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Frank D. Jackson

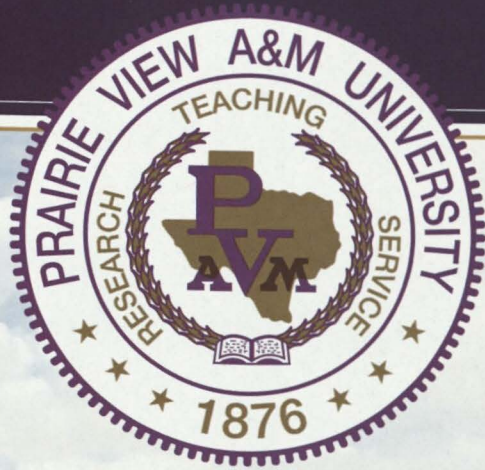
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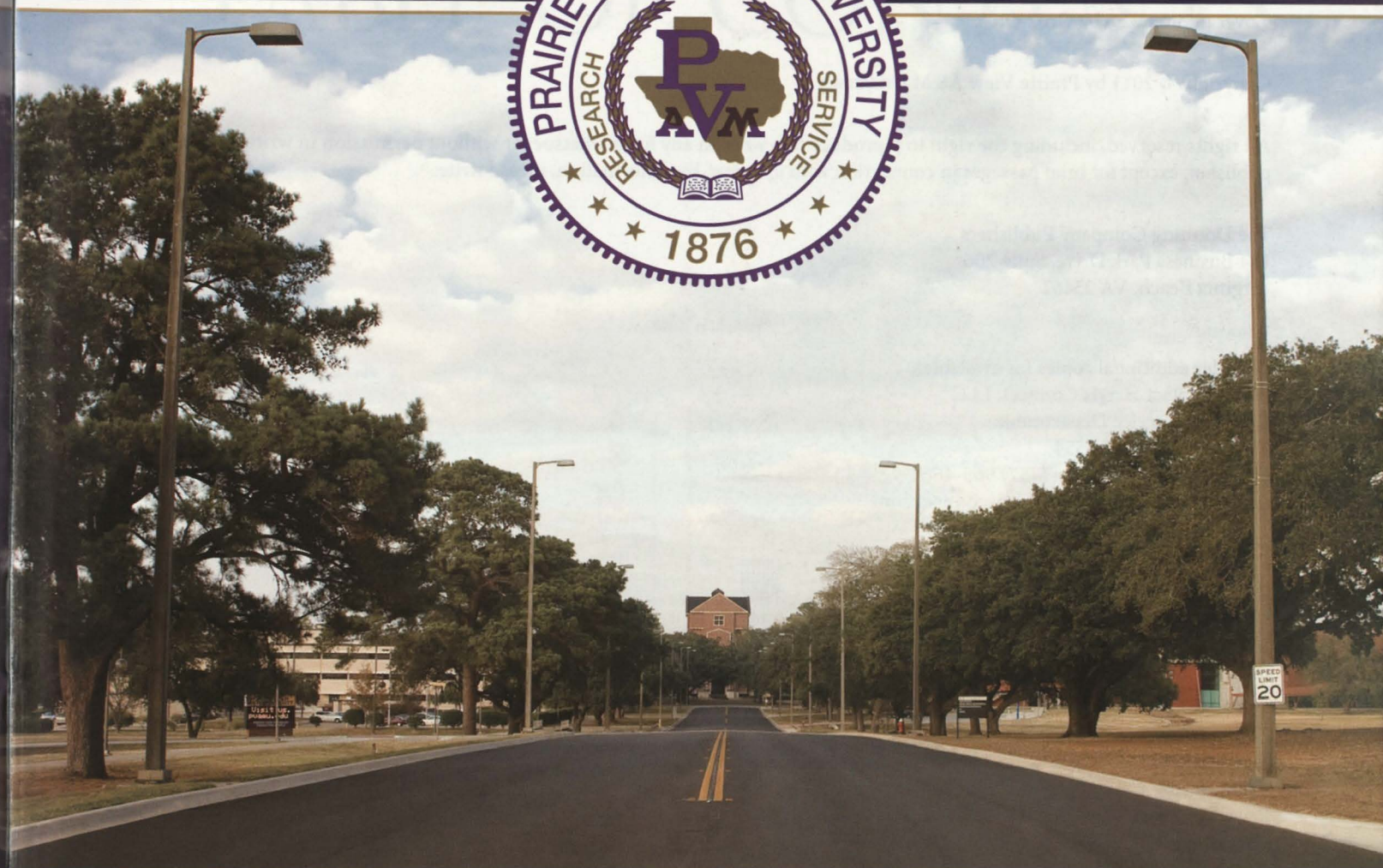
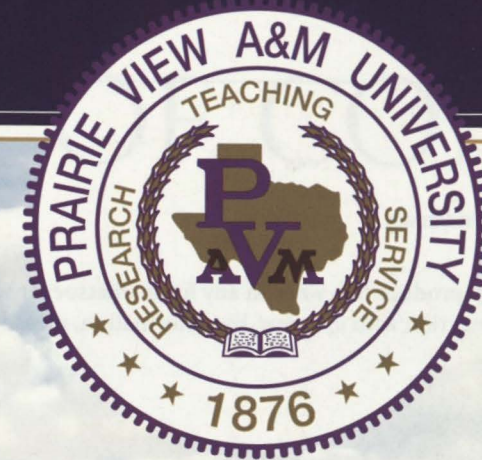
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DOWN THAT ROAD

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



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A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

BY MICHAEL J. NOJEIM AND FRANK D. JACKSON

Cover photo taken by Orok Orok.

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The Donning Company Publishers
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Virginia Beach, VA 23462

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Nojeim, Michael J., 1960-

Down that road : a pictorial history of Prairie View A & M University / by Michael J. Nojeim and Frank D. Jackson.
p. cm.

ISBN 978-1-57864-714-9 (hardcover : alk. paper)

1. Prairie View A & M University--History. 2. Prairie View A & M University--History--Pictorial works. I. Jackson, Frank D., 1951- II. Title.

LC2851.P73N65 2011

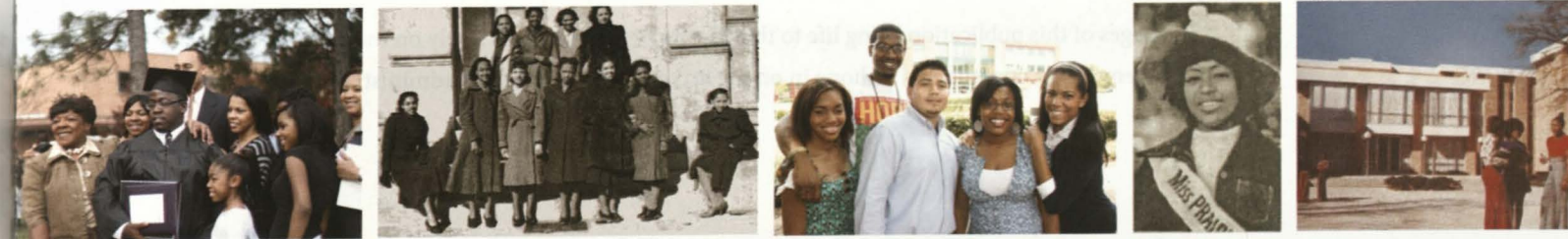
378.764'249--dc23

2011028269

Printed in the United States of America at Walsworth Publishing Company

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PREFACE

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is a special place. Not just to me as the seventh president of this historic institution, but to the men and women who have walked the hallowed halls of the buildings on campus. This University is special to the communities that have benefited from the sacrifices of our instructors, the service provided by our faculty, staff, and students, and the transfer of knowledge emanating from our research.

Indeed, when we were established in 1876 as Alta Vista College for Colored Youth, it was our purpose to educate the former slave. While the school's name has been changed several times and the state's official documentation has been modified and altered, Prairie View A&M University, Texas' second-oldest public institution of higher education, remains consistently grounded in its mission: excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Throughout our history, we have often educated those who need additional academic development and supported students who lack financial resources. Even further, we have provided young men and women the opportunity to gain a greater sense of identity through leadership development, civic engagement, social opportunities, and exposure to the arts and culture. Higher education is much more than simply completing degree requirements; rather, it offers an opportunity for self-examination and pursuit of knowledge.

As a historically black college (HBCU), Prairie View is part of a great tradition of educating previously excluded minorities. While comprising only 3 percent of the nation's approximately 3,700 institutions of higher learning, these academic institutions are responsible for producing more than 50 percent of African American professionals and public school teachers. According to the United Negro College Fund, HBCUs award more than one-third of the degrees held by African Americans in natural sciences and half of the degrees in mathematics. PVAMU is producing graduates in all of these areas.

The pages of this publication bring life to this history. It doesn't focus solely on the academic achievements of our students or hone in on the accomplishments of our administrators and faculty.

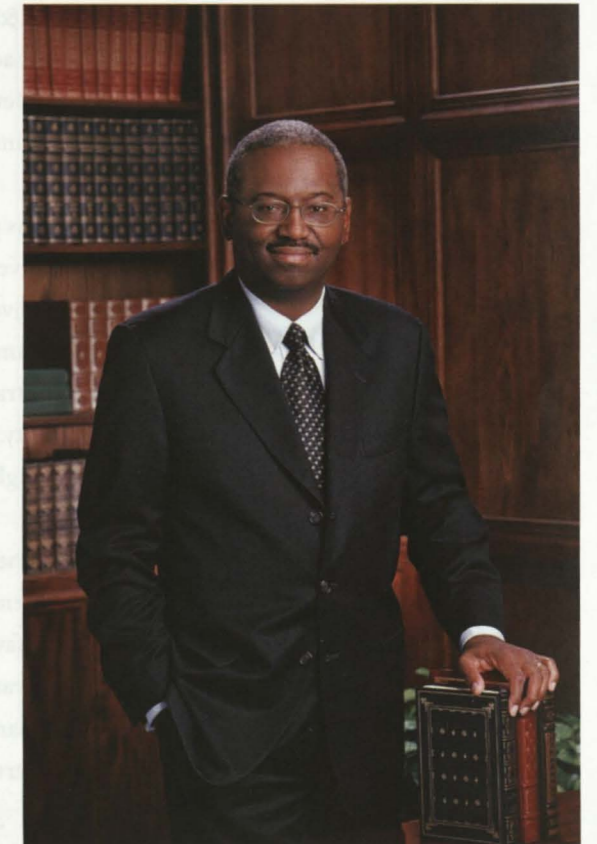
Instead, it illustrates a snapshot of the lives of students who have become professionals, business leaders, teachers, nurses, private citizens, artists, and engineers. It focuses on athletics as a window to the University, chronicles the changes in our curriculum, and explains the unique spirit and traditions of PVAMU. The impact of our military service and our connection to the global world are also explored.

The unique perspective presented by authors Michael J. Nojeim and Frank D. Jackson shows our commitment to all the faces of our institution. Michael J. Nojeim, a professor of political science, has made his mark with publications and research about foreign policy. Alumnus Frank D. Jackson, our unofficial campus historian, has a passion for our history that is unparalleled.

This publication, which commemorates our 135th anniversary, intends to instill a new level of pride in you our students, graduates, friends, and supporters.

George C. Wright

George C. Wright
President of Prairie View A&M University



FOREWORD

Every Prairie View A&M University student has had to travel “down that road.” In the literal sense, “down that road” is FM 1098 or University Drive, which connects Prairie View to the heart of PVAMU. Metaphorically speaking, however, “down that road” is the path that the state’s second-oldest public institution of higher education has traveled over its 135 years.

The stories and photographs presented in this commemorative publication will not erase the years of struggle as the University transitioned from the Alta Vista College for Colored Youth into Prairie View A&M University, an institution of the first class. It won’t recreate the lives of the students who walked the campus. This project is simply an ode to both the struggle and progress made by the students who traveled “down that road” to take advantage of a higher education as a means of social mobility. While reviewing the pages that follow, be reminded of the words delivered by Frederick Douglass:

The whole history of the progress of human liberty shows that all concessions yet made to her august claims have been born of earnest struggle... If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation... want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; but it must be a struggle. (Canandaigua, New York, August 3, 1857)

Take your time and review the photos, relive your years, pause “for memories dear, for friends and recollections,” and reflect on your own trip “down that road,” for perhaps you can see your own experience in these pages.

Remember, as it has done for more than a century, the University will continue its commitment to success with the aid of its dedicated faculty, administrators, staff, 8,700-plus students, more

than 56,000 alumni, and a host of supporters and friends who share the notion that PVAMU does “Produce Productive People.” In so doing, we chart the course for the future of PVAMU and lay the foundation for the next generation of students prepared to head “down that road.”

Lauretta F. Byars

Dr. Lauretta F. Byars
Vice President for Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To write a book that covers 135 years of history in photographs and narrative, and to do so in a compressed time period, requires considerable assistance from many people. Indeed, this labor of love would never have been completed if not for the many people who gave so generously of their time and energy. Their dedication to seeing this effort successfully completed is a testament to the reason why we wanted to write this book in the first place, and that is to show how very special Prairie View is in its commitment to creating a place that embraces all those who walk its grounds.

As such, we would first like to thank the Core Team for its tireless efforts. This team met every Wednesday for six months and not only helped keep us on track with their encouragement and support, but also provided many forms of technical assistance, invaluable ideas, and feedback on the project. Vice President Laretta F. Byars, with her can-do attitude and intellectual guidance, never wavered in her faith in our abilities. Mrs. Sheleah D. Reed, executive director of communications, was a major driving force not only in helping us reach out to the Prairie View family, but also in designing, editing, revising, and even writing chapters. Ms. Phyllis Earles, university archivist at the John B. Coleman Library, is simply a walking encyclopedia of knowledge who knew where to find virtually anything we were looking for. Her assistant, Mr. John Auguste, also provided valuable assistance to us in tracking down sources. And we simply could not have completed this project without the tireless efforts of our research assistant, Ms. Alexandra Reid, who not only proved to have boundless energy in conducting the sometimes tedious historical photographic research but also helped to write Chapter Three. As a graduating senior, Ms. Reid has surely left her mark of excellence upon PVAMU.

Many Prairie View faculty, staff, and administrators also contributed to this project. President George C. Wright read and commented on earlier versions of the manuscript. Provost E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, who is possessed of great historical knowledge of Prairie View, gave us an interview and supplied other forms of information throughout the effort. Vice Provost Michael L. McFrazier and Dean Freddie Richards also gave generously of their time and information. We would also like to thank the following faculty and staff who sent us documents and gave us interviews: Dr. Betty N. Adams, Dr. Harry Adams, Mr. Neal Baines, Gen. Julius Becton, Ms. Edie Charlot, Dr. Charles Grear, Ms. Kimberly Gordon, Dr. Kenneth Howell, Ms. Rose Hunter, Lt. Cdr. Michael Jackson, Dr. Howard

Jones, Mr. Ryan McGinty, Ms. Ruby Johnson, Dr. Akel Kahera, Dr. Patricia Miller, Ms. Gloria Mosby, Dr. James Palmer, Ms. Lettie Raab, Mr. Frederick Roberts, Dr. Patricia Smith, Lt. Col. Garrick Strong, and Dr. Lucian Yates III.

Many current students contributed to this project as well. Ms. Fallon Jones, who did an independent study course in conjunction with this project, made significant contributions to the content of Chapter Three. The senior Army cadets and the senior Navy midshipmen also took time from their schedules to sit down with us and discuss their experiences as “warriors-in-training.” We also had considerable assistance from many photographers and graphic designers such as Ms. Christi A. Landry, student intern Mr. Ryan Versey, Mr. Orok Orok, and Ms. Molly Murphy of Blank Canvas Design.

Dr. Hortense Kilpatrick, former director of alumni relations, was very helpful in connecting us to Prairie View alumni to obtain their testimonials. Indeed, we received many testimonials from alumni including Mr. Lobeas Choice, Mr. William Downey, Dr. Wendell Eckford, Dr. Samuel Metters, Mr. Frederick Newhouse, Ms. Sandra Shaw-Austin, Ms. Katie M. Gerard-Starnes, and Col. James Wallace.

We would also like to thank the editors and staff at The Donning Company Publishers and Harris Connect: Ms. Heather Floyd, Mr. Wade Grout, Ms. Erika Small-Sisco, Ms. Cristina Colon, and Ms. Shari Robinson. They kept us on track and answered all the questions we had about the publishing process.

We also thank our own families and spouses, Ms. Consuelo Dunk Nojeim and Ms. Marian Elaine Jackson. Their love and encouragement gave us the strength and confidence to complete this project. It is their graceful presence in our lives that reminds us always of what this life is really about.

We have tried to be as faithful and thorough as possible in our research and presentation, utilizing support from University archives, newspapers, yearbooks, institutional and private reports, alumni testimonials, public relations files, oral histories, and the like. Any praise for this work belongs equally to all those who helped make this project a success. But responsibility for omissions, misrepresentations, or other mistakes in this book is ours and is unintentional.

THE ROAD TO "THE HILL"



CHAPTER ONE FOUNDATIONS

Every student who has ever attended or graduated from Prairie View A&M University shares at least one thing in common. They all had to travel down Farm Market Road 1098 or University Drive to gain access to this venerable institution of higher learning on "The Hill." No matter if they came to Prairie View from the North, South, East, or West, FM 1098 was and remains the main road to campus.

At one time, the road stretched from US Business 290 right through the middle of the campus, where the John B. Coleman Library now stands. It extended past old Luckie Hall, Alexander Hall, Schumacher Hall, Woodruff Hall, and Fuller Hall, over to the areas where the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering now stands. It then extended past the E. B. Evans Animal Industries building, the Jessie Jones Agriculture Research building, and to Phase III of University Village. That same road intersects with Cameron Road



The main road in and out of Prairie View A&M University is FM 1098, or University Drive.



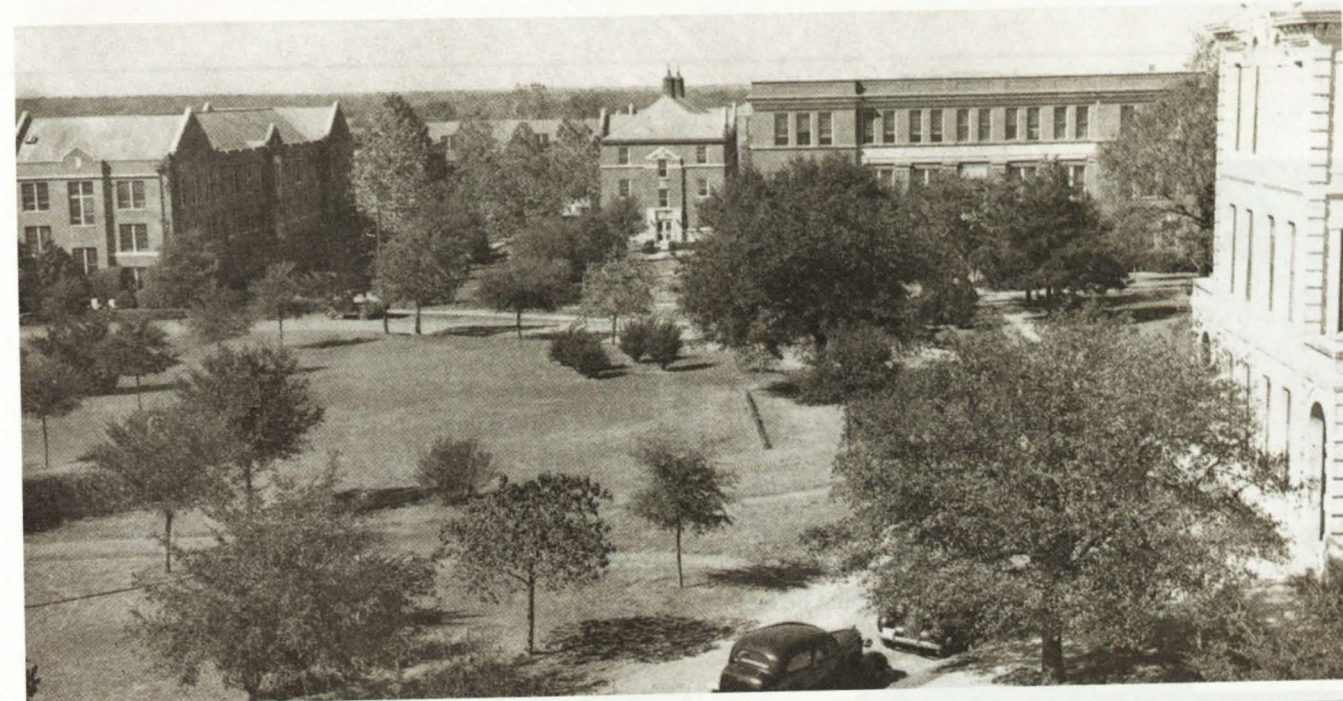
Above left: University Drive extends right through the middle of the campus and intersects with major streets like L. W. Minor.

Above right: Farm Market Road 1098 stretches around the PVAMU campus.

past the cemeteries and ends just north of campus at FM 1488. Now expanded from its intersection with Owens Road, the road weaves past the US Post Office and the community center and swings around the athletic fields to the west side of the campus. This same road extends past Oscar Pipkin Street to Phases I and II of University Village, where current undergraduate students reside, on past Wyatt Chapel Road to its intersection and termination again at FM 1488.

Students from diverse backgrounds have come “down that road.” Some of them came in fine carriages or sitting astride thoroughbred horses. Some came in fancy cars while others came by more modest transportation. Some students trekked “down that road” on foot. Others disembarked at the Prairie View bus or train station only to walk the remaining mile to campus or wait to be picked up by the University’s shuttle or given a ride by some benevolent person who happened to pass by. Some students brought their belongings in fine suitcases, while others came hauling their belongings in old cotton sacks or in boxes from the local grocery store. Parents and other family members of these students proudly escorted their children to “The Hill.” Some came decked out in the latest fashions, while others arrived dressed simply and humbly.

That road, which so many have trekked, is special in and of itself, for it runs north and south along the eastern ridge of the Brazos River Valley. Native Americans and early European settlers called this area the “Arms of God” as it was marked by the lands whose creeks, streams, and tributaries drained into the Brazos River. So when Prairie View students came “down that road,” they did so securely nestled within the comfort of the “Arms of God.”

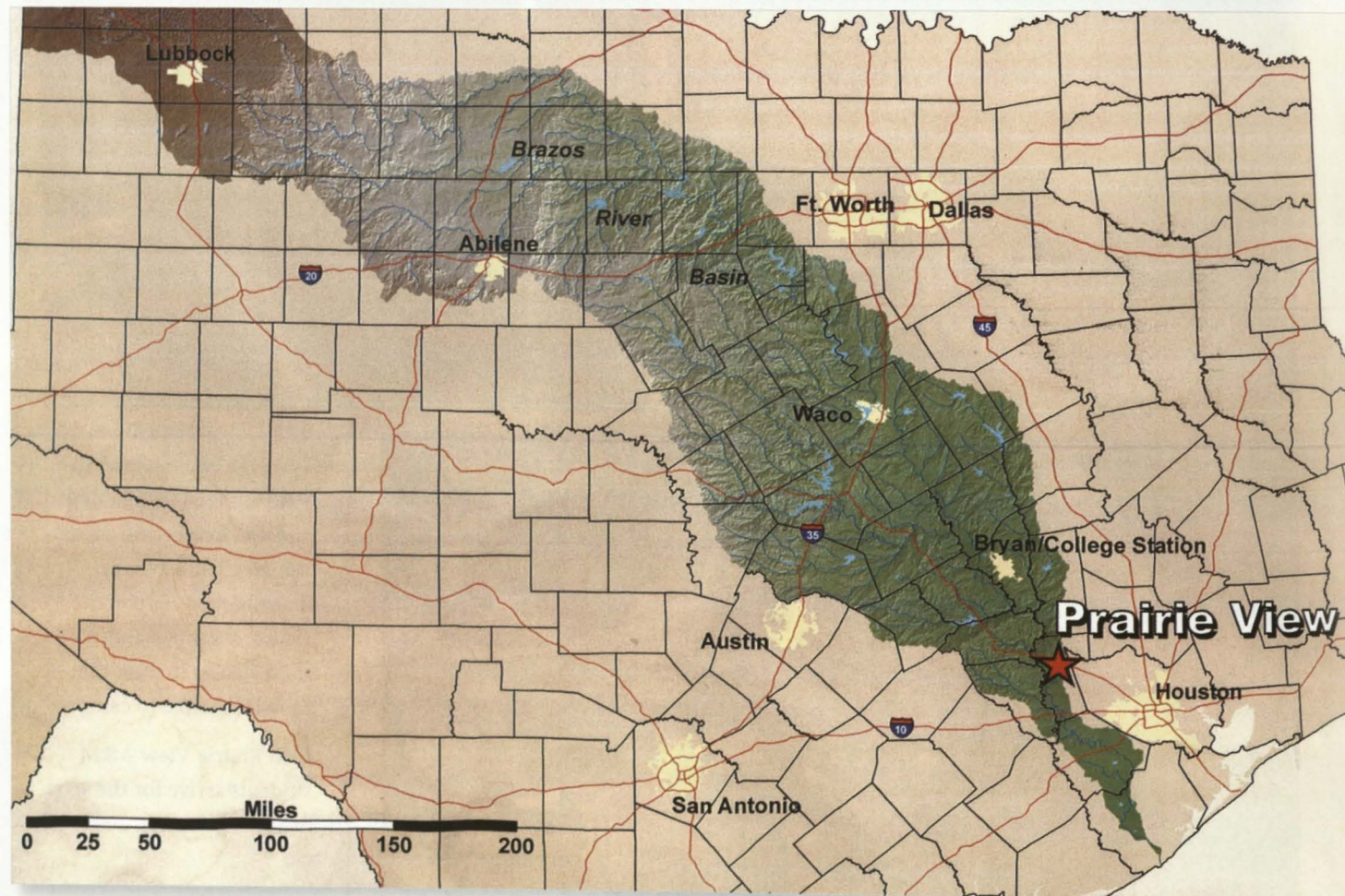


Students have arrived at Prairie View (top) in new and old, luxury and plain vehicles, while others disembarked right at the Prairie View bus and train station to walk the remaining mile to campus.

Left: Prairie View A&M students arrive for the start of a new semester, 2009.

Imagine for a moment that road (FM 1098) at its inception, as it was first trod by foot and hoof upon the frontier prairie lands of what would come to be called Waller County. Imagine University Drive, which started out as a faint remnant of an old trail made by Native Americans and later used by the frontier land surveyors, to stake out the boundaries of what would become the Alta Vista Plantation. Imagine a scene on that road in the 1800s, as the wagon containing the black slave children arrived, causing the excitement to grow in and around the encampment. Many of them harbored secretly in their minds the veiled dreams of a future in which their enslaved children, or perhaps their children's children, would one day be free men and women. Free to make their destinies a matter of choice. Free to be educated and to make a living in occupations of their own choosing. Little did they imagine that their own children, indeed all their descendants, would be free to attend a university built on the very same rolling prairies that they tilled as slave laborers before the Civil War.

Prairie View A&M University is located on the eastern rim of the "Arms of God."



Top left: Showing off their sense of style, female students of the 1940s pose in their fashionable winter coats.

Top right: Even between classes, Prairie View students were "dressed to the nines." Photo circa 1970.

Middle left: Students from diverse backgrounds all travel "down that road" to get the complete Prairie View A&M experience.

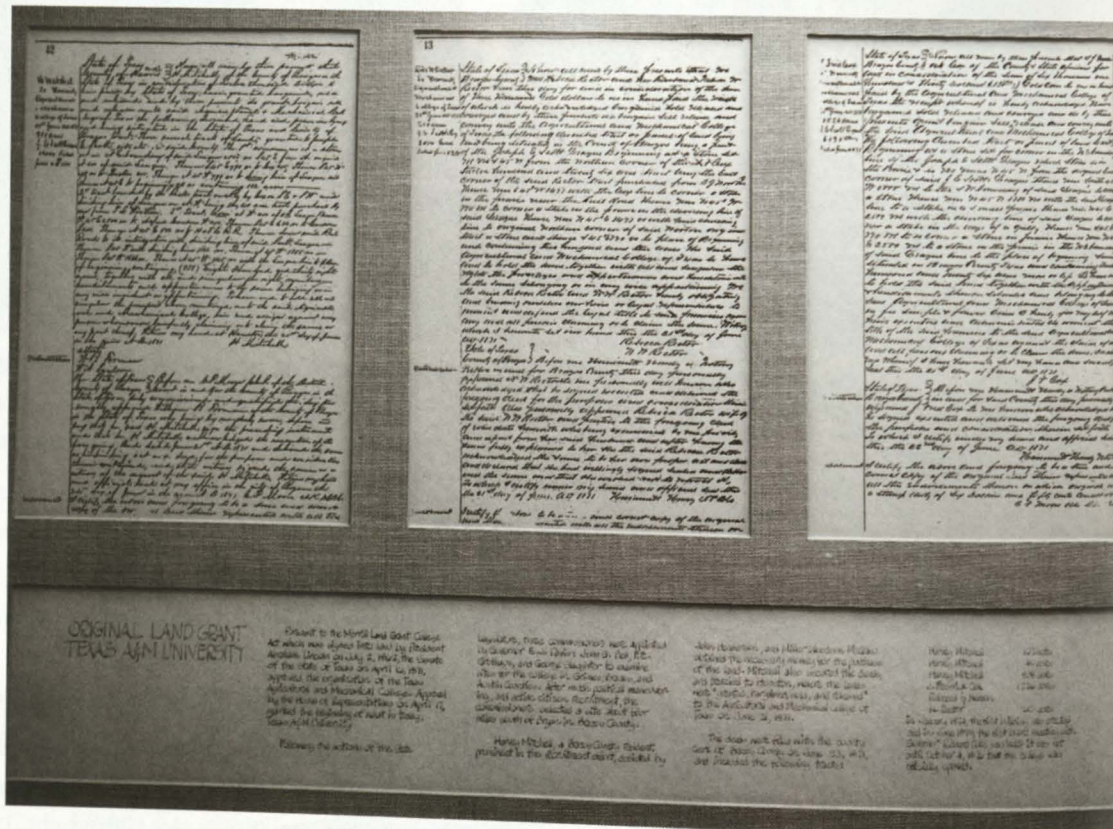
Middle right: Through the years, Miss Prairie View has been seen as a style icon. Photo of Eunice Cartwright, 1973–1974.

Bottom: Dressed in their finest attire, families and friends of graduates feel great pride and joy for their student's accomplishments.

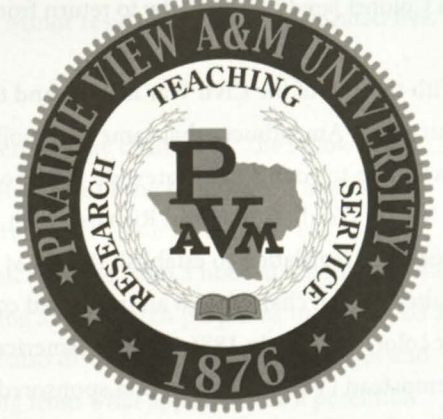
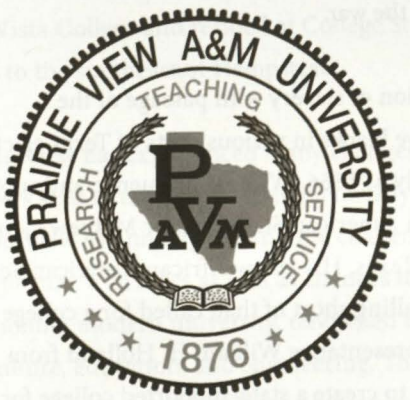
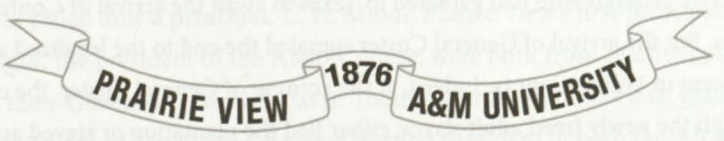
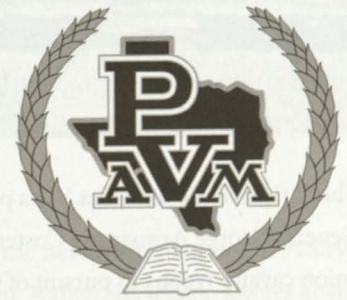
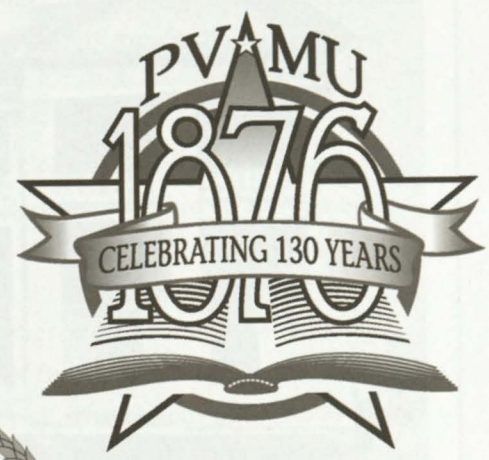
The Texas State Constitution designates Prairie View A&M University as one of the state's three universities "of the first class." Article VII, Section 14: PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY. Prairie View A&M University in Waller County is an institution of the first class under the direction of the same governing board as Texas A&M University referred to in Article VII, Section 13, of this constitution as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. (Amended Nov. 6, 1984.)

Upon graduation, the families would return "down that road" to join with the faculty and staff as they all celebrated commencement on graduation weekend. And, when one would take more than a casual look at some of those family members and supporters, they would notice that some would have tears in their eyes or even trails of tears streaming down their cheeks. Whether it is at new student check-in or at the graduation ceremony, the faculty and staff are reminded over and over that communities, families, and individuals have brought their dreams "down that road" as they delivered the best of their youth to the gateway of what would become their alma mater, their nurturing mother.

Prairie View A&M University is intrinsic to the history and rich cultural heritage that is Texas. In a very meaningful way, Prairie View's strivings serve as mile markers chronicling the dynamic growth and ever-evolving story of the State of Texas. In fact it is cited in the Texas Constitution, which designates PVAMU as one of the state's three universities "of the first class."



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



The marks and logos of the University have changed over the years.

The Kirby house was located on the Alta Vista Plantation, which would later be known as Prairie View A&M University.



It would be to the stately lands of both the Liendo and Alta Vista plantations, near the emerging town of Hempstead, Texas, that General George Armstrong Custer arrived in August 1865, commanding two regiments of Union cavalry troops in pursuit of General Kirby Smith and the other Confederate generals who had gathered in Texas to await the arrival of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. But the arrival of General Custer signaled the end to the legalized slavery of people of African descent in Waller County. Indeed, at the coming of General Custer, the children of Alta Vista, along with the newly freed adult slaves, either fled the plantation or stayed around and waited on Colonel Jared Ellison Kirby to return from service in the war.

With the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the prohibition of slavery with passage of the Thirteenth Amendment that same year, politically active blacks in various parts of Texas elected black men to county and statewide public offices as early as 1866. With the influence and support of Norris Wright Cuney and Richard Allen, the African American State Senator Mathew Gaines sponsored legislation to establish the A&M College of Texas. His fellow African American Senator Walter Burton championed an integrated college, but falling short of that, called for a college for colored youth. In 1876, African American State Representative William H. Holland from Hempstead (Waller County) first sponsored legislation to create a state-supported college for colored youth with such purpose that he became known as the Father of Prairie View. During the

regular session of the Legislature of 1876, the state lawmakers had authorized the opening of the Agriculture and Mechanical College for white males, but to qualify for federal land-grant support, the Texas Legislature agreed to the formation of a land-grant college for African Americans, thus in keeping with the pattern adopted by the southern states after the Civil War to create segregated public facilities for blacks and whites. On August 14, 1876, the Legislature authorized the establishment of Alta Vista College for Colored Youth.

Even though the state opened the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in September of 1876 for whites, it was not until 1878 that Alta Vista College for Colored Youth opened on the ruins of the former Alta Vista slave plantation.

On March 11, 1878, eight young African American males presented themselves for admission to Alta Vista College. However, those eight students did not finish their academic term because they returned home to help their families with the cotton pick. That led one of the A&M board members to recommend closing Alta Vista, arguing that the Negroes were not ready for college education. But because of the gallant and persistent efforts led by State Representative Holland, the school reopened in 1879, this time as the first state-supported college to admit women as well as men.

At that time, and until the 1940s, the head administrator at Prairie View was not allowed the honor of being called president. Rather, its leader, always answerable to the president of Texas A&M, was called only a principal. L. W. Minor, Prairie View's first principal, and Thomas Garthwright, the president of the A&M College, were both from Mississippi and were recommended to then-Governor Jefferson Davis. Thomas Garthwright, the past grand master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Mississippi, became the first president of both the A&M College and Alta Vista College and resided at College Station. L. W. Minor resided at Alta Vista, located five miles to the southeast of Hempstead.

Prairie View has experienced many changes and weathered many challenges. The following chapters seek to document, both pictorially and textually, some of the significant changes Prairie View has undergone and the challenges it has overcome. These include the institution's multiple name changes as well as changes to its academic mission from a normal school to a fully functioning modern university, renowned for its teaching and research programs in such areas as agriculture, education, and engineering. This book will also discuss some of the challenges and obstacles that Prairie View has had to overcome, ranging from what appears to be a perennial lack of adequate funding and resources, to an often racially charged bias against its operations.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY PRINCIPALS AND PRESIDENTS

Principal **L. W. Minor** hired the first members of the faculty and staff and opened Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth on March 11, 1878, admitting the first eight young African American men to begin their studies.

Principal Minor was followed in 1879 by **Ernest H. Anderson**, a graduate of Fisk University. Tragically, on October 29, 1885, Principal Ernest H. Anderson died in office at age thirty-five.

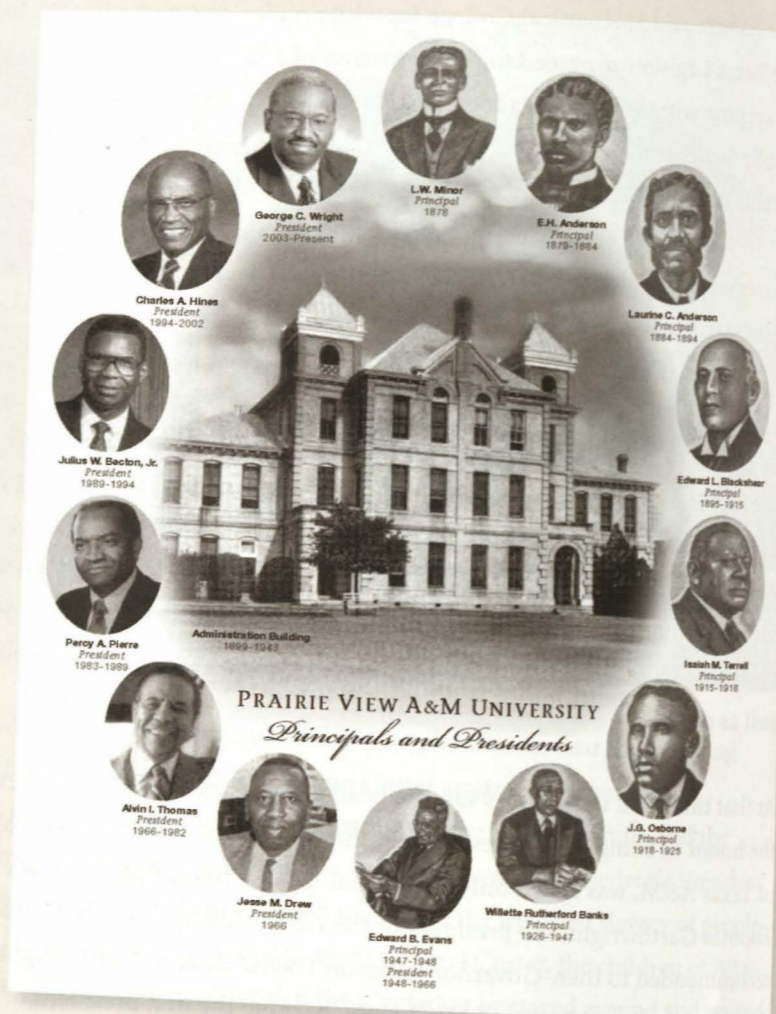
Fortunately for Prairie View, however, his brother, **Laurine C. Anderson**, who was also a graduate of Fisk and a member of Prairie View's administration, was on hand to take his place. Principal L. C. Anderson brought a new vitality to campus life and worked hard to improve the quality of instruction and living accommodations of the students. It would be on Principal L. C. Anderson's watch that the school received approval from the A&M board to add an Agricultural and Mechanical Department.

Edward L. Blackshear, who in 1895 was selected as the fourth principal of Prairie View, has the distinction of having more public schools named in his honor than any of PVAMU's other leaders.

Mr. I. M. Terrell came to Prairie View in 1915 from the Ft. Worth public school system. His short three-year term crossed the years of World War I and included the establishment of the Cooperative Extension service.

Dr. J. Grandville Osborne, the campus medical doctor, was a boyhood friend of William B. Bizzell, president of Texas A&M, who recommended his appointment by the board to become the sixth principal in 1918. It would be the masterful collaboration between Dr. Bizzell and Dr. Osborne that would result in the founding of the Division of Nursing and the activation of a recognized Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Willette Rutherford Banks was asked in 1926 to come to Prairie View by the officials of the General Education Board and the president and board of the A&M schools because of his long experience in school administration.



On September 1, 1946, **Dr. Edward B. Evans** succeeded W. R. Banks as principal. To meet the demands of a highly specialized technological age, the 50th Legislature named Prairie View the "Agriculture and Mechanical" branch of a university of the first class, and authorized instruction in all areas at the time equivalent to those at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The executive head of Prairie View was changed by the A&M Colleges Board from principal, to dean, and on December 3, 1948, to president.

Dr. E. B. Evans served until 1966 and was succeeded by **Dr. Jesse M. Drew**. Dr. Drew has the dubious distinction of being the shortest-serving president in that his term lasted one day. During his first day in office, Dr. Drew became ill, was taken away by ambulance, and never returned.

Dr. Alvin I. Thomas came aboard in 1966 having enjoyed a distinguished career on the faculty and as head of the Department of Industrial Education & Technology. Dr. Thomas is credited with institutionalizing the phrase "Prairie View Produces Productive People," and established the first Naval Reserve Officer Training Program at an HBCU in the nation.

In January 1983, **Dr. Percy A. Pierre** was selected by the TAMUS Board of Regents as the fourth president of Prairie View of 1983. Dr. Pierre established the Benjamin Banneker Honors College and in 1984 the voters of Texas approved a state constitutional amendment to restructure the state's Permanent University Fund (PUF) to include Prairie View A&M University as a beneficiary of its proceeds. This same amendment re-recognized Prairie View as one of the state's universities of "the first class" along with the University of Texas and Texas A&M University. With the addition of the PUF funds, the campus landscape and physical plant were dramatically enhanced.

The first Prairie View A&M graduate to serve as president came in the person of Lt. General **Julius W. Becton, Jr.** (Ret.) in 1989. President Becton's tenure would be highlighted by an increase in accountability, responsibility, and efficiency.

Dr. Charles A. Hines, a retired Army general, became president in October 1994 and was to preside over one of the most aggressive times in Prairie View's history. Student housing was revamped to include privatized housing. Additionally, the Academy for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success (ACCESS) was established to serve as an enrichment program for all freshmen students. The Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture and the Texas Center for the Study and Prevention of Juvenile Crime and Delinquency were institutionalized also. This latter center led to PVAMU being authorized in 1998 to offer the first Ph.D. program in its 125-year history.

Dr. George C. Wright, on August 15, 2003, became president of Prairie View A&M University. Many of the buildings and degree programs authorized by the state were brought on line by Dr. Wright's administration and the drive towards excellence has accelerated. The Honors program has been reengineered and strengthened, and the success of several intercollegiate athletic teams, including several SWAC championships in football, basketball, baseball, tennis, volleyball, and track, has not only elevated campus morale but has also enhanced the University's national image.

Indeed, as the oldest publicly funded HBCU in all of Texas, Prairie View A&M University remains the critical gauge in a dramatic story of race and culture in Texas, as African Americans have advanced along the road to freedom, justice, liberty, and equality.

The central actors in this drama have always been the students who have graced the grounds of this old plantation in search of better opportunities for themselves and their families. This book sets out to tell the story of Prairie View A&M University with those students in mind. It is not so much a story of Prairie View's faculty, administrators, and other leaders as it is a story of how the institution, through its collective works and identity, has helped to shape its students. Chapter Two, Academics, traces the evolution of the school's name changes and corresponding evolution of its academic mission as it adjusts and serves its ever-changing student body. Chapter Three, Traditions, traces important aspects of student life at Prairie View, in particular the sometimes peculiar culture of the institution. We try to show how the Prairie View Family, its faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, parents, and other family members, help to shape our students into what have come to be called the Prairie View Man and the Prairie View Woman. Chapter Four,



Army ROTC cadets stand in formation during a weekly drill exercise.



Warriors, highlights the great tradition of military service at Prairie View and traces the incredible contributions of this relatively small institution to the country's national security. Chapter Five, Competitions, recognizes the importance of sports and competitive play in helping to shape well-rounded young men and women into leaders. Chapter Six, Connections, concludes the book with a discussion of how Prairie View connects to the region, state, country, and even the world through service.

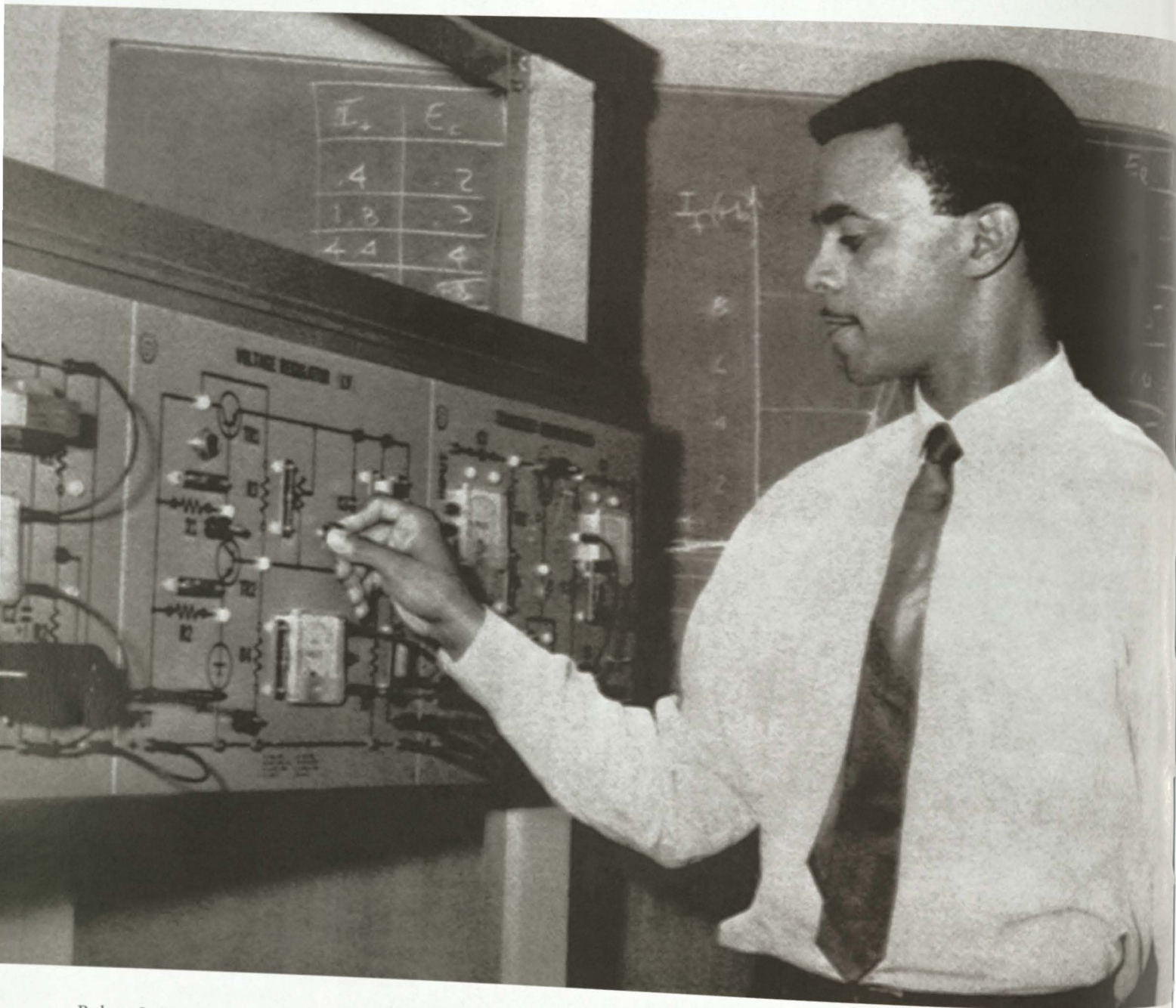
Above: Blackshear Stadium is filled with Panther Pride during a 2007 football game.

Right: The eighteen men's and women's athletic teams, including football, are consistently competing and qualifying for the highest levels of intercollegiate sports.





Academic buildings such as the Nathelyne Archie Kennedy building, home of the School of Architecture, house state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories needed for students to complete their academic goals.



Robert L. Beatty in an electrical engineering laboratory, circa 1960.

CHAPTER TWO ACADEMICS

To understand the evolution of Prairie View's academics, one must first understand the historical, social, and political context that surrounded the creation of the institution in the late nineteenth century. In 1876, only eleven years after the Thirteenth Amendment freed all the slaves, millions of newly freed men and women, hundreds of thousands in Texas alone, suddenly had to be educated and trained for life in the new order. But how to begin? In Texas, the answer was the founding, by constitutional fiat, of the Alta Vista Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth in 1876. Alta Vista College's initial mission was to provide a college education for the colored youth of Texas. But from the moment it opened its doors to those first eight students in 1878, Alta Vista confronted the challenge of three Rs: racism, resources, and remediation.

The school was placed under the leadership of Texas A&M College (later Texas A&M University) and was perennially underfunded, which meant that the school experienced chronic shortages in financial and other resources. It was often left to its own devices to survive against seemingly insurmountable odds. This was compounded by the fact that African Americans, newly freed from the bonds of slavery, were unprepared for the rigors of a college education and needed academic remediation. This historic pattern of race, resources, and remediation gave rise to three separate dualities in Prairie View's academic identity that expressed themselves in many ways.

First, Prairie View has long had a dual academic philosophy, which sought to provide vocational training on the one hand while providing a classical education on the other. This dual philosophy was buffered by one of the Rs mentioned above, the racial attitudes of many whites that blacks were academically incapable of more than rudimentary education for manual labor as say, janitors and domestics. This philosophy is a reflection of the debate between Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois. Washington argued that the American Negro should be trained in vocational and trade crafts so that they would be able to sustain themselves economically and function in society as proper and productive citizens. Washington's emphasis on vocational training was

The first part of the dual academic philosophy at Prairie View included vocational training, such as proper meat processing.

leavened by the Hampton Model, which emphasized an education that centered around character building. Alternatively, Du Bois favored classical training in the liberal arts for blacks, much like many whites received in America's finest universities, and much like he himself received when he became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard University.

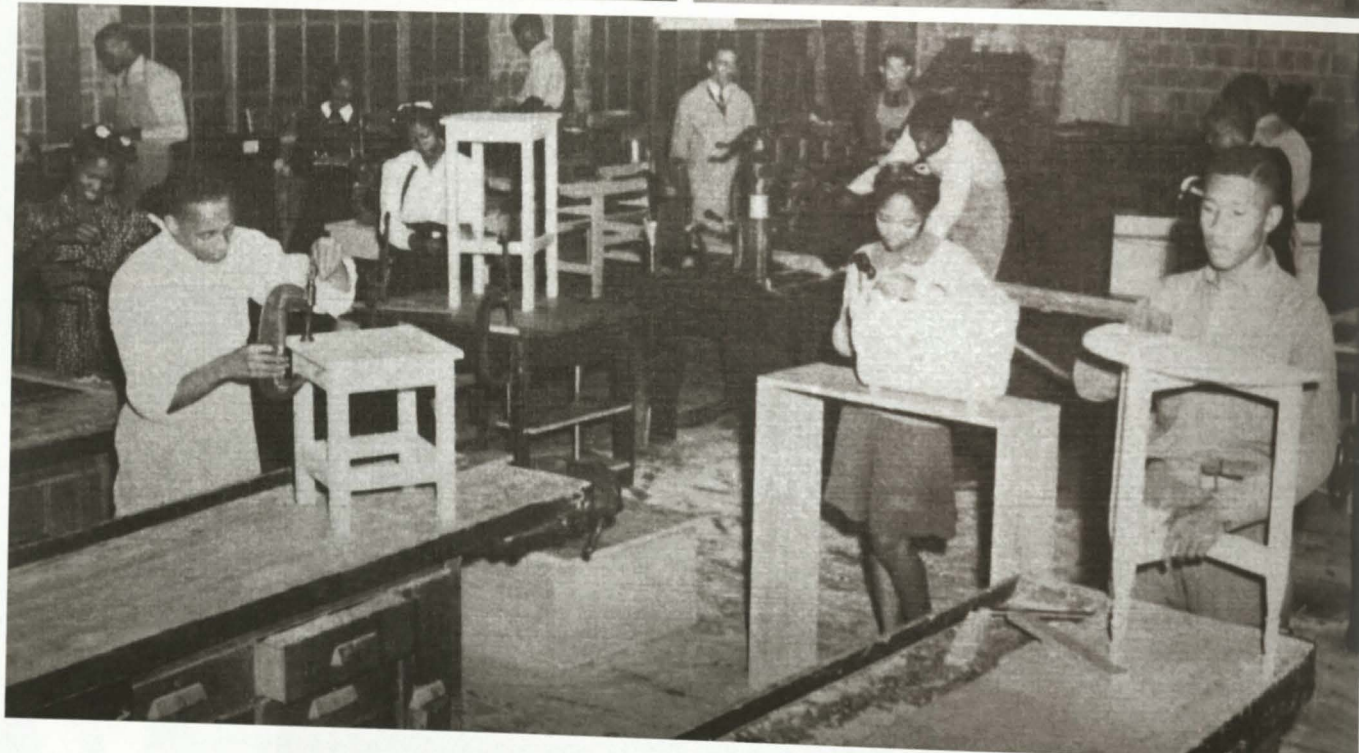
While Prairie View sought to split the difference between these two philosophies, Washington's approach received emphasis in the school's first half-century because it fit the prevailing racial attitudes of whites that only limited training for blacks was appropriate and also because it fit the occupations available to most black Americans. The institution's first name change, from Alta Vista College to Prairie View State Normal School in 1879, reflected the reality of the school's emerging academic mission, which was to provide basic elementary and high school instruction to Texas Negroes.



Prairie View graduates were hired as teachers in segregated public schools throughout Texas. During the Normal years, which extended to the early 1920s, it was common for high school graduates to attend one year of college in education courses and then begin their careers as teachers in the public schools. In addition, students received instruction in tools and crafts such as iron and woodworking for males and cooking, cleaning, and dressing for females. In fact, home economics was a popular academic track for Prairie View's women for many years. The program officially started in 1918 and began awarding four-year degrees in 1923, which were in: child development and family relationships; clothing and textiles; foods, nutrition, and institutional administration; and home economics education. The graduate curriculum, established in 1941, offered a master's degree in home economics education. Many home economics graduates worked in education but some also worked as dietitians, in social services agencies, and in retail. But changing social, economic, and political conditions reduced student interest in home economics as a major and the school was discontinued. While some of its programs, such as hat-making and sewing, were discontinued, other programs, such as nutrition and health, were absorbed by the School of Agriculture and the College of Education.



The second part of the academic philosophy included a classical education in the liberal arts. Prairie View's focus in this area remains strong today.



Top left: In the early years, students learned practical areas of home economics, as depicted in this canning demonstration.

Top right: Students in the Mechanic Arts Department working with metal.

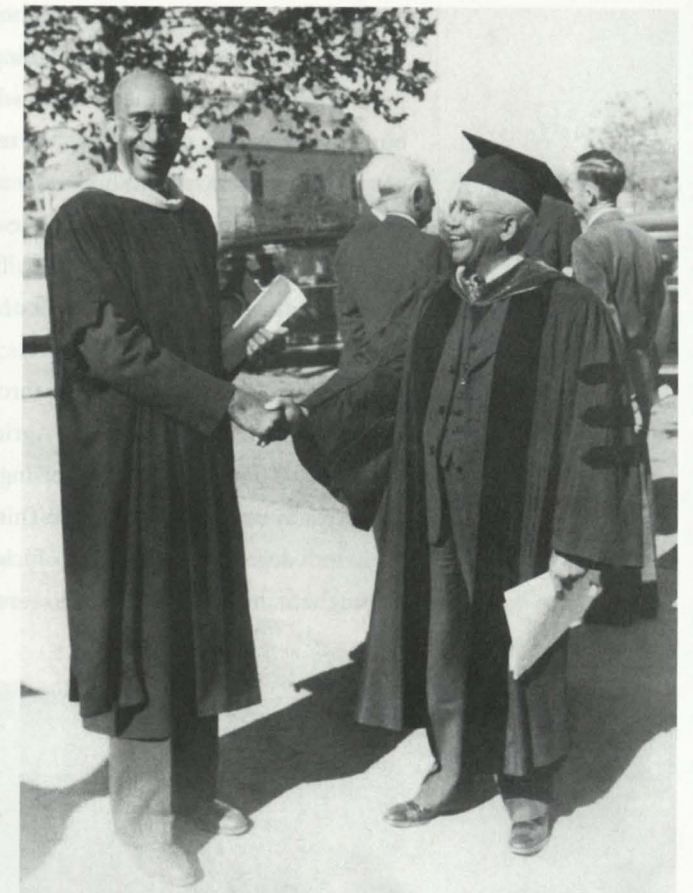
Bottom: This 1943 picture shows students in a woodworking class.

Prairie View's second name change in 1889, to Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, continued to reflect the school's dual academic approach, which increasingly supplemented the Normal's focus on basic school subjects with training in technical and industrial arts along with the classics. Academic instruction still focused on practical and vocational trades and crafts, but now more college-level courses were added for those students who were prepared for them. Perhaps Principal J. G. Osborne put it best in his Annual Report of 1921-

1922 when he said that the institution sought to build a strong educational foundation for young men and women of the race who are "well trained along practical and useful lines. We reckon that the better trained the mind that directs the hand, the better work the hand can do." Indeed, Prairie View attained a reputation as a first-rate teacher-training institution for Texas African Americans in agriculture, vocations, and industrial arts. At one time most of the black teachers in Texas' segregated public schools were products of Prairie View.

Second, the academic program at Prairie View had to be designed to serve those who needed remediation as well as those academically gifted and talented students who would have excelled at any four-year institution in the state but for Jim Crow. While this dual academic purpose was the right mix for a university at the time, it required a delicate balancing act: advanced students had to be given the tools to continue their progress, while other students had to be brought up to the level they needed to succeed in a rapidly industrializing economy. This task required considerable faculty and instructional resources that were simply unavailable, resulting in sometimes vehement competition and jealousies between the academic and vocational units. The tension inherent in this dual academic purpose was reflected more than a hundred years after the school's founding in 1983, when a special task force publication expressed concern that PVAMU engaged in "more remedial work than the Task Force believes appropriate at a university." The report opined that PVAMU, which then had an open admissions policy, was admitting students who were not prepared for the rigors of university-level education. Perhaps the task force failed to recognize that Prairie View has always sought to provide educational opportunities that were historically denied to people of color in Texas.

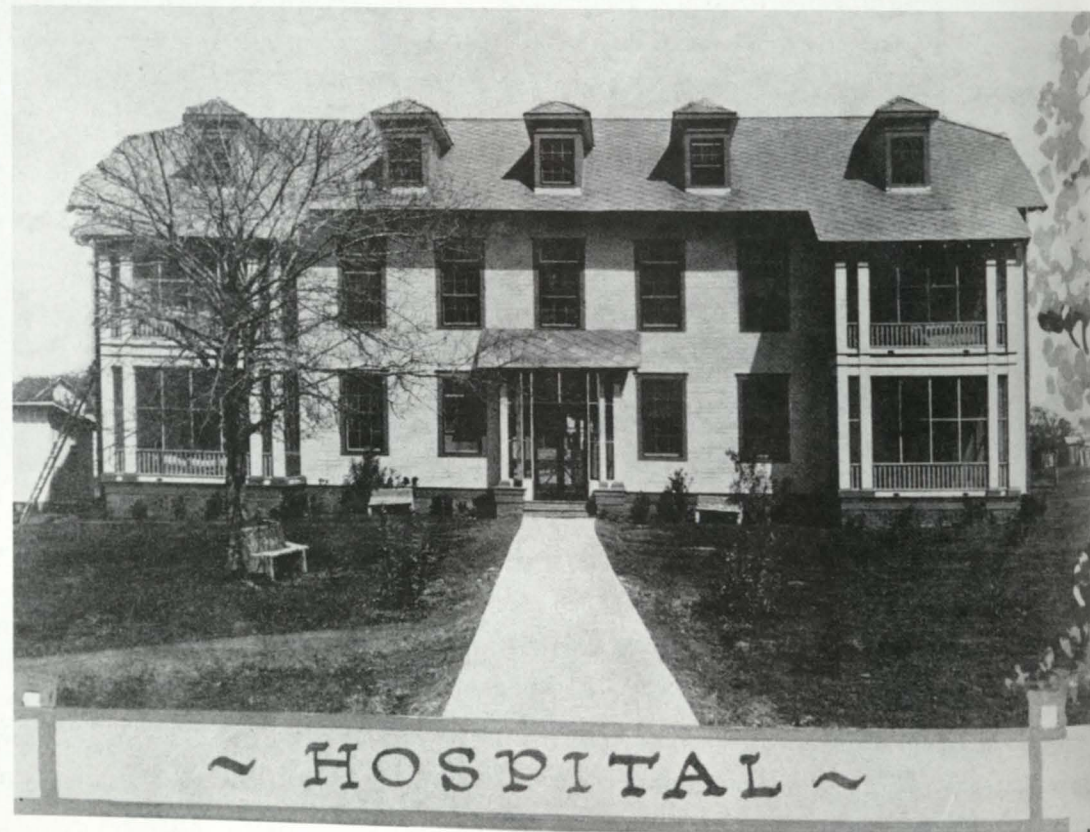
Third, there is a duality in academic practice, which combined a desire to educate students with the necessity of ensuring their well-being. We see two of the three Rs at play here: race and resources. The neglect of HBCUs led to a poorly funded and ill-equipped institution. Chronic shortages in faculty salaries, library resources, instructional equipment, and physical plant gave rise to an academic practice that sought to instruct the students while simultaneously providing for their care. For instance, when the Normal school first opened,



From its founding until 1947, Prairie View was the only public institution of higher education for blacks in Texas. Dr. E. B. Evans (left), and Dr. W. R. Banks, who succeeded Dr. Evans as principal (and later as the first president) of Prairie View, both emphasized developing sound academic habits so that students at any academic level of preparation could succeed.

students had to work one and a half hours a day in the garden, which provided training for the agricultural course while also providing food to eat. In the 1920s, the newly opened infirmary provided healthcare for the students while also serving as an instructional laboratory for the burgeoning nursing program. By the mid-twentieth century, when Principal Banks was unable to acquire the necessary funds for badly needed building construction, he turned to the students of the Mechanic Arts program to help in the construction of buildings that were built using refurbished materials from preexisting buildings. The students learned construction science while at the same time providing a cheap source of labor that made physical plant improvements possible.

Around this time, the school went through two more name changes, first to Prairie View University in 1945, and then to Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in 1947, reflecting an academic mission that was evolving away from a dominance of vocational training and toward modern-day university education. This trend began in the early 1920s, when the first university bachelor's degree programs were officially established and the Normal school was being phased out. Throughout, however, the three Rs—race, resources, and remediation—remained.

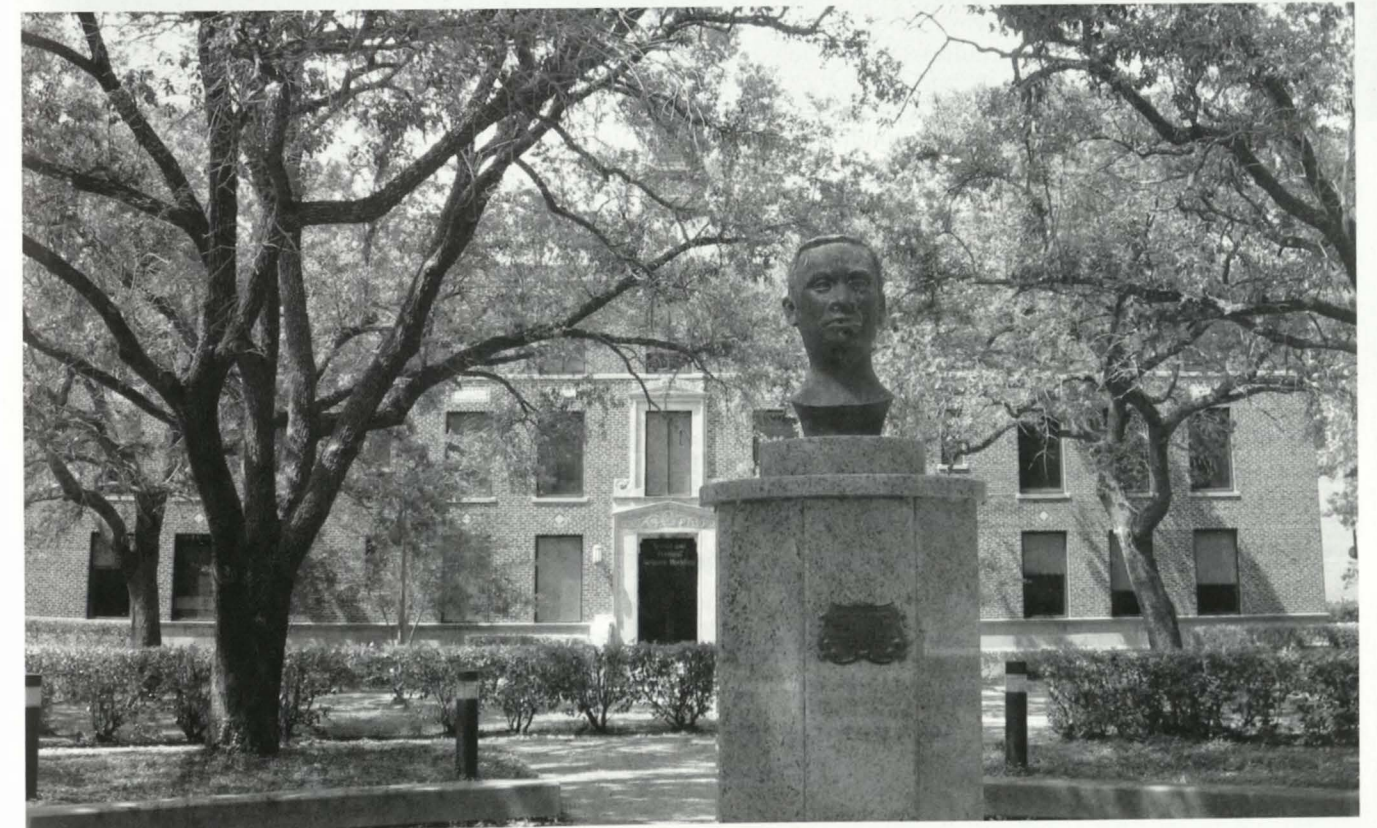


The campus hospital served the dual purpose of caring for students while also training them in the health sciences.

In part, the mid-century name changes were an unsuccessful attempt on the part of the Texas State legislature to uphold Jim Crow policies based on the legal requirements of the *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court ruling (1896) that allowed for separate educational facilities for blacks so long as they were equal. Hoping to address the lack of a full-fledged university for blacks that was on a par with the flagship white schools in Texas, the legislation that accompanied the 1947 name change decreed that courses be offered in agriculture, mechanics arts, engineering, and the natural sciences, “together with any other course authorized at Prairie View at the time of the passage of this Act, all of which shall be equivalent to those offered at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.” Despite this grand gesture of trying to provide equivalent educational opportunities, Prairie View remained far more separate than equal.

In 1973, the school went through its last name change to Prairie View A&M University. This change reflects the modern-day mission of the University and its role in Texas as an “institution of the first class,” as stated in an amendment to the Texas Constitution. Around this time the institution’s academic structure was reshaped and this influenced the contours of the academic units seen today.

As the University’s mission evolved, the need for additional classroom space led to construction of new buildings such as the Woolfolk building, which currently houses the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Political Sciences.



“The single most important thing I got out of Prairie View was learning. One professor I had in Education taught me about problem-solving, reasoning, and the process of deduction. I could use that anywhere. With many of life’s problems I confronted, this (form of) learning how to think stayed with me and helped me throughout all my life.”
—Lobias Choice, Class of ’58

While the school’s different names reflected Prairie View’s evolving mission, changes to the individual academic units over the decades also show how the school’s mission adapted to a changing society. For instance, the Industrial Education and Technology program was initially established with Alta Vista’s founding. From then until now, industrial education in some form or another has remained a vital part of Prairie View’s academic mission. Prairie View was designated by the State Legislature as one of only three teacher-training institutions in Texas for trade and industrial education teachers. The curriculum was designed to produce industrial arts and vocational-industrial teachers at the secondary and post-secondary levels and also to train them to become technicians in industry and manufacturing occupations such as foreman, worker, and supervisor. According to George Woolfolk, however, the first years of industrial education were used more for “character building and discipline” than they were for more technical instruction. But by 1888, the Mechanical Department began teaching brick masonry, woodwork, cabinet-making, tailoring, and printing. Blacksmithing was added in 1895. By 1901, carpentry and broom- and mattress-making were added. Courses in drawing, basic electricity, and energy conversion were added around 1906. In 1915, the name of the department was changed to the Division of Mechanic Arts, and in 1930, a Bachelor of Science degree was authorized for industrial arts and vocational teacher education programs. A master’s degree was instituted in 1937. By 1940, students could receive bachelor’s degrees in industrial arts education, building construction, stationary engineering, and trade and industrial education, and two-year degrees were offered in auto mechanics, laundering, printing, and shoe repair. Students could also receive training in automotive technology, building construction, metals, drafting, and design.

By mid-century, two separate academic programs, one in engineering and the other in industrial technology and education, grew out of the Division of Mechanic Arts. In 1949, the Division of Mechanic Arts was renamed the School of Engineering and had degree-granting programs in architectural, civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering. The school also continued to offer degree programs in industrial education, but by 1952, the programs in industrial education were relocated in the School of Industrial Education and Technology. Although the School of Industrial Education and Technology no longer exists at Prairie View, the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education led by Dean Lucian Yates III has assumed a portion of its academic mission.

In 1973, the School of Engineering became the College of Engineering, and to meet the growing enrollment and curriculum demands, undergraduate programs in chemical and



industrial engineering were added in addition to a graduate program. Today’s Roy G. Perry College of Engineering, named in honor of a 1976 engineering graduate, is the latest incarnation of the “Mechanical” portion of Prairie View A&M University.

The School of Architecture, one of only seven among all HBCUs in the United States, had its beginnings as part of the engineering program. As early as 1898, courses in architecture and construction were taught at Prairie View, but at that time these courses were housed in the Division of Mechanic Arts. By 1940, a bachelor’s degree in building construction was offered and by 1945, a degree in architectural engineering had been established. By the 1990s, the College of Engineering’s architecture program received its own accreditation. By 1999, the Division of Architecture that was housed in Engineering became a separate academic unit and was called the School of Architecture. In 2005, a compelling modern building was erected for the School of Architecture and named for Nathelyne Archie Kennedy, the first woman to earn a degree in engineering/architecture in Texas, in 1959. Ms. Kennedy is also the first black female to be licensed as a professional engineer in Texas.

The Nathelyne Archie Kennedy building provides greater exposure and visibility to architecture, art, construction science, and community development programs in the School of Architecture.

The Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC) conducts advanced studies in agriculture, life, and human sciences in animal, food, and plant and environmental systems.

Another of Prairie View's earliest academic missions was to train blacks in the art and science of agriculture. The agriculture program was established when Prairie View was first founded, and a formal School of Agriculture was created in 1890 with a bachelor's degree program beginning in 1921. For much of the twentieth century, the agricultural program, like the industrial arts section, focused on training blacks to become teachers. In fact, nearly all of the blacks in Texas working as teachers in agriculture or as extension workers in agriculture were produced by Prairie View's School of Agriculture. According to President E. B. Evans, in the early 1900s, only three HBCUs in the entire country were "offering agricultural programs that were worthy of recognition: Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes, which were private schools, and Prairie View, a state land-grant college."

As the country's economy industrialized, the school's agricultural mission adapted to fit the changing needs of society. It evolved from being solely a teacher-training program emphasizing dairying,

gardening, livestock production, and processing toward programs emphasizing the scientific aspect of agriculture, e.g., agricultural engineering, plant sciences, animal science, agri-business, agricultural education, and agricultural economics, the latter two being graduate programs. The Hatch Act called on land-grant colleges like Prairie View to establish an Agricultural Experimental Station. As late as the 1970s, Prairie View was the only HBCU that had an Experimental Station, which continues its long-established reputation for making significant contributions to the economy of southeast Texas.

Since its origins in 1918, the nursing program has enjoyed a well-earned reputation for producing first-rate graduates. The School (later College) of Nursing started modestly as the Department of Health with a limited two-year program. By 1922, the program changed to include a three-year program and was accredited by the Board of Nursing Examiners for the State of Texas. By this time, thousands of patients, both black and white, were being treated annually in the hospital as it gained a reputation for excellence in healthcare throughout the region. In 1952, a baccalaureate program was established and the three-year program was discontinued in 1960. Around this time, clinical experiences and instruction



were established at hospitals in the Houston area. It has been said that, for most of the twentieth century, if you were cared for by a black nurse in Texas, she was most likely a graduate of Prairie View. For decades, Prairie View's nursing graduates have excelled in their practice. For instance, by 1969, approximately 96 percent of all graduating nurses at Prairie View passed the State Board of Nurses Examination.

By 2006, the college moved into a state-of-the-art twelve-story facility in the renowned Texas Medical Center. In 2007, the College's enrollment ranked first among all baccalaureate nursing programs in the Texas Medical Center and 100 percent of the College's fall graduating class passed the nursing licensure examination on the first attempt. In 2008, the College of Nursing, led by Dean Betty N. Adams, was selected as one of eight nursing programs in the entire United States to have student and faculty presenters on simulation technology at the prestigious Medical Education Technology International Conference in Tampa, Florida. Today, the College of Nursing houses a world-class curriculum offering Bachelor and Master of Science degrees and is now in the planning stages of offering a doctoral degree in nursing as well.

Above left: PVAMU's nursing students have always benefited from hands-on clinical experience. Here, masked nursing students are instructed by physicians.

Above right: PVAMU built a new twelve-story facility for the College of Nursing in 2006 at the Texas Medical Center, home to the College of Nursing since 1982.

Some say the “workhorse” of the University is the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences because it offers diverse courses in many fields and all students, despite their majors, take required courses in this area. Before it was established as the School of Arts and Sciences in 1950, it was only a Division. In addition to its programs in biology, chemistry, social work, and music, the College of Arts and Sciences has long served a dual role as a degree-granting college on the one hand and as an instructional service college on the other. The College of Arts and Sciences grants degrees in a wide range of fields such as English, drama, physics, sociology, social work, music, and the military sciences. In addition, the college offers critical instruction in the University’s core curriculum for all students, including languages and communication, history, philosophy, geography, and political science. The college remains central to meeting the liberal arts educational goals of the institution.

The College of Business evolved in the 1970s from a modest department in the College of Arts and Sciences to a division, a school, and then finally appearing as the College of Business for the first time in the 1977 academic catalog. The program prepares students to manage independent enterprises or work in responsible positions in business and government. The College of Business grants a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting, finance, management information systems, marketing, and management. Additionally the college grants a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with concentrations in finance and management information

The College of Business grants bachelor’s and master’s degrees in all areas of business administration and marketing.



systems. In 2003, the college began offering a Master of Science in Accounting degree. Prairie View is one of fewer than twenty HBCUs to be accredited by the premier business school accrediting body—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Approximately five hundred AACSB-accredited schools of business exist worldwide. AACSB accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools. Prairie View’s AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in management education.

The graduate school at Prairie View was established in 1937. Its original mission was as a master’s degree-granting program in education for school administration and supervision. Today, graduate school curricula are decentralized to permit each school and department offering graduate programs to specialize in its own area, while the graduate school itself provides administrative support. Students can earn advanced degrees in a wide range of subjects, including business administration, engineering, education, sociology, and mathematics.

Each year, Prairie View has increased the number of graduates in its advanced degree program offerings, including four doctoral-level programs.





The Don K. Clark building, which opened in 2006, houses the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology.

The most recent addition to Prairie View's academic profile is the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. Created in the late 1990s, the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology has achieved some notable firsts in its short history. In 2000, it became the first academic unit at Prairie View to offer a doctoral degree, which raised the University's academic profile in the SACS rankings. Moreover, this Ph.D. in Juvenile Justice is noted as one of the first of its kind in the entire country. The college also houses the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, whose mission is to conduct and evaluate research in all areas relating to Juvenile Justice and to provide technical assistance and engage in collaborative activities with government agencies, private entities, and local communities. In 2006, the College's faculty, staff, and students moved into a beautifully designed building that contains modern offices, a multimedia-equipped 280-seat auditorium, an alumni center, and state-of-the-art instructional classrooms including a fully equipped moot court laboratory.

The College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology also houses the Texas Crime Prevention Center, a psychology clinic, a mock courtroom, and an auditorium.

Prairie View's academic programs have advanced far from their humble beginnings. Today, faculty use the latest teaching techniques and deploy the most sophisticated classroom instructional technologies available. And while Prairie View's main academic mission has always been teaching, its faculty also carry out extensive research, some of which has earned national and international acclaim. The first known evidence of research occurred in the early 1900s, an experiment in raising chickens. By mid-century, research grew more sophisticated, including projects on antibacterial substances in acorns, rural power generation, the effect of traction on the liver, and sociological studies of the African American minister, church, doctor, and teacher as well as blacks in business.

In the physical sciences, the Thermal Science Research Center conducts research on heat transfer that improves the understanding of physical engineering boundaries and thresholds. The Center has also established joint research ventures with scholars and laboratories in Japan and Europe. Meanwhile the Texas Gulf Coast Environmental Data Center (TEXGED) utilizes remote sensing data to detect environmental problems in the Gulf of Mexico. TEXGED conducts



CURRICULUM CHANGES

After two years of operation, the curriculum was changed to provide a nine-week block of time for Public Health Nursing Theory and Practice. One half of the senior class enrolls in the program the first semester, and the other half is assigned the second semester.

The student's families are selected in the north and northeast section of Hempstead, the County seat and the largest town in the community. Students walk the district.

Different methods have been used to get students to the field. None have worked too well. At the outset of the program students rode the college bus that made regular trips to and from Hempstead carrying women students into town to shop. After this service was discontinued, students have been transported to the district by the field teacher, and when a student is assigned for school nursing she is picked up at headquarters by the school nurse who travels by personal car to the school and school community. She is brought back to headquarters at the end of the same day.

After a brief orientation with personnel and program, a student is given a written plan of her activities to cover the entire period of her nine-week block of Public Health Nursing Theory and Practice. The correlated course of public health nursing includes 8 hours theory, including teacher-student conferences, and twenty hours are allotted for field practice. This includes travel time.

IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES

A significant accomplishment in the 10-year history of the program was the provision of larger and more adequate facilities made available in 1959. A building formerly used as the Laboratory Training School at the college was designated as the Public Health Center. The college administration made funds available for complete renovation and re-design of the building for the center and sought philanthropic help to purchase necessary furnishings and equipment.

Houston Endowment, Incorporated of Houston made a grant of \$4000 for this purpose. The new building and equipment made possible the addition of an adequate waiting room, conference room, doctor's and nurse's office, examination rooms, classrooms provided with individual student work areas, a combination children's playroom, a facility for parent education, and reading room.



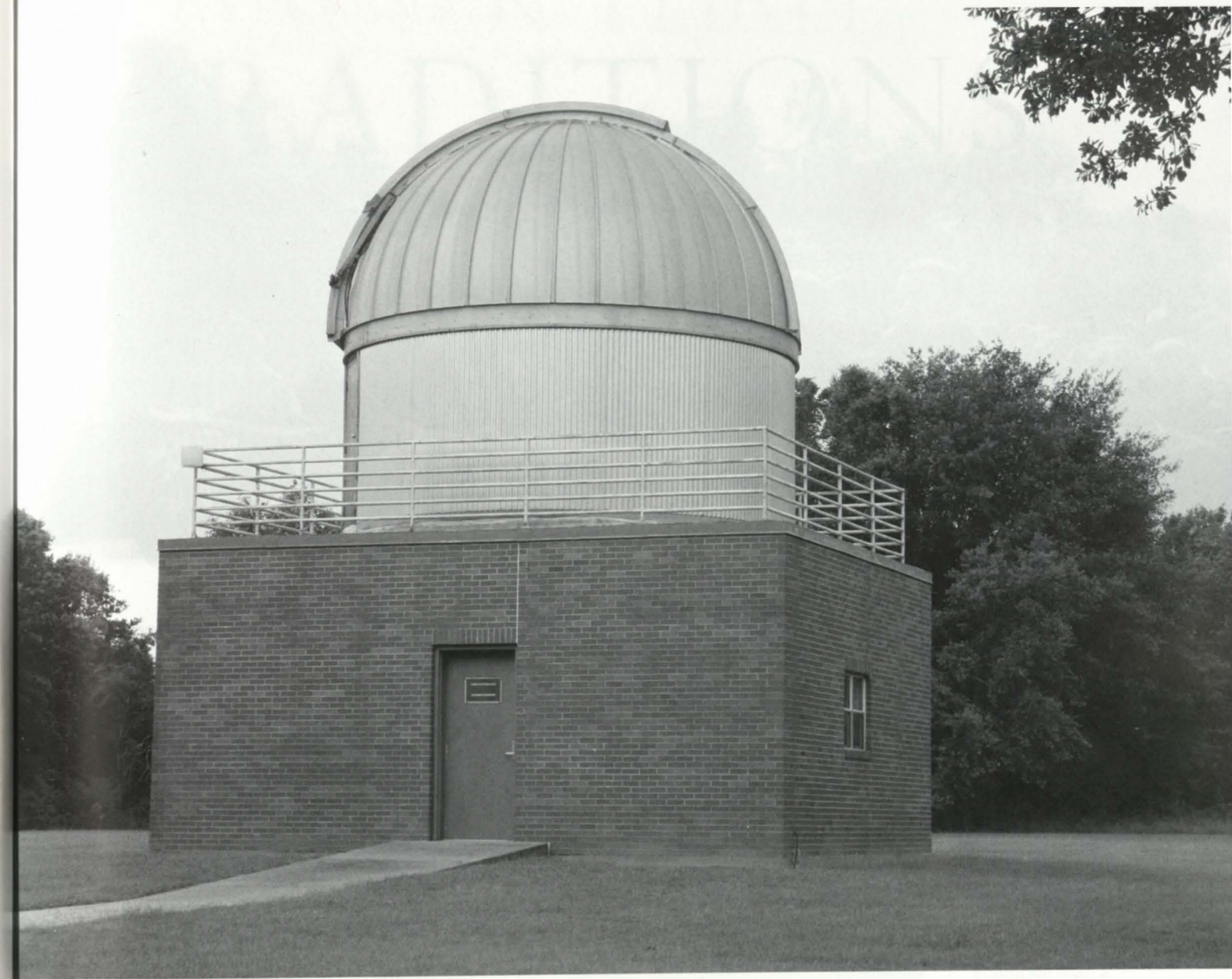
cutting-edge research in bioremediation using biological agents such as earthworms and soil microorganisms.

The Prairie View Solar Observatory, a ground-based solar research facility, conducts research in solar physics, fusion plasma physics, and space science. The NASA Center for Radiation Engineering and Science for Space Exploration works to keep astronauts and their flight instruments safe from the harmful effects of radiation for up to three years in deep space. The Surface Science Facility conducts important research on surface phenomena regarding waste treatment and environmental restoration.

In the social sciences, Prairie View faculty have published important studies on a wide range of issues that impact domestic and international life. For instance, in the Division of

Social, Behavioral, and Political Sciences, faculty have published important studies on Martin Luther King, Jr., the American Civil War, Texas history, and U.S. foreign policy in Asia and the Middle East. Scholars in the Division of Languages and Communications have published studies on English literature, Spanish poetry, and media communications.

A page out of a student yearbook illustrates how changes in the University's curriculum affect more than just academics.



The Prairie View Solar Observatory is a ground-based solar research facility.

CHAPTER THREE TRADITIONS

BY SHELEAH D. REED AND ALEXANDRA REID

Prairie View's student life and campus traditions reflect a timeless purpose: building a sense of community to carry the student beyond the University and into the "real" world. For some members of this community, being a Prairie View Panther extends back five or six generations. For others, this is a newfound tradition that will evolve as time goes on. Student traditions include service, leadership, friendship, and the hard-to-define essence that makes college more than just a collection of courses, classes, and buildings where students meet. Like many other institutions, Prairie View offers students an opportunity to learn about their values, to realize their potential, and to prepare for future endeavors. But according to current and former students, Prairie View offers much more as it binds its students in firmly rooted traditions that mold them into leaders and contributors to society.



First opened in September 1972, Thomas A. Holley Hall served as a men's residence hall for more than thirty years. The four-story building was considered a marvel and was equipped with a laundry area, a kitchenette, and pool tables.



More than 1,500 students participated in a seven-mile march to protest the lack of early voting stations on Prairie View's campus during the 2008 election.

Life in the residence halls has always been a key source of student-to-student interaction and socialization. This is a photo of Evans Hall from 1928. While a residence hall back then, Annie Laurie Evans Hall is now home to a variety of student support offices, including student affairs, student conduct, disability services, career services, and recruitment and marketing.



While living in Prairie View's University Village, students enjoy modern conveniences. With many buildings, classes, and points of destination only a short walk away, students can focus on academics with fewer day-to-day distractions.

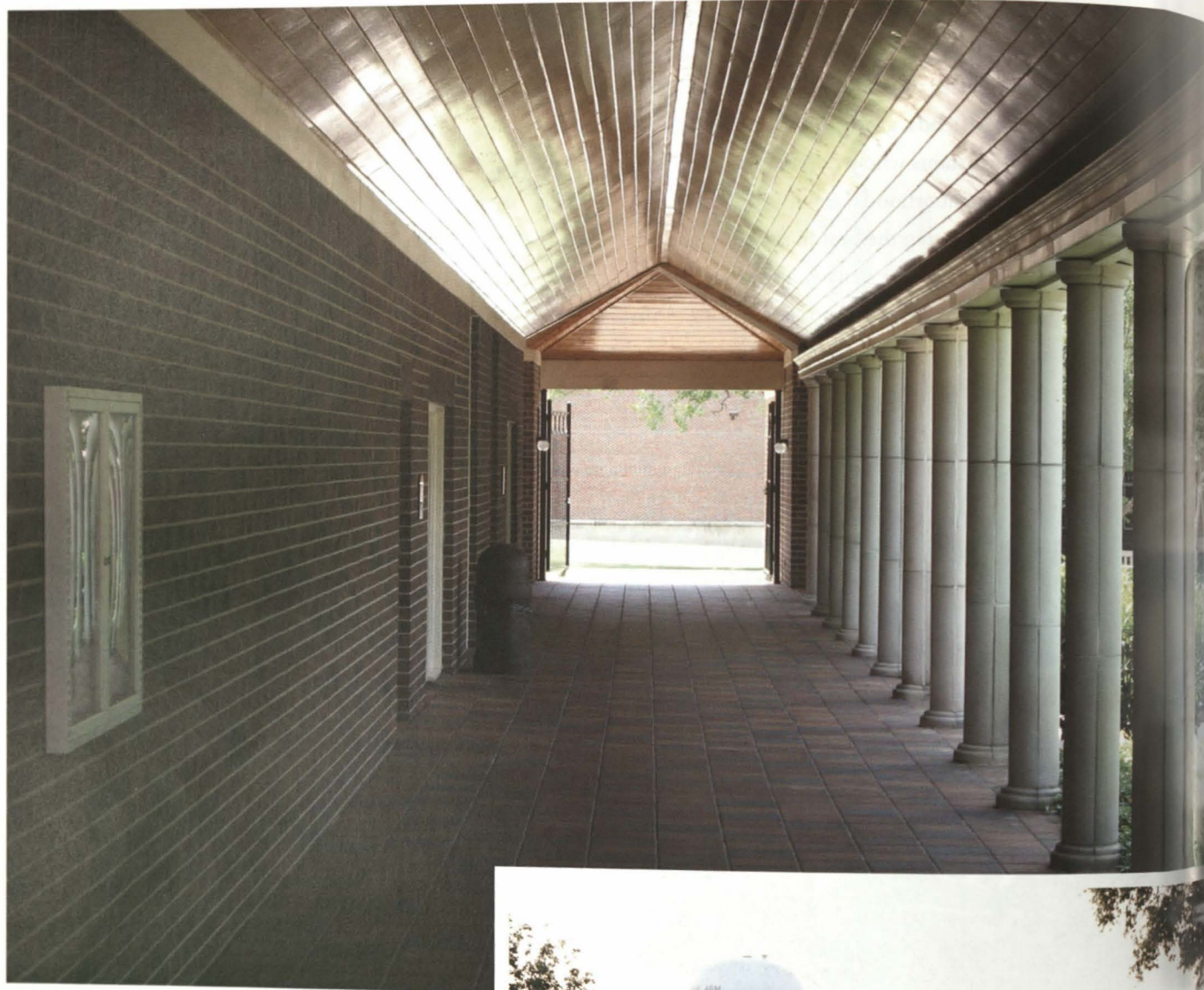


As the road to Prairie View winds away from home, many students start a new life in unfamiliar quarters. However, throughout the years, the residential facilities at Prairie View—Drew Hall, Banks Hall, Foster, L. O. Evans, or Buchanan Hall—have provided the campus a community where residents can make friends, grow, and socialize. The dorms located throughout campus were managed by residential assistants who were required to organize activities and events, thus creating the feel of a tightly knit neighborhood. Life in the dormitory was family-oriented, which helped to keep students focused on being the best they could be as they realized what it meant to share educational experiences. There were strict rules for living in the dormitories, including curfews, bans on gender-mixing, and even bans on the possession of hot plates in the dorm rooms. But students found innovative ways around these restrictions. For instance, one student used the flat surface of a pressing iron to fry chicken and pork chops and used Vaseline to grease the iron!

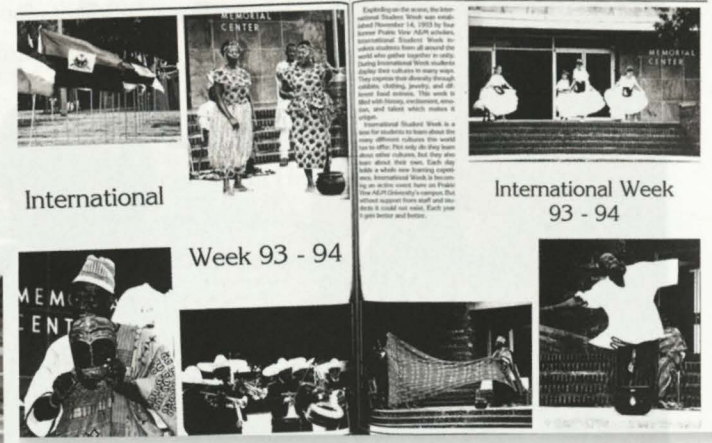
As with many historic campuses, residential facilities like Fuller Hall and Luckie Hall were expensive to maintain. In 1996, the University entered a partnership with housing developer American Campus Communities to build contemporary apartment-style housing on the west end of campus. The four-bedroom and two-bedroom units provided additional housing options for students and allowed the University to focus on academics. Two years later, the campus expanded its housing options with University Village North, which was developed to house honor students. The rooms offered larger space, increased amenities, and more than five hundred additional beds.



The University is able to house more than 40 percent of its student population, with nearly 3,600 beds available on campus.



University College is a freshman neighborhood established to provide first-year students with a comfortable living and learning community that eases their transition into higher education while providing support to ensure their academic success. First-year students are able to live in state-of-the-art furnished apartments, complete with twin-sized beds, a study desk and chair, and a mini-fridge.



The old MSC building (above left) was replaced by the new Memorial Student Center (bottom), which was completed in 2003 and named in honor of alumnus and former interim University president, retired Army Col. Willie Albert Tempton, Sr. (Class of '61).

Above right: The hub of all student activity, the Memorial Student Center serves as a place where students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and guests convene. Performances, such as this International Student Week celebration shown in the 1994 yearbook, occurred on the steps of the old Memorial Student Center.

In the fall of 2000, the University completed a one-of-a-kind freshman complex on the former site of Holley Hall and Alexander Hall. This complex, called University College, is a residential facility designed to provide a comprehensive living and learning experience for students.

The time between sleeping and class is when students truly experience college. The Memorial Student Center is where much of this time is spent. Throughout the years, the building has housed a bookstore, game room, beauty shop, T-shirt shop, post office, several dining facilities, student support offices, lounge areas, student government offices, student activities offices, and



The student center houses the University's main dining hall, the campus bookstore, and the president's dining room. President George C. Wright frequents the dining hall to confer with students.

Alumni Hall was the heartbeat of campus where students went "to see and be seen."



student publications. According to the 1961 *Pantherland* yearbook, the MSC is a memorial "to those of the Prairie View family who so courageously gave their last full measure of devotion for the cause of freedom throughout the world."

In addition to the Memorial Student Center, many former students remember Alumni Hall as the main social gathering place. Named in honor and recognition of the legacy, accomplishments, and dedication of the numerous living and deceased graduates and former students of Prairie View, Alumni Hall was built in 1973 to serve as the primary dining hall and banquet facility on the University's campus. Under the leadership of President Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, the building was constructed at a cost of \$4.5 million and featured student lounge areas, twenty seminar rooms, and several administrative suites. It was specifically designed as a place where students could dine as well as conveniently relax and congregate together.

In its early years, the campus possessed little in the way of aesthetics. The grounds surrounding the buildings had simple landscaping and dirt roads. Like many HBCUs, PVAMU was located in a rural, hard-to-get-to location. Muddy pathways ran around the buildings and trash collection and removal was a serious problem. In response, the school instituted several important traditions and activities to beautify the campus. With its oak-



The University promotes service-learning through the Panthers-At-Work (PAW) program. Service-learning opportunities allow Prairie View students to learn the value of partnership and civic engagement through community service.

That good ol' PV spirit
Pep rallies are a tradition on "the hill"



A page out of the student yearbook says it best: "That good ol' PV spirit: Pep rallies are a tradition on 'the hill.'"

tree-lined walkways, Prairie View developed one of the most attractive residential campuses in the state. One beautification tradition to maintain Prairie View's beauty is carried out by PAW, or Panthers-At-Work. Each year, students, faculty, and staff gather to spend a weekend cleaning the campus and local community.

At Prairie View, a certain mythos developed that discouraged students from walking on the grass to preserve the yards and keep them devoid of unsightly dirt paths. The most enduring aspect of this mythos involves the story first-year students are told upon their arrival: the grass now covers the hallowed ground of the Alta Vista Plantation, where slaves worked, died, and were buried. Indeed, this legend is partly grounded in fact: the Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture at Prairie View, in conjunction with Rice University, has unearthed a Civil War-era cemetery that likely contains the remains of Alta Vista Plantation slaves. Many of those slaves' ancestors are still living in the area and have worked and studied at Prairie View.



A further example of the beautification process was a rose garden that the fraternity Alpha Phi Omega took very good care of in the 1960s as part of its commitment to serve the community. Located in the center of campus where the water fountain now stands, the rose garden was put there as a place for the upperclassmen to pass through to get to their classes faster. Many a romantic glance was said to have been exchanged there. Passing through the rose garden was a rite of passage for students as they transformed from immature youngsters to educated, refined men and women. Although some objected, the rose garden was eventually replaced by the present-day water fountain around the middle of the twentieth century, after major campus renovations were undertaken due, in part, to a fire on campus.

According to the 1988 yearbook, student life referred to just about everything that took place over the course of a year that entertained the students, including hanging

The 1966 yearbook staff divided college life at PVAMU into four parts: intellectual, campus, organizational, and athletic, implying that these four elements encompass the four years of a student's time at Prairie View. Susan Taylor's 2010 guest lecture for the S.P.I.T. (Students Participating In Transcendent) Knowledge series is but one example of the vibrant intellectual life at Prairie View.

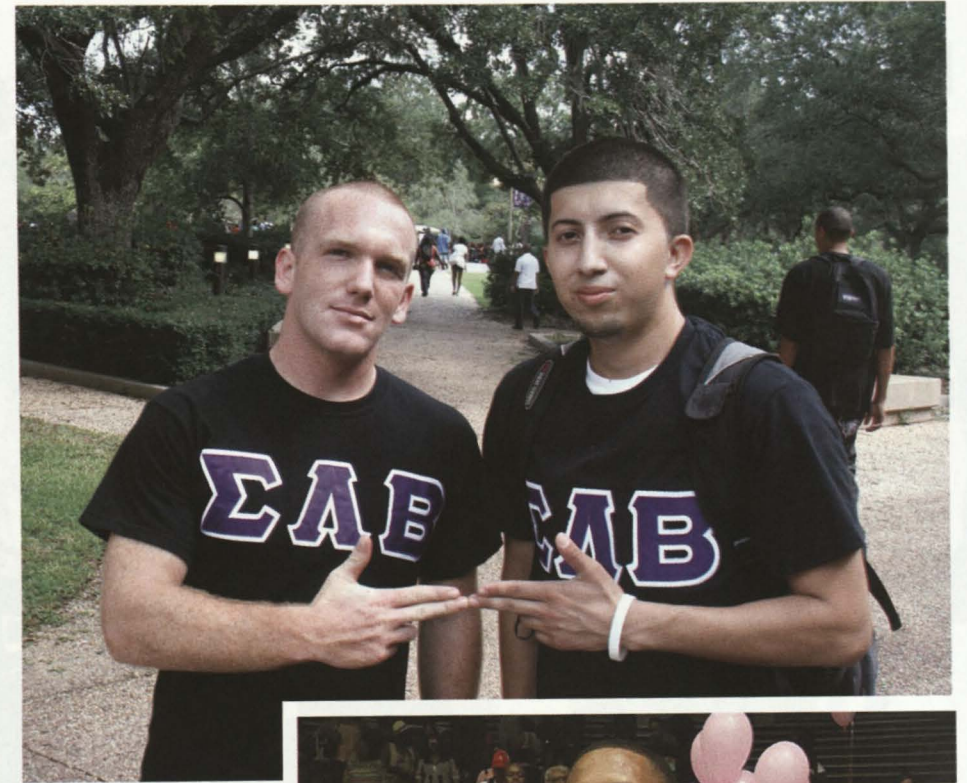


Over the years, Prairie View's students have had a wide variety of social clubs from which to choose. This 1966 yearbook photo depicts students wearing the insignia of several different social clubs.

out on the "yard" and attending events such as concerts and pageants. These unique social experiences that occur at Prairie View are unmatched by other academic institutions. The rich culture and history, together with rigorous academic programs and community service opportunities, allow students to see beyond the walls of a classroom and into the streets of their local community as well as the world community.

Students have always had many distinctive options to complement their talents and skills. Today, there are more than ninety honor societies, clubs, and other social awareness groups allowing students to focus on the soft skills needed to thrive after graduation. Honor societies highlighted academic achievements, while other clubs formed to promote social interaction. Collections of students who studied the same trade or subject formed academically oriented clubs. Throughout the years, the types of organizations have been diverse, including those for the cities and states from which students hailed, such as the Oklahoma Club, the Michigan Club, the Oakwood Club, and the Fort Worth Club. There were groups devoted to religion and faith, such as the Sunday School Club, that supported the spiritual needs of the college community. Groups also organized around causes and cultural practices.

Greek organizations promote unity, brotherhood, and sisterhood while highlighting the art of socialization even as they aid in developing professional networks.





Top: Prairie View's A Cappella Concert Choir's *Telstar of Song* record album was recorded in 1963. Just three years later their success continued with a national tour beginning on March 18, 1966.

Middle: Club Crescendo was chartered in 1949 to help the men of Prairie View maintain a high level of social life and interclub relations while maintaining social standards and furthering intellectual accomplishments through sound scholarship.



Bottom: Student organization Groove Phi Groove was a social club chartered in 1973 at Prairie View by sixty-five young college men who were not afraid to be individuals. According to the 1979 yearbook, this organization won the Honors Committee's "Most Outstanding Organization" award every year since the award's inception.



Baptist Student Movement



BAPTIST STUDENT MOVEMENT: First Row, L-R: Rev. E. J. Johnson (sponsor), Bernita Gray (Asst. Treasurer), Barbara Willis, Rita Shephard, Celitha Swanson, Jeanetta Washington, Ava Stewart, Janis Stinson (President), Arnold Hatchett, Brian Brown, and Arthur Foy (Musician). Second Row, L-R: Elsie Tryals, Sandra White (Treasurer), Francine Perry, Juliette Jeffery, Jan Matthews, (unidentified), Paula Scott, Loretta Johnson (Pianist), Eric Lakey, and Eugene Cook.

While the mission of each group was diverse, many of them focused on similar objectives. The Baptist Ministry Movement, for instance, devoted itself to religious undertakings and spiritual renewal. The United Men's Congress existed to encourage male students to achieve and maintain a balance of scholarship and extracurricular activities. Club 26, founded in 1951, was a group composed of twenty-six juniors who strived for high scholarship, leadership, and social grace.

The Baptist Student Movement is a gospel choir created in 1935. One of the oldest social groups ever established at Prairie View, the BSM spreads the word of Christ through music ministry. Today the organization includes more than 400 members.



Zetas Together

Sitting, L-R: Jackie Willis, Betty Shepherd, Hilda Soto, Gwendolyn Penson, Dalton McGuire (Sigma). Standing, L-R: Betty Gaines, Sharon Allen, Linda Blocker, Shirley Black, Brenda Lee, Linda Blocker, Shirley Bryant, Evelyn Glass, Rosalyn Moore, Yvonne Harrison.

Zeta Phi Beta formed a chapter on Prairie View's campus in 1969, as the Omega Gamma chapter. The ideals of this group include service, scholarship, finer womanhood, and sisterly love.



Top: Panther Advisory Leaders (PALs) are graduates of the exclusive Student Leadership Institute, which is a training program designed to develop skills in leadership, communication, conflict resolution, ethics, and goal-setting.

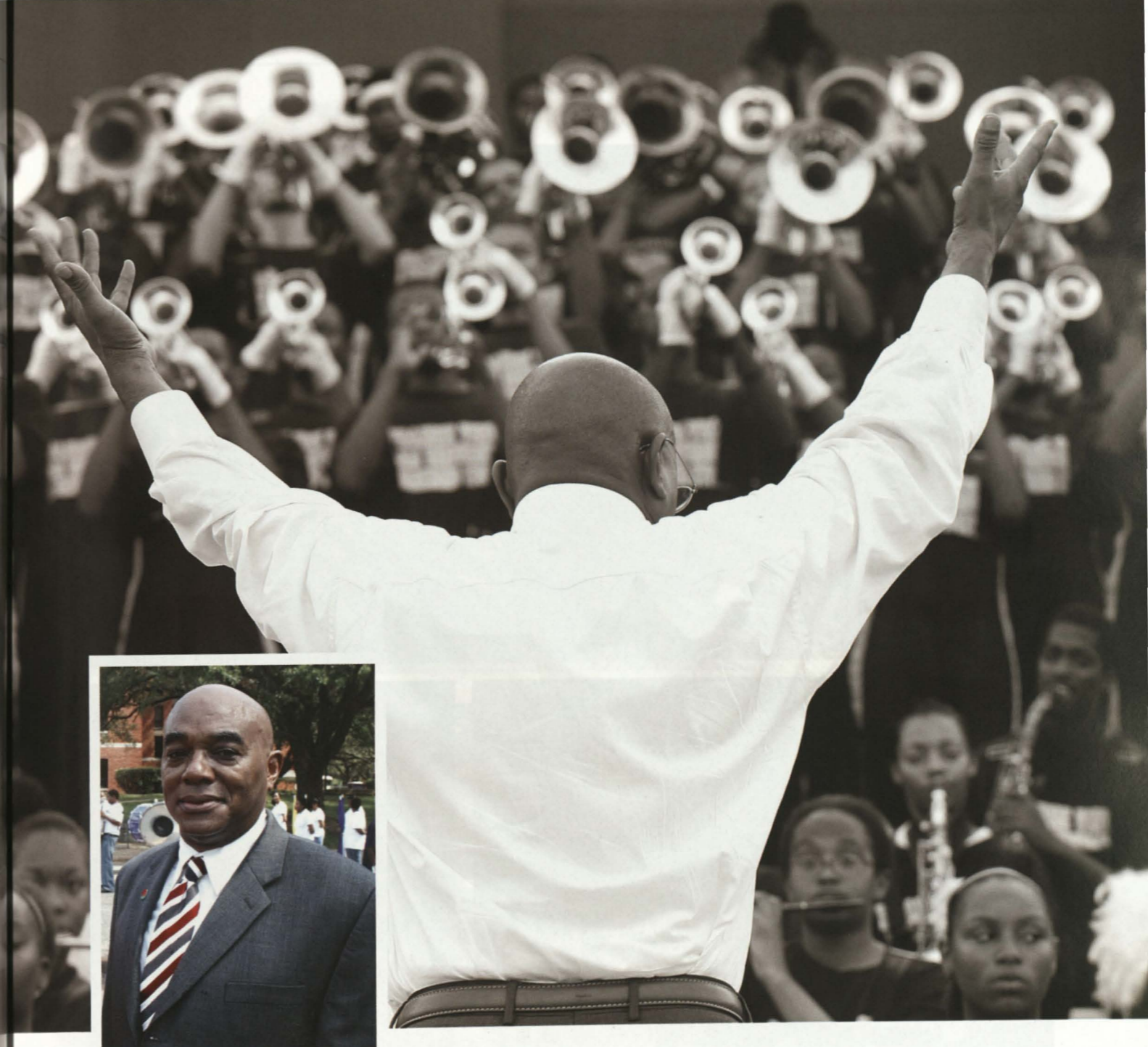
Bottom: The Gilpin Players continue to wow audiences with their talents and skills.

Founded in 1929, the Charles Gilpin Players theatrical troupe was named for one of the most highly regarded African American actors and is known for its component units of mime and movement, theatre for youth, church drama, singing, dance, and variety.

WILLIAM "BILLY" J. NICKS BUILDING

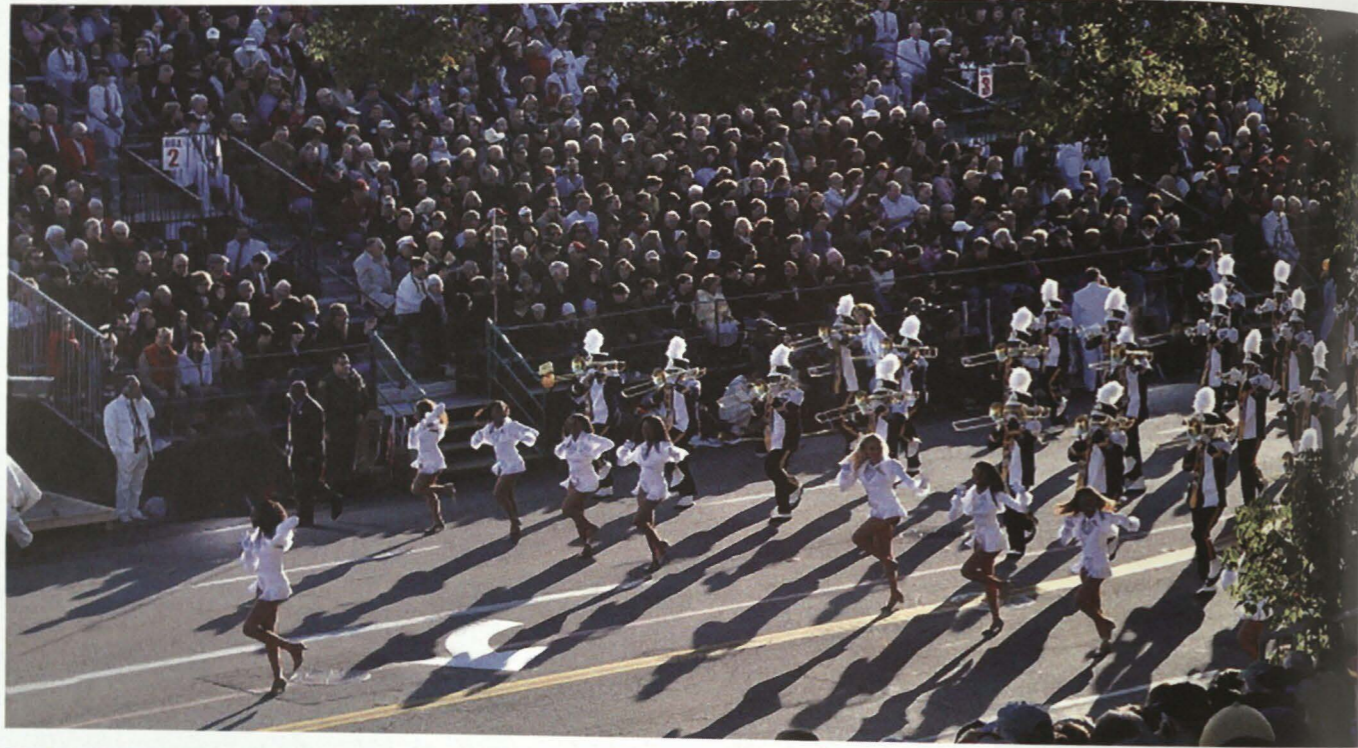


Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society students at the 2011 Honors Convocation. Tau Sigma Delta is the Honor Society for programs in Architecture and Allied Arts.



Another major showcase for the institution has been the Marching Storm, Prairie View's acclaimed marching band. Created in the 1970s, the Marching Storm transitioned from a military-style band into a show band. It is hailed as the first HBCU marching band to incorporate a percussion feature into its halftime performance.

The Marching Storm was featured on ESPN.com in an article highlighting the band as a legacy to its former leader, the late George Edwards (inset). Before his death in 2009, Edwards directed Prairie View's renowned Marching Storm Band for thirty years. It is now led by William McQueen, who continues the storied legacy.



DRUM MAJORS



Above left: The Marching Storm performs at the Capitol building in Texas, 2000.

Left: In 2011, the band performed alongside recording artists the Black Eyed Peas at Super Bowl XLV in Arlington, Texas.



The Panther
 Wednesday, April 06, 2011

They are voice

Small, Hallman named SGA leaders



Election Results:
(President)
 Jarren Small - 445
 Christine Williams - 218
 LaShun Neal - 214
(Vice President)
 Nicholas Hallman - 463
 Trevon Heath - 409

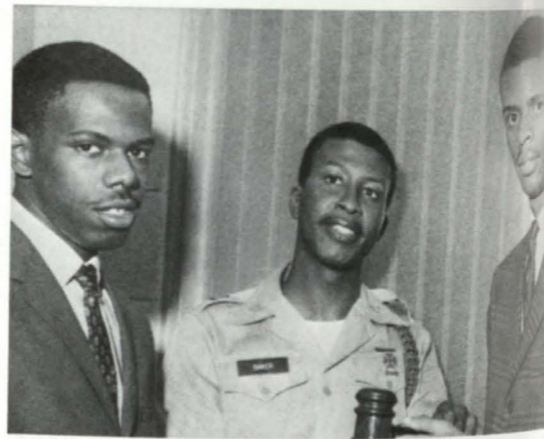
Justice communications major Jarren Small and junior criminal justice major Nicholas Hallman were elected Student Government Association 2011-12 president and vice president Tuesday.

Small accumulated more votes than his two opponents combined with 445 total votes. Junior nutrition major Christine Williams received 218 votes while junior criminal justice major LaShun Neal got 214 votes.

"There's a lot that needs to be done as far as restructuring," said Small. "But only should there be action but it needs to happen at a rapid pace. The first task on my agenda is getting my E-board together so we can brainstorm ideas and make sure that everything runs smoothly. There's no time to play at all. We need goals for results."

Hallman and his opponent junior architecture major Trevon Heath were close with 463 and 409 total votes respectively.

The results will be official Thursday, April 7 at 9 pm after careful review by the Judicial Court.

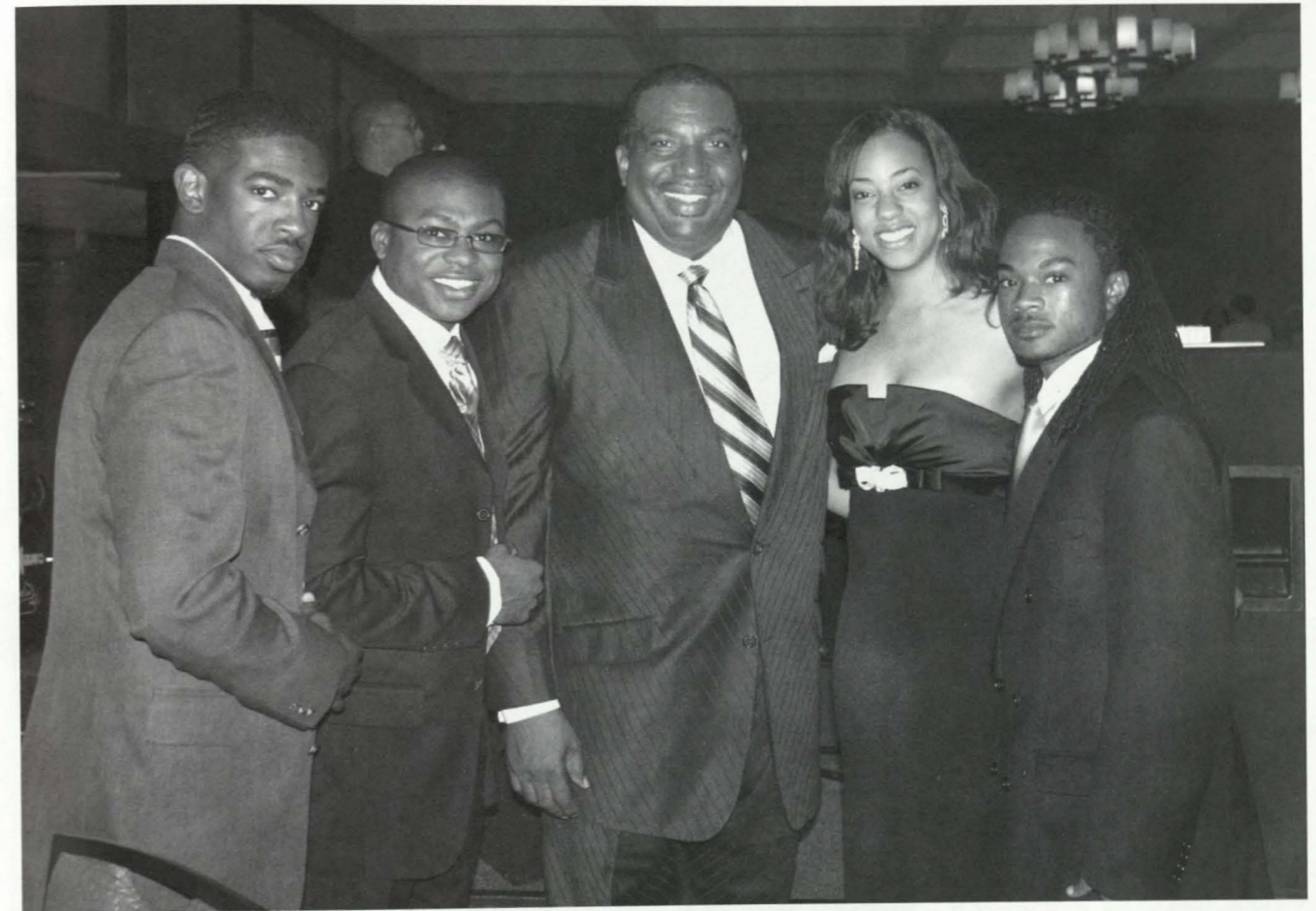


Student Government changes hands

Top: Under the direction of A. Jan Taylor, the PV Chamber Singers perform at *Gala 2011*. In 2002, Taylor and her music students traveled to Poland to participate in *Wratislavia Cantans*, a prestigious international music festival for choirs and orchestras.

Bottom left and right: Student government changes hands: SGA members are the voice of the student body and work to organize events, activities, and programs.

The multi-talented "Storm" has performed coast to coast and appeared on numerous nationally televised sports programs and other major events, such as the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, the halftime show at Texas A&M University athletic events, the CBS *Morning Show*, the George W. Bush presidential inauguration parade, and the 2009 Rose Parade (page 64, top).



Marching Storm performances are accompanied by the famous Black Foxes, a dance troupe known for its art of dance enhanced by flashy costumes. The Marching Storm band has been featured in the *London Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and many other news outlets.

While many students participate in organizations that support their careers and professional goals, clubs like the Student Government Association, Panther Ambassadors, Campus Activities Board, and the various student publications support the overall student. These organizations, under the Office of Student Activities and Leadership, are designed to meet the co-curricular needs of Prairie View's diverse student population. The Student Government Association advocates for the general student body as it

The student leaders from 2008-2009 pose with Texas State Senator Royce West. From left, SGA Vice President Kenneth Grimes, SGA President Johnie L. Jones III, Sen. West, Miss Prairie View Kara Willis, and Mr. Prairie View Oba Woodyard.

In 1966, Miss Prairie View, Cheryl McIntyre (left) had two attendants, Molly Johnson and Donetta Beverly. McIntyre majored in dietetics, Johnson majored in elementary education, and Beverly majored in nursing.

“Freshman orientation during the late summer was very exciting for a young girl who had never even attended a sleepover. I still remember living in Evans Hall and having to meet curfew each evening. And some of us still talk about the good ol’ days of having mandatory Chapel attendance. I personally enjoyed being active in the Wednesday Night Worship conducted by Reverend Bill Lawson, who was an up-and-coming young minister.”
—Katie M. Gerard Starnes, Class of ’63



MISS PRAIRIE VIEW AND ATTENDANTS



assists in maintaining a safe, active learning environment fostering student matriculation. Whenever students have felt the need for change, they have had the confidence to accomplish that change through SGA.

Perhaps the pinnacle of social affairs at Prairie View is homecoming, which is held every fall and serves to connect the past, present, and future. Homecoming is a time of welcome, celebration, and renewal. It is also a time to reflect on the traditions and heritage of a great university. Alumni return to renew old ties. Students attend to forge bonds and create their own memories. Parents attend to celebrate their children’s transformation into adulthood. The focal points are the football game, the homecoming parade, tailgating, and other homecoming traditions that the Panther community hold dear, such as pithy chants at football games to tease the opponent’s players. One particularly catchy slogan that appeared in the 1940s goes like this: “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, what the buzzards won’t do the Panthers must!” Homecoming is also a time to celebrate the crowning of Mr. and Miss Prairie View, winners of an intense academic-based scholarship pageant. These competitions help develop traditions of leadership, public speaking, and academic prowess. They set the ideal for what it means to be a “Prairie View Man” or a “Prairie View Woman”—poised, professional, honorable, hardworking, and intellectual.



The Prairie View mascot exemplifies Prairie View’s spirit and traditions.



In 2010, homecoming festivities drew more than 20,000 of Prairie View's faithful.



ROYAL SETTING — Miss Prairie View is shown during her recent coronation with her escort, Holland Bynum and attendants Shirley Brown and Elizabeth Johns with their escorts Robert Hill and Roosevelt Johns. Little Misses Chandra M. Bell and Angelia Owens are flower girls and Ronald Gene Rayford is crown bearer.

Jo Ella McCauley Crowned Miss PV—Student Queen

Miss Jo Ella McCauley was crowned "Miss Prairie View," student queen at Prairie View A. & M. College, in impressive ceremonies here in January.

The charming senior coed was elected by popular vote of all the students at the college during general campus elections last spring. She has served as student queen in special functions at the college prior to the official coronation ceremonies. President E. B. Evans

queen. They were escorted by Robert Hill and Roosevelt Jones. The inner court included Edna Woodard and James Touchstone, and Georgia Braziel and Claiborne Smothers. Chandra Marie Bell and Angelia L. Owens were flower girls, and Ronald Gene Rayford was the crown bearer.

Medical Assembly Set for March 4-9

3 Straight A's First Semester Honor Roll Has 223 Students

According to Mr. L. C. McMillan, College Registrar, 223 persons achieved a minimum average of "B." Listed on the honor roll for the first semester are forty-four freshmen, forty sophomores, fifty-six juniors, seventy-five seniors, and eight special students. Those persons making all "A's" are: June M. Felton, senior, Biology; Cleve-

English Institute Scheduled For March 9, 1957

"Operations English: Improved Techniques — Improved Products" is the theme of the fourth annual English Institute which will be held Saturday, March 9, at Prairie View A. & M. College under the sponsorship of the Department of English.

Emphasis this year will be placed upon instruction techniques employing audio-visual aids which English and speech teachers may use as a means of assisting their students to communicate (reading, writing, speaking, listening) not only effectively but with some

measure of artistry. Dr. Hugh Gloster, chairman, Communications Center at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, will be the keynote speaker.

Other features and activities will include teaching demonstrations by state consultants and expert teachers, choral speaking, exhibits, and a panel-forum.

Persons desiring full particulars regarding the institute should write Dr. Anne L. Campbell, Head, Department of English, Prairie A. & M. College, Prairie View, Texas.

Dr. Faulkner Challenges Students In Honors Day Convocation

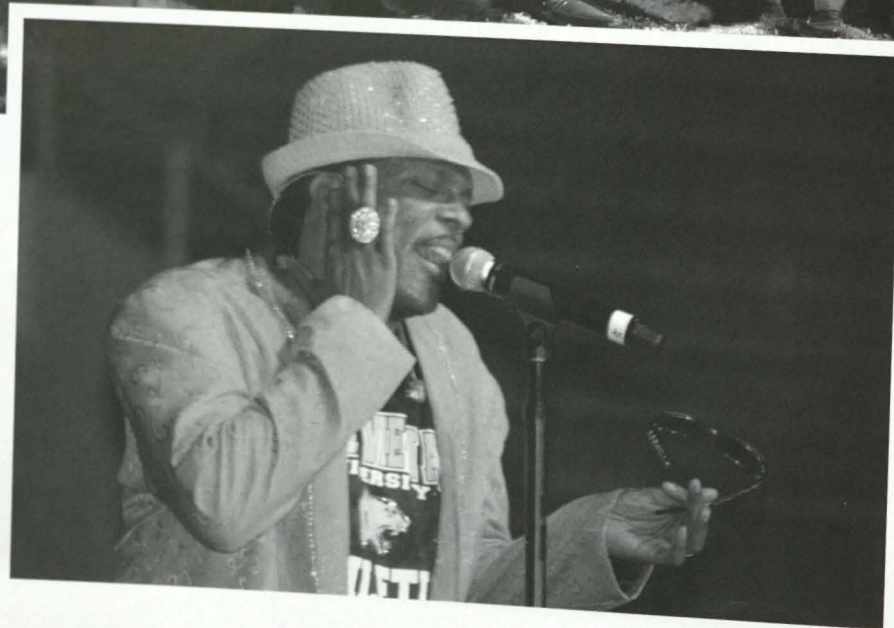
"I dare you to: grow tall; think tall; smile tall; live tall" was the subject of Dr. William J. Faulkner's address at the Third Annual Honors Day Convocation Wednesday, February 13, 1957.

In his address, the speaker pointed out the necessity of developing good bodies, good minds, and pleasing personalities. He also stressed the importance of developing oneself spiritually. "You are the exceptional people of America" stated Dr. Faulkner.

The students were challenged to consort with great minds, good books.

Dr. Faulkner placed much emphasis on the spiritual element. He challenged the student body to match wits with God's. "Once the human spirit establishes communication with God," stated Dr. Faulkner, "he lives tall." The speaker pointed out in his address that to race with God is to be blessed with power unbelievable.

Expressing both strong emotion and some striking and stimulating points, Dr. Faulkner proved to be a dynamic speaker. And if the audience's response was any indication, this truly was one of the most astounding speeches of the year. Certainly it was one of the



Above: The Class of 1960 presents their donation to President Wright (left) and National Alumni Association President Lynn Morris. Each year the Golden Anniversary Class commemorates their time on "the hill" through fundraising.

Left: Grammy-nominated Charlie Wilson performs at the 2009 homecoming concert. In addition to the football game, homecoming events include performances, tailgating, and other activities.

Prairie View's sense of community has always been informed by extensive faculty and staff participation in student life. For many students, Prairie View's faculty and staff became surrogate parents, helping to develop and nurture their habits, ethics, and professionalism. Faculty were in charge and had the final say on social activities like club events; they were treated with a degree of respect and deference and even sometimes had a tendency toward authoritarian dictates. Indeed, the close student-teacher relationship helps explain why successive generations of alumni have entrusted their children to Prairie View,

Students can work on *The Panther*, the official student newspaper, or *The Pantherland* yearbook staff to inform their classmates about campus events. *The Prairie View Standard*, which was begun in the early 1900s, was succeeded by *The Panther*, which students read for information on important student activities and traditions like Pantherday, Hump Day, and Slab of the Week.



Traditionally, many faculty lived on campus and even dined with the students. In the early 1900s, one could walk into the dining hall and see 700 students dining alongside their professors. Students and faculty were seated fourteen to a table and, in a few instances, at the same table.

making them feel comfortable in an unfamiliar place. Teachers are seen as role models because they set a standard of excellence, which students then strive to emulate. Students seek out their teachers for advice, guidance, a listening ear, or just a friend. Students learn from them the value of an education and what is expected of them to succeed in life.

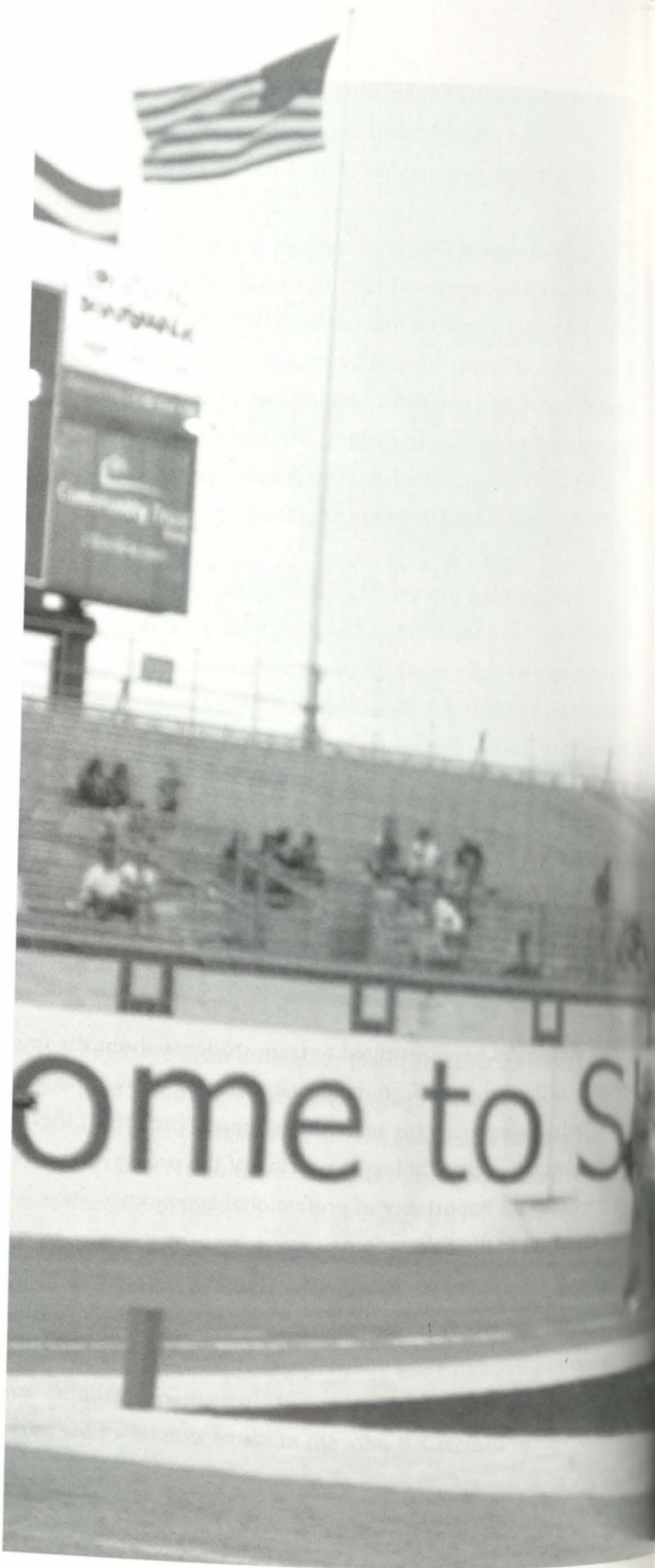
In the early 1900s, the closeness of student-faculty life could be illustrated by the affectionately named "Diaper Row," which was a stretch of faculty housing (near today's School of Architecture building) where students passing by could see the professors' laundry hanging from their yards. Landis Jones, who grew up on "Diaper Row" and who now works in the John B. Coleman Library, said,

"Living on campus was like any other neighborhood but better because it gave you insight of what you could be. Your neighbors had doctorates and were teachers or something else to be proud of. They had respectable jobs and had stature which gave you a dream worth dreaming for."

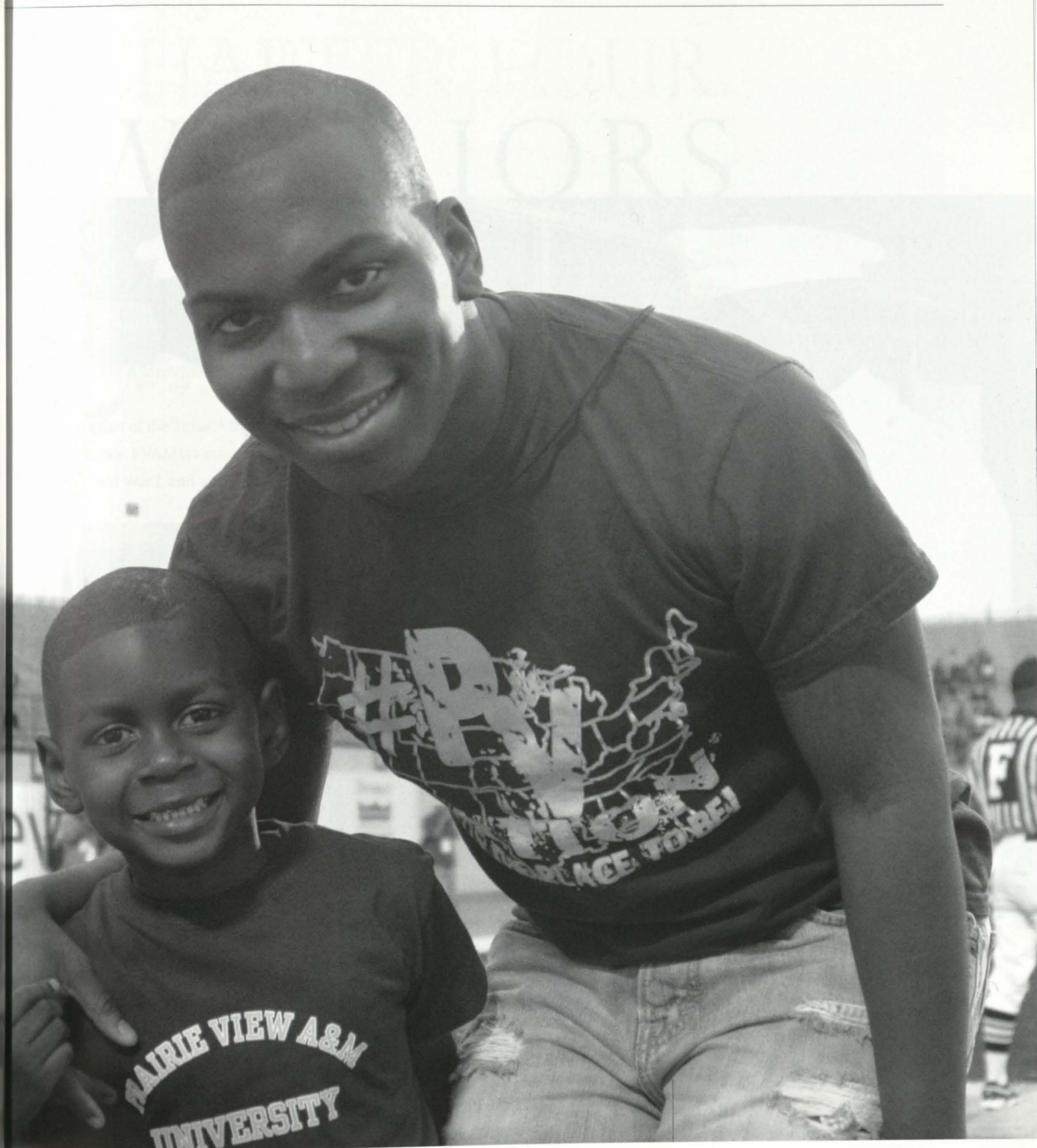
A discussion of student life and traditions at Prairie View would be incomplete without commenting on the important religious and spiritual aspects of the campus. Of course, the church has played a seminal role in the development of the African American community and its importance at Prairie View is no exception. Religious observance permeated nearly every aspect of student life: mandatory attendance at church services twice a week, saying grace at family-style meals, Bible verses quoted in the student papers, and myriad religious social clubs made for a pervasive spiritual component on campus. Indeed, this spiritual focus was a main reason why parents felt safe in sending their child to Prairie View.

Not all traditions last forever. Mandatory attendance at church services, family-style student-faculty dining, and the saying of grace before each meal have all been abandoned, and students are no longer required to obtain approval from school officials if they wish to leave the campus. The uniform dress code has also ceased to be a tradition on campus. For decades, Prairie View was a uniform-wearing institution. Men had to wear a soldier-like uniform that included dark pants, a tie, a jacket, a dress shirt, and black shoes. Women, whose required attire cost more than the men's, had to wear a Navy blue mortar cap, a plain white, easily washable waistcoat, dark underskirts, sensible underclothing, and shoes with "common sense" heels. Women were forbidden from wearing jewelry, silks, chiffons, velvets, and silk hosiery. Women's trunks could be inspected, and any offending items would be confiscated and returned to the student's family.

These dress codes were instituted to train students about the importance of proper attire. As recently as the early 1960s, students were allowed to wear jeans in the dining hall on weekends only. Today, however, as any returning alumnus can attest, there is no official dress code. But in an attempt to reclaim at least a portion of the proper-dress tradition, many faculty, keen to emphasize the importance of professional appearance, have banned students from wearing certain outfits in their classrooms.



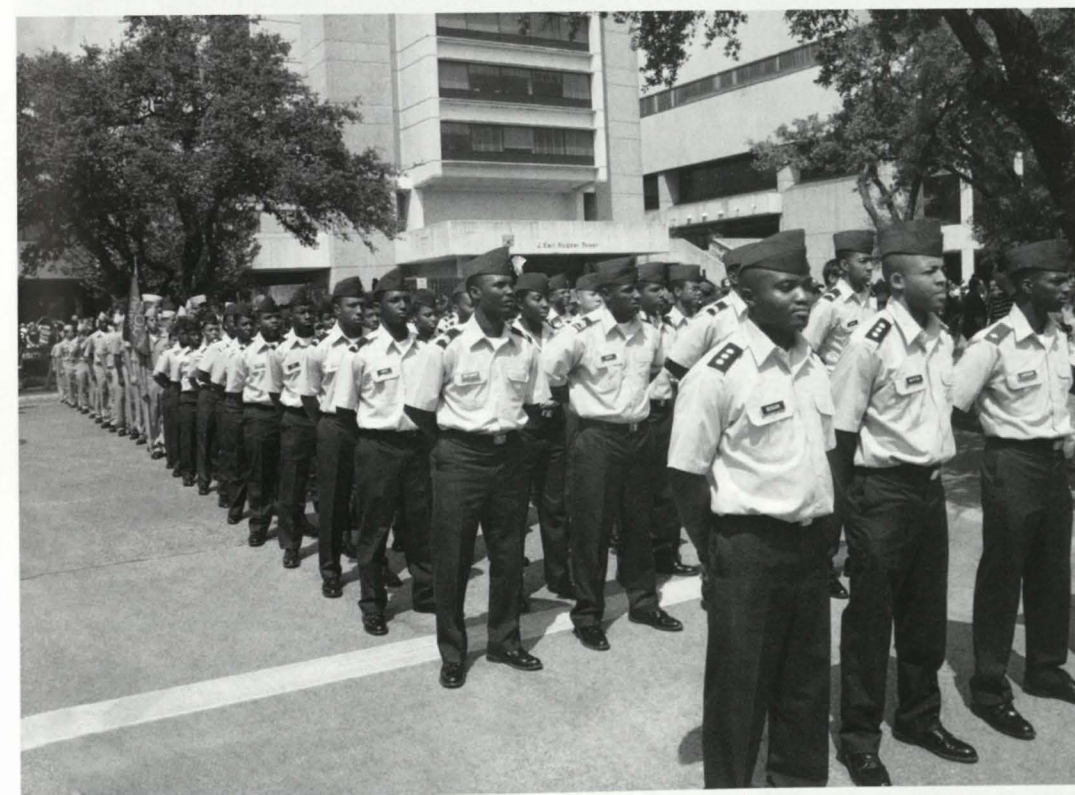
Family traditions are strong at Prairie View, where many families have sent multiple generations of students.



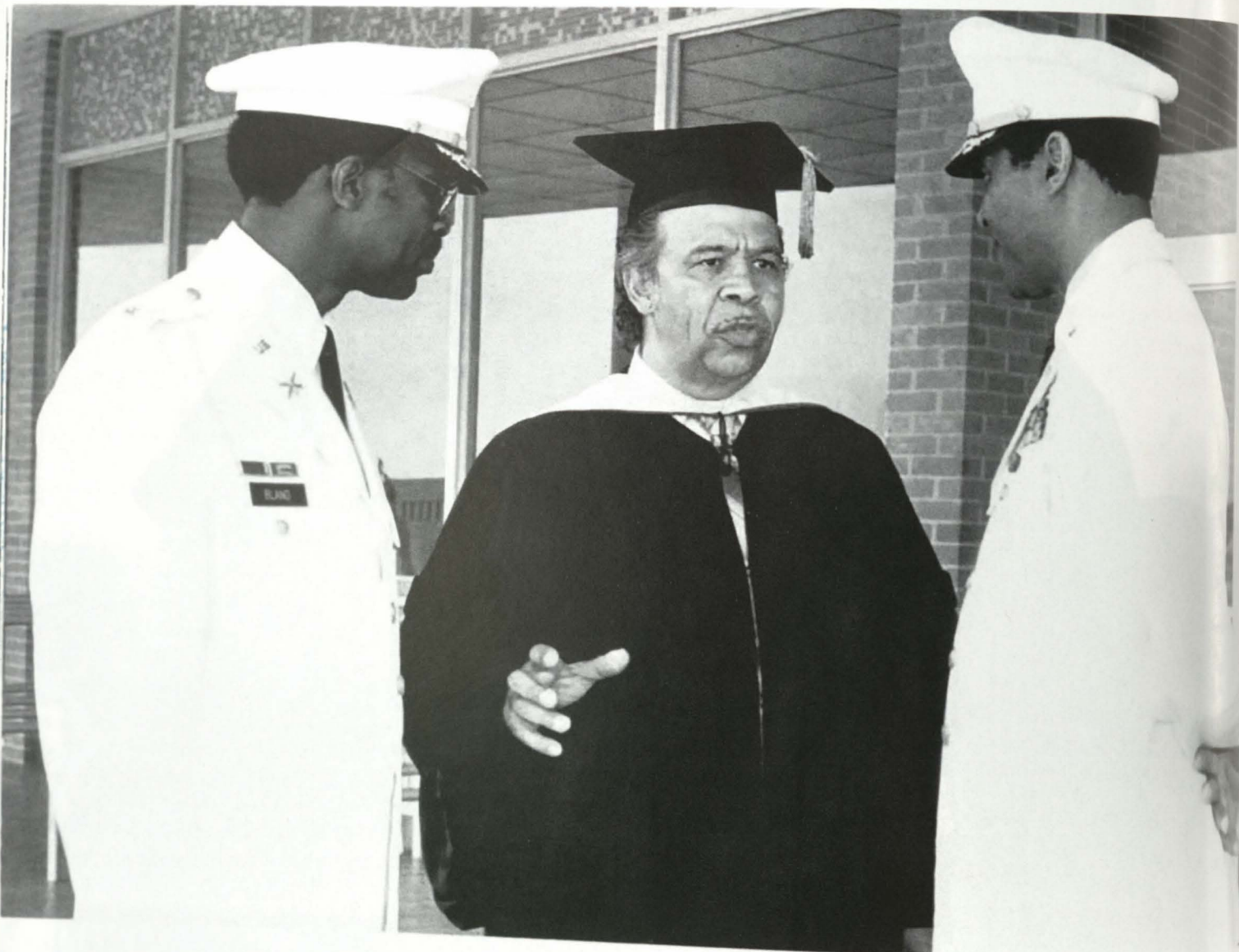
CHAPTER FOUR WARRIORS

If "Prairie View Produces Productive People," as the school's motto proclaims, then surely the Army and Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) programs at PVAMU produce productive leaders and role models. Military service at Prairie View A&M University has a long tradition, stretching back in some form or another for at least one hundred years.

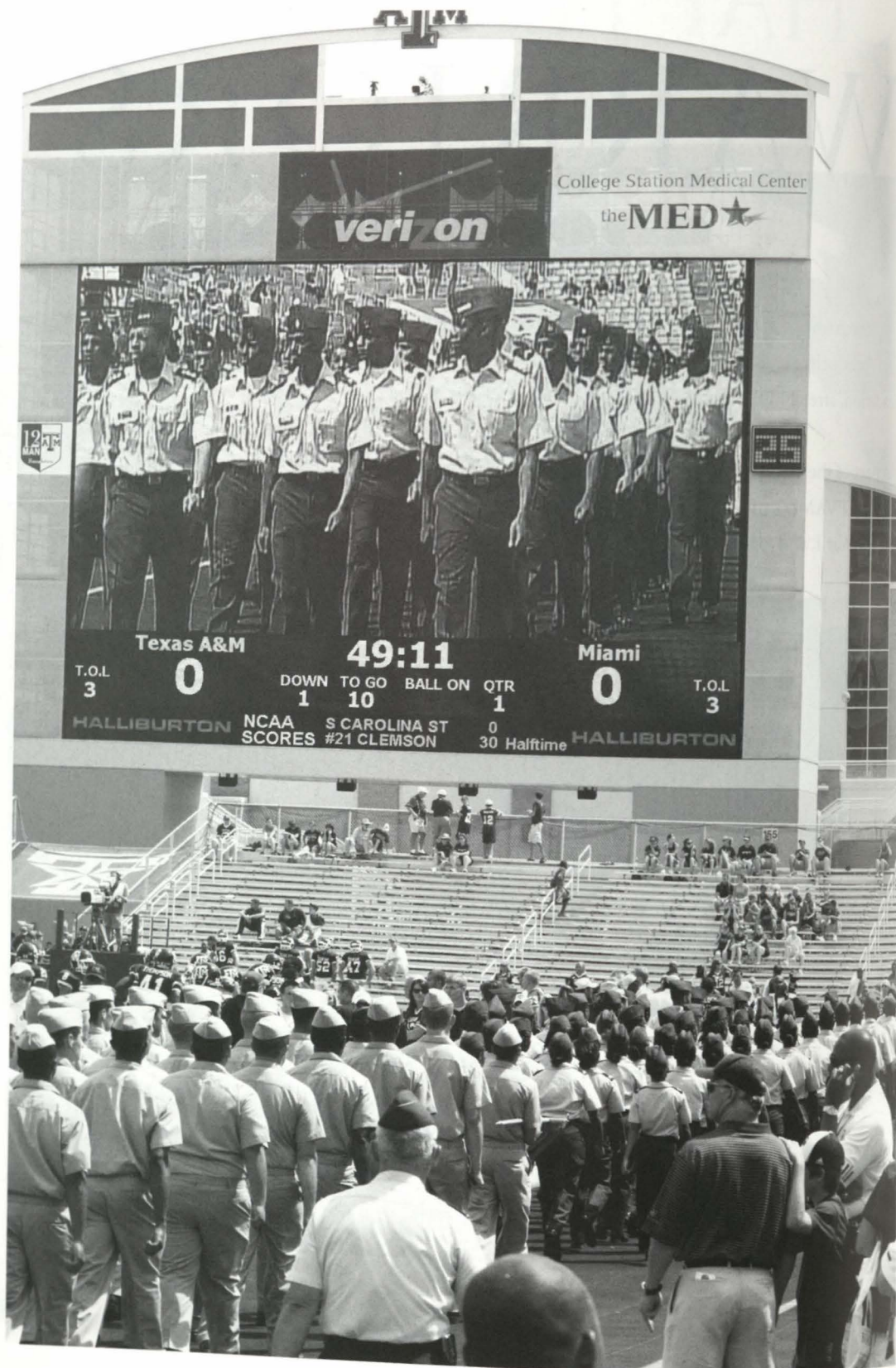
As part of the Texas A&M University (TAMU) System, which has a strong tradition of military service, PVAMU's military customs developed along lines similar to those of TAMU. Following World War I, and given the rise of the martial spirit and traditions throughout the country, the



Not only has PVAMU produced more than 1,400 Army, Navy, and Marine officers, it also has produced seven Army generals and three Navy admirals.



President Emeritus A. I. Thomas was instrumental in bringing the Navy ROTC program to Prairie View.



In 2008, Prairie View's ROTC cadets and midshipmen marched alongside the TAMU Corps of Cadets before a football game at TAMU's Kyle Field.



Dressed in uniform, today's ROTC cadets march in formation.

United States Department of War (precursor to today's Department of Defense) developed a military program for training Negro college students. At this time, both male and female students were required to wear uniforms. According to the TAMU Board Minutes of May 22, 1911, the uniform for "girl students" was to be dark blue and made into a coat suit and the uniform for "boys" was to be of the same "serviceable blue material" and "with a brown campaign hat similar to that worn in the United States Army."

After World War I ended in 1918, however, the uniform for male students was changed to olive drab to more closely reflect the uniform of U.S. Army soldiers. Around this time, Prairie View was assigned an Army Training Corps Program to train soldiers for specialized service. This program was the precursor to the Reserve Officer Training Corps programs that were officially established at Prairie View in the 1940s and 1960s. Male students at Prairie View, like those at other land-grant institutions across the United States, were required to undergo two years of mandatory military

THE SPECIAL DRILL TEAM—Pride of the Cadet Corps. J. Randolph Lee, CO (in foreground)
Cadet Capt. Willie Hicks, Guidon Bearer.

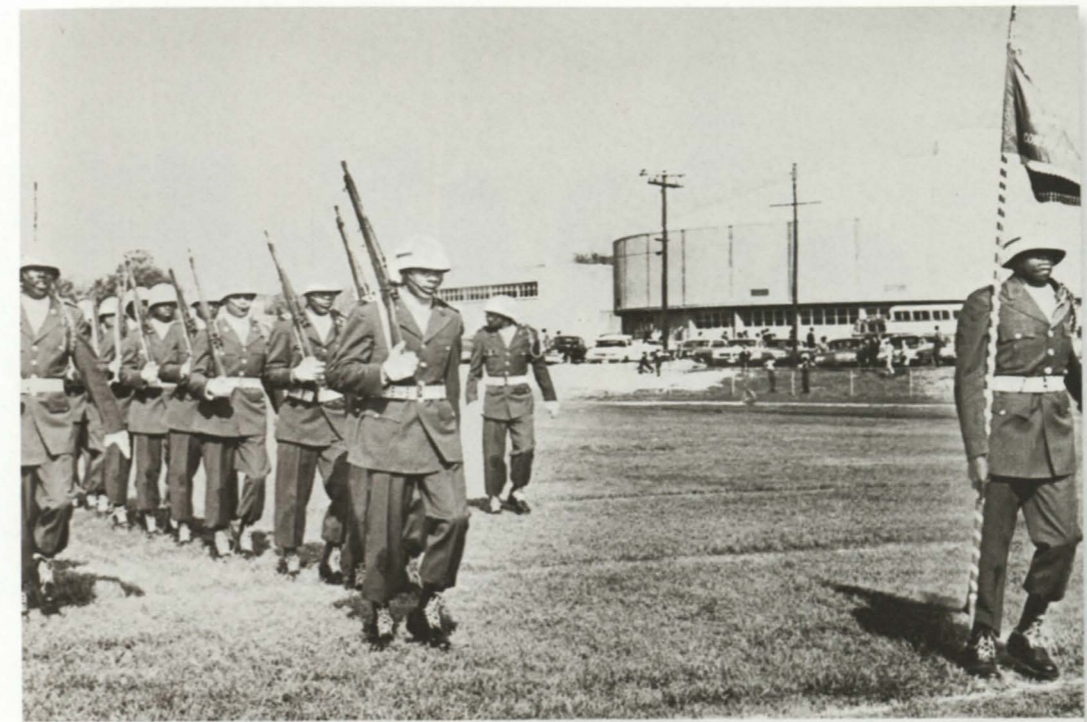


The AROTC's mission is to prepare college students for professional careers as United States Army officers for service on active duty or in the Reserves and to offer a dependable support group to help students transition to campus life and to assist them through their college career.

training. Failure to complete the two years could result in the student being required to reimburse the University for funds spent on the student's education or being called to active military duty as an enlisted man. Through its initial Army Training Corps Program, and under the command of Major Butler, a descendant of Benjamin Franklin, Prairie View developed strong martial traditions and a strong, lasting relationship with the military. Three teachers and thirteen students went to Howard University to enroll in the first training program. Upon returning from this six-week program, the faculty established the Student Army Training Corps Program for male students, which continued until the start of World War II (1939–1945). Several of the students who attended the training at Howard returned there after graduating from Prairie View to study for advanced degrees in medicine and dentistry.

In 1942, the military established the Army Specialized Training Program at Prairie View, which taught military science with a specialization in infantry tactics. In 1943, the Army Specialized Training Program was replaced by the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps Program, which was designated a Senior Division Unit, Infantry Branch, making it the first such unit housed at an HBCU. This was in response to the military's increased needs during World War II.

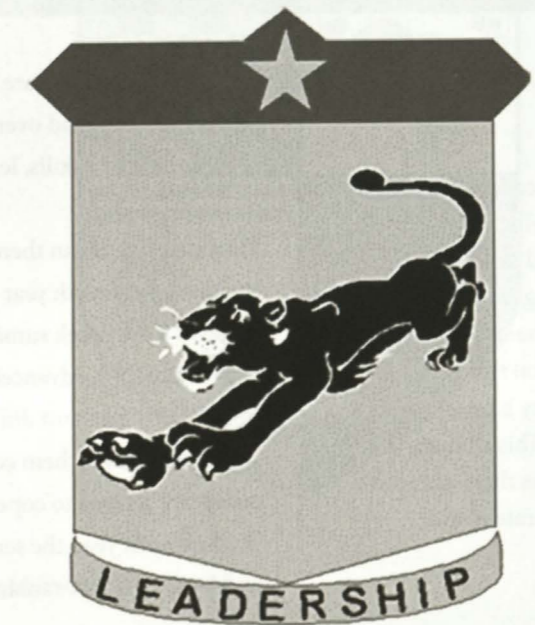
Upon completion of their Army ROTC training, cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Army Reserve. Cadets who distinguish themselves academically and in leadership positions can receive commissioned officer status in the Regular Army. The very first graduates of Prairie View's



THE FAMED PERSHING RIFLES DRILL TEAM

“Panther Battalion” were commissioned at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1947. Since then, PVAMU graduates have earned commissions in the Combat Arms Branches of Aviation, Air Defense Artillery, Field Artillery, Infantry, and Armor; the Combat Support Branches of the Corps of Engineers, Military Intelligence, Military Police, and Signals Corps; and the Service Support Branches of the Finance Corps, Ordnance Corps, Transportation Corps, Medical Service Corps, and Adjutant General.

The first and second year of training of Army ROTC covers the basic course. The first year teaches the fundamentals of becoming an



The National Society of Pershing Rifles at Prairie View serves to promote military and social activities for the college's Army ROTC program.

The Prairie View Army ROTC logo.



Above left: Range firing at ROTC summer camp, Fort Hood, Texas.

Above right: Fourth-year cadets receive practical training in applying their leadership and managerial skills as they plan and schedule training exercises for lower-ranking cadets in the basic course and put into practice the critical thinking and problem-solving skills they have learned in the previous three years. This training and practical experience makes them attractive to employers in the corporate world.



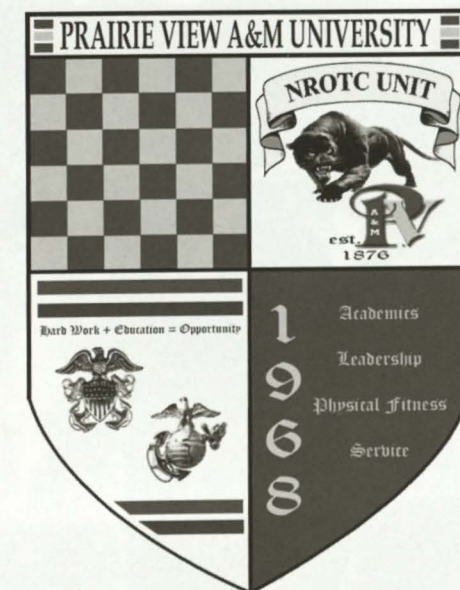
Army officer. Cadets are taught basic Army structure, an Army officer's responsibilities, and overall leadership skills. The second year teaches specific military skills, leadership, ethics, and the like.

Qualified cadets can then apply for the advanced course, which covers the third and fourth year of instruction. The advanced course also involves a five-week summer training course, which emphasizes ethics, professionalism, advanced managerial skills, and leadership tactics. The third year is the most difficult and challenging: cadets have said this year sometimes leaves them cold, hungry, smelly, and sleep-deprived. But the cadets are trained to cope with these intense physical and mental challenges. By the fourth year, the senior cadets are essentially in charge of the program and lead the lower-ranking cadets in field training and exercises.



Col. Wallace (Ret.), with Mr. and Miss Prairie View Malcolm Copeland and Tiffany C. Ward, during his 2010 campus visit.

Lt. Col. Lonnie Huff, who graduated from Prairie View in 1949, said he patterned his own leadership style after Capt. WeJay Bundara, the renowned professor of military science and tactics. Huff said that Bundara "was everything that I wanted to become" and that everything he was taught in his ROTC courses at Prairie View contributed to his successes later in life. And Col. James Wallace (Ret.), Class of 1957, said his professor of military science, the legendary and "brilliant" Dr. Hyman Chase, influenced Wallace tremendously and taught him that officers "don't lie, cheat, or steal," and that they conduct themselves with utmost respect and discipline. "Those values," said Wallace, "made me into the officer that I became." Col. Wallace remembers that he learned how to assemble and disassemble his weapon blindfolded so that he would know his weapon inside and out no matter the conditions.



The Prairie View Navy ROTC logo.

The Navy ROTC's mission at Prairie View is "to develop midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to commission college graduates as officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the naval service, and have the potential for future development in mind and character so they can assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government."

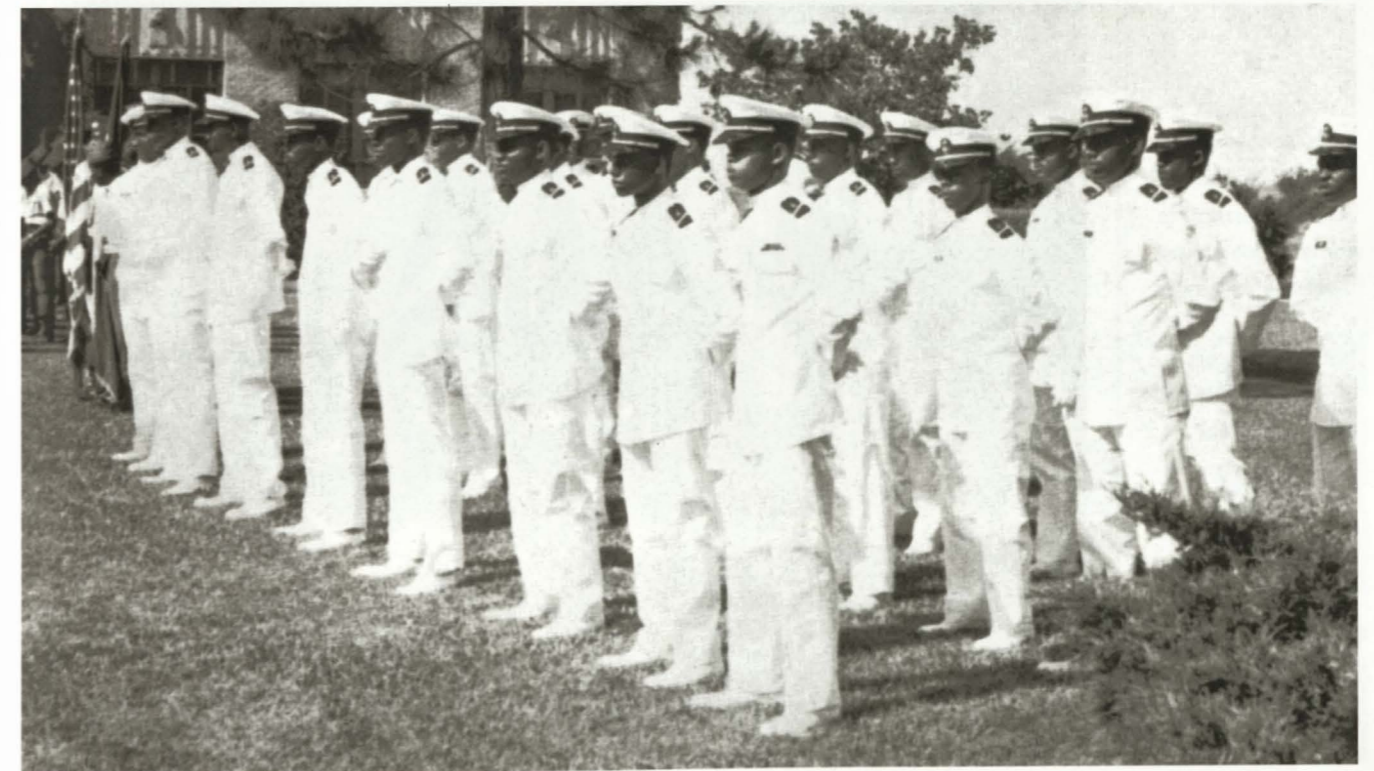
Prairie View was the first HBCU to house both Army and Navy ROTC programs simultaneously.



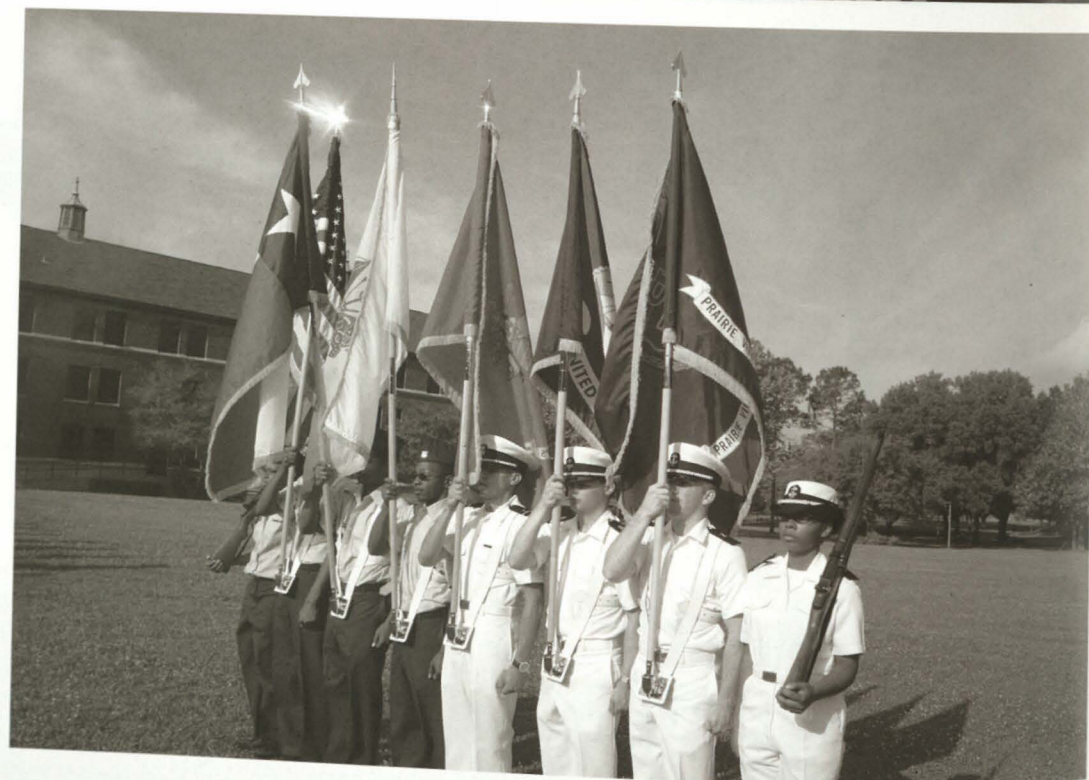
In the late 1960s, the U.S. Navy reached an agreement with Prairie View to establish a Navy ROTC program, making Prairie View the very first HBCU to establish a Navy training program. Since the Navy needed highly skilled and technically proficient sailors, the Navy chose Prairie View on the strength and renown of its engineering program. With the establishment of this unit and its 1992 admission to the Naval ROTC Houston Consortium, college students in the Greater Houston region no longer had to leave the area to receive Navy and Marine Corps training. Now aspiring university men and women in the Texas Gulf Coast region can obtain the benefits of advanced technical training in the Naval and Marine Sciences on Prairie View's campus.

In the interest of promoting diversity in the Navy, the U.S. Navy's Chief of Operations instituted a program designed to recruit motivated and qualified students from HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions. As such, all Navy ROTC officers are admitted as recipients of various scholarships. The Navy ROTC program at Prairie View is rigorous, requiring that midshipmen take nineteen to twenty-two hours of credit each semester (plus additional training in summer school) in order to graduate in the required time. Upon successfully completing the training, qualified Navy ROTC officers are commissioned as ensigns in the U.S. Navy or second lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

NROTC class pictured in the early part of the school year.



Cadets and midshipmen dress in uniform on the days they attend ROTC classes and at important events, such as convocations and graduations. Here, Kendra Bellamy is commissioned a first lieutenant at the fall 2010 commencement.



NROTC officers along with AROTC officers present the colors at many Prairie View A&M University functions.

While Navy ROTC does not have as long a tradition at Prairie View as the Army ROTC, the Navy ROTC program quickly distinguished itself with important milestones and achievements. In 1971, 2nd Lt. Lawrence Perea became the first Latino from Prairie View to be commissioned. In 1973, Ensign Lindsay Penson became the first female Prairie View graduate to be commissioned an officer in the Navy. In 1981, 2nd Lt. Vinca A. Dixon became the first Prairie View woman commissioned in the Marines. And in 1978, Lafayette Carol became the first female Prairie View graduate to be appointed Battalion Commander. In 2002, Navy ROTC graduate Frank D. Jackson was elected mayor of the City of Prairie View, and that same year, then-Ensign Kirkland Matthews was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism for saving a sailor from drowning.

Today, ROTC officers at Prairie View carry on many traditions that have been handed down to them through the decades. Foremost among these traditions is the intense *esprit de corps* that develops among them after spending so much time together, often in intense and stressful situations. The Military Dining In for Cadets is a tradition that occurs every fall semester, and the Military Ball is held for ROTC officers each spring semester. Select ROTC officers also perform with the color guard at important Prairie View functions such as homecoming, academic convocation, and commencement. And for years, they have energized Prairie View's football fans by firing off a ceremonial cannon each time the team scores.

ROTC officers are taught to "lead from the front," to stand out among other student leaders by making sacrifices and leading by example. They engage in rigorous physical and mental training that teaches them leadership, critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and confident decision-making under stress.

ROTC officers have even started their own traditions. Lt. Col. Diana Lynn Jones, a 1969 graduate, helped create Prairie View's first-ever women's drill team, the "Pershing Riflettes," to promote

The presence of women in ROTC at Prairie View has grown considerably over the decades.



women's participation and success in Prairie View's ROTC programs. In the 1970s, only 3.3 percent of commissioned officers were female. By the 1980s, 22 percent were female, and by the 1990s, the figure had risen to 27 percent. Even now, women continue to advance in PVAMU's ROTC programs.

But other traditions have fallen out of favor. Perhaps the most notable of these is the cancellation of the requirement that all male students at Prairie View complete a two-year mandatory military training program. This not only occurred at Prairie View but nationally as well. Dr. Ivory Nelson, then acting president, ended this requirement in 1982. Some of the cadets in today's ROTC programs lament the passing of this tradition because, they observe, today's students have "lost some of the discipline" that the military requirement instilled in them. Until the 1970s, ROTC officers marched around campus in tight formations on "Lab Day," which gave other students a chance to see the training and discipline that is required of ROTC officers. Col. Wallace remembers the proud feelings it gave him when he would issue commands on these marches and the entire unit would respond in unison; that training helped him immensely when he commanded a real battalion in the Regular Army.

Indeed, the more than 1,400 Prairie View graduates who have been commissioned officers in the U.S. military have reaped great benefits from the program. Former president E. B. Evans called the ROTC program "one of the most important programs" at Prairie View, given the many benefits that have accrued to its cadets and midshipmen. Moreover, for many African Americans born into the segregated South, Prairie View was not only economical but also the only place a poor African American could attend. Prior to the civil rights movement, many African American college students

perceived the military as one of the few institutions in the United States where race was not an absolute barrier to advancement. This is confirmed by the growth in Prairie View's ROTC enrollment in the 1950s; that decade resulted in more commissioned officers than any other. This growth is attributed to President Harry Truman's historic executive order in 1948 that led to the desegregation of the military. While unwritten codes of discrimination limited black officers' chances to qualify for promotions, it was often Prairie View graduates who led the way in breaking down those barriers for all blacks in the military and, by extension, throughout society.

While PVAMU's ROTC programs have provided countless benefits to its graduates, these same officers have distinguished themselves

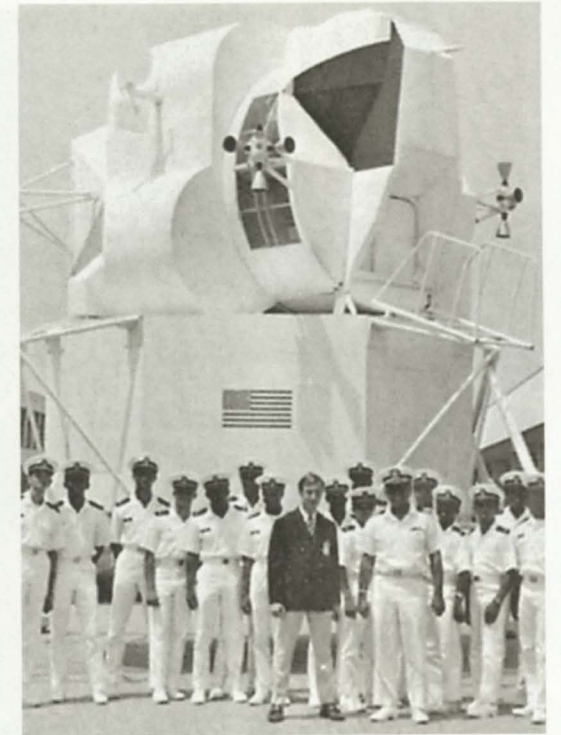
The NROTC program takes part in many popular campus activities, such as the homecoming Parade.



through exemplary service to their country, some even paying the ultimate price in so doing. 1st Lt. William D. Ware, who was among the first commissioned officers from Prairie View, was killed in action on the battlefields of Korea and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for Extraordinary Heroism in 1951.

Many other Prairie View officers received honors for service to their country, including William Farris and Thomas Burton, who were also killed in action in Korea.

Hundreds of graduates from Prairie View's ROTC programs who served with distinction in the military have also gone on to lead productive lives as engineers, police chiefs, educators, dentists, coaches, professors, doctors, government service executives, air traffic controllers, foreign service officers, ministers, corporate executives, and elected officials. One such graduate is Clemon H. Wesley, Jr., Class of 1957. The oldest son of six children of sharecroppers, Wesley, Jr. grew up poor and with few African American role models beyond the



Above: Prairie View A&M University cadets participate in the NSI summer NASA tour of 1969.



Left: The Army ROTC building on Prairie View's campus is named after Lt. Ware and Maj. Melvin G. Burleson, who was killed in a plane crash during a Reserve Flight Training Mission in 1966.



Clemon H. Wesley, Jr., founder of TEXCOM, Inc., which specializes in electronics and information systems. TEXCOM, Inc. has been listed in *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the largest black-owned businesses in the country, with revenues of more than \$30 million.

economic success. In 2007, Col. Wesley sought to give back to Prairie View in the form of the Wesley Endowed Lecture Series in honor of his late wife, the former Modestine Delores Truvillion, whom he met at Prairie View while she was studying nursing.

But perhaps some of the most notable contributions Prairie View has made to the military services are those made by the graduates who achieved general rank in the U.S. Army and Navy. The 1950s were the golden decade of service for Prairie View ROTC officers as more Prairie View officers were commissioned in that decade than in any other. That decade of graduates has also produced the most Army generals.

Major General Julius Parker (Ret.), who graduated from Prairie View in 1955 with dual degrees in biology and chemistry, served in the Army for more than twenty years. Born in New Braunfels, Texas, in 1935, General Parker became one of only three African Americans in the Military Intelligence Branch of the Army to attain the rank of general. General Parker earned many honors and awards in the military, among them the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

The second Prairie View cadet to become a general was Brigadier General Johnnie Forte, Jr. (Ret.), who earned a B.A. in Political Science from Prairie View in 1956. Forte was born in New Boston, Texas, in 1936. His postings include Battalion Commander for the Fourth Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, and Brigade Commander for the Eighth Infantry Division, Germany. Among the

farmers, laborers, servants, and preachers he met. But his military and academic training at Prairie View, together with his service in the military, opened new opportunities to him. As a specialist in the Signals Corps responsible for training others in electronic intelligence, he adopted training techniques he had learned at Prairie View by pairing high-performing individuals with lower-performing individuals, thus ensuring everyone's success. In 1981, after twenty-two years in the Army, Wesley, Jr. retired a full colonel at age forty-five. In his 2007 golden anniversary address to the Class of 1957 at the National Alumni Homecoming Dinner, Wesley said, "I proudly proclaim to the heavens that the education I received at Prairie View propelled me" to



To: The Officers, NCO's and Cadets, Prairie View AFM University,
 Always set your sights high and execute all endeavors with the best efforts your heart, mind and soul have to offer and the world will beat a path to your door.
 Be all you can be ---
 Always Out Front.
 Julius Parker
 MG US ARMY
 CG USAICS
 Chief, MI Corps

In 1979, Parker became the first Prairie View cadet to be promoted to general.



General Forte served thirty-one years on active duty in the United States, Korea, Vietnam, and Germany.

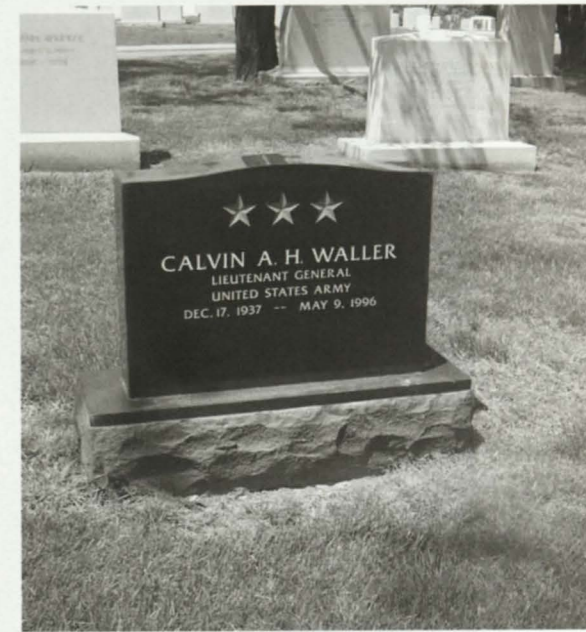
General Waller served in Operation Desert Storm as General Norman Schwarzkopf's deputy commander-in-chief of operations. According to an obituary in a British newspaper, his calm leadership was "almost as important to victory" as either General Colin Powell or Schwarzkopf. General Waller also saw combat in Vietnam. Among his many awards and honors are the Defense

many military honors and awards General Forte received include the Legion of Merit, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Defense Superior Service Medal. After retirement from the Army in 1987, General Forte served as assistant superintendent for general services of the Fairfax County Schools, one of the largest school systems in the country at the time.

Calvin A. H. Waller was born in 1937 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and graduated from Prairie View with a B.S. in Agriculture. After more than thirty years of service in the U.S. Army, Waller earned his third star to become a lieutenant general. Perhaps because of his own poor background in the Deep South, General Waller "combined deep patriotic loyalty to the United States with a strong sense of the sensitiveness of black soldiers and non-commissioned officers." While serving as battalion commander on a cold Thanksgiving Day in Fort Carson, Colorado, Waller drove around in a Jeep handing out turkey sandwiches to soldiers on guard duty.



Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. General Waller is the grandson of Calvin A. Waller, who was the first African American to earn a college degree from Pennsylvania State University and later became a popular professor of agriculture at Prairie View in the 1920s and 1930s and has a building on campus named in his honor.



General Waller's tombstone at the Arlington National Cemetery marks his final resting place. Upon his death in 1996, President William Clinton said, "His rise from humble beginnings to one of the highest-ranking African American officers in the U.S. military through stalwart determination and a record of excellence served as an inspiration to minority and non-minority officers."



The last Prairie View graduate from the 1950s to attain general rank is Lieutenant General Marvin D. Brailsford (Ret.). Born in Burkeville, Texas, in 1939, Brailsford graduated from Prairie View with a B.S. in Biology in 1959 and then received a master's degree in bacteriology from Iowa State University and advanced training in the Executive Program at the Graduate School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. He also earned an advanced degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and several honorary doctorates. General Brailsford served in the Army for thirty-three years culminating that service as Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. In that critical role, he coordinated logistics supplies, storage, and weapons distribution during operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. After his retirement from the Army, he was president of Metters Industries, formed his own company, the Brailsford Group Inc., in 1996, and served as vice president of Kaiser-Hill Company. General Brailsford is a recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service



Above left: A 1959 graduate of Prairie View A&M University, General Brailsford received many honors during his military career.

Left: General Brailsford was instrumental in the success of Prairie View's first-ever capital fundraising campaign, helping the University raise more than \$30 million in donations and pledges. His and his wife June's exemplary service to the University was recognized in 2008 when Prairie View held a naming ceremony in their honor dedicating the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences.

Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Lieutenant General Julius Becton, Jr. (Ret.) was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1926 to a mother who was a housekeeper and laundress and a father who served as head janitor in the apartment building in which the family lived. While his father never finished elementary school and his mother attended only until the tenth grade, the Becton family emphasized the value of education. Before he came to Prairie View, Becton had already attended Officer Candidate School, attained the rank of captain in the U.S. Army by age nineteen, and led men into battle in the Korean War. But Becton knew that he needed a college degree if he wanted to advance farther in his career. In 1957, he enrolled in Prairie View to study math while also serving as a captain in Prairie View's Military Science Department. Becton's dual roles as student and instructor made for interesting interactions on campus.

At one point, his commanding officer refused to allow him to work and go to school at the same time, but this issue was resolved as it became clear that Becton could perform well in both roles.



In reminiscing about his family's time at Prairie View, General Becton says, "We got a lot out of our three years at Prairie View. [My daughters] had their first true black experience since the community was entirely African American. I had the opportunity to select some truly outstanding future Army officers, including two, Calvin A. H. Waller and Marvin D. Brailsford, who went on to become lieutenant generals. And [my wife] Louise received her B.S. in Nursing Education in 1959... receiving straight As."



General Becton has been listed on more than one occasion as one of *Ebony's* one hundred most influential blacks in America. Shown in action here, Becton was a true leader.

When Becton graduated in 1960, the University registrar announced that he was the five-thousandth student to receive a bachelor's degree at Prairie View. After that, Becton earned his master's degree in economics from the University of Maryland. Although he was never an ROTC cadet, Becton became the first Prairie View graduate to be promoted to general in the U.S. Army. Becton's nearly forty years of exemplary service in the Army propelled him to the second-highest peacetime rank when he attained his third star as lieutenant general in 1978 in order to assume command of the largest combat corps in the Army, VIII U.S. Corps in Europe. Becton earned many honors and awards during his military career, including two Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

After retiring from active duty in the Army, Becton embarked on a distinguished second career in education and civilian government service. From 1984 to 1985, he served as director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in the U.S. Agency for International Development. He also served as director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency from 1985 to 1989, and from 1989 to 1995 Becton returned to Prairie View to become the first alumnus to serve as its president. In 1996, Becton served as chief executive officer and superintendent of the Washington, D.C. public school system, during which time his administration revamped the school system's crumbling infrastructure.

Lieutenant General Billy K. Solomon (Ret.), who was born in 1944 in Fairfield, Texas, graduated from Prairie View in 1966 with a degree in agriculture education. A specialist in logistics and supplies, General Solomon's postings during more than thirty years in the Army include Commanding General, Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, Virginia, and Deputy Commanding General for Combined Arms Support. In the latter role, he led the development of Army doctrine, training, material, and IT requirements for the Combat Service Support Branches. Upon retiring from the Army, Solomon served as president and chief operating officer of Metters Industries, Inc. He then became vice president and director of Integrated Logistics Systems Support Programs for Systems Research and Applications International, Inc. Solomon received many awards while serving in the Army, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Award, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star.



General Solomon served as a specialist in logistics and supplies.

Major General James A. Cheatham (Ret.) was born in Jasper, Texas, and earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Prairie View in 1971. He has served as commander of various engineering battalions and brigades. Most recently, he has served as the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Assistant Deputy Commanding General for Reserve Affairs. Maj. General Cheatham's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. In his civilian career, Cheatham has served as the director of the Office of Planning with the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C.



While Prairie View's Navy ROTC program is much younger than its Army ROTC program, it has produced three naval flag officers. Vice Admiral David L. Brewer III (Ret.) was a member of Prairie View's very first Naval ROTC class of 1970. Born in 1946 in Farmville, Virginia, Admiral Brewer had a naval career highlighted by several commands at sea and ashore. He commanded the U.S.S. *Bristol County*, a tank landing ship that earned several battle efficiency awards under Brewer's command. He also commanded the U.S.S. *Mount Whitney*. Brewer served as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in the Marianas and also in Guam. In 2001, Brewer assumed command of the Military Sealift Command, which operates 124 ships and numerous shore facilities around the world and employs more than 8,000 people worldwide. Adm. Brewer's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Rear Admiral Osie V. Combs, Jr. (Ret.) graduated from Prairie View with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1971. While at Prairie View, Combs won the award for outstanding engineering graduate. He also earned two separate advanced degrees, one in mechanical engineering and the other in naval architecture, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. Combs served as Deputy Commander for Logistics, Maintenance, and Industrial Operations and Deputy Commander for Submarines at Naval Sea Systems Command in Arlington, Virginia. He also worked at the Naval Sea Systems Command, where he rose to become program manager for the entire SEAWOLF-class submarine program.

During his Army career, Cheatham has served as the Deputy Chief of Engineers (Reserve Component) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and as Acting Director of Military Programs at the Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C., during the Iraq War.



Left: Upon his retirement after thirty-five years in the Navy, Brewer was named superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second-largest school district in the country.

Below: PVAMU's Navy ROTC building is named in Adm. Brewer's honor.





Among the many awards Adm. Combs has received are the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. In 1990, Adm. Combs received an award for Outstanding Engineer of the Year for Technical Excellence by the Career Communications Group.

The most recent Prairie View graduate to become a flag officer is Rear Admiral Kelvin N. Dixon, who graduated in 1981 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Dixon has held eight command tours in his career. During operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield (1990–1991), Dixon managed the movement of all military and civilian personnel throughout Kuwait and Iraq. During Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003), Dixon was responsible for protecting shipping in the Persian Gulf. Dixon's military honors include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint

Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Prairie View's military men and women embody the spirit, discipline, and leadership that set Prairie View apart from many other HBCUs. The commitment and dedication that Prairie View's ROTC programs demand help make its cadets and midshipmen among the most respected students on campus.

Upon retiring from the Navy after twenty-eight years, Combs founded and serves as president and CEO of The VITEC Group, Inc., a technology consulting and systems engineering firm.



In September 2010, Dixon became director, Coalition Naval Advisory and Training Team (Iraq).



Army Captain Ernst R. Hollow receives the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement from Lt. Col. Arthur N. Fearing, professor of military science at Prairie View. Howell, who is shown here with his family, assisted in ground operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam in 1962–1963.

CHAPTER FIVE COMPETITIONS

Early leaders at Prairie View knew that athletic competition was an effective way to instill in the minds of the Prairie View Man and the Prairie View Woman a healthy appreciation for the spirit of competition, teaching them the value of discipline and hard work while developing them as leaders.

“Down that road” leading to Alta Vista College for Colored Youth, young African American men and women carried the hopes and dreams of their families. These youths were some of the brightest and best that their respective communities had to offer—mentally astute, morally capable, and physically fit to acquire a college education. They were competitive enough to withstand many social and economic obstacles, temptations, and risks that would



This artist's 2011 rendering shows the proposed sports complex, including a 60,000-seat football stadium.



The Panther faithful cheer the football team to victory.



Since early in its history, Prairie View has used organized sports to teach the importance of rules, teamwork, and discipline while promoting physical health, social skills, and self-esteem. The Panther volleyball team is one example.

arise in the cultural milieu of college life. These same youths were required by necessity to conduct work in the fields, to manage the livestock, to till the land, and to plant the gardens that would yield food for their table. This difficult manual labor was a part of the daily grind of college life.

Although only two of Prairie View's principals or presidents had ever played sports while they were college students—Principal W. R. Banks played football at Atlanta University and President A. I. Thomas played football at Xavier—all of them knew that healthy play was needed to balance the students' physical labor as well as their academic studies. Through sports, academic lessons were strengthened and the laughter and fond memories generated from

physical and competitive play would become a part of the healthy mix of college life. Sports would serve as a crucible in which the unbreakable bonds of friendship would be forged.

Participation in competitive athletics enhanced the quality of life for the faculty and staff as well. Whether playing on the field or cheering for the Panthers from the stands, sports fashioned bonds among the entire Prairie View family that contributed to lifelong memories and a strong allegiance to the college.

Fans as well as athletes find that sporting events help forge bonds and create lasting memories.



“Football games at Blackshear Field were by far the most memorable events [but] proms and the ROTC ball were a close second.”
—Samuel Metters, Class of '57

Prairie View's first principal, L. W. Minor, was well aware of the spontaneous energy inherent in young men and sometimes expressed in less than constructive ways. He needed to find wholesome activities to exhaust this energy while simultaneously building collegiate bonds, and the organized competitive construct of sports satisfied this need. Sports would also strengthen the historical memory of the students, when they would have cause to reflect on their lives and times spent on the hills and prairies of Alta Vista. In those times set aside for leisure and sports, the students could get exercise, show off their athletic prowess, and establish a social hierarchy among themselves. Even those with latent academic abilities could, through sports, capture a bit of prestige and self-esteem.

Spontaneous sandlot baseball games soon arose, along with organized, friendly competitions against the faculty and staff, where rank and title mattered little on the playing field. Prairie

View historian George R. Woolfolk called these “hardy, unsupervised” games and remarked that football “stirred the students, then as now.” With the addition of female students in 1879, the competitive urges within the cultural environment were intensified, causing athletics to become more robust.

In 1879, Prairie View's second and third principals E. H. Anderson and his brother L. C. Anderson, graduates of Fisk University, brought the institutional memory of that storied university to Prairie View. Their experiences were proof that college life had to be a unique blend of academics, physical labor, and student activities that in large measure included sports. With the

FOOTBALL, 1925

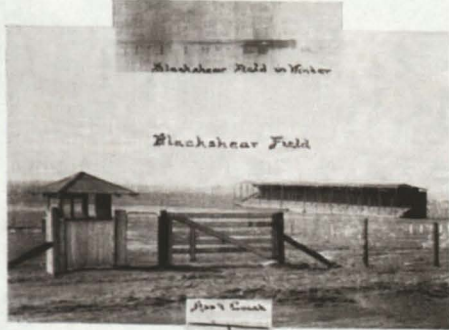
The “Panther Squall” rang loudly above the cheers of their followers throughout the season of 1925. Starting off with a bang, the season, if not for unavoidable obstacles, would have been very successful, nevertheless it was fairly good.

PANTHERS WIN FIRST PRACTICE GAME


The season opened at Blackshear Field with the Houston game on October 10th. The fearless Panthers took the Houston team in the grit of their teeth, and dragging and tossing them from one end of the gridiron to the other, decisively defeated them to a score of 29 to 0.

SECOND PRACTICE GAME IS A TRIUMPH

With their spirit high the Panthers tackled their second opponents of the season, the Southern Pacific All-Stars, in what proved to be not even a good practice. Running the entire squad in against the visitors the brand of attack taught by Coach Hucles proved too much, so the Panthers celebrated their second victory to the tune of 61 markers to 0.



Blackshear Field



Alton V. Coach

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In 1924, Prairie View's fans enjoyed watching the games from covered bleachers at Blackshear Field, the only school in the SWAC to offer this kind of shelter from the Texas sun and rain.



arrival of Professor Edward L. Blackshear as the fourth principal in 1895, intercollegiate athletics would soon become the norm at Prairie View.

Varsity athletics were officially organized in 1904, and baseball and football were the first two sports in which Prairie View players engaged. Students W. C. Rollins and A. G. Stykes served as manager and president respectively of what was then called the “Athletic Club.” With the arrival of organized sports at this time, M. B. Davis of Jacksonville, Texas, played on the very first Prairie View football team, and J. W. Sanford, who would later become president of Langston University,

Fans withstood the elements to support the Panthers in the 2009 SWAC Championship.



Above left: H. B. Hucles was the first athletic director.



Cheerleaders

Jean Robbins, Annie Proctor, Royce Pace, Joan Honore, Weldon Carter, Nellie Crayton, Shirley French, On top, Frankie Fredrick.

Above right: This picture from an old yearbook shows the PV Pep Squad.

Right: The football club of 1907 was coached by W. P. Terrell.



played quarterback. There were pep squads to cheer the players, much as cheerleading squads do today. But the students of Prairie View, whose numbers remained small in the early years, were soon bored of athletic competition among their limited student body and called upon the administration to look outside the institution for competition. Finding local football teams was a challenge, but Houston became a source that would provide semi-professional teams to challenge the college players. Finding baseball opponents was easier because local towns and communities could muster enough men to play "the boys from the hill." The Prairie View baseball team not only played other colleges in the region but also semi-pro teams from Houston, Brenham, Navasota, and Giddings. Players and coaches had to pay for off-campus trips out of their own pockets since the institution had no funds for athletics. Such events were one of the few opportunities for young men and women to spend time together, so they very much liked them, and it was considered worth it to pay the dime or quarter admission fee. In these early years, coaches for the teams were unpaid volunteers, often members of the faculty. For instance, Mr. W. P. Terrell, who was head of the Mechanical Department, was also appointed as the first football coach in 1907.

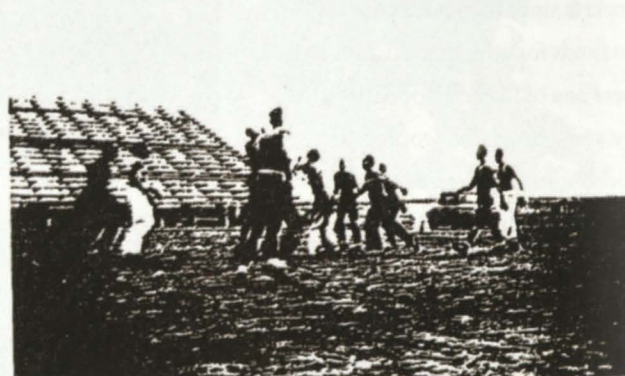


The women's basketball team was featured alongside men's football and basketball in a yearbook.

When I. M. Terrell, father of W. P. Terrell, became principal in 1915, the athletics program was strengthened and women began to partake in formal athletic competitions, including basketball and tennis.

Upon his appointment as principal in 1918, J. G. Osborne helped install sports as a major program at Prairie View, because he emphasized athletics and went by the Latin maxim *mens sana in corpore sano* (a sound mind in a sound body). Sports became more formal and blossomed as the athletic program reached new heights. Students were charged a three-dollar athletic fee, and participating in intercollegiate sports competitions helped to build school contacts as well as school spirit. Prairie View's sports teams were popular in Texas and in regional competitions as Prairie View athletes won their fair share of games in the face of stiff academic standards for participation. For instance, in the 1923–1924 season, the baseball team went 8-1 and the football team went 3-2 in conference play. Prairie View's teams would come to dominate competition among the HBCUs of the Southwest.

In 1920, representatives from the "Big Five," Prairie View, Bishop, Wiley, Samuel Houston, and Paul Quinn, met in Houston to better organize the growing intercollegiate sports programs among them. They agreed to form an athletic conference, and by the late 1920s it came to be called the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). Principal Osborne was a driving force behind the formation of this conference; today he is known as the "Father of the SWAC." Interestingly, Prairie View



Right: These 1930s photos show an outdoor basketball game on Blackshear football field.

Below: Current SWAC members include Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Alcorn State, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Grambling, Jackson State, Mississippi Valley, Southern, Texas Southern, and Prairie View, which is the lone remaining original member.



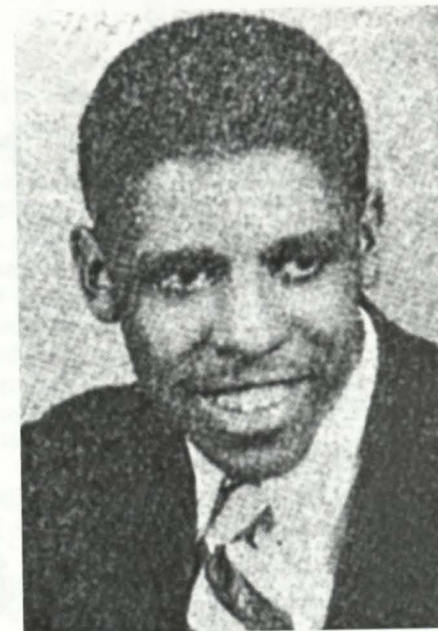
remains the only founding member that still participates in SWAC events. The SWAC organized conference schedules, established eligibility standards, set rules of play, and so on. According to Principal Evans, the SWAC was a success from the very beginning because coaches, students, and administrative officers worked together unselfishly and gave freely of their time and talents so it could grow and prosper. Rivalry between colleges was fierce, but there was little evidence of jealousy and hatred. Coaches and administrative officers worked with limited funds and learned to do much with little.

This was especially evident when it came to basketball games. Since SWAC schools lacked funds for a field house, games were played outside on dirt courts or, when the weather turned foul, inside in college dining halls where the players had to learn to dribble around the various obstacles on the playing floor.

In these early years it was difficult to find qualified officials for the games. At one time there were only three black men in the region who could officiate football games, which meant they had to travel long distances. Games were sometimes delayed more than an hour as players, fans, and coaches had to wait for the officials' arrival.

Prairie View has participated in many historic football games and bowls. Of particular interest was the 1963 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Championship, called the Camellia Bowl, which was played in Sacramento, California. Favored Prairie View lost on the game's final play to St. John's University of Collegeville, Minnesota.

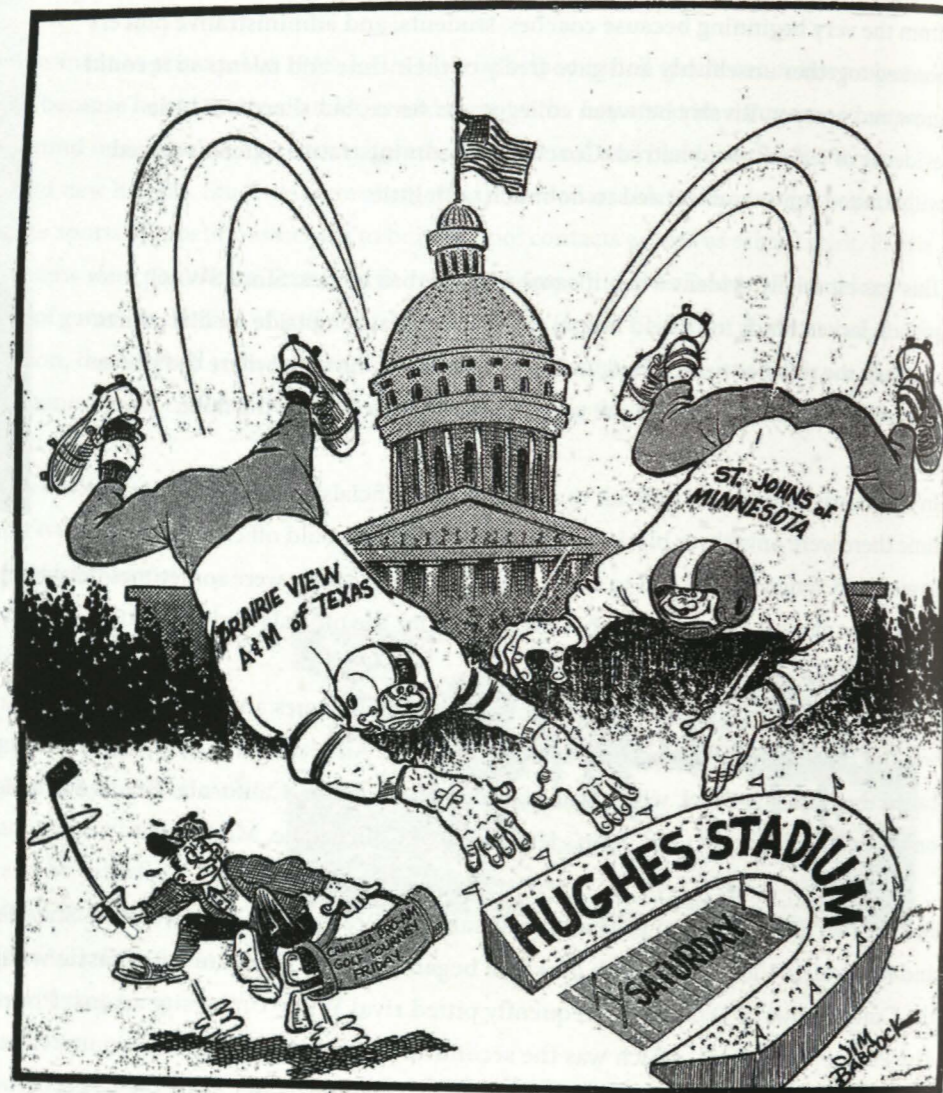
But the two bowl games of greatest importance in Prairie View lore were the State Fair Classic and the Prairie View Bowl, both of which began in 1929. The State Fair Classic was played at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and frequently pitted rival Wiley University against Prairie View. The Prairie View Bowl, which was the second-oldest bowl game in the country (after the Rose Bowl), was played on New Year's Day. At one time, these games drew the largest attendance of any black college football game in the country. The State Fair Classic was played on "Negro Day," which was a day set aside by park officials to permit African Americans the use of all facilities. It was a statewide holiday for all of the African American public schools, which meant that attendance at the game was significant. Transportation of teams, fans, and students to the game was an exciting event. Passengers were picked up by the Southern Pacific Railroad at towns all along the way and the train grew to as many as eighteen cars with between seven and eight hundred students packed in. The travel cars took on a festive air as the passengers



William B. Pollard, who played basketball from 1933–1936, was the first player from Prairie View to be named All-Conference.

The Camellia Bowl in 1963 remains the only championship football game which was entirely segregated, with St. John's being all-white and Prairie View being all-black, "right down to the water boys," according to Prairie View sports expert William Downey, who supplied this old newspaper cartoon clipping.

The Camellia Classic . . .



NEGRO ACHIEVEMENT DAY AT THE TEXAS FAIR

In keeping with the observance of the progress of the Negro from the days of his enslavement through his gradual acceptance as a valuable member of the community, the Texas Fair includes among its chief attractions, Negro Achievement Day. This year the day will be observed on October 16th and promises to set a new precedent in activities and attractions offered.

Negroes took part in the Fair on a small scale before 1928, with members of the extension department displaying exhibits. At this time there was no date designated as Negro Achievement Day. Before the annual Prairie View-Wiley games began Wiley and Langston played annually in Dal-

las. The famous Prairie View-Wiley games started 21 years ago as an idea from Prairie View. From these games Negro Achievement Day was set aside in order to draw a crowd to the game. At this first game approximately 1500 people attended. In 1949 the number had grown to approximately 4000. The fair is an educational institution and is the greatest in the nation. In order to spread the benefits to the students of the state, superintendents within a 100-mile radius of Dallas were written and encouraged to attend the affair. A number complied. Five years ago the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce under Mr. Rice began sponsoring the baby contest, parade, choir contest, declamation and other activities. The popularity of the day was spread further by the running of a special train which stopped along the way to take all passengers between Prairie View and Dallas. With the growth of attendance the train was disbanded and automobile and bus service followed.

Negro Achievement Day through its long history has grown into a day worthy of its name and the progress and the progress of the Negro during his 85 years of freedom.

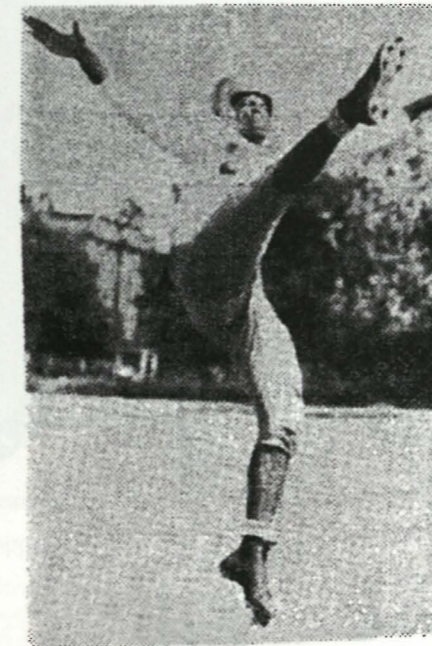
Inflation makes us do without a lot of necessities so we can buy the luxuries we can't live without

* * *

A good way to widen out the straight and narrow path would be for more people to walk on it.

* * *

Just keep busy rowing' the boat and you won't have time to rock it.



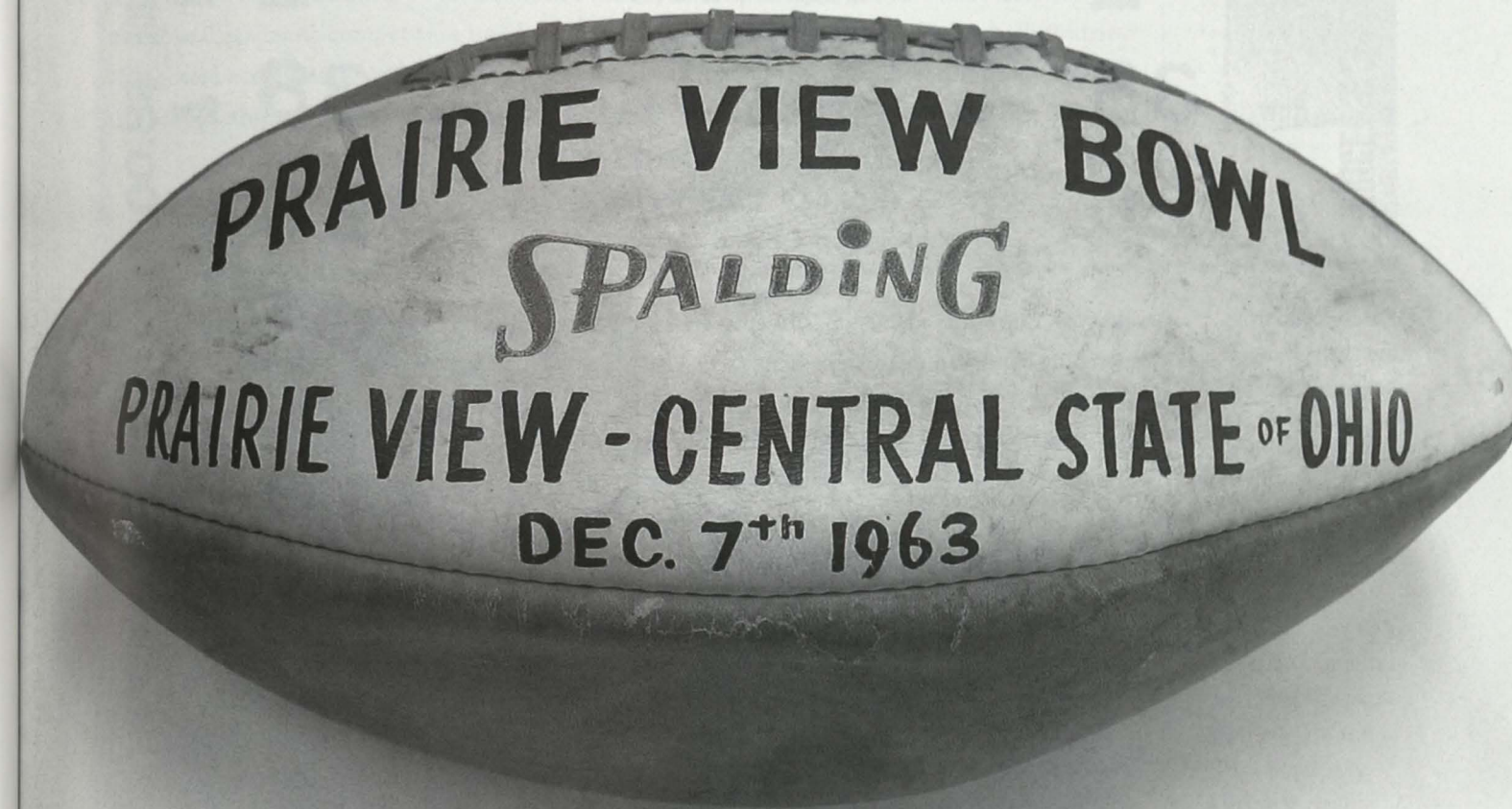
RAY "Tank" DILLON . . . one of the Southwestern conference's leading punters will be kicking that old pigskin all over the Cotton Bowl in spite of his early season shoulder injury.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M TEXAS SOUTHERN

JEPPESSEN STADIUM, HOUSTON - NOV. 19, 1966 - 8:00 P.M.



OFFICIAL PROGRAM — 25c



grew increasingly excited about the game, cheering ever more loudly for the purple and gold as the train approached its Dallas destination. The round trip fare was \$3.60, and by the time the train reached Dallas, it was typically packed with passengers in the aisles as well as the seats.

Transportation from Prairie View to Houston for the New Year's Day game was also exciting. Most of the student body and band—some 1,200 to 1,500 persons—rode the train and attended the game. The round trip fare from Prairie View to Houston was one dollar. When the game was played at the

NORTH STAND
ENTER GATE 3

ORANGE BLOSSOM CLASSIC

NORTH STAND
ENTER GATE 3
ORANGE BLOSSOM CLASSIC

PRICE \$3.00
Row
Seat

E
38
20

ORANGE BOWL MIAMI, FLA.
SAT. DECEMBER 13, 1958
PRE GAME SHOW 8:00 P. M.
KICKOFF 8:15 P. M.
ALBON TICKET COMPANY, PHILA.

E
38
20
PRICE \$3.00
Row
Seat

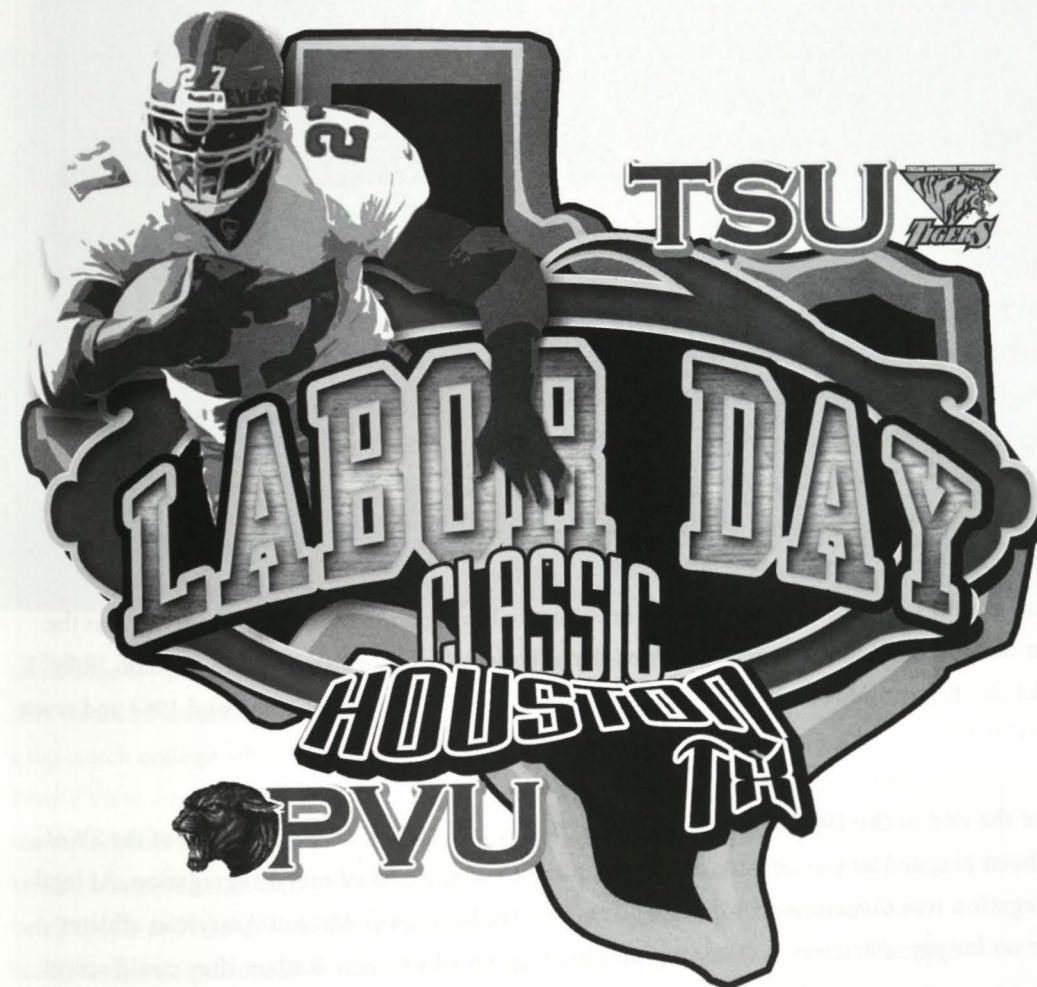
A ticket stub from the 1958 Orange Blossom Classic at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

old West End Park in Houston, students would leave the train and march down Main Street with the marching band leading them in song.

The State Fair Classic game is a decades-long tradition that continues today with an intense game each October that now pits Grambling University against Prairie View. And a relatively new tradition, which officially started more than a quarter-century ago, is the Labor Day Classic, with local SWAC rival Texas Southern University facing Prairie View. This game is often played at Houston's Reliant Center, where the teams' marching bands engage in a friendly musical competition during the famous halftime show but also throughout the game itself as each band issues musical challenges to its rival on the opposite side of the stadium.

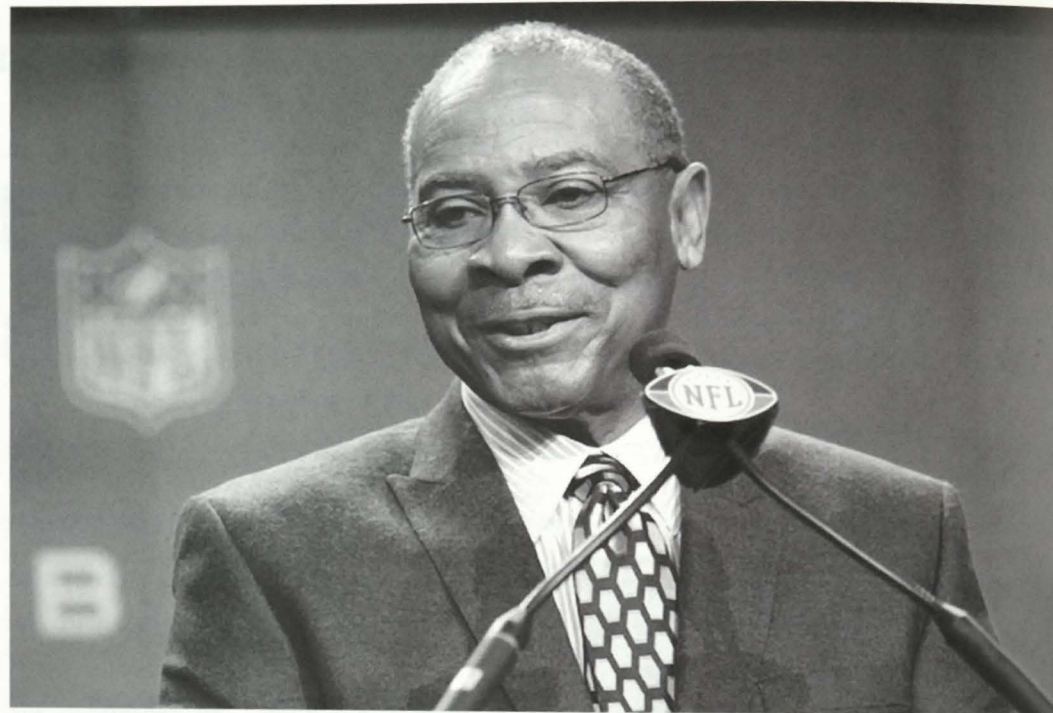
During segregation, transportation for the teams and fans for away games was often by rail car, which sometimes caused considerable racial tension. On one trip in 1936, white passengers on the St. Louis-bound Missouri Pacific Railroad train complained about Negroes using the dining car. So train officials made plans to serve breakfast to the Prairie View coaches and players in their segregated car. That meant they would have to eat using trays balanced precariously on their laps instead of sitting at a table in the regular dining car. Coach Sam Taylor, who was not only an excellent football coach at Prairie View but also regarded as the "Father of Track and Field" in the SWAC and who produced some of the best relay teams in track and field history, was infuriated by the affront. He refused, saying that if they could not eat in the dining car, they would not eat at all. Despite entreaties by the train's conductor, everyone refused to yield, so officials attached a small dining car to the passenger car at one of the station-stops, which helped defuse the situation.

During this era, competition for high-quality athletes was much different because HBCUs like Prairie View constituted the only choices for talented African Americans. But Prairie View enjoyed a distinct advantage over its rival HBCUs in the SWAC in recruiting top athletic talent. Prairie View was the only HBCU in the Southwest region at that time with an ROTC program, which many promising young athletes joined in order to obtain a college education rather than being drafted into the military. Moreover, the Interscholastic League, which was a statewide athletic and academic competition involving hundreds of black high schools and which Prairie View hosted each year, gave Prairie View officials a chance to identify and recruit promising high school athletes. Indeed, Prairie View's football program produced dozens of players who



The annual Labor Day Classic, which officially began in the 1980s, features Prairie View and Texas Southern, a historic rivalry stretching back more than sixty years.

Coach Nicks' legacy of excellence extends not only to the many hundreds of young athletes he coached, but also to the thousands of others his players reached after they graduated from Prairie View. One such example is Ray Seals (Class of '64), who, after being coached by Nicks at Prairie View, went on to coach high school football. Over his twenty-five-year career at Madison High School in Houston, Seals helped educate many players, including NCAA and NFL stars Vince Young and Noran Morris. Seals is shown here accepting the first-ever Don Shula NFL Coach of the Year award, presented in Dallas, Texas, during the Super Bowl XLV festivities. Photo courtesy of Zimbio.com.



went on to play professionally. These included, among many others, Sam Adams, who played for the New England Patriots and became an All-Pro; Otis Taylor, who played for the Kansas City Chiefs and also became an All-Pro; and Kenny Houston, who played for the Houston Oilers and Washington Redskins and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But perhaps the best all-around college athlete Prairie View has ever seen is Charles Wright, who competed in four varsity sports—baseball, basketball, football, and track and field—in four straight years at Prairie View (1951–1954), earning an incredible sixteen letters. Wright was drafted by the Chicago Bears in 1955.

From around 1947 until 1965, Prairie View's football program enjoyed its Golden Era as the team was nationally recognized. Under College Football Hall of Fame Coach William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr., the Panthers won five national black college titles between 1953 and 1964 and seven SWAC titles.

Since the end of the 1960s, Prairie View A&M University, like other members of the SWAC, has been plagued by the unintended consequences of the end of racial segregation. As legal segregation was dismantled in the 1960s and 1970s, blue-chip African American athletes were no longer restricted to choosing universities based on race. Rather, they could accept



invitations for admission to some of the best universities in the nation, where they would be awarded scholarships to play competitive sports while acquiring a top-notch college education. This situation was made all the more difficult as Prairie View, ever-suffering from insufficient funding, could not compete with the top schools in terms of athletic scholarships. So Prairie View struggled to remain competitive in nearly all sports. By 1989–1990, the financial hardship that befell sports at Prairie View was exacerbated by the University administration's controversial decision not to take funds from the school's auxiliary services budget

Prairie View's athletic complex, including its famous "Baby Dome," is named in honor of Coach William J. Nicks, Sr. for his record of excellence. He was lauded as one of the most successful Prairie View coaches of all time in any sport.

SPORTS

Prairie View Football Team Ends 80-Game Losing Streak

With its recent 14-12 victory over Langston University in Oklahoma City, the Prairie View A&M football team broke a record 80-game losing streak

For head coach Greg Johnson, the victory was extra sweet. He left Lanston two years ago to rebuild the struggling Panthers' program.

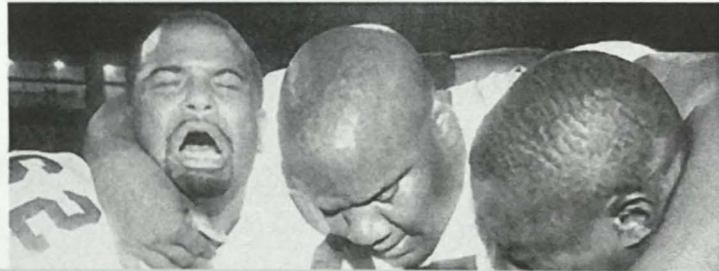
"It was well overdue," Johnson said. "There wasn't any doubt in my mind what we could do. We just had to believe and come through in the stretch.

Ironically, it was Langston in 1989 who started the losing streak.

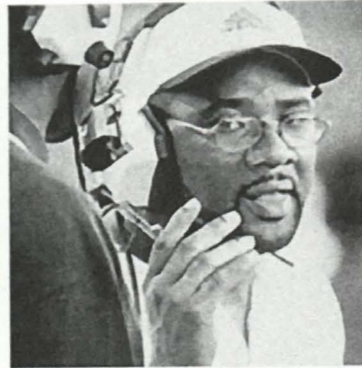
The last victory the Panthers had was against Mississippi Valley State on Oct. 28, 1989.

Students on the school's campus located about 45 miles northwest of

▼ *Prairie View players: Kevin Jefferson (62) and Evan Preston (67) and another teammate cry tears of joy after the team's 14-12 victory.*



Jet Magazine article on the end of Prairie View's losing streak.



▲ *Prairie View A&M's Greg Johnson coached the team to stop an 80-game losing streak.*

Houston, celebrated long into the night after the victory. Some were still awake to meet the team when its buses returned from Oklahoma City.

Now the players are determined to keep winning.

"one isn't good enough for me," said running back Kevin Bell. "I don't want people to think it's a fluke."

first in football since the glory days of the legendary Billy Nicks, who last won it all in 1964. Frazier also received the Eddie Robinson Award as the top coach of the Football Championship Subdivision level.

Although the football program struggled mightily for an extended time, the men's and, especially, the women's track and field programs have always enjoyed considerable success. Men's coach Hoover Wright and women's coach Barbara Jacket became legends as two of the best intercollegiate track coaches in the country. With both men's and women's teams dominating the NAIA and the SWAC, Coach Wright and Coach Jacket consistently produced outstanding athletes, some of whom attained national and international stature, such as Olympians Fred Newhouse and Debra Sapenter.

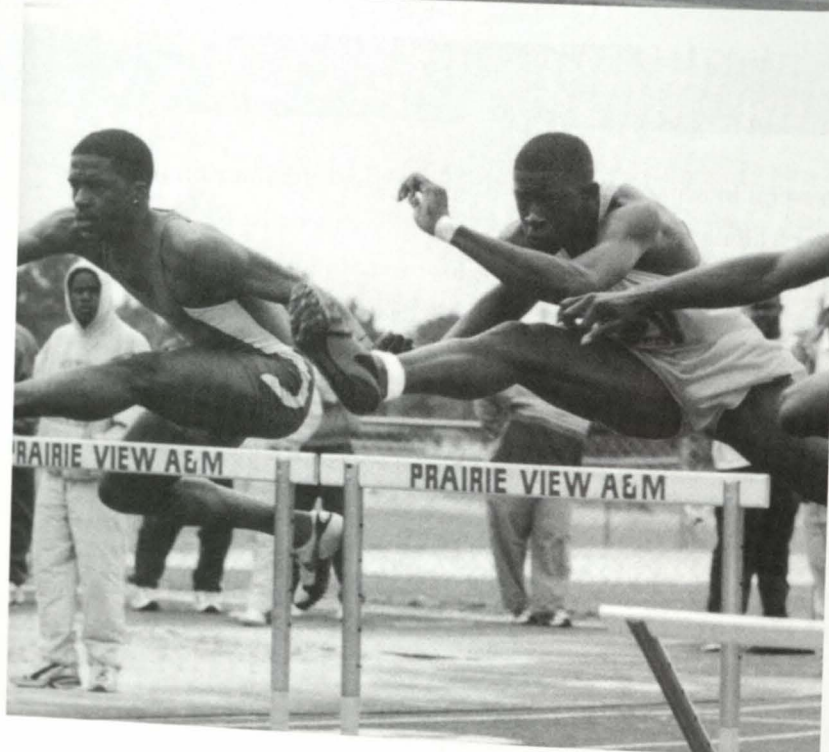
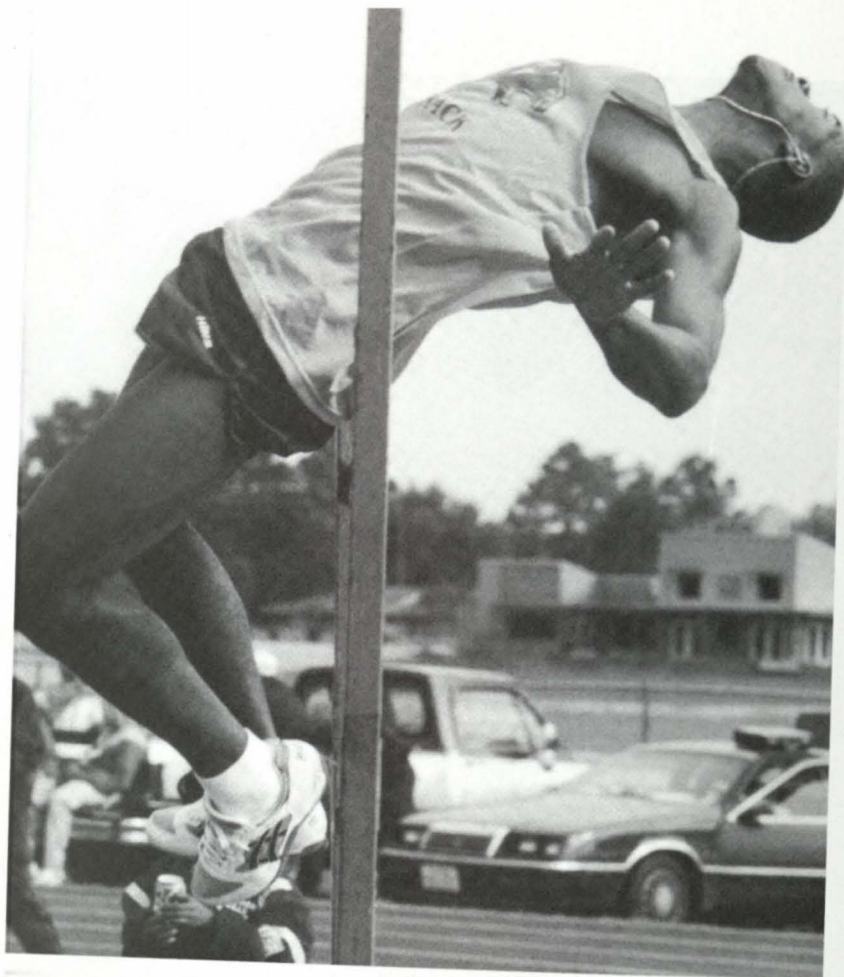
(which were needed to improve student housing, dining, and other services) to shore up athletics. The low point came in the 1990s with the football program's fall from grace. Discontinued for a year in 1990, with no scholarships and limited support, the football team set an NCAA record for the most consecutive losses, losing eighty straight games. Ironically, the football program's infamous losing streak began with a loss to Langston University in 1989 and then ended with a victory against Langston in 1998 under Coach Greg Johnson, who was himself recruited from Langston University in 1997.

But it was not until the hiring of Coach Henry Frazier III in 2004 that Prairie View's football program returned to its winning ways. During Coach Frazier's tenure, which ended after the 2010 season, the Panther football team recorded four consecutive winning seasons and claimed the SWAC Championship in 2009, the University's

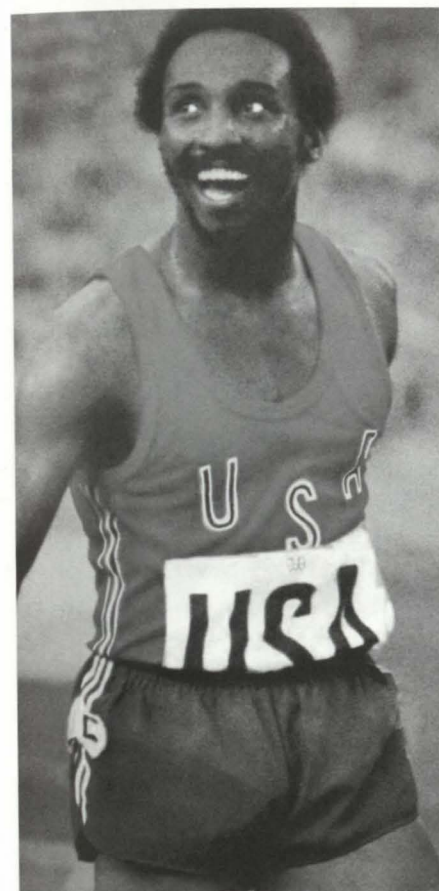


Coach Wright developed several international competitors such as Felix Johnson (800 meters) and Evans White (800 meters) along with Olympic gold and silver medalist Newhouse (1,600-meter relay and 400 meters). Johnson and Newhouse were inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame. Coach Wright served PVAMU from 1961 until his death in 2003. Wright also served with distinction as the assistant coach of the USA Men's Track and Field Team against Russia in 1971 and the 1972 USA Olympic Team in Munich, Germany. He now has a place of honor as an inducted member of the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Upon Coach Wright's passing, Coach Clifford Gilliard would keep the winning ways of men's track and field alive with SWAC Championships in men's cross country in 2005 and 2006. His outstanding teams would take the SWAC Championship in the men's outdoor in 2008 as well as the indoor in 2007 and 2008.

Coach Frazier hoists the SWAC Football Championship trophy after the game in 2009.



Coach Wright guided the men's track and field program to multiple men's NAIA titles and championships as well as multiple SWAC titles.



1971-72 WOMEN'S TRACK TEAM. Kneeling: Beverly Davis, Charlene Foster. Standing: Mary Wallace, Debra Sapenter, Charlene Branch.

Women's Track



HEAD COACH
Miss Barbara Jacket



Since joining the Physical Education staff in 1964 and becoming the head coach for women's track and field in 1966, Coach Jacket enhanced the legacy of PVAMU as having one of the most dominating intercollegiate athletic programs in the nation. Several of her track stars qualified for the U.S. Women's Olympic team in 1976, including Debra Sapenter, Carroll Cumming-Kellum, Mary Ayers, and Authurene Gainer. Under Coach Jacket, Prairie View claimed some twenty Women's National Championships, twelve indoor SWAC Championships, and several cross country titles. In addition to her success as Prairie View women's track and field coach, Barbara Jacket also coached the American Women's Olympic Track Team during the games held in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992 and coached the USA Track Team in Europe and Russia. She has been honored and recognized by top regional and national athletic associations and has been named Coach of the Year.

Above left: Frederick Newhouse, Class of 1970, won gold and silver medals at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Above right: Debra Sapenter, Class of 1974, ran the lead-off stage of the 400-meter relay for Team USA, which won a silver medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, 1970s yearbook.

Over the years, Prairie View women's track and field has earned respect with strong showings each season.



In recognition of their outstanding contributions to Prairie View athletics, PVAMU has honored Coach Jacket (shown here) and Coach Wright's legacy by naming its annual track meet after them.



The women's basketball team, which for decades occupied the lower rungs in their league, was catapulted to its first-ever SWAC Championship in 2007. The Lady Panthers earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament under the inspired coaching talents of Women's NBA Hall of Fame Player Cynthia Cooper-Dyke, who came to Prairie View in 2005. In 2008, the women's basketball team won the regular season of play and earned a bid to the NIT. The Lady Panthers again returned as SWAC Champions in 2009 and 2011 and again earned NCAA tournament bids. Men's basketball would win SWAC titles in 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 2003. Under Coach Jerome Francis, the men's basketball team won the 2002–2003 regular season title. Leroy Moore was the most successful basketball coach that the school has ever had. His teams were constantly at the top in conference standings and in 1962 Prairie

Hall of Famer Cynthia Cooper-Dyke coached Prairie View's Lady Panthers from 2005–2010.





The Lady Panthers win the 2011 SWAC basketball championship under first-year head coach Toyelle Wilson.

View was voted the number-one-ranked small-college team in the country. That year, Prairie View won its only NAIA National Championship in basketball behind the All-American performance of senior Zelmo Beaty, who scored twenty-eight points and grabbed an incredible twenty-nine rebounds.

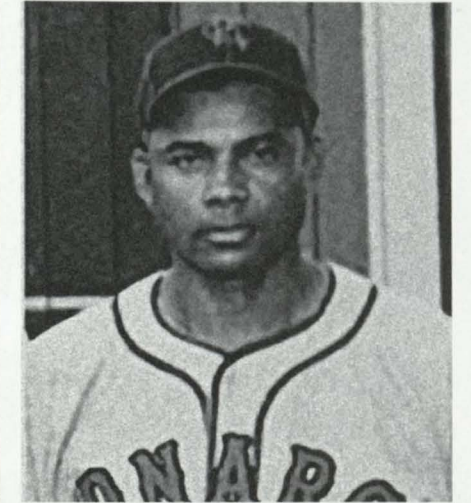
Baseball struggled valiantly under the leadership of Coach John Tankersley in the 1970s. While Coach Tankersley presided over some difficult seasons for the baseball players, his teams won an NAIA district title and four NAIA zone titles. Coach "Tank" was named SWAC Coach of the Year several times and was inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame in 1997. Several of Tankersley's players were drafted by Major League Baseball teams, including pitcher Charles Hudson, outfielder Steve Henderson, second baseman Ronald Stinnett, and shortstop Odie Davis. Under Coach Michael Robertson, the baseball team would climb out of the cellar and win the SWAC titles in 2006 and again in 2007.

The women's softball team has dominated SWAC play for years and won a championship in 1998. Women's volleyball would triumph with four SWAC titles from 1992 until 2006 and with



two NCAA tournament appearances in 1999 and 2006. Between 1939 and 1979, the men's golf team won thirteen SWAC championships. In 1998, women's bowling was established, and women's soccer, one of the more recent additions to the Prairie View sporting family, has grown steadily since its establishment in 2002.

Tennis has a long and storied tradition at Prairie View. Celebrated Coach Charlie Lewis built a very strong tennis program at Prairie View beginning in 1921. Coach Lewis is considered the "Father of Tennis" in the SWAC and Southwest: his mark of excellence on men's tennis at Prairie View is demonstrated by the nineteen SWAC titles he and his successors won from 1938 until 2010. Lewis also coached many regional and national champions, including legendary Prairie View great Lloyd Scott, who won three national American Tennis Association singles titles in the 1930s and 1940s. Also of note, Professor E. B. Evans, before he became principal, joined his son, E. B. Evans, Jr., as a formidable doubles tennis team in the 1930s. At that time, some



Left: In 2006, the women's softball stadium was improved, including adding more fan seating.

Above: Hilton Lee Smith played outfield in 1928 and pitched for Prairie View in 1929, then went on to play professionally, where he was regarded as the best pitcher in the Negro Leagues. By some accounts, he was considered the best pitcher in the world. In 2001, Smith was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



The men's tennis team won the SWAC Championship in 2010.

tennis tournaments were open competitions, which enabled Professor Evans to join his son in the doubles matches. Coached by Lewis, this father-son tandem played and won several men's tennis doubles championships.

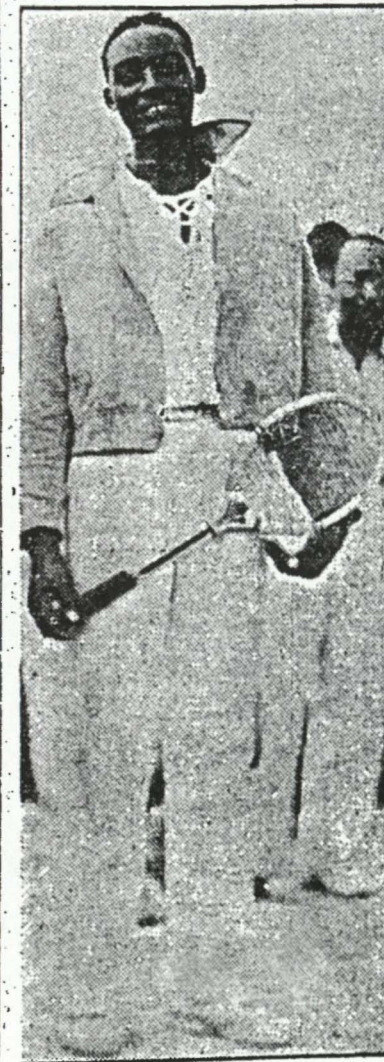
At that time, Coach Lewis built the best tennis courts in the entire state, including a clay court, which Texas A&M did not even have back then. Most recently, Prairie View tennis is led by the very capable Coach John Cochran.

Today, the Prairie View Athletics Department comprises eighteen men's and women's sports teams, including baseball, basketball, bowling, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. These teams continue a long history of academic excellence, athletic success, personal development, and character-building as they keep the Prairie View sports spirit alive, passing along the hopes for yet another championship season for the Prairie View Family to cherish. Organized sports at Prairie View have been excellent in infusing a dynamic spirit that has been broadened and deepened by each generation of administrators, coaches, players, and fans as they meander "down that road." Indeed, the spirit of Prairie View athletics culminated with winning the SWAC Men's All-Sports Award in 2007 and the SWAC Women's All-Sports trophy in 2010.

This indomitable spirit has been an endowment for every student who has joined the Prairie View Family and is especially reflected in the consistent professional successes enjoyed by the alumni as they make their marks in private industry, government, the military, politics,

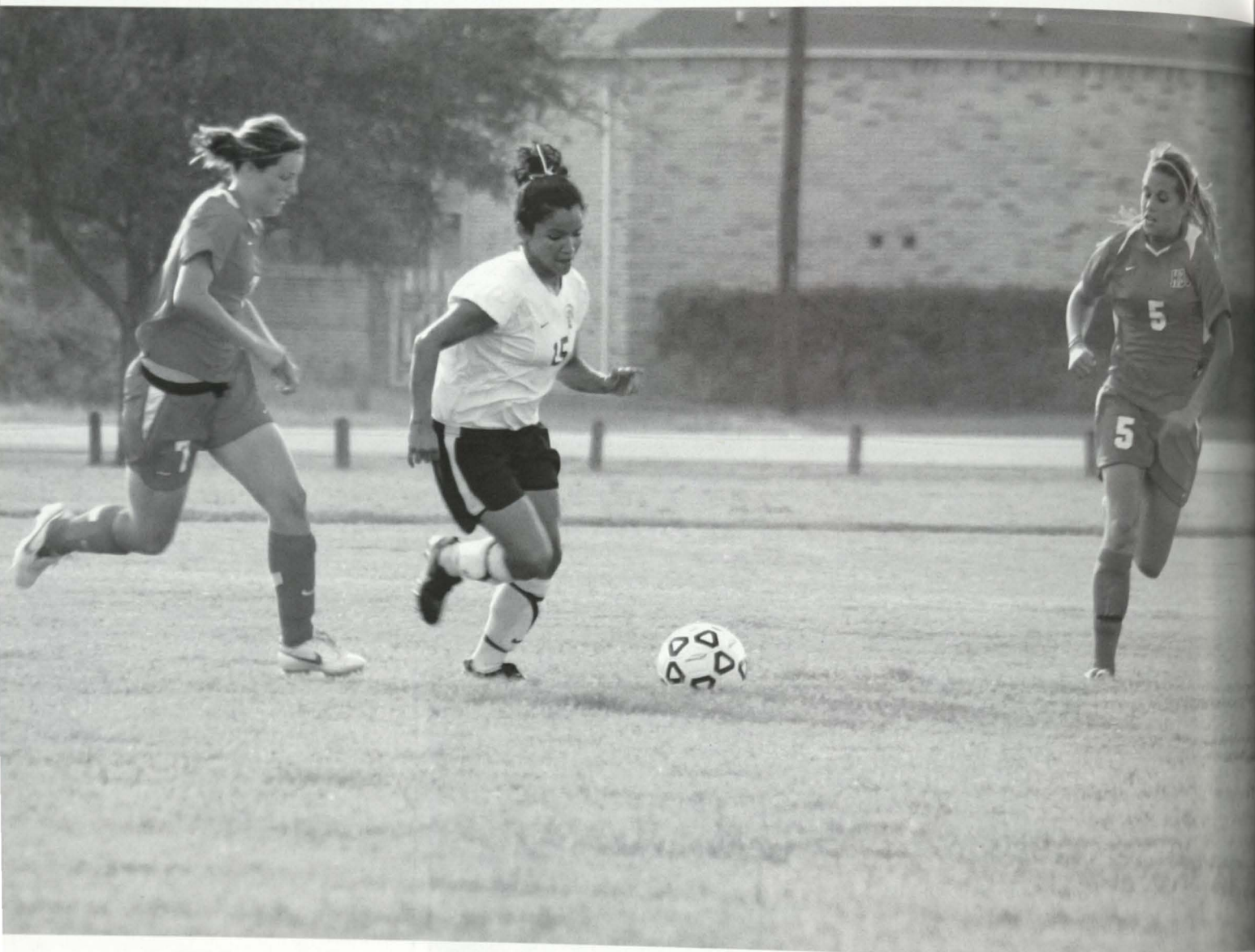
Lloyd Scott, Class of 1937.

TIP TOP FORM



LLOYD SCOTT
—1937 graduate of Prairie View State College, Prairie View, Texas, and native Texan who is defending champion in the Twenty-First National Tennis Championships at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, August 16-21. Scott has been picked by Lucius Jones, publicity director of the American Tennis Association,

to repeat for the title. The great young protege of C. W. Lewis, the former Fisk University net wizard, is in the pink of condition and has a world of self-confidence as the "Nationals" near.



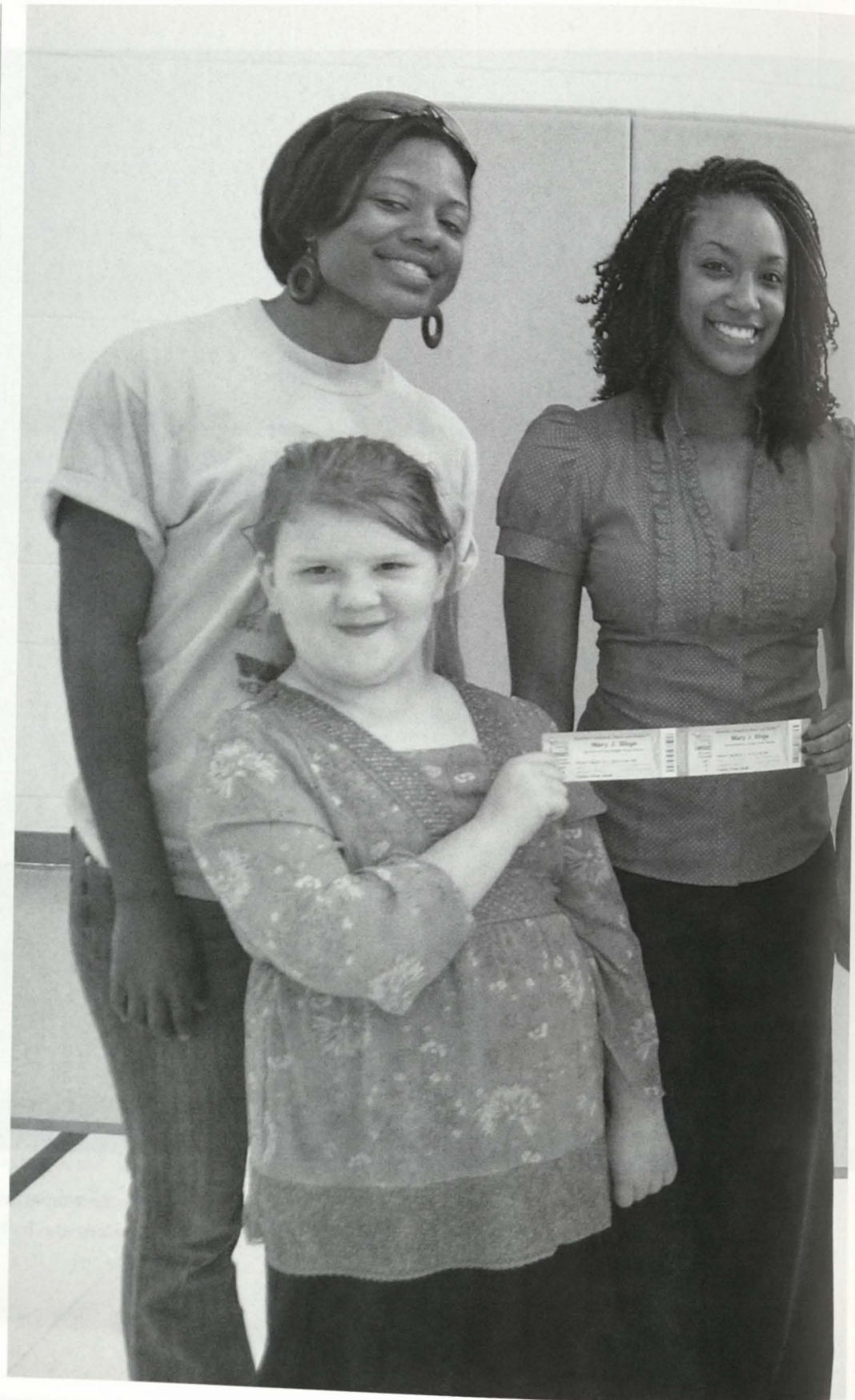
In 2006, a brand new soccer field was completed for the newly established women's team.

the arts, sciences, and religion. The lessons gleaned from sports translate to lessons useful in all aspects of life and can be credited with providing inspiration in good times and bad. When the vicissitudes of life bring success and fortune, this spirit teaches us humility and grace. But when life brings misfortunes, trials, and tribulations, this spirit compels us to persevere, for only by staying in the "game of life" can we ever hope to win a favorable result.



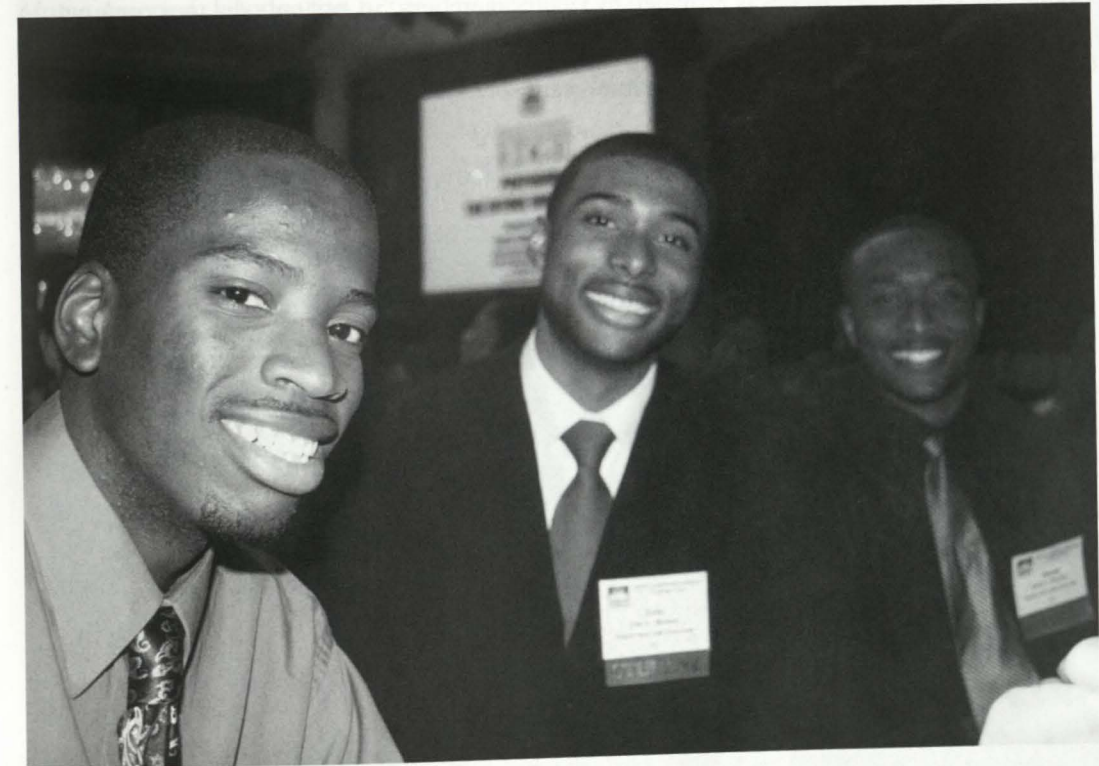
A collection of just a few of the more recent trophies won by Prairie View's athletes.

One way Prairie View's athletes reach out and connect with the local community is by sponsoring school children's attendance at local events, such as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



CHAPTER SIX CONNECTIONS

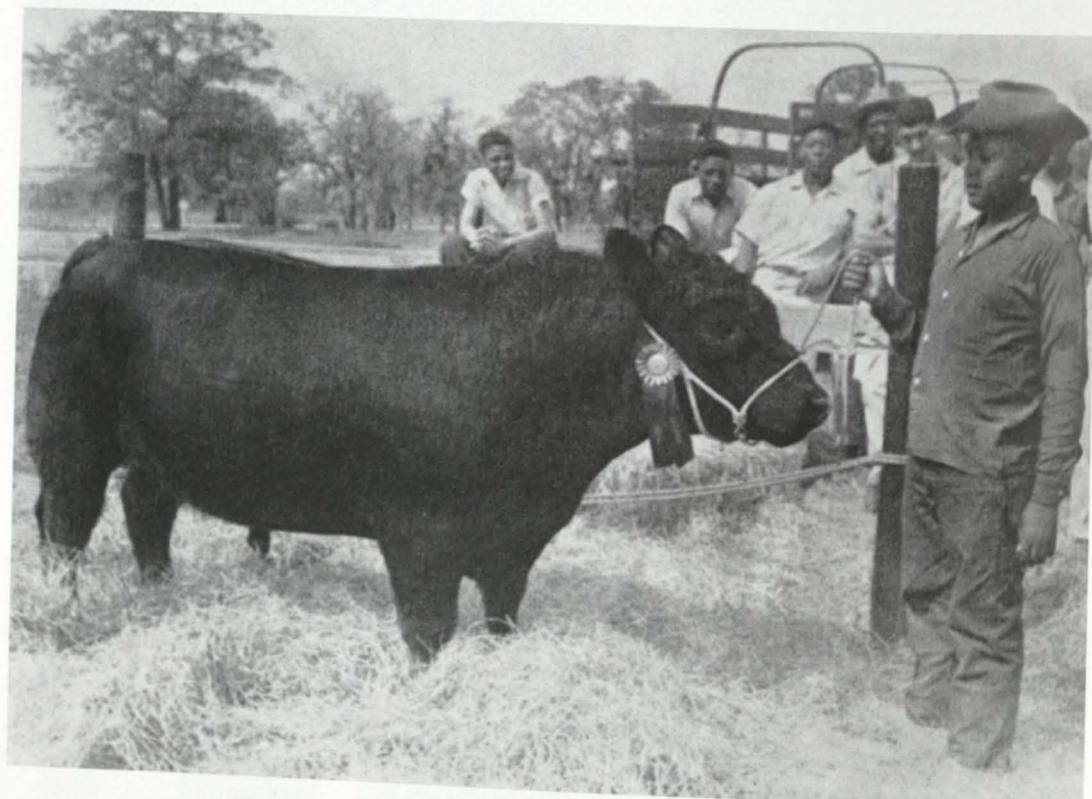
As other chapters have shown, Prairie View A&M University has long nurtured a sense of community spirit among its students. But this tradition extends far beyond the thousands of students educated in its traditional classrooms each year. Indeed, the institution has a distinguished history of providing service to diverse groups of people. This service stretches all the way back to its founding. For decades these connections have been established in ways that build community spirit and ties on the local and state level as well as the national and international level.



Each year, Prairie View takes a large group of students to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund's Leadership Institute and Career Fair in New York City. Students are provided extensive training in leadership and professionalism and are also exposed to many cultural events such as Broadway shows, etiquette workshops, and museum tours.

One of the earliest, and most effective, programs that have connected the school with state and local communities is the Cooperative Extension Program (CEP). As early as 1915, cooperative extension work was conducted in areas pertaining mainly to agriculture that extended to white as well as black farmers, which did anger some people. At that time, the program was called Extension Work for Negroes. Prairie View was the only school in all of Texas where African Americans could receive training in agriculture. Thus, if a black farmer or rancher was being assisted by a black extension agent, it was a guarantee that that agent had been trained at Prairie View. The outstanding work of these agents raised the profile of Prairie View considerably throughout the State of Texas, particularly in its southern reaches, such as Waller, Harris, and Grimes counties.

Negro State Cooperative Extension Leaders, serving under the supervision of Prairie View's principals and later presidents, helped train lay citizens throughout Texas counties by conducting, among other things, home economics conferences and workshops. Support and on-the-job training that agents received was provided by faculty members. So, not only did they come out to teach farmers—and high school students—improved techniques for such things as their corn, watermelon, or livestock, they also made important social and professional connections with



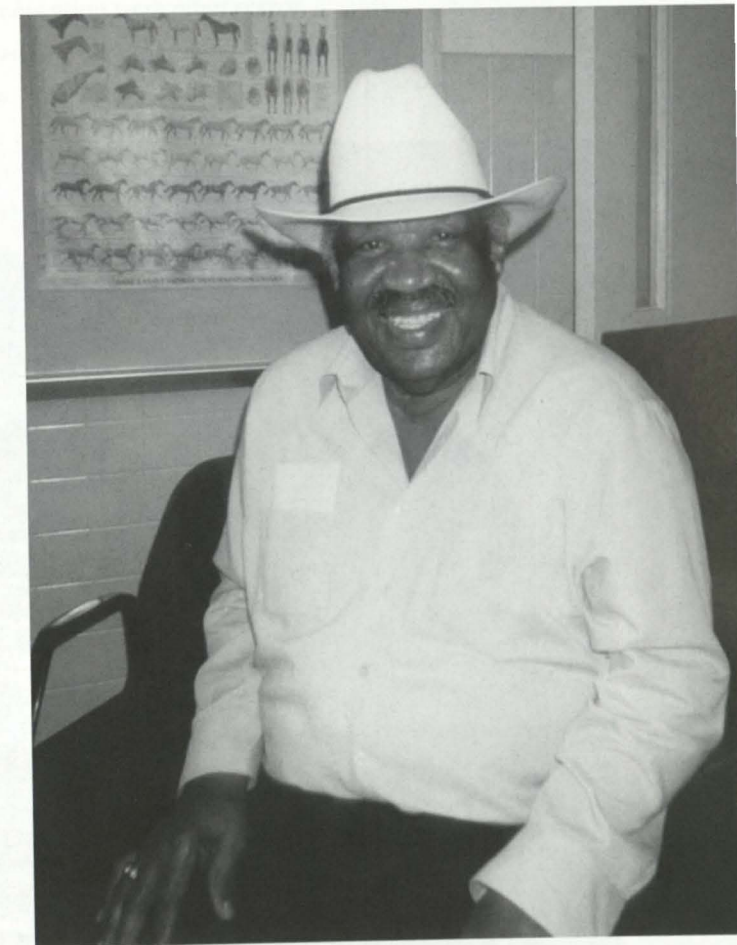
Some of Prairie View's agriculture faculty served as judges at local and regional crop and livestock fairs and festivals.

these traditionally neglected and underserved populations. Such a presence left a continuing impression and built considerable reservoirs of goodwill among the citizens of southeast Texas.

And this goodwill was not limited solely to black farmers in the region either. Although its title referenced "Negroes" and although there were two, officially segregated, Extension Services in Texas (one for blacks that operated through Prairie View and the other one for whites that operated through Texas A&M College), Prairie View's highly capable agricultural faculty, together with its extension agents, provided important farming services to both white and black farmers in the state. This was during a time when whites could enter any establishment through the front door while blacks had to enter, if allowed, through the rear. An unusual experience professor (later principal and then president) E. B. Evans had shortly after his arrival at Prairie View in 1918 illustrates this point. Evans was the first African American veterinarian to pass the licensure exam in the State of Texas and he soon gained a reputation at Prairie View and the surrounding counties as an excellent doctor of veterinary medicine. Evans would take daylong, sometimes overnight, buggy rides throughout South Texas to provide services to local farmers and ranchers. He was pleasantly surprised to learn that Prairie View Principal J. G. Osborne and W. B. Bezzell, president of Texas A&M College, received a letter signed by white farmers and ranchers praising Evans for his valuable service to the community. This support served as the catalyst for the creation of a modern veterinary hospital on Prairie View's campus. Evans would later become state leader of the extension service. Evans' expertise and service eventually stretched not only across the State of Texas, but also across the United States and into Africa.

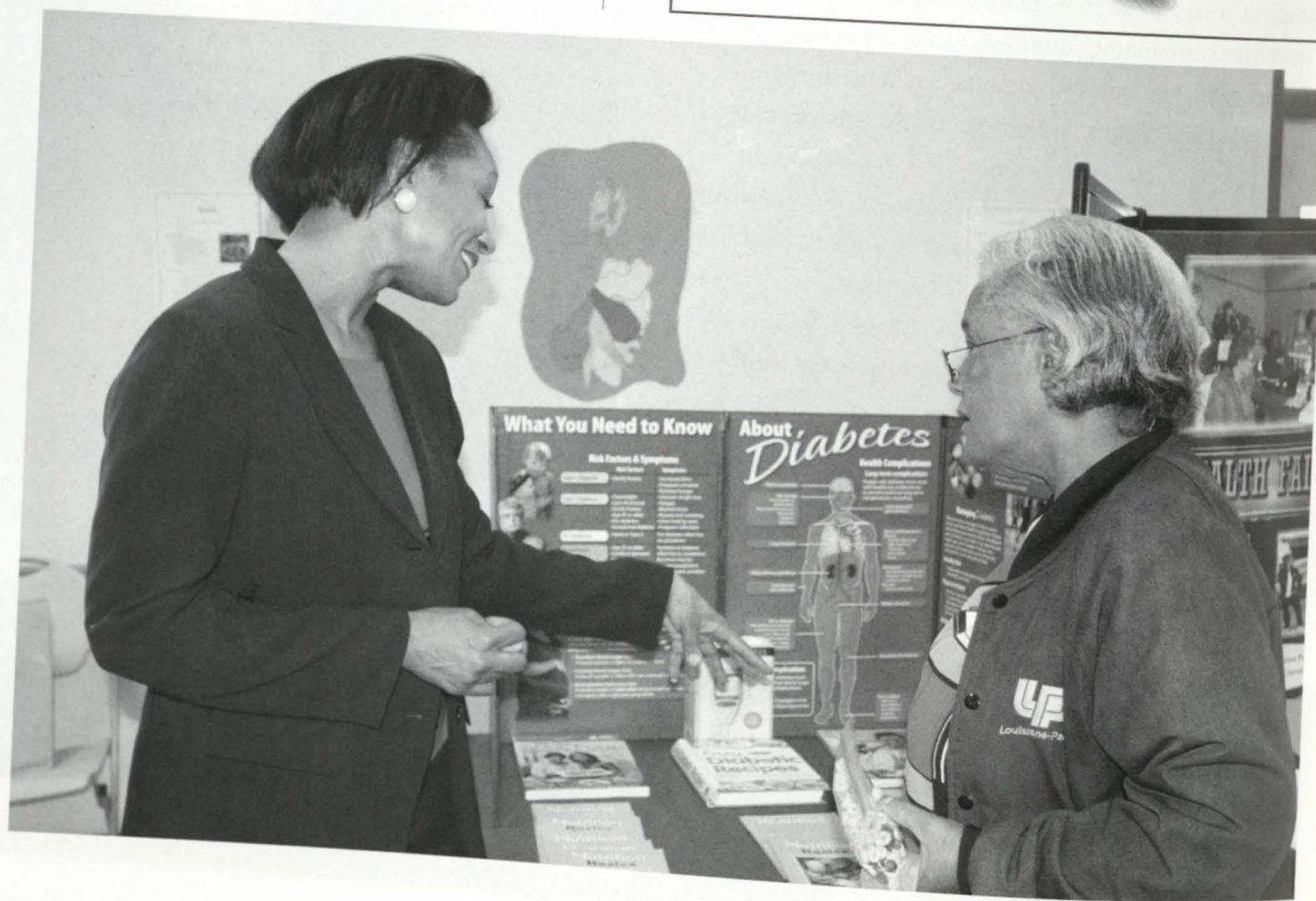
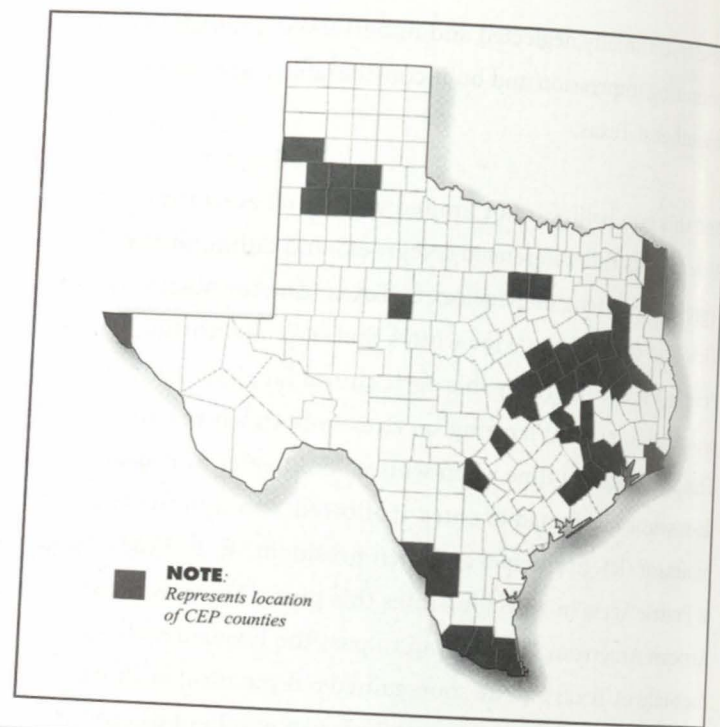
Passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 brought about the unification of the white and black extension services into a single service called Texas Agricultural Extension Services, causing the Extension Work for Negroes housed at Prairie View to officially disband. But this ostensibly integrated system fell short of providing adequate extension services to low-income minority

Dr. Alfred N. Poindexter was appointed by Dr. Evans to succeed Evans in veterinary sciences. Known affectionately as "Doc" and also as a "vet's vet," Dr. Poindexter extended Dr. Evans' legacy of excellent veterinary services to counties within a 150-mile radius and also through his leadership of the University Veterinary Clinic, which was renowned among whites as well as blacks.



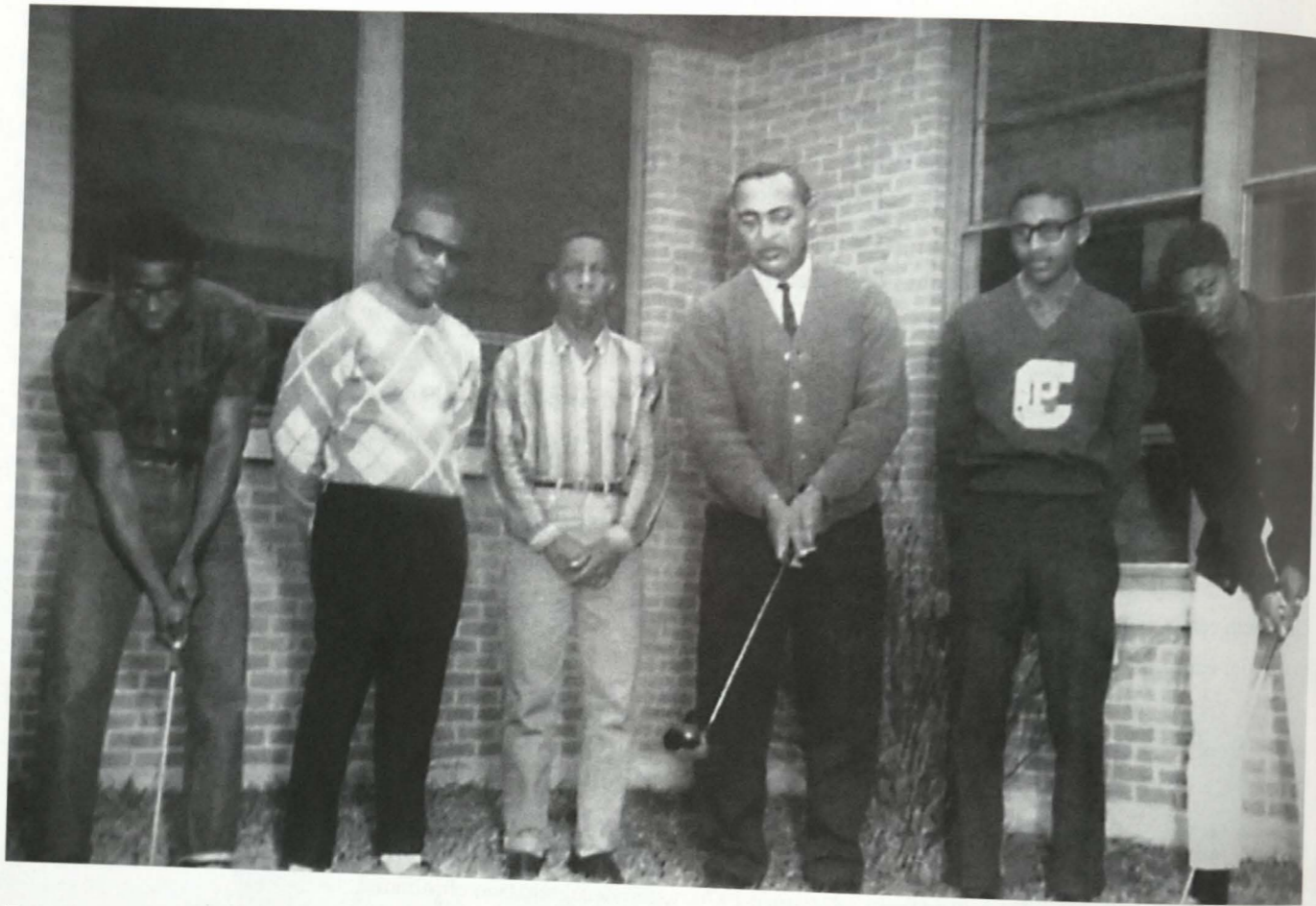
Right: Today, Cooperative Extension's operations cover twenty-six counties, primarily in southeast Texas, but its services have also extended as far south as Starr and Hidalgo counties, depending on the changing needs of low-income citizens in the region.

Below: One of Cooperative Extension's flagship health education programs today is called Project DEAP (Diabetes Education Awareness Prevention), which takes a holistic approach to reducing diabetes in children and adults in minority communities.



individuals in Texas. As such, the presidents of the country's sixteen HBCU 1890 land-grant colleges and Tuskegee Institute successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to pass the Agriculture-Environmental and Consumer Protection Appropriations (AEC) Act of 1972, which provided funds directly to those institutions for extension education programs designed to help low-income families move into the mainstream of society. Since then the reach of the CEP at Prairie View has grown significantly: its primary target population is southern Texas' resource-limited citizens who have certain needs that could not necessarily be met in the traditional university classroom. When the CEP officially started in 1972, its cooperative extension activities were found in thirteen counties. By the late 1980s, the program was offering services in forty-four counties. Its programmatic focus has been fourfold: 1) Agriculture and Natural Resources; 2) Family and Consumer Sciences; 3) 4-H and Youth Development; and 4) Community and Economic Development. One noteworthy activity associated with CEP's mission was the H. S. Estelle Camp for youths. This camp was operated on land in Huntsville, Texas, that was purchased by the black extension agents themselves since official funding sources for black education were often scarce. This youth camp, which operated from the 1940s until the mid-1960s, exposed low-income youth to outdoor education. Many youths who attended this camp went on to earn a college degree at Prairie View, something which many of them might not have ever considered if not for their experience at the youth camp.

The Interscholastic League founded at Prairie View in 1921 is another example of how the University played a central role in connecting blacks to one another and in building a sense of community throughout the State of Texas. Operating from 1921 until 1970, when desegregation eliminated its necessity, the Interscholastic League brought black secondary school students from all over the state to Prairie View's campus to engage in a wide range of academic and athletic competitions. The League was established with the involvement of the University of Texas and the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas, which was founded in 1884 at a statewide meeting of black teachers held at Prairie View. Prairie View Principal L. C. Anderson, who strongly advocated athletics in education, was elected to serve as the association's first president. To be sure, Anderson's emphasis on athletics—even in the 1880s—influenced the nature and mission of the Interscholastic League upon its official founding in 1921. Since the League meets were organized by and held at Prairie View, the college's principals and presidents served as the League's executive secretary, among them J. G. Osborne, W. R. Banks, E. B. Evans, J. M. Drew, and A. I. Thomas. The League's inter-school competitions were designed to prepare Texas youth for citizenship, promote the ideals of competition and fair play, and teach clean sportsmanship and adherence to the rules. The League's first state meet in 1921 attracted schools from fifteen counties. Contests were held in speech and rhetoric, spelling, and sporting events such as tennis. As participation in the League grew and spread throughout Texas in the mid-twentieth



To preserve the legacy of Prairie View's Interscholastic League, the University of Texas houses an exhibit documenting the history of the League. This 1964 photo of the Beaumont Charlton-Pollard High School Golf Team, which participated in the PVIL, was showcased on the UT website to promote the exhibition.

century, more subjects were added to the competition, such as art, music, typing, mathematics, track and field, baseball, drama, and literary events. As well, regional and district meets were held before the statewide meet at Prairie View. Prairie View faculty and staff were selected to serve on organizing committees and as judges for the meets. In 1963, the League's name was changed to the Prairie View Interscholastic League (PVIL) of Texas. At that time, around 1,500 students from more than 500 high schools were participating in more than 200 of the League's literary and athletic contests. Ironically, and as a result of Supreme Court rulings striking down segregated public schools, membership in the PVIL gradually declined as black schools began to join the University of Texas' Interscholastic League. In 1970, the Prairie View Interscholastic League of Texas had fully merged with the University of Texas Interscholastic League. Until its demise in 1970, the Prairie View Interscholastic League played a vital role in the lives of participants and was a potent force throughout the State of Texas.

In the late 1980s, Prairie View extended its reach beyond the main campus and into the Northwest Houston Corridor by offering courses in partnership with area school districts on their grounds. By the 1990s, Prairie View centralized all course offerings in the Northwest Houston area with the establishment of the Northwest Houston Academic Center. In 2000, approval was obtained from the appropriate regulatory and accrediting agencies to offer a Master of Education in Educational Administration degree and a Master of Arts in Counseling degree. In 2009, Prairie View purchased a state-of-the-art facility from Lone Star Community College near Tomball Parkway and Willowbrook Mall. This two-story building includes 52,000 square feet of classroom, meeting, and student service space. A fully functional extension of the main campus, the Northwest Houston Center offers commuting students in this fast-growing region of South Texas the convenience of a quality education right in their own neighborhood. Currently, the center offers bachelor's degrees in business, nursing, and sociology as well as master's degrees in accounting, education, nursing, community development, and engineering. Given the extraordinary growth in this region, the center has plans to grow its degree offerings to include communications and juvenile justice.

University and community leaders pose at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in 2010 officially marking the opening of Prairie View's Northwest Center. Dr. Michael L. McFrazier (third from left rear) is dean of the campus.



In October 2010, Brett P. Giroir, MD (right), the Texas A&M University System vice chancellor for research, hosted a seminar on campus to discuss projects and opportunities for development in the City of Prairie View.

While the establishment of the Northwest Center indicates Prairie View's growth in the region, the main campus of the University continues to grow in the City of Prairie View. As such, students and campus officials are working to develop the city to support job growth in the local region. To meet the demand, the City of Prairie View, together with school officials, has partnered with Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) to design economic development strategies for the community to enhance the quality of life, create jobs, and stimulate the community's economic growth. TEEX serves as the facilitator for community visioning, market research, and for the realization of

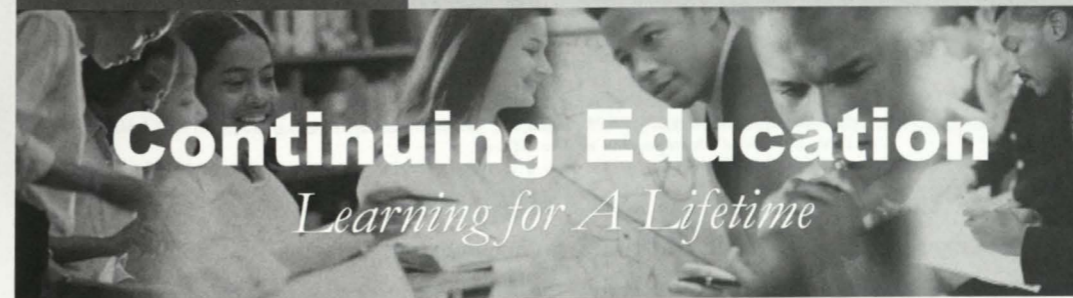


Prairie View's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, of which PVAMU is a critical component.

Throughout its history, Prairie View has also been dedicated to offering continuing education programs that help it serve the community. According to the Centennial Report published in the 1970s, "The 'Prairie View Idea' of rendering public service is to reach and serve as many of the out-of-school youth and adults as possible and feasible in order to develop more enlightened citizens as functioning units of the mainstream of American society." Toward this end, the University has a long tradition of offering workshops, institutes, conferences, clinics, and short courses to literally tens of thousands of people. These range from post-graduate medical assemblies for practicing physicians to cheerleading institutes for junior high school students. Consider the Division of Extension and Continuing Education: its main function was to provide educational services to those who are not enrolled full time at the University, especially teachers throughout the state. Prior to 1946, the work of this Division was restricted to offering college-level courses for credit in extension centers throughout the state. In 1946, however, PVAMU embarked on a new phase of services in the nature of institutes and conferences geared toward youth and adults not enrolled in college. In the 1950s, the Division implemented a program to offer short courses, workshops, and institutes to upgrade professional competence for public school and college personnel and for people engaged in business. Tens of thousands of people have been served through these continuing education programs.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of Continuing Education

www.pvamu.edu/continuingeducation



Prairie View also hosted a popular educational conference for more than forty years that brought together leaders in the field of education throughout Texas. The educational conference was the brainchild of Principal Banks, who had been inspired by W. E. B. Du Bois, who was Banks' teacher at Atlanta University. The conference brought together educational leaders from all over the State of Texas, such as principals, superintendents, state officials, and ministers to present their research on the condition of Texas' black population in terms of education, business, religion, and family life. At one point, more

The Office of Continuing Education was revitalized in 2010. It offers non-credit continuing education instruction and provides quality programs and services that meet the workforce, professional, and lifelong learning needs of the surrounding community.

"Y" Leadership Institute



This photo from the 1946 yearbook shows the "Y" Leadership Institute. For many years PVAMU hosted this leadership conference for leaders from all over the state.

The 1945 "Y" Leadership Institute was one of the most successful institutes yet held. For a decade Prairie View has been host to leaders from over the entire state. Two years ago girls were invited to participate in the conference. They have increased in number and now they are a very definite part of the "Y" Leadership Institute.

The meeting began under the leadership of Mr. W. C. Craver. Mr. Eubanks followed him and Mr. R. W. Puryear followed Mr. Eubanks. The program has grown consistently until now the area raises \$3,600.00 of its annual budget. Mr. Puryear has added several city "Y" programs to the state recently. Principal W. R. Banks is financial Chairman, and an area officer.

than one thousand participants attended these annual conferences. It was the outstanding educational conference in the state, and, according to Evans, "the best of its kind ever held in this country with full Negro participation, and it also evoked great interest on the part of white educators."

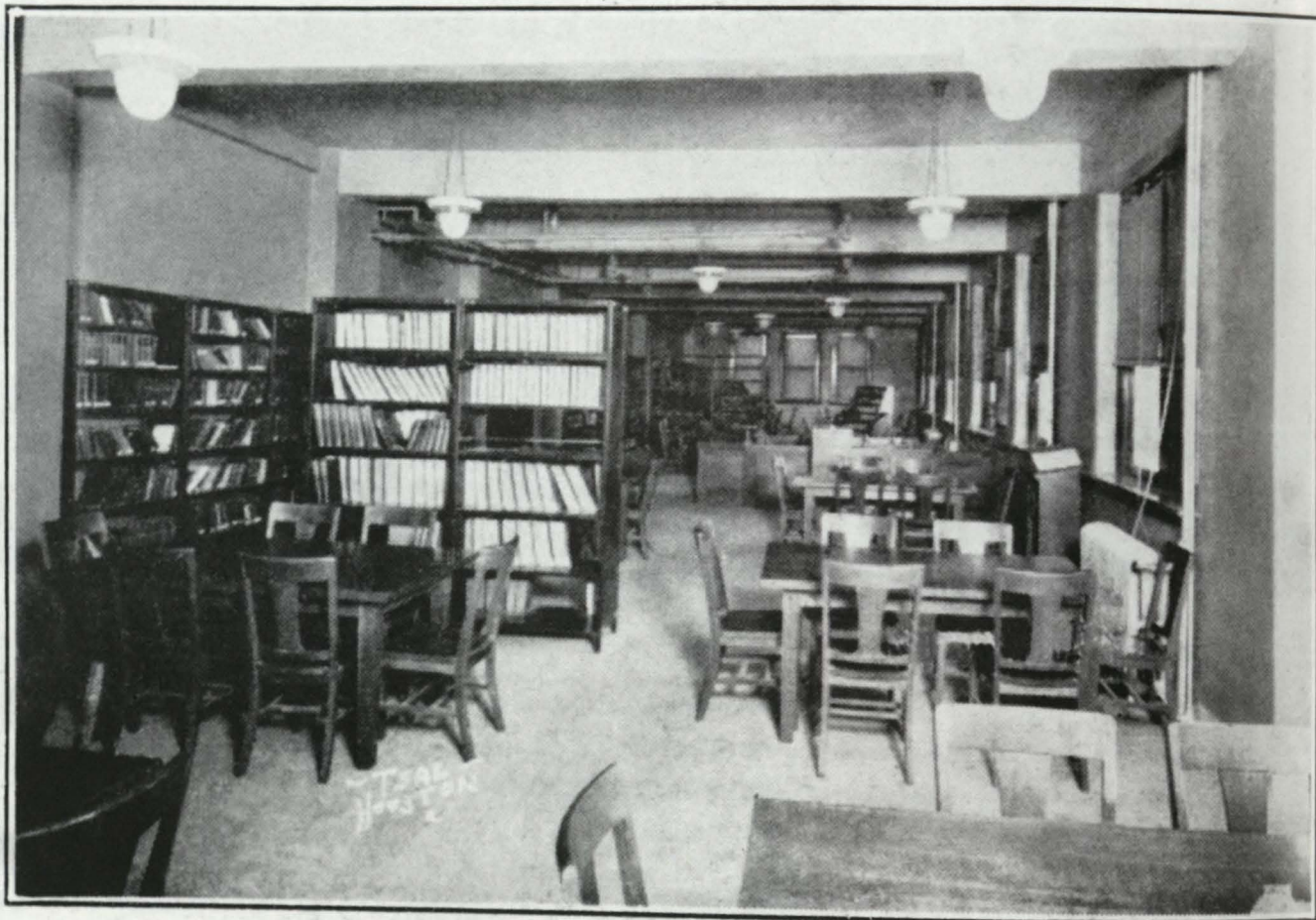
Prairie View's library is a key component of its connections to the world. The John B. Coleman Library possesses state-of-the-art technology and is perhaps one of the greatest symbols of Prairie View's connections to the community. As students travel "down that road," it is the Coleman Library, the University's most potent symbol of inquiry and knowledge, that rises on the hill to

THE W. R. BANKS LIBRARY



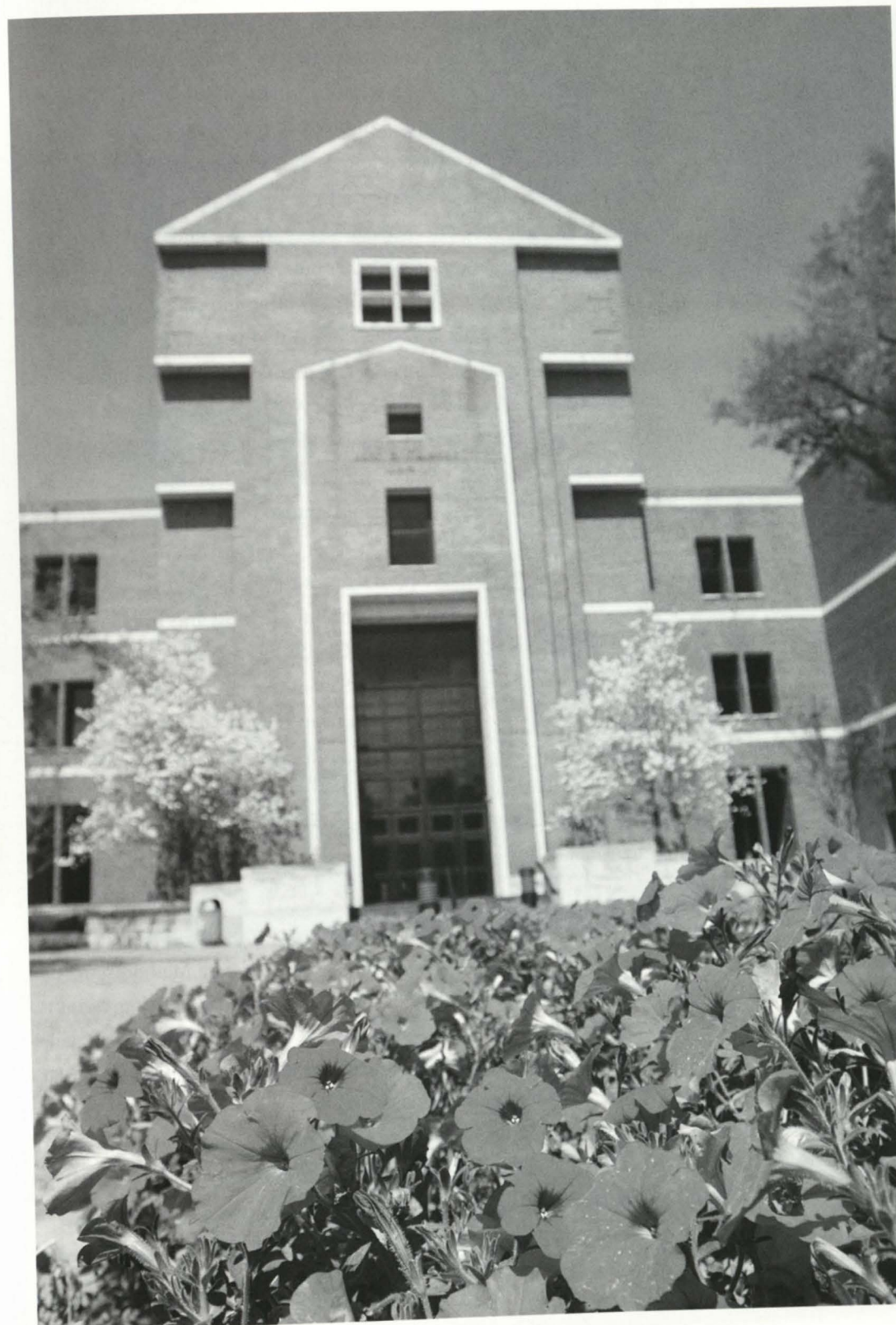
greet them as if to say, "Here is your connection to knowledge, to wisdom, to the world." With its humble beginnings in 1879, the library had a grand total of nineteen dollars budgeted for books. By the late 1880s, when the library was requesting a \$500-budget, its collection stood at 2,400 volumes. By 1931, its collection had grown to 10,000 holdings.

Throughout Prairie View's history, the library was housed in various buildings around campus, often having to move to accommodate its growing collection. In 1946, a building was built to house the library and was named after former Principal W. R. Banks. By the early 1980s, the library's collection burgeoned to more than 200,000 volumes; clearly a new building was needed. In 1988, as the University celebrated its 110th anniversary, the multimillion-dollar John B. Coleman Library was christened. At the dedication ceremony, President Percy Pierre remarked that "of all the buildings on the campus, the library is the core." At that time, its holdings totaled just over 220,000 volumes. Today, its holdings are approaching the 400,000 landmark, with a total capacity of more than half a million volumes. Aside from its collections and holdings, the library also boasts an art gallery, large conference halls, important and historic art collections, and the Jazzman Café, which students often visit to recharge their batteries while pulling an all-nighter for mid-terms or finals.



LIBRARY

The Banks Library housed more than 20,000 volumes. Students, faculty, staff, and even 4-H boys and girls carried piles of books in their arms from the Education Building to stock the new W. R. Banks Library.

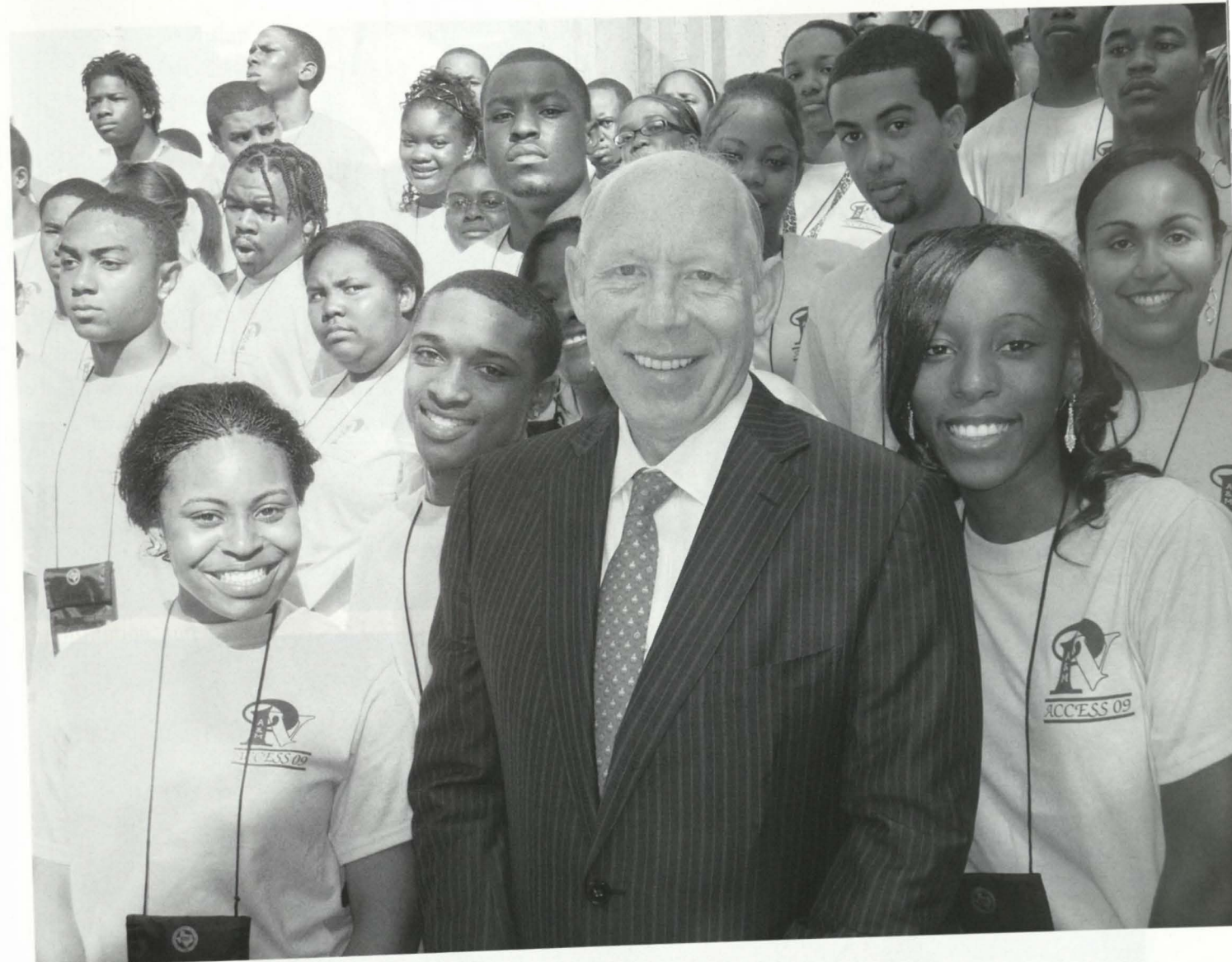


The John B. Coleman Library is the only five-story building on campus—in all of Waller County in fact—and is the only building that is readily visible from Highway 290.

Prairie View's famed Academy for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success (ACCESS) connects underserved and underprepared high school students to university life. Since its inception in 1996, ACCESS has reached more than 1,400 Texas high school students. While ACCESS students are not required to attend Prairie View upon completion of the seven-week summer program, most choose to enroll. The ACCESS Program uses a tough love and "academic boot camp" approach. With students in residence on campus, the program combines intense, student-centered academic instruction with sustained academic advisement. The program has become so popular that only about 30 percent of the applicants statewide are accepted. ACCESS develops positive habits and a strict focus not only on academic matters but also on other important areas, such as leadership training, socialization skills, and personal development. The program's success is evident in the fact that ACCESS students typically need less remediation and have higher freshman-to-sophomore retention rates than statewide averages. ACCESS students have been elected president of the Student Government Assembly and as Miss Prairie View. Others have been the top graduates of both the Army and Navy ROTC programs, and still others have been admitted to law schools, dental schools, and other graduate programs.

Indeed, ACCESS was so successful that it was expanded to what is now called University College, which is a University-wide effort for all Prairie View freshmen. But the program's influence now extends beyond Texas in at least two important ways. First, ACCESS has served as a model for other HBCUs to follow. As part of a grant, Jacksonville State, Savannah State, Kentucky State, and Fayetteville State received on-site training in this concept from Prairie View staff and faculty, and similar programs have been implemented at several of these schools. Second, ACCESS' reach now extends beyond the State of Texas to other parts of the country. In 2006, the program implemented a service-learning component, which calls upon students to integrate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection in order to enhance their learning experience. As such, ACCESS students have traveled to Louisiana and Mississippi as well as Houston, Brownsville, Ft. Hood, San Antonio, and Dallas, where they have engaged in a wide range of activities, such as providing programming at community centers, remodeling a Methodist Home, preparing a school for reopening after Hurricane Katrina, and assisting in setting up an emergency shelter at a facility for children. The ACCESS Program is thus one of the best examples of Prairie View connecting to the world through the spirit of service and community-building.

Internationally, PVAMU has built long-lasting and mutually beneficial connections especially with countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and South Asia. These connections are in large part the result of the commitments and capabilities of visionary leaders at Prairie View, such as E. B. Evans. Not only was Evans well known for providing veterinary services

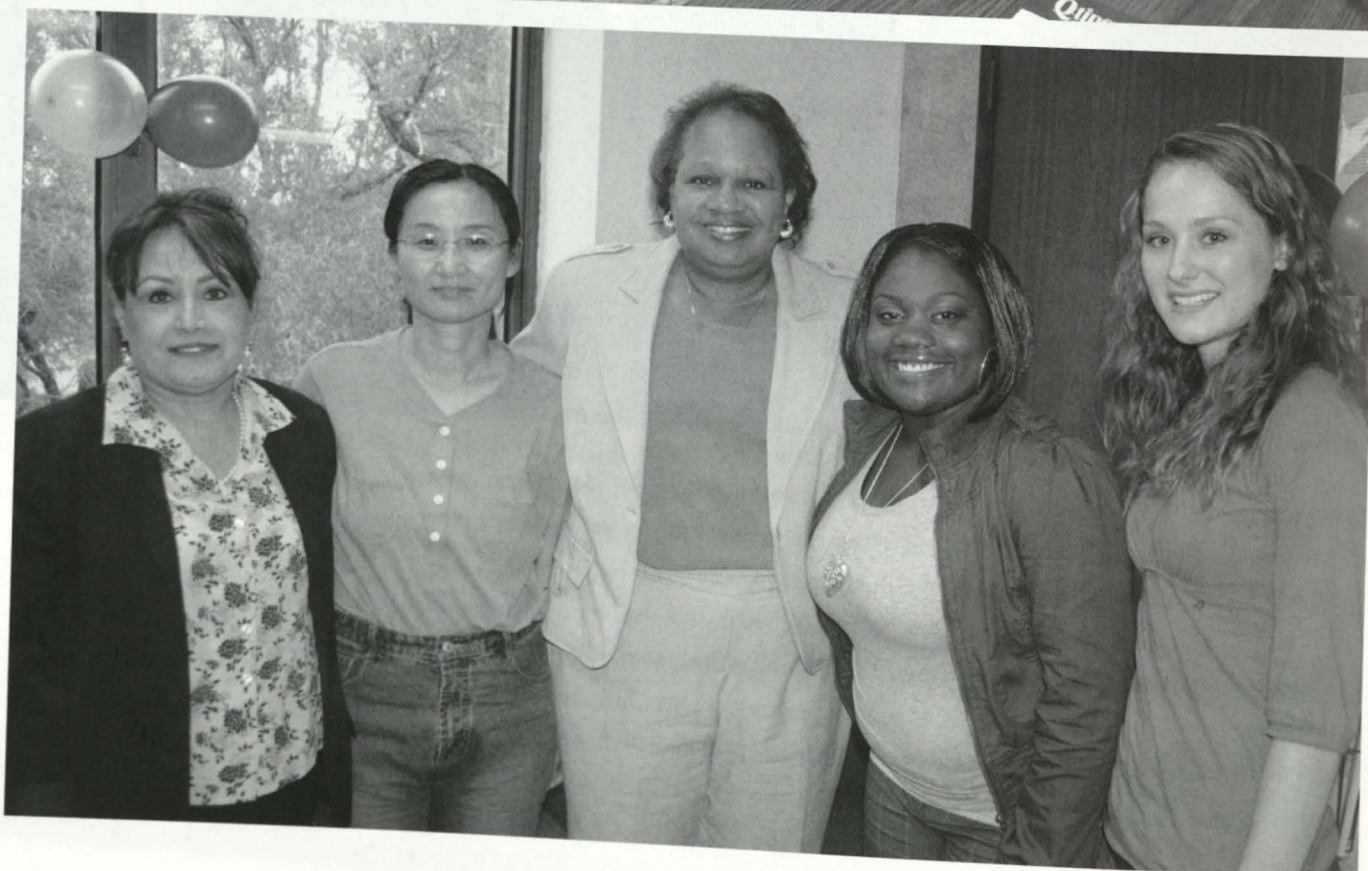


throughout South Texas, he also helped to establish some of Prairie View's first international connections. In Liberia, Evans worked with the American and Liberian governments to improve animal health and to establish the Booker T. Washington Institute in Kakata, Liberia (1958-1963) that was conducted by Prairie View and led by George Smith, then-dean of agriculture. This Liberia Project established the school in Kakata along the lines of an American land-grant university with outreach capability in agriculture and human sciences. In addition to agriculture, the basics of business and mechanical engineering were taught to students who were to assist with developing the industrial and business sectors of Liberia. This led

Former Houston Mayor Bill White joins ACCESS students in their service-learning project.

Right: ACCESS students visit a nursing home in Tomball as part of their summer's service project.

Below: In 2007, Prairie View welcomed its first-ever group of visiting National Student Exchange (NSE) students. Since then more than fifteen students have spent a semester at Prairie View and nine PV students spent a semester at other campuses. The students hail from various academic institutions in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Recognized for its nurturing environment and strong specialized academic programs, Prairie View provides NSE students with the same high level of service and academic instruction provided to all of its students.



to a long-term relationship between Liberia and Prairie View whereby many students from Liberia earned degrees from Prairie View. Mr. Mulbah Jackollie, the present principal of Booker T. Washington Institute in Kakata, is a graduate of Prairie View's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences. According to Evans' memoir, the Liberia Project "gave Prairie View several excellent experiences and advantages as it gave the institution an international reputation, focused the attention of the federal government on the institution, and made it possible for the staff members to live in a part of the world which they would probably not have ever seen." Moreover, Evans' international reputation led to him being named chairman of the Third Plenary Session of the World Food Forum in 1963 and being named the first dean of Tuskegee's School of Veterinarian Medicine, which he helped establish.

Other international projects occurred under the leadership of James I. Kirkwood, a soil scientist at Prairie View. Kirkwood provided twelve years of leadership and had projects in the Dominican Republic and Pakistan wherein he helped educate local farmers on how to improve crop yields in tropical environments. Dean Freddie Richards joined Kirkwood in extending this project to Kumasi, Ghana. Called the Consortium of Soils Project, Dean Richards also worked with Thomas S.

PRairie View is Assigned to First University Contract Program for Vocational Education in Liberia, West Africa

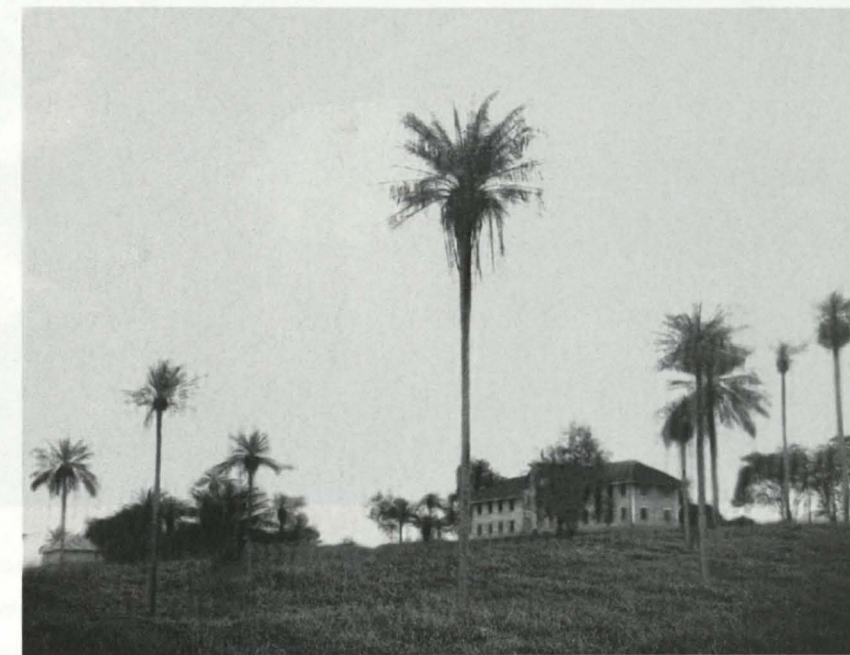
By T. R. SOLOMON
Project Manager
Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas

The university contract in the technical assistance program of the United States government to economically under-developed countries is having far reaching effects both on the American institutions participating and the foreign host institutions. Prairie View A. & M. College is one of the participating American institutions and the Booker Washington Agricultural and

Industrial Institute at Kakata, Liberia, West Africa, is the foreign host institution.

Liberia is located midway along the West Coast of Africa, north of the Equator between Sierra Leone and the French Ivory Coast. Monrovia, its capital city, rises almost abruptly on the Atlantic coastline in the western portion of Montserrado County at about 260 feet above sea level. Booker Washington Institute at Kakata is situated in Salala District, forty-five miles northeast of

Campus scene at Booker Washington Institute, Kakata, Liberia





In 2010, seven students from the College of Nursing used their summer break to travel to Kenya with a delegation of fellow future nurses to conduct a medical mission in a small rural village. The team spent about ten days creating a clinic at a local orphanage. Many of the skills the students learned in the classroom and during their clinical rotations in Houston area hospitals were used as they provided care to the community in Kenya.

Harris from 1976 to 1980, which essentially applied Prairie View's Cooperative Extension Program techniques in helping Ghanaian farmers increase corn production more than 90 percent.

Perhaps one of Prairie View's most famous international projects is the Ethiopia Sheep and Goat Productivity Improvement Program (ESGPIP), which is implemented through the U.S. Agency for International Development and in conjunction with Langston



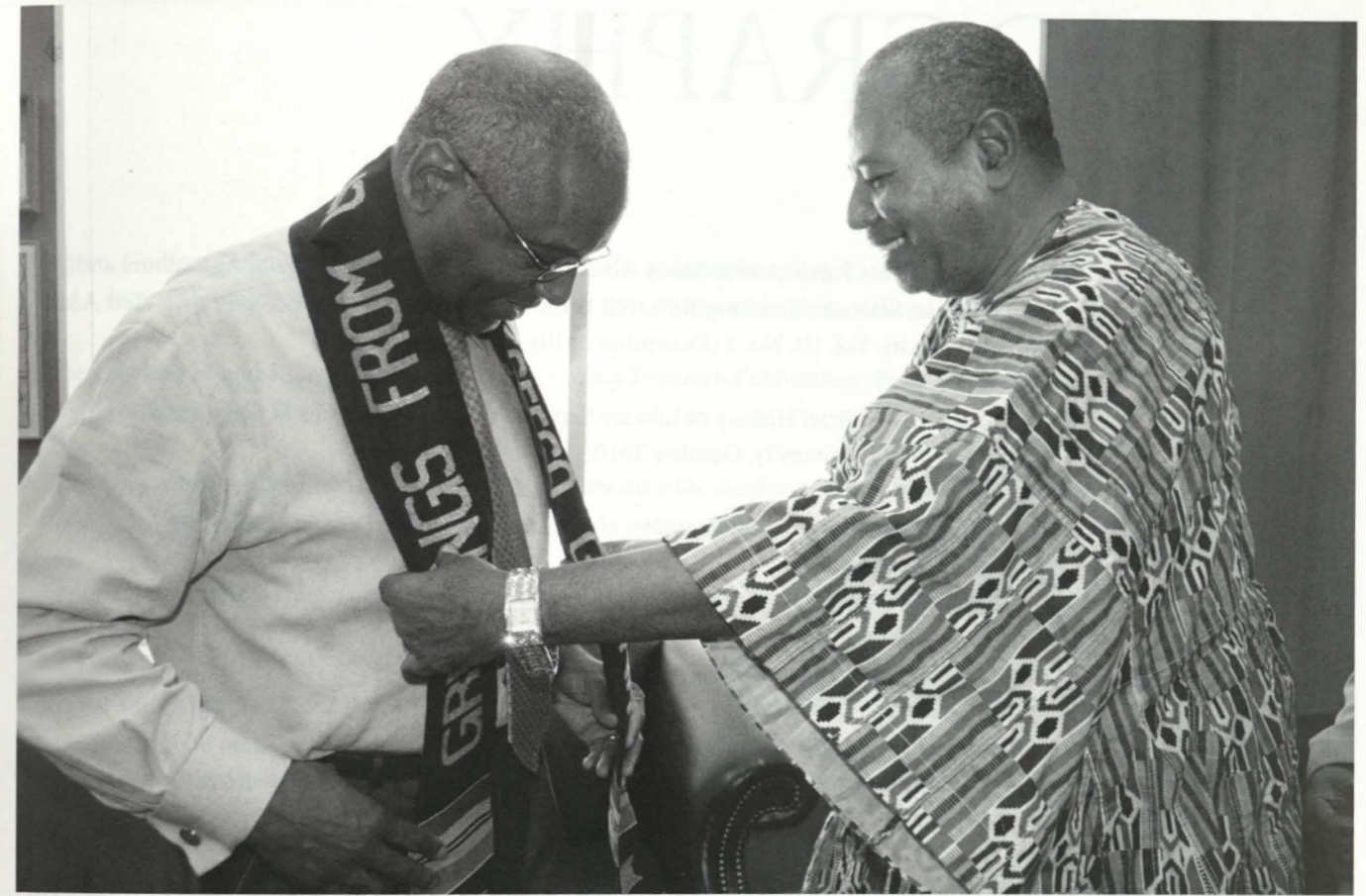
University. This program helps increase livestock yields in Ethiopia by promoting ruminant nutrition and genetic improvement. This multimillion-dollar project is estimated to benefit more than nine million pastoralists in Ethiopia and has served as a showcase for President Obama's White House Initiative on HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions that provide international technical assistance. Dean Richards, who has headed up the project, received USAID's 2010 George Washington Carver Agricultural Excellence Award for his more than forty years of service in international contributions.

The College of Agriculture and Human Sciences is leading efforts to improve breeds of sheep and goats in Ethiopia. Moreover, research from the ESGPIP will be used to benefit goat producers in Texas and throughout the United States.



Prairie View students enjoy a bonding experience with cheering Ghanaian children during their 2010 visit.

Prairie View's students have long engaged in various study-abroad trips that not only enhance their own educational experience but also help connect Prairie View to regions all over the world. Prairie View's annual trip to Ghana, in conjunction with the University of Kentucky, exposes students to different cultures in Africa as it deepens their knowledge of and appreciation for the history of the slave trade. Students who have participated in the Ghana trip have been profoundly influenced and



changed by the experience. After all, what student could visit an eighteenth-century slave-trading installation near the coast of Africa and not be changed by that experience?

Prairie View A&M University is a community that works proactively, not passively, to shape and mold people into productive citizens. Prairie View produces leaders who then go on to make a difference as their contributions multiply throughout Texas, the country, and the world. Indeed, Prairie View's connections to the larger world not only change our students, but our students help change the world. They affect either their little corner that stretches "down that road" to Waller County or "down that road" connecting them to the four corners of the world.

Nana Kusi Obuodum Amoyaw, Chief of the Aseseeso-Akuapem in Ghana, presents a gift to Prairie View President George C. Wright on a recent visit to Prairie View A&M University. Prairie View's strong ties to Ghana include an agreement to help improve Ghana's agricultural sector.

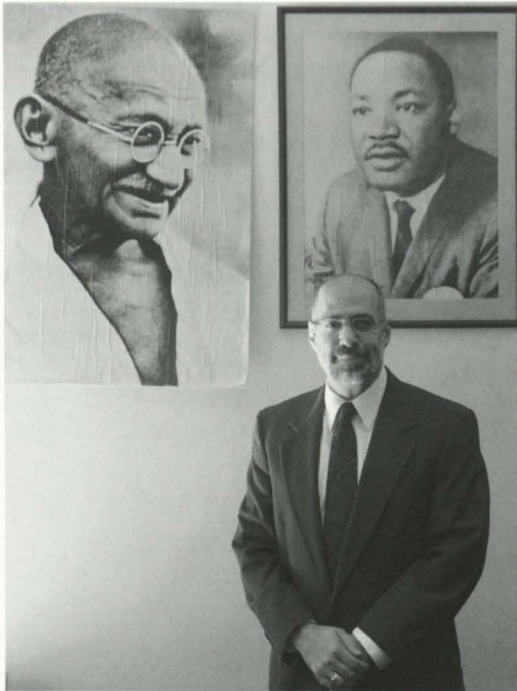
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