

# *'The Hill' We Climbed: A History of Prairie View A&M University*

Will Guzmán and William T. Hoston, Editors

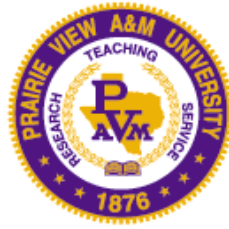
## TIMELINE

- 1876 Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth is founded
- 1878 Eight Black men become the first students to enroll at Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College
- 1878 L.M. or L.W. Minor is appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Principal Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College
- 1879 Name changed to Normal School for Colored Teachers at Prairie View
- '79/'99 Name changed to Prairie View State Normal School
- '79/'80 E.H. Anderson is appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal of Prairie View State Normal School
- '84-'96 Laurine C. Anderson is appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> Principal of Prairie View State Normal School
- 1889 Name changed to Prairie View State Normal & Industrial College
- '95/'96 Edward L. Blackshear is appointed 4<sup>th</sup> Principal of Prairie View State Normal & Industrial College
- 1901 Four-year college course authorized by an Act of Legislature
- 1909 Luckie Hall, 3-story men's dormitory, opened
- 1912 Crawford Hall, 3-story women's dormitory, opened
- 1915 Noah A. Banks, Acting Principal of Prairie View State Normal & Industrial College
- 1915 Isaiah M. Terrell is appointed 5<sup>th</sup> Principal of Prairie View State Normal & Industrial College
- 1916 Minor Hall (women); Household Arts Building; Laundry; Power and Ice Plant open
- 1918 John Granville Osborne is appointed 6<sup>th</sup> Principal of Prairie View State Normal & Industrial College
- 1918 Spence Hall opens; Nursing program is established
- 1919 Bertha Wheeler Des Verney ('04) joins Harlem's Mother A.M.E. Zion Church, serving for over 40-years as choir director and president of the church's Dramatic Club.
- 1919 ROTC is established
- 1919 4-year senior college program established, including home economics, vocational agriculture, liberal & mechanical arts
- 1922 First graduate of the College of Agricultural
- 1923 Canning Plant opens
- 1924 Science Building and College Exchange Building open
- 1925 Music Conservatory, Veterinary Hospital, and Elementary Training School (Rosenwald design) open



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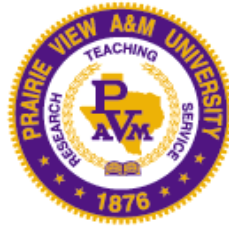
## TIMELINE

- 1925 Paul "Uncle Paul" E. Bledsoe is Interim Principal
- 1926 Willette Rutherford Banks is appointed 7<sup>th</sup> Principal
- 1926 Warehouse and Filling Station; Blackshear Hall (women); and Woodruff Hall (men) opens
- 1928 Farm Shop Building and Evans Hall (women) opens
- 1929 fifty-bed Hospital opened; Bertha Wheeler Des Verney ('04) performs as a jubilee singer in Broadway's *Show Boat*
- 1930 The Senior Academy is discontinued
- 1930 Division of Education is renamed the College of Arts & Sciences with department in teacher-training
- 1930 Industrial Education Building opens
- 1931 Education building opens
- 1933 Anderson Hall (women) opens
- 1933 Inez Beverly Prosser ('13) becomes 1<sup>st</sup> African American woman to earn PhD in Psychology (University of Cincinnati)
- 1933 Mark Hanna Watkins ('26) becomes 1<sup>st</sup> African American to earn PhD in Anthropology (University of Chicago)
- 1934 Dormitories for men teachers, Alta Vista, Hermitage, and Bellaire, open along with Greenhouse
- 1935 Frederick Douglass Patterson ('18) becomes President of Tuskegee University. Both parents, Mamie Brooks Patterson and William Ross Patterson, are PV graduates.
- 1935 PVAMU graduate John W. Sanford becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> president of Langston University
- 1935 Alta Vista (men) opens; W.E.B. Du Bois speaks at PV's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Negro Education
- 1936 National Youth Administration (women); and Incubator House open
- 1937 National Youth Administration (men) opens; and Division of Graduate Study is established
- 1938 James Weldon Johnson speaks at new Gymnasium—Auditorium, "The Negro: The Test of Democracy in America"
- 1938 In Texas, 40 of the 43 Black county agricultural agents and 133 of 134 Black vocational agricultural teachers are PV graduates
- 1940 Cab Calloway & Duke Ellington direct The Marching Storm during a football game
- '43-45 Jazz Trumpeter Clora L. Bryant attended PV
- 1943 Frederick D. Patterson ('18) wrote letter to *Pittsburgh Courier* proposing the creation of an alliance of Black colleges that would raise money for their mutual benefit.



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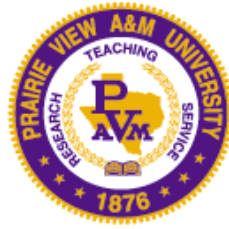
### TIMELINE

- 1944 Frederick D. Patterson ('18) helps establish UNCF
- 1945 Name changed to Prairie View University
- 1946 Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis visits; Professor George W. Buchanan ('14), Manager of the College Exchange, retires
- 1947 Name changed to Prairie View A&M College of Texas; Old Administration Building is destroyed by fire
- 1948 Edward B. Evans, 8<sup>th</sup> Principal, inaugurated as the 1<sup>st</sup> PVAMU President
- 1949 Alvin I. Thomas Administration Building opens
- 1950 Dean of Women and Afro-Cuban Mary Ernestine Suárez dormitory (women) opens
- 1951 Edward B. Evans Animal Industries Building opens
- '51-55 Charlie Brackins ('55)...
- 1952 Gibb Gilchrist Engineering Building and J.M. Alexander dormitory (men) open
- '52-65 Head football Coach William "Billy" James Nicks compiles a career college football record of 192–60–21.
- 1952 SWAC Champions
- 1953 The Barons of Innovation campus club were established
- 1953 SWAC and Black college national champions
- 1953 Jazz Legend Walter Dewey Redman (saxophonist) graduated from PV with Industrial Arts degree
- 1954 SWAC and Black college national champions
- 1955 Charlie Brackins becomes one of the first African-American NFL quarterbacks; Two dormitories (women & men) open
- 1956 Bertha Wheeler Des Verney ('04) wrote "De Ole Sheep Done Know de Road" spiritual
- 1957 History Chair, George R. Woolfolk, publishes "Sources of the History of the Negro in Texas" in *Journal of Negro History*
- 1957 May Hall home economics building opens
- 1957 PV Alumnus and president of the General Alumni & Ex-Students Association Roby W. Hilliard ('30) dies
- 1957 El Paso community, civil, and voting rights activist Maude Evangeline Craig Sampson Williams ('00) dies
- 1958 entry into the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS); Black college national & SWAC Champions
- '58-62 Zelmo "Big Z" Beaty played at Prairie View A&M Beaty
- 1959 Marian Anderson, Philippa Schuyler, and Leigh Whipper honor Bertha Wheeler Des Verney ('04) for her arts contribution



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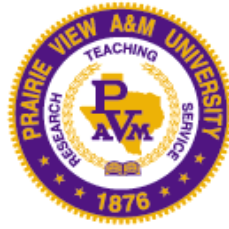
### TIMELINE

- 1960 SWAC Champions; Memorial Student Center opens
- 1960 David "Can Head" A. Webster, Jr. ('62) became one of the first African Americans to play for the American Football League
- 1961 Harrington Science Building opens
- 1962 Zelmo "Big Z" Beaty ('62) is named the Chuck Taylor Tournament MVP and leads PVAMU to NAIA national basketball title
- 1963 Black college national & SWAC Champions; Coach W. "Billy" James Nicks becomes NAIA Football Coach of the Year
- 1964 SWAC and Black college national Champions; Health and Physical Education building opens
- 1964 Bertha Wheeler Des Verney ('04) becomes president of the National Association of Negro Musicians
- 1965 Two air-conditioned dormitories open
- 1966 Jesse M. Drew becomes 2ns PVAMU President; Alvin I. Thomas becomes 3<sup>rd</sup> PVAMU president
- 1966 Muhammad Ali and Jim Brown visit PVAMU
- 1969 PV Football team play their first game in the Astrodome
- 1970 TX Governor Preston Smith appoints George R. Woolfolk to the American Revolution Bi-Centennial Commission
- 1970 System Board of Regents sells in excess of \$13 million in bonds for new construction
- 1970 Zeta Beta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi was established
- 1971 Ray Charles & Quincy Jones visit PVAMU
- 1972 New residence halls, accommodating 1,500 students, opens
- 1973 Name changed to Prairie View Agricultural & Mechanical University; Dining facility, now known as Alumni Hall, opens
- 1975 Bertha Wheeler Des Verney ('04) pianist, composer/arranger, singer, playwright, concert promoter, and music teacher dies
- 1975 Jew Don Boney ('48) becomes the first president of the University of Houston–Downtown
- 1979 Gladys Knight visits PV campus
- 1981 Texas legislature officially recognizes PVAMU as a "special purpose institution"; Debbie Allen visits campus
- 1982 Ivory Nelson becomes Interim PVAMU President; KPVM-91.3FM first airs
- 1983 PVAMU secures access to the Texas Permanent University Fund; Target 2000 Report and Texas Plan are published
- 1983 Percy A. Pierre becomes the 4th PVAMU president
- 1984 Amendment to the State Constitution names PVAMU an "institution of the first class"



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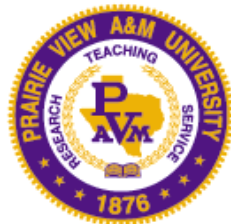
### TIMELINE

- 1984 For the first time in the 106-year history of the university, the state of Texas agreed to fund Prairie View on the same basis as Texas A&M and the University of Texas\*\*\*
- 1984 The Benjamin Banneker Honors College is established; led by biologist George E. Brown
- 1984 DJ Premier attends PVAMU before moving in 1986 to NYC & establishing Gang Starr with Guru
- 1987 Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics are merged with the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering Technology
- 1987 College of Applied Sciences & Engineering Technology is established
- 1988 The John B. Coleman Library opens
- 1989 Milton R. Bryant becomes Interim PVAMU President; LTG Julius W. Becton, Jr. becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> PVAMU president
- 1990 Terry L. Ellis, founding member of *EnVogue*, graduates from PVAMU
- 1994 Harold S. Bonner become Interim PVAMU President; Charles A. Hines becomes 6<sup>th</sup> PVAMU president
- 1996 Isley Brothers perform at Homecoming
- 1998 Ice Cube performs Springfest at the BabyDome
- 1999 Texas Institute for the Preservation of History & Culture is established on campus
- 2002 Willie A. Tempton, Sr. becomes Interim PVAMU President
- 2003 George Carlton Wright becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> PVAMU president
- 2004 PVAMU establishes the Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy (UMA)
- 2005 Cynthia Cooper-Dyke graduates from PVAMU. WNBA player, Women's Basketball Hall of Fame inductee
- 2009 Sandra Bland graduated
- 2015 Sandra Bland is arrested and killed
- 2017 PVAMU becomes an All-Steinway School, the fourth HBCU and the 185<sup>th</sup> nationally to receive the designation
- 2017 Ruth J. Simmons becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> PVAMU president; the first woman to serve as PVAMU president
- 2018 Aaron "General" Walker donates \$25 million to Panther stadium
- 2019 Alumna Melayne Price ('95) is named Endowed Professor in Political Science
- 2020 Elijah Walter Miles ('55) prominent political scientist and scholar of constitutional law dies
- 2020 MacKenzie Scott donates \$50 million to PVAMU—the largest single gift in school's history; largest ever to a HBCU



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### TIMELINE

- 2021 The Ruth J. Simmons for Race & Social Justice is launched
  - 2022 Undergraduate African & African American Studies program is launched
  - 2023 New 106,000 square-foot engineering building opened
- \* Note: confirm accuracy of all years

### **HBCU History Timeline**

- 1837 — The nation's first & oldest HBCU (Cheyney) was established in Pennsylvania
- 1854 — The first degree-granting HBCU (Lincoln) was established in Pennsylvania
- 1890 — The federal government grants land to Black colleges and universities
- 1965 — HBCUs were officially designated by the U.S. Department of Education
- 2020 — The first HBCU history course was established at Virginia State University
- 2020 — The first national HBCU research center was established at Virginia Union University
- 1904 — With \$1.50 and five students, Mary McLeod-Bethune opened a vocational school, later to become Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL.
- 1954 Education changed the face of education in 1954. Many public HBCUs closed or merged with traditionally white institutions, but most Black college students continued to attend HBCUs years after the decision was rendered.
- 1980 President Jimmy Carter holds signing ceremony establishing White House Initiative on HBCUs.
- 1980 US President Jimmy Carter signed Executive Order 12232, which directed the Secretary of Education to “implement a Federal initiative designed to achieve a significant increase in the participation by historically Black colleges and universities in Federally sponsored programs.” The order specified that “... initiative shall seek to identify, reduce, and eliminate barriers which may have unfairly resulted in reduced participation in, and reduced benefits from, Federally sponsored programs.” Every US President since then has renewed this effort



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- 1981 US President Reagan, under Executive Order 12320, reestablished the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which expanded the previous program and set into motion a government wide effort to strengthen our nation's HBCUs.
- 1989 US President George H.W. Bush signed Executive Order 12677, which reestablished the White House Initiative on HBCU
- 1993 US President Bill Jefferson Clinton signed Executive Order 12876, which reestablished the White House Initiative on HBCU
- 2002 US President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13256, which reestablished the White House Initiative on HBCU
- 2010 US President Barack H. Obama signed Executive Order 13532, which renewed the White House Initiative on HBCU
- 2017 US President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13779, which reestablished the White House Initiative on HBCU

See page 3 & 4 of the December 1938 PVAMU "The Standard" newspaper which list prominent graduates and the years they graduated: <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1097&context=pv-newspapers>



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