Greetings during the concluding days of PreView will attest. It would be an understatement to say that large numbers of students and faculty have been extremely busy by taking advantage of the opportunities on our campus this summer, I trust you will remain busy by exciting for Excellence.

From the Office of the Dean and my staff, I bring to refresh your minds and bodies, participate in the whole experience of living. For those of you who will not be enrolled in classes on our campus this summer, do research, travel and just enjoy the whole experience of living. For those of you who will not be enrolled in classes for other students.

Students Participate in TAMU Research Program

PVAMU students will once again participate in a program for liberal arts majors established by Texas A&M University. The Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Program is an NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs around the country. The program aims to increase the number, academic preparation, and prospects for success among undergraduates interested in pursuing graduate work in liberal arts at Texas A&M University. Of 27 students, one of a handful of schools chosen to participate.

There has been strong and sustained student interest in the program. Because the REU program has been designed for a small number of students (a total of only 10-12), the university nominates just a select few to participate in the TAMU program.

Dr. Larry Oliver, Associate Dean at Texas A&M’s College of Liberal Arts, was impressed with both the level of interest among PVAMU students and with the rigorous selection process, and will meet with PVAMU’s sponsors soon, to discuss targeting and preparing students for next year’s competition.

In addition, three PVAMU sociology majors presented papers at the conference sessions highlighting undergraduate research. Kelly Porter discussed “Residential undergraduate research: Kelly Parker presented “Reconfiguring the Public Sphere: How Government Transfers Money from Welfare”; and Associate Professor Robert Jones presented “Poison Ivy? Educational Aspirations of HBCU Students at Ivy League Schools.” Three faculty presented their work as a combined panel, entitled Poverty, Race and Inequality: What Money Buys; Assistant Professor Karen M. Douglas offered “Nice Hots and a Cot: The New ‘Enfranchisement’ Program Replacing Welfare.”

Students from PVAMU’s Political Science and History programs will be participating for the first time during summer 2005. Dr. Kenneth Howell, assistant professor of history, and Dr. Artemesia Stanberry, assistant professor of political science, were asked to screen PVAMU’s candidates from their History and Political Science programs. Of 27 submitted applications, Howell and Stanberry interviewed eight finalists about their academic interests, knowledge of research methods, and career goals, especially their commitment to graduate study. Three of their four nominees were selected: Jason Booker and Oscar Guevara, both political science majors, and Sean Spikes, a history major. In addition to their academic achievements, majors Jeremy Allen and Cory Donley, were selected.

Sociology Faculty and Students Present Papers

Each of the full-time sociology faculty delivered papers at the Southwestern Social Science Association meeting in New Orleans, on March 23-25. Professor Sarah Williams presented “Pros and Cons: Educational Outcomes of HBCU Students at Ivy League Schools.” Three faculty presented their work as a combined panel, entitled Poverty, Race and Inequality: What Money Buys; Assistant Professor Karen M. Douglas offered “Nice Hots and a Cot: The New ‘Enfranchisement’ Program Replacing Welfare.”

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Professor Williams' research interests include criminal justice, HIV/AIDS in African American populations, and clinical practice. He has written about the oppression of minority populations, especially by studying its first hand, because China, with its rapidly expanding economy, has been playing an increasingly important role in world politics. The participants will establish collaboration. In addition, they will visit historical and cultural parks and museums, and even live student exchange programs and research. Upon their return, the travelers will integrate what they have learned into their curricula, and hopes that artifacts of the trip, such as photos, records, and creative art display on April 5, in the ballroom of the Memorial Student Center. The display provided graduates and undergraduate students the opportunity to showcase their research or artistic products, and gave them experience in presenting their work in an academic and professional setting. The display was judged in the following three categories: intellectual and cultural sciences research posters; education, social sciences and business research posters; and, sculptures, drawings, music, and constructed models.

The Center for International and Area Studies has received a Fulbright-Hays Group Study Abroad grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It will enable a small group of Texas educators to travel to China during the summer of 2005. From 30 May to 30 June, they will receive intensive training in Chinese history, politics, economy, geography, education, literature, religion, philosophy, and culture. Five professors and one media specialist from PVAMU will participate; including Jianyue Chen (History); A.J. Baltes (Languages and Communications); Hameen Bayhammad (Languages and Communications); Allison Cowan (Sociology); Larry Williams (Social Work); and John Fuller (Engineering). The remaining participants include four professors from Houston Community College, two from North Harris Montgomery Community College District, one each from Lee College and Texas A&M, and two teachers from the Waller County Independent School District.
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Letters, Vol. 46(15), 2635-2638, 2005; DeShawn

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NMR Spectroscopy is the most widely used
technique for elucidation of structure in organic
and inorganic molecules. Before the instrument’s
acquisition, samples for NMR work were shipped
to contracted facilities at Texas A&M University
and in College Station and University of Texas at
Arlington. This severely limited the ability of
PVAMU researchers to carry out significant
experimental work, and to respond efficiently to
novel or unexpected results.

The Department of Chemistry also is pleased to
announce the following recent publications and
presentations: Ananda S. Amarasekara, “Nitrosation
of beeta’-hydroxylamino-alpha, beeta unsaturated
eximes: Synthesis of 1,7-dioxa-2,6-diaza-
spiro4,4’-azonia-2,8-diene ring system.” Tetrahedron
Letters, Vol. 46(15), 2635-2638, 2005; DeShawn
Lang, Talvo Williams, Alvise Phillips and VM.
Doctor, “Mechanism of the stimulatory effect
of native fucoidan, highly sulfated fucoidan and

heparin on plasmogen activation by tissue
plasmogen activator: The role of chloride,”
European Journal of Drug Metabolism and
Pharmacokinetics, Vol. 29(4), 269-275, 2004;
and, Shana Stoddard, Leona Guillory and Remi
Oki, “ Synthesis of 3-dimensionally ordered
macroporous sol-gel bioglass monolith” a poster
session at the American Chemical Society’s
National Meeting at San Diego, CA, March 13-17.

On March 22, Dr. Adereimi Oki of the PVAMU
chemistry department was the invited speaker at
a seminar in the Department of Bioengineering at
Texas A&M University—College Station.

PVAMU Hosted Acclaimed Musical Ensembles
The Department of Music and Drama presented
The National Brass Virtuosi (Michael Sachs,
Trumpet; Mark Neilans, Trumpet; Michael
Mayhew, Horn; Richard Steed, Trombone;
Dave Kirk, Tubas), on April 19. Both
ensembles performed in concert in Hobert Taylor
Recital Hall.

Mathematics Awareness Month
The Department of Mathematics organized
a variety of fun and educational activities
in celebration of Mathematics Awareness Month,
throughout April 2005. The national theme was “Mathematics and the Cosmos.”
Mathematics faculty and majors served as facilitators and workshop leaders. The
MAM events were aimed at students aged 6 to 16, included nationally renowned
guest presenters, a Middle-to-Secondary Level mathematics competition for area
students. Activities were also planned for undergraduates.

Students from area schools engaged in
several creative mathematics activities,
including games and puzzle solving
workshops, which were designed to foster
interest and appreciation in mathematics.
Invited colloquia presenters and seminar
guests included Dr. James Donaldson
of Howard University, Mrs. Bernestine
A. M. Haghighi was the featured presenter.
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