Get ready; the big game is Saturday, October 27. PVAMU will take on Alcorn in Panther Stadium for Homecoming. You can view the full schedule of events at pvamuhc.com.

As mentioned in the last Academic Insights, mark your calendar for Fall 2018 Commencement on Sunday, December 16 at the Berry Center of Northwest Houston. Entertainment Executive Debra L. Lee will deliver this year’s address.

For the past few weeks, a voting rights controversy has been brewing in Waller County. PVAMU administrators and student leaders have been working to ensure students have all of the correct information they need to vote in the upcoming election. We will continue to work with officials across Texas to make sure everyone’s rights are protected. To read more on this topic, view Waller County’s full statement at pvamu.edu/blog/waller-county-assures-voting-rights-at-pvamu.

It’s been a busy year, and it’s nearly over. We hope you continue to enjoy reading what our faculty, staff, and students are up to in Academic Insights. If you have any suggestions or story ideas, we welcome your comments at academicinsights@pvamu.edu.
Dr. Pamela Holland Obiomon (’93) department head and professor, assumed her new role of dean of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering on September 1.

Obiomon has been a faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering since 2003. In 2013, she took on the role of department head. During that time, the department was awarded $20 million in grants from the Chancellor’s Research Initiative which helped aid in the creation of four centers and a laboratory at PVAMU.

Obiomon earned a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington, an M.S. in Engineering from Prairie View A&M University, and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University. Before coming to PVAMU, she worked in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Obiomon’s research interests lie in the areas of integrated microsystems for environmental sensing powered by energy scavenging, smart systems using field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), and the design of FPGA-based controllers for autonomous vehicles. She published over 52 papers in refereed journals, international and national conferences, and colloquia as an author or co-author; and she won over $14 million in research funds as a principal investigator (PI) and co-PI. In addition, she supervised and served on some 21 master’s and Ph.D. committees and holds memberships in Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), IEEE Women in Engineering, and Eta Kappa Nu.

Obiomon is a native of Hempstead, Texas and is married with four children.

“I am excited to take on this new role and advance the profile of this program. My goals include making sure we become the number one producer of minorities in the engineering field and also extending opportunities to faculty to be nationally recognized for their work. My hope is that we will continue to engage our alumni base, using them to help us expand opportunities for students.”
I am excited about the opportunity to continue to build on The Honors Program’s established legacy and profound history of academic excellence, which has created a scholarly atmosphere for students. One of my primary focuses will be to continue to train every student in the program to become global leaders. I also look forward to working with all faculty, department heads, and deans to further advance The Honors Program.”
When Assistant Professor of Architecture Shelly Pottorf left ‘Corporate America’ five years ago to begin her teaching career at Prairie View A&M University, she sought out to make a difference.

“Before I came to PVAMU, I was an architect who was solely in professional practice for 15 years,” said Pottorf. “I was working in a public-interest-design format through my private practice when I realized that I could be much more effective in that work by teaching the next generation the knowledge and skills they will need to carry it forward.”

Pottorf’s specialty is net-zero designs, or buildings or structures that have a zero balance of energy consumption.

“PVAMU began participating in the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Race to Zero Student Design Competition four years ago,” said Pottorf. “Our students call themselves The Mod Squad. With guidance from myself and my colleagues April Ward and Shannon Bryant, they design affordable, net-zero housing for low-income communities. Just within the past few months, they won the Grand Award in the DOE’s Race to Zero Competition, the City of Houston’s Complete the Community Housing Design Competition, which benefits Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner’s Complete Communities, and the Texas Society of Architects’ Studio Design Award.”

Pottorf says service-learning, or learning that ultimately benefits others and the community, is the focus.

“My ultimate goal is to be a change agent and to make sure our students know they are change agents as well,” said Pottorf. “We are leaving an extraordinarily difficult situation to the next generation, both sociologically and ecologically speaking. It is only right that we equip our students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet those challenges. Once they realize the impact they can have on their world and start to embrace that impact, it is an inspiring and powerful moment.”
PVAMU Receives Half-Million Dollar Grant to Improve its Computer Network

By Marchita Shilo

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Prairie View A&M University $499,964 to revamp its computer network, all in the name of research. The project called INCREASE, or Improve Network on Campus for Research and Education in Agriculture, Science, and Engineering, should significantly improve upload and download times while allowing data-intensive research projects unrestricted access to the university’s network.

“The INCREASE project will improve the university’s existing campus research network with a science DMZ and provide improved connectivity and high bandwidth interconnectivity to other research universities and high-performance computing resources nationwide,” said associate professor and principal investigator on the two-year project, Dr. Suxia Cui. “Upon completion, it will allow researchers to effectively work in the fields of big data and data-intensive science. It will also enable data-driven research in the areas of cybersecurity, high-performance computing, computational chemistry, brain imaging, genomics, and bioinformatics, to name a few.”

Research groups from seven departments on PVAMU’s campus (Electrical and Computer Engineering, Agriculture, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Engineering Technology, and Mathematics) will work together to design, implement, and test the INCREASE network. They will also have support from PVAMU’s Center for Computational Systems Biology (CCSB), Center of Excellence for Communications Systems Technology Research (CECSTR), Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC), Systems to Enhance Cybersecurity for Universal Research Environment (SECURE) Center of Excellence, and the IT department.

“The first project year will focus on design. The second year will involve implementation and testing where we will invite the PVAMU community to gain experience on this network and give us feedback,” said Cui. “Computing technology has been advanced to an unbelievable level, and PVAMU will soon have the chance to build up its research capability with the INCREASE project.”

Visit nsf.gov to view more information about the grant.
Workshop Series Teaches Farmers How to Raise Goats, Make Money

By Marchita Shilo

Raising goats is a win-win situation if you own a farm. The animals produce meat, milk, fiber, and they’re great for weed control. They’re also pretty inexpensive to keep. That’s why Prairie View A&M University’s Cooperative Extension Program and Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, under the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (CAHS), made them the focus of their second annual Small Ruminant Workshop Series.

“On September 13 and October 4, we invited limited resource and small-scale farmers and ranchers to our workshops to learn from CAHS research scientists, faculty and extension staff how to raise productive and healthy livestock, specifically small remnants such as meat and dairy goats. We also showed them the process of artificial insemination, which plays a significant role in improving genetics and efficiency in livestock,” said Extension Program Specialist Dr. Kesha Henry. “With these tools, they should be fully equipped to operate more viable and profitable livestock enterprises.”

Participants were also exposed to the profitable side of raising goats, including the process of making soap, cheese, popsicles, and other goat milk recipes.

“One-hundred percent of the participants who filled out a survey at the end of the workshops stated they anticipated economic benefits as a result of attending,” said Henry. “Through programming like this, our goal is always to deliver practical research-based information that helps improve the lives members of the communities in which we serve across the state of Texas.”
Students Place First in Phillips 66 Competition

By Marchita Shilo

An interdisciplinary team of students from Prairie View A&M University took home the top prize in Phillips 66’s (P66) Black Employee Network (BEN) Case Competition. A total of 10 students from PVAMU and 15 students from Texas Southern University (divided into teams of five) participated in the competition on September 14 at P66’s headquarters in Houston.

“This year’s case challenged teams to analyze various means to transport fuel from Phillips 66’s Houston facility to its New Orleans facility, a real-life scenario,” said PVAMU College of Business Instructor Clyde McNeil. “PVAMU’s team was comprised of Amber Diehl (senior accounting major), Dannick Boyogueno (senior marketing major), Asia Brown (junior accounting major), Brandyn Smith (junior finance major), and Amber Felder (sophomore computer science major). They built a cost profit model that took into not only consideration labor and storage costs constraints, but also weather patterns and the cost of safety and environmental remediation to generate a solution that successfully resonated with the judges. They supported their solution with effective quantitative and qualitative analysis in addition to successfully getting through an intense Q&A with a panel of recruiters and management.”

For the past three years, P66 has hosted the BEN competition during its university recruitment season. The goal is to showcase the talent developed at HBCUs, create more career opportunities for local HBCU students, and recruit business, engineering and technology students for the company’s summer internship program as well as full-time opportunities.

“Having observed this event for the last three years, I would say the measure in which we evaluate this opportunity is not in who wins and losses, but more so in the opportunities afforded to students,” said McNeil. “PVAMU students typically leave this competition with a renewed sense of purpose, direction, and formulation of a game plan after self-assessing where they stack up against other students. I’ve seen students interview better, take on additional leadership roles, and seek out more chances to get out of their comfort zones.”
PVAMU Team Visits Panama as Part of Trade Delegation

A team from Prairie View A&M University traveled to Panama City, Panama to participate in a trade delegation. Fifteen business leaders from across Texas participated in the annual event including Senior Vice President for Business Affairs Dr. Corey Bradford, College of Business Dean Dr. Munir Quddus, and College of Agriculture and Human Sciences Associate Dean Dr. Kwaku Addo.

“This year’s trade delegation to Panama had three goals,” said Quddus. “First, to exchange ideas on how to export American goods and services to Panama to boost trade. Second, with the newly completed $5 billion expansion of the Panama Canal, the delegation wanted to explore how additional traffic could increase exports and imports to Texas and the United States. Third, the PVAMU team was especially interested in partnerships with institutions of research and higher education in Panama for greater exchange of students and scholars between the two nations. During our visit, Dr. Bradford signed, on behalf of President Ruth Simmons, a preliminary memorandum of understanding with City of Knowledge, a university in Panama. The university is especially interested in the (teaching and research) expertise of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences. At the same time, PVAMU’s College of Business is interested in bringing graduate and undergraduate students from Panama to PVAMU. Another idea is taking our MBA (or EMBA) program to Panama.”

The mayor of Prairie View, David Allen, orchestrated PVAMU’s participation in this year’s trade delegation, which was organized by Ambassador Enrique Sosa, Consul General of Panama.

CoJJP Professor Presents at International Conference

Dr. Sesha Kethineni, a faculty member in the Department of Justice Studies, attended the European Society of Criminology Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina under the title Crimes against Humans and Crimes against Humanity: Challenges for Modern Criminology. She and her co-authors presented a paper on the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse Act, passed by the Indian government in 2012. More than 1300 participants attended the conference August 29-September 1.
Staff, Faculty Member Publish Chapter Analyzing Popular Netflix Show

Dr. Cheryle D. Snead-Greene, Executive Director of Academic Policy and Compliance, and Dr. Michael D. Royster, a Sociology Instructor in the Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences, published a chapter in “Caged Women: Incarceration, Representation, & Media.” The name of the chapter is Popular Media Portrayal of Imprisoned Black Women.

Description of the book: The Netflix series Orange is the New Black has drawn widespread attention to many of the dysfunctions of prisons and the impact prisons have on those who live and work behind the prison gates. This anthology deepens this public awareness through scholarship on the television program and by exploring the real-world social, psychological, and legal issues female prisoners face. Each chapter references a particular connection to the Netflix series as its starting point of analysis. The book brings together scholars to consider both media representations as well as the social justice issues for female inmates alluded to in the Netflix series Orange is the New Black.

Professor Receives AIChE’s Outstanding Young Professional Award

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) South Texas Section awarded Dr. Sheena Reeves, assistant professor in Prairie View A&M University’s Department of Chemical Engineering, with the organization’s Outstanding Young Professional Award. Reeves received the award at AIChE’s Dinner Meeting in Galveston, Texas on October 9. Dean of PVAMU’s Roy G. Perry College of Engineering Dr. Pamela Obiornmon said, “We are so proud of Dr. Reeves. She serves her department in many capacities and is an exceptional faculty member in Chemical Engineering.”

The Outstanding Young Professional Award is given to those who provide extensive service to National AIChE, its student chapters, and AIChE’s South Texas Section. Awardees also offer service to other technical and professional societies and society as a whole.
New Internship Gives Students Opportunity to Reverse Gender Violence

By Marchita Shilo

Prairie View A&M University’s Title IX Office and Relationship and Sexual Violence Program (RSVP) are getting a boost from PVAMU’s sociology department. Students now have the opportunity to intern with Title IX and RSVP to help change the culture of relationship and sexual violence on campus.

“Last fall, I taught a family violence class, and one of the topics we discussed in our course was rape culture, (which is) a society that normalizes sexual assault or abuse. I invited Nakia Hanson from RSVP to speak to students so that they could make a connection between the course readings and their everyday experiences as college students. Their response was amazing. The classroom presentation ended up being the beginning of a partnership between Title IX, RSVP, and Sociology,” said Dr. Farrah Gafford Cambrice, assistant professor of sociology at PVAMU.

The three units created an internship opportunity where student interns can receive 28 hours of training in sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking on college campuses. The skills gained can be used at any social service agency, non-profit, or even for research projects.

“Students have an opportunity to advocate for victim’s rights and provide education and training to their peers on relationship and sexual violence. Students are also trained on how to facilitate primary prevention efforts on the campus of PVAMU,” said Cambrice.

Sociology major Larryisa Thomas kicked off the internship program this semester by hosting various student events and panels. Over the next couple of weeks, she will begin assisting with classroom presentations and training for faculty and staff. In addition to her internship duties, she is also receiving training on Title IX and Texas A&M University Title IX training.

“The best part of my internship so far is the hands-on opportunities I’m able to participate in with the teachings of sexual assault, rape, and dating violence to students on campus. We as a student body would rather have open dialogues with each other rather than listen to lectures on this sensitive topic,” said Thomas.

Hanson said, “We live in a rape culture that denies the prevalence and impact of sexual violence; it does not believe victims, but rather blames them for their victimization. Sociologists examine the social and cultural conditions that intensify or perpetuate relationship and sexual violence. Thus, this new partnership between sociology, Title IX, and RSVP is a perfect fit.”

To find out more about Title IX/RSVP internship experience, email Dr. Cambrice at fgcambrice@pvamu.edu.
PVAMU Receives $1M for African-American Studies Initiative

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded Prairie View A&M University a grant of $500,000 to support its effort to establish an African-American Studies Initiative. Inspired by the Mellon Foundation award, an anonymous donor pledged an added $250,000 to help fund the initiative. The generous donation was eligible for a $250,000 university match, bringing the total support for the initiative’s launch to $1 million.

The project, Enhancing the Humanities at PVAMU Through An African-American Studies Program Initiative, housed in its Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences, is designed to selectively infuse African-American Studies content throughout the university’s liberal arts offerings. The initial concept for the program was conceived when Prairie View President Ruth J. Simmons called for the creation of an African-American Studies program in her first campus-wide address.

The initiative will provide an interdisciplinary study of the experiences of people of African descent in America and abroad. Scholarly activities will provide students, faculty and the PVAMU community with a fundamental understanding of the social, economic, cultural and historical issues framing the contribution of African-American communities in America.

To ensure the success of the Initiative, highly respected scholars will work with a select cohort of PVAMU faculty to act as advisors to assist in establishing program priorities, review core course themes and hold public lectures and workshops reflecting their respective fields in African-American Studies.

"By strategically embedding African-American theme-based courses within the core curriculum, all students will have an opportunity to select courses that expand their academic interests while enhancing their engagement in the humanities," said James Palmer, interim provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

To read more about the initiative, visit pvamu.edu.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Last day of class (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 16</td>
<td>Final exams (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>First day of class (Fall 2018 2nd 8-week Session)</td>
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<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Mid-semester exams begin; Final grades due (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)</td>
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<td>Oct 23</td>
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<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from course(s) without academic record (Fall 2018 2nd 8-week Session)</td>
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<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Application deadline to apply for Spring 2019 graduation (ceremony participation); Last day to apply for Fall 2018 graduation (ceremony participation)</td>
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<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Priority registration for Spring 2019 begins (for continuing students)</td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Pre-registration for Spring 2019 begins (for all students)</td>
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<td>Nov 22-24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays (University closed)</td>
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<td>Dec 3-4</td>
<td>Course review days</td>
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<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Last day of class; Deadline to apply for degree conferral only for Fall 2018 graduation (no ceremony participation or listing in program); Last day to submit application for tuition rebate (for undergraduate graduation candidates)</td>
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<td>Dec 5-11</td>
<td>Final exams</td>
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<td>Dec 16</td>
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<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Final grades due (for all students)</td>
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ACADEMIC INSIGHTS
Submit story ideas or feedback!

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

James M. Palmer, Ph.D., Interim Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
2017

- Faculty and Staff Briefing on 2020 Reaffirmation Cycle
- University Personnel Attend Annual SACSCOC Conference
- Institutional Data and Stakeholder Input Supporting Potential QEP Topic Review

FALL 2017

2018

- SACSCOC Orientation of PVAMU Leadership Team
- Core Team Establishment
- Initial Compliance Certification Drafting
- Electronic Organizational Tools Operationalized

SPRING THRU SUMMER 2018

- Continuation of Compliance Certification Drafting and Editing
- University-Wide Reaffirmation Sessions
- Specialized Reaffirmation Critical Workshops
- University Personnel Attend Annual SACSCOC Conference

FALL 2018

2019

- Finalization of Compliance Certification
- Finalization of Quality Enhancement Plan

SPRING THRU SUMMER 2019

- Submission of Completed Compliance Certification
- Receipt of Focused Report from Off-Site Review
- QEP Stakeholder Engagement and Marketing

FALL 2019

2020

- Submission of Focused Report Response and QEP
- Hosting of On-Site Review Team (March, 2020)
- Address any SACSCOC Commission Concerns

SPRING THRU SUMMER 2020

- Finalize Post Visit Follow-Up
- PVAMU Leadership Receive Notification of Reaffirmation Status

FALL 2020
Commencement Convocation

DECEMBER 16
2018

www.pvamu.edu/academicaffairs/commencement

MURALS CONTEST
We need your ideas:

Design murals for the new innovative, creative, & collaborative Digital Media Commons on the 3rd floor of the John B. Coleman Library!

To submit a mural idea, you must:

- be currently enrolled at PVAMU
- have a minimum 2.0 GPA (and provide an unofficial transcript)
- have previous artwork available (jpg or pdf)
- submit two faculty or staff letters of recommendation (word or pdf)

Copy and paste the link below into your browser to enter.
www.pvamu.edu/DMCcontest