

PVAMU'S LEGACY OF PROMOTING LITERARY EXCELLENCE CONTINUES

Prairie View A&M University proudly welcomes New York Times Bestselling author Tayari Jones as its 2024-2025 Writer-in-Residence.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (Sept. 12, 2024) – Prairie View A&M University is thrilled to announce the appointment of acclaimed author Tayari Jones as the 2024-2025 Writer-in-Residence for the esteemed Toni Morrison Writing Program.

Jones, a distinguished author celebrated for her profound storytelling and compelling narratives, is best known for her remarkable ability to weave intricate stories about relationships, education, love, entrepreneurship, and other contemporary themes. She is expected to elevate the creativity and skill of PVAMU's master class students to new heights.

Ms. Jones's work has garnered acclaim from literary giants such as Nikki Giovanni and the late Nobel Prize in Literature winner Toni Morrison, both of whom praised her maturity as a writer despite her relatively young age. Jones's New York Times bestselling novel "An American Marriage" is an enthralling narrative that earned several honors, including becoming an Oprah's Book Club Selection, the Women's Prize for Fiction and the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Fiction.

"Each of the Toni Morrison Writing Program's writers-in-residence has been unique and has had a lasting impact on students, as well as faculty, staff and campus visitors who were privileged to hear the public presentations of the writers," said Dr. Emma Joahanne Thomas-Smith, provost emerita, who oversees the Toni Morrison Writing Program at PVAM. The inaugural writer, Nikki Giovanni, captivated audiences with her humor and the raw honesty of her unfiltered poetry, while Kevin Powell skillfully bridged hip-hop culture with messages of hope and renewal, resonating deeply with a new generation. Attica Locke, another notable resident, demonstrated the power of narrative by seamlessly transitioning from fiction writing to film writing and producing, inspiring a new wave of young storytellers.

Jones's residency will feature a series of visits, allowing for rich engagement with the University community through insightful public presentations and interactive workshops. Her scheduled visits are on Thursday, September 19, and Thursday, October 10, 2024, with a final visit on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Jones is a graduate of Spelman College (where she also received an Honorary Degree in 2023), the University of Iowa, and Arizona State University. She is currently a Charles Howard Candler Professor at Emory University and A.D. White Professor At Large at Cornell University.

For more information about Tayari Jones's residency and PVAMU's Toni Morrison Writing Program, please contact Liz Faublas-Wallace by emailing lswallace@pvamu.edu.



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY, founded in 1876, is the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state of Texas and the third largest Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the nation. Designated as an “institution of the first class” in the Texas Constitution, the enrollment exceeds 9,000 students and over 80,000 graduates. PVAMU offers academic programs through its 11 colleges and schools, boasting degree options leading to bachelor’s and doctoral-level degrees. A Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) University and a member of The Texas A&M University System, PVAMU is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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