Come Home to Prairie View

It's a Great Place to Live, Work, and Play

INSIDE: All you need to know to make PV your new home!





150 Plus Years of Our Story

Volume 1 **$10**

"Come Home to Prairie View"



As the tenth mayor of this great city of Prairie View, I'd like to extend an invitation to you, your business, family member(s) and others you hold dear to visit our fair city. I'd especially like for you to consider relocating, starting or expanding your business in our community. Contact our 4B Economic Development Corporation for information about incentives and other business opportunities.

As a proud alumnus, I'd like to encourage you to support Prairie View A&M University's exponential growth, by giving to its endowments; by sending and enrolling your children and friends at the university, and by joining our National Alumni Association which is headquartered in our city's George Higgs Alumni Building.

We are proud to highlight in this first volume of "*Come Home to Prairie View*", a few of the individuals who have contributed to the success of not only our city and university, but of the African diaspora, this great nation, and indeed the world.

Thank you for supporting our year long celebration of 50 years as an incorporated municipality in the state of Texas. We're just getting started.

David Allen
Mayor, City of Prairie View, Texas

44500 U.S. Business Hwy. 290 P.O. Box 817 Prairie View, Texas 77446 936.857.3711
prairieviewtexas.gov

April 14, 1969



The City of Prairie View was incorporated in the State of Texas on April 14, 1969. The first mayor, Wardell D. Thompson (center) is flanked by members of the first city council, Eristus Sams, T. P. Dooley, Osborne Clark, Emmitt Mathis, O. J. Thomas, and E. M. Norris.

PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives





Prairie View Living Legend

Coach Barbara Jacket

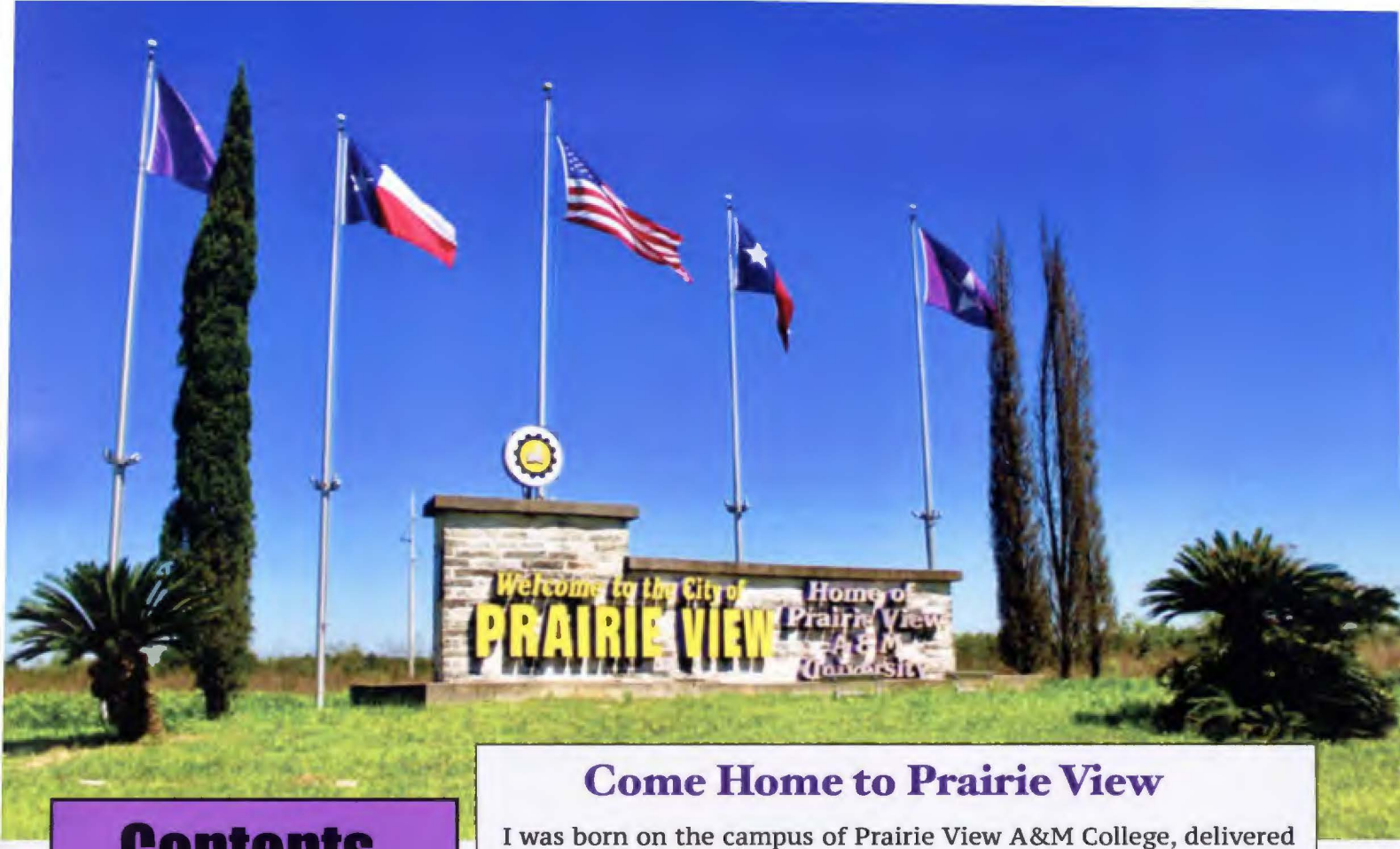
Barbara Jacket was born on December 26, 1934 in Port Arthur, Texas. She, her sister, and her brother were reared by a single mother. She did not realize an impoverished life because she and her siblings, a brother and sister always had food to eat. She was often teased because her shoes had over worn soles. Because she was a talented athlete in basketball and track, her track coach Ms. Guidry bought her a pair of shoes and often encouraged her. Attending Tuskegee Institute on a scholarship, she participated in basketball and track.

In 1964, she became the swim teacher, and later, swim coach at PVAMU. Not only did she teach university students how to swim, but she taught adults and children in the community as well.

Turning to one of her true loves, women's track, Coach Jacket formed the women's track team at Prairie View A&M University in 1965. Funding was severely limited but even with meager financial resources, the team demonstrated remarkable achievement leading to notable recognition of Ms. Jacket as a coach. Among her most prominent awards were SWAC Coach of the Year, (21 times); the Outdoor Track Coach Award and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Coach of the Year. Coach Jacket was especially humbled by selection for induction into the Tuskegee Institute Athletic Hall of Fame, the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, the Prairie View A&M University Sports Hall of Fame, and the SWAC Hall of Fame.

In 1990, she became the first woman to serve as Director of Athletics in the SWAC. Jacket's accomplishments show not only through her awards, but also through the product of her tough-love coaching ethic. During her 25 years of coaching at the University, Coach Jacket's women's track team won 23 SWAC championships, 5 athletes from Prairie View qualified for the Olympics, and 57 of her athletes received the "All-American" title.

Upon retirement from coaching the Prairie View A&M University women's track team in 1991, Jacket turned her focus to Olympic coaching. Coach Jacket became the second African-American female to coach in the Barcelona Olympics. Her 1992 team included such greats as Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Gwen Torrance, Gail Devers, and Evelyn Ashford. Following her time as an Olympics coach, Jacket returned to Prairie View to continue teaching. She retired from her career as an educator in 2010.



Contents

Page/ Feature

8/ Lewis Owens and Prairie View Beginnings

16/ Prairie View Cricket Complex

29/ Doing Business in Prairie View

30/ East Texas Precast

36/ Kansas State, Tuskegee, and PVAMU

38/ Wyatt Chapel

40/ 14 Farm Families

48/ The Incredible Lawsons

67/ African-American Education in Early Texas

Come Home to Prairie View

I was born on the campus of Prairie View A&M College, delivered into this community in 1963, by the hands of Dr. E.R. Owens; both my mother and father were Prairie View graduates.

As a kid, I remember being served lunch in the home of Gertrude Tapscott. She served butter sandwiches and apple juice to Emma Kirkwood (born, 1868), Martha King (born 1870), to me and my brother Craig. I REMEMBER SITTING AND EATING WITH THEM! They were both over 100 years of age at that time.

DJ Premiere (aka Chris Martin) was in the ninth grade when he DJ'd a party for me at the Newman Center (fall 1980). I sat in Ms. Arnold's English class, and a History class from Dr. Woolfolk. George and Olivette Higgs and Alvertice and Larnetha Bowdre were my neighborhood parents. Prairie View's first mayor, Wardell Thompson, was my neighbor...my brothers and I mowed his lawn.

A.I. Thomas once invited me into his office to talk politics. That was huge for me! I picked fruit from the garden of Agnes Lawson, but I think she never knew (lol). I attended the very last "segregated" class in 1968 at the Prairie View Training School. I too, am Prairie View.

I am so honored to be allowed to compile this publication for the City of Prairie View's 4B Economic Development Corporation and for my son's company, FuGen Creative Company. A special thanks to Mayor David Allen and the EDC 4B board members (especially Jude Daniels), for believing that we could do this. Thanks also to Marshall Brown, Amy Boykin, and Jimmie Poindexter, and others who shared such incredible memories of growing up in Prairie View.

There is not another place in America like Prairie View. Come Home to Prairie View! Volume II will be even better!

I'm at home.

DeWayne Charleston, Publisher



The City of Prairie View

Founded April 14, 1969

A vibrant small college town open for educational, recreational, and commercial development. The town is located on Highway 290 on the route between Houston, and Austin or Bryan-College Station. It is the economic engine of, and the most populous city in Waller County.

Prairie View is home to Prairie View A&M University, The Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture, the International Goat Research Center, the nation's largest Cricket field complex and nearly 3000 off-campus student housing units.

Our progressive city government is committed to the growth and prosperity of the city, while maintaining its historic charm and HBCU flavor. The community is served by a staffed City Hall, a Police Department, Municipal Court, and a Volunteer Fire Department.

Prairie View is an exciting place to live, work, and play. It is home to the 15,000 seat Panther Stadium, with parking for almost 100 full-RV hookups. Other amenities within the city include a bowling alley, tennis courts, water park/playground, and other nearby attractions.

Disclaimer: Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of all information contained in this publication. As information changes frequently, Prairie View 4B Economic Development Corporation is not responsible for any damages, perceived or real, resulting from using information in this guide. It is up to the reader to research and verify the most current information.
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The city's seal was designed by Mr. Henry B. Kemp

On the Cover: Prairie View native resident and student, Glori Prince. Christopher Easton, Photographer

For additional copies, call 936-857-3711 or visit the Prairie View City Hall



PV*did* U Know?

Prairie View faculty and students, leaving the train station at Business 290, often walked the mile long journey to the campus, in suits, military wear, or overalls, down the gravel road that is now Sandra Bland Parkway.

Prairie View railway station on the H. & T. C. Railroad. The campus i
situated 1¼ miles north of the station.

PV*did* U Know?

The first Postmaster in Prairie View was Jamaican born, Duncan Robertson, the son of a slave. He came to Prairie View as head of the local railroad. Robertson is also the great-great grandfather of local real estate developer, Jude Daniels.



Lewis Owens and the Beginnings of Prairie View

While many believe the City of Prairie View to have risen from the establishment and success of Prairie View A&M University. It is quite likely, that the opposite occurred.

As Texas state leaders began to look, plan for, and determine the proper placement of a college for "Negroes", they were drawn to Helen Marr Kirby, a widow and owner of the Alta Vista Plantation. Heavily in debt, she chose to sell the estate, including the Kirby House, which was the plantation's lavish social center, for $15,000.

In 1876, the Fifteenth Texas Legislature, in compliance with the Federal Morrill Land Grant College Act, which provided public lands for the establishment of colleges, authorized an "Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Benefit of Colored Youth" as part of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (Now Texas A&M University).

What is clear, is that the area around the Alta Vista Plantation was heavily populated with free black farmers who were hard-working and smart, and the location was a logical location for an agricultural school.

A mere four years after the legislative establishment of the college, nearly two out of every three residents living in Waller County were African-American. In the first ever recorded census of Waller County, the U.S. Census of Records state that there were 9,024 people living in the county, including 5,830 African-Americans.

In the same decade the state established Prairie View, Blacks were successfully farming and cultivating land throughout Waller County in the area west of Hempstead. Lewis Owens, the great grandfather of current resident, Maurice Owens, purchased 177 acres of land bordering the east side of the former Alta Vista Plantation. Owens paid off the $500 purchase price in 1886, a short ten years after the university's founding.

State legislators, Jacob Freeman and George Wyatt, owned land in the Wyatt Chapel area, and the Wyatt family donated land for both cemeteries in Prairie View, which are located immediately north of the campus.

Wyatt and Freeman were former slaves who lived in the Prairie View community. Both were instrumental in passing legislation which created Prairie View A&M College during the "Reconstruction" period following the Civil War.

T. S. REESE

TO

LEWIS OWENS

DEED

DATED: June 21, 1886,

FILED: June 21, 1886,

RECORDED: Vol. 9, Page 88,

DEED RECORDS, WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS.

- - - - -

THE STATE OF TEXAS |

COUNTY OF WALLER | KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that for and in consideration of the sum of Five hundred and thirty one Dollars to be paid to me by Lewis Owen as follows viz: One hundred and seventy seven dollars January 1st. 1888, One hundred and seventy seven dollars January 1st 1889, and one hundred and Seventy seven dollars January 1st, 1890, for which the said Lewis Owens has this daye xecuted to me his three several promissory notes due as aforesaid, and each bearing interest at ten per cent per annum from January 1st. 1887 until paid, and to secure the payment of which the vendors lien is hereby expressly retained upon the land hereinafter conveyed. I, T. S. Reese have bargained and sold and by these presents bargain sell and convey to the said Lewis Owen the following described tract of land, lying in Waller County, Texas, about seven miles East of Hempstead a part of the G. A. Bennett Survey;

BEGINNING at the North W. Corner of the upper [illegible] patented to the name of Thomas Bell, a large Post on the North We[illegible] for corner;

THENCE North 906 varas to the N. E. corner



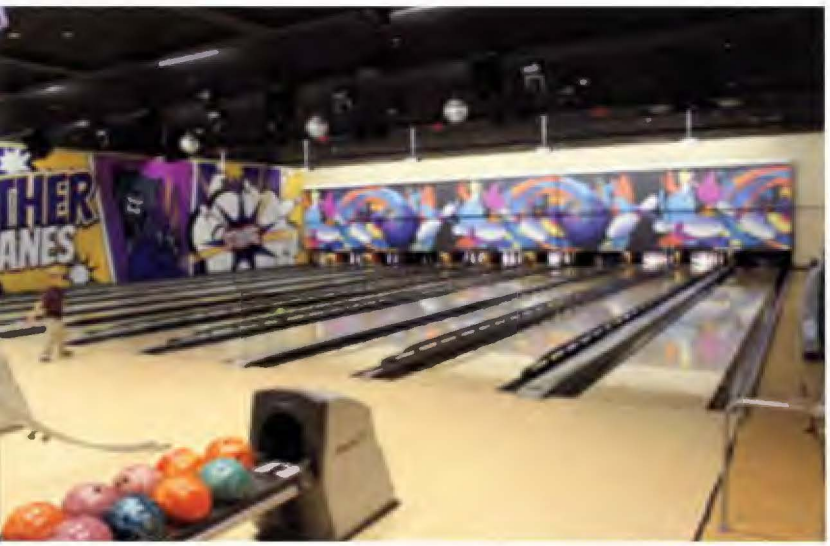
"When they brought those fourteen families to Prairie View, I used my bosses' truck to pick up the lumber that was used for building the 14 homes.

I'd load up at the train station at old 290, and I'd take it as far as the truck would go. The roads were so bad, some of the lumber had to be hauled by mule the rest of the way."

- Maurice Owens, age 89

Owens is a retired teacher and still farms the land purchased almost 140 years ago by his great-grandfather, Lewis Owens. Kathryn Reed, his neighbor, and the wife of his first cousin, Ollie Reed, also still lives on the Owens/Reed Farm, where her husband and his brothers bailed hay for decades.

Things to do....



Whether you want to go bowling, play soccer, watch the "Marching Storm" practice, play a few games of pickup basketball, walk a country mile, or take in a Charles Gilpin Players performance, Prairie View's entertainment and recreational landscape is here for your enjoyment.

The PVAMU Women's Bowling team is among the top programs in the nation. The bowling lanes (Panther Lanes), and adjacent grill and restaurant (The Bistro), located on Owens Rd. are open to the public, year round!

The American Diabetes Association holds its annual Tour de Cure Ride, Run, and Walk in Prairie View. The 2019 event raised over $900,000 for the charity organization.







Leroy Moore was born October 4, 1923, in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Dr. Moore served as the head of the Department of Health and Physical Education, Acting Dean of the College of Education, and later Director of Athletics. The university honored him in naming the intramural gymnasium after him - the Leroy G. Moore, Jr. Intramural Gymnasium.

As a football, track, and basketball coach at Prairie View, Moore won SWAC titles in all three sports. He also coached future Basketball Hall of Famer, Zelmo Beatty, and the 1962 PVAMU hoop squad to a National Championship. In a four-year span ('59, '60, '61, and '62), Coach Moore's teams garnered a remarkable won-lost record of 102-7.

He was married for 44 years to Theodra Crowell Moore, and they had two children, Dr. Sandra Moore and Dr. David Moore. Coach Moore died on January 15, 2012.



..in Prairie View

Prairie View is a great place to live, work, and play. Its residents can get to the Houston Premium Outlets on Highway 290 in less than 20 minutes.







Bringing the RV to the game? Jellystone Park is among the largest waterparks around and has full hookups, and family-sized cabins for rent.

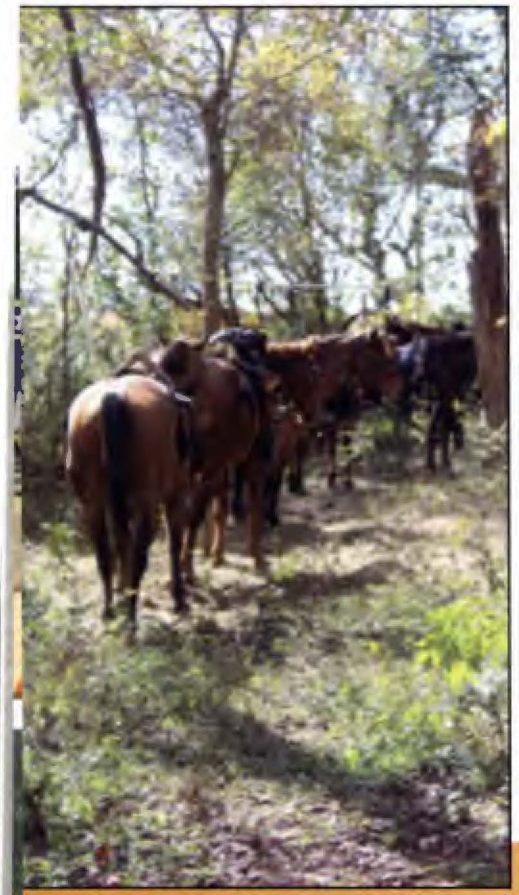


Irvine Charles Gordon was born May 26, 1923. A longtime resident of Prairie View, he was a professor and director of the Upward Bound program for over 25 years. Dr. Gordon served for many years as director of Federal Programs at the university and was instrumental in the writing of proposals and the procurement of millions of dollars, for the university he loved.

While serving as pastor of Hope AME in Prairie View and other prior congregations in Virginia, Florida, and Georgia, Dr. Gordon traveled extensively in the Middle East, Europe, Canada, and Mexico. Many young men and women began their ministry under his spiritual guidance.

Dr. Gordon died on February 8, 2000, and was survived by his wife, Clara Cox Gordon, and three sons and three daughters.

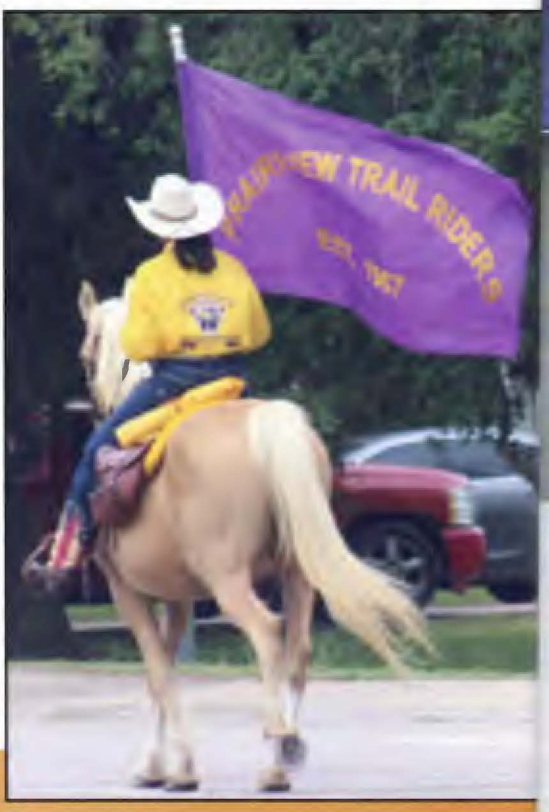




Things to do in Prairie View

As with many small Texas towns, trail rides, rodeos, barrel racing, calf roping, and other equine sports are a favorite past-time. Prairie View has it all. The Prairie View Trail Riders have been one of the premiere riding organizations since their founding in 1957. This year (2019), they won the overall prize at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for *Best Trail Ride*.

Prairie View is also home to the top Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) roper, Cory Solomon.









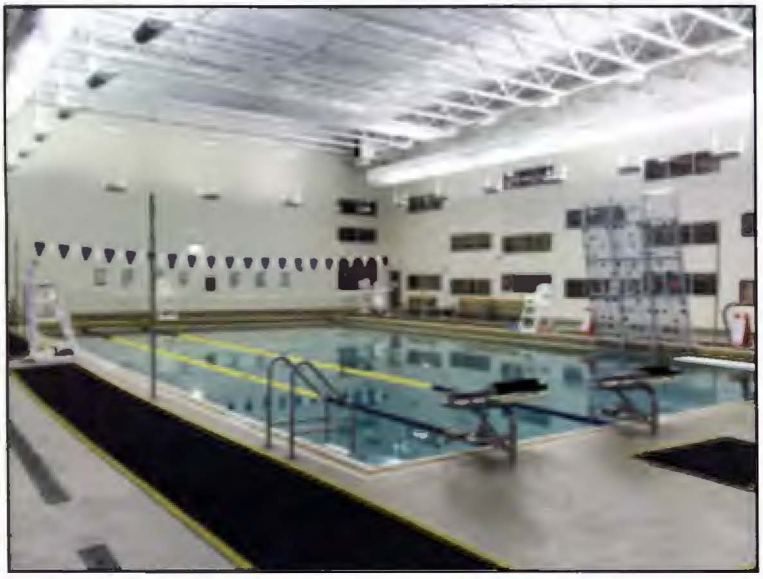
Waymon T. Webster was born July 29 927, in Hearne, Texas. Dr. Webster went from schooling in Hearne to Grand Forks, North Dakota, and back to Texas, where he mastered many professions and hobbies. He received a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in Educational Psychology.

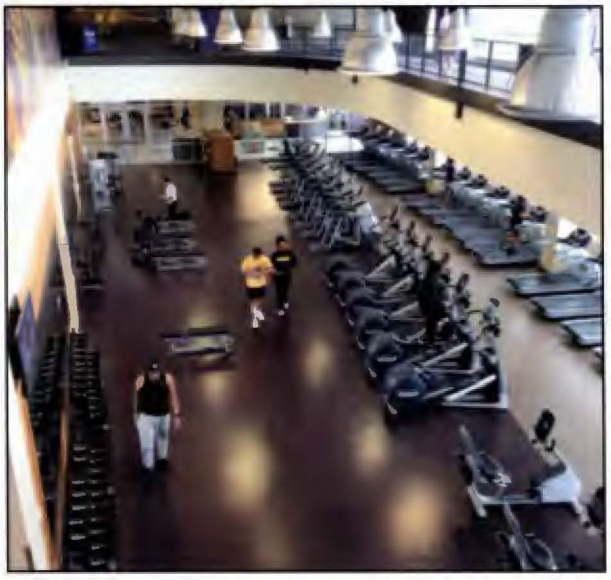
A licensed chemical dependency counselor (LCDC), band director at Kemp High School, and dean of PVAMU Graduate School, he also enjoyed gardening, bridge playing, and arranging and listening to jazz. Waymon was married to the wonderful and beautiful, Bernice Sargent Webster for 57 years, and they are the parents of Jacque, Travis and Senora. Dr. Webster died on February 16, 2015.





A great feature of the "Communiversity" (the university and off-campus community partnership) is the health and fitness center which is open to students, faculty, staff, and neighborhood residents, for a small monthly fee.
The comprehensive fitness center has an olympic-sized pool, weight and cardio rooms, indoor walking track, basketball and volleyball courts, and even a rock climbing wall.





Bernice Rutledge-Fuller was born in Hempstead Texas, to Maultie and Sallie Rutledge. She is the granddaughter of Bob Chatham (born enslaved in Waller County), known throughout the United States as the original Watermelon King. Her grandfather was one of the first graduates of PVAMU. Bernice married Theodore Fuller and they had four children, all of whom attended Prairie View A&M University.

Bernice was an excellent and popular local seamstress and a lifetime member of Second Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, where she faithfully served as treasurer. Affectionately nicknamed "MaDear", Bernice passed away on May 8, 2003.





Archivist, Lisa Stafford, the daughter of Dr. George H. Stafford, works in the Special Collections/Archives Department of the John B. Coleman Library at PVAMU. Lisa has been invaluable in our efforts to compile this publication and preserving our city's history.

PV*did* U Know?

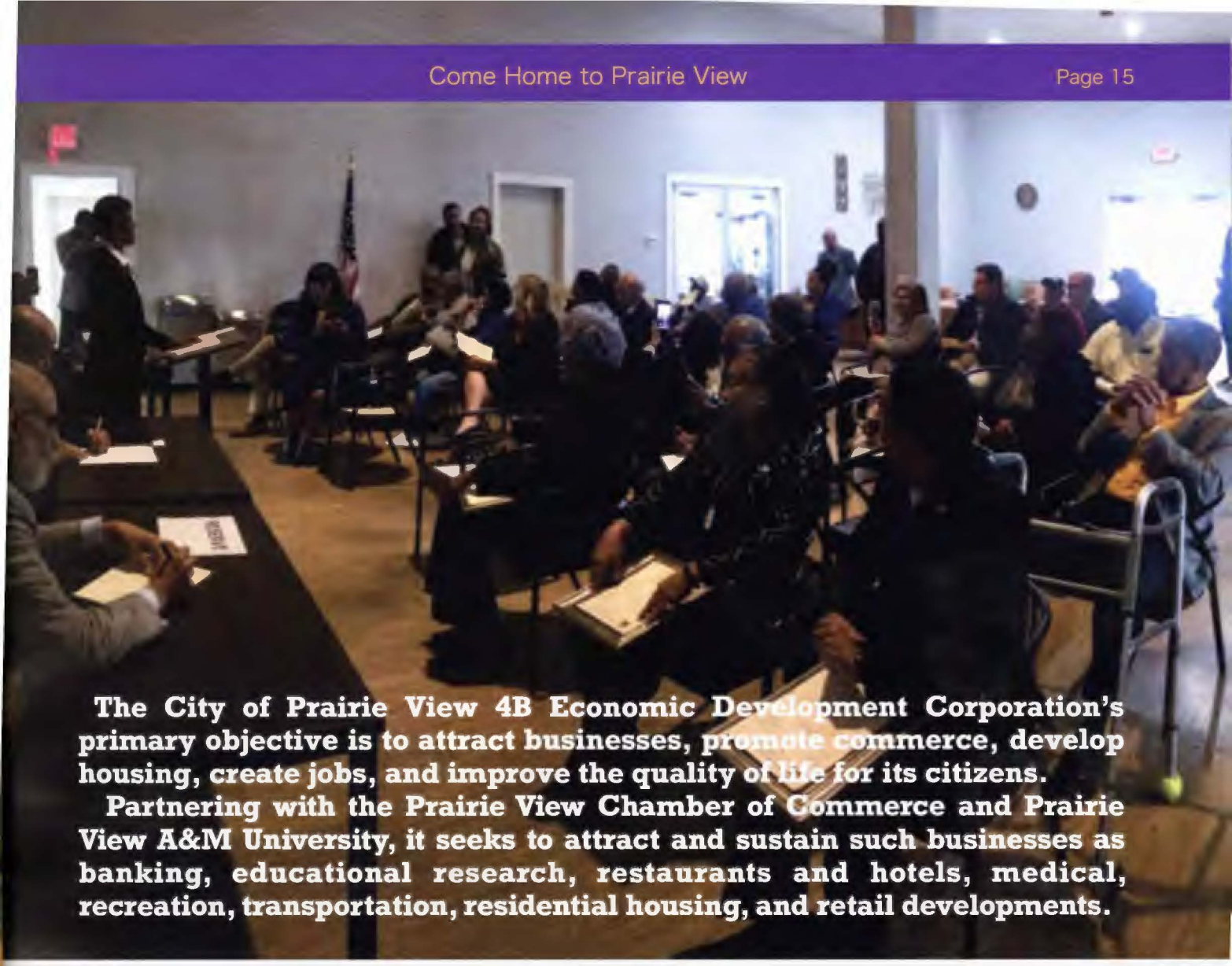
George Howard Stafford was born on September 3, 1927, in Italy, Texas. Upon receiving his undergraduate and Master's Degree from PVAMU and his Doctorate Degree from Cornell University, he embarked upon a career spanning almost fifty years at Prairie View, including a stint in Monrovia, Liberia.

Dr. Stafford was member of "The Committee of Twenty-five" appointed by President John F. Kennedy, to study Education Problems of American Youth. Stafford was also selected to serve on the "Texas Plan for Desegregation" committee.

Dr. Stafford served in many leadership roles at the university, including Director of Admissions, Athletic Director, Director of Development Studies, and professor of Agricultural Economics. He was a member of the Prairie View Athletic Club and the Panther Club, and was inducted into the PVAMU Sports Hall of Fame.

George married Eula Mae Patrick Stafford of Tuskegee, Alabama, and they had five children. He died on November 17, 1999.





The City of Prairie View 4B Economic Development Corporation's primary objective is to attract businesses, promote commerce, develop housing, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Partnering with the Prairie View Chamber of Commerce and Prairie View A&M University, it seeks to attract and sustain such businesses as banking, educational research, restaurants and hotels, medical, recreation, transportation, residential housing, and retail developments.



Duria Leron Henderson was born February 17, 1918, in Winchester, Texas. and was married to Mae Shaw Henderson for 59 years. Together they founded the Henderson Chapel Christian Center in Prairie View.

Duria was employed at PVAMU with uninterrupted service for 40 years as the Senior Baker in Food Services. He is the father of three sons, one, served as mayor of Prairie View. Deacon Henderson passed away on October 16, 2000.

Lee E. Henderson was born in Prairie View, Texas on February 9, 1943. Lee received a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree from PVAMU, and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. He was a lead professor in Anatomy and Physiology, especially for nursing majors. He also served two terms as a speaker of the Faculty Senate; and two terms as the mayor of the city of Prairie View. Dr. Henderson was also owner of Elle Photography Studio in the city of Prairie View.

Lee died on July 31, 2018, leaving his loving wife of 52 years, Shirley Fontenot Henderson and a large family and community to mourn his passing.



PRAIRIE VIEW CRICKET COMPLEX





Wolff Companies and Houston businessman Tanweer Ahmed, announced that a new cricket complex is under development in northwest Houston. The 84-acre development named the Prairie View Cricket Complex is the largest cricket complex in the USA. The U.S. 290 corridor has been experiencing unprecedented investment with the opening of the new and expanded, U.S. Highway 290.

Wolff Companies sold the 68 acre tract on Liendo Parkway, which Ahmed combined with a separate 16-acre tract. Ahmed, who has lived in Houston since 2007 and owns several businesses ranging from fast food to medical research to energy, is an avid cricket player. He learned the game in his native Pakistan, and currently plays on team GACCI in the Houston Cricket League. The sheer number of cricket fields in one location will make this development a "one of a kind" complex in the United States, according to Ahmed.

David Wolff, Chairman and President of Wolff Companies, purchased the land several years ago in anticipation of growth in northwest Houston and because of the property's natural beauty, particularly several old growth live oak trees. While he expected the land would likely be developed for multiple uses, such as retail and service businesses over the course of a few years, he appreciates Ahmed's foresight in buying the entire parcel prior to the re-opening of U.S. 290.

Wolff commented, "The completion of the new U.S. 290 is going to have the same effect on northwest Houston, as the completion of I-10 did on west Houston – it will open the area to unprecedented levels of high-quality growth."

According to Texas Department of Transportation officials, most major construction – including all widened lanes and new bridges – along the main lanes of U.S. 290 will have been finished by 2018. When complete, U.S. 290 will have eleven lanes, including a reversible HOV lane, from Loop 610 to Texas State Highway 6/FM 1960, and nine lanes from there to Waller County.

Dirothia Richards Mathis was born on May 31, 1924, in Prairie View's Wyatt Chapel community. She was united in marriage to Emmitt E. Mathis and together they nurtured four children. Dirothia was employed in the PVAMU Laundry Department. After 35 years of dedicated service, she retired in 1991.

Always so proud of her family, one of her favorite pastimes was making homemade ice cream and homemade sprite cakes. In addition to serving her family, she also faithfully served her church, Mt. Corinth Missionary Baptist Church. There she served in the Senior Choir, Ruth Mission Circle, and as president of the Mount Corinth Mission Auxiliary.

Mrs. Mathis died on June 15, 2012.



"More cricket fields are badly needed in Houston. Prairie View – which is located along the upgraded U.S. 290 and near the recently opened Grand Parkway – offers a perfect, easily accessible location to meet the League's needs," said Ahmed. "There are numerous cricket leagues and teams in the Houston area and only nine fields between Humble and East Bernard. A player has to drive considerable distances to different fields scattered over a large area. This new cricket complex will be more convenient, and allow us to more easily hold tournaments. Also, these new fields will enable us to grow our league of 28 teams, to as many as 50 teams. Currently, no new teams can join because we simply don't have enough fields."

"I am pleased to have been working closely with Prairie View Mayor David Allen, who suggested the name – Prairie View Cricket Complex – to make this initiative one of the best cricket complexes in the nation," said Ahmed.

Mayor Allen has been collaborating with Prairie View A&M University's Architecture Director of Service Learning, Professor Barry H. Norwood, to include student input in the basic site planning phase. Prairie View's Economic Development board member 4B, Dr. Veda Brown, has also expressed excitement about the potential economic impact this cricket complex will have locally.

Mayor Allen stressed that the overall benefits of the project offer a "win-win" for all involved – including Ahmed, the Houston Cricket League, the City of Prairie View, and the architecture students at Prairie View A&M University.

"In more than 50 years of business, this is one of our most exciting and gratifying transactions," said Wolff. "The deal hits a personal chord for me because Tanweer is an immigrant and a Muslim who came here for the same reasons as my Jewish father came to the United States almost a century ago: work hard, achieve financial security, raise good families, and help others.

PV*did* **U Know?**

Cricket is the world's 2nd most popular sport with almost 3 billion fans. Only soccer has more.







When Tanweer told me of his plans to use Liendo Park to build a non-profit foundation to encourage the growth of cricket among Houston's youth, I was thrilled."

Wolff concluded, "This transaction between Tanweer and Wolff Companies and the future of Prairie View is demonstrative of Houston's past and future growth. Houston is one of the most diverse cities in America. Many of our citizens didn't grow up here. When I arrived in Houston in 1965, the city gave me ample opportunity to build my business. In 2007, it provided the same opportunity to Tanweer. We are both now in the position to give back to our community and I am glad that Tanweer chose Prairie View as a place to leave his mark."

Make Prairie View Your New Home



"Come Home to Prairie View"

Come visit with us and celebrate the art, entertainment, music, and sports that make our culture so rich. Then settle in and "*Make Prairie View Your New Home*".

Boasting of one of the finest HBCU's in America, Prairie View rose out of the literal ashes of the Civil War. The new community of free African-Americans worked hard to create a learning environment vital to the support of the newly founded normal school (which later became a university) on "the hill".

Prairie View was home! Faculty, staff, and students...all lived in the community and supported one another. Out of these hallowed halls and sacred farm lands, we have produced generations of loving families, successful businesses, and indeed have been the community that fostered the university's popular slogan created by Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, *"Prairie View Produces Productive People!"*



The City of Prairie View is located within minutes of major medical facilities in the Houston/ Cypress area. The Owens-Franklin Health Center provides medical services to faculty, staff, students and off-campus residents. The community has one of the areas best trained volunteer fire departments, serving the city, university, and surrounding areas. Other medical services, including a dental practice and a staffed health center, make Prairie View a wonderful place to live.





Sudie Lee Haggerty Williams-Walker was born November 28, 1941 in Harrison County, Texas. Sis. Walker truly loved God and her family, and was active in all their lives. She was a seamstress and a phenomenal cook. During 31 years of service in the Hempstead ISD, she became a certified professional counselor and also received the district's Teacher-of-the-Year Award.
Sudie Walker died November 21, 2014.



Daniel Herndon was born January 23, 1910, in Regan Falls, Texas. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Marlin, Texas and entered PVAMU in 1927, where he later received his B.S. and M.S. degrees. Daniel worked at Prairie View over a span of four decades, serving as the Superintendent of the college's Dry Cleaning and Laundry Department.
Mr. Herndon died on November 5, 1976.





Esel Bell was born on December 18, 1927 in Magnolia, Texas. A PVAMU graduate, she worked at the U.S. Post Office for almost 40 years until her retirement in 1989. Active as a leader in many community organizations like Zeta, Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., the Athletic Club, and Mt. Corinth MBC, she received many awards over her lifetime. None is more historic than having the local Prairie View Post Office Building named after her on June 16, 1992.

PV *did* U Know?

Prairie View is the most populated city in Waller County, and also its fastest growing community.

If you are looking for a great place to start or expand a business, build your dream home, or to raise your family – Prairie View is a great place to start.

With the nurturing academic and cultural environment of our great city, your children will have as much of an opportunity to attend Harvard or Howard University, as they have of attending Prairie View.

Your business will also be located on the growing northwest side of Houston, strategically located between Houston, Austin, and Bryan-College Station.



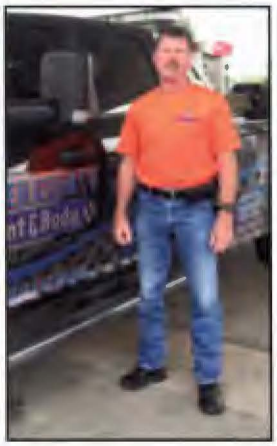
"Come Home to Prairie View"

There's No Better Place to Live, Work, or Play!



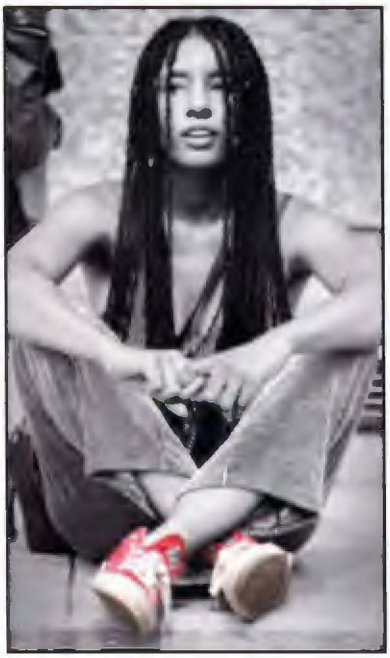




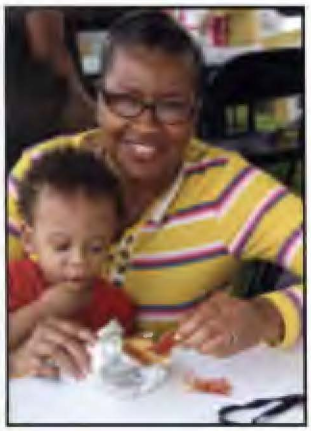


What Makes Us So Special?

Our people, of course!





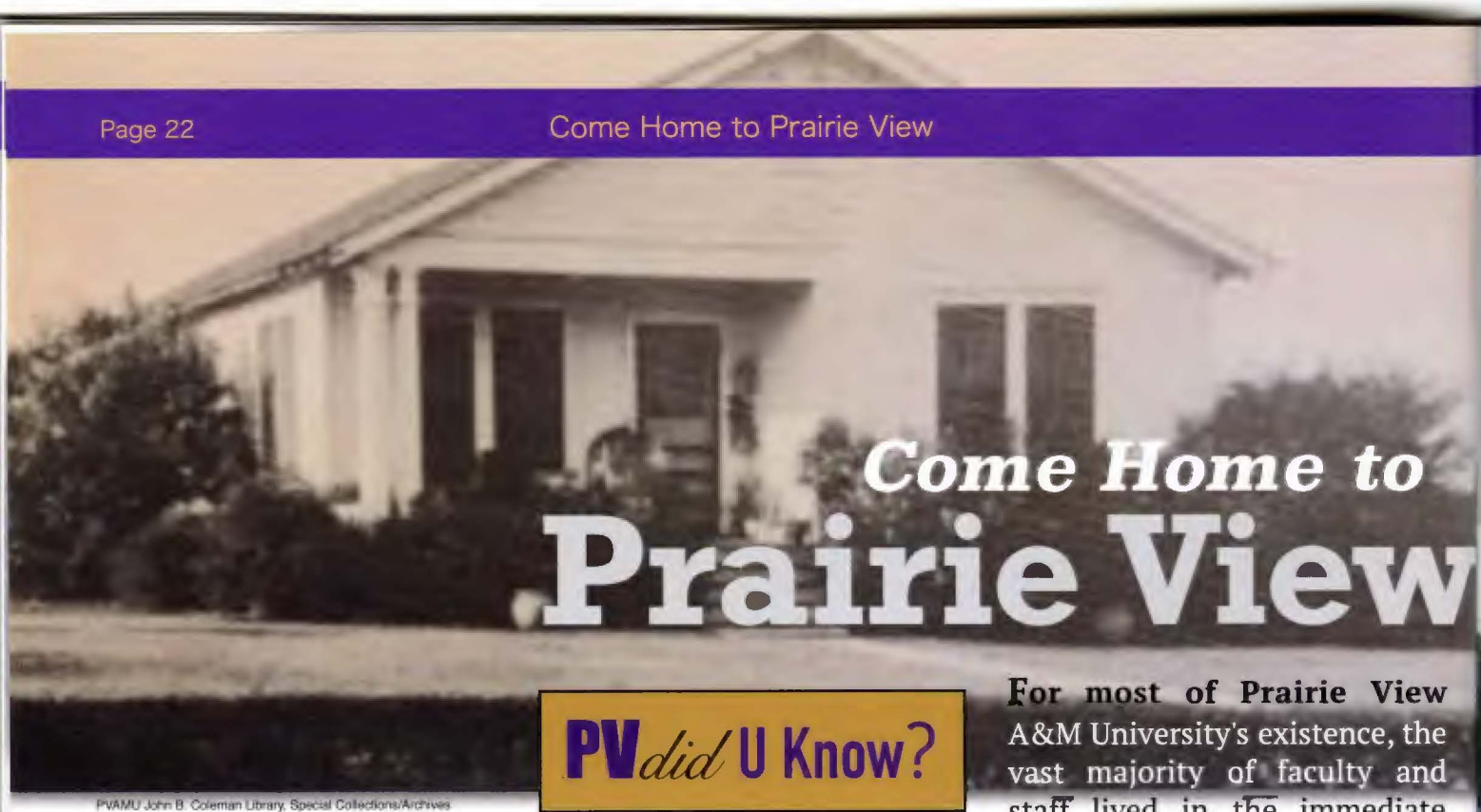




Milton Gerald Whiting was born July 10, 1933, in Old Washington, Texas. He attended Pickard High School in Brenham, Texas and Prairie View A&M University. Having served as a commissioned officer in the infantry of the U.S. Army, Milton began his career as a County Extension Agent in Waller County, and then worked for 34 years with the Farmers Home Administration,

He was elected to serve as the Precinct #3 Commissioner for Waller County government and on many other boards such as the Prairie View Federal Credit Union, Bethlehem UMC Finance Committee, and the PVAMU National Alumni Association. He was married to the lovely Jocelyn Whiting, and passed away on September 4, 2013.





Come Home to Prairie View

PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

PV did U Know?





For most of Prairie View A&M University's existence, the vast majority of faculty and staff lived in the immediate nearby communities. This "communiversity" living arrangement supported the mission of the college and fostered a complete "small-town college experience."

Alumni often reminisce during the annual homecoming week and other common gatherings of their relationships with instructors and staff, as "caring" neighbors and mentors.

Prairie View still offers opportunities for employees of PVAMU to live in spacious country estates, deed restricted communities and other off-campus housing units, within a 5 minute drive from work.

The community around PVAMU is landscaped with the most beautiful homes in Waller County.

Eleanor Marie Stein Hill was born on December 28, 1919. She and her husband Jesse Hill, moved to Prairie View in 1951. Ms. Hill taught kindergarten and first grade in the Waller ISD and also kept children in her home, many of whom she considered her adopted grandchildren. A mother of six children, she was a member of Mt. Corinth MBC and Bethlehem UMC, and the owner of the beautiful Prairie View landmark, 'rock home' (pictured above).

Eleanor Hill passed on July 16, 2013, and the entire community cherishes her memory.



PV *did* U Know?

The Alta Vista subdivision in Prairie View was a section of the original family farm of Ezekiel Anderson - one of the "Fourteen Families" selected to further develop the city of Prairie View.

For almost 70 years, the Alta Vista community has been home to Prairie View families. It is one of the city's fifteen neighborhoods, and is currently expanding into a second phase of single and multi-family housing, and retail developments.





The city is proud to have an independent living facility for seniors and disabled residents. Centrally located adjacent to the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Department, Shady Oaks is a single story apartment complex, situated under five acres of beautiful oak trees.

"Come Home to Prairie View, anytime!"

March Mae Lewis Tramble was born September 6, 1931, in Groesbeck, Texas. She taught in Galveston and Hempstead public schools (Sam Schwartz), and as a business instructor at PVAMU. She was actively involved in the Texas State Teachers Association, Prairie View Retired Teachers Association, the Prairie View National Alumni Association, the Prairie View Athletic Club and, of course, her beloved Prairie View Class of 1953. March was a Golden Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She always brightened everyone's holidays with the beautiful Christmas displays at her home. She died on April 4, 2017 and is greatly missed by all.





THE TAPSCOTTS AND EXTENDED FAMILY

The Tapscotts were among the earliest families to live in Prairie View's Rosewood community.

The Tapscott, Kirkwood, and Bean families contributed to the academic, spiritual, and overall development of the Prairie View community for many decades. Ms. Gertrude Tapscott (center row, white hat) was a graduate of, and early educator at PVAMU who mentored hundreds of students; often providing free room and board for those in need. The City of Prairie View named the city's park in her honor. Ms. Tapscott died on April 12, 2005, at the age of 105.

Her brother, Rev. Charles R. Kirkwood, (rear row center) was also a longtime Prairie View resident. Charles attended Tuskegee Institute, where he studied under George Washington Carver. He also helped build the Paramount Studios, in Los Angeles, California. Rev. Kirkwood died on January 2, 2003, at the age of 101.

Martha Crain-King (far right, white jacket) was born July 3, 1868 and died Dec. 12, 1979 at the 111 years of age. Martha's sister, Emma Crain-Kirkwood, was born April 3, 1870, and died Nov. 14, 1974, at 104 years of age, and was the mother of Gertrude Tapscott.

Also pictured is, Sarah Kirkwood Bean, who was Gertrude Tapscott's sister, She died on Nov. 22, 1985.

Charles Washington "CW" Tapscott, (pictured upper right corner) known for his poetry, died on Aug. 11, 2007 at 89, and was Gertrude Tapscott's nephew.



Doris Williams was born February 9, 1927 in Corsicana, Texas, and worked for both the city and the university in Prairie View. She was an encourager and a motivator, with a great sense of humor. Everyone knew her to be a fierce supporter of education.

Doris was a leader with the local Girl Scout program, and often had hundreds of boxes of cookies in her garage at 116 Pine Street. Doris E. Williams died on March 12, 2013. She is mourned by her husband, Rev. Fletcher Williams, her family, and a large community of friends.



The development of off-campus housing is keeping pace with the tremendous growth of the local university and the northwest Houston business corridor. Over 2500 housing units are currently under construction on campus, on Richards Road, Echols Street, and west of Alta Vista.







The town and university have rapidly transitioned from dormitory-based housing, to privatized on-campus and off-campus living. This transition is fueling new business growth for the entire city.

Born October 18, 1913 in Smithville, Texas, **Emory Roswell Owens**, joined PVAMU in 1941 and remained until his retirement in 1989. Emory served as a physician to Waller County and surrounding areas, as well as to the university.

In 1978, under the administration of President Alvin I. Thomas, the university honored him by naming the school's hospital, the Owens-Franklin Health Center. Ten years later, he was inducted into the Prairie View Sports Hall of Fame, as a tribute to his over 45 years as team physician.

A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., he was presented a special award by the Benjamin Banneker Honors College during a special conference on Race and Ethnicity. The keynote speaker for that event was non other than, Dr. John Hope Franklin; one of Dr. Owens' undergraduate contemporaries at Fisk University.

A special joy for Dr. Owens, were the visits and correspondences he received from many of the hundreds of babies he delivered into the Prairie View community during his half century of service.

Dr. Emory Roswell Owens died on November 7, 1999, and was survived by his wife of 57 years, the former Julia Fortes, and their daughters, Carolyn and Rosalyn.







Most apartment complexes in Prairie View consistently exceed 90% occupancy. A university-sponsored shuttle service is of great benefit to students, landlords, and local businesses.

"Come Home to
Prairie View,
after classes too!"









Bettie Tompkins Richards was born on March 26, 1918, in Tomball, Texas. She was married to Cecil Richards, and they had three children, Cecile, Cedric, and Reatha.

Bettie was raised in the Laneview community and educated at Sam Schwartz High School in Hempstead. She began employment at the PVAMU Dining Hall in the late 50's, and later worked for the Prairie View postal service for almost 20 years.

Ms. Richards was a tremendous cook and an excellent seamstress. Her love and affection for children was especially expressed through her dedication in service to her church and as a Cub Scout Den Mother. Bettie died on December 27, 2001.



Hoover J. Wright's record of success created a demand for him to share his winning formula at various coaching clinics around the nation. The native of Hebron, Maryland, earned a Bachelor's Degree from Maryland State University (1948) and a Master's Degree from Penn State University.

Wright was selected several times as the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Coach of the Year and the N.A.I.A. Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame for both organizations.

Additionally, he served as an assistant coach for the 1975 Pan American games, 1971 U.S.-Soviet Meet, the 1972 Munich Olympics, the World University Games in Bucharest and head coach, in a tri-meet with Cubans and Canadians, in 1987.

Our beloved coach, died on March 7, 2003, and was survived by his loving wife of 49 years, the former Eloise McCreary, along with four children, Romana, Sondra, Hoover, Jr. and Shawneequee, and eight grandchildren.



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HOOVER JOHN WRIGHT, SR.

Coach Wright's career started at Shorter College in North Little Rock, Arkansas, where he served as head football coach, men and women's basketball coach, and men and women's track coach. From there, he went on to Paul Quinn college, not only serving as department head of Health and Physical Education and Athletic Director, but also as head football coach, where his teams captured numerous championships.

In 1976, as head football coach at Prairie View, he guided his team to a 6-5 record.

If you grew up in, or attended college in Prairie View, chances are one of these coaches had a positive impact on your life. Every coach not only worked on campus, but also lived in the community. Pictured left to right: Coaches **Kenny, Williams, Wright, Cooper, Tankersley,** and **Gilliard.**

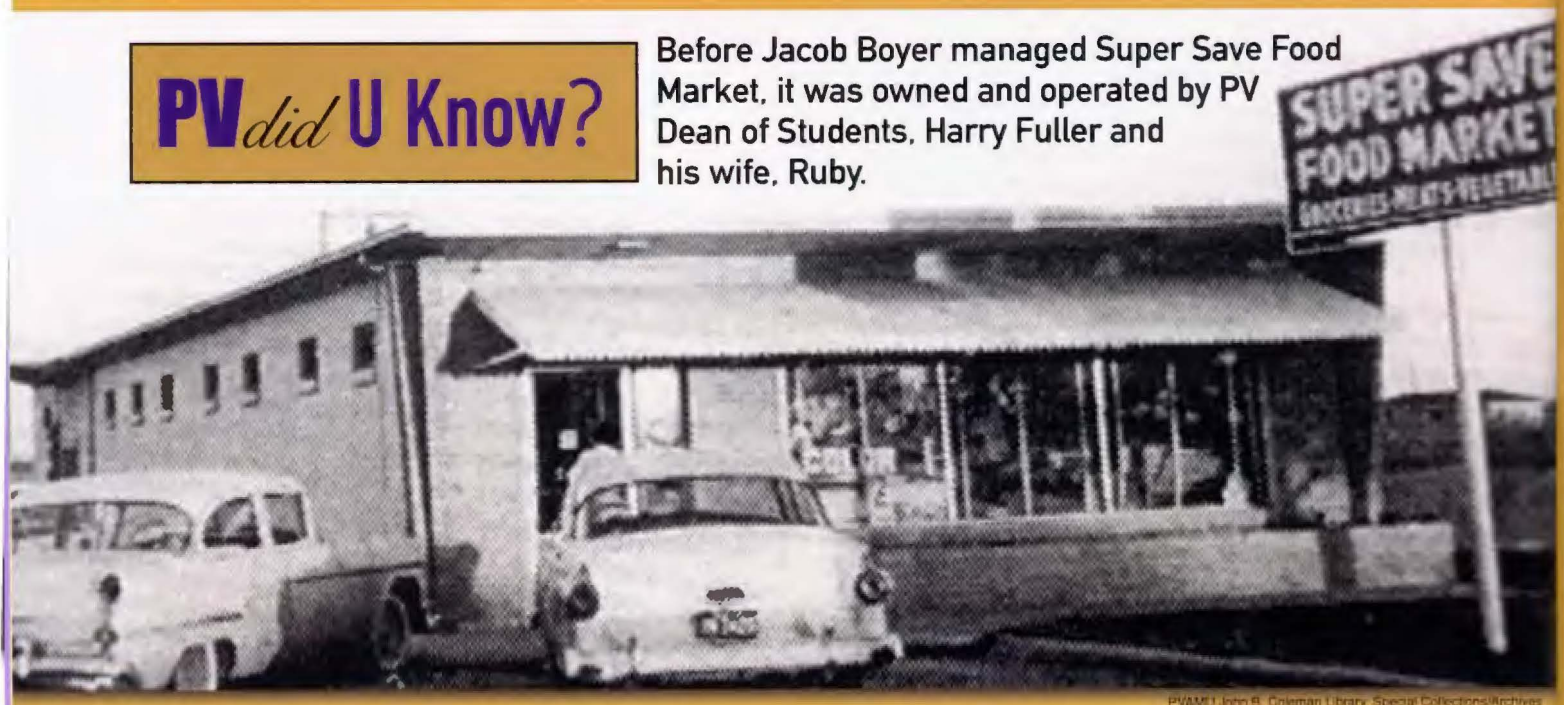
Whether they were teaching swimming lessons, driver's education, coaching high school football, college baseball, summer track, or running the summer youth programs, they were mentors in our community on issues of health and fitness and pretty much everything else.



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

PV *did* U Know?

Before Jacob Boyer managed Super Save Food Market, it was owned and operated by PV Dean of Students, Harry Fuller and his wife, Ruby.



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

Prairie View A&M University's student enrollment is quickly approaching 10,000. Projections for the next five years anticipate in excess of 15,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

According to the Office of Financial Aid at PVAMU, the average student spends more than $2,000 each year on personal expenses and travel. The student population has the enormous potential to enhance the economy of Prairie View, since students are the primary consumer base. Their direct economic impact on Waller County is estimated at $110 million per year.

At present, students, staff, and residents of Prairie View must travel outside of the city limits for a majority of the amenities they seek.

Because the local university is the city's largest employer, ongoing evaluation of the university's economic opportunities is essential to the city's long term economic growth. The Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) conducted interviews with key administrators, including academic deans, department heads, faculty, and researchers, to thoroughly analyze the educational and research opportunities at the university. TEEX sought to uncover

continued next page



Scott McKenzie was born October 21, 1920, in Pattison, Texas. The family later moved to Prairie View's Wyatt Chapel community.

An Army service member, he served during both the Korean Conflict and World War II eras. He worked for the Gary Job Corp for over 20 years and was well known throughout Waller County for his wallpaper hanging and paint work, owing in large part to his receiving a certificate from PVAMU in Interior Decorating and Painting in 1947. Scott was a great harmonica player and singer as well. He also served as the city's volunteer fire department's, Fire Chief!

He was married to Willie Virginia Williams Scott for 59 years, and we lost him in March 2001.



Doing Business in PV







opportunities for business spin-offs from research activities, expansion of laboratories and research facilities, and technology and research that can offer 'both' the university and the city opportunities for growth and development.

One of Prairie View's key economic drivers is identified as tourism and heritage preservation. This includes documenting and celebrating the history of Prairie View, opening a farmer's market, establishing entertainment, recreational venues, building for lodging and other housing accommodations, and developing city parks.

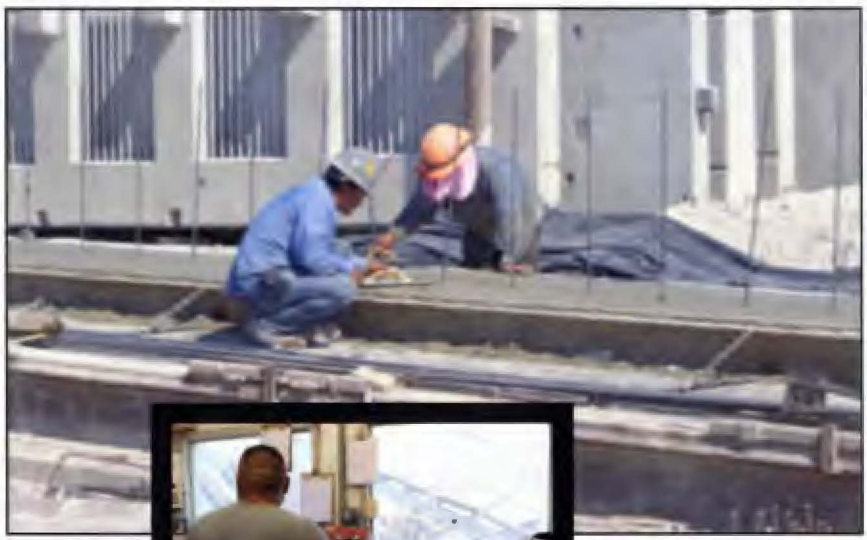
At the university, archiving and preserving the history of Texas will become a major mission as the home of the *Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture*. The institute was established to collect, preserve, study, and make available for research; records, documents, artifacts, and other items, relating to the history and culture of Texas, with emphasis on the contributions of African-Americans throughout the state. It encourages the collection and preservation of disappearing items such as historic buildings, written documents, vernacular architecture, burial sites and oral histories.

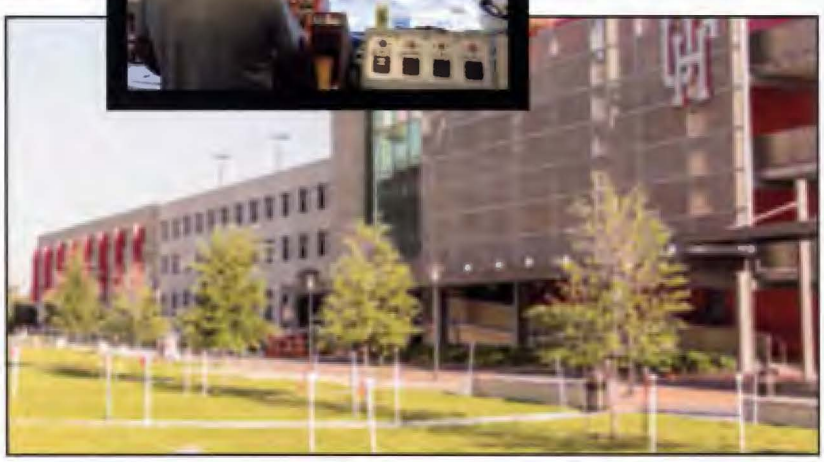


Mary Clark was born May 4, 1910, and spent her earlier days as a caregiver for many members of the community and her family. Whether she was cooking cleaning, taking care of children or sewing, which she absolutely loved, she was blessing someone. She later added teaching piano lessons, in her home. Oh how she enjoyed recital time. Her students made her proud. She, along with her family, were charter members of Prairie View's First United Methodist Church. Ms. Clark died on June 30, 2012.

A Texas Leader in

East Texas Precast, uniquely located in between Austin and Houston, Texas, in the great city of Prairie View, is a PCI certified C4A plant that serves the state of Texas and western Louisiana. Founded in 1982 as a small structural precaster, East Texas Precast has continued to grow in size, production capacity, quality, and capability to provide architectural finishes. Similarly, in recent years, they have gone beyond being just parking garage experts and are now journeymen in control buildings, manufacturing facilities, and building shells.





DOUBLE TEE

The Double Tee represents the core of the precast parking system. East Texas Precast manufactures field topped double T's that are typically dimensioned at 12' by 60' for a 36' by 60' bay, but can be adjusted to different sizes. East Texas Precast holds one of Texas' largest Double Tee manufacturing facilities with 3 beds measuring 560' long by 12' wide and another bed at 520' long and 10' wide. That's almost 25,000 sq. ft. of Double Tee every day!

Although 'Double Tees' tend to be used most often in parking structures, there are numerous other uses, such as roof members for industrial, gymnasium, manufacturing, and natatorium facilities where their long spans offer a column free space.



BEAMS AND COLUMNS

Beams and columns, along with walls, form the core framing of a structure. East Texas Precast maintains one pre-stressed column and two pre-stressed beam forms. While all forms are adjustable to different length and sizes, multiple beam forms are helpful in maintaining efficiency when multiple beams from the same project are vastly different sizes. High quality engineering of these pieces ensures that a structure is durable, structurally sound, and meets code requirements.

Pre-Fab Construction



WALLS AND CLADDING

East Texas Precast can provide walls that have a variety of shapes and serve different functions. All wall systems provide excellent blast, fire, wind, and seismic resistance, as that is one of precast concrete's natural strengths. Precast wall systems can be either load-bearing, or cladding, supported by the structural frame. Cladding is typically used to provide an aesthetic finish to a non-precast building frame. East Texas Precast can provide finishes that include: integral color, special aggregates, sandblasting, reveals, form liners, and thin brick. Finally, East Texas Precast can provide insulated wall panels. These panels are sandwiched between two thinner panels of precast, and a lining of insulating foam. The thickness of these panels will vary based upon the R-value that you need to achieve, and the loads they resist.

RAMP WALLS (OR LIGHT WALLS)

When precasters began manufacturing parking and other structures, one complaint was that not enough light was allowed to pass through the building. The ramp wall fixes that problem by creating an opening that light may pass through. These walls are typically on the interior of the building, and have metal piping cast into the openings to act as a pedestrian guardrail.

SPANDRELS

At East Texas Precast, we often use spandrels to meet the open air requirements and to resist automobile bumper loads for garages. They are finished to match both the walls and columns of a garage, or they can be given a separate finish to provide the garage with a unique look. Any finish that can be produced on walls can also be produced on the spandrels.

STAIRS

East Texas Precast can manufacture stairs to fit any type of building.



Agriculture in Prairie View



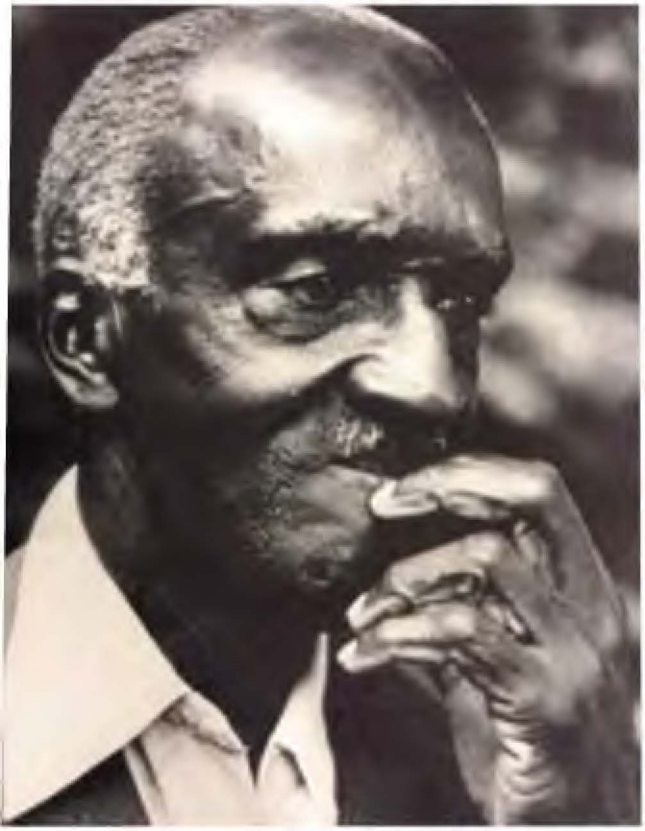
The Business of Agriculture has been the foundation of the Prairie View community for over 150 years. Local farmers and ranchers have made advancements in agricultural research, enhanced crop development, raised cattle and other livestock and supported the agricultural mission of Prairie View A&M University. They have benefitted the local, state, and national economies, while furthering the school's support of global programs.



Thetis Charlene Edmond was born April 1, 1934, in Belton, Texas. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she served as a mentor and advisor for hundreds of Prairie View students over several decades. When her mother was confined to a nursing home, Thetis devoted her life to her mother's love and care.

Professor Edmonds taught English at PVAMU until her retirement in 1999. She died on January 3, 2014.



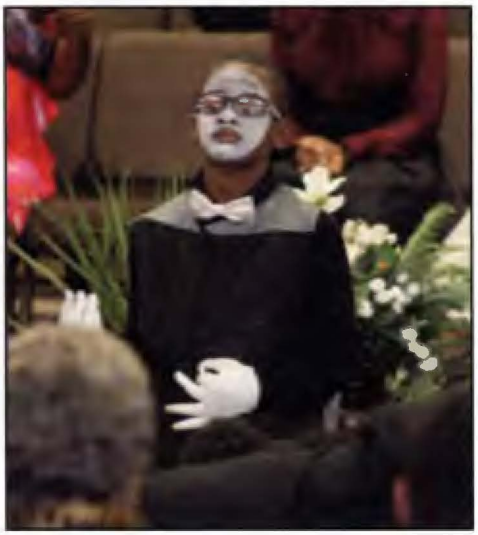


C. Lee Phillip, former Chaplain and Dean of Chapel at PVAMU

Prairie View is home to a diverse religious and cultural community. One of the state's oldest houses of worship, Wyatt Chapel Baptist Church, has recently been joined by the city's newest, Victorious Believers Church, located in its Pine Island community.









Edward W. Martin was born on November 29, 1928, in Sumter, South Carolina. He attended Fisk University, Indiana University, and Iowa University, where he received a Ph.D. in Zoology. Edward retired from Prairie View after nearly 50 years of serving in various leadership and teaching roles, including Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Edward was a people person who identified with, and related to students, friends, and faculty. He was instrumental in assisting with university accreditations, as well as the design of the multi-million dollar, O'Banion Science Building.

Married to Pearl Sewell Martin, Edward was the father of three, and died on June 8, 2018.





The St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Parish (above), has a long history of activism in the Prairie View community. The university's Johnson-Phillip All-Faiths Chapel, hosts Catholic, Muslim, Protestant, as well as services of other faiths. The Wyatt Chapel community is now home to the America International Buddhists Community Center (below). With the development of the Prairie View Cricket Complex, the city is happy to welcome many traditional Islamic-related cultural events.



PV *did* U Know? These 3

Former San Francisco Mayor, Willie Davis; Hollywood actor, Mr. T (Lawrence Tero); and Percy Sutton, who served as Malcom X's personal attorney; were all Prairie View alumnus. Sutton also owned Harlem's Apollo Theatre.

Hulen M. Davis, Sr., born March 23, 1932, in Waco, Texas. As a devoted husband and father, he often said, "My most important goal was providing a safe home and education for our children." Six of his seven children graduated from PVAMU; the other received a commission and degree from the U.S. Naval Academy.

From authoring articles in major textbooks such as "Texas Politics Today", to working on the transition team of Governor Mark White and the Inauguration of President Jimmy Carter, Davis was for many years the face of politics in Waller County. Professor Davis died on October 22, 2013.



ward B. Evans on becoming the first president and eig
of Prairie View college. Dr. Evans succeeds Dr. Banks
of the institution.

Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee, Rosenwald

"Washington's model of "Train the Trainer" was followed at Prairie View and came full circle with former PVAMU student Government president, Dr. Zelia Wiley"

"The main goal was not to produce farmers and tradesman, but teachers of farming and trades who could teach in the lower schools and colleges for blacks across the south."

Booker T. Washington became friends with Sears and Roebuck C.E.O., Julius Rosenwald after a visit to Chicago in 1911. Upon Washington's death in 1915, Rosenwald established the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

Using the architectural model plans developed by professors at Tuskegee, Rosenwald's program built 4,977 schools, 217 homes for teachers, and 163 shop buildings in 15 southern states, in furtherance of Washington's goal.

By 1932, these schools were responsible for the education of 1/3 of all African-American children in these states. Prairie View was home to one of those secondary academic programs.

By the time Washington delivered

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INCIPAL SPEAKER.—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of T
gee institute, who delivered the principal address at cerem

Patterson, Evans, Kansas State, PVAMU

his monumental "Atlanta Compromise" speech in September of 1895, he'd become the most sought after lecturer in America.

Within two years he'd visit his friends and colleagues, L.C. Anderson and Edward Blackshear, at Prairie View; giving the commencement address on June, 4, 1897.

By the time Washington left Prairie View, his vision for the uplift of the African-American race was firmly in place at Prairie View.

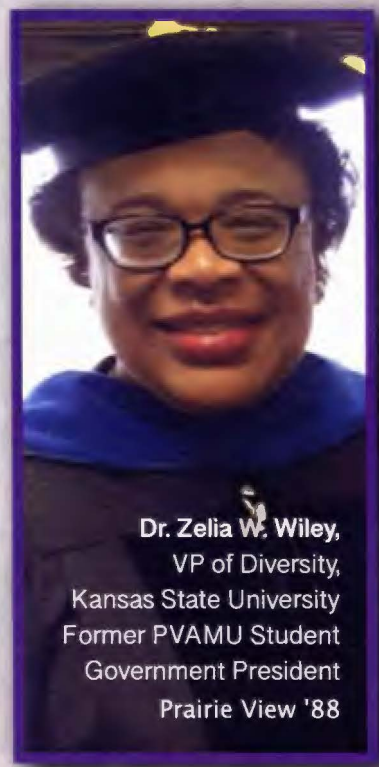
The next time a Tuskegee president would visit Prairie View, it would be Frederick Douglass Patterson, who delivered the inaugural address installing his friend and mentor, Dr. E.B. Evans as the school's first President. Dr. Evans had only recently returned to Prairie View, after spending two years at Tuskegee organizing its School of Veterinary Medicine.

Among Dr. Evans' first hires at Tuskegee, where three teachers from Kansas State University. Well versed in Washington's Tuskegee model of *"We Train the Trainers"*, Evans, at both Tuskegee and subsequently at Prairie View, would hire many other Kansas State graduates, particularly in the field of agriculture, to "train the trainers".

Among those Kansas State hires, were agricultural department Dean, J.C. Williams; Alfred N. Poindexter; L. C. Wilson, Louis and Francis Fry (prior), Charles Carpenter and Lindsey Weatherspoon.

Dr. Freddie Richards (MA, Tuskegee) would later become the Dean of the College of Agriculture at PVAMU, and mentor, then PVAMU student government president, Zelia Wiley. Upon obtaining her Ph.D. from Penn State, she would go to Kansas State and mentor, train, and recruit, hundreds of African-American students, as its Vice-President of Diversity.

Dr. Zelia Wiley, is a literal symbol of our thanks to Kansas State University for having sent so many of its distinguished alumni to our communiversity.



Dr. Zelia W. Wiley,
VP of Diversity,
Kansas State University
Former PVAMU Student
Government President
Prairie View '88

PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives



George Wyatt, Jacob Freeman, Wyatt Chapel, and Post-War Reconstruction





Nearing the end of the Civil War, Union soldiers marched into the area which is present day Waller County. In 1865, 4,000 troops commanded by George Armstrong Custer camped near Wyatt Chapel from August to October. An agency of the Freedmen's Bureau was established in 1866 and in 1867 two companies of federal troops were assigned to Liendo Plantation. According to some reports, the white citizens of Hempstead established a good relationship with the occupying soldiers; the city's peace was however, disturbed by a race riot in 1868.

The emancipation of the area's slaves disrupted the local economy and led to the breakup of many of the large plantations; cotton production plunged, and as late as 1870 remained significantly below prewar levels. The Liendo Plantation was purchased by Edmund Montgomery and his wife, sculptor Elisabeth Ney in 1873, and in that same year, Alta Vista Plantation was purchased by the state of Texas for the establishment of Prairie View A&M University.

With the placement of Union troops, and the protections they provided, the area's majority black population became active in local politics during Reconstruction, and a number of blacks were elected to county and state offices. Among those elected to serve Waller, Austin, Wharton, and Grimes County, were Prairie View residents and formally enslaved, Jacob Freeman and George Wyatt.

These two men were advocates, along with Matthew Gaines, of the new college 'on the hill', Prairie View.

PV*did* U Know?

Oscar Pipkin was the school's first Night Watchman. He patrolled the entire campus...alone!



Albert Bean, a longtime resident of Prairie View's Wyatt Chapel community, was born December 20, 1900. He served as the night watchman for Prairie View A&M University and as such, was the person chiefly responsible for the safety and security of the school's buildings, as well as its students and full-time residents.

Albert died on April 10, 1965.



Wyatt would later donate property for the building of a cemetery for African-Americans who lived on the Liendo and Alta Vista plantations.

His son, George Wyatt, Jr., would organize and pastor, the first 'known' church in the community, Wyatt Chapel Baptist Church, established in 1894.

For over 150 years, African-Americans from the Wyatt Chapel community have contributed to the advancement and development of Prairie View A&M University, the city of Prairie View, and the state of Texas.



The Wilsons of Wyatt Chapel and Booker T. Washington

The Wyatt Chapel community is one of the oldest African-American settlements in Texas. It is located in an area just west of the PVAMU campus. It is historical in that it was the first place to begin the path to school learning for area African-Americans. The initial school was located on a hill just east of a creek that runs north and south.

Ms. Birdie Wilson was one of the teachers. She and her husband, Jesse Wilson, owned over 200 acres in Wyatt Chapel.

In 1944, the Bean family moved from the piney woods of east Texas to live on the land as sharecroppers. Ms. Wilson would carry the Bean children across the creek to show them the bricks that remained there during the 1940's. She explained how she was picked up in a horse drawn buggy, as a means of transportation.

The Wilsons were friends to Booker T. Washington, and likely met with him upon his visits to Prairie View and throughout the state of Texas.

After the demise of the school, the children walked or road the old school bus to campus.

Their new school, the Prairie View Training School and Prairie View High School. grades 1-8, remained in the brick building, while the high school (9-12) was housed in a wooden structure across from the gymnasium. The wooden structure (shoemaking building) was moved across campus.

Both, Birdie and Jesse Wilson, were buried in the historic slave cemetery, north of the Prairie View campus.

~A letter from the files of Amy (Bean) Boykin

Raymond Eugene Carreathers was born in Clarksville, Texas on May 28, 1921. He entered Prairie View A&M University in June of 1939. He was a former mayor of the city of Prairie View, having served two terms from 1998 to 2002. He also served on the city council from 1987 through 1997. Dr. Carreathers was an educator and the Owner/Operator of Amistad II Bookplace in Prairie View.

The life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., died on July 14, 2003. and was survived by his lovely wife of 56 years, Ernestine Thurston Carreathers; daughter, Denise Carreathers Armstrong, and son, Kevin Carreathers.





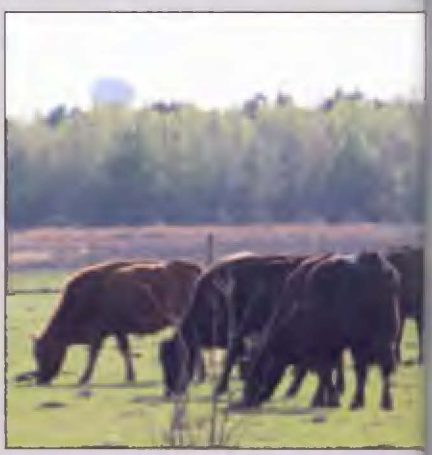
The 1941, federal administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated several farm programs to assist farmers in general, and Black farmers in particular. Prairie View was chosen as one of those sites.

14

These farmers had to not only deal with the ravages of the boll weevil, but also the legacies of the segregation and Jim Crow periods. These environmental and racists policies in the south kept Black farmers in patterns of tenant farming, share cropping, and as day laborers.

The Prairie View Farms and Sabine Farms Projects, were under the direction of **Mr. John H. Williams**. Williams was a former district agent for the Prairie View A&M College's 1890 Agriculture Extension Service. He had an excellent working knowledge of the talents and production records of many Black farmers in Texas. Fourteen of the best African-American farming families in Texas were selected and were provided the opportunity to develop farms ranging in sizes from 140 to 240 acres, on lands acquired primarily from the C. A. Menke Estate.









James R. "Buddy" Tisdell was born February 15, 1932, in Montgomery, Texas. Perhaps no resident of PV personifies the diversity of skills much as "Buddy". A certified brick/stone/cement mason, a licensed barber for over 50 years, and an incredible guitar player, he was the creator of the first U.S. patented roping calf.

One of his most prestigious accomplishments was being listed as one of the top 10 Businessmen in Texas, in the 1970s.

"Buddy" Tisdell died on February 22, 2014.



Families

PV did U Know?

One of the original homes from the "14 Family Farms" was recently relocated from the Ernest Santee Farm and is being restored on the Dave Walker Farm. (Pictured below)

Many of these farmers perfected their production skills on the lands along the Brazos River, and most had large families when they moved onto their new homesteads.

The children of the "Fourteen Farm Families" made a tremendous difference in the business operations of these farm enterprises and had a great impact on the demographics and successes of the community, especially its local schools.





Robert Williams, Dave Walker, Osborne Clark, Ed Scott, Frank Scott, Ernest Santee, (Cagle Sams)/Eristus Sams, James Muse, Hilliard Muse, Eddie Busby, Ezekiel Anderson, (Otto McClay)/ E. Stewart, Mansard Knowles, Garby Robinson

Osborne "Son" Clark, Jr. was born September 1, 1934, in Sunnyside, Texas and attended the Prairie View Training School and Prairie View High School. Osborne served as the city of Prairie View's first law enforcement officer. He managed several food service operations at the university, including the Alumni "Dining" Hall, the Purple P, and The Underground cafeteria.

Married to Darlene Freeman Clark, they parented four children, Kenneth, Don, Roderick, and Latoya. A member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Osborne passed away on September 14, 2013.




PANTHER STADIUM
PVAMU



Jud Haggard Photography

PV *did* U Know?

Ruby Bell was the first African-American woman to hold elected office in Waller County; and is still the only African-American woman to have served on the Waller I.S.D School Board. She also served as President of the board.



PV *did* U Know?

For 60 years, PVAMU owned and leased the former training school to Waller I.S.D. for $1 a year. The district built its first school in Prairie View, the $27 million Jones Elementary, on Owens Road in 2016.

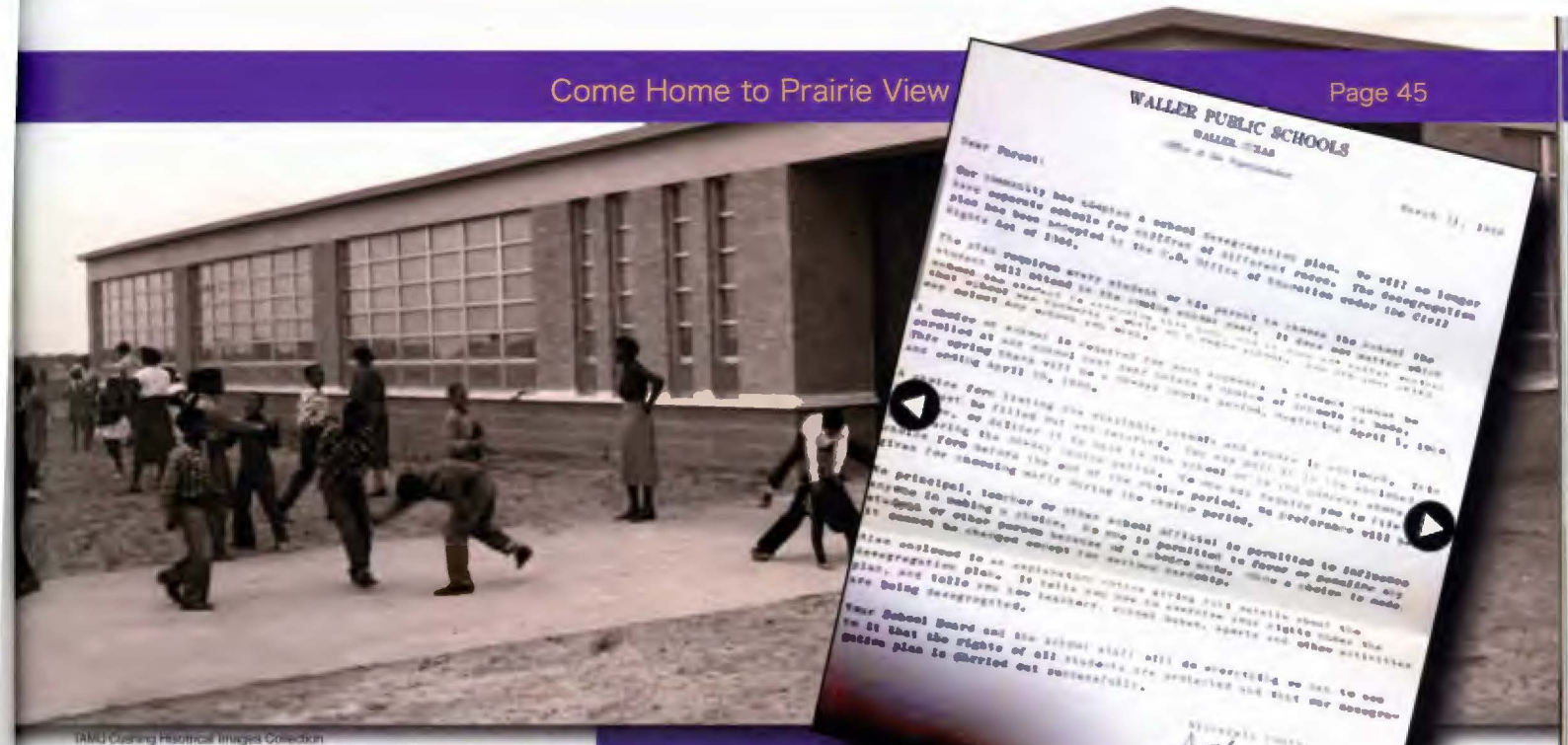


TAMU Cushing Historical Images Collection

David Andrew Kirkpatrick was born September 27, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois. David excelled in athletics and in the classroom. He was a leader on the 1963 and 1964 National Championship teams at Prairie View, and was the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. in Industrial Technology from Purdue University, in 1974.

Dr. Kirkpatrick taught at Prairie View for 47 years and served on the Waller I.S.D. School Board for many years. He was married to Loraine Oliphant Kirkpatrick and together they had four children. David died on May 2, 2017.





TAMU Cushing Historical Images Collection

WALLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WALLER, TEXAS
Office of the Superintendent

Dear Parent:

Our community has adopted a school desegregation plan. We still no longer have separate schools for children of different races. The desegregation plan has been accepted by the U.S. Office of Education under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The plan requires every student or his parent to choose the school the student will attend in the coming school year. It does not matter which school one attended in the past. Each student may choose either school without any penalty.

A student or parent is required to indicate the school choice by [illegible] enrolled at the school of his choice. Enrollment will be made; this spring there will be [illegible] and ending April 15, 1966.

Before [illegible] the available [illegible] and answer [illegible] be filled out and returned. [illegible] or deliver it to the school [illegible] during the school [illegible] form before the end of the school [illegible] given for choosing which [illegible] period.

A principal, teacher or other school official is prohibited [illegible] change in making a choice. No one is penalized [illegible] or other persons because of a choice made. [illegible] depend the changed concept [illegible]

Also enclosed is an explanation [illegible] desegregation plans. It tells you [illegible] plan, and tells you how teachers, school [illegible] are being desegregated.

Your School Board and the school staff will do everything we can to see to it that the rights of all students are protected and that our desegregation plan is carried out successfully.

Sincerely yours,

T. Hobbs

T. T. Hobbs
Superintendent of Schools



Dorothy Burdine was among the first women to serve as principal in a Rosenwald school in the United States, and she did so in the Prairie View Training School.

Herman T. Jones was the last principal of the Prairie View Training and High School. He assisted in the integration of Waller I.S.D. public schools between 1966-68. Jones Elementary, on Owens Road, is named in his honor.



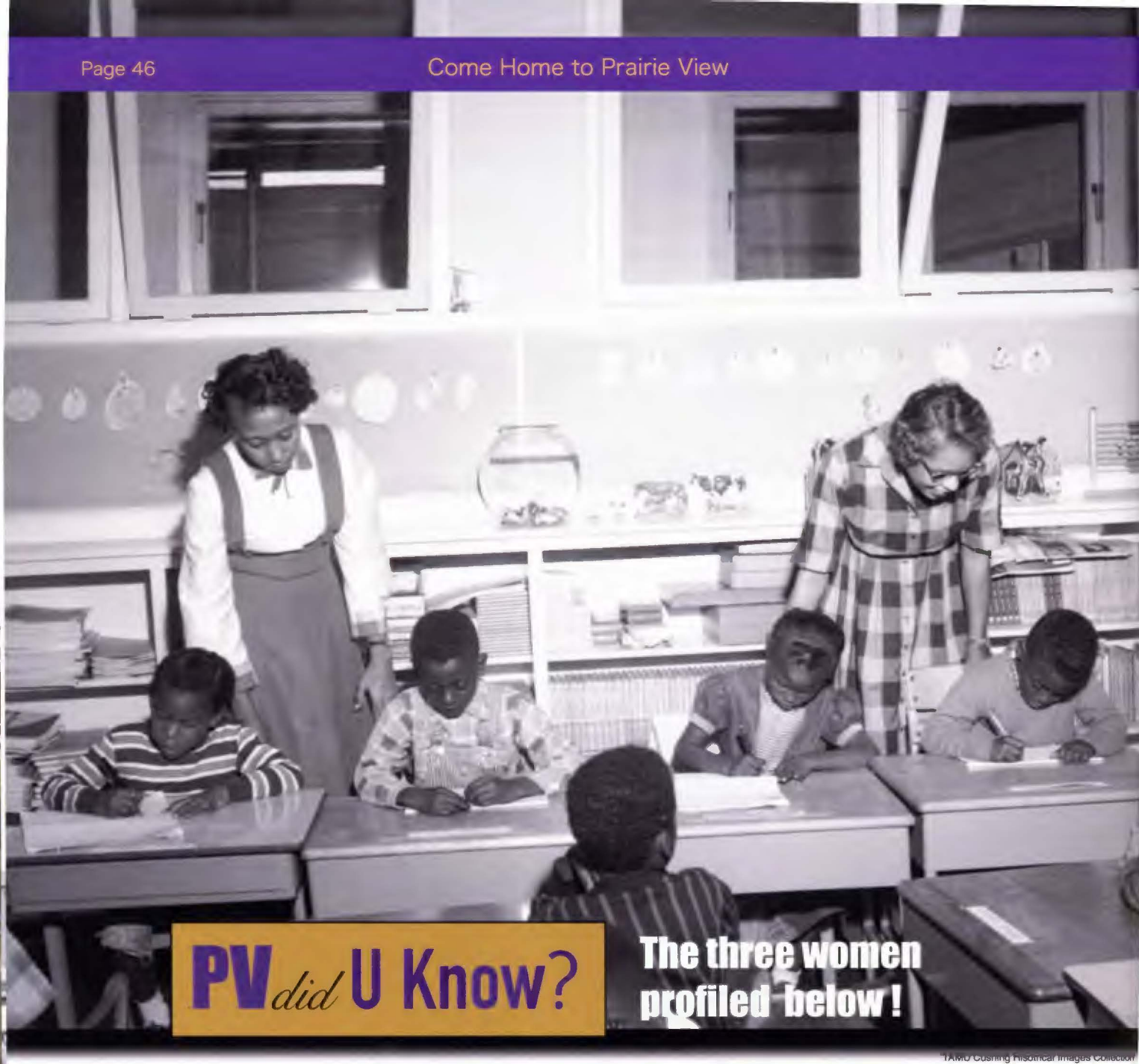
PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives



Ruby O. Brown Harden was born in 1920, at the family residence on Brenham, Texas' Main Street. An educator and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Ruby finished as Valedictorian of her high school class at Brenham's, East End High School, which was renamed Pickard High, during her senior year.

Mrs. Harden served at PVAMU as a supervisor to student teachers with a variety of majors, was supervisor of Washington County Negro Schools, and served as a principal of the Prairie View Training School. She taught for many years in the Waller ISD. Ruby died in June of 2003.





PV *did* U Know?

The three women profiled below!

TAMU Cushing Historical Images Collection

Among the most influential educators in a community filled with educators, are former Prairie View Municipal Court Judge and PVAMU English professor, **Frankie Ledbetter** and math teacher, **Alice Kilpatrick**.

We cherish memories of both!



Theola Pleasant Woods was born in Cuero, Texas, on October 14, 1917. She was a trailblazer in the field of education, documented by the hundreds of students she taught who have become successful in various facets of life; and the numerous accolades she received. Ms. Woods taught at the Prairie View Training School, and at Waller ISD for over 40 years. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from PVAMU.

She was married to Johnny Woods for 47 years and they had three children. She passed away at the age of 98 on March 29, 2016.



PV*did* U Know?



Each year, the Prairie View community graduates between 10-15 high school seniors. In the past 100 years, over 95% of those students have enrolled at various colleges and universities across the nation.

Madylene Reed's 3D Math Academy, was for many years a large influence on that success. Ms. Reed and the PV community, prepared their youth to excel at Prairie View and other great schools throughout America.

Remarkably, Reed never charged, or accepted payment, for her tutorial services! Today, many of her students are doctors, lawyers, educators, entreprenuers, and even professional athletes.

Madylene Reed

PVAMU, Harvard, Yale, Georgetown, Ohio State, Princeton, Spelman, Morehouse, Meharry, Texas Southern, Sam Houston, Howard, Stanford, UT, TAMU, Purdue, North Texas, TWU, Baylor, Cornell, USC, HTC, Northwestern, Michigan, UCLA, Boston University, Texas Southern, Vassar, TCU, HBU, Missouri, Cal-Berkely, South Florida, Rice, Grambling, LSU, UH, Texas State, UTEP, Hampton, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Kansas State, Kansas, Oklahoma State, George Washington, Xavier, MIT, U. S. Navel Academy, Arizona State, Arkansas, etc.

The Incredible Lawsons





When **Ted** met **Agnes** in Chicago in the summer of 1929, he told his colleauge at the time, "She's Beautiful. That will be my wife!" Their eventual courtship and marriage would play out on tennis courts all over America; especially at Prairie View. They were married February 27, 1930.

The Incredible Lawsons





When **Ted** met **Agnes** in Chicago in the summer of 1929, he told his colleauge at the time, "She's Beautiful. That will be my wife!" Their eventual courtship and marriage would play out on tennis courts all over America; especially at Prairie View. They were married February 27, 1930.

Agnes Sinclair Lawson won the Women's Singles Championship at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago. She also won the Black College National Title in 1940 and a National Title in West Palm Beach, Florida, in 1941.

"Every year, we'd be invited to watch matches at the River Oaks Country Club in Houston, but not to compete. One year, the coach from Rice University just decided to invite us to play on their courts; and then we got the same invite from the University of Texas at Austin. We played in exhibitions all over the United States. From 1931 to 1941, we won approximately 50 trophies in the name of Prairie View A&M College. The trophies were displayed in the university's Administration Building. It was a sad day when we were awakened to learn that all was lost when the building burned to the ground in 1946." - Ted Lawson





In 1936, Ted won a 1936 Singles National Championship, and then paired with his wife Agnes, to win the Mixed Doubles National Championship. In 1987, the two were inducted into the PVAMU Sports Hall of Fame.

Ted served for six years on the Prairie View city council and operated a service station, on and off campus, while Agnes ran a wonderful child daycare out of their home. Mrs. Lawson was also well known to have the best garden and orchard in the city!





PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

The 1963 National Champion football team had 13 players drafted into the professional ranks.



For nearly 30 years, Premier, aka Chris Martin has been on the Mount Rushmore of Rap producers. He is the veteran producer behind classics from NAS, Notorious B.I.G. and Jay-Z, among others.
- Rolling Stone Magazine



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

D.J. Premier, pictured above with childhood friends Marcus Higgs and Fransoir Fontenot. Pictured above is veteran Washington, D.C. news anchor and reporter, Barbara Woods. All are native residents of Prairie View.

Leon Lewis was born on November 30, 1932, in Pflugerville, Texas. He owned and operated the Gulf Service Station at Prairie View and established many good friends, as he provided a needed service to the community. He was a member of the Prairie View Athletic Club and also worked at the Prairie View Federal Credit Union.

Leon died on July 16, 2015, and left an entire neighborhood to mourn his passing.

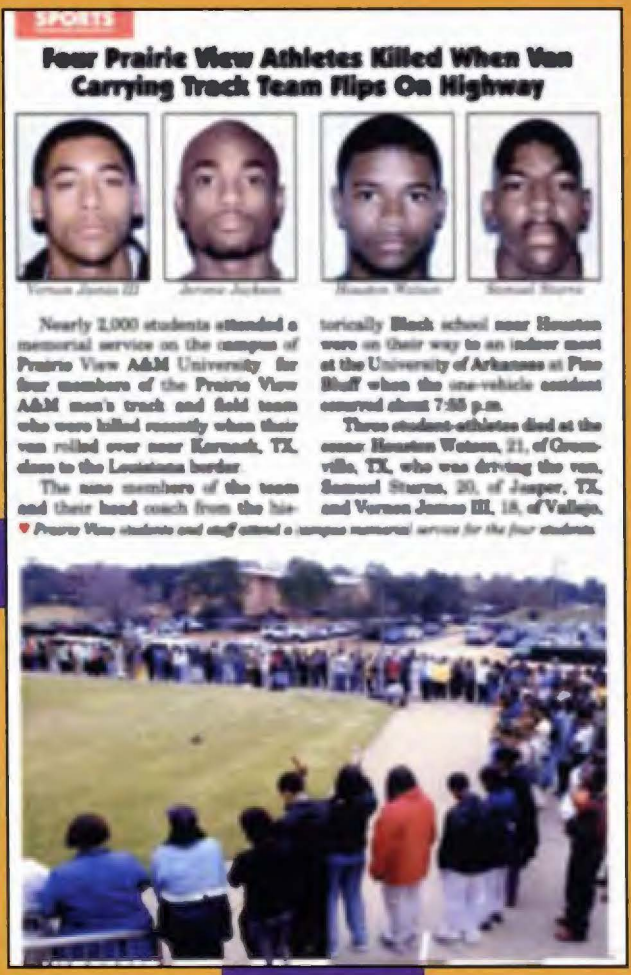


PV in the news



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives





SPORTS

Four Prairie View Athletes Killed When Van Carrying Track Team Flips On Highway

Nearly 2,000 students attended a memorial service on the campus of Prairie View A&M University for four members of the Prairie View A&M men's track and field team who were killed recently when their van rolled over near Kirvanah, TX, close to the Louisiana border.

The nine members of the team and their head coach from the historically Black school near Houston were on their way to an indoor meet at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff when the one-vehicle accident occurred about 7:55 p.m.

Three student-athletes died at the scene: Houston Watson, 21, of Greenville, TX, who was driving the van, Samuel Starns, 20, of Jasper, TX, and Vernon James III, 18, of Vallejo.

♥ Prairie View students and staff attend a campus memorial service for the four students.

PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives



Top left: A group of Prairie View A&M College students were invited into the Memphis motel room of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in what amounted to a late night private performance for the "exhausted" civil rights leader. The visit occurred at the Lorainne Motel, two weeks before his tragic assassination in 1968.

Upper Right: Four Prairie View track athletes were killed in a roll-over traffic accident in east Texas. Several others, including head track coach Hoover J. Wright, were injured. Former President George H. Bush attended and spoke at the campus memorial service.

Bottom Left: During the mid-summer of July 2015, former Prairie View student and recent hire, Sandra Bland was pulled over by a local Texas DPS officer, three days later she was found hanged in a Waller County jail cell. Her death was a trending story on social media for a solid month and subsequently led the Texas State Legislature to pass the Sandra Bland Act, which addressed jail monitoring and care of inmates in state jail facilities.

In addition, Waller County, and the State of Texas settled out of court in a wrongful death lawsuit, by awarding the family of Sandra Bland $1.9 million.

The city of Prairie View temporarily renamed its main thoroughfare, University Drive, "Sandra Bland Parkway" in honor of her memory. Dewayne Charleston, shown above , on Democracy Now, helped lead the fight for justice for Sandra Bland.

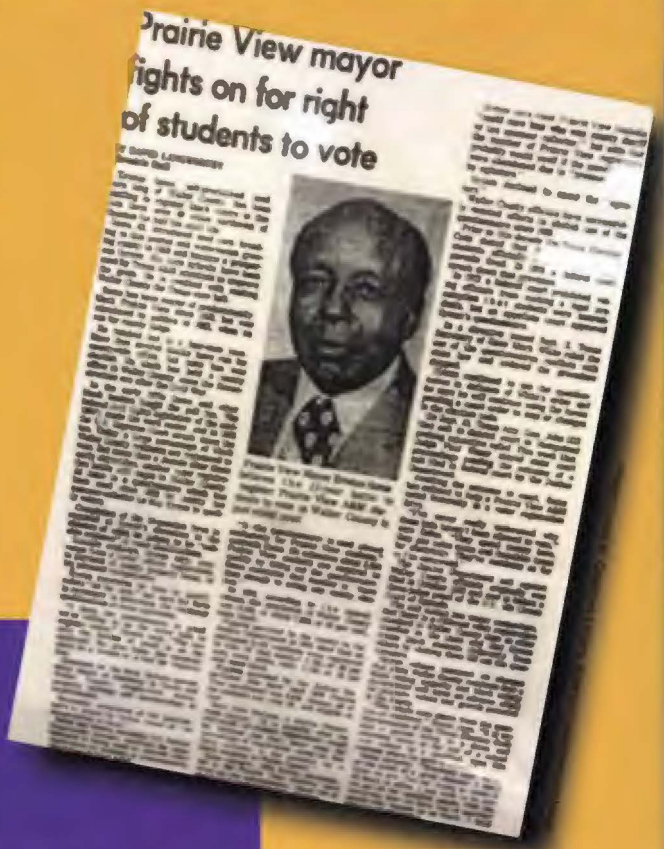
Right Botton: Prairie View native resident, Arie Muse-Walker, welcomed her son, Sgt. David Walker home, after he was held as a hostage in Tehran, Iran in 1979. Sgt. Walker flew directly from the White House to attend a high school football game, in which his younger brother Reginald, scored the winning touchdown.

During the tense hostage crisis, First Lady Rosylyn Carter, regularly called Ms. Walker and developed a warm friendship, amid assurances of the First Family's support and prayers.

The United States v. Waller County, Leroy Symm, 1979

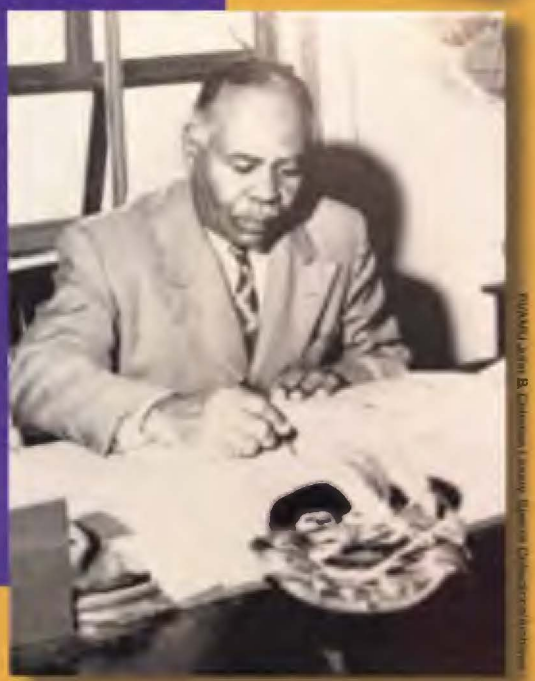
On January 25, 1979, after six years of litigation in state and federal courts, The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a lower court decision of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which ruled students at Prairie View A&M University, regardless of their previous residence, had the right to vote in Waller County elections.

This SCOTUS decision would further guarantee the voting rights of college students in all 50 states; and encourage their participation in local political processes.


Prairie View mayor fights on for right of students to vote


Vote march draws thousands





(Above right) Dr. James Ferguson in the 1960's, then head of the PVAMU College of Business, led the first (recorded) civil rights marches and boycotts in Waller County. (Above left) Former Congressman and Prairie View graduate, Craig Washington, filed the first lawsuit seeking protection of voting rights for Prairie View A&M University students.

City of Prairie View, Texas

Police Officer **Badge 804**



Christopher Jerome Sobieski

On September 26, 2004 at approximately 3:15 in the morning, our Officer, Christopher Sobieski was killed in the line of duty when his patrol vehicle was struck from behind and burst into flames.

Officer Sobieski is survived by his wife Romney, his parents, John and Millie Sobieski, and numerous family members. He is buried at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery, in San Antonio, Texas.

Officer Sobieski was a veteran who served in the United States Army as a military policeman, he took the professionalism he learned there and carried that into his civilian law enforcement career.

Chris was a dedicated peace officer who believed he could make a difference. He did everything he could to make the Prairie View community a safer place to live.

We Will Never Forget the Life, Service, and Sacrifice,
of Christopher Jerome Sobieski



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

Dr. A.I. Thomas coined the phrase

"Prairie View Produces Productive People"

in the early 70's

Dr. Alvin I. Thomas

Alvin I. Thomas was born on September 7, 1925 in New Orleans, Louisiana and attended elementary school at Holy Ghost Catholic School and Corpus Christi Catholic School.

Thomas began his college career at Xavier University of New Orleans, two years prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army to serve his country in World War II. During war he served in the United States, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany, The Philippines, and Korea.

After his honorable discharge from the Army he enrolled at Kansas State College, where he received the Bachelor's and Master's Degree.

He later enrolled at Pennsylvania State University and Ohio State University where he received his Ph.D. in 1957.

As a young boy, Dr. Thomas was an active member of Boy Scout Troop 134, in New Orleans, La. He continued his interest and financial support of the Boy Scouts Program until his death.

Thomas joined Prairie View A&M College's faculty in February 1949. He was promoted to Director of the Technology Division, Dean of the College of Industrial Education and Technology, and was then appointed President of the college on November 22, 1966.

Dr. Thomas established a long range planning council early in his administration. The council included alumni, business and community leaders, and others committed to the support of the university. Incidentally, part of that plan was the incorporation of the City of Prairie View in 1969.



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

Dr. Thomas believed that the primary purpose of Prairie View A&M University was the creation of human capital, with ethical and moral values, cultural literacy, professional and technical knowledge, skills and leadership characteristics to enable self-sufficiency, to preserve and strengthen our democracy and our free enterprise system.

This philosophy led to the creation of numerous undergraduate and graduate degrees during his administration. The university's enrollment also increased more than 30%. The number of graduates increased from 605 in 1966 to 1135 in 1982.



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

In December 2002, in recognition of his services to Prairie View A&M University, the Board of Regents named the university's administration building, the Alvin I. Thomas Building.

Dr. Thomas was survived by his loving and devoted wife Clarissa Gamble Thomas; Iris Butler Thomas, the mother of his four children, Kenneth C. Thomas, Michael D. Thomas (Lark McCarthy), Janet M. Thomas and Julie E. Thomas.

Dr. Thomas died on September 25, 2013.



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

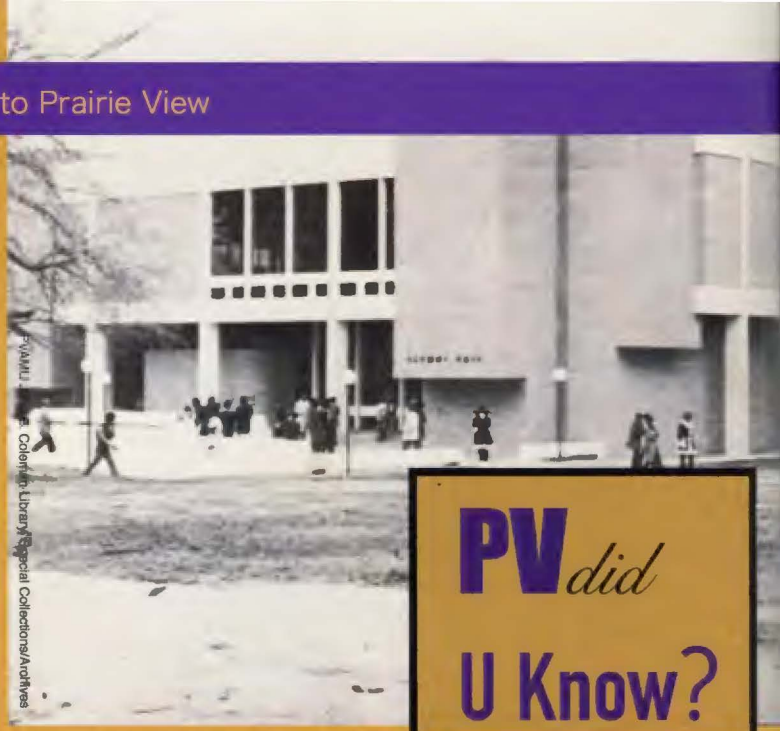




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PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

PV *did* U Know?

Lenice Brown was one of two native Prairie View residents to also be selected as Miss Prairie View A&M University,1986-87;

Maude Ferguson, was crowned Miss Prairie View, in 1964-65;
and did you know PVAMU Drum Major,

Dwayne Dillard, was the son-in-law of legendary PVAMU track coach Hoover J. Wright.

Cecile Richardson entered eternal rest at the age of 76 on February 11, 2013. Cecile began her career working in the History Department at Prairie View A&M University, where she met and married her husband, Lee Van, of 53 years. A mother of two and nurturer of a whole community of kids, she was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a leader with Jack and Jill Inc..

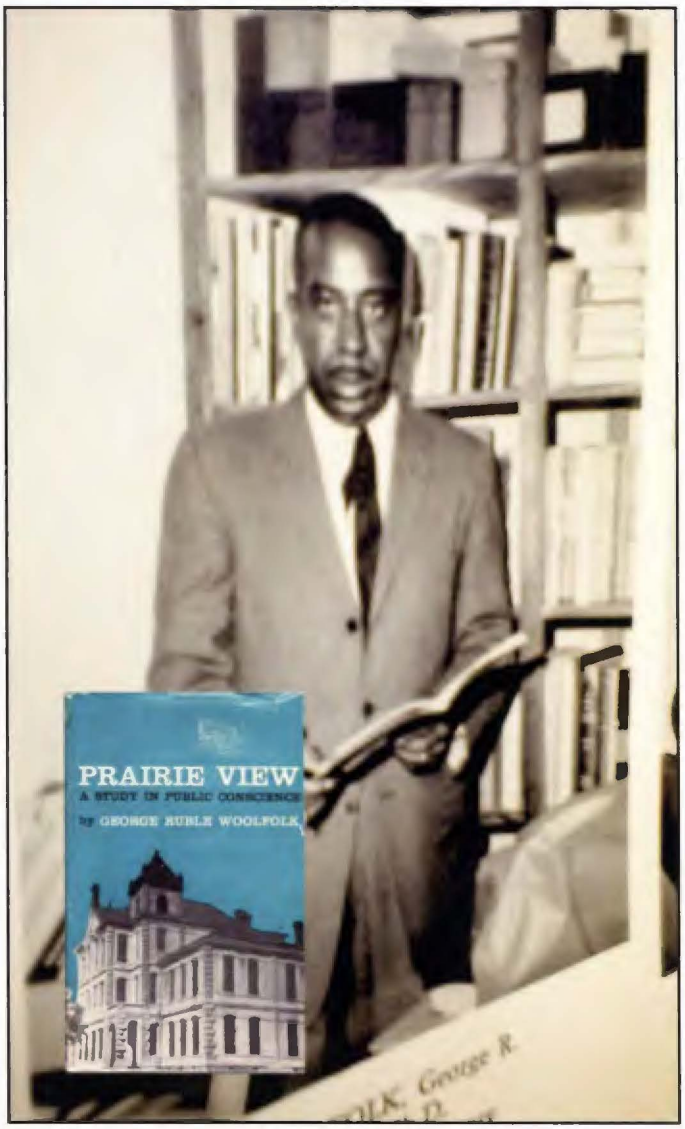
Ms. Richardson taught special education and first grade for almost 30 years in the Royal ISD and was a member of Bethlehem UMC. She was a volunteer with Focusing on Families and many other organizations.

Cecile received numerous awards for her hard work and dedication. She was nominated and elected as *Small Church Layperson of the Year* for the Texas Northwest Annual Conference. She was presented the *Twenty-First Century Award for Outstanding Community or Local Service* by the PVRTA., and was chosen by governor Ann W. Richards to serve as an attendant to Queen Elizabeth II, during her 1991 visit to the Texas state capitol.

Cecile leaves behind a husband and two children, Carla and Lee Van, Jr., to remember her legacy.



George Ruble Woolfolk



PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

This African-American historian and leading scholar at Prairie View A&M University was born on February 22, 1915 in Louisville, Kentucky.

George Woolfolk attended school in Louisville and then earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree at Louisville Municipal College for Negroes/University of Louisville (1937), a Master's of Arts at Ohio State University (1938), and a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin (1947). At Wisconsin, he studied with the noted Civil War historian, William B. Hesseltine and was a graduate school-contemporary of numerous outstanding young historians such as Kenneth Stamp and Frank Freidel. Woolfolk joined the faculty at Prairie View Normal and Industrial College (now Prairie View A&M University) in 1943, before completing his dissertation and receiving the doctorate in 1947. His career at Prairie View, which included service as chair of the History Department and chair of the Division of Social Science, spanned five decades.

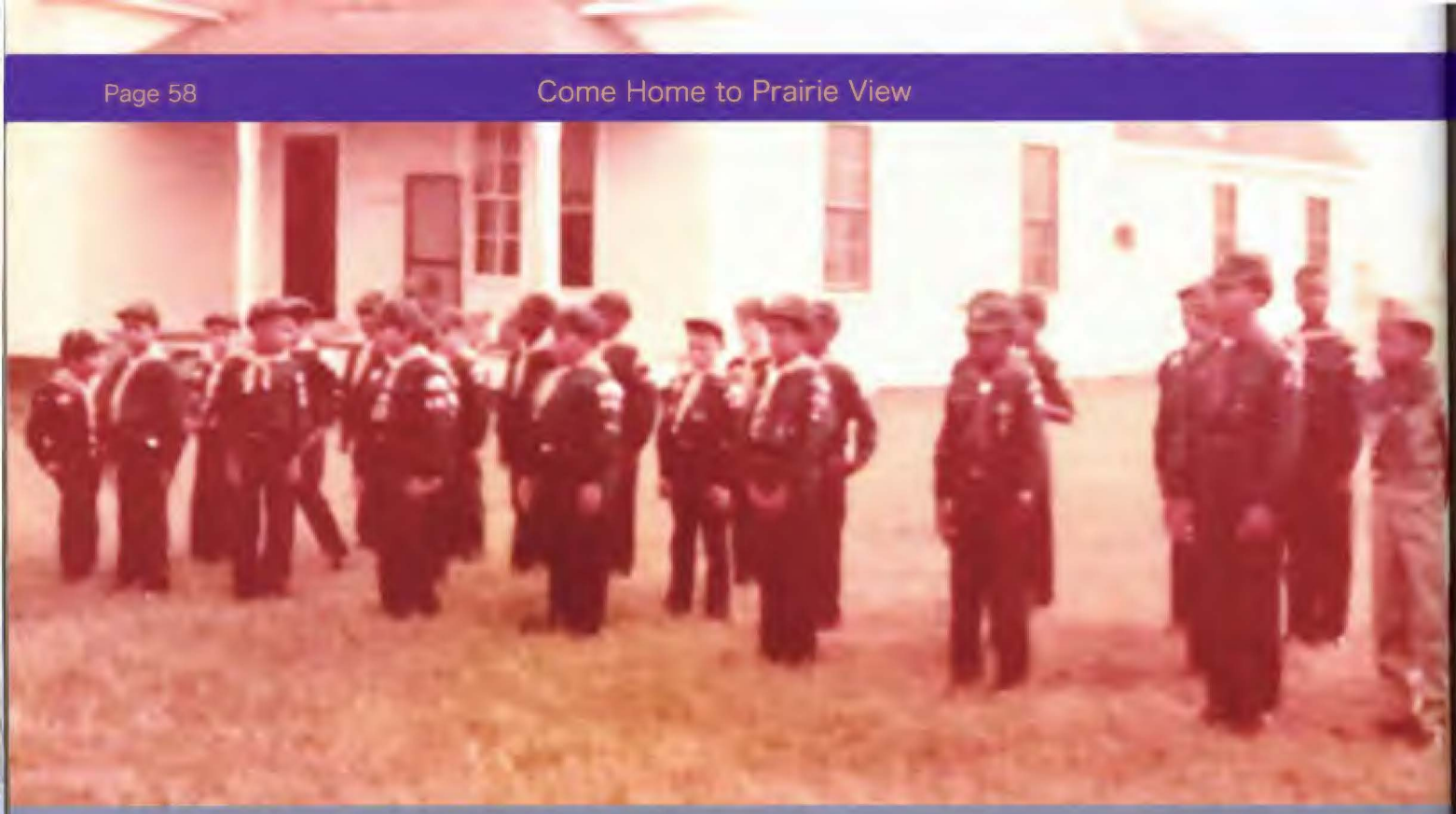
Woolfolk's historical research focused on the economic and social facets of southern history and African-American studies. His most important books included The Cotton Regency: The Northern Merchants and Reconstruction, 1865–1880 (1958, reprinted in 1979); Negro Colleges, Texas (1962); **Prairie View: A Study in Public Conscience, 1878–1946 (1962)**; The Free Negro in Texas, 1800–1860: A Study in Cultural Compromise (1976). He also published articles during the 1950s that contributed to changing the historiography of slavery by emphasizing the flexibility and profitability of the institution.

Woolfolk often wrote and spoke of the challenges facing African-Americans as the United States underwent its "Second Reconstruction" in race relations during the years he taught at Prairie View. In an article published in 1962 in the Texas Standard, a journal for African-American teachers, he argued that the social sciences were a key discipline in placing "our youth on the high road to self development and social service. For our people shall need every head and heart if the American dream for us is not to become a mirage on the desert of our inadequacy and frustration."

Woolfolk's inspirational teaching at Prairie View gained recognition from many quarters. One signal award came in 1973 when he was named a Minnie Stephens Piper Professor, one of the highest honors that university professors in Texas can earn. In 1992 the American Historical Association gave him its Award for Scholarly Distinction. Woolfolk also became, in the words of a former student, a "community resource," serving, for example, as a member of the Waller County Historical Commission and as vice-chairman of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas. His most lasting honor stands in the form of the George Ruble Woolfolk Building on the campus of Prairie View A&M University. The university also named the Woolfolk Lecture Series in his honor.

Soon after his arrival at Prairie View, Woolfolk met Douglass G. Perry, a teacher from Coldspring, Texas. They married on August 15, 1945, and the couple had one son, George R. Woolfolk, Jr., who lived in Dallas at the time of his death in 2005. George Ruble Woolfolk died on June 12, 1996, at Prairie View and is buried at the Coldspring Community Cemetery in San Jacinto County.

Chicago Manual of Style, 15th Edition. Handbook of Texas Online



PV *did* U Know?

Prairie View A&M University once provided free leases to local scouting programs to conduct fulltime activities in homes previously occupied by its faculty and staff.





PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

Thoymmee Dell Phillips was born January 31, 1927, in Benchley, Texas. A fierce advocate of education, after graduating from Blackshear High School in Hearne, Texas, she attended Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Phillips was a pillar of the community; active in chamber, athletic and band booster clubs, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., PVAMU Alumni Association, Catholic Daughters of America, and the Texas Retired Teachers Association, and many more organizations. Thoymmee was married to professor Joseph R. Phillips and they were the parents to Jacqueline and Secceter. Thoymee passed away in June of 2013.









Mary Henry was literally the community's weekend chaperone. Mrs Henry managed the Newman Center, which was an outreach of the local St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church. For many years, she supervised Saturday morning games, indoor and outdoor recreational programs, as well as weekend parties for junior high, high school, and college-aged individuals and organizations. Mary also opened up her home for many of the same activities; adding a basketball court, pool table, and game room to the family residence. Neighborhood kids often played there until dark, at which point she'd promptly walk outside and send all home.

Mary Henry was married to Dr. Marion Henry and they were the parents of Byron and Sharon. She was a treasure to our community and is greatly missed by all.

PV *did* U Know?



LOCAL PRAIRIE VIEW ALUMNI CLUB



From the 1926 PVAMU Yearbook Early Local Alumni

PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

Top Row: M. A. Dillon. N. B. Edwards. R. A. Henderson. F. G. Fry. J. P. Brow[illegible]. J. [illegible] Abernathy. G. O. Sanders. G. W. Buchanan. D. F. Dailey.

Middle Row: Mrs. W. H. Evans. W. H. Evans. Mrs. Amanda Johnson. R. F. Johnson. D. W. Martin. Mrs. E. M. Green. Miss E. C. Martin. Mrs. A. V. Muckelroy. Mrs. J. P. Brown. Miss Wilson. Mrs. F. G. Chretien. J. M. Alexander. Miss M. P. Alexander.

Bttom Row: R. G. Evans. E. T. Minton. Mrs. G. W. Collins. Frank Arnold. J. L. Lockett. Mrs. G. O. Sanders. Mrs. C. W. Lewis. Mrs. S. A. Johnson.

PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives



PV *did* **U Know?**

Before William J. Nix was a championship head coach at Prairie View, he served as a staff assistant under PV's head football coach, Fred Long.



Bennie Lee Williams Boyden was born March 16, 1931, in Navasota, Texas. She was married to Dr. Lloyd Boyden and they were members of Mt. Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, until God called them home.

As an educator, she taught in the classroom and served as a counselor in Navasota ISD. Bennie was a entrepreneur, and was very well known in the antique business community. She owned and successfully operated Bennie's Emporium and Antique Collectibles for many years. Bennie died on September 1, 2012, leaving family, friends, and many others to mourn her passing.



George E. Higgs, Executive Director Emeritus of the Prairie View A&M niversity National Alumni Association (NAA), was a resident of Prairie ew, Texas. He was a native of Ladonia, Texas located in Fannin unty in the deep northeast corner of the State of Texas where he tended elementary and junior high school. He later attended and aduated from Center Point High School located in Pittsburg, Texas.

fter completing his high school education, he was drafted into the U.S. my where he served in Japan and Korea from 1950 to 1952. After ng discharged from military service and receiving the G.I. Bill, he rolled in Prairie View A&M College and graduated with both Bachelor d Masters degrees in Mathematics and Business Administration, spectively.

George Higgs' first employment was with Prairie View A&M College lizing his business skills in records management in the food services ctor. He went on to become an instructor in the Waller Independent hool District where he taught Mathematics at the high school level, th at Prairie View High School and then Waller High School (following egration). Later, he was promoted to Assistant Principal at Waller High hool and then Federal Programs Director. He remained in that pacity until his retirement in 1988. That same year, up until his irement, he began part-time teaching at Prairie View A&M University in e Department of Mathematics. During that same time, he served as easurer/Manager of the Prairie View Federal Credit Union and was sponsible for building the credit union building now located on niversity Drive.

His love of his alma mater drove him to become active in the alumni sociation. Here, he served as President of the Association 985-1987); was appointed as its first Executive Director (1987-1993 d 1995-2003) under its new structure (a position that he committed to ght or more hours daily without salary compensation). He spearheaded e push for NAA life memberships in April 1986, bringing in a total of 300 embers within the first two month period. He was also responsible for e establishment of the PVAMU National Alumni Association Teacher ducation Endowed Scholarship Fund (which currently awards holarships to 25 students each year and stands in excess of $500,000) oviding some of the initial funding for the scholarship by donating the oceeds of a retirement dinner held in his honor. Mr. Higgs was rsonally instrumental in acquiring the Alumni House (national adquarters building) for the NAA in November 1990. He went on to earhead the drive that completely paid off the 15-year mortgage in May 96, nine years early.

George Higgs held memberships and offices in the following: Chairman the Board, Prairie View Federal Credit Union Board of Directors; esident, Prairie View Chamber of Commerce; President, Prairie View hletic Club; member/former treasurer (10 years), Hempstead-PV mni Chapter; member, Prairie View; member, Prairie View Athletic b; President, Class of 1956; life member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, ; member, Phi Delta Kappa; member, All Faiths Chapel Board of ectors; and Executive Director Emeritus, Prairie View A&M University tional Alumni Association (which named its headquarters building after in 2001). Mr. Higgs was also a member of the Mt. Corinth Baptist urch in Hempstead, Texas. He received numerous awards and honors r the years, but having the alumni headquarters building named in his or ranks at the top of the list with him. In addition, he received the A's most prestigious award, the Prometheus Award (only awarded e, every five years).

Married to the former Hattie Olivette Jackson Higgs (deceased) of ansas; the union produced two children, Cherie (Calvin Singleton) and ycus (Amecia Smith). Mr. Higgs was also the proud grandfather of ton, Calvin, Morgan, and Marah.



George Higgs



TOUR PV











Valerie King Wilson was born on December 3, 1924, in Upsher County, Texas. She was married to Ural Wilson and was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees, from PVAMU.

Valerie was affiliated with several organizations, including the Prairie View Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., the Prairie View Chamber of Commerce, the Prairie View Athletic Club, and she was also a member of the Prairie View Retired Teachers Association. The community mourned her passing on March 4, 2002.



Come see the beautiful Woolfolk Hall, the old Prairie View Training School, the "peanut farm" of former mayor, Eristus Sams, the historic slave cemetery and the grave sites of W. R. Banks, legendary band director, "Prof" George Edwards, legendary track coach, Hoover J. Wright and others we shall never forget.



Many Prairie View landmarks stand as a testament to the hard work and resilience of those who built one of America's remarkable communities.







Jimmie Ruth Phillip was born April 8, 1906, in Plano Texas. She was married to Reverend C. Lee Phillip, chaplain, and later, the Dean of Chapel at PVAMU. She entered Prairie View High School in 1922, and started PVAMU in 1924.

A life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Ms. Phillip served in many organizations. She was the state Corresponding Secretary of the Parents and Teachers Association of Texas, personnel consultant to NYA Resident Center, Supervisor of the Home Economics Nursery School Observation Lab, and president of the Prairie View Training School PTA. She also served as a residence hall supervisor at PVAMU, while teaching Home Economics "on the hill". Mrs. Phillip was a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church and its alter guild.

Jimmie Ruth Phillip died in July of 2000, leaving her two daughters, Jimmie and Cecelia, and many others to mourn her passing.



The Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture presents "BISCUITS AND BUSINESS"

March 28, 2019



PVAMU School of Architecture, Artist in Residence, Marlon Hall, and Assistant Professor of Practice, Ann Johnson, collaborated with TIPHC director, Michael Hurd to co-curate an exhibition dedicated to the legacy of chef and entrepreneur, Lucille Bishop Smith, who studied and later taught at Prairie View, and is often noted as the state's first African-American businesswoman.





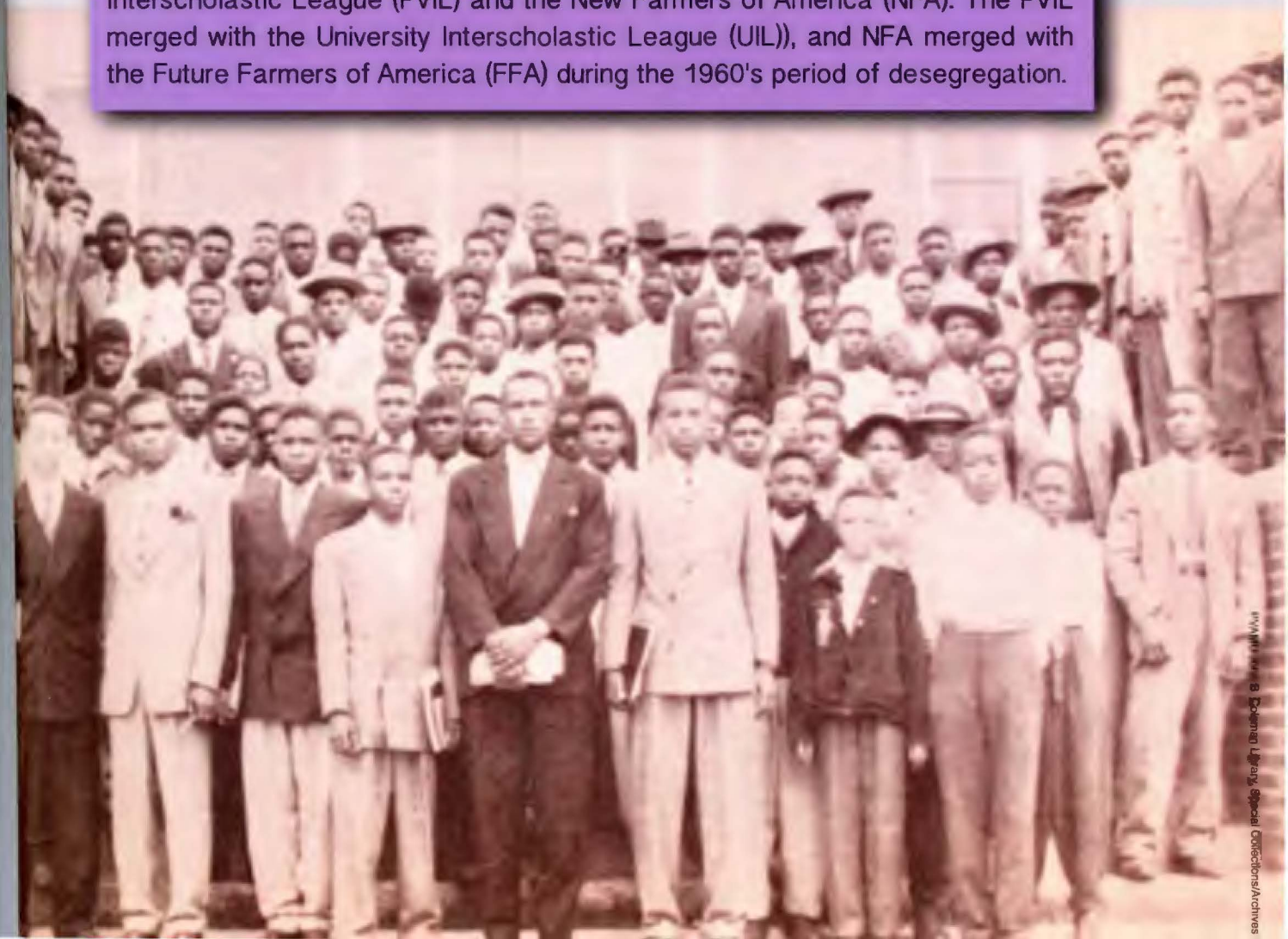
In 1937, Lucille Smith was invited to design a Domestic Service Training Program for professors and instructors at Prairie View. She went on to develop the first college-level Commercial Foods and Technology Department that were intelligently paired with an apprenticeship program. Smith was the first black woman to join the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and for several years her chili biscuits were served on American Airlines flights and were also served at the White House. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, President Lyndon Johnson and heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, were among her friends, fans, and customers.

The original Lucille Smith exhibition titled, "Reliquary," was featured on CBS This Morning, and is on exhibit in the private dining room of Lucille's Restaurant in Houston. Smith's great-grandson, chef Chris Williams, opened the restaurant in Lucille's honor.



PV *did* U Know?

Prairie View served as the state headquarters for the Prairie View Interscholastic League (PVIL) and the New Farmers of America (NFA). The PVIL merged with the University Interscholastic League (UIL)), and NFA merged with the Future Farmers of America (FFA) during the 1960's period of desegregation.



Ruth Simmons has an Ivy League and an HBCU background.
Come Home to Prairie View.... just like Dr. Simmons!





African-Amercian Education in Early Texas, 1860-1949

The following article is an edited excerpt from the Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View A&M University, Waller County, Texas, submitted to the U.S. Department of Interior and the National Register of Historic Places.

Karen Charleston, Preparer

Extreme political and economic oppression characterized the history of African-American education in Texas throughout much of the 19th and 20th centuries. As in most southern states that embraced the institution of slavery, education for African-Americans in Texas before the Civil War was non-existent. According to E.W. Wheelock, State Superintendent of Education, "prior to September, 1865, a colored school was an unknown thing in Texas"

At nearly 60,000, the population of African-Americans in the new state represented approximately a quarter of the total population in 1850, yet only 20 were formally enrolled in school. Although this population tripled to 180,000 over the next decade, the number formally enrolled in school dropped to a mere 11 students documented by the 1860 census.

With no public school system in Texas during these years for either race, the vast majority of former slaves were illiterate at the close of the Civil War. Thus, establishment of accessible schools became a focus of post war educational efforts.

The newly emancipated slaves tended to embrace educational opportunities with eagerness, as the "foundation of their educational movement was their self-reliance, and a deep-seated desire to control and sustain schools for themselves and their children".

Initiated in the months immediately following the conclusion of the war, the Freedmen's Bureau championed social changes for the state's newest citizens. With assistance from northern missionary societies, the Bureau opened 16 schools for African-Americans in the state by the end of 1865.





Two of the most significant slave plantations in the state of Texas were located in Waller County; Alta Vista and Liendo Plantations. They went from being dungeons of human bondage for Africans and their descendants, to being physical structures, housing freedom, education, and students' dreams for generations to come.
Liendo Plantation (pictured below) became a Freedman's Bureau, while Alta Vista Plantation, became Prairie View A&M University.

By the time Texas established a statewide public school system in 1871, 4,478 African-American students were already enrolled in 88 schools across the state. This system of schools and colleges flourished over the next three decades despite the reversal of social advances for African Americans inaugurated by segregationist Jim Crow laws, under the state constitution adopted in 1876.

During the Reconstruction era, Texas vacillated between a dual, segregated system of public education, and a single integrated system. The Texas Constitution of 1866 ordered that all education tax money raised from African-Americans, "be used for the maintenance of a system of public schools for Africans and their children."

In addition, the Constitution stated, "it shall be the duty of the legislature to encourage schools among these people". Despite these precepts, however, little progress resulted.

In the following year the Reconstruction legislature devised a single public school system, without separate schools for African-Americans. Mandatory attendance policies compelled African-American students to attend classes. The Constitution of 1869 made no mention of integration and the "question of separate schools for the two races was passed over in silence".

The 1873 legislature, however, repealed most of the enlightened Reconstruction-era laws. The Constitution of 1876 stated that "Separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored children, and impartial provisions shall be made for both". Despite the large Mexican-American population in Texas, this clause pertained only to African American children. In Texas, Mexican-Americans were legally defined as Caucasian.

Northern Philanthropy and the Development of African American Institutions of Higher Learning in the South, 1865-1935.

The development of higher education for African-Americans in the South during the period 1865 to 1935 reflected the involvement of three philanthropic groups, which formed the power structure in black higher education during this period.

The curriculum aim of those black colleges controlled by white missionary societies differed from that of industrial philanthropist. The white missionary societies' aim, was to train black leaders in "liberal culture rather than industrial training." The course of study at these colleges consisted of Greek, Latin, French, mathematics, natural and moral science, philosophy, history, English and astrology. "Industrial training, however, had no major role in the missionaries' philosophy and program of training a leadership class to guide the ex-slaves in their social economic, and political development."

The black leadership between 1865 and 1900 believed that educating blacks to be scholars, ministers, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and politicians, and sending them out to benefit other blacks would solve the "Negro problem".

In 1917, colleges funded by black and missionary organizations entered a crisis for survival, as a result of the movement to standardize institutions of higher learning. With the new standards for accreditation, colleges now had to maintain at least six departments of professorships with one professor giving full time to each department. "The college's annual income had to be sufficient to maintain professors with advanced degrees and to supply adequate library and laboratory facilities. The rating agency also held that the operation of a



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The Kirby House from the Alta Vista Plantation served as a women's dorm in the school's early years.

aratory department at the high ol level was undesirable, and in ase could it be under the same lty and discipline as the college."
ost of the existing black colleges ng that time did not have the ired funds to bring their tutions up to the new standards. ording to Thomas Jesse Jones, ctor of research for the Phelps es Fund, Howard University and University were the only black itutions that were capable of ring college-level work.
order for the new Agricultural and hanical College at Bryan to ive aid under the federal Morrill d-Grant College Act of 1862, the of Texas had to make provisions the education of African ricans. Six months after the islature ratified the 1876 stitution, it voted to create a "State cultural and Mechanical College Colored Youths". The short-lived, -supported Alta Vista Agricultural ge, resulted from this measure.
1876, the governor of Texas inted a commission to establish gricultural school on a budget of 00. Ironically, the commission hased the 1400-acre site of a er slave plantation in rural Waller nty as the location of Alta Vista cultural College. From its tion, the state college for African rican Texans was part of the Texas A&M System. Although African-American principals, deans and presidents controlled the school, the white president and board of directors of Texas A & M exercised ultimate authority over the operations of the institution.

Alta Vista opened in 1878 with an enrollment of eight male students. Unable to attract a sufficient number of students to support the school, Alta Vista was on the brink of failure.

To forestall a complete failure, Governor Oran Roberts converted Alta Vista into a coeducational normal school for the training of teachers for black children in 1879. Alta Vista Agricultural College, became Prairie View Normal School and continued under the auspices of the A & M board of directors, and its white president.

Although originally established as a normal school for the training of black teachers, the University's curriculum over the years reflected the college's efforts to placate the several philanthropic groups that supported the school.

E.H. Anderson, an Alta Vista instructor, became principal in 1879 and his brother L.C. Anderson served as his assistant. The Texas A & M College Board of Directors met in nearby Hempstead that year and authorized the teaching of 13 subjects on the elementary and secondary levels, including simple arithmetic, grammar, geography, reading and Texas History. Enrollment rose to 60 students that year.

L.C. Anderson became principal in 1885, after his brother's death, and managed a budget of $39,000 and a staff of 11 instructors in a normal school program. "He used the world's interest with Booker T. Washington's concepts of industrial training to build and improve the normal as well as vocational features of Prairie View. An industrial education course was introduced in 1887." During his tenure as Principal' the school erected an administration building (1890), an academic hall, six cottages for teachers, and a brick mechanics shop and artesian wells. With these improved facilities, a number of state funded scholarships and support from the African-American community, Prairie View entered a period of steady growth.

In the late 1880s Prairie View became the center of a bitter political debate concerning its future and purpose. With the establishment of a modest industrial program (equivalent to a vocational program) in 1887, male students either took courses in carpentry and elementary mechanics, or in elementary agriculture and women took a home economics course. That year the 20th legislature quieted the debate by asserting the industrial nature of the school. The legislature agreed to the attachment of an Agricultural and Mechanical Department to the normal school, as well as a branch of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, based at Texas A&M.

The annual catalogue for Prairie View for 1888-1889 stated, "To meet a very general demand, the Legislature made a special appropriation by which the institution has established an Industrial Department thus opening the entrance to higher industrial pursuits for our students" (White). Despite the legislative act, industrial subjects remained secondary to the normal courses and were not part of the regular curriculum until 1893.



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A community garden was managed by faculty, staff, and students, for the benefit of everyone in the community. Also, during the early and difficult years of the school's existence, local farmers provided free produce to the campus.

The Industrial Department established in 1893, included the Mechanical, Agricultural and Ladies' Industrial Departments. Mechanical courses included printing, general carpentry, woodworking, mechanical drawing, and the elements of mechanics and blacksmithing. Agricultural courses were both theoretical and practical. Students cultivated a farm, garden and orchard, and also bred cattle. Women learned general housework, including cooking and laundering in their industrial program.

While the debate in the Texas legislature concerning Prairie View's curriculum raged on, a national debate concerning the merits of vocational or industrial training versus traditional liberal arts education for African-Americans was beginning to heat up. Most private African-American colleges founded by northern missionaries fashioned their curriculum after northern universities. An emphasis on classical studies, including Latin and Greek, resulted. However, the missionaries soon realized that classical college courses did little to advance the illiterate and uneducated freedmen.

By the 1880s private colleges included elementary, intermediate, secondary and college level departments. Elementary students took courses in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and history. Secondary courses were divided between college preparatory and normal courses. The college prep track involved courses in Latin, Greek, rhetoric, literature, mathematics, and science. The normal coursework included geography, civics, basic English, and teaching methods. At the college level, students took courses in Latin, Greek, mathematics, science, philosophy, modern language and theology. Yet both northern and southern whites objected to this liberal arts curriculum and desired its replacement with vocational or industrial training.

In general, whites considered African-Americans intellectually inferior. Whites desired a "stable and efficient black labor force" and believed that African-Americans were best suited to vocational and industrial pursuits.

With the passage of the 2nd Morrill Act in 1890, the Federal Government assisted states in establishing African-American colleges with agricultural or industrial formats. In 1899, the state legislature provided a labor fund similar to the state student grants, anticipating the promotion of vocational training at Prairie View. At that time, the legislature changed the name of the institution from Prairie View State and Normal School to Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College. Competition developed between denominational liberal arts colleges, vocational and industrial schools backed by individuals, the federal government and philanthropic groups.

The development of these vocational schools, led to controversy concerning the mission and needs of African-

erican colleges. A program odying elements of both, liberal arts vocational curricula, evident at ie View, often resulted.

oker T. Washington and W.E.B. ois, the two most prominent can-American figures associated this controversy, both believed that can-American colleges were vital to blishing racial equality. Washington, under of the Tuskegee Institute's strial curriculum, believed that ng African-Americans needed to blish their political, social and nomic equality through industrial agricultural achievement.

ashington believed that African-ericans should remain in the South prepare for "a way of life that was patible with their existing status and ities". Washington championed al tolerance and vocational training. wever, DuBois argued against hington's vocationalism and ved that the liberal arts curriculum frican-American schools needed to strengthened in order to achieve lity. He admitted that vocational ing had value and that most can-Americans were employed in cultural and industrial jobs, yet he felt that liberal arts education was al to the advancement of his race.

Bois envisioned a talented tenth of an-American men educated in the al arts who could lead the race out verty and inequality. Most whites orted Washington and his Tuskegee ute, while blacks supported both ington and DuBois. Washington's support, though, led to an increase cational programs in both public private African-American colleges ghout Texas and the South.

Edward L. Blackshear, Prairie View principal from 1897 to 1916, was one of the African-American followers of Booker T. Washington and the Tuskegee Institute model. During Blackshear's tenure, the curriculum and the physical plant grew significantly. Now the schools name reflected the industrial coursework offered. In 1901, Prairie View began to offer a six-year course of study, which included four years of normal coursework and two years of college classes. A bachelor's degree was to be granted at the end of the program and three were awarded in 1904, but in 1905 the institution discontinued college level course work.

The reason for the abandoned college curriculum remains unclear, but may reflect student inability to pay tuition for six years. The school also divided the Senior Academy and Normal School into Education, Agriculture, Home Economics and Mechanical Arts divisions in 1901.

New additions to the campus included two dormitories for men (1909) a dormitory for women (1912) and a combination auditorium/dining hall (1911). Intercollegiate athletics came to Prairie View in 1904. Expansion of Prairie View's physical plant, despite World War I, reflects the school's continued growth and industrial emphasis. In 1916 the school constructed a dormitory for women, a household arts building, a laundry building, and the Fry-Thomas Power Plant. Spence Hall, erected in 1918, housed the Division of Agriculture. The close of World War I brought the first recognized Reserve Officers Training Corps to the campus.



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Dr. James M. Franklin



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"Prairie View had three of the best surgeons in the country practicing at the same time. As kids, we'd stand outside and watch the lights go on and off on the second floor; that meant they were performing surgery. The lights over the patient were too hot during the day, and since the hospital didn't have air conditioning, they did operations at night. They'd move the patient to another room, and finish the surgery there, if it got too hot."

Retired PVAMU Professor of Architecture, Marshall Brown

Between 1900 and 1919, Prairie View gradually moved toward becoming a true college, and finally began granting bachelor's degrees in 1921.

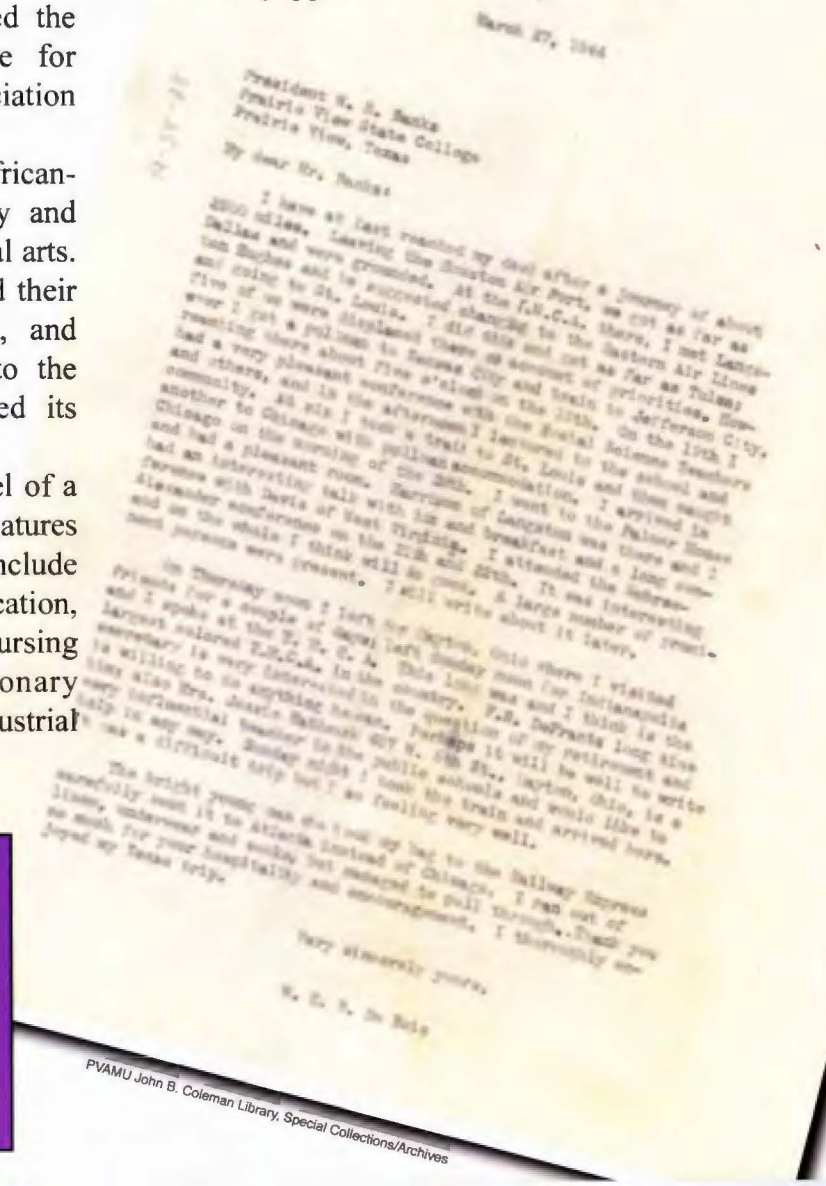
Six buildings were added to the campus in 1924 and 1925: the Alfred N. Poindexter Veterinary Hospital, a science building, a college exchange, an elementary training school, a home economics practice cottage and a music conservatory. Although the school continued to grow, Osborne contended that the short normal program for teachers did not meet the educational needs of African-American children. He built the elementary training school and established a teacher training program in vocational agriculture (home economics and mechanic arts) leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree to remedy the inadequate normal program. In addition, he instituted a Bachelor of Science Degree program in agriculture and raised teacher salaries. In his drive to create a more cohesive college campus, Osborne encouraged the establishment of the Interscholastic League for Negroes and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) programs at Prairie View.

Between 1925 and 1942 most private African-American colleges abolished their elementary and secondary programs in the liberal and vocational arts. By the end of this period most also terminated their college level vocational programs for men, and boosted their women's industrial programs to the college level. Prairie View, though, increased its vocational offerings.

Just as Prairie View started to reach the level of a four year college, pressure from state legislatures forced the school to expand its offerings to include eight separate majors in Agricultural Education, General Agriculture, Home Economics, Nursing Education, Industrial Engineering, Stationary Engineering, Building Construction, and Industrial Education". In 1925 Eby wrote:

"Prairie View does far more industrial and trade training than any other institution of its kind in the state. The college department offers...the normal arts course, the household arts course, the agricultural course, and the mechanical course." In addition to these the following trade courses are offered, extending over a period of only one year: blacksmithing, wheel righting, cabinet making, carpentering, steam laundering, dry cleaning, hat making, shoemaking, printing, tailoring, power-plant machinery, plumbing, automobile repairing, broom and mattress making, trucking, dairying, sewing, millinery, and canning. The library facilities, chemical and physical laboratories and museum of natural history are among the best in the state in colored institutions. Its departments of agriculture, mechanics, cooking, and dressmaking are well equipped and efficiently conducted."

A letter from W.E.B. DuBois to W.R. Banks after a visit to Prairie View (1944)



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etween 1878 and 1925, approximately 0 students received trade certificates 2,000 students graduated from Prairie w. Despite the apparent success of the ege, the State Department of Education sified Prairie View as a junior college 925.

ring Willette Rutherford Banks' tenure principal (1926-1947), Prairie View an to resemble a true institution of her learning. Ever in search of rnative funding sources, Banks sought ancial assistance from private lanthropists, state government, and eral agricultural agencies. The easing number of buildings on campus the growing college curriculum reflect ks' efforts.

e school added a classroom building, a nhouse, an incubator house, a hospital, ee apartment buildings for male hers, three dormitories for women- luding Annie Laurie Evans Hall (1928), liard Dining Hall (1939), a National th Administration resident center, the . Banks Library (1945), and more than ottages for faculty families. In 1930 the ol discontinued the Senior Academy, thereby removing the last trace of secondary curriculum; and renamed the Division of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences. Organized in 1937, the Division of Graduate Study offered Master of Science degrees in agricultural economics, rural education, agricultural education, school administration, supervision and moral sociology. Banks also started the law, engineering, pharmacy, and journalism departments and secured faculty scholarships.

After years of pressure from the African-American community for a "black" University of Texas, the 49th Legislature changed Prairie View Normal and Industrial College to Prairie View University in 1945, and authorized the school to offer the same courses as the University of Texas, as the need arose.

In the early 1870s, Prairie View and Texas A & M universities were remarkably similar. Yet in the next 70 years the state of Texas established 17 public senior colleges, while Prairie. View remained the sole institution dedicated to the higher education of African-Americans. Despite African-American pressure to carry out a mandate in the Constitution of 1876 which stated that the "'Legislature shall also, when deemed practicable, establish a college or branch university for colored youths...'" (qtd. in Homsby), the state legislature refused to provide a University of Texas campus for African-Americans, until 1945 (Houston College).

Although Prairie View's status as a public institution provided state funds for the school, the most common theme running through its history remains its secondary economic status, hampered by meager state funding. Historically, states funded colleges for African-American students for three main reasons: to reap federal funds for the development of white land-grant universities, to limit African-Americans to vocational education, and to prevent racial integration of white land-grant colleges. In 1891 the state legislature voted to bring Prairie View under full coverage of the second Morrill Act of 1890, giving the school status as a Land-Grant College. Although this mandate increased state funding to Prairie View,



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PVAMU President, Dr. Ruth Simmons' brother, Clarence Stubblefield, was a star on Prairie View's 1960s championship basketball teams. (pictured center above)



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the contributions were split unevenly between Texas A & M and Prairie View. One quarter of the appropriated funds went to the "colored" school; three quarters went to Texas A & M.

This same Morrill Act of 1890, funded the establishment of separate African-American agricultural and mechanical colleges, thus paving the way for segregated, vocational higher education. By 1890, segregated schools already prevailed throughout the South and within this system, state legislatures spent money for whites on longer school years, on lower student-teacher ratios, and on higher salaries for teachers. This legalized segregation led to an increased pattern of underfunding for black education. Black public colleges also received unequal funding from state treasuries, through federal land-grant provisions, and from other federal sources". Prairie View followed this pattern. In 1879 annual appropriations for the institution amounted to $6,000, reaching only $136,000 by 1917. The discrepancies between Prairie View and other public universities were remarkable. By comparison, Texas A & M and UT received $469,200 and $711,682 respectively in 1917. Salaries at Prairie View fell well below those at UT and A & M, as the principal at Prairie View earned $1,800, while the presidents of A & M and UT each were paid $5,000. The highest paid professor at Prairie View earned $1,500, while the lowest paid professors at A & M and UT earned $2,500 and $2,000 respectively.

Beginning in the 1940s, the state of Texas began to recognize Prairie View as a legitimate institution of higher learning. In 1945, the Texas legislature renamed the school Prairie View University to fulfill the 1876 Constitutional requirement. In 1947 the legislature established Texas Southern in Houston (formerly Houston College) as the African-American branch of the University of Texas, and renamed Prairie View, Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. This legislative act provided that "courses be offered in agriculture, the mechanic arts, engineering, and the natural sciences connected therewith, together with any other courses authorized at Prairie View at the time of passage of this Act, all of which shall be equivalent to those offered at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas."

While the state legislature forced Prairie View to embrace vocational education, historically black denominational colleges downplayed their industrial programs.



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Most of these schools kept their vocational programs separate from their liberal arts curriculum. Home Economics courses for women were the only vocational studies heartily embraced. The expense of materials, machinery, and tools necessary to carry out trade programs prevented many private institutions from establishing extensive industrial courses. Founded in the classical tradition, private black colleges tended to emphasize liberal arts education. Many schools opposed the principles of vocational education, fearing "that industrial training would prevent blacks from achieving social, economic, and political equality".

With scaled back college programs, many elementary and secondary schools began to teach industrial courses. The Rosenwald Fund, which sponsored a building program for rural African-American schools, embraced vocational education. Using Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute and industrial program as his model, Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald funded thousands of new schools. Rosenwald believed that both urban and industrial development depended on productive agriculture. This could be achieved, he thought, by creating a vocationally trained African-American population. In addition, industrial education would make for stable and deferential African-American laborers, thus increasing profits for white employers.

Prairie View Training School was erected in 1925 with aid from the Julius Rosenwald Fund and replaced the old elementary school building. At the school, student teachers from the college received hands-on training under the supervision of regular college staff members. The building also became a "county training school" in 1928 with monies from the fund. These schools were the forerunners of modern day high schools. By 1940, the training school had an enrollment of 85 and became an accredited high school with a principal and six part-time teachers.

In 1928, 51 schools were built with monies from the senwald Fund. Building requirements for these schools lected Rosenwald's philosophy of industrial education rural southern African-Americans. The Fund insisted t all schools stand on at least two acres of land to allow school gardens and playgrounds. Every school plan luded an industrial room, in addition to the regular ssrooms. The Fund also offered plans for separate shop ldings and teachers' homes where home economics sons could be practiced. Prairie View, as the only public itution of higher learning in Texas until 1927, has been al to the education of African-Americans in the state at levels.

etween 1930 and 1954, 43 percent of African-American lege students in Texas attended Prairie View. Its elopment occurred in the most segregated era of Texas tory. A separate and unequal, yet remarkably viable ool system for African-Americans developed between 1870s and the 1950s. Public schools and public and vate colleges formed a functional educational network African-Americans, providing educational portunities for the first time.

though conditions in most of these schools were alling and the process of advancement was slow, irie View's success and long history, stand as a ament to the African-American drive for equality in cation.

airie View has faced an overriding dilemma for much ts 143 years of existence. As a state-funded institution, white legislature forced the school to shape itself rding to the state's desires. Yet, as an institution for ican-Americans, the college had the duty to educate for advancement of the race. Saddled with these flicting obligations, Prairie View tried to placate both ies in the late 1880s by developing a curriculum that odied both vocational and liberal arts education. ile the quality of education may have been promised, the mixed curriculum allowed the school to ain in operation. By the late 1920's the vocational grams at Prairie View were transformed from training manual labor skills to Home Economics, Nurse ning, and Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. In 1921, 15 years without doing so, Bachelor's Degrees were n awarded at Prairie View.

1930 the school discontinued its secondary level ficulum and began to look like a true college. In 1937, irie View began offering graduate degrees. Although as fulfilled the 1876 constitutional promise of an ican-American branch university in 1945, gregation of Texas schools did not occur the late 1950s and early 1960s. The state ed Prairie View at the same academic financial level as Texas A&M and the versity of Texas in 1984.

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Until 1984, state and federal governments as well as private funds never provided adequate financial support for Prairie View. Historically, financial troubles shaped all aspects of public and private African-American higher education. Without money for dedicated teachers or adequate facilities, African-American colleges struggled through the late 19th and 20th centuries. Yet, Prairie View's existence for 143 years indicates the remarkable spirit and perseverance of African-Americans in Texas. African-American activists dedicated to equality in education repeatedly resisted racist government legislation and endured continuous economic hardship in order to raise the standards of Prairie View and other schools in the state.

After years of struggle, Prairie View has evolved into a multipurpose university, and can no longer be considered a special purpose institution.



TAMU Cushing Historical Images Collection

Development of Prairie View A&M University, 1876-1998 Prairie View, Waller County, Texas
Submitted to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior; and the National Register of Historic Places, March 19, 1999
Prepared by Karen Charleston, (with assistance from Karen Riles and Amber Degn, THC Historians)
Major Bibliographical References I41 through I45

Louis Fry and Four Generations of the Fry Family Have Called Prairie View Home



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The oldest extant and historical buildings of the Prairie View campus, reflect the university's early 20th century growth. Buildings exhibit similar materials and scale, rising between one and four stories in height. The most ornate buildings reflect characteristics of the Collegiate Gothic style, which were both popular on college campuses during the early 20th century.

Louis E. Fry, helped shape Prairie View's building environment for years to come.





is Edwin Fry (1903- 2000)

is Fry attended Prairie View State mal and Industrial College in 1918 enrolled in Mechanic Arts. In 1922, received a degree and continued his cation at Kansas State College in hattan, Kansas. Inadequate finances ed him to return to Prairie View to k as a stationary engineer at the er Plant.

eventually returned to Kansas State registered in the architectural ineering department as the only ican-American student in attendance. le attending Kansas State, Fry met ade L. Wilson who would later ome a vice-president of Prairie w.

y designed the 1925 Alfred N. dexter Veterinary Hospital on the rie View campus as a senior project, ough the date of his design for the rinary hospital remains unclear. He have designed the building in 1922 e still at Prairie View or may have ked on the project at Kansas State.

y returned to Prairie View in 1927, time as a teacher in a department ed by Claude Wilson.

addition to making curriculum mmendations, Fry became involved the campus master plan concerning n space and traffic, and soon began gning campus buildings. In 1927, he gned Annie Laurie Evans Hall, a nitory intended to house 100 girls have toilets on each floor. Fry's inal design for the dormitory uded large windows and liberal n space (13 by 17 feet intended for girls), as well as kitchen and dining ities. The university cut the kitchen dining room from the original s.



Fry also designed the new hospital building; built in 1929 shortly after the original hospital burned. This building embodies the work of all three significant architects on the Prairie View campus: Louis Fry served as the architect for the 50-bed hospital, while Claude Wilson worked as the mechanical engineer and Frederich Giesecke served as the engineer for the project. With the building under construction Fry returned to Kansas State, and earned a Master's Degree in 1930.

Fry's buildings on the Prairie View campus reflect his earliest work. He designed numerous buildings on other African-American college campuses including the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, Alabama State University, Lincoln University of Missouri and Morgan State University, later in his career. After earning his master's degree he taught at the Tuskegee Institute where he established an architecture department in 1935. He also taught at Lincoln University of Missouri where he was the only licensed African-American architect in the state.

After receiving his Ph.D. from Ohio State in the mid 1940s, Fry studied at Harvard with Walter Gropius, the noted German architect and founder of the Bauhaus.





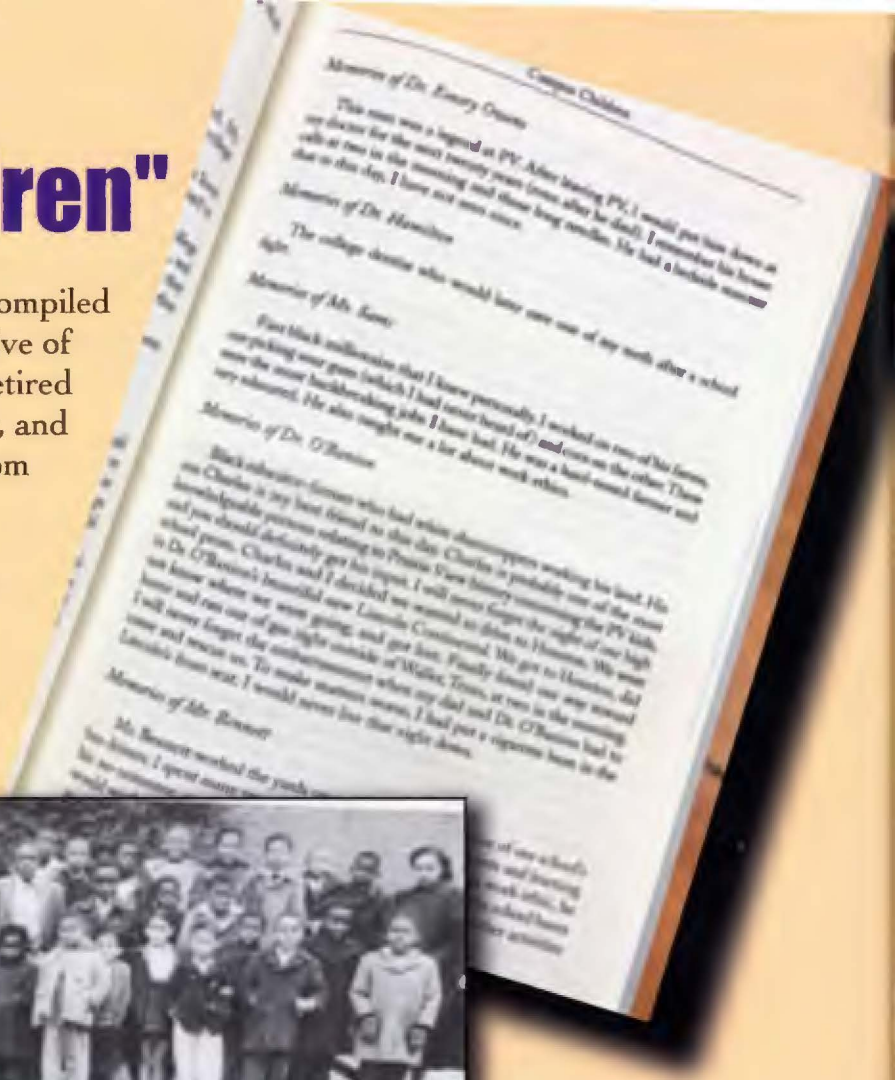




"Campus Children"

"Campus Children" is authored and compiled by Jimmie (Phillip) Poindexter, a native of the city of Prairie View. Jimmie is a retired professor of Sociology at Prairie View, and is one of the "campus children" of whom she writes.

In this indispensable collection of memoirs, various individuals draw on fond recollections of being raised, literally, on the campus of Prairie View A&M College.


Campus Children

Memories of Dr. Emery Onion

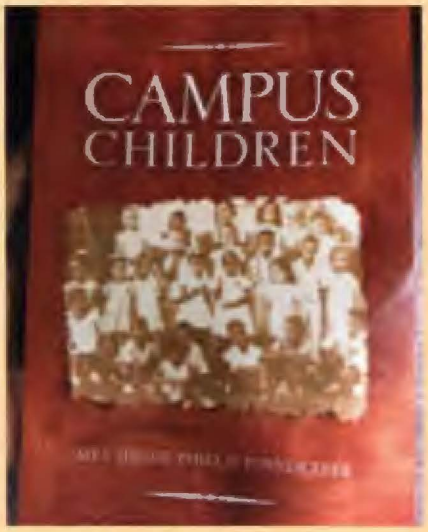
Memories of Dr. Hamilton

Memories of Mr. Jones

Memories of Dr. O'Banion

Memories of Mr. Bennett


PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives




PVAMU John B. Coleman Library, Special Collections/Archives

Libbie N. Brown graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Home Economics in 1932, and a Master's of Elementary Education Degree in 1952. Ms. Brown taught first through fourth grade in the segregated schools of Waller, Texas, and was a second grade teacher in the Prairie View Training School. Upon integration, she was the first African-American teacher at the Waller Elementary School in Waller I.S.D..

Ms. Brown was awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Sam Houston Area Council for her outstanding service as Den Leader of Cub Scout Pack #141 for 27 years of outstanding service. Upon her death, she was mourned by a large family of community and friends.



VAMU and Rice University Researchers Rediscover Ancestral Burials

y using ground penetrating radar
R) to image subsurfaces, Rice
versity along with Prairie View
lty and students, in 2007, began
-invasive searches for the
narked graves of hundreds of
laved Africans and their
cendants.

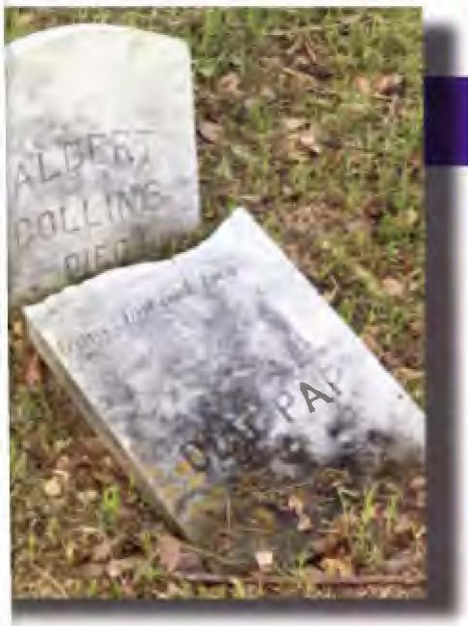
Waller County historical records
icate that between 1822 and
5, two plantations, Alta Vista
Liendo, held over 1,000 slaves.
re were a total of at least eleven
ntations in Waller County.

Before 1900, building materials
e scarce and most individuals
uld have been neatly wrapped in
th or buckskins before being
ried, without markers or
bstones."

iven the total number of "slaves"
orded in the area, and the few
rkers which are positively
ntified, researchers are confident
t the anomalies found in the
surface searches represent the
ny unaccounted for remaining
ial sites for the area's enslaved
idents.



ical Investigation of Wyatt Chapel Cemetery (Rice Univ/PVAMU/TIPHC)



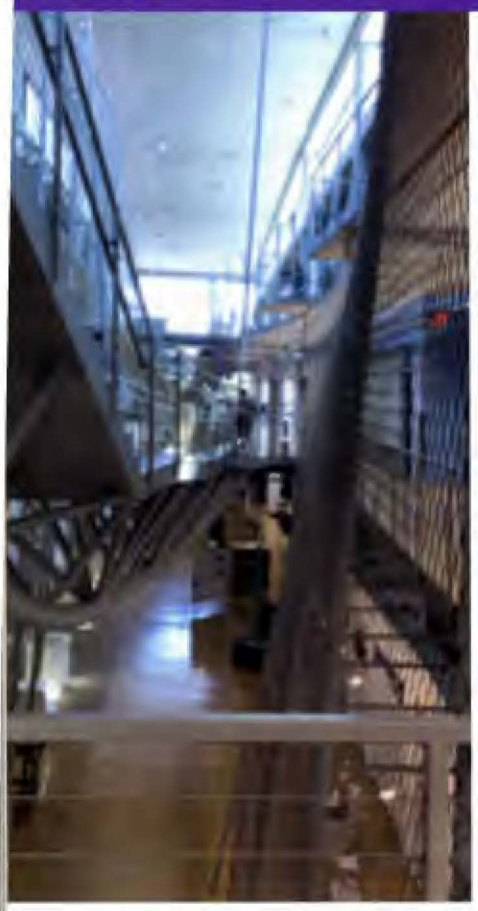
Waller County Plantations:

Alta Vista
(James Kirby)
Bernardo
Brookshire
Cliett
Groce
(Pleasant Hill)
Isaac Best
Liendo
Pattison
Penrice
Rainwater
Cooper



Geophysical Investigation of Wyatt Chapel Cemetery (Rice Univ/PVAMU/TIPHC

Researchers found what appeared to be unmarked burials along Pond Creek, and in areas not currently being used as pasture lands for grazing. They also found what appeared to be unmarked graves in the modern cemetery immediately south of the initial search area.



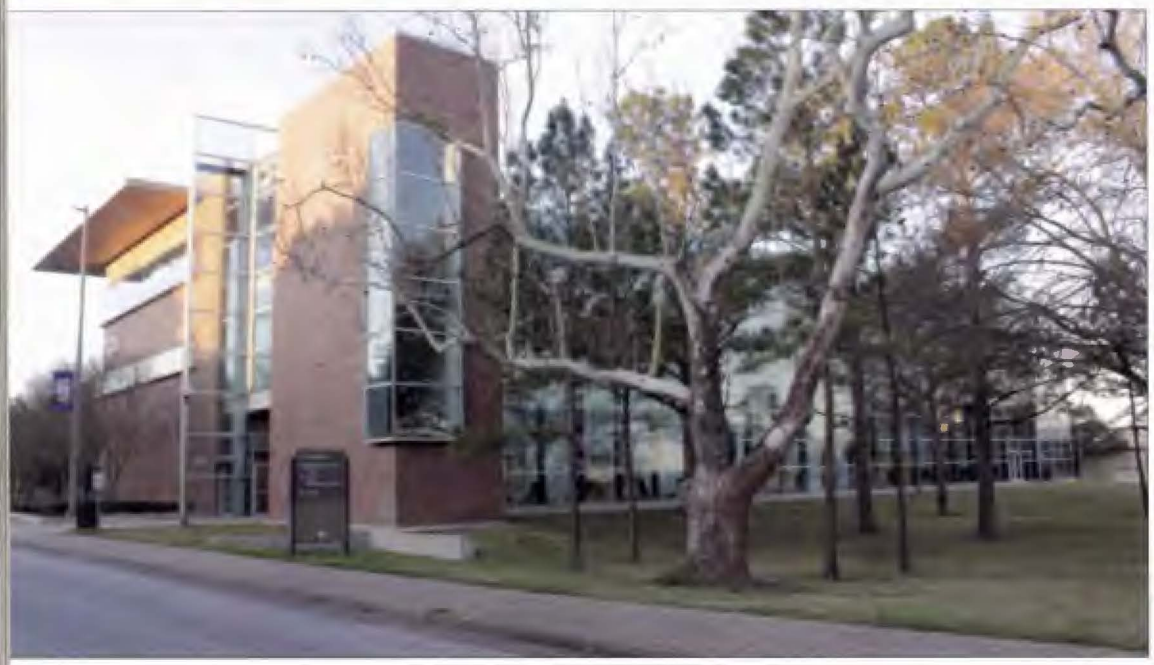
PV *did* U Know?

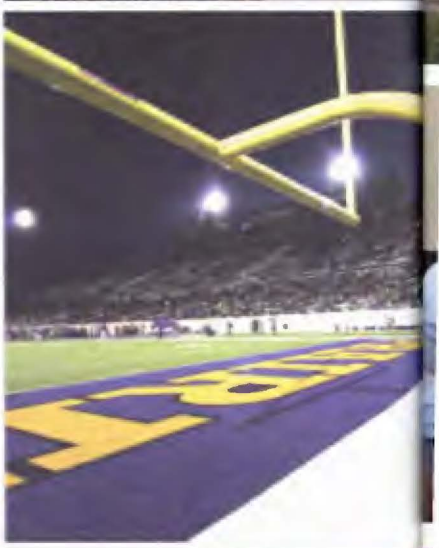
Prairie View has the most beautiful college campus in Texas.

OF COURSE YOU DID!









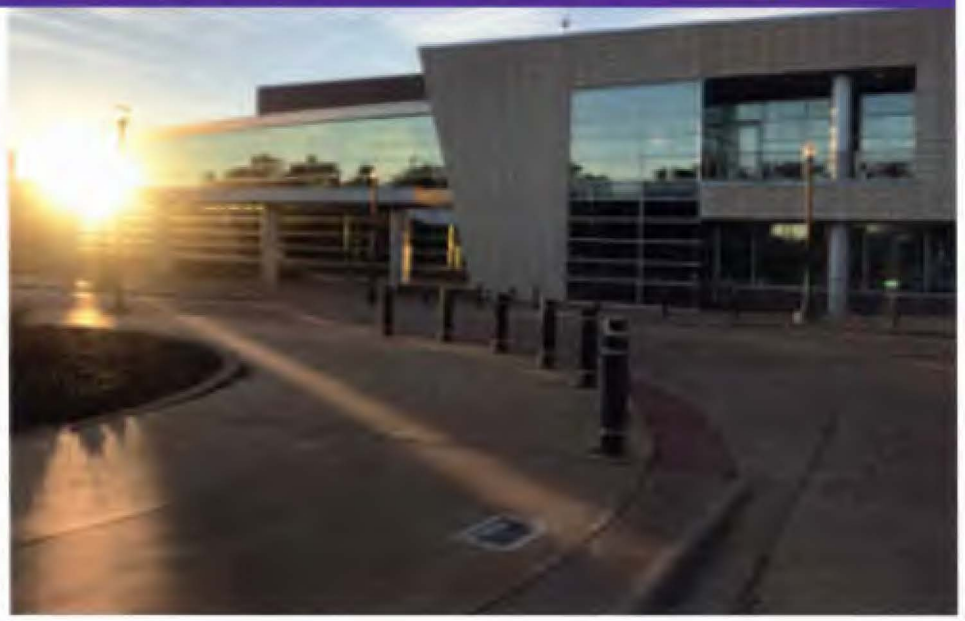
Purvis Melvin Carter was born on November 26, 1925, in Columbus, Texas. Dr. Carter was a noted history professor at PVAMU who studied in the company of such great American historians as Dr. John Hope Franklin, Ralph Bunche, and Dr. E. Franklin Frazier.

Dr. Carter, remarkably and meticulously, compiled the first 54 volumes of the Journal of Negro History.

Married to the beautiful Gwendolyn Burns Carter, he was the father of three children, Purvis, Frederick, and Burnest. Dr. Carter was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.. He died on February 13, 2013. The African diaspora gained immensely from his scholarship.









PV TODAY

As a result of the sacrifice and diligent commitment to academic excellence of thousands of its residents, it will always be said,

"Prairie View Produces Productive People"







Jacob Leroy Boyer was born October 29, 1921, in Liberty County, Texas. He married the lovely, Helen Shelby Boyer and lived in Prairie View his entire adult life. To their union was born two sons, John and Eugene.

Mr. Boyer laid the foundation for business development in Prairie View. During his time here, he served as treasurer of the Prairie View Federal Credit Union, owner-operator of the Super Save Food Market, operator of the The Freeze King, owner/operator of the Gableside Enterprises automobile service station, and owner of Boyer Rentals. "Mr. B" also served on the Prairie View City Council for four terms and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. When Jacob died on March 13, 2003, Prairie View lost a true pioneer of its business community.



Friends to Remember Contact Information





pecial thanks goes to the Prairie View 50th Anniversary History Committee members who provided valuable information he form of letters, photos, first hand accounts, and research, in completing this first volume of work. Pictured from left to t: *Marshall Brown, Kathryn Reed, Christina Zavala, Berniece Webster, *Eula "Cookie" Bennett, *Sharon (Stafford) Tisdell, mmie (Phillip) Poindexter, Gwendolyn Carter, *Amy (Bean) Boykin and *Marie Herndon. *Attended Prairie View Training

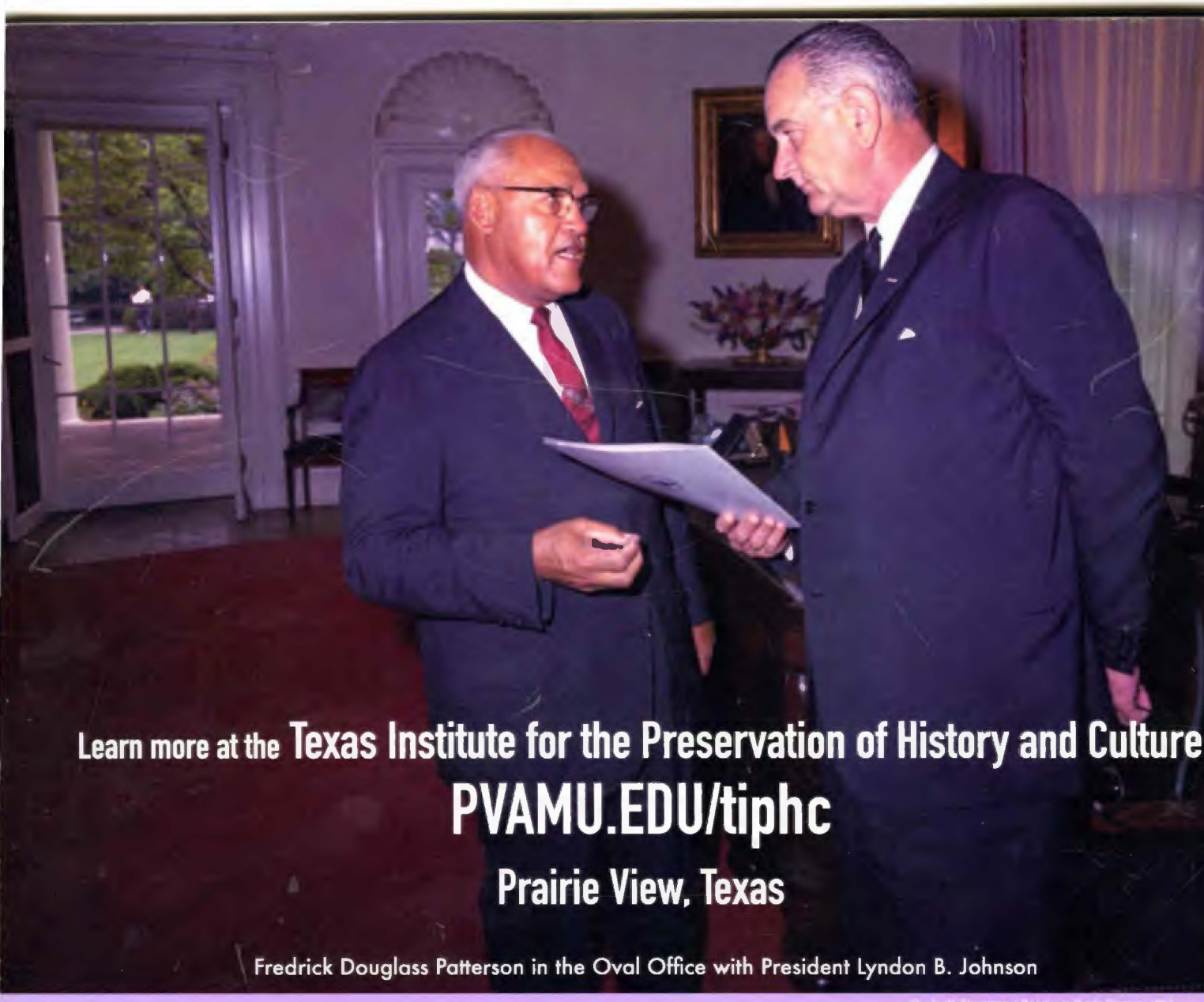


When my grandfather, Cube Charleston, first came to Prairie View in 1948, he tells of his getting off the train with a G.I. Bill and all that he owned in a single suitcase. He met my grandmother, Nellie Thomas Charleston, in Prairie View, and they both eventually received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the school.

I had the opportunity to attend grade school in the old Prairie View Training School, which was built in 1954; the same one my father attended during segregation. In addition, four generations dating back to 1927, on both the maternal and paternal sides of my family attended Prairie View A&M University. So I am especially proud to be the video producer and publisher of *Come Home to Prairie View*. Volume I.

Christopher Easton, Owner of FuGen Creative Co.





Fredrick Douglass Patterson in the Oval Office with President Lyndon B. Johnson

Cecil W. Stoughton, LBJ Library, Public Domain, 1964

Orphaned at the age of two after his parents died of Tuberculosis in Washington, D.C., he came to Austin, Texas to live with his aunt. She enrolled him at Prairie View Normal and Industrial College in 1915, when he was thirteen years old.

By the time he was 33, in 1935, he had become the second youngest president in the history of Tuskegee Institute. (Only Booker T. Washington was younger) By the time of his death in 1988, the organization he co-founded with Mary McLeod Bethune, had benefitted over 65,000 students and 42 private HBCUs, by raising over $1 billion.

He is credited with establishing the legendary **Tuskegee Airmen Flight Training Program.** Along with his mentor, Prairie View's Dr. E.B. Evans, he started the **Tuskegee School of Veterinary Medicine,** which has produced over 75% of all African-American veterinarians in the United States.

His name is **FREDERICK DOUGLASS PATTERSON;** he is a 1919 graduate of Prairie View Normal and Industrial College and the founder of the **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND** (UNCF).