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President Emeritus George C. Wright Speeches

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Let PVAMU Upgrade You

George C. Wright

Prairie View A&M University

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This has been a wonderful program. **I hope you realize that Dr. McFrazier and Vice President Byars are dedicated individuals, who will do anything to help you succeed.** Let me share with you one of my “keys to success:” I surround myself with smart people, who first and foremost are good people, better people than I am, who make me act better!

Being President of PVAMU is a very important position and ultimately a very humbling one as well. Interestingly, most PVAMU students see my role as being that of a “problem solver;” that is the reason they contact me. More than likely, I disappoint these students, and especially their parents and guardians, in the role of problem solver because I most often pass it off to the appropriate Administrator to handle.

First, I am an advocate for PVAMU: it is my responsibility to see that you have an environment that promotes learning and exploration of new and even controversial ideas. The reputation of this University is vitally important to me. I spend a significant amount of my time working externally on behalf of this great University. It means that I travel a great deal; I attend meetings in College Station, Austin, downtown Houston, and Washington, D.C. on a weekly basis. That is the reason why I am often unable to attend a certain program or activity on campus; but I try to make sure that the Central Administration, primarily through the Office of the Provost and the Student Affairs area, attend the various programs.

As much as I am focused on promoting the University right now, I am equally concerned about the “future” of PVAMU, of when I will not be here. In this regard, my ultimate goal is to ensure that the “temporary” funding that we now have is permanent funding. I have decided on the approach: explaining how the things that we do here ultimately benefit the State of Texas.

Second, my role is to “inspire you, the students,” to not just set goals, but to then exceed those goals. That is what has happened in my life. **Do you know why I tell groups like you so many things about myself: because I want you to realize that I am just like you; yet I have been able to achieve because of (1) hard work on my part, but even more (2) because people planted seeds that I have harvested.** But the key is that I had to know where to go and what to do to “harvest” the seeds that were planted for me. One of my favorite passages from the Bible, which those of you who are juniors and seniors have heard me say before, is John 4 Chapter, 37-38 Verses:

On Friday evening through Saturday afternoon of last week, I spent time with the Shell Black Networking Group, which was comprised of a number of young PVAMU alums. They are impressive: one “young brother” who has a degree not in Engineering but in Education and Communication will be going to Barrow, Alaska, (Prudoe Bay) to work out a settlement. I have been there in the summer time and it was cold then! I met another alum who travels to Asia all the time; and on and on. They all talked about sacrifice, something that you must now do, to get where they are in your late 20s, 30s, and beyond.

PVAMU students, those of us working here at PVAMU are “planting seeds.” To be sure, many of these seeds will be harvested in 10-20-30 years from now. **But, there are seeds that have been planted for you. The challenge is yours to harvest what has been planted for you.**

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

GENERAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY

“LET PVAMU UPGRADE YOU”

Wednesday, January 23, 2007
William J. “Billy” Nicks Field House
10:00 a.m.

PROGRAM

Presiding: Mr. Mark Williams, II
Mr. Prairie View 2007 - 2008

PRE-POSTING OF THE COLORS.....	AROTC
“THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER”.....	<i>arr. Lloyd Pfautsch</i> University Concert Chorale Mrs. A. Jan Taylor, Director
INVOCATION	Ms. Cheree White Junior, Business
WELCOME/GENERAL GREETINGS.....	Mr. Johnnie Jones, III Vice President, SGA
MUSICAL SELECTION.....	PVAMU Marching “Storm” Mr. George Edwards, Director
CHALLENGE:	Dr. Laurretta Byars Vice President for Institutional Relations and Public Service Dr. Michael L. McFrazier Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs PVAMU Classic Dance Ensemble Ms. Danyale Taylor, Director
MUSICAL SELECTION	Ms. Angel Porter Senior, Education “I Am Changing” As performed by Jennifer Hudson in Dream Girls
ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE	Ms. Jamie Jackson Miss Prairie View 2007 - 2008 Mr. Andre Evans President, SGA
REMARKS	Dr. George C. Wright President, PVAMU
INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
INCENTIVES /DOOR PRIZES	Dr. Taugamba Kadhi Assistant Professor, Arts and Sciences
ALMA MATER: “Dear Prairie View”	Sibelius-Fuller

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

*Words by FRANCES SCOTT KEY
Music attributed to John Stafford Smith*

ALMA MATER "Dear Prairie View"

Dear Prairie View, our song to Thee we raise,
In gratitude we sing our Hymn of praise,
For mem'ries dear, for friends and recollections
For lessons learned while here we've lived with thee.
For these we pledge our hearts full of devotion,
To serve thee now, and through eternity.

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 teachings,
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*

TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972

The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the primary federal agency responsible for enforcing TITLE IX.

WHAT is TITLE IX?

TITLE IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination and harassment in education. It has been used to promote equity in education by making sure that women and girls receive equal resources and treatment in the classroom and has forged the way for the establishment of many women's athletic programs. Title IX also includes provisions that hold schools liable for sex discrimination and harassment.

WHAT does TITLE IX say?

TITLE IX states,

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

WHY does TITLE IX exist?

Congress enacted Title IX to prohibit sex discrimination in any education program or activity—public or private—receiving federal funds.

HOW does TITLE IX protect me?

TITLE IX's prohibition against sex discrimination is broad, protecting *students, faculty, and staff* in federally funded education programs. The law applies to every aspect of the program, such as *admissions, recruitment, academics, employment, athletics and student services*.

Notably, TITLE IX's broad prohibition against sex discrimination also includes sexual harassment. (*Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual assault and rape are severe types of sexual harassment*).

Reports of Sexual Harassment/Discrimination

Any member of the University community may report conduct that may constitute sexual harassment under this policy. An individual who believes he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment should submit a formal written complaint to the Office of Equal Opportunity within (90) days of the occurrence of the most recent alleged violation(s). Prohibitions under this law is codified through the University's *Policy Against Sexual Harassment* ; *University Procedure 70.17 Student Grievance Procedures* and the A&M System policies, regulations and/or rules; *Sexual Harassment 34.01.01*

In addition, administrators, faculty, supervisors, managers and other designated employees are responsible for taking whatever action is necessary to prevent sexual harassment, to correct it when it occurs, and to report it promptly to the TITLE IX Compliance Coordinator designated to review and investigate sexual harassment complaints:

TITLE IX Coordinator

Renee R. Williams

Office of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action

A.I. Thomas Building, Suite 013

(936) 261-2123 or 2130

rrwilliams@pvamu.edu

STEPPING INTO BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2008

Living the Dream...Let Freedom Ring

BLACK HISTORY MONTH RIBBONS, BUTTONS, AND WRISTBANDS

Black History Month Annual Kick-Off, the Special Programs Office, or the Office of Student Activities & Leadership.
Sponsored by the Office of Special Programs/Cultural Series. Contact: L. Love - 3555

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

Black History Month Annual Kick-Off Address by PVAMU President, Dr. George C. Wright.

Sponsored by The President's Office, Academic Affairs and The Black History Month Committee. Contact: M. McFrazier -2175
College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology Auditorium, 4:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH & WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

50th Annual Ministers' Conference - Anniversary Celebration
Sponsored by the Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel. Contact: C. Lewter III - 3590
Opal Johnson-Smith Auditorium, Tempton Memorial Student Center, 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

The Harlem Gospel Choir

Sponsored by Special Programs/Cultural Series, Black History Committee SGA & ASA
Contact: L. Love - 3555
Opal Johnson-Smith Auditorium, Tempton Memorial Student Center, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH

African Attire Day

Show your proud heritage each Wednesday during the month of February by wearing attire that represents one of the African Countries or the Black History Month colors of red, green and black. Contact: L. Love - 3555

FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 8TH, 15TH, 22ND & 29TH

Fish and Facts Fridays with Frank Jackson and Renee Williams

Sponsored by the Equal Opportunity Office, the Office of Institutional Relations & Public Service. Contact: R. Williams - 2123
Pardus & Tempton MSC Cafeteria, 1:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

MONDAYS, FEBRUARY 11TH, 18TH & 25TH

The Great Debate

Sponsored by the Department of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Science.
Contact: J. Jones - 3204
Tempton MSC Lounge - Second Floor, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

Career Track Networking 101

Sponsored by Career and Outreach Services. Contact: G. Jones - 3570
Tempton MSC Ballroom, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH & 26TH

"Ask-it-Basket"- Men's Leadership Council

Sponsored by the Men's Leadership Council. Contact: J. Jones - 3204
Tempton MSC Lounge 2nd floor, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

PVAMU Student Entrepreneurs Expo

Sponsored by Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and the Office of Special Programs/Cultural Series. Business sign-ups call 936-261-3574. Contact: F. Roberts - 3574
Tempton MSC Foyers - First and second floors, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Prairie View A&M: Shaping the History of Black America

Sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership. Contact: D. Simmons - 1342
Opal Johnson Smith Auditorium, Tempton MSC, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Back to Basic Spring Gala

Contact: B. Hall - 1344
Tempton MSC Ballroom-second floor, 8:00 p.m. Reception, 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. Gala

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

Club Pees & Vees

Sponsored by Students in Free Enterprise (CIFE). Contact: F. Roberts - 3573
Tempton MSC Ballroom, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

Concert - A Little Joplin/Unheard Voices: A Slave Narrative

For more information and tickets call 936-261-3310 or visit the website at www.pvamu.edu
Contact: V. Seldon 3325
Sponsored by the Music and Drama Department
Hobart Taylor Auditorium, 5:00 p.m. - Pre-Concert Dinner, 6:00 p.m. - Main Performance

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH & WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

Spring 2008 Career Fair

Sponsored by the Career and Outreach Services. Contact: G. Jones - 3571
Tempton MSC Ballroom, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

The Principles of Kwanzaa Integrated with Black History

Presented by Dr. Clement Glenn
Sponsored by the Division for Student Affairs. Contact: T. Albert - 3554
Tempton MSC Lounge 2nd floor, 4:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

A Taste of Soul - Soul Food Night

Sponsored by Sodexo Food Service. Contact: Tee - 1770
Tempton MSC Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Cultural Workshop-A World of Culture

Sponsored by the African Students Association, Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Special Programs Cultural Series. Contact: L. Love - 3555
Tempton MSC Lounge 2nd Floor, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Concert - A little Jazz/Evaluation Mixed Tape, Volume I: Choreopoem

For more information call 936-261-3310 or visit the website at www.pvamu.edu
Sponsored by the Department of Music and Drama. Contact: V. Seldon - 3325
Hobart Taylor Auditorium, 5:00 P.M. Concert Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Main Performance

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

Pantherland Day on the Hill

"Carnival on 'The Hill' Step Right Up to Graduate School"
Sponsored by the Office of Recruitment - Student and Enrollment Management.
Contact: P. Freeman - 5905
Billy J. Nicks Field House, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

Gospel Extravaganza

Sponsored by Students in Free Enterprise and the Office of Special Programs/Cultural Series. Contact: F. Roberts - 3573
Opal Johnson Smith Auditorium, Tempton MSC, 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

Black History Month Guest Lecture with Dr. James L. Conyers

Sponsored by the John B. Coleman Library. Contact: M. Williams - 1532
John B. Coleman Library, room 108, 2:00 p.m.

University College Black History Talent Extravaganza

Sponsored by University College. Contact: J. Whiting - 5905
Opal Johnson-Smith Auditorium, Tempton MSC, 7:00 p.m.

CAB Movie Night

Sponsored by the Campus Activities Board (CAB). Contact: S. Ransom - 1341
Front of the Tempton MSC, 5:00 p.m. or at dark

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

Student Challenge Bowl

Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Sign up begins January 22, 2008 in Room 200 of Evans Hall. Call 936-261-3573
Sponsored by Career and Outreach Services and the John B. Coleman Library
Contact: H. Thomas 3573

Tempton Memorial Student Center Ballroom, 2:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

Karaoke Night

Sponsored by Multicultural Affairs, NAACP, CHISPAS and Special Programs Cultural Series.
Contact: E. Gonzales - 2124
Tempton Memorial Student Center Ballroom, 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Coordinated by:

The Office of Special Programs Cultural Series

The Division for Student Affairs

Students needing assistance call 936-261-3585