Midterms and Spring Break are both behind us, which means the spring semester is quickly coming to an end. However, there’s much happening on “The Hill.”

Nominations wrapped up for the PVAMU Humanitarian Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals whose lives reflect their dedication to PVAMU’s highest humanitarian principles and those whose lives exemplify a “spirit of love and helpfulness to others.” Awardees will be announced at this year’s Founders’ Day and Honors Recognition Convocation on Wednesday, March 28.

This year’s Convocation on the 28th will recognize students who received honors in the spring and fall semesters in 2017. We will also pay tribute to our University’s founders. Celebrating its 100th year at PVAMU, the College of Nursing will host, and Major Romeatrius Moss, DNP, MSN, RN, APHN-BC will serve as the speaker.

Students from across campus are making the University proud. Students from the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (CAHS) were involved in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. In fact, undergraduate Jeremy Brent won the Reserve Grand Open Dairy Goat Alpine Award. Another CAHS student, Raymond Thomas, was selected to meet with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in Virginia a few weeks ago during a national conference. In the Colleges of Juvenile Justice and Psychology and the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences, 12 students received acceptance letters into the Heman Sweatt Pre-Law Program. In the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering, they wrapped up National Engineering Week. And, students in Engineering and in Business participated in the HBCU Battle of the Brains in Austin, Texas. Stay tuned for an update on that event in an upcoming edition of Academic Insights.

PVAMU recently formally joined the Dallas County Promise. With this partnership, the University will work closely with Promise, Dallas County Community Colleges, and other university partners to develop more affordable and meaningful college pathways to an undergraduate education.

And, speaking of undergraduates, we welcomed dozens of students from area school districts, along with their families, to campus for a merit scholarship event. These students are recipients of one of three prestigious awards—the Regents’ Student Merit Scholarship, the Presidential Academic Scholarship, and the Distinguished Achievement Scholarship. We look forward to these young minds becoming Panthers in the Class of 2022.

As always, we look forward to highlighting the University’s faculty, staff, student, and alumni accomplishments and initiatives in Academic Insights. We hope you enjoy this issue.
Texas A&M University System Honors PVAMU Biology Professor

By Marchita Shilo

The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) honored ten professors with the 2018 Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators (CATE) award, and Dr. Cleveland O. Lane, Jr., assistant professor and director of the Anatomical Visualization and Simulation Center in Prairie View A&M University’s Department of Biology, was one of them.

“I was truly honored to receive this award and represent PVAMU,” said Lane. “PVAMU has a rich history in preparing educators across this country, and I am blessed to have the ability and opportunity to contribute to the development of present and future educators.”

The yearly award is given out to individuals within the TAMUS system who make significant contributions to the field of teacher education. It also highlights the role of the A&M System in producing K-12 teachers for the state of Texas.

“Over the years, I’ve spearheaded a variety of projects to help train teachers,” said Lane. “My specialty is teaching them different ways to integrate technology into their instruction. I’ve also set up summer camps for both teachers and students covering the exploration of biology using tomorrow’s technology.”

And, I could tell from the short time I visited Lane, he has an extreme passion for technology and teaching.

“I’ve been here at PVAMU for 20-plus years, serving in various capacities, from student to professor,” said Lane. “Being here has given me the opportunity to research, use technology, teach, train, and mentor -- I’m doing everything that I could ever want to do…I’m doing what I love! But, the greatest part of my career is seeing students take the information and skills we have shown them and achieve the goals they set for themselves. Plus, I’ve learned so much from others, administrators, professors, staff, and mentors. They are what helped mold me into the educator I am today.”

Dr. Lane pictured second from right.
Research Scientist Making Daily Dose of Omega-3s an Easier Reality

By Marchita Shilo

According to webmd.com, when it comes to fat, there’s one you don’t want to cut back on: omega-3 fatty acids. You can usually find these fats in fish, nuts, and seeds.

“Studies of hunter-gatherer societies and estimates of foods available during man’s evolution from paleolithic nutrition indicate that man evolved on a diet that was low in saturated fat and the amounts of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids were about equal,” said Dr. Adela Mora-Gutiérrez, Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC) research scientist in Food Chemistry at PVAMU. “Over the past 10,000 years with the development of agriculture, changes began to take place in the food supply, especially during the last 100-150 years, that led to increases in saturated fat from grain-fed cattle; increases in trans fatty acids from the hydrogenation of vegetable oils; and enormous decreases in omega-6 fatty acids, about 30 grams per day, due to the production of oils from vegetable seeds such as corn, safflower, and cotton.”

In simpler terms, most people aren’t ingesting enough omega-3s. In 2002, Mora-Gutiérrez began her mission to help reverse that trend.

“Omega-3 fatty acids have been proven to lower coronary disease and cancer rates, improve immune function and brain health, and reduce rheumatoid arthritis inflammation. Thus, it has led to a high demand by consumers for foods and beverages fortified with oils ‘rich’ in omega-3 fatty acids such as flaxseed, fish, algae, krill, seal, and squid,” said Mora-Gutiérrez. “These days, there is a higher need to fortify foods and beverages with omega-3 fatty acids. However, the omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA present in marine oils are readily oxidized to produce rancidity or off-flavor volatiles when exposed to air, light, elevated temperatures and transition metals.”

To combat the less-than-pleasant results, Mora-Gutiérrez is leading research having to deal with the chemical stabilization of oils rich in omega-3 fatty acids in food mixtures during storage.

“The “A” for Agriculture is important to all the Texas A&M System of universities in Texas,” said Mora-Gutiérrez. “PVAMU, a member of the Texas A&M University System, is repositioning agriculture as part of a wellness solution to the health crisis in the USA through the development of innovative antioxidant formulations to deliver freshness to omega-3s in food applications for a healthier you.”

You can view Mora-Gutiérrez’s profile at pvamu.edu/cahs/carc-adela-mora-gutierrez.
Did you know you can get your taxes done for free at Prairie View A&M University?

“For the past 15 years, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), an Internal Revenue Service (IRS)-sponsored program, has partnered with PVAMU’s College of Business (COB) and Cooperative Extension Program to provide tax assistance to people who cannot prepare their tax returns,” said Adrienne Seibert, a senior Accounting major at PVAMU, who also serves as program director of PVAMU’s Small Business Development Center. “Anyone can come and get their taxes done, free of charge.”

According to the IRS website, the VITA program is available to anyone who makes $54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their tax returns.

“Our tax preparers are certified by the IRS and trained to help prepare basic tax returns,” said Seibert. “This year’s group of volunteers, under the supervision of myself, Bridget Ross, director of PVAMU’s SBDC, and COB professor William Vetter, consists mostly of PVAMU students, with the exception of one.”

If you’re planning to go and get help with your taxes, be sure to bring a photo ID, your social security card, and any and all tax documentation.

“This is a great program. I hear stories of people who go to other places that offer tax preparation services, and they take a majority of their refund just to file their taxes,” said Seibert. “The actual process of filing taxes is not difficult, and it is an easy task to complete. I am grateful to be able to help and teach the public about their filing taxes properly, and I value this opportunity as a way to serve my community and gain additional knowledge and skills in the process.”

PVAMU’s Small Business Development Center is located in the Panther Plaza on Owens Road. Walk-ins are welcome Tuesdays and Thursdays, through April 26, from 4-6:30 p.m. For more information, or to schedule a Saturday appointment, call 936-261-9257, or email Adrienne Seibert at sbdc@pvamu.edu.
Sociology Professor Releases Book Examining Narcissism in Society

Dr. Megan Collins, assistant professor (tenure-track) and program coordinator of Sociology, recently published a book entitled “The New Narcissus in the Age of Reality Television.”

“The book explores the emergence and encouragement of the new narcissus in our society and how this is portrayed in reality television,” said Collins. “Through studies of well-known reality shows, including Toddlers and Tiaras, Hoarders, Sister Wives, Catfish: The TV Show, Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew and The Real Housewives, I examine the combined effects of narcissism and consumerism, shedding light on the ways in which people are pushed to focus on their biographies and self-promotion to the point of creating a false self within the individual and the development of a sense of dissatisfaction, dis-ease, and unhappiness.”


Philosophy Professor Publishes Two Articles

Dr. Mark Tschaeppe, an assistant professor of Philosophy, recently published two articles entitled, “Cultural Humility and Dewey’s Pattern of Inquiry: Developing Good Attitudes and Overcoming Bad Habits,” and, “Patients’ Experiences in Graphic Medicine.” In April, he will travel to South Africa with the Medico-Legal Society in Johannesburg to teach a course/workshop on diversity within healthcare to physicians, nurses, and lawyers.
PVAMU’s Raymond Thomas was among 30 students who attended this year’s U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 2018 Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF) February 22-23 in Arlington, Virginia. Thomas and his peers were chosen as winners of the USDA Student Diversity Program.

“These students are the next generation of agriculture, and it is important for the USDA to support their training as future agriculture professionals,” said USDA Chief Economist Robert Johansson.

Thomas was also invited to meet the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, during a reception.

“I had a fantastic time representing Prairie View at one of the biggest agricultural conferences in the nation,” said Thomas. “Not only did I get to meet the some of the brightest students in agriculture from across the country, but I also got to eat dinner and make connections with some of the most influential individuals in the industry today. It was truly an experience unlike any I’ve had before.”

Thomas is a senior Agriculture major at PVAMU.
PVAMU Students Gearing Up for Trip to China

By Marchita Shilo

In May, 30 Prairie View A&M University students will head to China to visit Xi’an International Studies University (XISU). It’s all a part of an ongoing partnership between XISU and PVAMU’s Confucius Institute.

“The Confucius Institutes’ mission and purpose are to inform the world about China’s people, its language and culture,” said Dr. James A. Wilson Jr., associate provost for Academic Affairs and director of the Honors Program. “At the same time, our purpose is to create global leaders and citizens of our students.”

At the beginning of this semester, 20 students from XISU visited “The Hill” as part of a winter exchange program. They also had a unique opportunity to shadow their PVAMU peers.

“I took both of my peers through my typical Monday, Wednesday, and Friday classes, and I took them to eat with me at the MSC,” said Stephanie Turner, a freshman Honors Mechanical Engineering major. “This partnership allowed me to understand the cultural differences we have. For example, I learned my peers often go to school for more than eight hours a day. They also had never heard of Chick-fil-A.”

Taylor Owens, a freshman Honors Chemical Engineering major, who also had a peer shadow him, said his experience was unparalleled.

“This partnership allows students like me to understand the human connection,” said Owens. “It has also helped me to broaden my understanding of the human experience and understand the struggles that are universal, because the world is bigger than the United States. We, as global citizens, no matter of geographic location, have to work together to make the world a better place for our children, grandchildren, and many more generations to come.”

Looking ahead to May, Owens and Turner are ready to take on their trip to China.

“I am very excited to experience a new culture for six weeks. I have been out the country before, but never somewhere as culturally contrasting as China. I want to go to further immerse myself in the culture, better learn the language, and learn more about the country itself,” said Turner.

Owens said, “I’ve been hearing this quote for a long time – ‘Excellence is a journey, not a destination.’ So I intend to enjoy my journey fully.”

You can read more about XISU’s trip to PVAMU at pvamu.edu/blog/the-hill-welcomes-students-from-china.
COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Hundreds of FFA High School Students Compete in CDE

Nearly 1,000 FFA high school students from dozens of schools around Texas were on campus February 22 for Prairie View A&M University’s annual Invitational FFA Career Development Event (CDE). Students participated in various competitions, showing off their skills in poultry, home site, land evaluation, milk quality, public speaking, farm business management, entomology, floriculture, nursery/landscape, and veterinary science.

“The CDE prepares students to master skills needed in their respective career fields,” said Dr. Wash A. Jones, an associate professor in PVAMU’s College of Agriculture and Human Sciences who helped organize the event. “It also serves as an important practice round for students seeking to compete in subsequent similar events at the area, state, and national levels.”

Jones said support from more than 200 volunteers, comprised of students, faculty and staff members, helped make CDE a success.

“Our volunteers learn valuable skills while assisting in these events,” said Jones. “Additionally, through the CDE, PVAMU makes a great impact on student preparation and success while also bringing extreme positive visibility to the university, the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, and the resources we offer. Since 2014, when we offered our inaugural CDE, we have received tremendously positive feedback from our clients in terms of the excellent experience we offer students. They continue to be impressed with our attention to details, professionalism and customer service.”

ROY G. PERRY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Celebrating National Engineering Week

The College of Engineering celebrated National Engineering Week (E-Week) February 18-24. There was a host of events including the Celebration of Excellence Awards Ceremony to congratulate faculty, staff, students, and corporate sponsor achievements and an Outstanding Student Awards Luncheon in Houston with the University of Houston and Rice University. The COE also sponsored activities with area high school students and their families, Taste of Engineering Day, and Ask the Dean.

▲ Student Nneke Ede wins the Overall Outstanding Engineer Award. Pictured alongside James M. Palmer, Shield B. Lin, and Roy G. Perry.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 8-10</td>
<td>Mid-Semester Examination Period</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>Last Day of Class (1st 8-week session)</td>
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<td>March 12-17</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
<td>Spring Break (University Closed)</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>First Day of Class (2nd 8-week session)</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Mid-Semester Grades Due (Spring 2018); Final Grades Due (1st 8-week session)</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (2nd 8-week session)</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Founders’ Day/Honors Convocation; Late Deadline to Apply for Spring 2018 Graduation (Ceremony Participation); Late Deadline for Graduating Undergraduates to Submit Application for Tuition Rebate for Spring 2018</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Application Period Begins for Degree Conferral Only for Spring 2018 (No Ceremony Participation)</td>
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<td>March 30</td>
<td>Good Friday (Student Holiday)</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (Spring 2018)</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Priority Registration Period Begins for Summer 2018 Semester; Priority Registration Period Begins for Fall 2018 Semester</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Deadline to Apply for Summer and Fall 2018 Graduation</td>
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<td>April 30-May 1</td>
<td>Course Review Days</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Last Day of Class; Last Day to Withdraw from University (from all courses); Last Day to Apply for Spring 2018 Degree Conferral; Late Deadline for Graduating Undergraduates to Submit Application for Tuition Rebate for Spring 2018</td>
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<td>May 2-8</td>
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<td>Grades Due (for graduation candidates)</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Final Grades Due (for all other students)</td>
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SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 20, 2018

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

OF

RUTH J. SIMMONS

AS THE EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

1:30 PM PRELUDE & PROCESIONAL
2:00 PM INSTALLATION CEREMONY

100 UNIVERSITY DRIVE | PRAIRIE VIEW, TX 77446

FOUNDERS’ DAY
AND
HONORS RECOGNITION CONVOCATION

MARCH 28, 2018

Commencement Convocation

MAY 12, 2018