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1876 A Magazine for Alumni, Faculty and Supporters

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**A Magazine for
Alumni, Faculty and Supporters**

SUMMER 2018

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



LEGENDS DO LIVE

**100 YEARS OF
COMPASSION
UNLEASHED**

**A CONVERSATION WITH
RUTH J. SIMMONS ON
ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP**

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1876 MAGAZINE



MEET THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS >

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Billy Davis, a '91 PVAMU alumnus, has been appointed to serve as the Director of Alumni Affairs. In this critical alumni role, Billy is tasked with building relationships with a wide range of alumni; communicating with alumni through a variety of media; and collaborating with colleagues in a range of university offices to create and maintain pathways for strong alumni participation. Additionally, Billy will be responsible for serving as a liaison between the National Alumni Association and regional alumni organizations and campus leadership. His tenure begins in July.

An active and proud PVAMU alumnus, Billy served as president of the Prairie View A&M University-Dallas Alumni Chapter and was a board member of the Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association from 2012-2017. Additionally, he has served since 2013 as a Prairie View A&M Foundation trustee representing the National Alumni Association.

Instrumental in establishing the Dallas Alumni Chapter's first endowment, which provides financial support to students, he led numerous initiatives, including increasing scholarships provided to incoming Freshmen from the Dallas area, completing a \$200,000 commitment for the Panther Stadium project, and developing leadership roles for millennial alumni resulting in their increased participation within the chapter.

A native of Dallas, Texas, Billy has had a professional telecommunications career spanning more than 20 years. He provided global technical support resulting in increased efficiency and quality of sales proposals and enhanced end-to-end solutions that improved Nokia's hardware and software delivery process. His technical expertise will be of great value in establishing a reliable, searchable alumni database.

Billy's passion for Prairie View is evident and he strongly believes in generously giving back to his alma mater which, he says, has given so much to him and others. His highest goal is to build relationships and inspire alumni to be involved in the great legacy of PVAMU.

"Prairie View A&M University continues to produce productive people. It has a bright future ahead with unlimited opportunities for growth. Our alumni family plays a major role in our continued success and I am excited to work with our alumni to get them engaged as we make the university the best that it can be for future generations of Panthers," said Davis.





BUILDING SOMETHING

STRONG

**PVAMU AND AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES
CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF STUDENT HOUSING**



UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

BEDS: 2,064
OPENED: 1996
PHASES: 4
TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$38.4 million



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

BEDS: 1470
OPENED: 2000
PHASES: 2
TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$23.6 million



UNIVERSITY VIEW

BEDS: 366
OPENED: 2013
PHASES: 1
TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$15.3 million



UNIVERSITY SQUARE

BEDS: 466
OPENED: 2017
PHASES: 1
TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$27 million

For just a little more than 20 years, American Campus Communities, a student housing organization based out of Austin, has partnered with Prairie View A&M to provide an academic-friendly living environment.

As the partnership heads into its second decade in working alongside ACC, PVAMU is looking to the future of literally building out a vision for revitalized student housing community.

BY NICK ESQUER



“TOGETHER, PVAMU AND ACC HAVE TAKEN THE RESIDENT PROGRAM TO A PLACE THAT FAMILIES ARE EXCITED TO SEE AND GLAD TO CALL THEIR HOME”

“[PVAMU] started this relationship with a desire to create a living learning environment that would compete with those same services at any other campus,” explains Fred Washington, vice president of Auxiliary Services. “Together, PVAMU and ACC have taken our resident program to a place that families are excited to see and glad to call their home away from home.”

What began as a fledgling startup for student housing in the early 1990’s, American Campus Communities blossomed with partnerships like PVAMU. In 1995, then-university president Charles Hines met with ACC’s current CEO, Bill Bayless, to discuss taking student housing to the next level by revitalizing it into a first-rate development.

“The synergy of our visions and goals began to take shape in the development of the first phase of University Village in 1996. We quickly moved forward together and over the next five years, we delivered two more phases of University Village and University College, while taking all of the older housing facilities out of service,” explains Bayless. “We completely transformed the campus in a very short time frame.”

All together, more than \$100 million has been poured into PVAMU’s campus housing efforts, resulting in five communities and nearly 4,300 beds for students to lay their head at night. There have been three phases of new apartments built on campus, ending up with a fully privatized approach to the university’s housing system.

“As a university our goal is to grow to 12,000 students by 2020. Our enrollment goal is/was the driver for our facility

master plan that that will carry us to 2021 and includes an additional phase of construction,” adds Washington.

Together, Prairie View and American Campus Communities are strengthening what it means to build community. The next checkpoint is in 2022 when they’ll come together again to develop the next facility master plan.

A big difference that creating new and improved housing environments for students is seeing retention rates in freshmen students rise. Equipping students from the very start with well-funded and comfortable resources (i.e. housing, materials, food, etc.) helps to guide them to and through a path of success throughout their academic careers at PVAMU.

“We have found that there are three things that families look at outside of the classroom: where will the student eat, where will the student sleep and where will the student socially mix with other students? Housing was the first of these three areas we worked to address in 1996 and was a big part of helping students see that this is a great place to live.”

And as for the future of the partnership between the two, Bayless and ACC hope “to continue to serve PVAMU’s housing needs and to serve the students by providing the highest levels of housing products and services. That very well may include even more development.”



A DEVOTION TO INSPIRATION

A LOOK BACK AT DR. GEORGE C. WRIGHT'S 14 YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

For 14 years, Dr. George C. Wright helped guide Prairie View A&M University. Now, post-presidency, the longtime scholar and historian begins refocusing his educational practice from administrator back to professor-while tackling other passionate projects.

A noted African-American scholar and native of Lexington, Kentucky, Wright's flare for learning about historical backgrounds started when he was a child, but his lack of follow through didn't always lead to hitting the books. "Beginning in elementary school, I loved to read, especially history books about explorers, leaders, and critical events such as the American Civil War, World War I and World War II," says Dr. Wright. "This carried over to my days as a college student." But the in-between period, from elementary through college, didn't prove to be a prelude to what his career has turned out to be.

"He had some rebellion in him...When he graduated from high school he graduated with less than a 2.0," says longtime friend and colleague Dr. Laurretta Byars, vice president of student affairs. But it was an opportunity to attend the University of Kentucky (UK) on a scholarship that helped Dr. Wright tap into a well of discipline in his education. "I've always admired his educational discipline, and he became a true historian in his studies," said Byars.

After his studies at UK, Dr. Wright had developed a truly

inimitable way to grab at the meaning of what he was teaching. By using examples from history with the lens of understanding the importance of whatever issues students are learning, Dr. Wright changed the idea that learning history was about memorizing facts, and instead imparted the true significance of the events from the past.

This kind of unique influence doled out by Dr. Wright is something that pulled Dr. James Wilson, Jr. in from the moment he stepped on campus at the University of Texas at Austin when Wright was a professor. Teacher took student under his wing, like many others before him, and instilled a sense of work ethic as well as cultural identity.

"He taught the majority of African-American students (at UT) and made a huge impact on their lives. His mission is to inspire people to be the best they can be and this is what I try to emulate in my own career," Dr. James Wilson, Jr. associate provost for academic affairs at Prairie View A&M University.

Through his teaching, mentoring, and leadership and support with educational programs, he saw an opportunity to step into an administrative role at PVAMU in 2003. And once in the role as Prairie View A&M seventh president, Wright began implementing the same scholarly system of overseeing a classroom to the operations of an entire university.





'HIS LOVE OF READING INSPIRED HIM TO FIND A WAY TO CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF READING.'

He loved being president and encouraging young people to achieve at high levels," adds Dr. Byars. "He wanted to try to find new ways to help students achieve in a way that they never thought they could. He relished being able to take a student from where they were when he met them to greater heights.

In 2011, Wright called upon his administration, faculty and staff to take the necessary steps to help the University sustain a 15 percent cut in the operations fund. "I had been asking everyone to 'do more', and I realized the same applied to me as well," expressed Wright. What followed was a revelation in Dr. Wright's aspirations in education. The opportunity to step into a dual role at the University; president and professor. He made the decision to return to the classroom, teaching American History to roughly 300 students to assist in this campus-wide effort. "Because I was fortunate enough to serve as president for 14 years, there are so many memorable moments, virtually every year from 2003-2017. These range from planning and seeing new programs come into existence to new building projects," remembers Dr. Wright.

During his tenure, the campus saw an increase in international enrollment initiatives, the resurgence of the Honors Program, new academic facilities and the Panther Stadium to name a few.

In Addition his love of reading inspired him to find a way to challenge students to understand the power of reading. Thus the 'President's Reading' list was curated with the assistance of the leadership team. "We developed a list of books that would help expand students' horizon to post-graduation," said Byars. The list in printed book form, featured 63 publications and was shared with campus visitors, prospective students, high schools, libraries, other universities and churches across the world.

Dr. Wright recognized that a connection to history was the singular force behind appreciating the surrounding culture on a campus.

"At some point, I began planning programs for Black History Month and other special occasions. I realized that I enjoyed working with a wide range of university folk and being involved in activities that extended educational opportunities for students beyond my classroom," says Dr. Wright.

Now, as Dr. Wright embarks on his latest chapter of educating the masses, it's his lasting imprint on the university and the people inside--student and teacher alike--who are left with true lessons in humanity. In his life it was education that opened doors to all of his achievements," says Dr. Wilson. "What I've taken from him is his mission is to inspire people to be the best they can be. He invested every amount of personal and professional resources to the university and its students. A staunch researcher and an avid reader, Wright is planning to dive deeper into his four books that he is producing right now. That's right--four books, including an autobiography and a book about college culture among African-Americans.

THE VIEW

INSPIRED



Conversations with Ruth Simmons on Academic Leadership

— BY MUNIR QUDDUS

Ruth Simmons has recently been appointed the 8th President of Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas. She is the first woman to hold this position. Simmons, a pioneer in American higher education, has broken many glass ceilings in her long and storied career.

[Munir Quddus]: President Simmons, thank you for taking time for this conversation. I want to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as the 8th President of Prairie View A&M University, and the first woman to hold this office. In my conversations with students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of this historic institution, I can feel an excitement in the air. The university community is eager to learn more about you, your leadership style and your plans. Hence, I thought that this is an opportune time for an interview on the subject of academic leadership.

[Ruth Simmons]: That is because they don't know me [Smile].

[Munir Quddus]: Thinking as a Leader - In your long and illustrious career as an academic leader, you have broken many "glass ceilings" and have achieved many "firsts." From Spelman to Smith to Princeton and Brown - you have led a number of great institutions of higher learning. Would you share a little about the modes of thinking, habits and strategies that may have helped you become a successful and admired academic leader?

[Ruth Simmons]: The first thing that I learned at a very young age is that I couldn't be anyone other than who I am. [Pause...]

The first thing I try to do is to eliminate pretense entirely from the way I work, the way I interact with people and the way I think about the work and come to work as honestly as I can. I set aside whatever my personal interests are, which tend to slant one's decisions. I try to remove the possibility of considerations that could be personally aggrandizing. I try to remove any possibility that the move makes my own career more visible. I think of the fundamental value of what I am doing, to whom it could be valuable, and how I can intervene with my particular knowledge and skills to make the institution better. I try to assume responsibility, and not to blame others when I don't get results I am seeking. I think deeply about a problem and make a plan so that I feel entirely comfortable in taking responsibility for whatever the outcome may be.

At bottom, I have tried to think of leadership, ultimately, as an issue of "authenticity." Who are you? What do you bring? How do you function? Are you sufficiently self-aware, so that you can build the trust that is needed to lead?

[Munir Quddus]: On Mentors - Can you share a little about people in your life who nurtured and mentored you in your path to leadership, and throughout your career?

[Ruth Simmons]: Mentors are important. A lot of people think mentors are important in early life but I think they are important for the duration of one's career, and not just in the professional sphere. Mentors matter in both personal and professional spheres.

My greatest mentor by far was my mother. I learn that more and more every year because it was really the things that she taught me as a child that benefitted me the most. She had very firm views about humanity. What she talked about frequently was the need to respect people, the need to be humble, never to think that your wants are better than other people's wants, or your needs are better than other people's

needs. She talked a good deal about fairness, and equity, and justice. She talked about the importance of being a decent human being above everything else. Those are the things that I still treasure above everything else I have learned. They are the bedrock principles of being able to work effectively with people, having a long career where you are not embarrassed about the things you have done, have the courage to fight for the things that matter and never losing sight of who you are and what ultimately matters. Because when I read about people who have failed, it is often because they made the fatal error of abandoning the fundamental principle of staying focused on what really matters. So my mother's words have always been and continue to be important to me.

[Munir Quddus]: On Role Models - Each one of us has role models that we look up to and learn from. In your leadership journey to the top (in higher education), who were your role models, both historical and contemporary?

[Ruth Simmons]: My field is French and I studied francophone literature when I was starting my career. I wrote my thesis at Harvard on a very famous poet named Aimé Césaire, and I had an opportunity to go to Martinique where he lived to interview him. Of course it was a memorable experience for me because he was such a great and iconic poet in the French language, so that was very powerful. Also, because he unified so many fields. He was one of those revolutionary poets who offered at a critical point in history, an authentic voice for emerging nations. He was writing in French as someone who stood outside the French culture. Along with another writer, Leopold Sedar Senghor, he created this revolutionary literature by asserting that those in the African Diaspora should create their own voice. He argued that they should not simply adopt the language and the culture of their colonizers, but should endeavor to create a more authentic voice. He was the master practitioner of this and his seminal work broke through and inspired many other artists to do so and therefore, we have a very robust francophone literature today.

I greatly admired his quest for authenticity as well as his courage, and have tried to emulate his path in my life.

[Munir Quddus]: Theories of Leadership - According to some scholars, leaders are born, while others are of the view that leaders are made. Based on your life experience what is your view in this issue?

[Ruth Simmons]: I certainly can't believe that leaders are born. I would not be in that camp at all. I surely believe that based on the way one is reared, there may have been certain advantages which can help one develop into a leader over time. That is definitely true.

But I think circumstances create the leader. How could one predict that Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) would be a leader? It would be hard to make the case that he was a born leader. He was born at a point in history, where what he could do uniquely well was important and where there was an audience for what he could do. But for that critical point in history, he could have been a very fine minister, he could have been perhaps a professor, but he would not have been a Gandhi-like figure.



**"WE CAN
BE MORE
EQUAL IN THE
WORKPLACE..."**

What do [ordinary? carefree?] people do when they are born into circumstances that require them to lead? They begin to develop aspects of themselves that increase the chances that they can be successful leaders.

[Munir Quddus]: A "learners" model of leadership—Adam Bryant, in his October 27, 2017 piece in the New York Times speaks of the lessons on leadership that he has learned from interviewing over 500 CEOs. Towards the end of the article, he says that his favorite insight came from you [Ruth Simmons], when you said, "They [students] should never assume that they can predict what experiences will teach them the most about what they value, or about what their life should be," she said. "You have to be open and alert at every turn to the possibility that you're about to learn the most important lesson of your life."

[Ruth Simmons]: I have always thought, and this has certainly been true for me and it is generally true for my students, there is one thing we can be certain of—that is, one cannot predict the moment when truth will be revealed to you in a way that transforms you and transforms your life. You can't predict which moment will lead you to do the most important thing in your life. So I have always thought that the most important thing we can do as learners, and frankly as humans is be open to the possibility that the next thing we do, the next thing we see, the next thing we learn could be the most important moment in our lives, and therefore, we must be constantly alert and open. We must be constantly aware when we are meeting people that we should not pre-judge who they are. The next person you meet could be the decisive influence in your life, and sometimes you may never even know that until much later.

So I tell my students, every day you get up, be ready for this. Dress for it, prepare for it, and remain constantly ready.

[Munir Quddus]: University President as a Leader - How important is the role of "Presidential leadership" in higher education in building great and lasting institutions? In your own experience, what are the most important attributes a university president must have?

[Ruth Simmons]: I don't think presidential leadership is as important as structures and the quality of people who participate in the institution across the board. By quality I mean their commitment, their preparation, their dedication and their concern for students. If all of that operates well, you can change presidents here and there, and it won't matter much.

It depends on the needs of the institution. Sometimes institutions are involved in change and there might be a need for people who are somewhat more experienced.

The "hero" president model is passé. So what you want to do is to look at the "swath" of leadership. I talk often about a culture of leadership. This means that people who work in the dining hall ought to feel they are part of that culture of leadership, because they are focused on bringing the best and healthiest food and doing that in the best possible way. If you go to the library, the staff working there should be thinking the same way. Every faculty member in every classroom should feel they are part of this leadership, because the classroom is their domain.

If you are coming to the campus every day, and you

are teaching your courses and leaving. Forget it. You are never going to become a leader in the classroom. You are never going to become good in administration. You have to be committed, interested, pushing the envelope and add value.

[Munir Quddus]: Women in Leadership - We know that women and minorities are significantly underrepresented in the highest leadership levels in academe. As a nation, how do we make progress on this count? What counsel would you give to a student or a junior faculty on how to prepare for (and seek) a life of leadership?

[Ruth Simmons]: We can start off by being fair to women. There is no simpler or better answer than that. Having opportunities for girls that are equal starting when they are very small. The opportunities and the messages we give to girls are important.

We can be more equal in the workplace...

One thing we can do is to intervene early. We can intervene by teaching women their rights in the workplace, how they can advance their needs, how they can get help in the areas where they may need help. This information needs to be in the hands of the women.

Honing those skills early in your career, where you learn not to worry about people calling you a pushy woman, when you learn to overcome the stigma attached to the things you have to do to have a credible career. If you learn it early on in your career, your career progresses more comfortably I think.

**"THE NEXT PERSON YOU MEET COULD BE THE
DECISIVE INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE"**



[Munir Guddus]:

President Simmons – we have come to the end of our conversation today. Thank you for sharing your wonderful insights and personal stories relating to leadership. I am sure this will be highly educational for our students and the entire PVAMU community. Thank you!

[Ruth Simmons]:

HAPPY TO PARTICIPATE...VERY ENJOYABLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOU. I THANK YOU FOR ARRANGING IT.

To watch the entire interview please visit:
www.youtube.com/pvamu



CHIEF USHERS UNIVERSITY POLICE IN NEW DIRECTION

BY JOURDAN SCRUGGS

Newly installed University Police Department Chief, Keith Jemison, Ed.D., joined Prairie View A&M University in June 2018 after serving as the Assistant Police Chief for Missouri City.

“I thought it would be an interesting and perhaps challenging position,” said Jemison.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Jemison holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College of Missouri with Cum Laude honors, a Master's degree in Political and Justice Studies from Governor's State University, and a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Interdisciplinary Leadership with a concentration in Public Safety from Governor's State University. Chief Jemison holds a Master Peace Officer certification through the state of Texas. “The key to better law enforcement is better educated and a better-trained police force,” said Jemison. “These skills are invaluable in building communities, community policing and mitigating liability.”

Along with pursuing his profession in law enforcement, he has spent the last seven years teaching political science and

critical thinking at the collegiate level. “I believe that part of our job is to educate and teach,” said Jemison, “So I’m an educator.”

In fact, Jemison says that he finds interest in the cerebral part of law enforcement and believes that law enforcement is increasingly becoming the thinking man's game.

Jemison has major plans to transform the UPD. He wants to start by raising the department's credibility and getting back to its role and primary missions - safety and security.

“The credibility of a community can be tied to the credibility of its law enforcement,” said Jemison.

All of Jemison's staff receive training and are constantly enrolling in new courses to enhance their skillset. His goal is for the PVAMU UPD to be the best campus police department and, he believes that starts by being a department in which the community has confidence.



BY MAURICE PERKINS

Prairie View A&M has a legacy of football that spans decades. Starting in 1924 with Head Coach H. B. Hucles, and throughout the tenure of William “Billy” Nicks (who earned an impressive 17-year record of 129 wins, 39 losses, and eight ties), PVAMU Football remains a recognizable name-brand in HBCU football.

But having winning teams and building a powerhouse football brand starts with hiring a dynamic football coach who knows how to lead a team, how to recruit outstanding talent and how to manage play on the field. PVAMU Football’s 33rd Head Football Coach, Eric Dooley, has the right ingredients to stir up a winning team for the 2018-2019 season.

As a well respected assistant coach at Grambling State University, Dooley’s well strategized plays helped lead the Tigers to three consecutive Western Division titles, and two SWAC Championships as Offensive Coordinator.

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Coach Dooley played wide receiver under Grambling’s legendary Head Football Coach, Eddie Robinson, and played professionally in the Canadian Football League.

Dooley has wholly embraced joining the PVAMU family and he is looking forward to earning the support of the PV faculty, staff, students, and alumni. “It’s not just us on the field as the team; [we represent] the community, the fan base, and the alumni,” explained Dooley.

The honor of representing the university in the state of Texas, within the SWAC conference and, even throughout the United States. Delivering a championship to Prairie View, takes discipline from everyone – from the coaching staff to the student athletes. For Dooley, teaching discipline is one of the cornerstones of his coaching style.

In fact, Dooley is emphatic about ensuring that his players

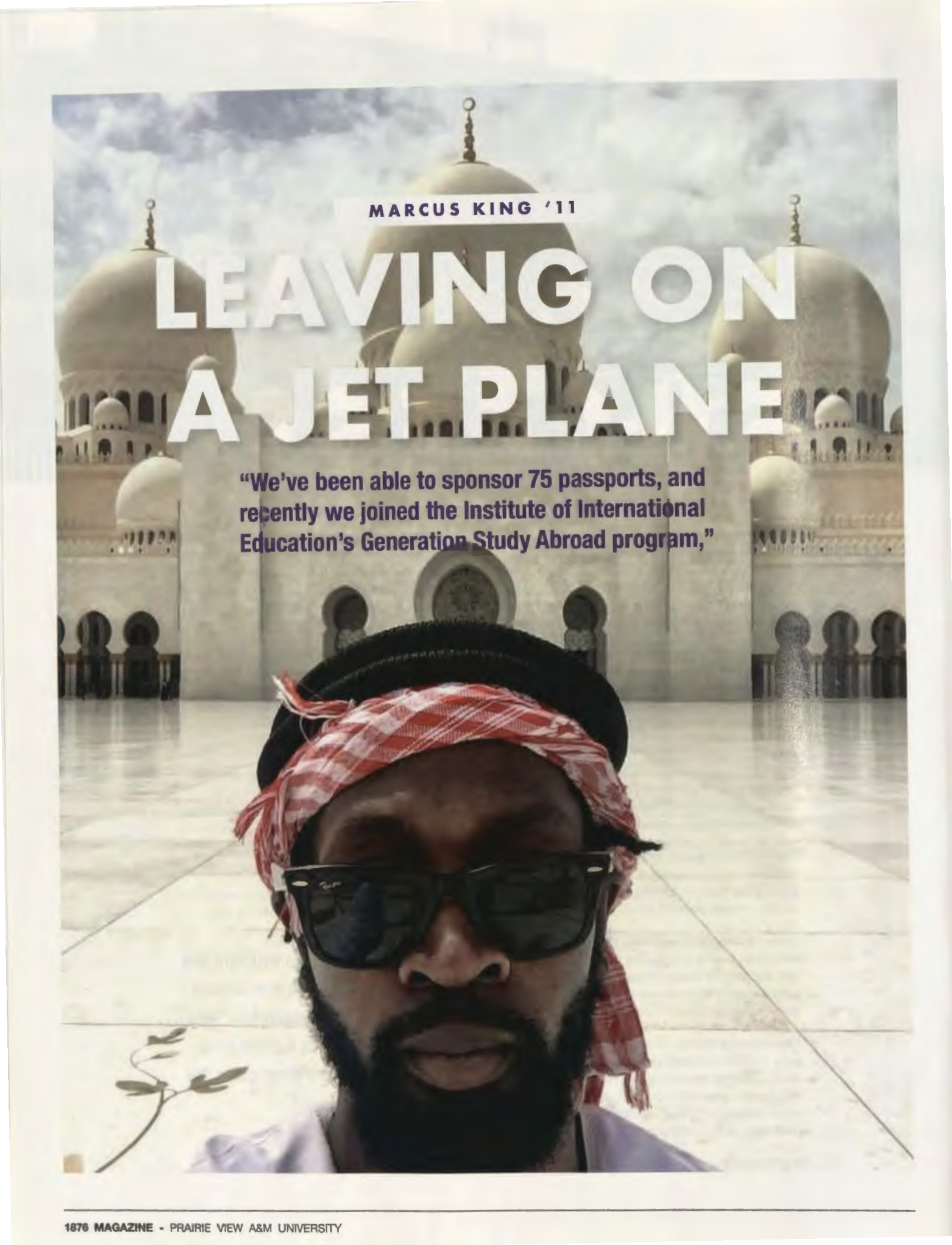
are not only disciplined on the field, but also in the classroom and, ultimately, in life. “Student-athletes balance academics, impressing scouts, media attention and overall college life. Being disciplined as a person will take you a long way and can help you navigate through tough situations.” explains Dooley.

But, it doesn’t just stop at discipline. Coach understands the fundamental importance of building teenagers into productive gentlemen. “That’s a part of my mission. I want to build quality young men,” shares Dooley. “If we teach the discipline phase on the field as well as off the field, we now have quality guys who will go on to be successful in the world.”

On a personal note, Coach Dooley is all about family. His wife, Alicia Dooley, and their three children, are his support base. It’s not only the love of the game, but the love of family that drives Coach. In a recent interview, Mrs. Dooley shared, “You do need that support system to be right there with your husband, and so far it’s been a good ride!”

Finally, Coach says that he is looking forward to seeing all the PV supporters at the games and cheering on the team.

“These students have worked hard and they need to feel and see that support to drive them to a championship,” said Dooley. “I expect to see a packed out Panther stadium every home game this season. That’s the goal.”



MARCUS KING '11

LEAVING ON A JET PLANE

"We've been able to sponsor 75 passports, and recently we joined the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad program,"

PVAMU Alumnus and Hardly Home Founder inspires students to experience culture outside of the classroom.



Marcus King '11 currently serves as an International Student Advisor with the Office for International Affairs at Prairie View A&M University. In this position, King hopes to create a global culture of internationalization for the University. "I want to see our percentage of students going abroad increase," said King, "I'd love to see that every student who comes to Prairie View is able to take advantage of a study abroad opportunity."

At an early age, King caught the travel bug from his mother - an avid traveler and scuba diver. "I travelled the first time when I was 7," said King. "We went to Cancun, Mexico." By the time King became a student at PVAMU, traveling the world became a top priority. He was intent on starting his adventure by travelling to the states he hadn't yet visited in the U.S.

Upon graduation, King started working at an engineering firm. While there, he had a flexible schedule that allowed him to take a day off every other Friday. Creatively, he coupled these "off Fridays" with a holiday. This allowed him to take his time away from work to travel more freely. "I would do that every chance I got," said King, "Eventually, I started going more places outside of the States."

Since graduating, King has traveled to places like Dubai, Cuba and Jamaica. "I just started knocking places off the list," said King. "The more places I went, the more I added to my list."

It has always been on King's mind to do something for other people, "I always kind of had an idea to do something creative that would help people," he explained. In 2013, he had a dream about traveling to Jamaica. That dream inspired him to start his business, the Hardly Home Initiative.

The Hardly Home Initiative, a 501c3 non-profit organization, was founded in 2016 with the objective of making a difference through travel. It is the organizations belief that travel is the best education, and that through travel, students are able to gain a worldly perspective, as well as experience various cultures and witness history first-hand.

To grow the business, King started traveling to different festivals and cities and sharing content on a blog that he created. Later,

he began to add merchandise to the website like phone cases, t-shirts, and hats. In 2016, King decided he wanted to create a social component, so he created the passport initiative where he would sponsor passports for students.

With the help from a few friends as investors Huran Jones, Blake Simon and Patrick Mac; King decided to host fundraising events to support the passport initiative. "I try to look for opportunities that mesh and make sense," said King. Initially, he did not have a blueprint and says he learned by trial and error. But King kept at it.

The fund's first 12 passports came from members of a group chat who had agreed to each sponsor a student, "They believed in what I was doing and helped me get the business and the passport initiative off the ground," said King.

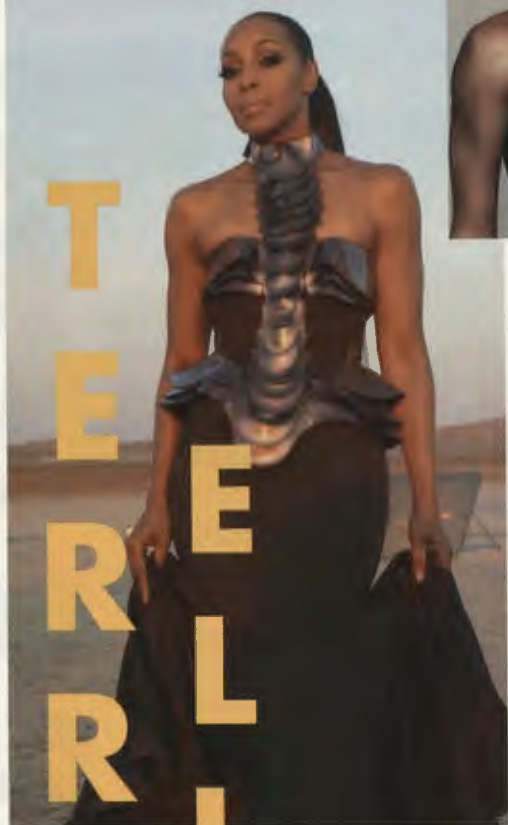
Later, he began connecting with different organizations. Soon enough, word of the good work that he was doing spread and the passport program took flight, "As the program grew, the amount of donations increase as did the request for passports," said King.

"We've been able to sponsor 75 passports, and recently we joined the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad program," said King, "Their goal is to double the number of American students studying abroad in 2020."

According to King, more and more international education supporters and organization have joined the initiative making it a collaborative effort. And King plans to use these new collaborations to strengthen the reach of his Hardly Home Initiative that pledged to sponsor 500 passports by the end of 2020.

"Being an alumnus of Prairie View, I definitely wanted to make sure more students are able to take advantage of the opportunity to get a passport, but also study abroad," said King. "Now, I feel like there are things that I am doing that are making a difference in our students lives."

THE PRODD



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BY: CANDACE JOHNSON

R&B Singer-songwriter Terry Ellis '90 always knew she wanted to attend an HBCU.

R&B Singer-songwriter Terry Ellis '90 always knew she wanted to attend an HBCU. After admiring her big sister Shelia Ellis' experience at PVAMU, her attention turned to PVAMU. But it was a PVAMU homecoming performance with a local Houston band during her senior year that sealed the deal. "Every year for homecoming, it seemed like PVAMU would have Maze featuring Frankie Beverly headline the homecoming concert. That particular year, I performed with a band as one of the opening acts. George Edwards, the band director at the time, saw me that night and asked me where I planned to attend college. I told him that I was thinking about coming to PVAMU and he told me to make sure I kept in contact with him because I had to be here," said Ellis. "I came to orientation to check out the campus and ran into Edwards. He recognized my face and took my family on a tour of campus and told me he wanted me to sing in the jazz band and with the marching band. The rest is history."

What would you say you enjoyed most about being at PVAMU?

The black college experience; I feel so proud to say I graduated from an HBCU and just the experiences we have in our culture. There is nothing like it. I would also have to say the music department and my participation in the band. Being able to perform at all of the football games was the beginning of my career; it gave me the courage and confidence up to be able to perform in front of massive audiences.

What do you remember about student life?

I loved hanging out with my girls on "the Hill" and, of course, dormitory life. I stayed in Drew Hall as well as Banks Hall while I was there and I loved it.

Tell me about a performance that you will never forget?

Yes, I do remember a half-time performance with Ricky LaFontaine, who was also a vocalist with the marching band. He and I sang "If This World Were Mine" by Luther Vandross and Cheryl Lynn, which was a huge performance for us and also our first performance together.

Did the audition for En Vogue happen while at PVAMU?

Yes, my senior year [at PVAMU] and I got a call from a friend of mine to audition for the group, so I did. I remember it was homecoming night, my friends and I were in our apartment and I got the call that I made the group. So on graduation day, instead of participating in the ceremony, I was shooting a video with En Vogue. So essentially, I transitioned from PV to the group. But, I didn't leave without getting my marketing degree because that is one of the requirements my parents set forth.

Tell me about what you're doing now?

Well, En Vogue released their seventh studio album Electric Café in April of this year. Also, our (En Vogue) dresses from the "Never Gonna Get It/My Lovin'" and the "Giving Him Something He Can Feel" videos were inducted in the Smithsonian National African American History and Culture Museum which is a huge highlight of this journey. We just finished a European tour, and kicked off the "Three Stripes Tour" with Bell Biv DeVoe and SWV with several dates in the United States.



DR. BOBBY J. SMITH, II

BY: JOURDAN SCRUGGS

I want my scholarship to not only change the way we think about it as academics, but also change the way we think about it as communities.

Dr. Bobby J. Smith, II '12 received his foundation in agriculture while he was an undergraduate. This foundation would cultivate his interest in how communities could tackle issues surrounding the lack of access to healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods otherwise known as food justice. "My senior year at Prairie View, I took a Local Foods class with Dr. Parks that sparked my interest," said Smith. The class highlighted the process of how food goes from farm to table and everything in between. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Agriculture, Smith went on to pursue his masters and doctoral degrees in Agricultural Economics at Cornell University.

As a graduate student at Cornell, Smith began getting involved in the Ithaca local food system. "I started learning about the social justice side of food," said Smith, "I noticed how the issues of race and class can impact the kind of foods people can access and grow." He said the biggest thing about food justice for him is its history and how it is not a new concept. Smith is a food justice activist and is heavily involved in food justice in Ithaca, NY. "I'm focused on communities and how we can address issues of hunger, poverty, and malnutrition," said Smith.

In spring of 2016, Smith took a class on community organizing and development and during that semester, he read a book called "I've Got the Light of Freedom" by Charles M. Payne. Smith, credits chapter five of the book, which focused on the Greenwood Food Blockade in Greenwood, Mississippi for sparking his interest in the connection between food justice and the Civil Rights Movement. "Greenwood becomes an interesting place to study because Greenwood was one of the first places where the "white power" structure used food as a weapon," said Smith.

In the Summer of 2017, Smith traveled to Jackson, Mississippi to participate in the Medgar and Myrtle Evers Research Scholars Program. "I knew I was going to focus on the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi, and Medgar Evers is like the Martin Luther King Jr. of Mississippi." He knew having

this type of access to this kind of program would expose him to some people who do Civil Rights work.

After applying for the opportunity, he was selected as the sole finalist in the nationwide search. "I was pleased, and I moved to Jackson in June of 2017 and stayed there for about a month doing archival work and interviews in Mississippi," said Smith.



Upon arrival, he went in search of evidence proving his dissertation project was correct, "I was going there to looking for evidence," said Smith. "A part of my dissertation project was to recover history around food and

the Civil Rights Movement." Through his research, he found it interesting that civil rights activists were doing some of the same work we see today. Fannie Lou Hamer and L.C. Dorsey were critical Civil Rights Movement activists who devoted their lives to assessing the food and health needs of poor rural black communities in the Mississippi Delta. For example, Hamer created a project called Freedom Farms, a cooperative that allowed community members to grow their own food and gain employment. "Being in Jackson, Mississippi, a place that has stood the test of time, preserves its history and celebrates both the wins and the losses of the Civil Rights Movement was an amazing experience," said Smith.

In the future, Smith desires to be a University professor and leader in the study of food justice. His current research spans academic departments, but he can see himself at the intersection of Sociology and African American Studies and History.

"I want my scholarship to not only change the way we think about food justice as academicians, but also change the way we think about it as communities," said Smith.



Legends DO LIVE

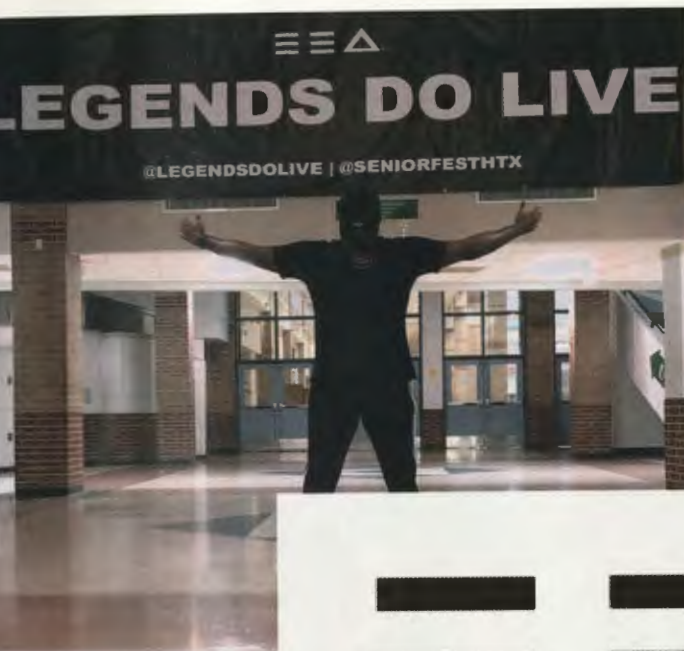
BY: JOURDAN SCRUGGS

Jarren Small '12 is a community leader who dedicates his time to reaching back to help the youth in his community and take steps forward to create significant change in the world. He is the co-founder and CEO of Legends Do Live, a nonprofit organization that focuses on equipping and funding disadvantaged youth and communities through workshop programs and community engagement. Legends Do Live targets high school seniors. Small believes that the center of any society is the children. Those children make decisions that influence others, which he feels guides the direction and pace of the greater community. As a student, Small struggled academically but did not let setbacks discourage him on his journey toward greatness. He persevered and wanted to show students that anything is possible despite their situation.

During his time at Prairie View A&M University, Small was involved in Student Government Association (SGA) as a senator and served as the SGA President during the 2011-2012 academic school year. "Excuses are the bare minimum to me," said Small, "I went from not being able to

get into college, to running a college as the SGA president at PVAMU." During his tenure, he rallied students and garnered financial support for the Panther statue located outside of the Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center. He also implemented the SGA Cares campaign and played a role in the naming of the William H. Holland and Matthew Gaines Student Park. "While at Prairie View, I learned everything about how to run a successful business," said Small. "PV taught me to be resourceful with what I have and to be hungry for what I don't have."

Legends Do Live is a collaborative effort between him and his former roommates, Douglas Johnson and Julius Burchett, which was conceived at PVAMU. During a conversation with another student, who kept referring to him "Mr. Legendary," Small began to question the reference. The student responded by telling Small that he thought he was doing things around campus that no one else was doing. Small took that idea back to his roommates, Johnson and Burchett, with the intentions of putting the word legendary on a t-shirt with a picture of Martin Luther King, Jr. Although it was a great



LEGENDS DO LIVE

idea, Johnson and Burchett wanted to be original. They made a suggestion, “Maybe we should start highlighting everyday people who are doing phenomenal things to show other people it is possible to reach your dreams,” said Small.

The trio is dedicated to pouring into students who may need assistance transitioning to the next step in life due to their circumstances. “We are supposed to be there to push them,” said Small, “This is a non-profit that gives true access to kids through events, social media and financial support,” said Small. The first Legends Do Live event was a premier that showcased 15 of their friends the founders felt were legendary. “We felt like people can be legendary in their own right by doing whatever they love that makes them happy and improves the lives of others,” said Small. “It was cool to showcase my friends who were doing cool things in the community,” said Small. Some of the more prominent interviews the team conducted during their first year were with lobbyist Jerry Brooks, former Port of Houston commissioner Sheldon Branch, David Banner, Kevin Hart and former comptroller for the City of Houston Ronald Green.

Since its incorporation, Legends Do Live has hosted live art painting demonstrations, speaking engagements, and career fairs. “The biggest thing we’ve done is go into the schools, and speak with the students face to face,” said Smalls.

One of their most significant and most successful events

is Senior Fest, which is designed to feel like a festival that targets graduating seniors from various school districts. Participants have the opportunity to receive scholarships during the festivities by applying through their website. “Each year, we set up an All-Star Basketball game, concert, college fair and a huge empowerment forum,” said Small. “Let’s have some fun, celebrate this milestone and prepare you for the next level of your journey -- college,” said Small, “We use this event as a mirror effect that shows students what you can happen if you stay focused and handle your business.”

Legends Do Live has also expanded their reach in the classroom by directing their attention to English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum in high schools and colleges. This summer, they announced the Reading with A Rapper program a partnership with tech giant Microsoft. The 8-week program is designed to involve the student in an interactive learning experience with relatable and innovative tools that provide metrics. The curriculum uses the Microsoft Surface Pro tablets and noise-canceling headphones to deliver socially conscious lyrics and video content to improve literature and writing skills.

The biggest lesson Small has learned throughout his journey so far is that nobody owes you anything, “You have to find a way to help yourself, demand what you need and be selfish at times so that you can focus on achieving your goals,” said Small. “You have to be steadfast in what you want, believe and in who you are.”

RUTH J. SIMMONS

The Inauguration





BY: CANDACE JOHNSON

On April 20, 2018, Prairie View A&M University inaugurated its first female president in 142 years. Ruth J. Simmons noted education pioneer, and first black female to lead an Ivy League institution, officially received the symbols of office and presented her vision to a crowd of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters.

The University celebratory event featured an academic showcase of student work throughout the various colleges and school, scholarly debate on the African American culture and history in the HBCU curriculum, Legacy Luncheon, Investiture Ceremony and formal dinner. The investiture ceremony took place in Panther Stadium and featured several appearances from notable figures in the education community Michael Eric Dyson, Walter Massey, humanitarian Chris Tucker and members of the PVAMU community, elected officials, and Texas A&M University System leadership.

The historic day appropriately themed “Prairie View A&M University: A Compelling Legacy, A Bright Future”, brought together Former presidents: George C. Wright, General (RET.) Julius W. Becton, Jr.; Percy A. Pierre; Ivory V. Nelson and Harold Bonner, to pass the torch to the institution’s eighth president. Simmons also paid tribute to her parents with the establishment of “The Fannie and Isaac Stubblefield Endowed Scholarship, by donating \$100,000 to the university. John Sharp announced the Texas A&M University System would match the gift.

Prior to joining PVAMU, Simmons served as the President of Brown University 2001-2012. Under her leadership, Brown made significant strides in improving its standing as one of the world’s finest research universities.

A French professor before entering university administration, President Simmons held an appointment as a Professor of Africana Studies at Brown. After completing her Ph.D. in Romance Languages and literatures at Harvard, she served in various faculty and administrative roles at the University of Southern California, Princeton University, and Spelman

College before becoming president of Smith College, the largest women’s college in the United States. At Smith, she launched a number of important academic initiatives, including an engineering program, the first at an American women’s college.

Simmons is the recipient of many honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship to France, the 2001 President’s Award from the United Negro College Fund, the 2002 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, the 2004 Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Foreign Policy Association Medal, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University. Simmons is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations. She serves on the boards of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, and Square, as well as several non-profit boards, including the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture; the Holdsworth Center; Rice University; and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Awarded numerous honorary degrees, in 2011, she received the Brown faculty’s highest honor: the Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal. In 2012, the president of France named her a ‘chevalier’ of the French Legion of Honor.

“My aspirations for Prairie View are to essentially make sure the university is continuing to do the same thing for students today that it did for my brother — and Dillard did for me. And that is to offer the advantage of a strong education that will prepare students for the careers they want, in a social and cultural context that helps them develop the confidence to perform after graduation.”

Ruth Simmons, New York Times Article Cultivating the Next Generation of College Students

THE VIEW



LIFE-CHANGING WORK

Philanthropy transforms lives. Indeed, we witness the extraordinary impact of philanthropy every day at Prairie View—from life-changing scholarships, to collaborative research and inspiring civic engagement. Generous contributions from alumni and friends, faculty and staff, as well as from parents and organizations, combine to make a profound difference in the life of our university, a difference that resonates into our communities.

Recognizing the vital importance of philanthropy, PVAMU is pleased to welcome Carme Williams, our new vice president of development, to “the Hill”. She brings nearly twenty years of diverse fundraising experience to our growing development office. She has crisscrossed the country in support of religious organizations, helped build STEAM programs for minority youth, and elevated higher-education fundraising programs. Most notably, Carme was integral in Rice University’s Centennial Campaign, which raised more than a billion dollars to advance the university’s academic pursuits. “I am privileged to be a fundraiser,” said Williams. “When an individual makes a gift, it is often one of the most exciting times in their lives. I get to help them to realize their vision and carry out their legacy. Who doesn’t want to be a part of that?!”

Williams has a bold vision for the future of fundraising at Prairie View and understands that philanthropy can help unlock new possibilities for students, alumni, and faculty. “The opportunities at Prairie View A&M are immense. We know it. The

world knows it,” said Williams. “We are a university rooted in academic excellence and pushed forward by the perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit of our alumni and university leadership. Together, we can continue to rise among the ranks of the top educational institutions in the world.”

That takes resources, acknowledged Williams—resources that philanthropy can help provide. “Every gift makes a difference...and there are many ways to give. Whether it’s a gift made through the Annual Fund in support of student financial aid for students or a multi-year commitment to enhance the university’s ability to recruit and retain excellent faculty, contributions are directly invested in the lives of our students,” said Williams.

Philanthropy is a team sport. Williams looks forward to partnering with the various departments across the university to share the far-reaching impact of philanthropy at work on campus and plans to increase the Office of Development’s engagement opportunities and communications so that everyone can take part.

“The spirit of giving permeates every facet of university life at PVAMU. I am delighted to join the panther family and honor that spirit which builds upon our culture of philanthropy in order to change the lives of our students today and far into the future.”

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

The summer Phonathon is in full swing and students will call over 7,000 alumni and friends to support the university's annual fund. "Our students read from a script; however, many of the conversations extend beyond the words on the screen," said LaShonda Williams, manager of the annual fund. "They connect with alumni in a meaningful manner, they are amazed by the experiences alumni share and are thrilled when alumni make a financial commitment to supporting our institution." During the conversation, students provide updates about what's happening on "the Hill," invite alumni back to campus to participate in forthcoming events and encourage them to stay connected to the university.

MEET THE CALLERS:



Yasmina Thomas
Hometown: Houston, TX
Junior, Computer Science Major

"I chose Prairie View A&M University because it's a very family oriented environment and I couldn't imagine myself anywhere else. I love my HBCU because my HBCU loves me! PVAMU is a wonderful institution that is graduating the next generation and leaders of our country."



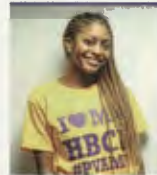
Laurence Atkins
Hometown: Oakland, CA
Senior, Business Accounting Major

"The reason why I love my HBCU is that Prairie View A&M University has prepared me for the future. The connections I have made here will help me complete the goals and aspirations I have set for myself."



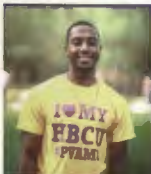
Kalyrn Lakes
Hometown: Brookshire, Texas
Junior, Criminal Justice Major

"The love for my HBCU stems from the lessons it has taught me. Each year, I grow both personally and professionally through the assistance of friends and mentors along the way. My HBCU has instilled in me so many gems, and for that, my devotion to PVAMU is undying."



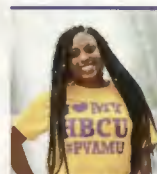
Kendol Pitts
Hometown: Tyler, TX
Junior, Double Major, Social Work and Criminal Justice

"I love my HBCU because it allows me to participate in the showcase of black excellence. As a black woman in this era, attending an HBCU is not only beneficial to my scholarly achievement but allows me to experience my culture. Prairie View REALLY does produce productive people."



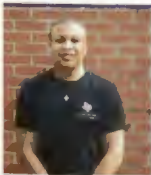
Ramon Whitaker
Hometown: Spring, Texas
Sophomore, Electrical Engineering Major

"I chose PVAMU because of my family's legacy of achievement here that spans generations, and I wanted to continue that tradition. I love that the people are so connected and that we treat each other like family."



Sage Young
Hometown: Beaumont, TX
Senior, Psychology Major

"I love my HBCU because it's my second home. Prairie View gives me a place of acceptance to be who I am, and continue to grow. I have learned so much from my teachers and peers, to pursue my journey in Psychology. Prairie View A&M University has truly helped me grow into the woman God is preparing me to be."



Ryan Ragston
Hometown: Houston, TX
Senior, Health Major

"I love my HBCU and choose PVAMU because it was the right choice for me and I love the culture here. I felt this institution would prepare me to become a productive person in a global society, and so far it has proved to be true."



Timothy Reed
Hometown: Cypress, TX
Junior, Mechanical Engineering Major

"I love my HBCU because the faculty, staff, and students are one big family. I've met so many great people and made memories that will last a lifetime."



Ashley Wade
Hometown: Kingwood, TX
Senior, Communications Major

"I love Prairie View because of the rich history and rooted traditions. If I mention the name Prairie View anywhere in the world, there is usually a PV-ite near, who will embrace me and guide me along my journey."

DIDN'T GET A CALL?

Make sure to update your information by visiting:
www.pvamu.edu/alumni



NAA MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

NAA Membership has its Privileges! Too often Alumni Chapter Presidents are asked,

"Why should I join the National Alumni Association?"

"What's in it for me?"

**THE NAA IS
WHERE YOU
BELONG.**

You belong with your family of almost 60,000 living Prairie View A&M University alumni. Your NAA is here to support and advocate for the perpetuation of Prairie View A&M University. Become a member today and join thousands of other PVAMU graduates, fans and friends. Whether you're looking to network with fellow alumni, stay connected with the campus, a leadership role, new friends, a new job, financially support the education of the next generation and/or a collective manner to advocate for our alma mater the NAA is where you belong.



BACK TO THE BASICS; FORWARD WITH ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the Association is to form a union with Prairie View A&M University, of alumni, former students and interested citizens, of similar aspirations for the perpetuation of PVAMU by:

*Building and fostering understanding and support of Prairie View A&M University. The Alumni Voice, an online newsletter, is our way of "telling the story." Our goal is to publish every month. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome.

*Encouraging communications among Alumni and the University. The NAA will serve on the PVAMU Alumni Affairs Roundtable meeting quarterly.

*Organizing and implementing programs necessary for securing grants, endowments and other financial assistance for PVAMU and its students.

*Providing services to alumni and loyal friends of then University.

*Serving as the central organization for the various PVAMU chapters and classes.



NAA CHAPTERS & CLASSES

Austin, Beaumont, Chicago, Dallas, Fort Bend, Fort Worth, Hempstead, Houston, Los Angeles, Missouri City, Prairie View Agriculture, Prairie View Local, Prairie View Nurses, PV Athletic Club, PVAMU ROTC, San Antonio, Waco, Washington D.C.

Class of '53, Class of '54, Class of '57, Class of '60, Class of '61, Class of '62, Class of '64, Class of '67

Three points of focus for chapters and classes:

*Membership

We are focused on increase the number of active alumni in the classes of the 80's and '90's, younger alums and recent graduates;

*Fundraising/Scholarships:

Direct financial support to our students;

*Mentorship

Sharing of experience and expertise between legacy, younger alums, and students.

To contact a chapter above for meeting and membership information please contact:

936-857-5817 or pvunaa@pvualumni.org

'67

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CLASS MAKES HISTORY AT PRAIRIE VIEW



ALUMNI SUBMISSION: BY ODIE WOODS MCGOWEN

Reunion Coordinator and Class Vice-President, Odie Woods McGowan says the Class of 1967 is the best ever! Fifty years after graduation, this class is very proud to welcome Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, the first female President of Prairie View A&M University.



During preparation for the Class of 1966's Golden Anniversary in 2016, McGowan was invited to sit in on their meetings as she traveled with her husband, Billy. She learned a lot about what her class needed to be doing because there was a LOT to do in a short period of time. McGowan called a meeting with class members during Homecoming 2016, but never intended to be the leader of the pack. She pulled out her yearbooks, both Prairie View Directories and called several classmates to see if anyone had begun working on the reunion. She got a list of names, including everyone who'd received certifications and all levels of degrees during calendar year 1967 from the University, and solicited the help of Paulette Everett Smith, Class Secretary, to find current contact information for our classmates.

Some volunteered to serve on the Reunion Planning Committee and McGowan started sending emails based on the information she'd gathered. She even traveled to Dallas and Houston on occasion to meet with classmates to discuss plans and ideas. Soon these meetings became conference calls. As word spread, momentum began to build as old friends reconnected and excitement transcended into phone calls from others with more names. Their list grew to 297 contacts, including 88 fallen Panthers.



McGowan petitioned Dr. Wright for her class to participate in the May Commencement Exercises by leading the 2017 graduates in the processional; her request was approved and they became the first Golden Anniversary Class in the history of Prairie View to march in the processional with the President's Party. She also briefly addressed the 2017 graduates during the program; another first. This groundbreaking event sets a precedent for future Golden Anniversary Classes' participation in commencement exercises.

In addition to memorializing their fallen Panthers, another first for the Anniversary Class was to honor their Veterans, including Mr. Luther Francis, a 95 year old WWII Veteran and former College of Engineering Professor at Prairie View.

MSG Retired Ernest "Marty" Martinez, Treasurer of the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee and MSG Retired Billy Sneed, a former member of the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps staff at Prairie View and President of the Central Texas College Retirees Association, (both of

Killeen), also presented each Veteran with a Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Certificate of Honor, a Commemorative Pin, a Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Proclamation, (signed by President Barack Obama), and a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Coin. Mr. Ricky Hurst, General Manager of the Fort Hood Clear Creek Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), added Messenger Shoulder Bags and Camouflage Goody Bags stuffed with various items.

Mr. Guy Manning, member of the Class of 1966, retired Southwestern Bell Executive and former professional American and National Basketball Associations player, was guest speaker Friday night and delivered a dynamic presentation on 'Commitment.'

The Class of 1967 is the first to have two Congressional Dignitaries speak at their Farewell Dinner. Classmate, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, representing Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, delivered a vigorous and thought-provoking speech on "Sleep" to the full house on Saturday night. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, representing the 18th Congressional District of Texas, spoke to the group via phone, encouraging all to get involved in making this world a better place for everyone.

The Class of 1967 broke the mold again when they decided to do something different; something with more value-added which will benefit more students. The other notable and significant first is the creation of "The 67 Dream Fund." This is the first program of its kind at Prairie View to have an immediate impact to help more students stay in school. The Dream Fund will provide assistance to students who are progressing academically, but who don't have the finances to continue because they fail to meet their Fee Payment dates. This fund is designed to bridge the gap between being dropped, and staying there becoming Productive Prairie View graduates. McGowan says losing 3500 students in 7 years is far too many, even one is too many if there is a way we can help; she believes this will be that kind of support.

The class will work very closely with the Foundation and the University to develop the processes and procedures to meet or exceed the stewardship standards PV's Alumni have grown to expect. They unanimously believe those benefiting from this program will develop a "giving spirit" and pay it forward, realizing and appreciating the fact that someone reached back to assist them in their time of need.

The Class of 1967 thanks all who participated supported and worked behind the scenes to help make their Reunion one that will long be remembered. They vow to continue their support to Prairie View A&M University, the Prairie View A&M Foundation and the students who are our future.

They further invite you to make "The '67 Dream Fund" an everlasting vehicle to help Prairie View students stay in school by sending a generous, tax deductible contribution to the PVAMF at 6436 Fannin Street, Room 112; Houston, Texas 77030. Please add "67 Dream Fund" in the memo line on your check. We thank you in advance.



JOSEPH BABALOLA

P V A M F

RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE GIVES BACK IMMEDIATELY UPON GRADUATION

Joseph Babalola '17, a recent graduate, drew attention when he contacted the PVA&M Foundation to inquire about ways he could give back to his alma mater. While Joseph graduated last August, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, and acknowledges it was a hard road to graduation. He started at the University of Houston, transferred to Prairie View A&M University, then to University of Texas - Tyler eventually came back to Prairie View A&M University. Even though it was hard for him, Joseph says he learned to persevere and is happy he did not quit because the rewards are endless.

Here is Joseph's story of wanting to give back. By the beginning of his senior year, Joseph had run out of all available sources of money. There weren't any Pell Grants, scholarship, and he said he did not qualify for a federal loan. He was on the verge of dropping out of school when a friend told him about the Wright Choice Scholarship which picks up the tuition cost for senior level students. The Wright Choice Scholarship enabled Joseph to stay in school. Joseph feels that in addition to lack of funding, there is a lack of knowledge regarding scholarships on the part of students.

When asked why he wants to donate to the Foundation so soon after graduation, a time when most graduates feel they can't spare the money, Joseph responded "I am grateful to Prairie View for giving me the opportunity to attend. I love Prairie View and I want to help. Donating is just doing my part. We need HBCUs to thrive. Thank God he gave me a job so that I can give back." He wants all Alums to take care of their university. He said "it was nice getting help from those that look like you and striving to obtain the same things you are trying to obtain."

Joseph is donating to scholarships because he feels that tuition cost may deter many kids from attending college. We may be missing out on the next Barack Obama or successful doctor, lawyer, entertainer, producer, etc. said Babaola. The lack of funding puts students in a compromising position that may lead to other unsavory activity. Having more scholarships would alleviate this problem, add Babaola. He is not only

talking the talk but walking the walk by reaching out to the Foundation to see how he could give back to the University and encourage other Alums to do the same.

Joseph currently works for Accenture as a Technical Analyst. He aspires to become a subject matter expert in SAP and grow into leadership with the company. While interning with Raytheon, he made connections with other summer students. These students who would seek his advice and to date, the students maintain contact with him. He said, "it has been an amazing and humbling experience." Babalola is also honing his skills to become a Master of Ceremony. He served as president of the Nigerian Student Association while at University of Houston, is a current member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and plans to join the Urban League.

Joseph was born in Houston Texas, attended Alief Hastings High School and is one of three siblings in his family.

THANK YOU JOSEPH FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND ON-GOING DONATIONS!

**PVAMF
SUBMISSION**



50 YEARS LATER

THE GIVING CONTINUES...

During the year of 2018, Mr. Charles Ingram was the third largest donor to the Prairie View A&M Foundation. He was recognized by the Foundation during Homecoming 2018. When asked what he was most passionate about and why, Charles responded resoundingly "Prairie View A&M University" where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education/Fitness and Education Studies.

While pursuing his academic endeavors, he also excelled in sports. In 1962, Charles was ranked #12 in the United State in the 440 yard hurdles. During that same year, he achieved a timing of 51.7 seconds the first time he ran this race on the college level. He was inducted into the PVAMU Sports Hall of Fame for Track in 1999. He is also the recipient of the Outstanding Track Star Award, the SWAC 120 High Hurdles, and the Most Valuable Trophy Award.

As a recipient of the first "full ride" Track Scholarship at Prairie View A&M University, it allowed him to achieve his educational goals, he was motivated to give back through a substantial donation to the Foundation. He said he understands the importance of giving back and wants to pay it forward for someone else. In fact, his favorite quote is "Let's Work Together-4 A Change!!" By making this donation, it will definitely make a change in some student's life, as well as, allow the Foundation to continue to move forward on its goals and further its mission of "Growing Greatness through Giving." After all, Prairie View produces productive people in a positive progressive society.

In addition to making this donation to the Foundation, Mr. Ingram is going a step further and is in the final stages of establishing an endowment that will be awarded in the form of a scholarship to a deserving student from the Acres Home Area of Houston, who will attend PVAMU in the future.

Since leaving Prairie View A&M University, Charles has devoted his entire life to giving back to the community. He serves in his community as a leader in various organizations and is highly recognized. He is an Ordained Minister, a licensed Instructor for CPR and Basic First Aid, a retired Houston

Firefighter, a Deputy Constable, an Executive Committee Member of NAACP, President of the Old Acres Home Citizens Council, (Representing 17 Civic Clubs), and a Member of the Houston Coalition of Schools (HISD). Additionally, he received a Community Activist Award from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the Big "E" Award from the Boy Scouts of America. For the last 28 plus years, he also owned his own business, Ingram Private Investigators and Security Guard Company and Motivation Inc.

Charles attended Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, Texas. He lives in Houston Texas, is married to Carlene Ingram and has five children--Carmen Williams, Chrystall Burton, Catrice Smith, Charles Ingram, Jr. and Carlton. They all attended Prairie View except Carlton who attended Hampton University.

THANK YOU, MR. INGRAM. YOUR DONATION WILL CERTAINLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOME STUDENTS' LIFE.

PVAMF ANNOUNCES NEW ADDITIONS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Foundation is excited to announce the addition of seven (7) new board members: Jiles P. Daniels, Jr., Dameshia DeFlora, Donetta Goodall, Carl E. Moses, Jason Sowers, Oscar D. Taylor and Emmitt H. Wooten. The seven new directors join an organization that has, for the last 8 years, been dedicated to serving Prairie View A&M University by generously funding many much needed projects on campus including scholarships, classroom instruments, and startup capital for the new Panther Stadium.



Jiles Daniels, Jr., born in Frankfurt, Germany, grew up in Prairie View, Texas, and has over 35 years of experience in the Petroleum Engineering field. Prior to retiring in 2015, he worked for Exxon

Mobil, one of the largest, most prominent publically owned Oil and Gas Companies in the world, where he held several senior level management positions in a variety of engineering, information technology and staff development assignments. Concurrent with his ExxonMobil career, Jiles also owned and operated two privately held companies. He is a successful business owner and proven corporate leader with global expertise in leadership, relationship building, people management, recruiting, staff development and project management. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from PVAMU with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1980. Jiles volunteers in many capacities including serving as a member of Liberty and Chambers Counties Court Appointed Special Advocates supporting the unique needs of foster children. Jiles' leadership skills and

experience with the Gulf Coast Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (GCAME) will also be invaluable to the Foundation.



Dameshia DeFlora grew up in Houston, Texas and has over 20 years of management consulting experience, specializing in program management, change management, process improvement, and systems implementation. She spent 16 years

of her career with Accenture traveling the globe working in multiple industries before launching her own independent consulting business. She currently serves Fortune 500 global consumer products clients. DeFlora graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1995. During the same year, she was also named U.S. Black Engineer of the Year. Her expertise and experience in a variety of areas will be beneficial to the Foundation as we continue to move forward.

PVAMF ANNOUNCES NEW ADDITIONS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr. Donetta Goodall is a native of Kilgore, Texas, and has over 40 years of educational leadership, nursing education, and nursing administration experience. Prior to her retirement in September 2015, she held a number of senior

level positions in higher education including Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Student Success in the Lone Star College System where she provided system-wide leadership for instructional and student support programs and services. She also established a campus in Jakarta, Indonesia in partnership with Sampoerna University. Prior to becoming Vice Chancellor, Dr. Goodall served as Vice President for Academic Transfer, General & Developmental Education at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas. She spent 16 years of her career teaching at the Community College level. She began her teaching career at Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas where she was lead instructor in the Associate Degree Nursing Program. She later became Department Head and Division Chair for Allied Health Sciences, and Executive Assistant to the President at Austin Community College. Dr. Goodall earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Nursing from PVAMU and TWU, respectively and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from UT Austin where she was honored as a distinguished graduate. Her leadership skills and diverse background in education and the business arena will be a valuable asset to the Foundation, as well as the University as both set a new course for success for the future. Additionally, Dr. Goodall was recently recognized in Who's Who in Houston and has been active in numerous educational, community and civic organizations.



Carl Moses, a native Texan, is a well-known Prairie View A&M University engineer with over 35 years of extensive experience in operations management, process safety and risk analysis. Before retiring in 2015, he worked

as an Electrical, Instrument and Mechanical Team Leader at ConocoPhillips; a compliance officer for Sweeny Cogeneration Limited Partnership; and as an experienced financial advisor for Edward Jones Investment & Farmers Financial Services. He began his professional career at Phillips 66 Company and Celanese Chemicals where he held a host of engineering positions. Carl received a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Prairie View A&M University in 1979, an Associate Degree in

Business Administration from San Jacinto College in 1999, and a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 2001. He has won numerous awards and recognition including recognition as a Legend by the Blue Triangle Organization. Carl is nationally known for his leadership and advocacy regarding service work in the community. He currently serves as the President/CEO of two (2) non-profits.



Jason Sowers, a Houston, Texas native, brings over 20 years of experience in public accounting and business advisory. He is the Founder and President of Sowers & Company, PC, a Certified Public Accounting firm that provides

professional and personalized service related to Tax Management, Consulting, and Compliance for small-to-medium sized companies, as well as high income and high net-worth individuals and families. Jason is a 1997 graduate of The University of Texas - Austin, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's in Professional Accounting - emphasis in Tax. Jason began his professional career at Arthur Andersen where he worked in the Private Client Services group and achieved the role of "Manager" in less than 4 years. Jason left Arthur Andersen in 2001, where he pursued other opportunities which eventually led him to start his own firm in 2006. He was recognized three consecutive years in Texas Monthly magazine as a Top Wealth Advisor in the Houston area, and currently serves on several boards for organizations that benefit children locally and internationally.



Oscar Taylor grew up in Louisiana after moving around with his family as a military dependent. Prior to leaving Corporate America in 2011 to nurture his small business that was started in 2001, he had 26 years of experience

in relationship building, sales, marketing, and leadership. Oscar began his career with American Cyanamid (BASF) where he held successful positions in Sales which grew from \$2.1 million in sales to \$6.1 million in a little over four years. Concurrent with his time at American Cyanamid, he became a key legislative contact for the state of Texas and the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program before venturing into the sales arena for the Pharmaceutical and Medical Biotech industries. Oscar's expertise includes tremendous leadership,

relationship building, and dedication to Sales and Marketing. Oscar attended Prairie View A&M University on scholarship where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics and was selected for two foreign exchange assignments. He earned a Master's Degree in 1991. He serves, supports and promotes a multitude of organizations and non-profits.



Emmitt Wooten, P.E. grew up in Houston Texas and has over 25 years of manufacturing, production and engineering experience. He is a talented Sr. Manufacturing Director at The Dow Chemical Company with a passion for people, strategy

development, and value delivery. In addition to his passions, Emmitt is highly skilled in continuous improvement methodologies, such as Six Sigma, Lean/5S, organizational effectiveness, culture transformation, and disciplined execution. He is highly accomplished in attracting talent and building high performance teams and thrives in a fast paced environment that requires adaptability, decisive action and situational leadership. Emmitt earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Prairie View A&M University in 1994 and University of Tennessee in 1996, respectively and an Executive Master of Business Administration Degree from Northwood University in 2008. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer, M.B.A., and Six Sigma Black Belt, having received many honors and maintaining his affiliations with several nonprofits.

The Foundation Chairman and President, Roy Perry said,

"We are excited to welcome the new members to the Board of Directors for the PVAMF. Each new member brings a valuable skill set to our team and a passion for the students we serve. We are looking forward to making great things happen at the PVAMF with the addition to our team!"

Jiles P. Daniels, Dameshia DeFlora, Donetta Goodall, Carl Moses, Jason Sowers, Oscar D. Taylor, and Emmitt H. Wooten, Jr. join the now-14-member-board which includes current members: Roy G. Perry, Terrence Gee, John Osby, Samuel Coleman, Nathelyne Archie Kennedy, Marvin D. Brailsford, Fred Newhouse, Ernest Collins, Benny Lockett, Janis McDowell Hadnot and Carl Jackson, Ricky Anderson, Carl Johnson and Billy C. Davis.



USHERING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL LEADERS

Established in 1984, under the leadership of Prairie View A&M University's fourth president Percy A. Pierre, The Benjamin Banneker Honors College, one of 15 in the nation, was a leading program created to attract top honors students expected to excel at a progressive, advanced level individually and to represent the university. At its core, the Honors College was created to significantly impact the number of minority students who pursue postgraduate studies and terminal degrees and who subsequently attain positions of leadership in research, professional practice and university level teaching. To jumpstart its development, Pierre placed development in the hands of distinguished educators Dr. Ron Sheehy and Dr. Jewel Prestage, who served as the first and second deans of the college.

However, in 1998, The Benjamin Banneker Honors College was suspended.

In 2010, Dr. James A. Wilson, Jr. associate provost for Academic Affairs and director of the Honors Program, saw an opportunity. He made it his mission to seize it.

"My goal coming into the university was to create a program that would develop students with full, unexpected profiles that would rival students of other well-known universities," said Dr. Wilson. "We're creating a community of students scholars, who will leave their mark on the university during their academic careers and beyond -- and create opportunities for others in their communities even at a global level," said Wilson.

As the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) to found an Honors College, he knew Prairie View had a legacy to uphold.

The Honors Program, which launched in the fall of 2010 under the direction and vision of Dr. Wilson, provides students with scholarly experience to develop a philosophical habit of mind, solid academic and leadership training, service-learning and summer research opportunities, foreign language skills, study abroad experiences and an aggressive pursuit of knowledge in all disciplines.

Under Dr. Wilson's leadership, he built the Honors Program from the ground up based on his experience building the profiles of successful honors students at Wake Forest, Princeton, Cornell and The University of Texas at Austin.

During his career, he's produced two Rhodes Scholars, an international distinction that allows students post-graduate study at the University of Oxford. Wilson uses his arsenal of knowledge to give students the competitive advantage needed to succeed once they graduate from PVAMU.

Rhodes Scholars are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements but for their character and their commitment to others and the common good.

Wilson says having a student win a Rhodes scholarship says a lot about the student but also about the institution the student is from, and it's not far-fetched for PVAMU to develop a Rhodes candidate through the nine cohorts of honors students, who are exposed to a range of academic and scholarly requirements during their time at PVAMU.

An important element of the Honors Program is foreign language exposure. Honors students at PVAMU often take foreign language courses in Mandarin and/or Arabic.

"I've seen the impact of learning foreign languages and having study abroad opportunities in my own Academic career, and I wanted to provide our students with these life-changing experiences, as well," says Wilson. "Those are two pillars to our honors program at PVAMU that have benefited our students. We essentially have three years and three summers with a student before they apply to graduate programs, medical school, law school or career options, so I want to produce high-achieving students who can leave their mark on the world."

A high-achieving student isn't just one that has all A's, says Dr. Wilson.

"I want to make sure there's knowledge behind the grades, so for each student, we develop a plan to provide the experiences needed for them to become strong intellectual leaders in their communities."

For example, a typical path for an undergraduate honors program student involves studying abroad after their freshman year to be immersed in the language. Sophomore year, honors students attend a research institution or have a summer internship to round out their skillsets and knowledge base. After their third year, students experience another internship or service learning opportunity to give them the competitive



“It’s a community of multiple-intelligence approaches to fine-tune each students’ talents so they can realize their potential.”

advantage needed prior to completing their graduate school applications. During this process, students are mentored by a cohort of peers, Wilson and his honors program staff.

“I believe this approach creates a well-rounded individual,” says Wilson. “It’s a community of multiple-intelligence approaches to fine-tune each students’ talent so they can realize their potential. Each year, these students have been accepted to research programs at Harvard, MIT, Yale, Cornell, Duke, UCLA, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Texas A&M, Michigan, Middlebury and UT-Austin to name a few. These experiences ensure that honors students are accepted into top graduate schools, medical schools and law schools each year.”

Not only is it important to have a diverse group of students in the honors program with varied talents, Wilson believes it’s also imperative for students to have international exposure during their time in the Honors Program.

“Building a profile that transcends geographic locations opens students up to more experiences and opportunities,” says Dr. Wilson.

Honors program students have won many accolades in their colleges, been a part of prestigious activities like the Honda Campus All-Star quiz bowl team, served as Mr. and Miss PVAMU, the model United Nations team, and won the Presidential Oratorical Contest for three of the four years. “I’ve had the honor to work with some of the top student on our campus for the past three years, the students that I work with in my opinion, are the future. Our students of course they are brilliant, but their interest span the curriculum,” said assistant director of the honors program Chelsea Young.

“We are preparing our students for a global experience for the rest of their lives,” says Dr. Wilson. “I feel confident that we’ll see our graduates as future CEOs and directors of global institutions. And, I know they’ll come back to PVAMU, and mentor the next generation of honors students because that is the expectation we instill in them from the beginning. Students get so much out of our Honors program that they want to come back and give a lecture or support in any way.”

Dr. Wilson says he hears from honors graduates regularly, all of whom express the same sentiment.

“Our graduates come back from their first year of law school or medical school and report to me after getting a job at Apple or other stellar opportunities. They tell me things might have been tough for them when they first transitioned, but ultimately they express appreciation because they’re thankful they were challenged and prepared by the Honors program,” says Wilson.

While success is evident among honors program graduates, Wilson plans to continue building recognition among the PVAMU community and educational community.

“Our program is well known now, and we have siblings of graduates who apply to the program as well as legacy students who were attracted to the program because of successful family members.”

Students from neighboring states are accepted into the Honors Program in addition to international students from countries such as Pakistan, Venezuela, Egypt, Mexico, Canada, Laos, Nigeria and Ghana.

The honors program recruits a diverse group of students from all majors, accepting 25-28 applicants out of approximately 160 who are invited to apply each year. These students are diverse in their cultures but also diverse in their academic achievements and extracurricular activities.

The goal is to continue producing top talents and grow the program even further. President Simmons has expressed a desire to expand the program, which will give more students an opportunity to become a part of this successful program.

“We’re preparing a community of intellectuals that will leave their mark on PVAMU and global communities, and I’m really proud of the potential of their futures,” says Wilson.

**For more information on the Honors Program
including requirements and how to apply, please visit**

www.pvamu.edu/honorsprogram



Bonner Leads University-Wide Forum at LSU

Dr. Fred A. Bonner, professor and endowed chair in the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education, led a Qualitative Research Forum at LSU this past March. During the lecture for students, faculty, and administrators, Bonner discussed how to design and develop an impactful qualitative dissertation more effectively.



Jefferson brings new leadership to Student Academic Support Services

Dr. Patrick D. Jefferson currently serves as director of Student Academic Support Services at PVAMU. In this capacity, he oversees PVAMU's Learning Curve, Testing Center, Developmental Education, programs for Minors, and Social Support Service.

Dr. Ronald Goodwin and Dr. Mark Tschaepe held a book signing and discussion this academic term for their book *The Mask of Microaggressions: Studies of Racism in the U.S.* at the Center for the Healing of Racism in Houston. The book, which is being used as a textbook in both professors' curriculum examines tools that aid in understanding historical sources of racism and how racism has transformed into microaggressions today.



Evie M. Myers, J.D., special advisor to the president for internal affairs and international initiatives, was recently

appointed to the Study Texas board and The Forum on Education Abroad board representing Prairie View A&M University. Under her leadership, student participation in the Study Abroad program has more than doubled in the last 5 years.



Dr. Clarence Talley, Sr. professor and director of art, work was featured in the Biedenharn Museum and Gardens art

exhibition titled: "Images of Christ." The exhibit features depictions of Jesus from a variety of nationalities and cultures.

ACAD



Dr. Bernadine Duncan, director of student counseling services in the Division of Student Affairs, was named the 2018 President-Elect for the Texas University Counseling Center Directors Association (TUCCDA). As President-Elect, Dr. Duncan will be responsible for assisting the current TUCCDA President with challenges that arise throughout the year in collegiate mental health.



Professor Danny Harvey in the College of Business (COB) received a \$25,000 grant for “emerging programs” financial planning from TD Ameritrade. COB Dean Munir Quddus and Professor Harvey were invited to attend the closing the bell ceremony at NASDAQ in New York. While visiting New York, they took several finance students to visit a number of financial industry firms in the NY financial district, including BNY Mellon, Goldman Sachs, and the NY Federal Reserve Bank.

Research Center expands community outreach

The Innovation and Commercialization Center for Entrepreneurs (ICCE) is the culmination of a \$10 million grant from the Chancellor’s Research Initiative. The Initiative was sparked by Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp’s challenge to the entire Texas A&M University System to take on a more significant role in accelerating economic growth statewide. When the facility opens, ICCE will offer more laboratory and innovation space that coincides with a growing number of PVAMU faculty and students engaged in large-scale research activities.

Sociology Professor Releases Book Examining Narcissism in Society

Dr. Megan Collins, assistant professor (tenure-track) and program coordinator of Sociology, recently published a book entitled, *The New Narcissus in the Age of Reality Television*. The book explores the emergence and encouragement of the new narcissus in our society and how it is portrayed in reality television.



Texas A&M University System Honors PVAMU Biology Professor

Dr. Cleveland O. Lane, Jr., assistant professor and director of the Anatomical

Visualization and Simulation Center in Prairie View A&M University’s Department of Biology, was one of ten professors honored with the 2018 Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators (CATE) award.

EMMY BRIEFS

SCHOLAR BRIEFS

PANTHER STUDENT-ATHLETES CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE HIGH MARKS IN CLASSROOM

Prairie View A&M University student-athletes continue to achieve high marks in the classroom as evidenced by the latest NCAA Academic Progress Report (APR) announced Wednesday.

In the 2016-17 report, seven PVAMU teams had perfect scores of 1000: Baseball, Men's Track & Field, Men's Cross Country, Men's Tennis, Softball, Women's Bowling and Women's Cross Country. It is the second consecutive year seven Panther athletics teams earned a perfect score.

All 18 Prairie View A&M athletics teams are above the NCAA mandated multi-year score of 930, and all 18 teams are again postseason eligible in the upcoming 2018-19 athletic year.

Panther Athletics was also awarded 14 delayed graduation points across multiple sports for the 2016-17 academic cycle. Delayed graduation points are points earned for a student-athlete that lost a point at any time during their matriculation.

A total of six teams increased single-year scores from 2015-16 to 2016-17: Baseball, Men's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Men's Golf, Women's Soccer and Softball.

"Our student-athletes continue to win academically," said Ashley Robinson, former vice president and director of Athletics. "Our department motto of 'All Out. All Game. All Season.' begins with classroom success, which lays the foundation for competitive success and paves the way toward professional success in life. President Simmons continues to provide key resources to benefit our student-athletes, as well as our compliance and academic services staff and support their educational efforts. I commend our coaches for the vital role they play in stressing classroom achievement as well as competitive success. We are proud of their continued accomplishments in the classroom. This is another proud day for everyone in PVNation!"

Associate Athletic Director of Student-Athlete Support Services Brittney Johnson echoed Robinson's sentiments.

"Academic success at Prairie View A&M University truly is and continues to be a team effort," Johnson said.

"Our administration, student-athletes, coaches, and staff continue to work as one to help our APR scores continue to improve on a yearly basis. I commend our compliance and academic advising staff for their diligence in helping our student-athletes to be successful. Most importantly, I applaud our student-athletes for their buy-in in trusting the process of achieving academic success."



HERBERT R. THOMAS, career service counselor and advisor to the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC), was recognized as the 2018 HCASC Coach of the Year. Congratulations to the PVAMU Honda All-Star Team for advancing to the elite 8 (out of 48 teams) in this intense competition.



JONATHON RANDLE WAS SELECTED AS THE 2018 STUDENT HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNER.

Last year, Jonathon worked with former high school and college athletes to establish Hustle Sports Youth Camp, a two day experience for boys 5-13 in Waller County which focused not just on teaching the fundamentals of football but also helping them understand the fundamentals of life. Jonathan is an elected member of the Prairie View City Council where he has served since 2013. He is also member of the Texas Black City Council members and the Young Elected Officials Network.

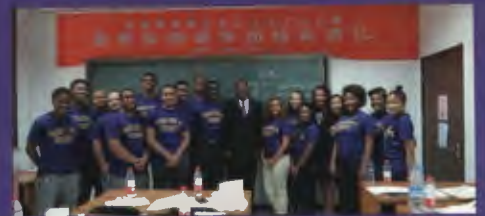
FOUR COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS; Geremie Trpsword, Colton Drake, Isaiah Brown, and Adrienne Mallet; developed an artificial intelligent (AI) system called PV Assist utilizing the latest Google-Home device acting as an AI receptionist. The group of CS undergraduate students built the system on top of the cutting-edge technologies in AI, speech recognition, and Google cloud to assist students' requests in seeking information of faculty, advisors, administrators, university events, and more. PV Assist was designed with the hopes of significantly enhancing the student's experience in acquiring information about PVAMU in an easy, friendly, interesting and accessible way.



THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

TEAM competing in the Race to Zero Family Housing Design National Competition sponsored by the Department of Energy, won First Place in the Urban

Housing category, and they were given the overall DzGrand Award among 33 major universities. This is the second time that a PVAMU School of Architecture team has won this prestigious honor.



THE HONORS PROGRAM partnered with Drexel University's Global Health Immersion in Cuba Program and will send five students: Cassandra Erbynn, Scenic Mosley, Dejah Strang, Precious Effiong, and Kamilah Freeman to participate in the program this summer. The students will be a part of a larger group of students from Drexel University, who will examine Environment Health and Infectious Diseases, Maternal and Infant Health, the Introduction to the Cuban Socioeconomic Model, Art and Music Therapy as well as attend a session on Health Diplomacy and Cuban Medical Cooperation.



PV SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS – BAJA PROJECT

Baja SAE is an intercollegiate design competition run by the

Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). Teams of students from universities all over the world design and build small off-road cars. The cars all have engines of the same specifications. The goal in Baja SAE racing is to design, build and race off-road vehicles that can withstand the harshest elements of rough terrain.

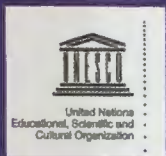


THE PRAIRIE VIEW A&M MEN'S GOLF TEAM won the Southwestern Athletic Conference Golf Championship for the first time since 1979 in a dominant 54-hole performance at Oak Wing Golf Club.

NINETEEN STUDENT-ATHLETES REPRESENTING TEN SPORTS

are the recipients of the 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award. In order to be eligible to receive this honor, student athletes must keep an overall GPA of 3.2 or better in addition to being active members of their local and campus community. The honor is named after famed tennis star, Arthur Ashe, who showed a commitment to education as well as his love for the sport of tennis.

The National Science Foundation awarded **Prairie View A&M University**, along with three other universities in The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), a **\$2.8 million grant**. The grant will be used over the course of 60 months to develop, implement, and study a new model to help minority doctoral candidates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields achieve careers as professors in academia.



During the 2018 Spring Semester architecture students traveled to Nepal to assist the UNESCO Nepal effort to preserve its ancient

architectural and cultural heritage for which there are no existing drawing on record. They scanned five temples and then used CAD, Cyclone, and Cloudworks to produce 2D reconstruction drawings for the Pancha Deval Hindu Temples, which were severely damaged during the 2015 earthquake in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH ADIDAS

Prairie View A&M University and adidas announced a new multi-year partnership in which the Portland, Ore., based company will be the official athletic footwear, apparel and accessory brand of the Panthers.

"We are thrilled to officially announce our exciting partnership with adidas," said former PVAMU Vice President / Director of Athletics Ashley Robinson. "Since its inception, adidas has continued to redefine athletic performance apparel by always listening to the needs of the world's best athletes and helping them be the best they can be. In partnering with this iconic brand, Prairie View A&M University student-athletes will now wear the best apparel to help them achieve competitive greatness."

With the new deal, adidas will supply the Panthers with all their headwear, apparel, footwear, and accessory needs for all sports starting July 1 through the 2022-23 season.

"Our mission is to help athletes perform better and we'll bring our newest and most innovative high-performance products to the Panthers," said Jim Murphy, director of NCAA Sports Marketing at adidas North America.

"We seek to inspire through our products, our style and in communities and we're looking forward to partnering with Prairie View A&M Athletics to help them empower student-athletes."

adidas is a global designer, developer and marketer of athletic footwear, apparel and accessories with the mission to make all athletes better. adidas is the official uniform, footwear and apparel provider for more than 100 collegiate programs including Arizona State, Indiana, Kansas, Louisville, Miami, Mississippi State, Nebraska, North Carolina State and Texas A&M. adidas has marketing agreements with the National Basketball Association (NBA), National Football League (NFL), Major League Baseball (MLB), National Hockey League (NHL) and Major League Soccer (MLS).

Shop the latest PVAMU/adidas merchandise by visiting: pvpantershgear.com


UPCOMING FOOTBALL GAMES

AUG 25 (SAT) 6 P.M.




AT RICE
HOUSTON, TX / TV: ESPN+

OCT 13 (SAT) 5 P.M. SWAC




VS SOUTHERN
PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

SEP 2 (SUN) 11 A.M. CT / NOON ET




VS NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
ATLANTA, GA. / TV: ESPN2

OCT 27 (SAT) 2 P.M. SWAC




AT ALCORN ST.
PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

SEP 8 (SAT) TBA



AT SAM HOUSTON ST.
HUNTSVILLE, TX

NOV 3 (SAT) 2 P.M. SWAC




AT JACKSON ST.
JACKSON, MS

SEP 15 (SAT) TBA




AT UNLV
LAS VEGAS, NV

NOV 17 (SAT) 1 P.M. SWAC




VS ALABAMA ST.
PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

SEP 22 (SAT) 6 P.M. SWAC




AT ARKANSAS - PINE BLUFF
PINE BLUFF, AR

NOV 24 (SAT) 1 P.M. SWAC



VS TEXAS SOUTHERN
PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

SEP 29 (SAT) 4 P.M. SWAC



AT GRAMBLING ST.
DALLAS, TEXAS



On "The Hill" we loves our dads, uncles and father figures. The University ran a social media campaign before Father's Day on social media platform Instagram entitled #PVFathers to spotlight these gentlemen rocking PVAMU gear with their children. Congratulations to Damond Jackson '18, the winner of the contest with almost 1,900 likes, who walked away with PVAMU swag.



Show your #PVAMU Pride by purchasing a PVAMU license plate. Let the world know you are a proud Panther. Did you know you can customize your license plate and the revenue from your purchase will benefit the PVAMU scholarship fund?

Check out your options now! - <https://www.myplates.com/>

NOT WORTHY

KNOW A PROSPECTIVE PVAMU STUDENT?

IF YOU KNOW STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING



**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY**

SIMPLY EMAIL THEIR NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO
RECRUITMENT@PVAMU.EDU
WE WILL DO THE REST

WWW.PVAMU.EDU



*Congratulations
Graduates!*

Nearly 900 graduates participated in the
May 2018 ceremony which took place in
Panther Stadium.