The College of Arts and Sciences is comprised of about 150 staff and faculty from many different departments, offering degrees in diverse fields, including Applied Music, Biology, Chemistry, Communications, Drama, English, History, Mathematics, Medical Technology, Music, Physics, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology, and Spanish. Opportunities are also available to all students for commissioning as officers in the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines through the Army and Naval science programs. The Arts and Sciences staff and faculty are committed to serving all students through academic programs aimed at developing students’ creative thinking, critical analysis, problem solving, and communication skills that are fundamental to the intellectual development and professional success.

Equally important is the College’s commitment to developing students’ ethical and civic standards. The College strives to integrate teaching, innovative strategies of teaching, effective use of technology, and the promotion of economic development, partnerships, and cultural pursuits. An innovative and responsive spirit guides the College, balancing access and quality with efficiency, diversity, and a commitment to partnerships with local and global communities.

Interim Dean, Dr. Edward W. Martin, welcomes you to this first edition of our newsletter, PreView. We hope you find the newsletter both informative and inspirational concerning the achievements we have made, and the exciting future that stands before us here at PVAMU. We invite your comments and inquiries concerning our programs and research.

The PVAMU Department of Biology was recently awarded an NIH grant in the amount of $213,000 annually for three years. Under the direction of the Principal Investigator, Dr. Gloria Regisford, this grant will fund the establishment of a Bridge Program between PVAMU and the Houston Community College System (HCCS). The goals of the “Bridging the Gap to the Baccalaureate Degree (BGBD) at PVAMU” are to significantly increase the number of underrepresented minority students pursuing a baccalaureate degree in biomedical science and biomedical engineering and to motivate them to then attend graduate school at research intensive universities (RIUs) to obtain a Ph.D. degree. The long-term goal is to significantly increase the number of underrepresented minorities pursuing a research career in the biomedical sciences. This collaboration formed between Dr. Regisford, Dr. Laura Carson (program coordinator at PVAMU), and Dr. Eddie McNama (program coordinator at HCCS) will serve to facilitate transitions of minority researchers in biomedical science. This program also hopes to build on the previously established research programs at PVAMU and to increase the number of collaborative efforts between the faculty at HCCS, PVAMU, and RIUs. The Bridge program will address the following issues: (1) the lack of research activities at HCCS; (2) the special challenges relative to minority involvement in research; and (3) the need for more minority researchers in biomedical science. The special challenges relative to minority involvement in research and the need for more minority researchers in biomedical science will also be addressed by another grant, “Bridging the Gap: Addressing Environmental Justice Through Science,” in collaboration with Dr. John Williams at the Center for Research on Minority Health (CRMH), University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. This grant was awarded at the end of September, 2003, and Dr. Regisford is also the Principal Investigator for PVAMU’s subcontract of approximately $100,000 annually for four years.

Bridging the Gap at PVAMU
Dr. Jian-ao Lian, Professor of Mathematics at PVAMU, has a 3-year on-going research project titled "Strong Collaborative Research program for HBCUs." The project received a $177,222 funding from the U.S. Department of Defense to study multiwavelets and hybrid wavelets. Dr. Lian collaborates with faculty members in the Department of Electrical Engineering on campus as well as researchers outside the campus. A $133,254 grant from partnerships with Los Alamos National Laboratory and Litton Advanced Systems was awarded in September 2001 to develop hardware and software for a satellite-based instrument intended to detect, locate, characterize, and track threats of a radio frequency nature. Dr. Lian continues writing proposals for further outside funding opportunities, attending professional meetings, and producing and publishing quality research results.

Strong Collaborative Research with the U.S. Navy

Dr. Nelson Butuk has established a strong collaborative research program in Computational Fluid Dynamics at the Navy Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State University. Two PVAMU students majoring in math—Rosemary Berry in 2002 and Oghanna Eyuhaghan in 2003—have already benefited from the collaboration by spending two months of the summer semester at the laboratory. The students were involved in developing an advanced math module to be incorporated into the software design tool used at the laboratory.

The Department of Languages and Communications at PVAMU is entering the digital age with two state-of-the-art digital production labs, new digital newsgathering equipment, and an experienced staff of media professionals. The Communications program has received $300,000 for equipment over the past two years. The television studio has received three new Ikegami HC390 cameras with Vinten pedestals for studio production classes. Twenty new Canon mini DV cameras and Sony Hi-8 field cameras are available for field production. The photojournalism course has shifted to digital format with the addition of ten Frinco 3-megapixel digital still cameras and tripods coupled with industry standard Photoshop 7 image manipulation software.
Research & Accomplishments


NROTC Midshipmen Celebrate U.S. Navy’s 228th Birthday

On October 10, 20:09, the Midshipman Review of the NAVY’s Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) kicked off the celebration of the 200th Birthday of the United States Navy. The celebration took place at the De Lacey Hotel Ballroom and was sponsored by the Houston Council of the U.S. Navy League. Midshipmen dressed in traditional navy uniforms and joined in traditional song and dance while opportunity to interact with service personnel from various communities within the area service branches. The keynote address was by the Honorable Gordon R. England, 3rd Secretary of the Navy.

Navy ROTC Leads Homecoming Parade 2003

On October 25, 2003, the NAVY’s Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) participated in the 2003 Homecoming parade through the campus. The Midshipmen along together alumni, students, organizations, area high schools, and community leaders to celebrate the illustrious tradition of NAVY’s. The NROTC color guard led parade from the campus entrance, down University Drive, to the reviewing stands located in front of the W.R. Banks building.

Naval ROTC Recruiting

The Charles Gilpin Grant won six Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Houston Midshipmen for the Charles Gilpin Grant Scholarship Program (NSF).

Captain Larry Watson


PREVIEW

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