As we start the fall semester, PVAMU continues to expand its global presence. Members of the Concert Chorale just returned from Poland, where they performed at several high-profile events and received resounding praise. In a few weeks, Prairie View will host the 2018 IIMA/ICITED Conference. About 13 countries will take part in exchanging ideas and presenting research about how information technology is “aiding modern society to tackle complex problems in a smart way.” The following week, we are planning NASA Day at PVAMU. The 16th will be a day full of workshops, research, and outreach; NASA team members will be on hand to present various opportunities to our students.

The university recently announced its Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for $500,000 to support its efforts to establish an African-American Studies Initiative. Inspired by the Mellon Foundation award, an anonymous donor pledged an added $250,000 to help fund this Initiative. This generous donation is eligible for a $250,000 university match, bringing the total support for the initiative’s launch to $1 million. The project is designed to selectively infuse African-American Studies content throughout the university’s liberal arts offerings. This is, indeed, an exciting development at PVAMU.

This Friday is the deadline for colleges, schools and units on campus to submit their proposals for high-impact practices, or HIPs, which are active learning methods that promote deep learning through student engagement. Proposals should focus on implementing or strengthening a currently utilized HIP such as internships, writing intensive courses, first-year seminars or experiences, service learning, undergraduate research, learning communities, ePortfolios, etc. Proposals can be submitted here: pvamu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6XPzxLOaVWMfk7H.

On Sunday, December 16, PVAMU will host its Fall 2018 Commencement at the Berry Center of Northwest Houston (as the William “Billy” J. Nicks, Sr. Building is still undergoing construction this semester). We look forward to celebrating each of our graduate’s achievements.
Dr. Musa Olaka joined Prairie View A&M University as director of Library Services on August 1. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the John B. Coleman Library where he will help spearhead the library into becoming a more robust information and learning center that is efficient, effective and impactful in carrying out its mandate.

Olaka previously worked at the University of Kansas where he served as the librarian for African Studies, Global and International Studies. Before that role, he served as the assistant library director at Southeast Missouri State University. Olaka held other positions including being the librarian for the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center at the University of South Florida. His experience also includes working in academic libraries in Kenya and Rwanda. He established the first library science education program in Rwanda and helped transform libraries nationwide after the tragic 1994 genocide.

Olaka holds a bachelor’s degree in Education and a master’s degree in Library Science from Kenyatta University in Kenya. He also holds a Ph.D. in Information Science and Learning Technologies from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Olaka’s research interests include Information Policy, Human Information Behavior, Library and Information Science Education, Digital Humanities, and Genocide Studies. He is currently working on a digital humanities project where he is mapping the experiences of children who survived the Rwandan genocide.

“I am looking forward to establishing an institutional repository and collaborating with various units on campus to support and enhance the visibility of student, staff and faculty scholarly output. Above all, I look forward to creating a conducive library environment that is welcoming for all.”
Hugh Durham is Prairie View A&M University’s new director of Undergraduate & Graduate Admissions, as of August 13. As the director of Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions, he will lead the Office of Admissions to increase freshman, transfer, and graduate student enrollment. Durham’s focus is automation and streamlining the admissions processes while ensuring every prospective student receives an optimal level of service from the Office of Admissions.

The Miami, Florida native comes to PVAMU with a wealth of admissions experience in higher education. Durham previously served as an associate director of Medical School Admissions for the American University of the Caribbean; He was tasked with seeing through a diversity initiative to increase the number of African-American students at the medical school. Before his medical school appointment, Durham spent ten years in Washington D.C., where he held associate director and leadership positions at Howard University, Georgetown University, and Morgan State University’s admissions offices. He has a passion for enrollment management as his focus has been on admissions, global recruitment and outreach, freshman and transfer orientation programs, scholarships, and financial aid.

Durham is a graduate of the University of Florida and received his higher education training at Boston University.

“I love the ‘student first’ culture of PVAMU, and I am committed to achieving enrollment goals established by the university’s leadership. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join the PVAMU community, especially the admission and enrollment services staff, and excited to work with faculty, staff and students as we continue to build PVAMU’s future incoming classes to be amongst the best in the country.”
Dr. Alvin L. Johnson joined Prairie View A&M University as the director of Academic Advising Services on August 14. Johnson, who is located in University College’s advising office, is responsible for coordinating academic advising services and programs for new and returning students.

Johnson grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, but he has been in the Houston area for about 18 years. Before PVAMU, he served as the associate director for Learning Success at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) where he was responsible for providing programming, academic support services, and academic coaching for first- and second-year students. He also provided support to faculty and staff focused on first- and second-year student success programs and services as well as various University College initiatives and offices including the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence and the Gator Success Center. Prior to UHD, Johnson served in the capacity of an instructor/teacher in secondary and post-secondary institutions. He has also provided services and leadership in the areas of academic advising, student mentoring, transfer advising and student success at University of Houston-Clear Lake and Texas Southern University.

Johnson recently completed his Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration at The University of Alabama. He completed his Master of Education in Higher Education Administration and Supervision at the University of Houston. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Mississippi.

“I am excited to join the dedicated and dynamic team of academic advisors here at Prairie View A&M University, and I look forward to taking advising to the next level to help contribute to the mission of providing a high-quality educational experience to all of our students.”
Professor Infuses Technology into Curriculum

By Marchita Shilo

Michael Nojeim, also known as Dr. Mike to his students at Prairie View A&M University, received the 2017-2018 President’s Teaching Award. The program coordinator and associate professor of Political Science teaches a wide range of classes including American Government, U.S. Foreign Policy, International Relations, and Middle East Politics, to name a few.

“Some students say my classes are high-energy, high-octane power hours,” said Nojeim. “They are usually not straight lecture; rather, many of them are filled with interactive exercises.”

Nojeim uses both low-tech and high-tech exercises to get things moving.

“For example, I use the ‘Snowball Method’ which is an exercise where students can be anonymous while submitting input. It protects them from embarrassment while also increasing participation,” said Nojeim. “I also use ‘Eyes Closed, Thumbs Up’ and ‘Ticket out the Door.’ For ‘Ticket out the Door,’ I tell students to write down what they learned or what they didn’t understand. I also take polls where they can choose their assignments, quizzes, and tests. Be mindful, there are restrictions, such as one has to focus on reading, one has to have a significant writing component, etcetera. In turn, these methods give my students agency; they learn to own their education, they are more invested, and it increases their mindset of wanting to succeed -- that’s why I’m here.”

Some of Nojeim’s high-tech exercises include using the applications ‘Poll Everywhere’ and ‘Kahoot!’ Like his low-tech methods, both apps encourage participation, which leads to classroom discussions.

“My goal is to tap into my students’ incredible creative potential and release this energy back into my classroom,” said Nojeim. “My entire career is student-centered. My students are like having kids, and everyone wants their kids to go farther than they did.”

This is Nojeim’s 15th year teaching at PVAMU and his 28th year teaching overall.
Preventing abnormally high blood pressure, or hypertension, can save a life. If this “silent killer” is left untreated, hypertension can lead to stroke, congestive heart failure, or progression of coronary heart disease.

According to new research, African-American women are twice as likely as other ethnic groups to suffer from hypertension and hypertension-related complications. Dr. Vanessa Monroe, a clinical assistant professor at Prairie View A&M University’s College of Nursing, just wrapped up a research study on a new smartphone app that offers help to men and women who live with hypertension.

“‘OnTimeRx’ is a reminder service that works to remind patients when to take their medications,” said Monroe. “I started research using this software app in 2015 after contacting the developer who is also a pharmacist who worked with transplant patients. I wanted to apply the application to hypertension management to see if it could improve adherence rates, because rates above 80-percent can lead to better blood pressure control.”

Monroe’s research proved ‘OnTimeRx’ was an effective method for increasing medication adherence, especially in hypertensive African-American women.

“I believe more healthcare providers should strategically use technology-based options to increase patient medication adherence to save lives,” said Monroe. “In the future, I would like to expand this research study to a larger group of participants in other parts of the United States; and this group would include participants from different cultures, men, children, adolescents, and pregnant women. This study was solely focused on African-American women who live with high blood pressure.”

Monroe presented the results of this study at the Lone Star Stroke Consortium Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas. She is scheduled to speak in Toronto, Canada in November 2018 and just accepted an invitation to speak in London, England in June of 2019.
One Year after Harvey, Extension Agent Still Helping Residents

By Marchita Shilo

A year ago, Hurricane Harvey devastated southeast Texas including Houston and its surrounding areas, and today, recovery efforts are ongoing.

“Resident needs, and the needs of those who were impacted, are still at an all-time high,” said Liberty County Extension Agent James Motton II. “With the help of Prairie View A&M University’s Cooperative Extension Program (CEP), we have been able to help dozens of residents get back on their feet.”

Motton has been working to ensure families have food, water, toiletries, cleaning supplies, clothes, and furniture. Just a few weeks ago, he collaborated with a local construction company to install new floors, doors, windows, and plumbing in a Dayton family’s home.

“Several volunteers and I worked with Crayton Construction to repair Curtis Bederka and Martha Boothe’s home in a total of four weeks,” said Motton. “After losing everything during Harvey, they were finally able to return to a normal lifestyle.”

Motton also helped a single mom of two get back on her feet after having her home take in a foot of water during Harvey.

“Lynn Nichols felt that she wasn’t making any progress to help her current situation. However, with the help of United Methodist Church (Houston), I was able to coordinate for Ms. Nichols to receive funds to purchase sheetrock, flooring, and other materials to repair her home. The economic impact of this project, including supplies and materials, was $26,000.”

Motton has been assisting other local churches, along with the Salvation Army, Sacred Heart, and the Dell Foundation, with various donation and supply drives.

“We have been able to provide families with necessities along with furniture, kitchenware, and beds,” said Motton. “With people still recovering from Hurricane Harvey, and with hurricane season currently in session, planning and proper preparation are needed. With these donation drives, I want to make sure residents have basic items in their home in case of an unexpected storm or hurricane.”

Since July, Motton has assisted over 500 people in Liberty, Jefferson, and Chambers Counties. To find out more information about his efforts, email Motton at jamotton@pvamu.edu.
Interdisciplinary Team Attends National Conference in Washington

An interdisciplinary team of staff and faculty members from Prairie View A&M University was one of 20 groups selected from across the country to attend the 20th National Summer Institute on Learning Communities at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. The four-day institute provided ideas on how schools can create, expand, or improve learning communities.

“At PVAMU, our Summer STEM Bridge Programs are learning communities that have been established for many years,” said Dr. Laurette Foster who coordinated the July trip to Washington. “Participants wanted to initiate an interdisciplinary STEM Learning Community for students in diverse disciplines because data indicates that students participating in these programs have a better success rate for learning and persistence. Additionally, four-year graduation rates are higher. Attending the Institute allowed our team to craft an action plan and establish transformative collaborations.”

The trip was a sponsored academic and leadership Title III activity.

PVAMU TEAM MEMBERS
Harriette Block, Biology Department Head, Lead
Deirdre Vaden, Biology, Co-Lead
Antonea’ Jackson, Nursing
Pamela Brandy Webb, Nursing
Renee McKnight, University Advisement
Dayshawnna Littleton, University Advisement
Phyllis Spates, University Advisement

Students Interning on Capitol Hill

This fall, two Prairie View A&M University students are interning in Washington D.C. Roman Zepeda, a senior Political Science major and a member of PVAMU’s NROTC program, is interning in Congressman Pete Olson’s office through the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (read more here: pvamu.edu/blog/pvamu-nrotc-student-headed-to-capitol-hill). Samuel Parada, another senior Political Science major, is interning in Congressman Ruben Gallego’s office through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

“Both internships are paid and highly selective,” said Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr. Nathan Mitchell. “We are so proud of the success of our students and hope they inspire excellence in others. Both men are some of the hardest working individuals I have ever worked with.”

In addition to Zepeda and Parada, four additional PVAMU students had internships in D.C.; theirs took place from June to August. Kirsten Budwine, a senior Political Science major, worked in Congressman Emanuel Cleaver’s office; Samuel Parada, a senior Political Science major, worked with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials; Antonius Brown, a senior Business Administration major, interned with the Associated General Contractors; and Ervin Bryant, a senior History major, worked with the National Campus Leadership Council. To read more about their summer experience, visit pvamu.edu/blog/pvamu-students-experience-d-c-government.
Romaine Knight, a senior Finance major from Kingston, Jamaica, tackled some major projects over the summer.

“I was an accounting/finance intern at CUNA Mutual Group. I also went through the Emerging Leaders Seminar at Yale University, Goldman Sachs Undergraduate Camp, Herring Cup at CUNA Mutual Group, and I was a headline presenter for the African-American Credit Union Coalition’s annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia,” said Knight. “Each experience impacted me in one way or another. I started building a Rolodex of professionals in the financial services industry, and I have a solid foundation of basic entrepreneurial skills along with the framework.”

Earlier this year, Knight attended various conferences and competed in several competitions, both local and national. He also started the Prairie View Investment Club with an objective to inform, expose, and prepare PVAMU students for their journeys to the financial services industry.

“Getting involved is important because, quite frankly, great grades aren’t enough,” said Knight. “When companies look at you from a holistic perspective, they’re looking for certain attributes such as your leadership skills and your ability to act under pressure. In college, these things mostly come from getting involved and taking advantage of all that your school has to offer. Leverage the network of professors around you, connect with professionals who are out there doing the work you want to be doing, and use that wisdom and guidance to aid you in the process of figuring it out. Also, surround yourself with students that push you. Once you’ve identified a path, be open to change and failure.”

Upon graduation, Knight plans to enter into a Master of Finance program and obtain a chartered financial analyst designation, before joining the investment banking or consulting world. Long term, he would like to go into venture capital and help entrepreneurs build sustainable and viable ventures that have social impact and change the way the world sees traditional services.

“My number one motivation is my family and knowing that what I’m doing is for the good of us all,” said Knight. “My second motivation is God and knowing that he gave me a purpose on Earth. I think that it would be a shame to waste these gifts that I received without impacting even one life. Most people believe pursuing opportunities for themselves and helping others can’t coexist because there are only so few opportunities. But, I want to help change that.”

Knight was also featured in Caribbean Life for his summer experience at Yale University. You can read more at caribbeanlifenews.com/stories/2018/8/i-jamaican-student-heads-to-yale-2018-08-03-cl.html.
“Going to Africa changed my life. It is impossible to go to that continent, experience the culture, meet the people, and leave as the same person.”

Those are thoughts from Asia Williams, a junior biology major from Shreveport, Louisiana, who spent her summer in Mombasa, Kenya working a medical internship.

“While in Kenya, I conducted hygiene clinics in schools where I taught children the proper way to brush their teeth and wash their hands. I also shadowed physicians in various areas of the medical field,” said Williams. “During my internship, I learned that representation in medicine matters. It was inspiring to go to a place where all the doctors looked like me. It was even more empowering to see that most of the physicians were women.”

Williams traveled to Kenya courtesy of the Honors Program and Office of International Programs at Prairie View A&M University.

“Your college experience is determined by you. You can make the most out of it, or you can choose not to,” said Williams. “With that being said, it is super important to get involved because it is a great way to meet people, give back to the community, and have fun.”

Williams was recently accepted into the Undergraduate Medical Academy at PVAMU. She plans to go to medical school post-graduation.

“One quote that I live by is, ‘No matter where you’re planted, bloom.’ As students, we have been planted here on Prairie View’s campus; it is up to us to grow and prosper, no matter how hard things get.”
College of Nursing is First in Houston Area to Train on Life-Like “Super Tory” Baby Robot Simulators

By Texas Medical Center Writers

Saving a life during a medical emergency starts with being prepared with proper training. The “Super Tory” is helping student nurses at Prairie View A&M University get that real world experience, without ever leaving the classroom.

Super Tory resembles an 8-pound baby and can virtually recreate any neonatal medical emergency. She looks real. She feels real. She sounds real. She’s a wireless robot that is the world’s most advanced neonatal patient simulator; and, for the first time, the technology is being used by nursing students in Houston.

“Every second counts in newborn critical care. Having this technology really helps set Prairie View A&M ahead of the rest. When our nurses graduate, they will have real life-like experiences that will help provide better care for patients,” said Dr. Isaac L. Smith, PhD, RN, Assistant Clinical Professor of Nursing and Director of Clinical Simulation and Laboratory Learning at PVAMU.

Super Tory can develop breathing problems, cardiac arrest, jaundice, even seizures, at the press of a button. She can move her arms and legs, make sounds and facial expressions, which are important cues since babies cannot tell a caregiver what’s wrong. The baby’s vital signs and movements are controlled by a behind-the-scenes engineer who communicates remotely through headphones. Even if the nursing trainees make a mistake during a mock code, it becomes a teachable moment and no one gets hurt, not even the patient.

To read more about Super Tory, visit pvamu.edu/blog/pvamu-college-of-nursing-first-in-houston-to-train-on-super-tory-simulators.
New PVAMU Center to Tackle Worldwide Issue: Food Insecurity

By Marchita Shilo

In the United States, about 13 percent, or one in seven people, are food insecure. In other words, they are unable to access a sufficient amount of affordable and nutritious food. In Texas, that number is higher, and experts say it will get worse as the world’s population continues to grow if steps are not taken to prevent the issue.

“To combat the problem, food production and the amount of available water both have to increase. This will be a very difficult task to accomplish due to climate change, land competition, and poor land management, among other factors. Prairie View A&M University is planning to address these and other issues related to food security by establishing the Integrated Food Security Research Center (IFSRC) at PVAMU, the first of its kind in the State of Texas,” said Dr. Deland Myers, endowed professor of Food Systems in PVAMU’s College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (CAHS) who will serve as principal investigator.

The center will give faculty, staff, and scientists, in collaboration with local, regional, national, and international partners, a platform on the PVAMU campus to collaborate and foster efforts to address issues related to food insecurity. It will also provide information and resources for the undergraduate and graduate education of future professionals who will be the future leaders in the prevention of food insecurity.

“Since its establishment in 1876, Prairie View A&M University has always been an institution focused on the needs of the low-resource farmers and underserved persons in the State of Texas; many of whom are disproportionately affected by food insecurity,” said Myers. “Data from the USDA Economic Research Service in 2016 showed the food insecurity level for African-American households was at 22.5 percent and Hispanic households stood at 18.5 percent, which was much higher than the general population’s percentage of 12.3 percent. Given the mission of this university, PVAMU and the CAHS have the historical and mission-obligated duty to address issues related to food insecurity as many of our stakeholders are directly affected by this condition."

The Texas A&M System Chancellors Research Initiative (CRI) recently approved $5.3 million for PVAMU to begin the focused research effort. Myers is currently working with the Office of Sponsored Programs, Office of Business Affairs, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, and other administrative offices at PVAMU to identify space for offices, laboratories and other operational needs for the Integrated Food Security Research Center. For more information about the IFSRC project, contact Myers at djmyers@pvamu.edu.
COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Agricultural Research Center Hosts Summer Research Symposium

This summer, Prairie View A&M University’s Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC), under the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, hired 44 students from PVAMU, Texas A&M University, University of Houston, University of Texas-San Antonio and Texas Tech University. They assisted researchers with laboratory exercises and research objectives aimed at discovery and innovation for our stakeholders across the state of Texas and beyond.

"Every year, for the past more than ten years, CARC has hired student learners in diverse areas of study to engage them in hypothesis-driven scientific and agriculturally related research activities," said Associate Director of Research Dr. Ali Fares. “Over the course of this past summer semester, students developed smart apps, conducted high-end research, and worked with plants and animals.”

The students presented their findings at a Summer Research Symposium on August 6. To learn more about the symposium, visit pvamu.edu/blog/agricultural-research-at-pvamu-engages-students.

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Design Team Receives Special Distinction Award in City of Houston Contest

The Prairie View A&M University School of Architecture Race to Zero Design Team won Special Distinction for Design for their “Fly Flat,” a pocket community featuring three living units, a community center, and communal green space. Six winning designs for the Complete the Community: A Housing and Urban Design Competition were announced at Houston’s City Council meeting on August 22. PVAMU was the only university team to win the award among five other architectural firms. City Council Member David Robinson, in partnership with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Houston Chapter, solicited designs for Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner’s initiative, “Complete Communities,” which consists of Acres Homes, Near Northside, Second Ward, Third Ward, and Gulfton.

Juror Thomas Garcia-Prats said, "I was impressed by the Prairie View A&M design that fit a number of small houses on a lot with a shared outdoor area. Not only did it have a unique layout, but it tried to creatively respond to some of the challenges of fostering community and of overcoming isolation that many of our neighborhoods face, especially those neighborhoods with an aging population."

PVAMU’s team was made up of faculty leads Shelly Pottorf, April Ward and Shannon Bryant, and student team Reuben Cheeks, Kristin Clark, Aaron Farray, Kennia Lopez, Shannen Martin, Noah Perkins, Shelby Skinner, Cynthia Suarez-Harris, Ledell Thomas, and Kaylah Wesley.

Read more here: aiahouston.org/v/site-page/Complete-the-Community/Competition-Winners/9a.
History Professor Cultivates Student Leaders

Over the summer, Dr. Marco Robinson, an assistant professor of History in Prairie View A&M University’s Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences, served as one of four facilitators for a half-day workshop in Mexico City, Mexico called Jumpstarting Digital Humanities Projects. Robinson’s section of the seminar dealt with Collecting and Digitizing Historical Items.

Two of Robinson’s students participated in summer programs as well. Daren White, a senior History major, partook in the Emerging Scholars Summer Mentoring Program at Penn State University, and Jessmine Cornelius, a junior History major, participated in the New Leadership Texas Summer Institute hosted by The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies at the University of Texas in Austin. To read more about their experiences, visit pvamu.edu/blog/success-beyond-the-classroom-cultivating-student-leaders.

COB and SBDC Host Two Congressmen for WCEDP

Prairie View A&M University’s College of Business and Small Business Development Center hosted the August meeting of the Waller County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP). Invited speakers were Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst, Texas State Senate District 18, and Representative Cecil Bell, Jr., Texas State House District 3.
What is GRIND?

Prairie View A&M University’s Get Ready to Initiate a Nursing Degree (GRIND) program offers an opportunity to prepare for a career in healthcare. Students attend various classes and partake in hospital and cultural visits. HESI A2 exam prep sessions are also included.

Who can participate in GRIND?

Pre-Nursing students who attend PVAMU.

Why is GRIND important?

Many students who attend GRIND report being better prepared for PVAMU’s College of Nursing. Faculty also report that students who participate in GRIND are better prepared for scientific writing and math, and many have a healthier insight into the “Real World of Nursing” and the rigor of the curriculum. These early introductions and insights into the College of Nursing are priceless.

When is GRIND offered?

GRIND is offered every June.

PVAMU Summer 2018 GRIND participants visit the Texas Heart Institute in the Texas Medical Center.
Some 200 students of Prairie View A&M University received their degrees at the Berry Center of Northwest Houston. Dr. Michael Lomax, president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), delivered the event’s address.
in case you missed it...

Panther Camp
August 19-24, 2018

New students attended Panther Camp to learn about PVAMU including its rich history, traditions, and academic policies and procedures. Panther Camp is the final phase of the orientation program.

Class of 2022 attends the Opening Session on Aug. 20.
This year’s Faculty Conference hosted by the Office of Academic Affairs was engaging, informative, and inspiring.

“Faculty were given a chance to hear and reflect on student voices – we had six students, ranging from undergraduate and graduate students to athletes, non-traditional, and honors students share their experiences,” said James Palmer, interim provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs. “We also invited faculty to reflect on university student data and examine Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) proposals and High Impact Practices (HIPs).”

An interactive keynote session from award-winning speaker Mark Taylor took the student session further by inspiring faculty to understand the differences between generations of students and how to help them.

“These newer generations aspire to change the world for the better, but they may not know how,” said Taylor. “We, as faculty members, can motivate them in their classes and toward their careers. They will choose careers based on if they can change the world. We’re the avenue that can help them.”

During a luncheon, President Ruth Simmons talked with faculty. Survey responses indicate her comments were well-received.

“President Simmons’ remarks, as always, were important, informative, progressive, and forward-looking. I love having her encouraging us to dream big, have unconventional ideas, and ask questions. Sometimes other institutional structures discourage these activities, so it’s important for me, as a faculty member, to hear this from our president and encourage our students to do the same,” one faculty member said.

On the second day of the conference, Saundra McGuire, director emerita at Louisiana State University, delivered an exchange about Teaching Students How to Learn based on her books “Teach Students How to Learn” and “Teach Yourself How to Learn.”

“I have attended Dr. Sandra McGuire's presentations in the past and always find them useful,” said one faculty member.

Following various faculty workshops and a new-faculty orientation, everyone headed to Main Event in Katy.

“The Main Event Fun Mixer was unconventional, but it was barrier-breaking and a lot of fun. I feel like we got to see and know each other as humans, as people with shared experiences, and people who have a common bond in the mission to help PVAMU be a place that is accepting and genuine, and fosters quality work relationships,” said a faculty member.

Another faculty member said, “The Faculty Conference was an outstanding way to commence the semester!”
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<td>SEPT 12</td>
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<td>Last day of class (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)</td>
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<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>Mid-semester exams begin; Final grades due (Fall 2018 1st 8-week Session)</td>
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<td>Mid-semester grades due</td>
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<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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**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
SACSCOC 2020
Reaffirmation of Accreditation
TIMELINE 2018 - 2020

FALL 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

SPRING THRU SUMMER 2018
- SACSCOC Orientation of PVAMU Leadership Team
- Core Team Establishment
- Initial Compliance Certification Drafting
- Electronic Organizational Tools Operationalized

FALL 2018
- Continuation of Compliance Certification Drafting and Editing
- University-Wide Reaffirmation Sessions
- Specialized Reaffirmation Critical Workshops
- University Personnel Attend Annual SACSCOC Conference

SPRING THRU SUMMER 2019
- Finalization of Compliance Certification
- Finalization of Quality Enhancement Plan

FALL 2019
- Submission of Completed Compliance Certification
- Receipt of Focused Report from Off-Site Review
- QEP Stakeholder Engagement and Marketing

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

FALL 2020
- Finalize Post Visit Follow-Up
- PVAMU Leadership Receive Notification of Reaffirmation Status
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

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