Welcome back to St. Philip’s College. What a great start into the fall semester! I hope all students, faculty and staff enjoyed their summer. Though the summer months on campus are not packed with students on the yard there were still many activities and achievements to celebrate.

We concluded the three-part President’s Lecture Series with a presentation from what some are calling the Maya Angelou of the millennial generation. Her passion for spoken word was remarkable and entertaining.

As always, the summers at St. Philip’s are a resource for local high school students. Phoenix Middle College, Camp 98.6 and Stem students took a different approach to their summer break participating in hands on educational programs to sharpen their knowledge and interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

While some chose to exercise their brains, others participated in physical labor, building a ramp for someone in need and cleaning the graffiti from a park in our neighborhood.

I can’t help but be proud of the St. Philip’s family from one semester to the next. We have much to look forward to in the months ahead. The beginning of the academic year is always an exciting time, and I wish everyone a great semester.

Best Regards,

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

St. Philip’s College President, Dr. Adena Williams Loston, attended the June 5 ceremonial opening of the 30,000 square-foot University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry and Bowden Eye Care Center. The Center provides an unprecedented level of eye care services for residents of San Antonio’s eastside. Dr. Loston and UIW President, Dr. Louis Agnese, (right) celebrated with guests that included members of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Alamo Colleges board members, Denver McClendon and Dr. Yvonne Katz, and Dr. Andrew Buzzelli, Dean of the University’s Rosenberg School of Optometry. The property is named after noted educator Artemisia Bowden, a 52-year leader of St. Philip’s College.

University Names Center After Ms. Bowden

Free Community Health Fair

St. Philip’s College Heath Science students gave back as they gained invaluable practical experience when the college hosted a day of complimentary health services during the free Community Health Fair April 20 in the Center for Health Professions building. This event was presented at St. Philip’s College in partnership with Wal-Mart, The University of the Incarnate Word, and media partner Univision. A second health fair was held at the college on Sept. 13 and the last of the series is scheduled for Nov. 2.

St. Philip’s College Heath Science students learn and give back to the community.

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adjunct faculty member James Chilson, members Rod Cotter, David Weaver, Richard college employee-volunteers aircraft faculty removal services. The labor was provided. The city provided site selection, volunteer & Manufacturing department employees completed an American Disabilities Act- completed ramp is constructed out of two-by- six-inch and four-by-four-inch- treated wood. You can drive a tank up that ramp and it will not break,” Cotter said with pride. “Every board on that ramp was checked and found to be both level and plumb,” Cotter shared. “If you look through the rails, you can see all pickets are not only parallel to each other, but follow the contour of the house. She marveled at the perfection and precision of every piece of wood,” Cotter concluded.

The resident who benefits from the volunteer labor performed by the SPC employees during their summer break is an elderly woman who was using an unmovable wheelchair ramp to access her home in the college’s Southeastern San Antonio service area. “She was very complimentary on the job that was performed,” said Cotter. “She was amazed at the quality of the ramp, since the complete ramp is constructed out of two-by-six-inch and four-by-four-inch- treated wood. You can drive a tank up that ramp and it will not break,” Cotter said with pride. “Every board on that ramp was checked and found to be both level and plumb,” Cotter shared. “If you look through the rails, you can see all pickets are not only parallel to each other, but follow the contour of the house. She marveled at the perfection and precision of every piece of wood,” Cotter concluded.

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Achieving Presidential Recognition

On May 1 St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston met with the 2012-2013 Adena Williams Loston St. Philip’s College Presidential Scholarship scholars. The non-endowed Presidential Scholarships are funded through money raised during the annual St. Philip’s College Scholarship Golf Tournaments. The recipients awarded an annual scholarship of $3,000 for the 2012-2013 academic year are (from left): Joey Loston. “Each of these individuals embodies at the highest level the essence of what it means to earn and achieve a presidential scholarship.”

The scholarships are awarded to students with a 3.5 grade point average and individual histories of community service, leadership and engagement. Recipients are required to participate in structured community engagement activities and to meet with the President of the college for mentoring opportunities. To support the Presidential Scholarship fund, contact Gloria Hernandez at (210) 486-2498.

Spoken Word Artist Connects with Students

The Maya Angelou of the Millennial generation—Azure Antoinette—inspired students during the final President’s Lecture Series event of the 2012-2013 season. Azure Antoinette visited St. Philip’s with the President's Lecture Series event.

Antoinette visited June 19-20, as she was midway in a project with ABC Family TV called, “You Should Know This About Me.” The campaign encouraged young adults to submit a paragraph, poem, monologue or video that presented something unique about them.

“There was one question in particular that made my eyes tear up,” said Tony Ramos, a student who enjoyed a class and lecture with Antoinette. “A young lady told Ms. Azure, I’m a young woman who is in foster care and trying to go through college, what kind of advice can you give on how to be as successful as you are? Ms. Azure’s response was, I admire you already for making steps to better yourself, and going to college is one of them. Foster parents are amazing. They don’t get as much credit as they should. My sister and I were adopted by my mother when we were babies, and all I can tell you is it is going to get better.”

“I bought her book for signing at the end of her presentation. I was so excited because I was about to shake hands with my new role model,” Ramos recalled. “All I could say was I am also adopted. She replied, How is it for you so far? I said, It has been wonderful and with that and tears in my eyes, I went home thanking God for a wonderful experience,” said Ramos.

“As a college, we encourage students and employees to share their unwritten and unspoken stories in writing and in words to reflect on who they are and what they have accomplished over time,” said St. Philip’s College President, Dr. Adena Williams Loston. “Our college’s leaders fulfill student requests to share their legacies in public forums so they know exactly from where they are learning. We are also sharing our legacy through products such as our new oral history book, and events such as Azure’s visit, which was a perfect fit for both students and the community,” Loston said.

National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance

A momentous occasion occurred as two St. Philip’s College employees accepted ceremonial National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) documents at the 2013 Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education program on June 10 in Mobile, Ala. St. Philip’s is recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence for the academic years 2013-2015.

Designation as a national center established the global identity of the college as one of the few two-year cybersecurity education institutions certified as centers of excellence by the cyber security industry and consumers of cyber security education. As a Center of Excellence the college offers consumers access to scholarships, internships and industry respect associated with a center designation by both the NSA and Department of Homeland Security.

The Business Information Systems Department employees accepting the certificates were center coordinator and college information technology faculty member, Haydar Thomas Sahin and Department Chair, Janie N. Gonzales. Co-presenters of the center’s certificate were Roberta G. Stempfley, and Debora A. Plunkett. Stempfley is acting assistant secretary for cyber security and communications at DHS, and Plunkett is Information Assurance Director at NSA.

Students graduating from Information Security and Assurance Associate Degree or certificate programs will graduate with some of the top and best-paid credentials in the information technology industry, along with the broad knowledge and skills required for transfer to a four-year college and further career success.

President Opens the Campus to the Alamo City Black Chamber

On May 9 in the Atrium of the St. Philip’s College Center for Health Professions building, college president, Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted attendees at an inclusion event organized by the Alamo City Black Chamber of Commerce. The mixer served as way to introduce chamber members to the college, organizations such as the City of San Antonio and Edwards Aquifer Authority, and several other community guests in attendance. Guests included (below) Jelynne LeBlanc Burley - CPS Energy Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Oliver Hill- President of the NAACP’s San Antonio branch, Gwen Robinson- former Executive Director of the Chamber, Ivy Taylor- District 2 City Councilwomen, Loston-President, SPC, and Steryl Scalley-City of San Antonio City Manager.

2013 SA Tourism Council Annual Student Showcase

St. Philip’s College received several donations for hospitality student scholarships during the 2013 San Antonio Tourism Council Showcase, Mixer and Dessert Competition May 12 in Sunset Station.

The scholarships for study in the hospitality profession are from Alamо Area Hospitality Association ($500), Concierges Association-Sheryl Pom Scholarship ($1,000), DMC Roundtable ($400), and San Antonio Tourism Council ($500), according to council member Linda Winchester.

“We had approximately 175 guests—mostly members of the San Antonio Tourism Council—representing many facets of the tourism, hospitality and culinary industry in San Antonio,” Winchester said. “We presented checks to St. Philip’s College for a total of $2,400, to be used for scholarships in the college’s tourism, hospitality and culinary arts programs,” said Winchester. “The recipients will be determined by St. Philip’s,” Winchester said.

The “Hospitality Industry Showcase” is an annual event sponsored by the Council, San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau, St. Philip’s College, Historic Sunset Station, and The RK Group. The 2013 program highlighted the talents of 32 teams representing five area high schools, with such guest judges as St. Philip’s College Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts Department faculty member Chef Steve Martin, Nadler’s of San Antonio owner Minerva Nadler, and like San Antonio Executive Chef John Runs.

“Our city’s future hospitality leaders are showcased at this annual event,” said Mary A. Knez, Chair of the Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts Department at St. Philip’s College. “Many of these students will make the transition from high school into our program and upon graduation will become our city’s next pool of executive chefs and hotel general managers.”
Silver Stars Six-Season Partnership

St. Philip’s College’s sixth season of student and faculty partnerships with the WNBA San Antonio Silver Stars has been very successful. On May 24 in the AT&T Center, St. Philip’s College Recruiting, Middle Colleges, Dual Credit, and Centers for Excellence in Science employees marketed a team. St. Philip’s College President, Dr. Adena Williams Loston and 10 St. Philip’s College Phi Theta Kappa honor students removed graffiti on park property by repainting as a team with San Antonio Silver Stars coaches and players in a partnership project for the national 2012 WNBA Cares program.

WNBA Cares

On May 21, in the City of San Antonio’s Martin Luther King Park, St. Philip’s College partnered with Spurs Sports and Entertainment and the City of San Antonio to clean up the primary park on the city’s Eastside. Dr. Loston and 10 St. Philip’s College Phi Theta Kappa honor students removed graffiti on park property by repainting as a team with San Antonio Silver Stars coaches and players in a partnership project for the national 2012 WNBA Cares program.

As a partner in one of professional sports’ premiere social responsibility programs, 10 of the college’s honor students joined their college president and Spurs Sports and Entertainment employees to clean up the primary park on the city’s Eastside as a team.

Team-Up with the Silver Stars

On May 15, in the Heritage Room, 10 St. Philip’s College Honor Society students performed their second year of community service as leadership seminar providers for project leaders in the 2013-2014 Spurs Sports and Entertainment-funded Silver and Black Give Back Team-Up Challenge leadership program. Based upon previous St. Philip’s College Honor Society student success in the nonprofit organization’s premiere initiative, the Spurs Sports and Entertainment organization invited the college’s Honor Society students to share their journeys in leading sustainable community projects to help the organization’s young workshop participants understand the process of a year of leading and giving back through projects assisted by financial resources from the nonprofit.

Going Green with the Silver Stars

On June 25, in the AT&T Center, faculty member, Dan Sherry, enhanced the Silver Stars Go Green promotion as fans learned more about green programs at St. Philip’s College after visiting his information table located on the concourse of the center. Dan’s interactive display quickly taught fans how students in the college’s new two-year Power Generation and Alternative Energy program are converting light into energy and valuable medical-grade gasses such as hydrogen and oxygen.

As an enduring symbol of the educational marketing partnership includes an inspiring blue college logo that appears during games in the AT&T Center.

Fans fill the concourse of the AT&T Center to learn about the college’s greenest programs.

2013 Juneteenth Legacy Award

Dr. Marie Pannell Thurston, Oral History Coordinator, at St. Philip’s College, is the recipient of a Juneteenth Legacy Award.

On June 19, 2013, Dr. Thurston accepted her award during the Juneteenth Freedom Dinner held in the Beasley Community Center at Bethel A.M.E. Church in San Antonio. During the annual dinner, honors are given with three awards to select individuals and organizations that exhibit the extraordinary traits of Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglass as they worked to make a difference in society.

The 2013 event was a tribute to Dr. Thurston for her excellent work in documenting the 115-year legacy of St. Philip’s College. In support of the new oral history book, St. Philip’s College: A Point of Pride on San Antonio’s Eastside, published by Texas A & M University Press and written by Dr. Thurston, St. Philip’s College is hosting a series of 2013 events. Dr. Thurston and her spouse, Charles, attended the dinner.

“Dr. Marie Thurston was honored because the history of such Historically Black College and University member institutions as St. Philip’s College is for the most part unremembered and does not reflect who the people who led and attended the colleges are and what those people have accomplished over time,” said Nettie Hinton. Ms. Hinton was the dinner organizer, as well as, the person responsible for nominating Dr. Thurston to receive the award. "The colleges and their leaders have been influential in making certain that black people can fully take part in a democratic society due to education,” Hinton said.

Record Enrollment for 2013 San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble

The two-year-old San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble program of the St. Philip’s College Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education has been an enrollment and student phenomenon.

The ensemble within the St. Philip’s College Academy of Fine Arts has grown to two ensembles in order to accommodate enrollment growth to 59 members.

On May 19 in the college’s 600-seat Watson Fine Arts Center, the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble Spring Concert entertained 505 community visitors, a 23 percent attendance increase over the ensemble’s previous 2013 concert. This summer’s season of ensemble wind and jazz concerts is anticipated to earn similar college-best attendance figures.

Campus Ministry Mural

St. Philip’s College attended the June 12 unveiling ceremony for the Artemisia Bowden Mural painted by 56 Fine Arts students at the college under the supervision of muralist, David Blancas, and sponsorship of their instructor, Jennifer Agricola-Mojica, an Assistant Professor of Art at the college.

The outdoor ceremony was held at the Meerscheidt St. side of the property of the Cooperative Ministries in Higher Education, established in 1971 to provide opportunities for student leadership development through internships and volunteer service. St. Philip’s College President, Dr. Adena Williams Loston, provided the welcome remarks for the event that included members of the ministries board.

Currently led by Executive Director, Olga Samples Davis, a Professor Emeritus of St. Philip’s College, the organization is supported by the United Methodist Church Southwest Texas Conference, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran Church in America, The Roman Catholic Church, The Baptist Church Community, and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas.

The college’s ensemble has grown to 59 members.

Fifty-six drawing, painting and photography students gave back while learning fine art and muralism techniques for the new mural (above).
The Transportation Services Technology Department---the largest transportation services technology college degree program in Texas---offers its graduates associate degrees and certificates of completion in both General Motors Automotive Service Education Program and Automotive Technician Training, now accredited at 2013 Master Accreditation Level standards by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation.

The foundation is the definitive provider of certification for hundreds of thousands of technicians who serve millions of consumers in the U.S. automotive service industry. Both of the college’s previously foundation-accredited programs are re-accredited at the Master Accreditation Level for five years, explained Department Chair, Herman Hauschildt. “Students completing these programs will receive degrees and certificates from the premiere college-level automobile technician training program in the college’s service area, re-accredited at the highest level by the foundation,” said Hauschildt.

St. Philip’s College is also a regional training center for incumbent technicians from such automakers as General Motors and Ford Motor Company. Automotive technology is one of the college’s top 10 most popular degree programs, helping students master the skills to service modern vehicles.

“The top-tier industry accreditations we have re-earned will enhance the quality and value of our graduates for the next five years,” said Russell Gill, GM ASEP Coordinator at the college.

The non-profit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence works to improve the quality of vehicle repair and service by testing and certifying automotive professionals. Today, more than 350,000 professionals hold ASE certifications, and work in every part of the automotive service industry. The foundation is the educational component of the institute.