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## Founders' Day Convocation and Installation Exercises - March 1985

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One  
Hundred  
Seven Years

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THE FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION  
AND  
INSTALLATION OF  
PERCY ANTHONY PIERRE  
AS THE  
FOURTH PRESIDENT  
OF  
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1985

at

Three o'Clock in the afternoon

Health and Physical Education Building  
Prairie View, Texas

# FOUNDERS' DAY EVENTS

3:00 P.M.

Founders' Day Convocation and Installation Ceremony

‡

5:00 P.M.

Reception  
(Open to Public)  
West Lobby of Alumni Hall

‡

6:00 P.M.

Founders' Day Dinner  
Hobart Taylor Hall  
Admission by Reservation and Ticket

‡

8:00 P.M.

Duo-Piano Recital by Delphin and Romain  
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall  
Admission by Ticket  
(\$10.00 Adults; \$3.00 Students or Season Ticket)

# Founders' Day Convocation and Installation Ceremony

*Presiding:* William A. McKenzie  
Vice-Chairman, The Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

PRELUDE: "Prelude and Fugue in E Minor" ..... J. S. Bach  
DANNY R. KELLEY, Organist

FANFARE: "Ceremonial Fanfare" ..... Lucius R. Wyatt  
Trumpeters, Symphonic, Band  
LUCIUS R. WYATT, Director

PROCESSIONAL: "Academic Procession" ..... Clifton Williams  
Faculty  
Representatives of Student Organizations  
President's Party

INVOCATION ..... THE REVEREND W. VAN JOHNSON  
Dean of Chapel

OCCASION ..... GEORGE R. WOOLFOLK  
Emeritus Professor of History

MUSIC: "The Last Words of David" ..... Randall Thompson  
University Choir  
RUBY N. HEBERT, Director

## EXPRESSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### Government Officials

LEROY BECK, JR., Special Assistant to Governor for Internal Affairs

WILHELMINA DELCO, Chairman, Higher Education Committee, Texas House of Representatives

RONALD LEVERETT, Mayor, City of Prairie View

### Board of Regents

WILLIAM A MCKENZIE, Vice-Chairman of Board of Regents

### The Community

ANNE L. CAMPBELL, Emeritus Professor of English

### The Alumni

TALMADGE SHARPE, President, Prairie View National Alumni Association

### Houston Chamber of Commerce

LEONARD PATILLO, Executive Vice-President, Houston Chamber of Commerce

MUSIC: "God of Our Fathers" ..... Audience

**TRIBUTES FROM THE UNIVERSITY**

The Administration

THOMAS J. CLEAVER, Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

The Faculty

FRANKIE B. LEDBETTER, President of Faculty Senate

The Students

KEVIN DENNIS, President of Student Government Association

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society

KINNATH ROOPWAH, President of Tau Beta Pi Honor Society

MUSIC: "Great Day" ..... Hall Johnson  
University Choir

THE INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE  
MACE ..... ARTHUR G. HANSEN  
Chancellor  
The Texas A&M University System

FOUNDERS' DAY ADDRESS ..... PERCY A. PIERRE  
Fourth President of  
Prairie View A&M University

ALMA MATER: "Dear Prairie View" ..... Fuller-Sibelius  
University Choir and Symphonic Band

BENEDICTION ..... REVEREND W. VAN JOHNSON

RECESSIONAL: "Trumpet Voluntary" ..... Jeremiah Clarke

POSTLUDE: "Final, Opus 21" ..... Cesar Franck

## HISTORY OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

The history of Prairie View is Texas history unmatched by any other institution in the state. Conceived in the aftermath of slavery and located on a cotton plantation, the state's second oldest public institution had its beginning in 1876, the first year of the Texas Constitution, which in separate articles, established an "agricultural and mechanical college" and pledged that "separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored children, and impartial provisions shall be made for both."

As a consequence of these Constitutional provisions, the Fourteenth Legislature on August 14, 1876, established the "Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youths" and placed the responsibility for its management with the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Bryan. The sum of \$20,000.00 was appropriated for the establishment of a school for colored youth.

A three-man commission, appointed to locate and build the new college, spent \$15,787.67 and purchased the land and buildings of the Alta Vista plantation of the late Colonel Jared Ellison Kirby in Waller County, east of Hempstead. His wife, Mrs. Helen Marr Kirby, had formerly operated a fashionable girls school in the stately plantation house set on a hill in the surrounding prairie. The Honorable Edwin Waller was selected to manage the property at a salary of \$100.00 per month. On January 21, 1878, Commissioner Ashbel Smith turned the school over to Edwin Waller and the A&M College Board of Directors. The Board, by regulation, designated the President of A&M College Station, Thomas Gathright, to be the executive head of the Negro school. This policy also authorized that a nominal Negro head be appointed to serve under the direction of the president. This person was to be called Principal. With this act, the pattern of administration at Prairie View was set and was followed for seventy years.

President Gathright, a native of Mississippi, the first president of A&M College, knew a man with whom he had been associated in Mississippi, a man he thought was the best person to serve as the nominal head of the Negro school, Mr. L. V. Minor. Though there were other applicants, R. W. Trimble of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Reverend J. A. Kimble of Larrissa, Texas, and J. R. S. Darrs of Hempstead, Mr. Minor was President Gathright's choice. He recommended to the A&M Board of Directors that Professor Minor be appointed to head the Prairie View school as a Principal. With the Board's acceptance of this recommendation, Professor Minor became the first Principal of this new school.

After securing a Principal, President Gathright hired a man-of-all-work and a woman to wash and cook. He enclosed fifty or sixty acres of land and brought furnishings for the plantation house to accommodate twenty students. The opening of the school occurred on March 11, 1878, when Professor Minor enrolled eight young men as the first Negro students to be enrolled in a state-supported college in Texas. The tuition fee was set by the Board at \$130.00 for nine months of instruction, board, and one suit of uniform. The Morrill Land Grant Act called for the teaching of Military Tactics at this new school; hence a uniform was required, and Military tactics became a part of the curriculum at its beginning in 1878. The co-educational pattern was set with the housing of female students in Kirby Hall where the Principal lived, and housing male students in the 30 by 40 foot combination chapel-dormitory called Pickett Hall. These two buildings made up the early college campus for several years.

The founding of the college in 1876 and the establishment in 1878 began the history of the second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas. Space will not permit inclusion of the many persons and their contributions, nor the diversity of activities and events that made the history of Prairie View. It seems fitting, then, to restrict this chronicle to a condensation of facts and dates representing growth and development of this institution under the administration of the Principals and Presidents from 1887-1985. . .

### PAST PRINCIPALS

#### L. W. Minor (1878-1879)

The first Principal of the new college was a native of Mississippi who was selected by Thomas S. Gathright, the first president at College Station. On March 11, 1878, Professor Minor enrolled eight young men as the first Negro students to be enrolled in a state-supported college in Texas. Mr. Minor was a man of fine education and excellent character, and he came up, fully, to all expectations in his management and qualifications. The Spring class did well. The class that entered the following October, however, was smaller, and its members soon abandoned the little school for the high wages of cotton picking.

Governor O. M. Roberts, Chairman of the Board of Directors, recommended that the Negro A&M College be rented out until the Directors could secure students for it. Without students and without funds the new school was forced to close in 1879 with Professor Minor's tenure of one year. However, just as the ideas and money of Justin Morrill made the establishment of Prairie View A&M possible, another New England philanthropist, George Peabody made the next step in development of the school possible. The \$2,500,000.00 George Peabody turned over to Robert C. Winthrop for the education of Southern children regardless of race, became a source that enabled this new school in Texas to continue. Through the efforts of Barnas Sears, who resigned as President of Brown University and came South to spread the doctrine and funds for the establishment of the New England patterns of public common school education, progress was made. When Sears came to Texas in 1870, his focus was concentration upon teacher training in the pattern of the New England "Normal" school; the Sixteenth Legislature was convinced. The A&M College Board of Directors, meeting in Hempstead, August 18, 1879, elected for the new "Normal," a faculty of two brothers, E. H. Anderson and L. C. Anderson, to be assisted by a wash woman, a cook, and handy man. They also authorized the teaching of thirteen subjects on the elementary and secondary level; and named a second Principal.

#### E. H. Anderson (1879-1884)

Mr. E. H. Anderson, minister-teacher from Memphis and Fisk University, became the second Principal when the Prairie View Normal School opened October 6, 1879, with twelve "state" (supported) and four local students. This number increased to sixty before the winter was over, with a total of thirty-nine state students. Few of the students were ready for the full normal course, but the emphasis made popular by General Armstrong at Hampton Institute played the major role in the instructional pattern of the institution.

Stormy was the path that Principal E. H. Anderson trod in the years of his administration. Besieged by economic distress, caught in the middle of legislative conflicting laws, the future of the Normal school was threatened. However, the man-made storms and the natural one in the Spring of 1882, destroyed the laundry and fencing, and barely missed destroying the men's dormitory-auditorium that was thrown from its blocks. But progress was made when Waller county patrons established a practice school in the old kitchen on the campus. The work of the young men in the garden kept the school table ample and brought something from the public markets.

Principal E. H. Anderson died on October 28, 1885, at the age of thirty-five, and was succeeded by his brother and first assistant, L. C. Anderson.

#### L. C. Anderson (1884-1896)

Mr. L. C. Anderson became the third Principal of the Prairie View school when his brother died. It was at this time that the ideas of the trustees of the John F. Slater Fund were taking prominence in southern education. As a result, an "Agricultural and Mechanical" department was attached to the Normal School. The Twentieth Legislature authorized a branch Experiment Station, and a girls' industrial department was also added. Professors Randolph of Hampton, and Ferguson of Tuskegee, and Miss Sallie Equell, a graduate of Prairie View, were hired for the "Mechanical," "Agricultural," and girls "Industrial" departments, respectively.

Tangible evidence of this new development was seen in the construction of Academic Hall, six cottages for teachers, a brick mechanic shop, a two-story dining hall-dormitory, and a blacksmith shop; the digging of artesian wells; and the enclosing of land for cultivation, hog pasture and experimental operations. L. C. Anderson had a faculty of eleven and eventually a record budget of \$39,700.00. The influence of the combined Slater-Peabody philosophy was strong in the application of the second federal grant of Morrill money. Strong was the political force, Democratic and Republican, in the struggle for impact on the State of Texas. Governor Ross and the A&M Board used the leverage in support of the Prairie View Normal.

Principal Anderson, an active Republican, served for ten years through this period of rapid expansion for the school on the hill. He was a leader in his profession and for his race and worked untiringly in movements for their betterment. He is credited with founding the Colored Teachers Association in Texas.

#### E. L. Blackshear (1896-1915)

Mr. E. L. Blackshear was elected the fourth Principal of Prairie View in 1895. With his background from Iona, the public schools of Bastrop and Austin, and his deep commitment to the philosophy and work of Booker T. Washington, Professor Blackshear was strongly motivated to implement a new phase of education at the Normal school. It was Booker T. Washington who made the address at Principal Blackshear's first commencement.



Blackshear was especially interested in the agricultural phase of industrial education. During his tenure, significant development occurred in the curriculum and the physical plant. In 1889, the Twenty-Sixth Legislature changed the name of the school to "Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College," and the new name reflected the enlargement of the curriculum.

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, in 1901, authorized the school to offer a four-year course of study which included the Academy and Normal School in four divisions: Education, Agriculture, Home Economics and Mechanical Arts. A diploma and a bachelor of science degree were given upon completion of any curriculum. The first three degrees were granted in 1904 to G. A. Randolph, Joseph E. Davis, and Mrs. Ruth King. The turn of the century was the beginning of an extensive building program which included construction of two dormitories for men, Foster Hall and Luckie Hall (1909), Crawford Hall for Women (1912) and a combination auditorium-dining hall (1911). Though he was a firm disciplinarian, Mr. Blackshear was loved by the students, and life at the college was rich and varied. Mr. Blackshear introduced formal intercollegiate athletics in 1904. A never-to-be-forgotten event occurred in 1907 when Coach W. P. Terrell's football squad beat Wiley 7-0. Mr. Blackshear served as Principal of Prairie View for twenty years.

#### I. M. Terrell (1915-1918)

Mr. I. M. Terrell, the fifth Principal, came to the College in 1915 from the public school system of Fort Worth, Texas. He held the position during the war years 1915-1918. Despite the world conflict, the school plant expanded significantly. A Household Arts building, a power and ice plant, and a laundry were erected in 1916. Spence Hall was erected in 1918 to house the Division of Agriculture. The close of World War I brought the first recognized Reserve Officers Training Corps to the campus, December, 1918. It was supported and maintained by the Federal Government. Courses, then, were outlined by the War Department, and on completion of four years, students could, by application, receive a commission in the Reserve Officers Corps of the National Army. This course in Military Science was compulsory for all male students who were physically able. The government had placed several thousand dollars worth of equipment at the disposal of this unit. It was under the jurisdiction of the Eighth Corps Military Area, headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. During Mr. Terrell's administration, the Cooperative Extension service was launched with Honorable R. L. Smith as the first State Leader and Mrs. M. E. V. Hunter as Home Demonstration Agent.

#### J. C. Osborne (1918-1925)

In 1918, J. C. Osborne was nominated by his faculty colleagues to "act" as successor to Terrell. The Board of Directors finally elected Dr. J. C. Osborne, a medical doctor, as the sixth Principal. Dr. Osborne had been employed by William Bennett Bizzell, President of A&M College who was a boyhood friend. Dr. Osborne, a dedicated scientist, strengthened the Natural Science offering, established the Nursing Division in 1918 and attempted some elementary preparation in professional medicine. Since some of his appointments were persons who shaped the future of Prairie View, even a condensed history should include them: Dr. E. B. Evans, Dr. James Franklin, Mr. F. G. Fry, and Mrs. Elizabeth May Galloway. It was in this period that Mrs. Laura Franklin Brown, Prairie View graduate, became the first Negro Public Health Nurse in Texas.

The physical plant was expanded with construction of six buildings added to the campus in 1924 and 1925: a Veterinary Hospital, Science Building, College Exchange, Elementary Training School, Home Economics Practice Cottage, and Music Conservatory. The four-year senior college program was begun in 1919 and included training in vocational home economics, vocational agriculture, liberal arts, and mechanical arts.

In the period 1925-1926, Mr. Paul Bledsoe, served as acting Principal of the Normal school.

#### W. R. Banks (1926-1947)

Mr. W. R. Banks, the seventh Principal of Prairie View, was the first to proclaim the mission of the college "to serve the citizens of Texas at the points of their greatest needs." Mr. Banks, a native Georgian, who at the time was President of Texas College, Tyler, Texas, was asked to come to Prairie View by the officials of the General Education Board and the President and Board of Texas A&M. Mr. Banks was selected on the basis of his long experience in school administration and his fitness to execute the program the Rockefeller Foundation had in mind for Prairie View.

Texas surveys had convinced the General Education Board that the preparation of teachers was the first need of Negro education in the South, and this preparation could best be done in state-supported colleges. Funds from

the General Education Board combined with Federal grants and other accumulated revenue made possible extensive expansion of the physical plant of Prairie View: the dining hall, the hospital, three apartments for male teachers, three dormitories for women, a green house, an incubator house, a classroom building, a new auditorium-gymnasium, a new Mechanic Arts Building, over sixty cottages for college families, a library which bears his name and was built out of a state appropriation and General Education Board funds, and a model college farm unit.

The Senior Academy was discontinued in 1930 and the Division of Education was redesigned as the College of Arts and Sciences with a major department in Teacher Training. On December 6, 1934, Mr. Banks received word that the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools had granted Prairie View a class "A" rating. The Division of Graduate Study was organized in 1937, offering Master of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics, Rural Education, Agricultural Education, School Administration and Supervision and Rural Sociology. The name Prairie View Normal and Industrial College was changed by the Forty-ninth Legislature in 1945 to Prairie View University, and the school was authorized to offer "as the need arises," all courses offered at the University of Texas. In an Act signed by the Governor on February 27, 1947, the Fiftieth Legislature changed the name of the school to Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Principal Banks worked untiringly for higher salaries, more housing, more books for the library, and higher standards for professional efficiency.

Principal Banks retired in August, 1947, as Principal Emeritus. Upon the foundation laid by this stalwart scholar, Christian leader, educator and administrator, the present Prairie View is built. He was the last of the Pioneer Principals, and with him, came the end of an era that had for seventy years shaped and molded every aspect of the historic second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas.

#### PAST PRESIDENTS

##### E. B. Evans (1947-1966)

Though Dr. Edward B. Evans took office as the eighth Principal of Prairie View A&M College on September 1, 1947, the title of Principal of the College was changed to Dean by the Board of Directors to become effective during the 1947-48 school year. However, on September 1, 1948, the title was changed to President, and on December 3, 1948, Dr. E. B. Evans was inaugurated as the first President of Prairie View A&M College of Texas. The various divisions of the college became schools, and the directors of the respective schools became deans. Dr. Evans, one of the nation's top veterinarians had come to Prairie View in 1918 to establish the veterinary hospital and served as its head as well as professor of agriculture. The "Evans" revolution was reflected in change in programs in Agriculture, Mechanical Arts, and Home Economics; in the Graduate personnel; and in all aspects of the university to meet future academic and technological developments. In keeping with his 25-year plan of growth and development, Dr. Evans continued the expansion of the physical plant. A new dormitory for women, completed in 1950, was named for the late Dean of Women, Miss M. E. Suarez. A similar building for men, completed in 1952, was named for a former teacher, J. M. Alexander. The E. B. Evans Animal Industries Building was completed in 1952. Two additional dormitories, one for men and one for women, were completed in 1955. In the same year a dairy barn and utility warehouse were built. A home economics building, May Hall, was added in 1957, and the old home arts building converted to a modern music building.

The Memorial Student Center and Harrington Science Building were completed in 1960 and 1961, respectively, followed by the Health and Physical Education Building in 1964, and two air-conditioned dormitories in 1965. Most of the newer buildings on campus came since 1946. The campus which now includes 1440 acres, now has over 150 buildings valued at an estimate of \$90 million.

Prairie View was accepted for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December, 1958, and later received full accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Dr. Evans retired in 1966. His administration clearly reflected a new era of efficiency and autonomy and the stature of a man of great ability, integrity, humility and humaneness.

##### J. M. Drew (1966)

On September 1, 1966, Dr. J. M. Drew, who had served as Dean of Instruction and Dean of Graduate Studies became the second President of Prairie View A&M College. Shortly after taking office, Dr. Drew became ill, and as a result of his request to be relieved of his office, the Board of Directors asked President Emeritus Evans to serve as Acting President.

Dr. Drew died of pneumonia on January 30, 1978, in Edwardsville, Illinois, following a lengthy illness.

### A. I. Thomas (1966-1982)

In November, 1966, the Board of Directors elected Dr. Alvin I. Thomas as the third President of Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Thomas served in this position until his resignation in June, 1982. Major advances occurring during A. I. Thomas' administration included the establishment of the first Naval ROTC unit at Prairie View in May, 1968. This was the first new Naval ROTC unit to be established in a 22-year period and the first ever at a predominately Black institution.

As the centennial year of Prairie View A&M's existence approached, the Board of Regents of the newly-titled Texas A&M University System, at the request of President Thomas, appointed seventy-nine persons to comprise a Centennial Planning Council. The Council was charged with formulating a new master plan for Prairie View A&M for the decade of the 1970's. After sixteen months of deliberate and serious study, the Council's recommendations were published in a document titled, "A Developmental Plan, 1970-1980, Prairie View A&M College of Texas." As an outgrowth of this plan and recommendations to the state legislature, the name of the institution was again changed to Prairie View A&M University, and its status as an independent unit of the Texas A&M University System was reconfirmed. The System Board of Regents, in the Fall of 1970, sold in excess of 13 million dollars in bonds for construction of two new residence halls and a dining facility. The residence halls, accommodating 1500 students, were opened for occupancy in August, 1972. The dining facility now known as Alumni Hall was opened in the second semester of the 1972-73 academic year. Other major construction completed during the following decade included the fire and security building, Farrell Hall Laundry, Burleson-Ware ROTC Building, Hobart Taylor Hall, the engineering building annex, and the Owens-Franklin Health Center. In 1980-81, the State of Texas purchased and renovated a building in the Texas Medical Center Complex, Houston, Texas to be used as a clinical nursing center for the Prairie View A&M College of Nursing. In 1981-82, broadcasting began from newly-constructed facilities of FCC-approved KPVU-FM at Prairie View, an instructional laboratory of the Department of Communications.

Dr. A. I. Thomas resigned in May, 1982. From June, 1982 to January, 1983, Dr. Ivory Nelson served as Acting President of Prairie View A&M University.

## BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE PRESIDENT PERCY ANTHONY PIERRE

The observance of Founders' Day of Prairie View A&M University in 1985 is uniquely significant. The occasion marks the one-hundred seventh year of the founding of the university and the installation of a president.

On January 27, 1983, Dr. Percy A. Pierre, a native of St. James, Louisiana, was named the fourth president of Prairie View A&M University. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, earning the B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering in 1961 and 1963, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1967. Dr. Pierre was the first Black person to earn a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. He also attended the University of Michigan for a year of post-doctoral study in electronic communications theory. It was in 1977 that the University of Notre Dame conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree in recognition of his contributions to Engineering Education.

Academic training coupled with high-level professional experience made Dr. Pierre the choice among more than one-hundred applicants for the presidency of Prairie View A&M University. He combines more than twenty years of experience in engineering education and research, university and government administration, and technical policy consultation. He served as research engineer with the Rand Corporation, the California think-tank, where he published over ten technical papers. In 1969, he was selected from among 1600 applicants to be a White House Fellow. He served in the Executive Office of the President of the United States where he helped develop national policy in housing and transportation. In 1971, he returned to education when he became Dean of Engineering at Howard University. During his tenure there he began two Ph.D. programs and increased sponsored research fivefold. In 1973, Dr. Pierre was asked to serve as Program Officer with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. His task was to devise a strategy to greatly increase opportunities for minorities in the field of Engineering. He planned the expenditure of \$15 million over five years and made grants to universities throughout the United States including Prairie View A&M University. As a result of these programs minority enrollments in engineering have increased almost tenfold since 1972.

In 1977, Dr. Pierre was asked by then President Jimmy Carter to accept the appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition in the United States Department of the Army. In that position he was responsible for the development and manufacture of Army weapons systems. In 1981, he founded and became president of Percy A. Pierre and Associates, a Washington, DC consulting firm, serving as president until 1983.

Invaluable experiences as a teacher additionally qualify Dr. Pierre for the presidency of Prairie View A&M University. His part-time teaching positions in Electrical Engineering have been in major universities including the University of Notre Dame, Southern University, the University of California at Los Angeles, and Howard University. His activity in research resulted in his scholarly writing of more than twenty-seven articles which have been published in national and international journals.

Widely known for his contributions to engineering education and engineering research, Dr. Pierre has been influential in shaping the future of engineering education through his active participation as a member of many professional organizations. He has been a trustee for NACME (National Action Council on Minorities in Engineering); member, NASA Advisory Committee; Director, Engineering College Council of the American Society for Engineering Education; member, Science Advisory Group, Defense Communications Agency; member, Commission of Scholars to review proposed graduate programs; member, Board of Higher Education, State of Illinois; member, Review Panel for the Institute of Applied Technology, National Bureau of Standards.

Dr. Pierre has received numerous honors and awards for his contributions in teaching, research, and administration; among them, Senior Member of Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, named member of Edison Award Committee, made member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society of America, and served as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the School of Engineering, University of Michigan. A very signal honor was his receiving the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service (the highest civilian medal given by the Department of the Army). Dr. Pierre is listed in Who's Who in America.

He currently holds membership as a Trustee board member of University of Notre Dame; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Committee to the Director; the Johns Hopkins University Advisory Committee for Engineering and the White House Fellows Foundation. He also serves on the Memorial Hospital Board, and the National Commission for Cooperative Education and is Co-Vice Chairman of the Texas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard Reserve.

Committing himself and Prairie View A&M University to excellence in education, improvement and expansion of physical plant, and development of strong cooperative relations between campus and community, Dr. Pierre, in less than two years, has realized significant priority goals in university development and relations at Prairie View A&M University.

He is married to the former Olga Markham, graduate of National College of Education and the University of Michigan. Mrs. Pierre's training and wide variety of experiences have provided her with valuable professional skills in the area of university relations and development.

As Director of Development for Foundations: A Better Chance, a Washington, DC, non-profit organization, Mrs. Pierre was instrumental in identifying and recruiting minority students in school systems, discovering their unique talents and assisting in placing them in select private, public, and independent schools in the country. As a volunteer, she worked on a special project in the Division of Development and University Relations at Howard University and implemented a model, "College Council," designed to utilize the talents and resources of Howard alumni, friends, and patrons. Mrs. Pierre's expertise in university relations and development enables her, ably, to support President Pierre in university relations and development at Prairie View.

Dr. and Mrs. Pierre are the parents of two teen-aged daughters, Kristen and Allison.

Dr. Pierre, fourth President of Prairie View A&M University, appointed to the presidency on January 27, 1983, is officially installed on March 21, 1985, in the one-hundred seventh year of the founding of the university.

## THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The pageantry and dress of the academic procession have been inherited from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Academic life as we know it today began in the Middle Ages, first in the Church, then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the guild of the Master of Arts, where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master and the dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

Principal features of academic dress are the gown, the cap and the hood. Both Cambridge and Oxford, since the fifteenth century, have made academic dress a matter of university control even to its minor details, and have repeatedly published revised regulations. American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895. In 1932 the American Council on Education presented a revised code which for the most part governs the style of academic dress today.

**THE GOWN:** The flowing gown comes from the twelfth century. While it originally may have been worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, today it has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it covers any dress of rank or social standing. It is black for all degrees, with pointed sleeves for the Bachelor's degree; long closed sleeves with a slit at the arm or wrist for the Master's degree; and full bell double sleeves for the Doctor's degree. Bachelors' and Masters' degree gowns have no trimming. For the Doctor's degree, the gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, in the color distinctive of faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains.

**THE CAP:** When Roman law freed the slave, he won the privilege of wearing a cap. The academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book. The color of the tassel denotes the discipline.

**THE HOOD:** The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.

The colors associated with the different disciplines are as follows:

Agriculture	Maize	Medicine	Green
Arts, Letters, Humanities	White	Music	Pink
Commerce, Accountancy, Business	Drab	Nursing	Apricot
Dentistry	Lilac	Oratory (Speech)	Silver Gray
Economics	Copper	Pharmacy	Olive Green
Education	Light Blue	Philosophy	Dark Blue
Engineering	Orange	Physical Education	Sage Green
Fine Arts, Architecture	Brown	Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Forestry	Russet	Public Health	Salmon Pink
Journalism	Crimson	Science	Golden Yellow
Law	Purple	Social Work	Citron
Library Science	Lemon	Theology	Scarlet
		Veterinary Science	Gray

## THE PRESIDENT'S GOWN

The specially designed presidential gown is purple and contains two gold panels in front and three gold chevrons on the sleeves. The panels and chevrons are bordered with metallic gold, and each panel contains the University seal. The colors of the gown depict the colors of Prairie View A&M University.

## THE PODIUM AND UNIVERSITY SEAL

The podium is constructed from Honduras mahogany and was designed by S. G. Messina, a master cabinet maker of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The university seal was carved and cast in bronze by Frank Hayden.

## THE MACE

The mace is an ancient symbol of authority which is carried by a marshal ahead of the academic procession. The newly designed mace for Prairie View A&M University is four feet long and contains four bronze figures atop a Honduras mahogany base which tapers sharply to fit into its stand. The four figures are symbolic of the four undergraduate academic years. Within the hollow area beneath the figures, and shared equally, is a flame which denotes knowledge and excellence. The base which serves as a grip and is carried by a faculty member, symbolizes the entire faculty; the stand which supports the mace characterizes the administration. The visual impact of the mace as a whole is "TORCH-LIKE." The eight ribbons represent the academic organization of the University.

The mace was designed by Frank Hayden, noted Sculptor and Professor of Fine Arts at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## ABOUT THE SCULPTOR

Frank Hayden, who was born in Tennessee, received the B.S. degree from Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana, and the M.F.A. degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where he studied under the famed twentieth century sculptor, Ivan Messtrovic. Hayden has done further study at the Munich Art Academy in Germany, the Royal Academy in Copenhagen, Denmark and the Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm, Sweden.

## THE CEREMONIAL FANFARE

The music for the "Ceremonial Fanfare" was composed by Lucius R. Wyatt, Head of the Department of Art, Music and Drama at Prairie View A&M University.

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## GOD OF OUR FATHERS

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
In this free land by thee our lot is cast;  
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
Thy word, our law, thy paths our chosen way.

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\*Students

## ALMA MATER—"Dear Prairie View"

DEAR PRAI-RIE VIEW, OUR SONG TO THEE WE RAISE- IN GRAT-I-TUDE

WE SING OUR HYMN OF PRAISE FOR MEM<sup>o</sup>-RIES DEAR FOR FRIENDS

AND REC-OL-LECT-I-ONS, -- FOR LES-SONS LEARNED WHILE HERE WE'VE

LIVED WITH THEE, -- FOR THESE WE PLEDGE OUR HEARTS FULL OF

DE-VO-TION TO SERVE THEE NOW, AND THROUGH E-TER-NI-TY.

As days go by, our hearts will not grow cold,  
We'll love thy purple royal and thy gold,  
We'll through our lives exemplify thy teaching,  
We'll always strive a blessing to be.  
Thy children we our love and pride confessing,  
We'll love thee now, and through eternity.

Words by *O. Anderson Fuller*

Music from "*Finlandia*" by *Sibelius*