

Discovering the Awe and Wonder of Wings of the City

This fall and winter, Discovery Green will be home to *Wings of the City*, an exhibition of nine bronze sculptures by renowned Mexican artist, Jorge Marín. Beginning in September, park-goers will have a unique opportunity to take part in an aesthetic experience and become mesmerized by amazing mythical figures placed throughout the park. The exhibit will be on display until next February.

For many years, sculptor Jorge Marín's art has been admired in exhibits throughout the world in locations such as Israel, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Belgium, Denmark, and most recently, Brownsville, Texas. As the exhibit's first United States stop, Texas was chosen because of its history, diversity, and strong ties to Mexico and the Latino community. Marín envisioned providing a lasting connection that would help Latinos feel an important piece of their heritage had arrived in Texas.

As a first step in the artistic process, Marín creates sketches from numerous sessions with professional models and dancers. Once he has sketched his figures, with the help of his photographic memory, he begins to mold the sculptures from clay, adding wax, and completing finishing touches with bronze. The completed works of art become mythical, yet lifelike, as visitors can see the veins in their hands and feel a realistic gaze in their eyes. Marín says the sculptures "have their own souls."

One of the most recognized of the pieces, *Wings of Mexico*, resides under the century-old oak trees near the Brown Foundation Promenade, in grand fashion, as an entrance to Discovery Green and into the remarkable exhibition. Considered "iconic," the *Wings* evoke a sense of freedom and emotion, as well as a sense of Mexican pride and culture. Of the nine sculptures, *Wings of Mexico* is thought to be the most interactive, as visitors can walk up to the art and become one with the *Wings*, providing an angelic or superhero feeling.

Since its original installment on Paseo de la Reforma in Mexico City, *Wings of Mexico* has become a prominent landmark in the city— just as visitors to New York visit the Statue of Liberty and visitors to Paris flock to the Eiffel Tower, visitors to Mexico City are moved to visit and capture the beauty of *Wings of Mexico*.

PVAMU's Quincy Moore Named National Association of African American Honors Programs Vice President

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (Jan. 11, 2023) – Fresh off recent news of being appointed to Texas Governor Greg Abbott's (R) Statewide Health Coordinating Council, Prairie View A&M University Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the University's Honors Program, Quincy C. Moore III, Ph.D., has been named vice president of the National Association of African American Honors Programs. Founded in 1990 by honors directors from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, NAAHP is designed to promote the continued empowerment of African American students through enhanced cognitive and affective experiences.

"I look forward to our continued support of NAAHP, and after my one-year term as vice president, my role as president will begin in November 2023," said Moore. "This is an exciting time for the Honors Program, and we are continuing to make honors impact."

Moore's naming as VP occurred during the NAAHP's annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting represented the first in-person conference since November 2019. "The NAAHP organization was excited to bring together student delegations from Prairie View A&M, Virginia State University, Spelman, Morgan State University, Southern University and A&M College, Fisk University, Tennessee State University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore," said Moore. "The opening reception was held on Morgan State University's campus, and it ignited the college rivalry. The students let the conference know that PVAMU was present and ready to make an impact."

This year's NAAHP conference themed "Homecoming: The Resilience of HBCU Excellence in a Global Pandemic" featured competitions from Model African United Nations, STEM presentations, oratorical competitions, a quiz bowl, student discussions, a career and graduate school fair and student leadership elections. Twenty-five students from the PVAMU Honors Program attended the conference.

"I am truly blessed to have represented the University and the Honors Program," said junior criminal justice major Jaydyn Martin. "The conference allowed me to gain leadership experience and learn more about the Honors program culture at an HBCU."

"The event offered student attendees the opportunity to experience competitions at a national level and continue to develop as a scholar," Moore added. "The world will experience the academic brilliance and innovation that we bring to our campus environment on a daily basis, and we will also have the opportunity to include more of our campus community in the national conference."

Each year, the NAAHP hosts its conferences on HBCU campuses across the country, with PVAMU last hosting in 1992. Upon Moore's transition into its Office of the President, PVAMU will host the program's 2024 conference.

McDermott Awarded FEED Contract for Plastic Recycling Project

We are excited to announce we've been awarded a Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) contract from France-based [Michelin Group](#) for the first production of regenerated styrene! Styrene is a key component in the synthetic rubber used to make tires.

In this innovative process, microwaves will be used to break down polystyrene objects such as food containers and plastic packaging. The regenerated styrene can then be used to manufacture new packaging and products from recycled plastics in the automotive, home appliance, and tire industries.

Our teams will provide value engineering, risk analysis, and a detailed constructability study within this industry-first FEED. Executed from our office in Brno, Czech Republic, work on the project will begin immediately and is expected to be completed in third quarter 2021.

Watch below to see polystyrene recycling in action!

Avoid Summer Slide With Tailored Resources From SME

Summer is typically a time for relaxation, trips to the beach, days at the pool, and vacations with family. Unfortunately, too much free time during the summer break can have a negative impact on students' long-term learning.

Published in 1996, one of the first [studies](#) of the summer slide showed that students lose significant knowledge in reading and math over summer break. [The National Summer Learning Association](#) found children can lose the equivalent to one month of school learning over the summer. After subsequent loss, some students can fall two to three years behind their peers by fifth grade.

Fortunately, there are ways to combat summer learning loss. Reading over the summer is one of the best ways for children to retain reading skills acquired during the school year and be better prepared for returning to school in the fall. To stimulate learning, students can visit local [libraries](#) and enroll in summer reading activities. The Sugar Land Branch Library has a summer reading challenge and an abundance of summer literacy programs.

Be sure to check student folders for a list of additional resources and activities compiled by our math and reading specialists to keep your child engaged in learning over the summer break.

Dynamic Research. Innovative Solutions.

At Southern Miss, we conduct dynamic research to discover the unthinkable. Polymer scientist Dr. Marek Urban and his team from the School of Polymer Science and High Performance Materials have introduced a new, uncommon type of plastic material that turns red or “bleeds” when damaged. Once exposed to sunlight or a temperature change, the plastic material repairs itself almost immediately. This “self-healing plastic” is an innovative solution for smartphones, car bodies, airplanes, space shuttles and even battlefield weapon systems.