

Prairie View A&M enjoys black enrollment increase

National trend, funding give university boost

By Denise Thompson

STAFF WRITER

Due to a nationwide trend of black students returning to predominantly black universities and additional funding for summer enrichment programs, enrollment at Prairie View A&M is steadily increasing.

While overall enrollment reached 5,640 at Prairie View for Fall 1988, enrollment of black students was 4,687, or 83 percent. The increase comes after a slump when black enrollment dropped to 3,549 in 1985.

Since that time, overall enrollment and specifically black enrollment at Prairie View has been on an upward swing. Elaine Adams, vice president of student affairs at Prairie View, said.

The Texas A&M University System recently approved \$133,000 from the Available University Fund (AUF) to help Prairie View continue its precollege summer enrichment programs.

The programs, which are highly developed recruiting programs, have had a great effect on increased enrollment, Adams said — enough so that freshman enrollment in the fall constituted the greatest percentage of students at 39 percent.

Unlike recruitment programs at most universities, the summer programs at Prairie View not only recruit students into college, but teach them what college is about and what fields they should pursue.

The Institute for Pre-College Enrichment is the main program Prairie View offers to high school students entering the 12th grade. However, students aren't subjected to the usual recruitment techniques, Adams said.

"Students come on the campus for several weeks," she said. "And it's not just to become acquainted with the campus, but also to become acquainted with certain careers."

"In this program we have smaller programs. One of them is MITE, which is minorities in training for engineers. We also have other pro-

grams that focus on other disciplines such as SCOPE, which focuses on biomedical sciences.

"So the person comes to Prairie View to learn about the campus, but we're also using it to stimulate their interests in going on to become a college student in a certain field where we feel there's a need for more participation by minority students."

Another magnet that's attracting students to Prairie View is the Bancker Honors College, which is used as a means of encouraging minorities to pursue doctorates in science and engineering fields, Adams said. Nine areas — biology, chemistry, computer science, math, accounting, finance, management, electrical and mechanical engineering — form the Bancker college.

"There's a nationwide problem of black students not pursuing Ph.D.'s," she said. "Because of this, Prairie View decided to focus a college effort in that area, and we've been successful with it so far."

Encouraging black students to pursue doctoral work is important, she said.

"One of the factors of staying in school is having a role model," Adams said. "If we can expand the number of students getting doctorates and then going on to become faculty, then we effect the whole minority retention."

Adams said another reason enrollment has increased at Prairie View is because it's considerably cheaper to attend Prairie View than A&M.

Statistics from a study done by the National Association for State Universities and Land Grant Colleges for Fall 1988 show undergraduate tuition and fees for a resident student average \$870 at Prairie View and \$1,060 at A&M. Tuition for non-resident students averaged \$3,990 at Prairie View and \$4,180 at A&M.

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Sammis gets ready to charge into duties of head drum major

By Andrea Warrenburg

REPORTER

When Mike Sammis was a junior-varsity drum major in high school in his hometown of Killen, he never imagined someday he would be head drum major for the "Pulse of Aggieland," the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band.

"My tryout was a spur-of-the-moment thing," said Sammis, a junior economics major who has played saxophone in the band since he was a freshman. "It was always something I would like to do, but I never thought I'd make it."

Including Sammis, there are three new drum majors who will lead the band, made up of two separate units, in 1989-1990. Sammis, as head drum major, will lead the entire band.

Troy Yoakum is the new infantry band drum major, and Steve Hare is the new artillery band drum major.

They were chosen by a band committee consisting of representatives from each class, sergeant and sergeant-majors and the present drum majors.

Tryouts take place for two days and consist of candidates directing the band in "The Spirit of Aggieland" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" and teaching a mini-drill.

They were chosen from 12 candidates.

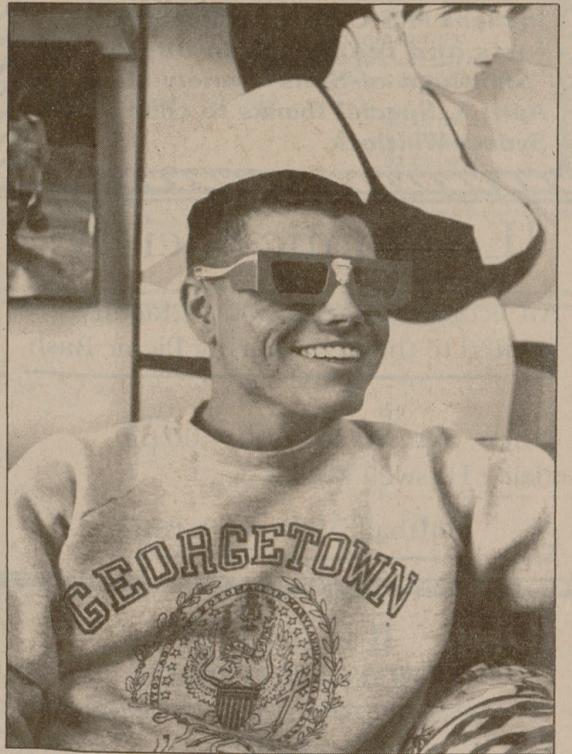
The drum majors have the task of teaching the marching drills to the band. The band director, Col. Joe T. Haney, creates the drills and gives the charts to the drum majors to learn and teach to the band.

In the fall, the band practices drills every afternoon on the drill field and Friday and Saturday mornings at Kyle Field.

They also have a weekly music rehearsal in the band room.

"It's very time-consuming," Sammis said. "But it's worth it."

Sammis also has the honor of



Mike Sammis

Photo by Kathy Haveman

being out in front of the more than 260 member band leading them in all activities — marching during halftime, parades, reviews and march-ins to Kyle Field.

"I enjoyed directing the band during try-outs in the band room," Sammis said. "But leading the band on Kyle Field — that will be something else."

When Haney retires in May af-

ter directing the band for 17 years, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ray Toler will take over the reins.

"Col. Haney is an institution around here, and his absence will be greatly felt," Sammis said. "He is loved by everyone in the band."

He also said no major changes will take place in the band next year under the new director.

Wright vows to fight House ethics charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — With his position as the nation's highest elected Democrat in jeopardy, House Speaker Jim Wright mounted an emotional defense Thursday against serious ethics charges and declared he would "fight to the last ounce of conviction and energy that I possess."

In a 30-minute counteroffensive delivered to reporters and television cameras, Wright sought to rebut point by point the charges being lodged against him by the House ethics committee, which was writing its final report after a 10-month, \$1.5 million investigation of his finances.

Flanked by members of his leadership team and Texas colleagues, Wright's voice choked with emotion as he defended his wife, Betty, against the charge that her \$18,000-a-year salary from a Fort Worth business partner amounts to an improper gift.

He said his wife was "a good decent, caring, thoroughly honorable person" and he would "damn well fight to protect her honor and integrity from any challenge from any source whatever the cost."

"Whether I'm speaker of the house, which is the greatest honor

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April 14 8 p.m.

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BRYAN & COLLEGE STATION

most people M?

Becky Weisenfels Editor

These scientists duplicate experiments that support de by Utah scientists eved nuclear fusion in rch such as this that otiority it deserves.

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enate may sometimes hink are silly, but then Congress. However, nt Senate members compromise with facwith a finals schedule oth dead days and di-

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working on other bills interest, and we owe

football team. If you d them. They were re on Sept. 16, but the ing too darn hard. So ulate the game, and so rricane Bowl — the A&M went to, by the ame, but gosh, wasn't

The only dog to have a n John F. Kennedy ing — it was nice to ce for Rev IV, but I went too far. Passing dn't know what was thought it was a serot or something. But at A&M can you get ble to attend a dog's

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member the name of t she was the student luck next to the railto add interest, she stuff into her new belongings were still e car. A train hit her was interesting.

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is is a senior journaor of The Battalion.

e Breathed

