Greetings to you friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students.

Our Spring 2012 semester was accentuated with news that two St. Philip’s College students received the most prestigious academic honor for students attending community colleges in Texas - The USATODAY All-Texas Community College Academic Team.

Our 1968 Miss St. Philip’s delivered the commencement speech and helped us award 933 degrees and certificates to 671 students during the 127th commencement.

March 1st found the St. Philip’s community celebrating the College’s rich legacy with our 114th anniversary observation, including a rededication of our historical marker by the Bexar County Historical Commission and our 4th annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. This year’s tournament raised more than $115,000 for student scholarships. The funds raised will be applied to advance student graduation and retention rates with the stipulation that students must “Give Back” to our college and our community.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) celebrated its 20th year offering the student-operated federal income tax preparation service to members of our community. This year St. Philip’s College surpassed the Historically Black College and University record for service to clients in 2012.

Enthusiasm was shared by one of our Culinary Arts faculty members and six of her students, who worked successfully with Valero Energy Corporation and the PGA earning design awards for cakes symbolizing the 90-year history of the Valero Texas Open.

I hope to see you on campus and wish you an enjoyable summer.

Regards,

President’s Newsletter

SPC Celebrates 114 years!

We completed a phenomenal week of institutional advancement and community relations on behalf of our students and our legacy through our 114th anniversary observance that included a two-part ceremony.

College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston said the two celebrations of our college’s place in educational history beyond Texas validates once again that we are truly on the right path with our strategic goals for education in San Antonio going forward.

Our March 1 two-part ceremony was a Bexar County Historical Commission tribute to our college’s role in the course of education in the oldest county in Texas and the successful 52-year leadership of our college by the late Artemisia Bowden (1879-1969). Guests at our March 1 event included commission members, Alamo Colleges Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie and the Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge, bishop of the Diocese of West Texas. Guest performers included our theater program director Vincent Hardy. Thanks again to the anniversary program committee co-led by Dr. Karen Sides, Becca Barnard and our Vice President for College Services Lacy Hampton for their combined efforts.

2012 STEM Lecture Brings NASA to St. Philip’s

Ninety students and guests learned about careers for the next generation of NASA employees and commercial partners during our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Lecture Series program with three of the agency’s engineers visiting in the Campus Center’s Heritage Room.

In a lecture address entitled “NASA: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow and You,” visiting engineers Lisa Spence, Carolyn Krumrey and Susan Sinclair from Houston’s Johnson Space Center offered students short retrospectives on NASA’s legacy, present and future, with an emphasis on the knowledge and skills needed for NASA’s next generation of employees and partners.

Among the attendees were National Science Foundation–funded scholars Marco H. Vargas (mathematics 2013) and Francesca Cantu (pre-engineering 2012). Cantu enjoyed that the NASA engineers were women who talked about projects they worked on. “Some of these women didn’t just work on these projects, they were in charge, and that was really inspiring to me,” said Cantu.

Vargans found it educational to hear about NASA’s legacy, future agency plans, “and an experimental vehicle that I hope to see on TV in the near future when it goes to the space station. I had always assumed that this kind of research began in the

(Continued on page 2)
114th anniversary (from page 1)

On his first visit to our college, Lillibridge shared that the council of the diocese passed a resolution in mid-February in tribute to Artemisia Bowden. Bowden is noted in Texas history as the state’s first African-American college president and revered at our college as “The Savior of St. Philip’s.” The resolution passed by the council in mid-February asks The Episcopal Church to add Bowden’s name to the Calendar of the Church Year. Resolution 5-2012 – Recognition of Dr. Artemisia Bowden, will come before The Episcopal Church during its 77th General Convention in July in Indianapolis. If Resolution 5-2012 is approved, the life and work of Bowden would be commemorated by all Episcopal churches on a particular day of the year. Plans for a three-year commemoration of Bowden’s legacy is being led by the West Texas Diocese.

Tributes to Bowden were central to the rededication of the Bexar County Historical Commission’s historical marker displayed at the parking circle of the Center for Learning Resources and Dr. William C. Davis Science buildings. The college has two of the commission’s 650 registered historic sites in Bexar County. A marker at one of our sites was removed for safekeeping by our archivists during construction of our $60 million multipurpose academic facility. The March 1 ceremony was held to celebrate our historic marker’s return to public view.

St. Philip's College, and someone took good care of the college’s second marker during that expansion,” Almaraz concluded with a smile.

The commission’s first marker for a community college in Bexar County was awarded to St. Philip’s College. This was the college’s first marker placed in the La Villita Historic District, which describes the genesis of the college, and that was just the beginning, explained our guest speaker Dr. Felix Almaraz, 40-year member of the Bexar County Historical Commission. “There are many components to the college’s heritage. We didn’t envision expansion of this magnitude at St. Philip’s College, and someone took good care of the college’s second marker during that expansion,” Almaraz concluded with a smile.

STEM Lecture (from page 1)

‘60’s with Kennedy, but we were all surprised to learn that there was an organization started many years before that,” said Vargas.

Following the presentation, an informal visit with the engineers was afforded to lecture participants. Organized by Herb Pennick, associate professor of mathematics, the purpose of the program is to inspire students to pursue STEM careers, particularly current students, women, minorities and first-in-family college students who are underrepresented in the fields. Attendees learned additional information and gave critical thought on their futures from women who are accomplished NASA engineers.

STEM Lectures are presented with funding from the National Science Foundation–funded Presidential Scholars Project and the HBCU–UP Project GeNEx Grants within the mathematics department at St. Philip’s College. The lecture series offers opportunities for students and visitors to listen to, ask questions of and interact with outstanding professionals working in STEM areas. For general information on the program, or to support the program, contact Herb Pennick at (210) 486–2408.

Culinary Department Hosts Spring SA Hotel & Lodging Association Luncheon

St. Philip’s students hosted the annual San Antonio Hotel and Lodging Association Luncheon, the organization that has been the voice of the hospitality industry in San Antonio for more than 70 years.

Culinary Arts instructor Chef Patrick Costello served in the leadership role for his food production and services students who ran the program. The event has provided high-end banquet operations experience to hundreds of our culinary arts students. Featuring Texas produce and products for 2012, the menu designed and created by students for 120 guests was themed Tastes of South Texas, explained Joan Cheever, a culinary student who marketed the event.

The association membership has donated approximately $150,000 to fund scholarships for study in the hospitality professions at the college for more than 20 years, explained Mary Kunz, chair of our tourism, hospitality and culinary arts department.

“The luncheon keeps local industry aware of how much is going on in hospitality and culinary education at both the college and high school levels,” Kunz said. “This partnership gives students opportunities to show off their skills directly to industry professionals. This is the real deal.”

Students Enter Bowden Day Art Competition

Tributes to former college president Artemisia Bowden during our college anniversary observance included our first Bowden Day Art Competition focusing on the spirit of Ms. Bowden. The competition inspired students Nidia Duarte, Candace Kenton, Reyes Rodriguez, Raymond Mejia, Luz E. Rodriguez-Lira and Rebecca De Los Santos to enter, with Raymond, Luz and Rebecca judged first, second, and third. Raymond’s work was on display in the Atrium of our Center for Health Professions building.
St. Philip’s College Spring 2012 Commencement

The 127th commencement ceremony held on May 11 at Freeman Coliseum continues to garner positive feedback from students and guests alike. Our graduation committee members, under the leadership of Tracy Shelton, associate director of records and registration, report that our students were excited to publicly share their sense of accomplishment as new college graduates. They have personally expressed thanks to committee members and 90 volunteers for giving a well-deserved and professional program. We celebrated student success as we awarded 933 degrees and certificates to 671 students. Our keynote speaker was 1968 alumna and former Miss St. Philip’s Sharon Owens, educator, recently retired energy industry executive turned entrepreneur, and co-owner of Houston’s La Maison in Midtown. Sharon made history as the first alumnae to deliver our commencement address in our 114-year history.

“We were so honored to host one of our most distinguished alumnae, 44 days after she retired from a brilliant career of corporate service in the energy industry, and a few years into her new career as an entrepreneur in the hospitality industry,” said college President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. “Sharon has achieved many of her personal and corporate strategic goals. We were pleased that Sharon chose to observe her 44th year as a St. Philip’s College graduate by returning to her hometown to celebrate the successful journeys of our graduating students.”

During the ceremony, we hailed a select group of students completing two full years of study with support from our National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarship program. Caroline Perales Calvo, Francesca Cantu, Patricia Parker Mariscal, Erica R. Flores, and Lindsey Kay Jackson were all recipients of the NSF $13,000 scholarship for school and living expenses, allowing our science students to focus on their academics and the pursuit of science.

4th Annual Golf Tournament

Our 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at The Republic Golf Course netted over $115,000 with participation from 137 golfers and 31 sponsors. Scholarship funds are designed to increase retention and graduation rates. Students that receive a Student Engagement Grant Scholarship or Presidential Scholarship must fulfill a service requirement by “Giving Back” on the campus or in the community. CPS Energy served as the scholarship title sponsor.

First place honors went to the Red McCombs Ford West team of Tom Franklin, Speedy Gonzalez, Roberto Alvarez and Hector Quesada with a score of 55. Second place honors were garnered by the FSG Electric team of Richard Gonzales, Thomas Schluter and Donny Engelhardt with a score of 56. Third place honors went to the Frost Bank team of Floyd Wilson, Ben Alexander, Joe Linson and Darrell Hollowell with a score of 57. Closest to the pin honors were received by Ken Pulliams and Stephanie Hall and longest drive honors went to Robert Alvarez and Yvonne Katz.

STEM Career Exploration

Our college promoted future economic security for 80 girls grades 8–12 in our spring Women Breaking Through Conference in the scientific laboratories of our Center of Excellence for Mathematics and our Center of Excellence for Science.

The keynote was delivered by Sue Ann Pemberton, president of Mainstreet Architects Inc. and a senior lecturer at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She shared her decades of experience as an architect of historic buildings, neighborhoods and materials with our visiting students.

Center of Excellence for Science associate director Dr. Carmen Nava-Fischer organized this conference, which featured a competition for a science scholarship and eight workshops led by professional women in the STEM fields. The workshops allowed the girls to explore biotechnology, architecture, meteorology, applied mathematics, environmental technologies and a combination of biological/chemical field-sampling.

For general information on the 2013 conference and similar programs, or to support these programs, contact center administrative assistant Stacie Coy-Mahula at (210) 486–7119.

2012 Culinary Gala

In appreciation for their significant contributions to the St. Philip’s College Scholarship Fund, students from our culinary program served several top tournament donors as a final exam project during our 2012 Culinary Gala held in Artemisia’s, our student-operated restaurant.

Extramural Women’s Basketball Champions

Many rounds of “High Fives” were shared as the St. Philip’s College Women’s Extramural Basketball Team found success being named the “2012 Season Champions” of the South Texas Junior College Club Sports League. The team members from left are: Ashley Jenschke, Holly Whitley, Julissa Garrett, Nicole Martin, Jennifer Dye, Ruby Flores and Jaimee Cooley. (not photographed)
All-Texas Community College Academic Team

Two of our honor society students have received the most prestigious academic honor for students attending community colleges in Texas. Matt Fisher and Marilinda Torres are recipients of USA TODAY All-Texas Community College Academic Team honors for 2012. Fisher and Torres join former classmate and 2011 All-Texas recipient Vincent Spadafore on the list of St. Philip's College students to receive the best-in-Texas status, which is co-administered by the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa, the largest honor society in American higher education.

Spadafore enrolled in St. Philip's College to earn his GED and rose to graduate from the college in the Winter 2010 semester as an honor society student with his degree in mathematics, and in Spring 2011 with his degree in statistics. He transferred in Fall 2011 with both degrees and his All-Texas credentials to The University of Texas-San Antonio where he currently majors in statistics and minors in math.

Torres graduated from St. Philip's College in December with her associate degree in pre-nursing. The Roosevelt High School graduate transferred with her pre-nursing degree in 2012 to study at Wayland University.

Fisher, a 2009 James Madison High School graduate, graduated as one of our Student Engagement Grant Scholars with associate degrees in both pre-medicine and general studies from St. Philip's College on May 11, and is transferring to the University of Texas-Arlington on a full scholarship to major in microbiology.

Being selected for All-Texas was a huge surprise, Fisher shared. “It was awesome being in a room full of people with the same ambitions and goals during the All-Texas recognition ceremony in Austin. We all want to get as much education as we can. When I saw so many people sharing my motivations and being recognized for trying and succeeding, it really gave me more hope as a student,” said Fisher.

The North Chamber is the exclusive local host organization, in partnership with the National ATHENA® Foundation, for presentation of a local version of the foundation’s ATHENA® Young Professional Award. The selection committee will examine award candidates that are emerging woman leaders who demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their profession during the 2011-2012 year. The 2012 ATHENA® Young Professional Award recipient will be announced during the annual North Chamber Enterprising Women’s Conference in the fall.

Science & Math Summer Season Underway

Our free math and science summer academy programs for aspiring younger scientists are underway. Academy experiences provide the elements necessary to promote the success of serious science and mathematics students, with access to outstanding facilities, curriculum and seminar faculty, including our Centers of Excellence for Science and Mathematics.

The two weeklong summer programs are the Science and Math Summer Academy for ages 11-15 in July and an Advanced Space TEAMS Robotics Camp for ages 14-18 in August. The academy activities include hands-on experiences in medical instrumentation technology, atmospheric sciences, genetics, space exploration, mathematics and chemistry. The weekly academy field trip lineup for the 2012 season includes The Witte Museum, Natural Bridge Caverns, the IMAX theatre, OCTA-TETRA Museum and The San Antonio Zoo.

Our San Antonio Pre-Freshman Engineering Program (PREP) Year-Two and our Space TEAMS Robotics Camp are registration success stories, with both enrolled to capacity by December and April respectively. Offered June 13-July 31, the math, science technology, engineering and mathematics-based PREP program for 2012 is part of a four-semester course to groom students for success in STEM studies and related careers.

Dr. Jo Dee Duncan directs the centers and all camps excluding PREP. If you want to learn more about the academy or how you can support the programs, contact her administrative assistant Stacie Coy-Mahula at (210) 486-7119.

SPC’s Botello selected to SA North Chamber

Maria G. Botello, SPC Student Success Specialist III, is a new member of the North Chamber’s 2012 ATHENA® Young Professional Award selection committee.

As a 2011 ATHENA® Young Professional Award recipient and a finalist in the North Chamber’s 2011 award season, Maria joins Ray Berend, Larry Anthis, Bradley Rollins, Annie Turner, Cindy Jorgensen, Cara Magrane, Mary Ellen Landrie and Madeline Slay as members of the 2012 selection committee team.

The North Chamber’s selection committee team evaluates and recognizes emerging community leaders for service and leadership achievements who are role models for young people in the San Antonio area.

“Our community includes many rising leaders & role models. The challenge we have will be to select the best candidates,” said Botello.
SPC Showcases Women In Nontraditional Occupations Conference

Our college promotes access for women to learn skills which will advance them in well-paid jobs that are traditionally held by men. The annual Women in Nontraditional Occupations Conference (WINTO) was held March 29 as an access to education and prosperity with more than 300 local women in attendance, most of whom were college and high school students.

In 2009, former Middle College Programs director James Wright established our women in nontraditional occupations student organization. In 2010, James organized a one-day conference where 150 attendees visited the college’s Southwest Campus. The student members networked with corporate mentors, guest speakers, successful alumni and career fair guests. They also visited with advisors from our academic departments to learn about the educational gateways to well-paying jobs in mechanical engineering, alternative energy, aerospace, automotive, computers, manufacturing and welding, among others. Attendance at our conference grew to its envisioned capacity of 300 visiting women in 2011, and was repeated in 2012.

“Leave here with a job in mind that starts at $30 per hour. Stay focused and stay the course to jobs that are the meal ticket to the middle class,” Dr. Loston shared with guests at the standing-room-only event.

Students from the women in nontraditional careers assisted in organizing this event. The conference promoted women who were human resources professionals from HOLT CAT, Minority Association of Contractors and Businesses, and Boeing. “The conference exposed young women to nontraditional occupations and to our organization,” Laurie Rodriguez, event coordinator, later explained.

The 2012 conference also included a career and education fair and information sessions on the advantages of choosing nontraditional careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. If you want to learn more about WINTO or how you can support the program, contact Laurie at (210) 486–7006, Email lrodriguez198@alamo.edu.

Congressman Doggett Visits SPC Campuses

The highlight of Texas District. 25 Congressman Lloyd Doggett’s April 12 Alamo Academies orientation was a session with dozens of students in the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Academy dual-credit program, the congressman (center right at podium) and welcoming party leader St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston (center left at podium).

Our academy students are persons who want to learn and earn well as soon as they are of age. Our college provides facilities and faculty to teach students skills as high school juniors and seniors in an academy setting in order that they may pursue rewarding careers with higher-than-prevailing-wage employers in the area.

The congressman met beginning students and students who had completed their first year in the program which includes summer internships with salaries of $3,500-$4,000. The local employers for our advanced technology and manufacturing program students and alumni include Toyota of North America, CPS Energy and Chromalloy.

The congressional representative praised our college for hosting a program which is visibly intertwined with the community to meet educational needs of individual students, their community and their community’s economic base. “It’s a great pairing, and it’s phenomenal what the students have accomplished. The opportunity to be the best in the nation is clearly here, because we have great models to work from,” Doggett observed during his press opportunity.

The congressman later discussed the importance of student involvement and engagement with members of our Future United Latino Leaders for Change student organization. After sharing how increasing seniority helped him perform meaningful work on education issues in his 25-year journey of public service, Doggett told our students, “I like the word change in your organization’s title, and I’m pleased to see your focus on leadership. We need that, because it’s groups like yours that will change Texas.”
Nation’s Top Tax Students Set New National Record

Student Engagement Grant recipients Brenda Citron (accounting), Kendra Henderson (accounting), Terry Thompson (accounting), Laurie Ann Garcia (culinary arts), and Hortencia Sambrano (accounting) spearheaded enhancements for our commitment to improve the financial literacy and financial capability of people in our service area. These students committed approximately 300 hours each to empower people to better understand and address their personal financial matters. Students set college and Historically Black College and University records by generating $7.3 million in refunds for clients through our 2011-2012 federal income tax preparation service.

Brenda, Kendra, Terry, Laurie Ann and Hortencia prepared tax returns for 3,581 local clients with over $83.7 million in adjusted gross income and $2.9 million in earned income credit. Our students eclipsed the previous record of $5.9 million in refunds set in 2011, while maintaining our site’s legacy as one of the most productive in San Antonio and the top producer of 52 sites operated nationally by a coalition of Historically Black College & University academic institutions. Accompanied by business faculty member and site leader, Kenneth Bankston, the students attended an IRS-sponsored recognition program for volunteers citywide on May 1. Mr. Bankston was proud to see his scholars attending and being formally recognized for best-in-nation performance in the federal income tax preparation industry.

“Twenty years ago, accounting students at our first site volunteered to process 200 paper returns, and 20 years later, their successors are each contributing 300 hours of service per student to file 3,581 e-returns. Thanks to our students, our college is the most productive of the 52 college sites providing education and service,” said Kenneth.

The college’s student tax team also partnered in the 2012 citywide Financial Aid Saturdays’ program which operated weekends this winter in the Bowden Building. Offered in both English and Spanish, clients received free help in completing complex scholarship, federal, and state forms. What also distinguished our 2012 site from others citywide was the depth of college involvement and resources committed to financial literacy.

SPC Team Participates in Cyber Security National Competition

What may be the nation’s first student community service club for volunteer cybersecurity specialists who could serve as trained augmentees in the event of a disaster has been established by our cybersecurity faculty for students at our college to provide both service and learning opportunities beyond their campus’ computer networks.

Under the leadership of Business Information Solutions department faculty member Tom Sahin, Tom says our Cyber Tigers club of first responders is Texas’ first model of volunteer cyber first-responders of its type at the community college level. 40 Club members are enrolled in our online/on-campus network security administrator academic program which has offered students two National Security Agency certifications upon completion of the course since 2011.

“They are serving the community whenever a cyber-instance occurs, like a group of volunteer fire department members, but for cyberspace, at no cost to the community,” said Tom. “This is not a trend yet, but our idea has already made a huge noise in our industry, and others will follow. A community college is a great place to start such a model for mature volunteers.”

“Our main goal is for students to learn to serve by ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability of an organization’s or individual’s abilities.”

Our first group of student volunteers did not have to wait long to engage in the world of cybersecurity. On April 26, network security students William Woods, Ashton Drake Giddings (Harlandale High School | 2011), Eddie Dennis (Madison High School | 1985), Steve Garza (Clark High School | 1982) and Justice Cook (Harlandale | 2011) prepared to alert members of the college’s information technology staff that fellow students had encountered a virus in their own lab that was hindering their studies for final exams.

“They saw an opportunity to make college life better for 10,000 students, and see how many levels of expertise and leadership get involved in containing a virus,” said Sarai LaBoy, Technology Support Supervisor. “Those students are extremely intelligent. They saw how we handle these situations. They organized a team effort to study the virus and what files it was attacking. They were very helpful about identifying what files were where. Thanks to our students, Victor Fraga, our technician assigned to the work order, was able to work more effectively with Symantec, our anti-virus program provider to address the virus in a more informed manner.”

Our students began qualifying themselves for this team responsibility during spring break and over a weekend. With Tom as coach, Dennis, Garza, Giddings and Woods formed our college’s first team of cybersecurity student contestants in the 2012 Southwest Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition in College Station, Texas, where our team was the rescue squad hired to keep company services running during an attack. Dennis, first president of the Cyber Tiger association, described emerging from his competition experience against PhD. candidates in cybersecurity with no minus points assessed, as “the team challenge and experience we were looking for. The contest was set up as a business environment where our team also served a vice president’s requirements for IT service in the middle of the attacks.”

A 2011 graduate of our college’s cybersecurity dual credit program at Harlandale High School, Giddings explained his team was a defense team which sustained at least 100 cyber-attacks led by Navy cyber defense experts, adding, “It was surreal to see everyone’s frustrations, and our experience as a team was an example of the real life we’ll experience later.”

Rep McClendon Promotes Minority Cancer Awareness

It was our recent pleasure to enhance a new health communications resource in our state’s effort to prevent and detect cancer, the first Texas Minority Cancer Awareness Month observance. A press conference was held at St. Philip’s by State Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon (D-TX). Our representative’s legislation, House Bill 114, dedicates April in Texas as a month of increased cancer awareness among minority populations and among the general population, at no expense to the public. The press conference was held in conjunction with a wellness fair for students and employees.

Along with the announcement of HB 114, St. Philip’s College was also celebrating its 114th year history. As a Historically Black College and an Hispanic Serving Institution, our college is a recognized community provider of health and human services that improves the lives of all persons in our service area to include members of at-risk ethnic minority groups.
Women’s History Month Showcases Local Artists

Our 2012 National Women’s History Month was observed with a lineup organized by committee chair and librarian Jill Zimmerman to honor the accomplishments and contributions of women.

An art exhibition of works by Claudette Hopkins in our Morgan Gallery included a reception, which placed a special emphasis on art appreciation for our students.

A range of free health promotion information, programs and services for women and children were highlighted during the event Eastside Promotoras de la Buena Salud/Healthcare Partnership for the Eastside in our Heritage Room. Speakers Vicente and Mary Garcia shared the history of the promotoras from its origins abroad as a means of deploying health education services within a community to its activity in North America today.

The literary highlights of the month were multiple presentations by Barbara Hailey entitled One Woman’s Wizardry: The Magic Unicorn Press and hosted by Professor Emeritus Dr. William C. Davis and English faculty member Dr. Jeanette N. Passty.

SGA Holds Student Rally

The Student Government Association organized their State of the Campus and Voting Rally, March 28, to focus attention on public service and leadership within our college. Pictured with the band of Kimberly Dunn in the background are St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston in center are biology major and re-elected association president Thomas Holstein (left) and pre-nursing student and outgoing association vice-president Jasmine Barreto (right). Student government represents the diverse voices of our student body. The association’s staff rely on student volunteers and employee support to achieve their mission. Events such as the voting rally support the association’s mission of attracting students to consider volunteering. Association members are active participants in the college’s interfaith challenge, anniversary, and both the President’s and Chancellor’s Forum programs.

Minority Program Impacts Community & Families

Our 2012 season of minority male empowerment and positive self-image programs for students in grades six through college reached a diverse audience as our students completed a schedule of mentoring and conference participation.

The free sessions on male empowerment and positive self-image featured grade-level-appropriate programs for groups of 50 attendees. The San Antonio academic co-partners for the program were St. Philip’s College and Northeast Lakeview College. The national service organization providing this program is the San Antonio chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

For general information, or to support these programs, contact John Martin, our associate director of student activities, at jmartin139@alamo.edu or (210) 486-2241.

Interfaith Dialogue Brings Positive Conversation

Our social sciences and behavioral sciences students learned more about improving San Antonio through community service this semester after learning with Interreligious Council of San Antonio members on the topic.

Under the leadership of Yolanda Reyes, our director of student life, the March 8 activity in the Morgan Gallery of our Watson Fine Arts Center was one of several our college has offered as part of the White House’s 2011 National Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge.

Yolanda explained how the dialogue expanded on our previous events, focusing this time on the roles of service in various faiths.

“We’re thankful to the council members for engaging with our students for addressing this topic. Several questions were presented to the panelists, but in the main, our students listened as the panelists spoke with one another while they respond to questions.”

SPC Culinary Students Shine at the PGA Texas Open

Students and faculty worked successfully with the marketing and operations staffs of, CBS, C.H. Guenther & Son, Texas Open and PGA, the largest working sports organization in the world. Sponsored by Valero Energy Corporation since 2002, and registering $65 million in charitable contributions during the tournament’s history, the Texas Open has been the number one event on the PGA TOUR charity leaderboard five of the previous six seasons.

Culinary Arts faculty member Chef Cindy DeLa Fuente, and six of her pastry arts students paired as contestants with six local celebrity pastry chefs in a cake baking-for-charity competition known as the C.H. Guenther & Son, Inc.’s Pioneer® Brand Celebrity Cake-Off to celebrate the Open’s birthday. Student contestants Claudia Rodriguez, Latore Maule, Normalinda Trevino, Michael Gowan, Sarah Ramirez, and Latoya Hunter competed as celebrity pastry chef Duff “Ace of Cakes” Goldman judged.

Our students gained experience by baking as teams in the new corporate headquarters of C.H. Guenther & Son, Inc. in San Antonio, and during the celebrity cake-off on April 21 in the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa in San Antonio. Pioneer awarded individual donations of $10,000, $5,000, $2,500, and three donations of $1,000 to charities chosen by each team. Our top-finishing pastry arts student contestant, Presidential Scholar and Student Engagement Grant recipient Normalinda Trevino, received a $1,000 cash award, an elaborate half-day culinary experience with one of Pioneer’s culinary chefs in the firm’s new presentation kitchen, and a year’s supply of baking products from the firm.
SPC Showcases Spring Green Energy Conference

The Green Energy and Engineering Conference served 227 aspiring and practicing members of the area’s science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) community in new science facilities for green jobs training. The conference was organized by our employees and scholarship students in partnership with the employees of Education Service Center-Region 20, UTSA’s Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute, and Madison, Sam Houston, and Southwest high schools. Subjects on best practices for creating green science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs within their schools were presented.

“It is especially gratifying to host students and community partners who have one goal - to make our lives and our businesses more sustainable” said St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston.

Conference presentation partners included green industry members: KidWind, DaVinci Minds, Consort, CAM Solar, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, BuiltSmart Resources, Cavender Toyota, Gunn Nissan, Varra Chevrolet and Northside Ford. Hands-on green energy and engineering sessions included a display of green passenger vehicles, followed by a performance-testing event featuring full-sized renewable energy vehicles designed, constructed and test–driven by high school students.

“In working with the youth, we are seeking to inspire them by showing the exciting opportunities in green energy and engineering fields,” said Dr. Jo Dee Duncan, our Centers of Excellence for Mathematics and Science director. “Our conference brought together the elements of youth, academia, independent school districts and industry needed to establish an educational route for students to identify, select and excel in STEM careers.”

During a pre-conference visit to Southwest High School, St. Philip’s College STEM students provided technical assistance to the builders of the Southwest High School electric car. Manufacturing department faculty member Zeke Prado modified a sprocket for that car on conference day. The car was entered into the third Emerald Coast Electrlathon at Five Flags Speedway in Pensacola, Florida. Deidre Carrillo—the 10th grade student driver in the national race to drive electrically powered vehicles for 60 minutes while using limited electrical energy took her team to a second place finish.

If you want to learn more about how you can support this program, contact center administrative assistant Stacie Coy-Mahula at (210) 486–7119.

Nafta-Preneur Program Provides Students with International Experience

Year two in our college’s first venture as the lead organization in a six community college exchange program involving the United States, Canada, and Mexico reached a high point when our first exchange students successfully completed their journey here and returned to Canada after studying language and culture to give them an edge if they choose to become entrepreneurs within the global markets of the multi-trillion-dollar North American Free Trade Agreement zone.

The grant program known as NAFTA-Preneur helps students in all three countries by increasing their access to global entrepreneurship and training in the primary business languages of the three participating nations (French, Spanish and English). Our college has taken the lead on a $290,000 grant to support strategies which strengthen North American education while advancing North America’s international priorities. Our partner institutions in the program are Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ.; Centennial College in Toronto; Cégep de Sherbrooke in Montreal; Universidad Tecnologica de Tulancingo near Mexico City; and Universidad Tecnologica de Cancun in Cancun. Our first two alumni are Quebec natives Raphael Savoie and Benjamin Anctil of Centennial College.

“I took a one-year sabbatical to come here and study business law and how contracts and ethics are formed, to do the right thing were great. Our last classes brought us into business.”

“Programs like this help St. Philip’s College students walk circles around other students in this field,” Cracraft said. “It’s amazing to see the difference in the St. Philip’s College program and other, larger programs. At the end of each session your students have gone through the rotations with the bones and equipment, and they understood why they’re putting this particular screw in this particular place. The training they got was top-notch.”

Guillory’s students have completed orthopedic procedures during their clinical rotations in area hospitals, and they will finish their program this coming August.

Surgical Technology Program Students Get Hands-on Experience

Students in our one-year surgical technology certificate program look forward to the one classroom day in the program where they perform the orthopedic procedures that orthopedic surgeons are trained for.

For students in the program which leads graduates to jobs assisting surgical teams during surgery, the special once-in-a-college-career opportunity arrived at 8 a.m. on April 26 when a representative from the Synthes company brought plates, screws and fractured artificial bones into the Center for Health Professions building classroom to immerse our students in hands-on academic experiences that set them apart from students in similar programs.

Renee Guillory is the Certified Surgical Technologist who directs our program full-time and practices locally as a technologist part-time. The workshop for her students was led by Eric Cracraft, an orthopedic trauma consultant with the Synthes Trauma firm which equips, educates and trains surgeons and operating room personnel.

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The trilateral program is coordinated by Revis Bell and funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is also open to our current students. Additional NAFTA exchange students from Canada and Mexico will attend the college this fall. For information on the grant, contact Bell at (210) 486-2407.

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