A Documentary Celebrating Contributions of Black Texas Legislators aired on Houston PBS in February of 2007. The film was part of a three-part production: “Forever Free: African-American Legislators of Texas 1967-2007.” The series was planned by The Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture (TIPHC) which is housed in the PVAMU School of Architecture. Each part—publication, exhibit and documentary—is designed to initiate conversations, share knowledge and forge new networks for students and educators on the history of black legislators in Texas.

Recognized for its nurturing environment and strong specialized academic programs, Prairie View A&M University welcomed five students from universities across the nation to its First Cohort of National Student Exchange (NSE) Students in fall 2007. Through NSE, a student can study for up to one calendar year at another participating college or university.

Visiting NSE students included: Tiara Fulton, a junior communications major from Eastern Illinois University; Marta Kidane, a junior marketing major from Western Washington University; Wilmarie Santana, a senior chemistry major from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras; and Faven Tecle, a junior marketing major from Western Washington University.

Joceline Binns, a sophomore communications major, was the first PVAMU student to participate in the NSE program. She began attending William Patterson University in fall 2008.

The Tom Joyner Foundation and the National Education Association (NEA) selected PVAMU to receive a $100,000 Grant to Help Increase the Number of Fully Certified Teachers in minority and hard-to-staff schools.

The PVAMU Teacher Certification Program, housed in the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education, will facilitate the University’s scholarship award process. Prairie View A&M University’s program will focus on certification in the areas of Science, Mathematics and Special Education. The first distribution of the funds began summer 2008.

In 2005, the Tom Joyner Foundation distributed $700,000 to seed the scholarship program. Over the last three years, the partnership has provided hundreds of minority teachers with funding and technical support for workshops, coursework, materials, individual tutoring and examination fees to prepare them to pass state licensing examinations. Prairie View A&M University’s grant award is the result of the Tom Joyner Foundation’s Phase II, which has a goal to assist upwards of 1,000 teachers in high-minority, urban and suburban school districts as they pursue full licensure.

The John B. Coleman Library Received a Large Grant to Preserve Historic Photographs in December 2007. Prairie View A&M University was selected as one of 11 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) to participate in a $1.2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The grant was awarded to the Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware and Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), an Atlanta-based organization, that maintains a partnership with the HBCU Library Alliance and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia.

Funded through the grant will be a 30-month, four-phase initiative to improve the preservation of significant photographic collections held within the archives and special collections of selected HBCU libraries.