THURSDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
honoring the legacy of the
PRAIRIE VIEW INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

OCTOBER 31st–NOVEMBER 1st
AT&T CONFERENCE CENTER AMPHITHEATER
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN


THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

THURSDAY NIGHT LIGHTS CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS:

Dr. Frank A. Guridy
Michael Hurd
Antonio Araguz
John Fleming
Stephanie Lang

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THE JOHN L. WARFIELD CENTER FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
THURSDAY
OCT. 31ST

5:30 PM  CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

6:00 PM  CONFERENCE OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS
   Dr. Frank A. Guridy, Department of History and African
   and African Diaspora Studies

   Michael Hurd, Editor, Texas Black History
   Preservation Project

   Dr. Gregory J. Vincent, Vice President for Diversity
   and Community Engagement

6:20 PM  KEYNOTE SPEAKER
   William C. Rhoden, NY Times Sports Columnist,
   author of Forty Million Dollar Slaves

7:15-8:30 PM  RECEPTION
FRIDAY  NOV. 1st

9:20AM  Remarks by Dr. Cherise Smith, Director, John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies

9:30-10:45AM  SESSION I: ON THE HISTORY OF THE PVIL AND EDUCATION IN TEXAS
MODERATOR: Dr. Frank A. Guridy, UT-Austin
PANELISTS:
Michael Hurd, Texas Black History Preservation Project
Thurman W. Robins, Author of Requiem for a Classic
Roland Hayes, Austin Community College

10:45-11AM  BREAK

11:00AM-12:15PM  SESSION II: ATHLETICS DURING THE ERA OF THE PVIL
MODERATOR: Michael Hurd
PANELISTS:
David Lattin, Houston-Worthing, Member of the 1966 Texas Western NCAA Basketball Championship Team
Robert Brown, Chairman of the Board, Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association
Joe Washington, Sr., Former Head Football Coach, Hilliard-Bay City and Port Arthur-Lincoln

12:15-1:45PM  LUNCH

2:00-3:15PM  SESSION III: THE TRANSITION: INTEGRATION AND THE MERGER WITH UIL
MODERATOR: Frank A. Guridy
PANELISTS:
Delvin Williams, Houston-Kashmere, Former NFL All Pro Running Back
Beverly Day Humphrey, Dallas-Lincoln, Head Track Coach, Lancaster High School
Joe Washington, Jr, Port Arthur-Lincoln, Former NFL All-Pro Running Back

3:15-3:30PM  BREAK

3:30-4:45PM  SESSION III: THE PVIL’S LEGACY IN AUSTIN: A VIEW FROM OLD ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL
MODERATOR: Stephanie Lang, Warfield Center
PANELISTS:
Representatives of different graduating classes from Old Anderson High School in Austin, Texas:
Beulah Agnes Curry Jones
Diane Lang
Ed Roby
Melvin Scott
Nancy Houston Thompson

4:45-5:00PM:  CLOSING REMARKS
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**WILLIAM C. RHODEN**, Columnist, *New York Times*

William C. Rhoden has been a sportswriter for *The New York Times* since 1983, and has written the Sports of The Times column since 1990. Before joining the sports department, Mr. Rhoden was an editor in the Sunday Week in Review Section, where he joined the newspaper in 1981. Mr. Rhoden began his newspaper career at Baltimore’s *The Afro-American*. Before joining *The New York Times*, Mr. Rhoden was an associate editor of *Ebony* magazine and later spent more than three years with *The Baltimore Sun* as a columnist and jazz critic. Mr. Rhoden is the author of *Forty Million Dollar Slaves*, and *Third and a Mile: The Trials and Triumphs of the Black Quarterback*. Mr. Rhoden was the writer on the documentary “Journey of the African-American Athlete”, which won a Peabody Award for Broadcasting and “Breaking The Huddle” which won an Emmy. He has appeared on the award-winning ESPN show, *Sports Reporters*, for 21 years. Mr. Rhoden has served on the board of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health was a longtime member of the Vestry Board of the Episcopalian Church of the Intercession in New York City. He is founder of The Trinity Project for Youth Leadership and Development, also in New York City.

**PANELISTS**

**ROBERT BROWN**

Robert Brown was born in New Mexico, but grew up in Galveston and La Marque, Texas. An athlete throughout high school and college, he lettered in football, track, and basketball in 9-12th grades at Lincoln High School in La Marque. He was an all-district quarterback in 1956. Upon graduation in 1958, he attended Texas Southern University and played quarterback and safety. He graduated from TSU in 1963 and began his career as a teacher and coach in the Houston Independent School District. Brown coached from 1963-2002 starting at M.C. Williams Junior High School where he led the football team to a district championship in 1966. At Williams, he also gained the honor of being the youngest head coach in Houston ISD in 1967. Brown earned his master’s degree while continuing to coach football, track, and baseball at Jeff Davis, Sterling, and Robert E. Lee high schools. After retiring from HISD, he continued coaching through AAU programs and at local private schools. Brown was inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association Hall of Honor in July 2004. He was elected chairman of the PVILCA in December of 2004 and has since worked with its board to uphold the PVILCA legacy. Since 2004, he has served as Chairman of the Board of the PVILCA.

**BEULAH AGNES CURRY-JONES**

Dr. Beulah Agnes Curry-Jones was born in Austin, Texas and graduated from the Original L.C. Anderson High School (On Pennsylvania Ave) as Class Salutatorian. Her interest in music began as a child and her parents were avid supporters of her in her musical inclinations. Her early piano teachers included Mrs. Jeffrey Clack-Lott, Mrs. Starks and Mrs. Bailey. Her other musical mentors were Virgie Carrington DeWitty at Ebenezer Baptist Church and B.L. Joyce, the longtime Director of the Anderson High School Band. Her high school activities included: pianist for the AHS Band, a member of the choir, the Jennettes (Drill Team and Pep Squad), and Uphers. She earned her B.A. in Music Education from Prairie View A&M and her M.A. from Texas Southern University and doctorate from the University of Houston. She is Professor Emerita of Fine Arts and was Director of Music at Huston-Tillotson College (now University). She has been a life-long member of Ebenezer Third Baptist Church along with her late parents: Mother Beulah M. Bonner Thompson who was an active member in church choirs and her father Mr. Leon Bonner who served as a deacon. She is married to Jimmie L. Jones, himself a noteworthy musician. Dr. Curry-Jones has received numerous honors and awards, including her selection as the Featured Vocalist for the Austin Civic Chorus and the Dr. Lamar Kirven Lifetime Achievement Award by the Texas African American Historical Association, among other accomplishments.

**ROLAND HAYES**

Roland Hayes is Professor of American History and the Director of the African American Cultural Center at Austin Community College. He is also the historian of the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association. He attended Pemberton High School in Marshall, Texas and earned a BA from Langston University and an MA from Michigan State University.

**MICHAEL HURD**

Michael Hurd is an author and historian who was born in Texarkana, Texas and grew up in Houston, where he graduated with honors from Evan E. Worthing High School in 1967. In January 1968, he began an eight-year stint in the U.S. Air Force as a medic and served one year (1971) at Phu Cat Air Base, Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in May 1976 with the Air Force Commendation Medal. He is the author of *Black College Football, 1892-1992* (Donning) the only book that comprehensively documents the legacies of football programs at historically black colleges and *Collie J.*
Grambling’s Man with the Golden Pen (St. Johann Press), a biography of Collie James Nicholson, the visionary publicist for Grambling State football. Hurd has written for the Houston Post, the Austin American-Statesman and USA Today, beginning in 1982 as a member of the newspaper’s founding staff. He is also currently co-editor-in-chief for the Texas Black History Preservation Project (www.tbhpp.org) which is documenting the almost 500-year history of African Americans in Texas as an online encyclopedia.

BEVERLY DAY HUMPHREY

Beverly D. Humphrey is currently the Head Girls’ Track Coach at Lancaster High School and Director of Athletics for Lancaster Independent School District. She was a standout track star at Lincoln High School in Dallas, Texas. The records she set in the 100 yard dash in high school still stand today. Beverly anchored Lincoln to a State Championship in the 4x400 meter relay her senior year and was the first girl in Dallas to receive a full athletic scholarship. Humphrey accepted a full scholarship to Prairie View A&M University, where she was an All American athlete for four years and ran on several collegiate record relay teams including the 4x100 Relay, 4x400 Relay and Sprint Medley Relay. Humphrey qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 100m, 400m, and made the finals in the 200 meters. Humphrey has had a stellar coaching career at Greenville and Lancaster High Schools, where she was the first African-American head coach for any sport in both schools. For the past 25 years, Humphrey has been in Lancaster Independent School District, where she has helmed 8 consecutive State Championship Girls’ Track and Field teams (2001 – 2008) 14 Regional girls championships, 24 District girls championships and 2-5A District championships while in Greenville. Humphrey was selected the Dallas Morning News Coach of the Year several times, most recently in 2012. She has received numerous honors and awards. In 2007, the Lancaster School District’s football stadium was renamed the Beverly D. Humphrey Tiger Stadium. She was also inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame.

DIANE LANG

Diane Lang is a fourth generation Austinite who was a student at the original L.C. Anderson High School, where she played alto saxophone in the award winning band. Upon graduation she was awarded a music scholarship to Houston-Tillotson college (now university). She has a long and impactful career in community service. After college graduation, she worked in state and non-profit social service agencies as a program planner/specialist, social service administrator and a certified case manager for twenty-five plus years. In addition, Diane worked in social case management for the federal government. She also worked as a committee member for the United Negro College Fund, in keeping with the goals of the original L.C. Anderson high school alumni association to financially assist high school students in obtaining a college education. Diane was also a member of the Minority Adoption Committee sponsored by the Texas Department of Human Services. Diane is currently serving as a resource consultant for various projects within the University of Texas and the City of Austin.

DAVID LATTIN

Professional athlete and entrepreneur, David Lattin is a native of Houston Texas. Lattin graduated from Evan E. Worthing Senior High School in 1963. Lattin was named All-State and All-American both his junior and senior years and was the first Texas player to be named to a High School All-American team. Lattin received a full scholarship to attend Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) in 1965. Lattin was the starting center on the historic 1966 Division 1 NCAA National Championship basketball team, which defeated the all-white Kentucky Wildcats with five black starting players. Lattin was named All-American during the 1966 and 1967 seasons. In 1967, Lattin began his professional basketball career when he was drafted as the number one pick by the NBA’s San Francisco Warriors. He went on to play with the Phoenix Suns, the Pittsburgh Condors, and the Memphis Tams, ending his professional career with the Harlem Globe Trotters from 1973 to 1976. Returning to school, Lattin earned his B.S. degree in business administration and started several successful business ventures including Your Maison Housing. Lattin was inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007.

THURMAN W. ROBINS

Dr. Thurman W. Robins, educator, coach, administrator, and author worked in education for more than forty years. He spent the last 33 years as a professor at Texas Southern University (TSU). He served as Athletic Director and Department Chairperson of Health and Kinesiology. Has served as administrator of youth sports programs for TSU, City of Houston Parks and Recreation, and Harris County Pct. 1. Robins is a native Houstonian and Author of Requiem for a Classic, a history of the famous football rivalry between Jack Yates and Phillis Wheatley in Houston.

ED ROBY

Edward L. Roby is a native of Austin, Texas. He is a 1960 graduate of L.C. Anderson High School. He received his B.S. degree in Physical Education from Texas Southern University in 1966. In 1981, he received his Masters Degree in Secondary Education from Texas State University. He served two years in the U.S. Army. He retired in 2001 after 37 years in Austin Independent School District (AISD). In AISD, he served as Assistant Athletic Director of Athletics, Manger, Teacher, Coach, District Physical Education Coordinator, Adapted Physical Education Coordinator, Special Olympic Coordinator, Athletic Trainer Coordinator and Director of the District Coaches Orientation. Edward is an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church for the past 23 years. He has also been inducted into three Athletic Halls of Fame; Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame, L.C. Anderson High School Hall of Fame and Prairie View Inter-scholastic League Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
MELVIN SCOTT
Melvin Scott was born in Austin, Texas. He is a 1959 graduate of Old Anderson High School. He is proud to say that Alvin O. Patterson was his high school band director for four years and Mr. B. L. Joyce was the band director for two summer camps. After high school Melvin attended UT-Austin and was the second black under graduate band director to finish from the music school. The talented Charles Washington (Hearne, TX,) was the first black bachelor in band directing from UT-Austin. Ed Guinn (Ft. Worth Dunbar) was the first black student to become a member of the Longhorn Band. Melvin earned a masters degree from West Texas State under Dr. Gary Garner. Other colleges attended were Texas Tech, UT-Permian Basin, Midland College and ACC-Austin. Melvin taught band for forty years starting in El Campo, Midland ISD, St. Ann School, Midland Christian School and Huston Tillotson University. His bands have won UIL sweepstakes awards and many other concert, marching and sight-reading awards. Melvin has judged UIL Concert and Sight-reading contest and other events. His bands have won best in class more than once at Six Flags, Carlsbad Music Festival and Sand Lake Festival. Melvin is a member of Phi Beta Mu music fraternity and successfully nominated Mr. B. L. Joyce into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame.

NANCY HOUSTON THOMPSON
Nancy Houston Thompson was a member of Mighty Yellow Jacket band of the L. C. Anderson High School for three years. While in the band, she was a part of the percussion section and played the bells, and eventually she became Majorette. After high school, she graduated from Huston-Tillotson College, now Huston-Tillotson University She received her teaching certification from the University of Texas and her Masters from Southwest Texas State University, now Texas State University. She retired after 31 years of dedicated service from the Austin Independent School District where she worked as a second grade teacher and as a Counselor. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., the Original L. C. Anderson High School Alumni Association, (national and local chapters), and a lifelong member of David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

JOE WASHINGTON, JR.
Joe Washington, Jr. starred at Lincoln High School in Port Arthur, Texas where he played for his father, Joe D. Washington, Sr. Washington had a stellar college football career in the University of Oklahoma where he was a two time First-team All-American. He finished third in the Heisman Trophy balloting in 1974 and fifth in 1975. He finished his career at Oklahoma with 4,071 career rushing yards. He had a distinguished 10-year career in the National Football League. He was drafted fourth overall in the first round of the 1976 NFL Draft by the Chargers. However, it was with the Baltimore Colts when he first began to distinguish himself at the professional level. His most memorable performance was on September 18, 1978 in Baltimore’s 34–27 victory over the New England Patriots on Monday Night Football, when he had a hand in three of the team’s four touchdowns. Washington broke a 27–27 deadlock by scoring the game winning touchdown on a 90-yard kickoff return in a driving rainstorm. In 1979, he made the Pro Bowl and led the NFL that season with 82 receptions for 750 yards, and had 242 carries for 884 yards and seven touchdowns. With the Washington Redskins he played on two Super Bowl teams. He is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

JOE D. WASHINGTON, SR.
Joe Washington Sr. spent forty-five years as head football coach at black high schools in Bay City and Port Arthur, Texas. He was born in Rosenberg, Texas and he played football, basketball, and track at Jackson High School in Rosenberg. He starred as a running back on the U.S. armed forces teams in Hawaii and at Prairie View A&M. At Prairie View he played for legendary coaches Pop Long and Jimmie Stevens. He had a long and impactful high school coaching career in Bay City and Port Arthur. He won a state football championship at Hilliard High School in Bay City and had a distinguished career at Lincoln High School where he coached his sons Ken and Joe Washington, Jr. He has received numerous honors and awards including inductions into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor, Greater Houston Coaches Association Hall of Honor, and the East Texas Coaches Association Hall of Honor.

DELVIN WILLIAMS
Delvin Williams was born in Houston Texas. He made Parade Magazine’s 1970 high school All-American football team. Four years later he graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelors’ of Science Degree in Education. In 1974, he was drafted in the second round by the San Francisco 49ers. In 1976 he set four 49er records: the 49ers single season rushing with 1203 yards, carries in one game for a total of 34, 194 yards, and total yards in back to back games 374. He was named to the NFC All-Pro team. In 1978, Delvin was traded to the Miami Dolphins and set their single season rushing record with 1,258 yards that stood the test of times for 25 years. He was selected first team All-NFL. He became the first player in NFL history to rush for 1000 yds for two different teams, set rushing records for two different teams, and named to the Pro Bowl for an AFC & NFC team. After retiring, Mr. Williams leveraged his experience as a professional athlete to develop a background rich in the areas of youth activities, sports and drug abuse prevention. As executive director and founder of “Pros for Kids,” he spearheaded several successful programs all of which sought to curb substance abuse among youths. Delvin Williams has received several Honors and Awards for his work. In August of 1987 Better Health and Living Magazine chose Delvin one of 10 Americans Who’ve Made a Difference. In February 2009 he was inducted to the African-American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame in Oakland California. Two years later, in July 2011 he was inducted into the PVIL and UIL Hall of Fame.