It is an exciting time on “The Hill!” On Saturday, more than 200 students will join the alumni ranks. Later this month, we will welcome more than 2,000 first-year students to Prairie View A&M University and more than 8,000 students to PVAMU overall. In addition, we are in the middle of hiring new faculty members to accommodate our ever-growing student population.

To be ready for the new school year, we are hosting faculty development activities beginning the week of August 20. The 2018 Faculty Conference is August 20, Faculty Orientation is August 21, and our colleges and schools have individual retreats on August 22. Our students can kick-start the year on August 19 with Fall Semester Move-in, and the following week, our university will have numerous events and activities each day to get them excited for fall 2018.

Over the summer, in addition to classes, PVAMU held conferences, Summer Camps, and Summer Bridge Programs, to name a few. Students received a jumpstart to their college experiences and were able to engage with faculty, staff, and other students (most even earned college credits).

PVAMU held its 44th Annual National Alumni Convention July 19-21, in New Orleans, with the theme, “FORWARD with Alumni Engagement!” We sought input from alumni regarding the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a plan intended to improve PVAMU’s quality of student learning and success. Furthermore, we solicited feedback on High Impact Practices (HIPS) that they, as alumni, believe would enhance the learning success of students.

On the customer service side, the University launched a customer service initiative to improve communication. We identified the telephone system as an area that needed immediate attention. We expect to roll out changes in time for the upcoming fall semester.

A few weeks ago, the Chancellor’s Research Initiative, under The Texas A&M University System, approved funding for a new Integrated Food Security Center on campus. This center will help the University and the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences meet its mission of education, research and outreach by establishing PVAMU as one of the leading institutions in food security in the United States. Be on the lookout for more information about this initiative in an upcoming issue of AI.

There are countless more accolades to highlight. In this issue, we touch on faculty achievements, new learning opportunities, and summer activities, among other items. We hope you continue to enjoy reading what is happening at Prairie View A&M University.
On July 1, Dr. Gerard D’Souza assumed his new position of dean and director of Land Grant Programs for Prairie View A&M University’s College of Agriculture and Human Sciences.

“In my new role, I look forward to learning about the needs of the students and the larger community and how the college can better address these needs,” said D’Souza. “I will also identify ways to enhance the student learning experience, add to the curriculum, improve academic standards, and increase ways in which students can engage through research, labs, the farm, and experiential learning opportunities.” He also stressed the importance of improving graduation rates and graduating on time and preparing students to “contribute to society and to an increasingly complex and high-tech agricultural value chain to be catalysts for economic innovation and growth.” He espoused a theme for CAHS of “making it better, making it matter.”

D’Souza comes to PVAMU from West Virginia University where he served as director of the Division of Resource Economics and Management and professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He spent three decades at WVU after earning his B.S. from the University of Agricultural Sciences and M.S. and Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

D’Souza co-developed a new energy-related undergraduate major and Master of Science degree and has been the recipient of outstanding teaching and research awards at WVU and in professional societies. He served as PI and co-PI on several grants totaling more than $5 million and has authored or co-authored 150-plus scholarly works. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Paraguay and served as a visiting scholar in Costa Rica and the Wallace Institute in Greenbelt, Maryland. Moreover, he has held sabbatical appointments at universities in Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The India native has three grown children and two grandchildren. During his spare time, in addition to enjoying quality time with his family, he likes to travel, read, watch and play sports, especially soccer.
By Marchita Shilo

Prairie View A&M University’s Director of Bands, Dr. Timmey Zachery, always has a group of students around him. They call him “Dr. Z.”

“The nature of my work motivates you to be the best. It is all about the students,” said Zachery. “If this were Star Wars, I would be Yoda, simply, leading my students to their destinations.”

Zachery started teaching music in graduate school about 20 years ago. He joined the PVAMU family in the summer of 2012. He teaches trumpet, symphonic band, jazz, and marching band, which is one of the largest classes on “The Hill.”

“I’m always busy. This summer, we had High School Band Camp June 10-16, we have our Summer Band Program from July 8-August 6, and Marching Storm Camp is July 29-August 24. We will end Marching Storm Camp with our annual Family and Friends Day on August 25, where we reveal the band for the upcoming season,” said Zachery.

In case you missed the Marching Storm’s activities last year, aside from their usual performances at football games and other local events, they performed in the 369th Experience, Bands of America, Circuit of the Americas Formula 1 Grand Prix, Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and Honda’s Battle of the Bands. All of those items were national events. Zachery says the band’s next step is to take an international stage.

“Every year, the band takes on a new persona. It does not matter if you have the same people you had the year before. We are always expanding boundaries in our performances. We are also letting the world know that Prairie View is more than the Marching Storm,” said Zachery. “As an instructor here at PV, we have an advantage. We are working for the best students on the planet. I would easily do what I do without a paycheck.”
The second issue of the undergraduate research journal PURSUE came out this summer. Students from three colleges and universities, including Prairie View A&M, contributed.

“Six students from Prairie View wrote five articles for Volume 1, Issue 2. We also had students from Texas A&M University-Commerce and Knox College participate,” said Assistant Professor of Biology and Co-Founder of PURSUE, Dr. Yolander Youngblood.

Students are free to write about research under the areas of psychology, sociology, biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, computer science, mathematics, humanities, agriculture, architecture, business, and education, to name a few. Then, their articles are peer-reviewed and selected by the journal’s editorial board to appear in PURSUE, which comes out twice a year.

“This journal, which is housed right here at PVAMU, is important because it serves as a venue for students to submit their research promptly,” said Youngblood. “My colleague, Dr. Audie Thompson, and I developed the idea out of a need for students to see their work published because these publications make our students more competitive for graduate and professional schools.”
Training Specialist Working to Prevent Substance Abuse Among Youth

By Marchita Shilo

Where is Dr. Angela Broadus? The training specialist at Prairie View A&M University’s Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center could be anywhere. Her job involves educating the public about substance abuse and how to prevent it.

“When I began my journey at PVAMU two years ago, I developed an educational program that focuses on reducing juvenile delinquency and crime in Texas,” said Broadus.

Broadus has provided more than 1,100 workshops across the state of Texas to criminal justice and social service professionals such as police officers, teachers, attorneys, and social workers. She also offers the workshop to churches.

“My goal is to educate as many people as I can.”

Her workshops assist individuals who work with juveniles and teenagers. The workshops cover a variety of topics that build awareness around substance use, misuse, and dependence, including how attitudes and beliefs drive behavior and how to reduce the risk of substance use and misuse. Each two-hour workshop provides two continuing education units as well.

“I’m doing these workshops as a service to the citizens of Texas and to provide awareness of all the great things that are happening at PVAMU,” said Broadus. “The workshops are a great way to help agencies across the state because many agencies have limited budgets. We, however, can provide training at no cost or limited cost to these agencies. The training sessions are a valuable resource to raise awareness about drug use among our youth and reduce the stigma that surrounds the disease of addiction.”

To learn more about Dr. Angela Broadus’ substance abuse workshops with the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, contact her at 936-261-5258 or adbroadus@pvamu.edu.
PVAMU NABA Wins Chapter of the Year Award

Prairie View A&M University’s National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) won the Division II Student Chapter Award. PVAMU NABA was recognized during a scholarship luncheon at the 2018 NABA National Convention & Expo in Orlando, Florida.

Extension Agents, Administrative Support Staff Receive Awards

Prairie View A&M University staff members Inez Simien, Monica Brown, Elaine Shafer, Diane Willis, Caralita Solomon, Annette Bowdre, and Ophelia Theodore received the Texas Extension Specialists Association (TESA) award for Outstanding Administrative Support. They were presented the award during TESA’s 2018 annual meeting, which was held July 16-18, in Fredericksburg, Texas. The award is given to support staff to recognize their achievements in promoting educational programs where support and services are provided to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Cooperative Extension specialists.

In addition, five Cooperative Extension agents, Crystal Wiltz (Travis County), Guadalupe Castro (Cameron County), Shannon Johnson-Lackey (Tarrant County), Arvitta Scott (Brazos County), and John Ferguson (Cass County), received the Distinguished Program Achievement Award at the meeting. They collaborate with Program Specialist Dr. Joice Jeffries on PVAMU’s campus to help to carry out innovative and educational 4-H Youth Programs.
Johnson’s Work Featured in Two Houston Summer Exhibitions

Ann Johnson, Assistant Professor of Practice in Prairie View A&M University’s School of Architecture, is featured in two new exhibitions in Houston this summer. *Summer Union* at the Union Gallery in Midtown stars Johnson, as well as other local artists Robert Hodge, Cande Aguilar, Raul Gonzales, Linda Kelly, and Felipe Contreras. Johnson is showing a rare Footworx painting of President Obama, as well as a collection of her experimental printmaking works. The exhibition runs through August 18. For additional information, visit unionhtx.com.

Johnson is also featured in the annual *Impressions* exhibition at Houston Community College Southwest. The exhibit features the work of artists in the PrintMatters printmaking organization where Johnson serves as a founding member and board member emeritus. She is showing an experimental printmaking piece titled “RU Woke.” *Impressions* runs through August 16. For additional information, visit printmattershouston.org.

Johnson’s work was also recently highlighted in Arts and Culture Texas Magazine. You can view the article at artsandculturetx.com/tx-studio-ann-johnson.

Nursing Graduate Publishes Article

Prairie View A&M University alumnus Michael Prejean, BSN, RN, published an article in the international journal *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. According to Prejean, the article entitled ‘Adverse Effects of Immune Checkpoint Therapy in Cancer Patients Visiting the Emergency Department of a Comprehensive Cancer Center’ aims to fill the knowledge gap related to the spectrum of immune-related adverse effects among cancer patients visiting emergency departments.

“When I graduated from PVAMU in 2016, my first offer came from the MD Anderson Emergency Department. I conducted research, and one of the ER physicians, Dr. Sai-Ching Yeung, took me under his wing and guided me through the entire research collection,” said Prejean.

You can view the article in its entirety at annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(18)30364-0/fulltext.

Prejean currently works full time in the Level 1 Trauma Center at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, TX.
SOA Grad Shines in the Construction Industry

By Marchita Shilo

Prairie View A&M University alumna Vanessa Campos, formerly Vanessa Melendez, was recently featured on her company’s social media page for ‘Women in Construction Week.’

“I started working at Hensel Phelps shortly after I graduated in 2016,” said Campos. “I love my job! I can honestly say, even if it is mostly men that I work with, I don’t feel left out or out of place. I’m comfortable, and I know my company will help me succeed to achieve my goals in my career.”

Campos is a field engineer at Hensel Phelps, one of the largest general contractors and construction managers in the United States. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Construction Science and Architecture from PVAMU. She also received a master of science in Architecture.

“I feel that I am in great debt with Prairie View A&M University because I was shown more than I ever thought I would be shown at a school. I was shown love and was shown how to love. The experience I had there was something I will never forget,” said Campos. “The best advice I have for current students is to take every chance you have to explore the world. Take school seriously, and do not be scared to ask questions, absorb as much as you can. Getting a good education is one of the most important things you can do in your life. It’s worth every penny.”
Concert Chorale to Perform in Germany, Poland

By Maurice Perkins, Communications Manager, Office for Marketing and Communications

The Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale, under the direction of Dr. A. Jan Taylor, will travel to Germany and Poland, August 26 through September 12, 2018. At the invitation of Polish conductor Mariusz Smolij, the Chorale will perform two concerts of American music with the Torun Symphony Orchestra, in Torun, Poland for the International Summer Festival “Music and Architecture.” A concert version of Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess* and Hailstork’s *Four Spirituals for Two Sopranos and Choir* are two of the works that are programmed for these concerts.

Department of Music faculty who will travel and perform with the Chorale are Dr. John L. Cornelius II, composer and pianist; voice faculty Leon Turner, bass-baritone; and Jolie Rocke Brown, soprano. Music Department alumna Audra Scott, soprano, will perform as a guest soloist. In addition to the performances with the Torun Symphony Orchestra, the Chorale will present concerts in Berlin, Germany, and in the Torun-Bygdoski region in Poland. Also featured is a recital performed by bass-baritone Turner and pianist Dr. Danny R. Kelley, Dean of the Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences. The Chorale’s tour will end with a visit to Warsaw, the capital city of Poland.

The three final concerts of the 2018 Festival will be given by the choir and solo singers of the Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale:

- On August 31, in the Church of the Holy Spirit, the PVAMU Concert Chorale will render their interpretation of traditional negro spirituals music and a selection of original arrangements of the most popular gospel songs and anthems.

- On September 1, an occasion to savor the most popular songs from America owing to the bass-baritone Leon P. Turner and the pianist Danny R. Kelley. Among the highlights of the concert will also be a solo piano arrangement of G. Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*.

- On September 2, during the final event of this year’s edition of the Festival, a concert version of G. Gershwin’s opera *Porgy and Bess* performed by the Torun Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mariusz Smolij and the Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale together with solo singers from America: Jolie Rocke Brown (soprano), Audra Scott (soprano), Leon P. Turner (bass-baritone), and Chauncey D. Packer (tenor).
Dozens of Children Take Part in Summer Camps on “The Hill”

By Marchita Shilo

Junior Mini Medical School, Is There an Engineer Inside of You?, Donnie B’s Golf Camp, and A Taste of Etiquette and Cooking. These are a few camps for kids in grades K-12 that happened at Prairie View A&M University this summer.

“There was a new theme each week,” said Dr. Talitha Lewis, director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships and K-12 Outreach. “I developed the camps two years ago with the whole child in mind. I wanted to make sure they were exposed to a little of everything... from networking on the golf course, to knowing how to cook and have etiquette when they eat and dine out. There were also educational components to strengthen the students, so they can go back to their prospective school districts in the fall stronger in their subject matter.”

Each camp held up to 50 students, and Lewis says the turnout was phenomenal.

“I grew up in Prairie View, and there was not a lot of opportunities available to kids in the community and surrounding areas,” said Lewis. “Dr. Clarissa Booker’s reading camp was the only thing we had to look forward to. But now, it’s exciting to see what I envisioned become a reality. So many kids take advantage and grow from their experiences at these summer camps. Not only that, they have an opportunity to interact with students outside of school. It’s so beautiful to see the relationships and friendships that develop.”
PVAMU Expands Nursing Program to RELLIS

By Marchita Shilo

In just a few weeks, Prairie View A&M University will begin offering its Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program (RN-BSN) in Bryan, Texas. It is all part of the University’s new role in The Texas A&M University System’s innovative RELLIS campus.

“Students can graduate with an associate’s degree in Nursing (ADN) and apply to our program,” said Program Coordinator Dr. Wynetta McMullin. “Classes will be offered in the traditional face-to-face method. Upon completion, these students will obtain a BSN, otherwise, a four-year degree from PVAMU.”

Registered nurses who apply to PVAMU’s RELLIS RN-BSN Program must meet the same prerequisites and degree requirements as generic or LVN-BSN students.

“Our RELLIS program is very beneficial to an AND graduate because they can slide right into the RN-BSN program and finish within two years depending on how many pre-requisites they have left to take,” said McMullin.

Students can apply through ApplyTexas.org by clicking on the PVAMU RELLIS location. Classes will begin August 27.

“We would like to see at least 10 to 15 students enrolled in this first cohort and more each semester after that,” said McMullin. “PVAMU’s College of Nursing has offered its RN-BSN Program since 1978. Our college is a fervent exemplar in educating professional nurses for now and the future. Our nursing graduates have extensively contributed to the quality and excellence in nursing and healthcare delivery throughout Texas, the nation, and the world.”

PVAMU will begin offering a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a Criminalistics Concentration at the RELLIS campus in the fall of 2019.

To find out more information about PVAMU RELLIS, visit pvamu.edu/RELLIS or RELLIS.tamus.edu.
Fifteen students, who are members of the second Research and Extension Experiential Learning Undergraduate Fellowship Student Cohorts, visited Prairie View A&M University’s campus on June 12. They spent much of the day getting a hands-on experience of water quality research capabilities at the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences.

“It’s important to note that eight of these students were from PVAMU-CAHS, six were from Texas A&M University, and one came from Texas Tech University,” said Dr. Ali Fares, associate director of Research and professor of Water Security.

Research Scientist William Foxworth gave the students a tour of CAHS’ on-site wastewater treatment system within the International Goat Research Center. The system processes goat waste. Participants also saw a septic system that’s used to treat dairy parlor wastewater. Drs. Ripendra Awal and Almoutaz Elhassan then took the students to the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center’s Core Laboratory where Dr. Javad Barouei gave them a tour and overview of how to use genomics techniques to indent the microbial population found in processed wastewater.

“In addition, the students visited the Agriculture and Business Building where they toured different laboratories and some of the classrooms,” said Fares. “They were very impressed with our facilities for research, teaching, and extension.”

Following the students’ trip to PVAMU, they went to the Ecological Society of America’s annual meeting in Houston where they interacted with scientists from across the U.S. They also gave a poster presentation summarizing their fellowship work experience.

PVAMU participants in the water quality program receive three hours of course credit, a $2,500 stipend, housing at Texas A&M University during the program, a meal allowance of $150 per week, an internship experience with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and a $250 travel allowance to present their research at a water quality conference. Three top-tier fellowship students, who show exceptional performance, receive a fully funded scholarship to attend the 2018 BAEN Environmental Science and Engineering Study Abroad program in Leuven, Belgium.
On June 28, 39 students, accompanied by program interns and staff from five elementary and middle schools in the Houston Independent School District, came to Prairie View A&M University’s Don Clark Building. All of the students, which are Freedom Scholars, are participants in this summer’s HYPE Freedom Schools.

“HYPE Freedom School, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been serving children and families in the Sunnyside and South Park communities for more than 15 years,” said Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi, director of PVAMU’s Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, who organized the trip to “The Hill.” “HYPE was established as the first Children’s Defense Fund Freedom School site in Houston, and it is the oldest site in Texas. HYPE helps local organizations and churches sponsor the CDF Freedom Schools program in communities lacking out-of-school-time activities for their youth.”

During the Freedom Scholars’ day-long trip to Prairie View, they participated in a campus-wide scavenger hunt and engaged in a mock trial hosted by Dr. Everett B. Penn (co-Founder of the Teen and Policy Service Academy and Professor of Criminology at University of Houston - Clear Lake). They also ate lunch in the Memorial Student Center and bowled at Panther Plaza. In addition, the scholars had the opportunity to ask questions and dialogue with current PVAMU undergraduate students.

The HYPE Freedom School visit was organized through the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center’s partnership with the Youth Violence Prevention Coalition (Houston Health Department).

Freedom Schools implement a curriculum developed by the Children’s Defense Fund that provides summer and after-school enrichment, which helps children fall in love with reading, increases their self-esteem, and generates more positive attitudes toward learning. Freedom Schools offer nurturing learning environments using a model curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components: 1) high-quality academic enrichment; 2) parent and family involvement; 3) civic engagement and social action; 4) intergenerational leadership development; and 5) nutrition, health, and mental health.
**Aug 6**  Final Exams, Last Day of Class, Last Day to Apply for Degree Conferral Only (no ceremony participation or listing in the program), Late Deadline for Graduating Undergraduates to Submit Application for Tuition Rebate

**Aug 8**  Final Grades Due (for graduation candidates)

**Aug 11**  Commencement

**Aug 14**  Final Grades Due (for all other students)

**Aug 23**  Regular Registration Period Begins (Fall 2018)

**Aug 27**  First Day of Class, Late Registration and Drop/Add Period Begins

**Sept 3**  Labor Day (University Closed)

**Sept 4**  Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)

**Sept 12**  Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record

**Oct 15**  Last Day of Class (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)

**Oct 16**  Final Exams (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)

**Oct 17**  First Day of Class (Fall 2018 2nd 8-week Session)

**Oct 18**  Final Grades Due (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)

**Oct 23**  Mid-semester Grades Due

**Oct 24**  Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (Fall 2018 2nd 8-week Session)

**Oct 31**  Application Deadline to Apply for Spring 2019 Graduation (ceremony participation); Late Deadline to Apply for Fall 2018 Graduation (ceremony participation)

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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
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

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

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

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
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

Commencement Convocation

AUGUST 11
2018

2018 FACULTY CONFERENCE
AUGUST 20

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
AUGUST 27