Greetings!

As your newly appointed Dean, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to a new academic year.

With half of the semester behind us prior to this publication, it is obvious that the semester is off to a great start. It is an exciting time to be here on this campus among many different departments and has been brought to national and international levels: last year the colloquium hosted speakers from several American universities and research centers, as well as from Russia, Jamaica, and Australia. All interested parties are welcome to attend the colloquia.

Dr. Vera King, Professor of Mathematics, received the tenth consecutive Chancellor Quality Grant Award (formally the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award in Mathematics & Science) in April 2004. The $80,000 grant is a 17-month award, supporting the department’s in-service and pre-service teacher education program. Dr. King also made presentations at the Conference for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching (CAMT) in San Antonio, TX. The topic, “The Mapping of Instruction and Assessment Data To Foster Student Learning Experiences,” supported the CAMT 2004 theme: Strengthening Texas Through Mathematics Teaching (CAMT) in San Antonio, TX. The topic, “The Mapping of Instruction and Assessment Data To Foster Student Learning Experiences,” supported the CAMT 2004 theme: Strengthening Texas Through Mathematics Teaching.

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As your Dean, I constantly observe excellence in our students, faculty and staff. That is what has kept me productive for so many generations. My hope and prayer is that you will have a very successful year and that every one of us will be continually “Striving for Excellence.”

From The Dean’s Desk
the UMA begins its first semester with eighteen degree program, research opportunities, and test preparation for medical school candidates.

The new Undergraduate Medical Academy (UMA) was established by the Texas Board of Higher Education in 2003. In August 2004, Dr. Dennis E. Daniels, professor and director of Pre-LIMS at Austin. The long-term objectives of Pre-LIMS include informing a wider variety of PV AMU students of the opportunities, challenges, and advantages of a legal career, improving PV AMU students’ chances of admission to law schools, especially by increasing LSAT scores, and enhancing future success of PV AMU law school applicants. The first effort toward this goal was the establishment of the 2004 Summer Pilot Program. The eight student participants visited a class at the University of Houston Law Center and attended a tour and lunch. The university lacked a law practice to provide a hands-on legal experience, and the tour was the first step in establishing this program.

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Grants

The Department of Chemistry has received the following Research Grants:

- $247,743 NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grant for the acquisition of a 480 MHz NMR Spectrometer.
- $75,000 Welch Foundation departmental grant over three years.
- $175,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to support research in chemistry and chemical engineering departments, as a part of the partnership with the NSF-funded Center for Environmental Biochemical Catalysis. Other institutional partners in this project are University of Kansas, University of Iowa and Washington State University.

New Degree Programs in Chemistry

In addition to the traditional chemistry track, the Department of Chemistry now offers the following two new bachelor degrees: Biomedical Science, for students interested in training in the medical field and Forensic Science, for students interested in careers in crime laboratories and applications in chemistry.

Performance

Music & Drama

Dr. John Cornelius of the Department of Music and Drama was recently honored for contributions to new works for the Lyric Theater. Several selections were recently featured as part of the Kennedy Center’s Page to Stage Festival in Washington, D.C. This was Dr. Cornelius’ third participation in the festival, which highlights works-in-progress as they develop from the writing process into fully-realized stage productions. Dr. Cornelius is also the recipient of an Academy Award from the Academy for Educator Achievement Award, created to celebrate contributions to education. Dr. Kumar’s Academy members with significant contributions to education via an integrated, interactive learning environment.

In an interview, Dr. Nojeim said that his students inspire much of his academic work. “My research and scholarship has always flowed from my teaching,” he said. “Before I came to Prairie View, service my students in that course.”

Dr. Jane Nojeim, department professor of Political Science, has recently published the book Gandhi & King: The Power of Nonviolent Resistance (Greenwood/Praeger, 2004). Reviewers have noted that the writing style likely will enhance the book’s usefulness in courses on nonviolence. Moreover, several reviewers that no other book has sought to cover both Mahatma Gandhi and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Based on his authorship of the book, Professor Nojeim was invited to be a plenary speaker at the Gandhi Institute’s conference on nonviolence, to be held in Memphis, Tennessee, on October 8-9, 2004. Dr. Nojeim led the project, Days of Decision: Milestones in U.S. Foreign Policy, is due January 2006.

In an interview, Dr. Nojeim said that his students inspire much of his academic work. “My research and scholarship has always flowed from my teaching,” he said. “Before I came to Prairie View, I taught a course on nonviolent resistance and this book was meant to service my students in that course.”

Prairie View Welcomes the Following New Faculty:

Harry Adams, Philosophy
Hua-Jun Fan, Chemistry
Kenneth Howell, History
Roquane Jenkins, Music and Drama
Daniel Kandle, History
Joy L. Mancino, Chemistry
Felix Moore, Music and Drama
Jennifer Saxon, Music and Drama
Mathew A. Seymour, Army ROTC
Darryl Thompson, Music and Drama
Corey W. Turner, Biology
Deirdre Vanden, Biology

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PreView

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Matthew Hudson

Original cover art created using photographs of the Prairie View A&M Campus at different times of the day and throughout different seasons of the year. Thanks to our Photojournalism students for contributing their images.