

Academic Biography

Emma Joahanne Thomas-Smith, Ed.D., is Professor and Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Liaison, Institutional Accreditation at Prairie View A&M University. She became Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1996. She assumed the current title position as titled in 2007.

Dr. Emma Joahanne Thomas-Smith holds the bachelor's degree in English from Tuskegee University (1965); the master's degree in educational administration/English from New Mexico Highlands University (1966); and the doctor of education in higher education, governance and planning, from Washington State University (1976). Prior to beginning her tenure at Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Thomas-Smith taught in the public schools of Honolulu, Hawaii and Spokane, Washington as well as at the University of Georgia where she was an adjunct faculty member for debate and forensics. She completed post-doctoral work at Northeastern University in Boston, MA (1986) and at the University of Texas, Arlington (1988). In January 1993, Dr. Thomas-Smith completed the Governor's Executive Development Program, Class XI, offered by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

2007 – Present: Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Thomas-Smith has been Professor, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; **2003 – 2007:** Professor, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; **1996 – 2003:** Professor, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director, Title III Program; **1994-95:** Professor and Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; **1991-94:** Professor and Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; **1982-91:** Professor and Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages; **1979-1982:** Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director, Accreditation; **1976-79:** Associate Professor and Head, Department of English; **1968-73:** Assistant Professor, Department of English and Assistant to the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences (Honors Program); **1973-76:** Study Leave; **1973-76:** Washington State University, Lead Graduate Assistant, Secondary Education Methods Courses; **1975-76:** University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, Administrative Intern to President Hartung; **Summer, 1970:** Tuskegee University, Visiting Assistant Professor; **Summer, 1968:** The University of Georgia, Visiting Debate and Forensics Specialist; **1967-68:** Shadle Park High School, Spokane, Washington, English and Social Studies Teacher; **1966-67:** Radford Senior High School, Honolulu, Hawaii, English and History Teacher; **Summer, 1964, 1965:** Michigan Migrant Ministries, Saginaw, Michigan, Family Advocate and Counselor.

The Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs is principal investigator of a National Science Foundation STEM Program which has received over \$6.3 million in funding. Additionally, she has acquired external funding, from Sperry-Hutchinson, the Anheuser-Busch Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education. Among Dr. Thomas-Smith's honors and awards are the Prairie View A&M University President's View and Vision Award for 2008, memberships in Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society in English and Phi Delta Kappa, Education Honor Society and a selection as a distinguishable alumnae at New Mexico Highlands University. Her outstanding service awards from student organizations, churches, and other organizations are numerous. Among her professional appointments include but are not limited to membership on the Certification Advisory Council of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), secretary of the editorial board of the *Negro Educational Review*, and member of the Work Group on the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Additionally, the Disaster Relief Corps in the China Chapel United Methodist Church affiliate, Habitat for Humanity and the Houston Chapter of Links, Inc. are the primary community service organizations Dr. Thomas-Smith supports.

Curriculum Vitae

EMMA JOAHANNE THOMAS-SMITH, Ed.D.

Professor and Provost and Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Prairie View A&M University
P. O. Box 519, MS 1023
Prairie View, Texas 77446
ejthomas-smith@pvamu.edu

EDUCATION

- Ed.D. in Higher Education, Washington State University, 1976
Major area of specialization: Higher Education Administration
(Planning and Governance)
Minor area of specialization: American Studies
(American History and American Literature)
- M.A., New Mexico Highlands University, 1966
Major area of specialization: Educational Administration, 1966
Minor area of specialization: English
- B.S., Tuskegee University(formerly Tuskegee Institute), 1965
Major area of specialization: English
Minor area of specialization: History

POST DOCTORAL STUDY

- Governor's Executive Development Program (Class XI), L.B. Johnson
School of Public Policy, University of Texas (Austin), 1993
Department of English, University of Texas-Arlington, 1988
Department of English, Northeastern University (Boston, MA), 1986

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Prairie View A&M University, Professor
Provost and Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs,
2007 - Present
- Prairie View A&M University, Professor
Provost and Senior Vice President for
Academic and Student Affairs,
2003 - 2007
- Prairie View A&M University, Professor
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,
University Liaison, Institutional Accreditation,
Director, Title III Program
1996 - 2003
- Professor and Interim Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs
1994-95

Professor and Associate Provost and
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
1991-94

Professor and Head
Department of English and Foreign Languages
1982-91

Acting Vice President for
Academic Affairs and
Director, Accreditation
1979-1982

Associate Professor and Head,
Department of English
1976-79

Assistant Professor
Department of English and Assistant
to the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
(Honors Program)
1968-73

Study Leave
1973-76

Washington State University
Lead Graduate Assistant
Secondary Education Methods Courses
1973-75

University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho
Administrative Intern to President Hartung
1975-76

Tuskegee University
Visiting Assistant Professor
Summer, 1970

The University of Georgia
Visiting Speech and Debate Specialist for
State-wide High School Workshop
Summer, 1968

Shadle Park High School
Spokane, Washington
English and Social Studies Teacher
1967-68

Radford Senior High School,
Honolulu, Hawaii

English and History Teacher
1966-67

Michigan Migrant Ministries
Saginaw, Michigan
Family Advocate and Counselor
Summer, 1964, 1965

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Current

Reappointed to the Certification Advisory Board, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2007
Chair, Five-Year Policy Review, The Regents Professor Award Program, The Board of Regents, Texas A&M University System
Appointed to Voluntary System of Accountability Work Group of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), 2007
Member, Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) Advisory Council, (THECB), 2002 -
Member, Editorial Board, *The Negro Educational Review*, 2001 - Present
Member, Certification Advisory Council, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), 1999 –
Member, The Texas A&M University System, Institute for School-University Partnerships
Member, Commission on Human Resources and Social Change, National Association of State Colleges and Universities (NASULGC), 1998 –
Partner, Houston Community College, Community Partners Council, 2002 –

Past

Co-Chair, Writing Content Committee, Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP), National Evaluation Systems and The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 1998-2001
Member, SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation Site Team, Voorhees College, 1999
Member, Commissioner's Advisory Council on International Education, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), 1997– 1999
Member, Editorial Board, *Computer Assisted Composition Journal* (Fayetteville, North Carolina), 1984-98
Member, Formula Funding Committee, THECB, 1989, 1997
Member, National Association for Equal Educational Opportunity's (NAFEO) Writing Panel for Input to the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, 1991
Member, Target 2000 Planning Team, Texas A&M University System, 1989-81
Member, Regents Professor Award Committee, Texas A&M University System, 1997
Collaborative Partner, Language Arts Competencies Project, Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education and the Texas Education Agency, 1988
Member, SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation site team, Fisk University, 1980

PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Preface to Poetry Ebon Dialect, Student Literary Journal, PVAMU, 2002
Heath Guide to Literature, Vol. III. Contracted Review, 1990, 1995
Eternal Commandments, prose fiction. Vineyard Vignettes,
Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 1986

Racism, Sexism: Focus on Concentricity. *The Voice of Black Studies*
(now *Western Journal of Black Studies*), Spring Edition, 1976

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

The Higher Education Panel for the Education Session of Leadership
Montgomery County Class of 2008, Panelist.
Martin Luther King Celebration, Speaker. Sequin, Texas, January 2007.
Looking Beyond the Challenges. . . Finding Solutions, Panelist.
Tougaloo College Annual HBCU Conference, Jackson, Mississippi.
Thurgood Marshall School Fund Member School Professional Conference,
Panelist. Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2006.
“*Diversity in the Academy*,” Panelist Moderator. American
Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Academic
Affairs Summer Meeting, Snowbird, Utah, July 2005.
Revitalizing Our Roots: Reach Out and Touch, Keynote Address.
Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association
30th National Alumni Convention, Prairie View, Texas, July 15, 2004.
Young Adult Rap Session Forum, Panelist. Texas Legislative Black Caucus,
Austin, Texas, February 2003.
Exploring Adversity in Advisement, Keynote Address. Eighth Annual State Conference,
Texas Academic Advising Network (TEXAAN), Houston, Texas, March 2002
Ladders of Excellence. Panelist. Texas A&M University System Symposium.
Corpus Christi, Texas, November 18-20, 2002
Juneteenth: It’s Meaning and It’s Continuing Message. Keynote address Juneteenth
Celebration, sponsored by the Prairie View Trail Riders Association,
Prairie View A&M University, June 19, 2001
Evaluating Your Friends: Lessons in Heading an Academic Unit. Consultant.
The University of New Mexico, College of Education, 2001
Yes You Can Get There from Wherever. Commencement speaker. Alternative
High School. Navasota, Texas, 2001.
*If You Thought Getting Through High School was Challenging, Read My Lips:
From This Day Forward*. Keynote address. Barbara Jordan High School for
Careers. Houston, TX, June 1998.
Building a Successful MITC. Panelist. Elizabeth Rockwell Roundtable on
Higher Education, Austin, TX, 1999.
School Management: The Legal Environment. Keynote address. Mid-Management
Internship Conference on Public School Law. Prairie View A&M University,
1997.
Graduate Education: Promises and Perils, Keynote address, Annual
Conference, Southern Association of Graduate Deans, Fort Worth,
Texas, February, 1998.

Site-Based School Management. Workshop Leader. North Forest Independent School District, Annual District Administration and Counselor Conference. 1997
Teach If You Dare, Keynote address. Coalition of Prospective Teachers, University Of Houston, October, 1996.

Academic Women: A Career Pattern Analysis. The University of St. Louis and SASS Inc; Manhattan, Kansas. Presented at National Women's Studies Association, Seattle, WA and at Academic Women in Leadership Conference, University of Texas (Austin) in 1985

Toward Meritocracy and Access in American Higher Education. Southern Conference of Deans, SACS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, 1980.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Youth at Risk Foundation, Houston Leadership Alliance, Houston, TX.
Barbara Jordan High School for Careers, Vocational, Technical Advisory Committee, Houston, TX.

Habitat for Humanity, Fifth Ward Development Corporation, Houston, TX.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Prairie View, TX.

Disaster Relief Corps, The United Methodist Church, (Conroe) Houston North District

Houston Read Commission, Houston, TX.

Young Peoples' Workshop for Visual and Performing Arts (Houston)
Sponsor and Mentor, 1994 -

Mission of Yaweh Shelter for Women and Children (Houston, Carverdale Area) 1992 -

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FUNDED

HBCU-UP Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology (SMET)
Principal Investigator. Dr. Kelvin Kirby, Co-Principal Investigator. \$3.8 million.
National Science Foundation, 2002 -

Title III, HBCU Strengthening Institutions Project. US Department Present of Education. Value: \$1.6 million annually. 1991-1999.

AROTC Enhanced Skills Training Project. US Army Cadet Command, TRADOC Contracting Activity, Eustis, (VA). Co-authored with Drs. Martin, Hawkins, and Eiland. Original award, \$132,340. Grew to \$2.M over twenty year duration of project. 1982-2002.

Budweiser Essay Writing Competition. Annual Award: \$5,000, 1982-1993.

Images of Blacks in Media. Sperry Hutchison Foundation.
Value: \$10,000, 1973.

SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, AND MEMBERSHIPS

Sigma Tau Delta (National Honor Society - English)

All Faiths Chapel Community Service and Leadership Award

Women of Achievement Recognition, United Methodist Women, Houston North District

Who's Who in the Southwest; Who's Who of American Women; Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans

Circle Award for Community Service, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Distinguished Service Awards (Several), Student Government Association,
Fraternal and other organizations, Campus Women's Leadership Forum
and the General University
1999 Distinguished Alumnae Award, New Mexico Highlands University,
Las Vegas, New Mexico
Phi Delta Kappa (National Honor Society-Education)
Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development
Texas Association of College Teachers

MAJOR CHARITIES

China Chapel United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Texas
Statewide Charitable Giving Campaign. Largest single donor
at Prairie View A&M University.
PVAMU Athletic Foundation. Largest single campus-based donor.
PVAMU Capital Campaign
M.D. Anderson Foundation. Annual.
Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts
Susan Kamen Breast Cancer Cure Campaign