We are a little over a month away from the end of the semester. Midterms have come and gone, and Homecoming is behind us. We are looking forward to Commencement and finishing out the Fall 2017 semester with flying colors!

Students, over the next few weeks, stay focused and keep abreast of the upcoming test, quiz, and academic deadlines. I encourage you to utilize the university’s support services (i.e. tutoring, supplemental instruction, etc.), go to the library, meet with your faculty during their office hours, schedule an appointment with your advisors, and do whatever you can to make sure that you achieve the type of semester you set out to accomplish (only the best, of course!) Faculty, continue to encourage our students’ success in the classroom and guide them in seeking opportunities for professional development and growth in their fields of study. Also, continue to be proactive in promoting your own research activities, productivity, and dissemination of your findings and remain steadfast in serving on various panels at national conferences, while also publicizing the university as a whole.

Speaking of publishing research, Prairie View A&M University recently released its first-ever edition of PURSUE, a scholarly journal for undergraduate research. The publication features articles, written by students, that cover a number of different subjects. Their work was peer-reviewed and selected by the journal’s editorial board to appear in this first edition. We look forward to publishing many more editions of PURSUE because it really gives students a terrific outlet to impact the greater society. You can read the full volume online at pvamu.edu/pursue.

Alumni, students, faculty, and staff alike, look out for this year’s Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade! The Marching Storm will represent PVAMU, and the state of Texas, in the iconic parade. They were selected out of nearly 200 applicants, from across the U.S., to march in the parade, and this will be The Marching Storm’s first-ever appearance in this popular and televised holiday tradition. Millions of spectators will watch from around the world, and we encourage you to tune in, or head to New York, and watch and cheer on our Marching Storm louder than anyone else!

For as long as I can remember, PV has always been the place to Produce Productive People, and this year is no different. Let us finish strong and finish as proud Panthers.

Silvia M. Nave
I have wanted to thank you for quite a long time. It is not for a single act or anything of that nature, but instead for opening my eyes and changing the way I see the world."

This statement is most likely a statement most teachers want to hear from one of their students at least once in their careers. Dr. James A. Wilson, Jr., a man who wears many hats at Prairie View A&M University, including being an instructor in PVAMU’s Honors Program, received that statement, as part of an email, from a student he taught more than a decade ago.

“This young man took my course, The History of Images and Hollywood’s Construct of Black People, at the University of Texas in Austin about ten years ago,” said Wilson. “It was my first time teaching the course, which I had created. Interestingly, this year marks the ninth time I have taught this course at PVAMU, and each time, it is never the same experience. Given the political and cultural climate in the United States, this course still transforms me and my students every year.”

Each fall, students are taught, using a rigorous curriculum, how to examine “Hollywood’s” representation of black people and Africa and to explore and deconstruct images, myths, stereotypes associated with people of color.

“We critique films that have presented constructs of black people over the years, including the first cinematic film, “The Birth of a Nation” (1915) in the early part of the century, to specific films such as “Imitation of Life” (1930), “Gone with the Wind” (1939), “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” (1967), “Glory” (1989), “Do the Right Thing” (1989), “Precious” (2009), “The Princess and the Frog” (2010), “12 Years a Slave” (2013), “Dear White People” (2014), and “Moonlight” (2016),” said Wilson. “Each one has a “master narrative” that essentially makes black people and people of African descent look distorted. I want my students to think and challenge themselves by asking questions to deconstruct how stagnant images of black people are reinvented. Furthermore, I want them to ask themselves, ‘Am I conscious of a “master narrative?” If so, what can I do to replace these images that are being spread around the world?’”

Part of Wilson’s teaching philosophy is to encourage his students to move beyond their cognitive and intellectual comfort zones and take part in active discussions, thinking critically about what’s happening in global affairs.

“By combining my passions as a historian and film enthusiast, I get to motivate my students and teach them life skills through these critiques,” said Wilson. “I believe every teacher should find their passion because when you are passionate about something, it encourages others. It converts the learning environment into one that is engaging and multifaceted in scope. We, as instructors, have the opportunity to transform lives each hour, each day, each month, and each year, and that is gratifying, indeed.”
The National Science Foundation awarded Prairie View A&M University, along with three other universities in The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), Texas A&M University-College Station, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 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.

“Two students from PVAMU will be represented in the model, accompanied by eight students from other TAMUS institutions,” said principal investigator Dr. Gloria Regisford, a professor in PVAMU’s Department of Biology. “The goal, along with my co-investigators, Drs. Laura Carson, Ruby Stevens, Carmen Carter, and Richard Wilkins, is to help these doctoral students finish their dissertations, get their doctorates, and get them on the road to obtaining tenure-track faculty positions in STEM.”

According to Regisford, the students will begin their visits to PVAMU, along with four other collaborating Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), in the spring of 2018, and over the course of three years, seasoned faculty members will assist and mentor them, ultimately helping them develop their teaching, research, and service skills.

“They will be exposed to the culture of an HBCU,” said Regisford. “Not to mention, these students will also bring their skills and research projects to the table which will help our university to form more research collaborations.”

The model will also involve helping students with job planning, job searching, and networking within TAMUS.

“What I find amazing is that we will have several universities inside The Texas A&M University System collaborating and working together as a unit, but yet, as individual institutions, all in the name of research. I believe this collaboration is nothing short of powerful,” said Regisford.
High Tunnel Workshop Helping Farmers to Increase Production

By Marchita Shilo

Growing plants and vegetables in cooler weather can be tricky sometimes, but Prairie View A&M University’s Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) knows all of the ins and outs to keep production going.

“The College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, along with the CEP-Agricultural and Natural Resources Unit, hosted a hands-on workshop on PVAMU’s Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Farm called Extending Your Growing Season: Crop Production in High Tunnel,” said CEP program specialist Dr. Kesha Henry. “We had speakers from PVAMU’s Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, Harris-Montgomery-Waller County Farm Service Agency, Virginia State University Cooperative Extension, and the USDA-National Resources Conservation Service demonstrate to 35 small-scale producers from Texas, Louisiana, and North Carolina how to extend their growing season into the fall.”

So, what does High Tunnel mean? According to Henry, it’s an enclosed structure made up of polyethylene, polycarbonate, or plastic that features a frame that’s constructed of wood or metal. Farmers can use it to help protect their crops from wind, sun, excess rainfall, and cold temperatures.

“As a result, High Tunnel helps producers extend their growing season by generating crops year-round, improving their plant’s health, increasing yields and incomes, among many other benefits,” said Henry.

During the workshop, participants learned about pest control strategies, recommended planting space, and irrigation systems. In addition, they received information about high-value vegetables and medicinal plants they can produce.

“Overall, it was an excellent workshop, and we look forward to continuing to provide educational programs that will help small-scale producers, and even people with small gardens at home, increase their incomes and improve the lives of members of their communities,” said Henry.

For more information about the High Tunnel workshop and upcoming events and programs in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, visit pvamu.edu/cahs, or send an email to agnr@pvamu.edu.
CAHS Goat Milk Safety Article Featured as Headliner in Popular Texas E-newsletter

The College of Agriculture and Human Science’s story on goat milk safety was featured as a headliner in a recent edition of Morning Ag Clips, an online source of aggregated farm news and information. You can view the article on morningagclips.com or on the CAHS website at pvamu.edu/cahs.

Nursing Perspective on PTSS Published in Online Journal

An editorial entitled The Past Does Matter: A Nursing Perspective on Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, which was partly written by a group of faculty members in PVAMU’s College of Nursing, was featured as the lead article in the Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. You can view the article by Ejim Sule, Ryan M. Sutton, Debbie Jones, Ramel Moore, Imaculata Igbo, and Lovell A. Jones on springer.com.

Professors Host Book Signing, Discussion in Houston


“The book addresses the need for teachers and students to have a shared resource that speaks to the ongoing instance of racial injustice in American society. It also assists readers in being able to detect, identify, and redress subtle acts of racism, broadly defined as microaggressions,” said Tschaeppe.

The book is currently being used as a textbook in both Tschaeppe and Goodwin’s curriculums.

Pictured: Professors Tschaeppe and Goodwin, along with Cherry Steinwender, Executive Director for the Center for the Healing of Racism in Houston
**Sociology Instructor Presents at Local Disaster Preparedness Conference**

Dr. Ronald Lorenzo, an adjunct instructor of sociology in PVAMU’s Division of Social Work, Behavioral, and Political Sciences, presented at the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council – 9th Annual Preparedness Coalition Symposium on October 12. The disaster preparedness conference was attended by Homeland Security, Drug Enforcement Administration, Texas Department of State Health Services, major hospitals, police departments, fire departments, ambulance companies, and other first responders in the Houston-Galveston area. The title of Lorenzo’s presentation was *Patterns within the Chaos: The Structure of Human Behavior Before, During, and After Disasters*.

**Physics Professor Gives Keynote Address at National Conference**

Dr. Premkumar Saganti, who is a Texas A&M University regents professor, a professor in PVAMU’s Department of Physics, and director of the Radiation Institute for Science and Engineering (RaISE), a Chancellor’s Research Institute (CRI) at PVAMU, gave the keynote address during the 19th Annual SPVM National Physics Conference at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, Philippines October 19-21. “There were many scientists and representatives of funding agencies from Philippines’ government offices present with several questions for me on our success and progress with our spacecraft payloads through KIT-Japan and JAXA (Shinen2 spacecraft in 2014 and Ten-Koh spacecraft planned for 2018),” said Saganti. “It was a proud moment to realize the honor for PVAMU’s recent space accomplishments.” Invited speakers from Poland, Japan, and Singapore also attended the conference.

**UTSA Appoints Bonner as Visiting Scholar**

The University of Texas-San Antonio recently appointed Dr. Fred A. Bonner, professor and endowed chair in the Whittowe R. Green College of Education, to be the *Inaugural Fred Williams Visiting Scholar* in the university’s Department of African American Studies. As part of his appointment, Bonner will provide three lectures to the UTSA undergraduate community, graduate community and the greater San Antonio area beginning this month. Bonner will also provide a lecture for the university’s president as part of a special luncheon. The titles of Bonner’s lectures are *Building on Resilience: Models and Frameworks of Black Male Success Across the P-20 Pipeline*, *Swagga’ and Scholarships: Academically Gifted African American and LatinX Student Success*, *Diverse Millennial Students in College: Talking ’Bout My Generation*, and *Black Faculty in the Academy*. 
Students Take Part in JPMorgan Chase’s Advancing Black Leaders Program

By Marchita Shilo

A group of students from PVAMU’s College of Business visited JPMorgan Chase (JPMC) in Houston on October 4 as part of the company's Advancing Black Leaders program.

“The students had an opportunity to hear and interact with African American professionals from the different service lines and divisions at JPMC, learn about the banking industry, and participate in professional development workshops,” said PVAMU accounting faculty member Clyde McNeil. “This included a panel discussion with mid to senior level executives who each shared their experiences working in the financial services industry. Our students also had lunch with various managing and executive directors and participated in interactive workshops on brand management, relationship development, and communication protocol. All of this was followed by breakout sessions where students had an opportunity to hear from new hires about their experiences working at JPMC.”

JPMorgan Chase started the Advancing Black Leaders program in 2016, with a goal of attracting, hiring, retaining and advancing top talent within the black community.

“Continual exposure to the corporate environment is critical to our students’ success,” said McNeil. “It is important our students see and hear from successful African American professionals that are candid about expectations, and how to navigate the corporate environment to help reinforce the tools needed to succeed. The information provided in a relatively short period of time (one day) to our students was genuine, honest, and extremely valuable. We can’t thank the African American employee network enough for their diligent efforts in helping to strengthen the pipeline of underrepresented populations into JPMC.”

Students from Rice University, Texas Southern University, and the University of Houston participated in the program as well.
Students Participate in National Tech Competition

By Marchita Shilo

Four students represented Prairie View A&M University at the Black Enterprise 2017 BE Smart Hackathon October 7-8. Toyota sponsored the event as part of the TechConneXt Summit in Silicon Valley, California. Fifteen historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) participated in the hackathon, and each HBCU was represented by a team of four students. PVAMU’s team, the Panther Coders++, was made up of Adam Burns, Quincy Caston, Nneka Ede, and Phonpaseuth Khamsenesouk.

“Each team had the task to develop a mobile app for Toyota that provided customers with an innovative retail shopping experience,” said Dr. Sherri Frizell, an associate professor in PVAMU’s computer science department. “This was PVAMU’s first time participating in this event, and the summit provided an opportunity for our students to network, showcase their technical skills, learn about innovation from leaders in the tech industry, and discover how companies create new technologies for their customer base. The students were also able to visit tech companies in the area, Google and Intel.”

“While our team did not win this year’s competition, we gained a wealth of experience that we will use when we return to compete next year,” said team member Nneka Ede.

North Carolina A&T State University took home the top prize for this year’s BE Smart Hackathon.

PVAMU Panther Coders++ pictured from left to right: Nneka Ede, junior computer science major; Phonpaseuth Khamsenesouk, junior computer science major; Quincy Caston, junior computer science major; Adam Burns, senior computer engineering major and team captain.
The College of Business held their inaugural Professional Black Coat Ceremony October 11 in the Agriculture/Business Multipurpose building. This event was established by Carolyn S. Davis, assistant dean of the College of Business, to recognize current students who have completed the pre-business requirements to be formally admitted into their respective majors. Davis said she believes that such a ceremony not only celebrates their completion of pre-business course requirements but stimulates a sense of pride and passion for their field of study.

"The ceremony recognizes student achievement as well as persistence and the continuous pursuit of excellence in business," said Kimberly Gordon, assistant dean of the College of Business. "For this inaugural event, the program far exceeded our expectations." More than 70 students, faculty, and staff participated in the event where Interim President Ruth J. Simmons served as the guest speaker. During the ceremony, students took an oath to act with the highest integrity in all things while they are still enrolled in the University.

"Once you learn what you can do, be confident in your ability and be critical of yourself," said Simmons. "You will succeed and do extraordinary things." After students took the oath, they received a black blazer with a purple and white embroidered crest with the word "business" highlighted in gold, which was designed by Antanee Pitts, a senior marketing major. The crest serves as a physical reminder and symbol of their commitment to be professional before, during and after class, and as they interact with professionals around the globe.

Both Gordon and Davis expect the event to occur annually and have great expectations for what is to come. "In the future, we hope that all students will look forward to the event and satisfy the criteria for full admission to the College of Business as soon as possible," said Gordon. "We believe these types of public recognition events go a long way toward student retention, engagement, and belonging."
in case you missed it...

Welcoming President-Elect Ruth J. Simmons

October 5, 2017

A welcome reception was held for Ruth J. Simmons on October 5 in Dallas. A few weeks later, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents named her as the sole finalist for the position of President of Prairie View A&M University. You can read more at pvamu.edu.

Photo by Twice Media

State Fair Classic

October 7, 2017

The #PVNation showed up in full force at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas for the 2017 State Fair Classic against Grambling State University. Final score: PVAMU: 21, GSU: 34.

Homecoming

October 22-28, 2017

Thousands of students, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and their family and friends were on “The Hill” for #PVHC2K17. PVAMU faced off against Bacone College. Final score for that game, PVAMU: 34, Bacone: 17.
### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is accepting applications for the 2018 Ford Foundation Fellowships Programs for Achieving Excellence in College and University Teaching. Awardees will receive up to $45,000 and have expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows.

Approximately 65 pre-doctoral, 36 dissertations, and 24 postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded. Full eligibility information and online applications are available at [nationalacademies.org/ford](http://nationalacademies.org/ford).

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TAKE COVER
THE STORM IS COMING TO NYC
for the 2017 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade

THE NEW PVAMU.EDU COMING SOON

ACADEMIC INSIGHTS
Submit story ideas, send feedback, or contact us!

OFFICE FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
academicinsights@pvamu.edu | 936-261-2175
Attention: Marchita Shilo, Communications Specialist

Felecia M. Nave, Ph.D., Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs