Freshman students but the faculty and the entire student body as well. It has been discovered that an orientation which would include all the people involved in the year's work would serve the specific purpose of giving unity and

objectivity to institutional efforts. We are pleased to announce that the orientation for the Regular Session will be held September 4-18, 1946. The general theme for the Faculty Orientation will be "The Role and Purpose of Education in the Social Order". This theme is broken down in such a way as to bring the discussion to the immediate program of Prairie View as it relates itself to the needs of the people. The sub-topics will run in this order:

1. Present Status of Education as Related to Negroes
Note: On Sub-college Level, Higher, Professional and Specialized Education and Educational Services.
2. Spirit of the Land Grant College
Note: As Expressed in the Program at Prairie View in the Major Areas of Training.
3. The Obligation of Prairie View in Post War Education in Meeting the Needs of:
Veterans, citizens and human relations
4. Present Outlook for Education of Negroes, Particularly in Texas on All Levels
Note: Significant Problems Ahead

E. THE MONTH OF AUGUST!

1. On August 8, 1881 I was born in Hartwell, Georgia in a log cabin, the second child of a family of thirteen, nine sons and four daughters. I lived and worked on my father's farm until November 1901 when I left to enter Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.
2. August, 1909 - August, 1912 - Three Years:

Following my graduation at Atlanta University in June of the same year, I went to Fort Valley Normal and Industrial Institute, Fort Valley, Georgia to serve as a teacher of five subjects, business manager, coach of athletics, supervisor of farm, teacher of Sunday School, Dean of Men and leader of prayer meeting. Here is where I got my first lessons in the ways of people in practical life. I was married to Miss Glovina Virginia Perry of Atlanta, Georgia June 1, 1911.

3. August, 1912 - August, 1915 - Three Years

I was elected Principal of the Kowaliga Community School, Elmore County, Kowaliga, Alabama. The significant achievements during the three years in Alabama may be listed as follows:

- a. Developed techniques of raising money from North and East to support the institution.
- b. Brought the Kowaliga community together, having been torn apart over the question of the location of the new school site. The Kowaliga Creek divided the community - people on one side of the creek had nothing to do with those on the other side.

- c. Directed the people in the development of "an honest to goodness" Live at Home Program.
- d. The Kowaliga Community School became the ipso facto center of community interests.

These were perhaps the most significant and far reaching things that were accomplished in the three years in Alabama.

4. August, 1915 - August, 1926 - Eleven Years

I came to Texas College, Tyler, Texas as its President. Here I found a student body of 75, a small faculty underpaid and unpaid and a Trustee Board of nearly one hundred preachers and a few laymen. It is significant to note that the Trustee Board was larger than the student body at that time. In the eleven years at Texas College these important things were accomplished:

- a. The student enrollment reached the peak of 619 in four years, the second largest enrollment in Texas until now.
- b. Paid \$30,000 of outstanding indebtedness and increased the income from the Colored Methodist Episcopal churches in Texas from \$7,000 a year in 1915 to \$35,000 in 1926.
- c. Increased and strengthened the faculty; brought local and national attention to the institution; paid the teachers promptly and regularly; and, restored the institution's credit in the business world.

This was one of the most fruitful and challenging experiences of my life. Although I have been away from Texas College for twenty years, the people have never given me up nor have I given them up. The love is mutual. I gave up my active connections with Texas College in 1926, leaving the school free of debt, new buildings, the second largest enrollment in Texas and an institution with national respect.

5. August, 1926 - August, 1946 - Twenty Years

I came to Prairie View State Normal & Industrial College, Prairie View Texas as the Principal. I arrived here on the morning of August 1, 1926, just as the sun was rising. This was an event! I have had twenty years of the most valuable and varied experiences of my life. Here is where I have met practically every known human problem. Here is where I have worked incessantly; I have laughed, "laughed on the outside and cried on the inside", played and suffered. Difficulty was mine to start with and for twenty years I have tasted the "bitters and the sweets" and I have seen the bitters turn to sweets. I have watched over more than 18,000 young lives entrusted to my hands by anxious and hopeful parents and graduated with degrees more than 4,000. Here is where I learned to love Texas, particularly my people, and get a glimpse, for the first time, of the precarious position of Negroes in a social dichotomy.

6. August 31, 1946

Time Marches On!

I shall give up the active duties as Principal of Prairie View University August 31, 1946 - twenty years older, a wiser man, a stronger and a more determined man, more sympathetic and calculative, and with a Great Big Thankful Heart because of "what happened here". Consequently, my life's interests are staked and centered here; my heart strings are tied, hard and fast, to the life's interests of the people in Texas which shall always challenge and command the best that nature has endowed in me "for their sakes". Forty-seven years of my life have been actively devoted to matters, both general and specific, to the fields of Education and coming to grips and hand to hand combat with varied, stubborn and baffling problems that dogged the efforts and progress of American Negroes.

F. AND NOW FINALLY -

I am definite and positive in the conviction that Negroes must be keenly sensitive and alert to a type of education that will lead unmistakably to -

1. a greater vocational competence, a variety of skills, a greater production and a higher income level;
2. a glorification of hard work, the development of sound bodies and the ability to think clearly and effectively;
3. a more efficient and functional participation on all levels in a free society;
4. a solidarity of interests, racial unity and less talk;
5. a keener appreciation for spiritual values and dependable character traits; and,
6. a wholesome attitude towards all human beings regardless of race, creed or color.

This type of education is the only sure foundation and safe guarantee upon which we can establish, in the final and complete sense, a higher economic level, a sound social security, a greater respectability and enduring Happiness.

I am

Yours truly,

Willette Rutherford Banks
Willette Rutherford Banks
Principal

WRB:c