Newsletter of the College of Arts & Sciences, Prairie View A&M University
WELCOME to the 2006-2007 academic-year edition of PreView! I should inform you that I have received communications from many avid readers of this newsletter, asking about the fall edition, which they did not receive. The editorial staff and I made a decision that, for the present time, we would publish one edition of the newsletter per year, in order to keep production costs within the constraints of the College of Arts and Sciences budget. We assure you that the quality of the publication and the full coverage of activities in the College will not be compromised.

As the following pages of the newsletter indicate, there have been significant accomplishments in the College of Arts and Sciences this year. All of our programs have been strengthened and have experienced significant growth. Additionally, we have hired a number of outstanding and dedicated faculty. Together, we have worked diligently to give the very best learning opportunities to each of the students enrolled in our classrooms. As you will see, quality teaching, important scholarship and conscientious service are at the heart of our mission. I can positively proclaim that we are a stronger College because of the combined efforts of each of the departments and their constituents.

Since our last publication of PreView, Dr. Purvis Carter, Professor of History, Dr. Larry Cole, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Capt. Larry Watson, Professor of Naval Science, and Dr. Lucius Wyatt, Professor of Music, have retired as faculty members. All of us join in congratulating them for their many years of dedicated service and contributions to the university and wish the very best to them in their retirement.

I certainly hope that the remainder of this academic year will be both profitable and pleasurable for each of you, and that the ensuing summer vacation (whether in study or relaxation) will yield all that you expect... and remember: wherever we are and whatever task involves us, we are constantly “Striving for Excellence” in the College of Arts and Sciences!

Danny R. Kelley

On the Cover:
The New Science Building, which houses the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, soon will be known as the Elmer E. O'Banion Science Building. The Board of Regents approved the new name at their December 2006 meeting; Dr. O’Banion served as chair of the Department of Chemistry and worked at Prairie View A&M for over 25 years.
Faculty Retirements Honored

On October 21, 2006, friends and colleagues of Dr. Purvis M. Carter, Professor of History, honored his Fall 2005 retirement with a banquet. The Dr. Purvis M. Carter Scholarship Fund has been established in recognition of Dr. Carter’s 49 years of valuable service to PVAMU.

Dr. Larry Cole, Associate Professor of Chemistry, retired in 2006 after 34 years. His research focused on inorganic chemistry and its practical applications in agriculture.

On October 7, 2006, Prairie View honored the retirement of Captain Larry James Watson, Professor of Naval Science since 2003. With 31 years of distinguished and decorated naval service, Capt. Watson (pictured with his wife Cathy Jo) turns over the post of CO to Captain David A. Murray.

A retirement reception for Dr. Lucius Wyatt, Professor of Music, was held February 15, 2007. During his 32 years at the University, Dr. Wyatt served as Department Chair, Director of the Symphonic Band, and resident trumpet expert.

In an increasingly tech-savvy world where workers telecommute and close deals over e-mail, it becomes more important to educate students in electronic communication. For this reason, all courses at Prairie View have their own WebCT portals. Instructors can post syllabi and assignments, run real-time chats, have students interact in discussion forums, and even give tests and quizzes through the software.

In addition to supplementing the traditional classroom with technology, many faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences have designed complete WebCT courses. Such classes attract transfers from community colleges and offer convenience for those who have rigid work schedules, who would otherwise commute long distances or who have families. The growing list of approved classes in Arts and Sciences includes the following:

- ENGL 1123: Freshman Composition I
- ENGL 1133: Freshman Composition II
- ENGL 2153: Introduction to Literature
- ENGL 5633: Principles of Technical Writing
- ENGL 5263: Masterpieces in Literature
- SOCG 3303: Social Inequality
- SOCG 4073: Global Sociology
- SOCG 4733: Social Theory
- SPAN 1013: Elementary Spanish I
- SPAN 2023: Intermediate Spanish II
- SPAN 4063: Applied Linguistics
- SPCH 2223: Small Group Communication

Learn more at http://dl.pvamu.edu

Campus Conference to Feature Award-Winning Guest Speaker

On Thursday, April 12, 2007, Dr. John Sullivan (Spanish) led the Department of Languages and Communications in organizing a mini-conference on distance learning strategies.

Scheduled presentations included instructor talks on their use of WebCT, as well as information from Charlene Stubblefield, Senior Instructional Designer/Trainer, and Major Stewart, Instructional Designer, with the Office of Distance Learning.

The program highlight was a lecture by Melissa Harris, a 2006 recipient of the United States Distance Learning Association’s highest honor, a Platinum Award, for her work coordinating The Center for Distance Learning Research at Texas A&M University.
Chemistry Club Launched
A new Chemistry Club now serves chemistry majors, minors, and students interested in the field. Fall 2006 activities included Chemistry Week (with a “decorate your own chemistry t-shirt” contest), participation in the student organizations fair, and a lecture from alumnus Darrell Davis of the Dallas DEA. In the future, the club plans to resurrect a monthly newsletter, bring lecturers to campus, increase student participation in conferences, and coordinate visits to area graduate schools.

Army ROTC Busy with Recruitment
The Army ROTC Cadets had a packed Spring 2007 schedule. In addition to visits to Waco, Austin, and San Antonio, they were out in force at the 21st Annual Houston Hispanic Forum Career and Education Day, expected to draw over 10,000 students. ROTC members also participated in the HBCU Expo at Reliant Stadium on April 14 and the April 15 National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Houston College Fair at the George R. Brown Convention Center. After their heavy term of recruiting, the Army ROTC students celebrated with the Military Ball on April 26.

The Collegiate Cancer Council Comes to PVAMU
The Collegiate Cancer Council (CCC) is an organization that was established in Spring 2004 by the University of Houston and brought to Prairie View A&M University in Fall 2006. The missions of CCC are threefold, as quoted in the Council Constitution:

- Educate the public about cancer prevention and the additional risks associated with health disparities.
- Influence health policy to reduce overall morbidity and mortality as well as health disparities.
- Promote careers in cancer among all students and disciplines with an emphasis on minorities and medically underserved populations.

Guided by Principal Advisor Dr. Gloria C. Regisford (Biology) and Secondary Advisors Dr. Laura Carson (Cooperative Agricultural Research Center) and Dr. Dennis Daniels (Undergraduate Medical Academy), the student executive committee, steered by chapter president Steven Ovu, hopes to engage volunteers from across the university to raise awareness and knowledge about this important health issue.

Learn more at http://ccc.iccnetwork.org/
The Charles Gilpin Players Impress with The Tempest

The Charles Gilpin Players continued their tradition of excellence at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Created in 1969 to recognize the dramatic skills of college and university students, the showcase operates at the state, regional and national levels.

At the state festival in Amarillo, November 2-5, 2006, the Gilpin Players put on The Tempest with a focus on the rich language. As Assistant Professor of Drama Darryl H. Thompson explained, “We worked diligently on the diction and the pacing of the delivery of the words to make the play understandable...after all, we only have the words.”

The performance earned praise from the audience as well as multiple Festival honors:

Irene Ryan Nominee............Atseko Factor as Prospero
Irene Ryan Nominee............Derrick Stokes as Ferdinand
Irene Ryan Nominee............Kiana Alford as Miranda
Excellence in Honor Crew.......................Emanuel Bean,
               Jenelle Edmund, Aziza Scott, and Bryan Ealey
Excellence in Costume Design............LeKethia Dalcoe
Spirit of KC/ACTF...............................................Company
Respondent’s Choice ..................Company

The three Irene Ryan nominees (the maximum number allowed for any single production) advanced to regionals in Tulsa, Oklahoma, February 27-March 3, to compete for scholarships and invitations to national auditions.

When asked about the experience, Mr. Thompson reflected, “I have truly been blessed to work with such talented and dedicated students and colleagues.”

Learn more at http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/actf/

Students Go Caribbean for Model United Nations

Dr. Michael Nojeim (Political Science) and Dr. Anthony Coveny (Political Science) took eight students to New York for the Model UN, a five-day conference primarily for students who are interested in simulating how the United Nations, including all its affiliated organizations like the World Health Organization, actually works. It is a truly international experience, since in 2007, over 4000 students came from universities around the globe.

Under the guidance of faculty advisers, students from each university select a different country; Prairie View’s delegation represented the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. From March 20-24, 2007, students presented position papers that reflected the nation’s real world position on matters of import to the UN such as water resources, disease prevention, human rights, and terrorism.

Learn more at http://www.nmun.org/

Students Take on Diverse Roles: Shakespeare and the UN

L to R: Ricjuane Jenkins (Technical Director), Derrick Stokes, Kiana Alford, Atseko Factor, and Darryl H. Thompson.
Biology Annual Research Symposium

Under the direction of Dr. Gloria Regisford and Dr. Corey Turner, the Biology Annual Research Symposium Day on November 3, 2006, featured the culmination of months of hard work. Eighteen biology and chemistry majors who were engaged in laboratory research during the spring and summer 2006 terms presented their research findings in poster format with great professionalism.

The winners of the poster presentation competition were Theresa Okeyo-Owuor in first place, Steve Ovu in second place, Julian Restrepo in third place, and Kenton Barnett in fourth place.

Representatives from Texas A&M, UT-Houston, UT-Southwestern-Dallas, UT-M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and UT-Medical Branch also were present to provide information on their respective graduate programs.

After the poster presentation, symposium participants attended a “graduate student” panel comprised of PVAMU alumni. Panelists Dr. Deirdre Vaden (Biology), Dr. Corey Turner (Biology), Chacacia Sanders (Ph.D. candidate at UT-Southwestern-Dallas), and Shaye Lewis (Ph.D. candidate at Texas A&M) all encouraged students to pursue graduate school with determination and perseverance.

Presenters explain their research to symposium attendees.

Research and Internships, Division of Social Work, Behavioral, and Political Sciences

Antonio Barnes (Political Science) participated in an internship program with the Fulton County Juvenile Court House in Atlanta, GA. Throughout the summer, Mr. Barnes worked side by side with skilled prosecutors to advocate for the rights of victims. His duties consisted of assisting victims and witnesses of crimes to court, filing juvenile police reports, complaints, and petitions, and gathering personal background information from victims and witnesses in order to assist prosecuting attorneys with their case.

Claudia Munoz (Political Science/English) and Michael Clear (History) participated in the Texas A&M University Summer Undergraduate Research Program during the summer of 2006.

Mr. Clear has since made application to the History Graduate Program at TAMU where he hopes to pursue a M.A. degree in history with an emphasis in African-American history during the modern era.
On October 12, 2006, **David L. Brewer III**, Class of 1970, was the unanimous choice for the new superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest district in the country. In his February 23, 2007 newsletter, he wrote, “My number one priority is to ensure that our students graduate from high school college prepared and career ready. This priority begins with collaborating with the community to provide the best possible education for all students, and ensuring that students have the necessary resources to pursue their dreams.”

A retired three-star naval admiral, Brewer has strong ties to the College, having majored in biology and graduated with the first NROTC unit at PVAMU. His name graces the NROTC building on campus.

With a Masters degree in chemistry and time in the department as a research assistant, **Xingdong Qui** has secured employment as a chemist in a leading oil exploration company in Houston.

**Teresa Duffus**, a Class of 1984 Spanish major, heads to Costa Rica as an educational ambassador with the Toyota International Teacher Program. Duffus, who received her Masters in Education at PVAMU, currently teaches geography and Spanish at Campbell Middle School in Cy-Fair ISD. She reports looking forward to the trip, which will focus on environmental issues.

**Inkumsah Mankata** completed his Masters degree in Chemistry under the supervision of Dr. Hylton McWhinney and successfully defended his thesis in September 2006. He currently works as an analytical chemist in Houston.

**Ebony Simpson**, a Class of 2006 Political Science major, has been invited to serve as a Legislative Correspondent in the Office of Congressman William Jefferson in Washington, D.C. She initially worked as a fellow for Congressman Jefferson, who represents the 2nd District of Louisiana.

On December 9, 2006, seven Navy ROTC ensigns received their commissions in the United States Navy.

**Ensign Ekon Atiba Nywia George** (Mechanical Engineering) heads to Charleston, S.C. for nuclear power training. **Ensign David Grimaldo** (Electrical Engineering Technology) and **Ensign Eric Hernandez** (Business Administration) both report to Pensacola to train as Naval Flight Officers, while **Ensign Jason Louis Hooper** (Mathematics) will start training as a Naval Aviator. **Ensign Nancy Rodriguez** (Finance) and **Ensign Virginia Garcia Vela** (Architecture) are stationed on the USS McCampbell (DDG 85) in San Diego, CA. **Ensign Steven Starr** (Nursing) received his degree through the Seaman to Admiral 21 program at PVAMU.
Faculty Across the College Win Grants

Among the recipients of 2007-2008 grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities was Reeling Them In: Invigorating the Humanities Through Film At Two Texas Historically Black Colleges, a $75,000 initiative from Dr. James M. Palmer (English), Dr. Sarah Wakefield (English) and Dr. Haiqing Sun of Texas Southern University. The grant provides ongoing faculty development in the area of film studies, with the additional goals of establishing a film library and incorporating movies and television into more course offerings.

In the grant’s first major activity, faculty members from English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Spanish at both Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern will participate in a Summer 2007 workshop emphasizing expert guest lectures, critical readings, discussion, screening of film clips, instructional techniques, and syllabi creation.

Dr. Aderemi Oki (Chemistry) and Dr. Gloria Regisford (Biology) received a MBRS-RISE grant of $640,000 from NIH for four years. The goal of the program is “to increase the interest, skills, and competitiveness of students and faculty in pursuit of biomedical research careers,” particularly at universities with a high minority enrollment.

A SEED grant from the American Chemical Society was awarded to a proposal developed by Dr. Ananda Amrasekara (Chemistry). The grant supported an 8-week research program for local high school students during the summer of 2006. Project SEED seeks to expose economically disadvantaged youths to laboratory experiences in the hope that they will pursue careers in the sciences.

Collaborative Effort with Puerto Rico Yields Exciting Results

The Department of Education’s Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) awarded three years of funding to a proposal entitled Strategic Plan to Increase the Number of Minority Students into Science Disciplines at Prairie View A&M University. The grant team includes Principal Investigator Dr. Huajun Fan (Chemistry), Dr. Onimi Wilcox (Associate Dean of the College), Dr. Antoine Carty (Chemistry), and Dr. Jean-Paul Pembia (Mathematics). They collaborated with the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science at Inter American University of Puerto Rico in San German. Along with additional support from the Dean’s Office and Department of Chemistry, the MSEIP grant funds tutorial services for gateway science courses.
Journals at Prairie View A&M

The National Science Foundation IGERT program has funded a collaborative proposal between Texas A&M University, Prairie View A&M University, and Texas State University for the next five years. The focus is “Next-generation Computational and Analytical Tools for Materials Science.” Dr. Orion Ciftja and Dr. Kevin Storr (Physics) administer the award, which in its first year supports equipment purchase and graduate student Katrina S. Akita, currently working on her M.S thesis in chemistry.

Dr. Kevin Storr (Physics, pictured), Dr. Orion Ciftja (Physics), and Dr. Antoine Carty (Chemistry) won a National Science Foundation grant from the Major Research Instrumentation Program in the amount of $321,133 for October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007.

The Houston-based Welch Foundation, which contributes to chemistry education in the state of Texas, continued its investment in the Department of Chemistry with a 2007-2010 grant to support undergraduate and graduate research.

The Division of Social Work, Behavioral, and Political Sciences’s Center for International Studies and Research published its fall issue of *African Social Science Review*. Dr. Andrew I.E. Ewoh serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal and two Division faculty members, Dr. Daniel Kendie and Dr. Bakama B. Bakama Nume, contributed articles.

The Department of Mathematics at Prairie View, partnered with the Technical University of Sofia in Bulgaria, proudly have resumed a historical journal of mathematics. The journal, which flourished for 25 years at the Technical University as *Godishnik Vissh. Uchebn. Zaved. Prilozhna Mat.* and was known as *MathSciNet 2004*, saw its last printing in 1989.

In its current English-language revival, the biannual journal has moved online under the name *Applications and Applied Mathematics: An International Journal (AAM)*, ISSN 1932-9466. The AAM focuses on applied mathematics as well as applications of mathematics including research on mathematics teaching. Volume 1, Issues 1 and 2 already are available for PDF download.

In keeping with the diversity of mathematics research today, the AAM Board of Editors consists of well-known researchers from all over the world, including scholars from Bulgaria, Greece, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, Sudan, and Prairie View’s own mathematics department. All papers undergo review by at least two specialists in the area of presented research. The quality of papers, short turn-around between submission and acceptance/rejection and between acceptance and publication, and the broad subject areas rank among the major attractions of the journal.

The AAM owes much of its success to the hard work and efforts of one of its founding Editors-in-Chief, Dr. Aliakbar Montazer Haghighi, Head of the Department of Mathematics.

Read Applications and Applied Mathematics at http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/398.asp
Physics Faculty Honored
Assistant Professor Dr. Orion Ciftja has been named a 2007-2009 Scholar with the internationally renowned Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics (KITP) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Only seven scientists from around the United States are invited this year to be KITP Scholars. The Institute encourages research in particle and nuclear physics, astrophysics, condensed-matter physics, atomic and molecular physics, mathematical physics, and interdisciplinary areas.

“The selection committee was very impressed with your application and we look forward to your association with the KITP,” wrote Prof. David Gross, KITP Director and 2004 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, in a letter to Ciftja when presenting him with the award certificate.

As one of the select group of KITP Scholars, Ciftja is invited to visit the facility in several one- to two-week trips for three consecutive summers, taking part in the institute’s workshops and conferences, which feature some of the world’s leading theoretical physicists.

The following faculty have secured contracts for publication of their books:

- Dr. Harry Adams (Philosophy), Justice for Children: Autonomy Development and the State, SUNY Press
- Dr. Jennifer Burke (Communications), Schizophrenia: Shattered Identities, Van Antwerp & Beale Publishers
- Dr. Charles Grear (History), Texans to the Front: Why Texans Fought in the Civil War, TAMU Press
- Dr. Artemesia Stanberry (Political Science), with co-author Dr. David R. Montague, Travesty of Justice: African Americans and the Politics of Crack Cocaine, SUNY Press


Dr. Kenneth W. Howell (History), along with co-authors James M. Smallwood and Carol Taylor, is pleased to announce the Fall 2007 publication of The Devil’s Triangle: Ben Bickerstaff, Northeast Texans, and the War of Reconstruction with the Best of East Texas Publishers.

Dr. Danny Kelley (Dean) served as an adjudicator in the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music Piano Concerto Competition. Additionally, he has been active as a recitalist and accompanist in concerts presented with Dr. Kevin Lambert (Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Angelo State University) at Houston Baptist University, Angelo State, Prairie View A&M, and Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde. Last August, he performed with Dr. Lambert on the Summer Recital Series of the San Angelo Symphony. Other concert appearances included recitals at Foundry United Methodist Church and the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center with PVAMU faculty Leon Turner. He also performed a dedicatory recital at the Brentwood Baptist Church on the Estonia Concert Grand piano donated by Mrs. Terralyn Walters Swift, widow of the late Aubrey Swift, CEO of Swift Energy.
Additional Selected Publications


Dr. Vasant Doctor (Chemistry), Gustavia Hall, DeShawn Lang, and Xiangdong Qiu, “Effect of Native Fucoidan, Sulfatated Fucoidan, Heparin and 6-aminohexanoic Acid on the Activation of Glutamic Plasminogen by Urokinase: Role of NaCl,” Blood Coagulation and Fibrinolysis, 2006.


Dr. Charles Grear (History), “Texans to the Home Front: Why Lone Star Soldiers Returned to Texas during the War,” East Texas Historical Journal, Fall 2007.


Dr. Delinda Marzette (English) “Coming to Voice: Navigating the Interstices in Plays by Winsome Pinnock,” in Middle Passages and the Healing Place of History: Migration and Identity in Black Women’s Literature, Ohio State University Press, 2006.


Dr. Mehl Penrose (Spanish), “‘No enciendo velas de esta clase’: Protecting ‘Natural’ Relations in Samaniego’s El jardín de Venus,” Dieciocho, Fall 2006.
