**President’s Message**

Happy New Year friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students! I hope you had a restful and refreshing holiday break. It is always good to unwind and enjoy family and friends after concluding such an accomplished fall semester.

In this issue you will find some of the highlights that wrapped up 2013. General Edward A. Rice Jr. helped us celebrate our 130th commencement ceremony conferring 630 graduates. Before earning those degrees and certificates, many of our students gave back to the community by collecting 7,830 pounds of food for the San Antonio Food Bank.

We continued to engage our students, employees and community members with our President’s Lecture Series guest speaker, Will Haygood, associate producer of Lee Daniels’ The Butler, who filled the seats of The Watson Fine Arts Center. The Southwest Campus also reached out to the youth of the Boy Scouts of America providing instruction for the merit badge academy.

When walking the campus this spring semester be sure to congratulate the many employees and students who received recognition last fall. It feels good to receive an award but it feels better when our peers can share their gratitude for a job well done.

I always find the beginning of each New Year to be energizing and full of promise for the future. The semester is already shaping up to be a busy and productive one. I encourage you to engage in all that spring 2014 has to offer.

Best Regards,

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.

President

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**NAFTA–Preneur Students**

On Sept. 24 in La Gloria Restaurant at the Pearl, St. Philip’s College introduced its second cohort of North American Free Trade Agreement Zone-Preneur grant business degree candidates during a welcome dinner for Alamo Colleges exchange students. Students Vincente Dufresne, Julie Maltais and Roxanne Fouquette are among those at six community colleges in the United States, Canada and Mexico sharing in an exchange to prepare potential entrepreneurs within the global markets of the NAFTA zone. The program partner institutions are in Tucson, Ariz., and abroad in Toronto, Montreal, Mexico City, and Cancun. St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston is pictured with invited ceremony participants.

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**VOTC Groundbreaking**

The Aug. 21 groundbreaking ceremony for the Veterans Outreach and Transition Center at St. Philip’s College has elevated the visibility of this college as a growing resource for the military consumers who make San Antonio “Military City.” Roughly 1,200 benefit-eligible uniformed, civilian, retired, transitioning and family service members attend this college in fall and spring semesters, and approximately 750 during summer terms. Through a partnered effort with the City of San Antonio and St. Philip’s, the 98-year-old property at 1602 Dakota St. on San Antonio’s Eastside (the former Good Samaritan Hospital) is being repurposed to provide education and job training resources for eligible veterans and their families. Once renovations are complete and a staff has occupied the center, these consumers can go to the center for referral services, job training and consultation on their educational options. The facility is forecast to open in late 2014, according to center authorities.

Following welcome remarks by St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, further commentary was provided for community members, higher education leaders and advocates of benefits for veterans by City of San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees Chair James A. Rindfuss, Alamo Colleges Board Member Denver McClendon, Alamo Colleges Chancellor Dr. Bruce H. Leslie, Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte, Texas State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon, Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson and District 2 Councilwoman Ivy Taylor. Ceremonial participants included members of the SPC Student Veterans Organization and the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association.

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**Inside this issue…**

2 Student Volunteers
2 Automotive Open House
3 Brazilian Delegation
3 MicroSociety
4 Hispanic Heritage Month
4 Recognition Roundup
4 Homecoming
6 Monster Tech Day
7 Wil Haygood
8 Food Donation
Automotive Students Celebrate Successes

Auto technology degree recipient Pamela Talmage’s St. Philip’s College experience included leading the college’s 2013 transportation program degree candidates as they coordinated, facilitated, collaborated, learned, led and gave back by hosting their department’s open house for 340 students from 14 high schools.

The organization of the student vehicles auto show is the signature leadership and recruiting event for hundreds of local and high school students offered by the oldest and largest transportation services technology college degree program in Texas. The visiting students learned about college life and student success in the college’s automotive degree and certificate programs.

After interning with Southwest Research Institute, Talmage secured a full-time position and is currently employed in a STEM–related job as the only female in the institute’s fuels and lubricants division.

Auto technology degree candidate David Contreras gave back by assisting Talmage in the 2013 auto show leadership and logistics while also learning and earning in a current STEM job with Southwest Research Institute, custom building speed sensors and wiring harnesses at the institute.

Both Talmage and Contreras are recipients of Gunn Automotive Group Tools Scholarships that reward each scholarship recipient who successfully completes the auto technology program with one set of high–performance MATCO auto tools and two large MATCO toolboxes that are among the premiere tools of the trade—a financial challenge for most unsponsored technicians to obtain.

The 2013 Automotive Open House followed an automotive technology lab visit hosted by the transportation department to inform middle school principals from the San Antonio Independent School District about transportation degree and certificate programs and resources.

Bowden Chapter Professional Women Breakfast

St. Philip's College degree candidates Alexis Wilkerson and Joshua Satterfield accepted scholarship awards as St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston during the Star Award luncheon segment of the board’s 2013 Leadership conference in Austin, Closing the Gaps by 2014 and Beyond.

Davidson Respite House Student Volunteers

For almost four years, St. Philip's College alumnus and adjunct Biomedical Equipment Technology instructor Roy Ruiz has given back by supporting the special needs children of Davidson Respite House at 605 Belknap in San Antonio. On Oct. 26, seven of Ruiz’s students volunteered to give back by assisting in the house's Halloween party for the children who reside in the home. Students Aaron Capetillo, Briana Gomez, Jose Figueroa, Andrew Flores, Daniel Carreno, Crystal Ledezma and Juan Lopez were sponsored by Ruiz on a mission to offer the young residents a Halloween party. The tasks for the day were to set up decorations and arrange lunch tables, serve those children who needed help eating, and much more under the supervision of nurses at the facility.

"What became of their interest and willingness to participate was more than I could have ever asked for," Ruiz shared. "Our students handled themselves like miracle workers. The Davidson Respite House staff and their coordinator welcomed our students to return to the home and were pleased with how well our students interacted and how safe they were with their special needs kids.” Ruiz said.

Aircraft Merit Badge Academy

On Oct. 12 at the St. Philip’s College Southwest Campus, the Aircraft Merit Badge Academy was launched under the umbrella of the Boy Scouts of America's National NOVA STEM Awards and in community partnership with Kelly Aviation Lockheed–Martin. The Scouts attended and completed their one–day merit badge academy experience with the FAA–approved educators of SPC’s 35–year–old aircraft technology program and Civil Air Patrol volunteers. The community partners making the academy possible were Lockheed–Martin, The Boy Scouts of America Alamo Area Council and SPC (providing both facilities and instruction).
International Culinary Exchange Program

During the week of Nov. 18, St. Philip’s College hosted Bruna Dorabiallo and Thiago Lopes, two tourism, hospitality and culinary arts faculty members from Brazil’s Instituto Federal Santa Catarina, for a weeklong faculty exchange with the students, faculty and leadership of the college’s five tourism, hospitality and culinary arts programs.

The week for Dorabiallo, Lopes and their hosting colleagues included visits to St. Philip’s College student internship and practicum sites throughout the city while giving back through guest chef lessons and class demos in Brazilian cuisine in five St. Philip’s College classes.

“Our college is anxious to further participate as exchange partners with St. Philip’s College which offers students from Brazil one of the Western Hemisphere’s top hospitality programs,” said Lopes.

The visit by Dorabiallo and Lopes was the third leg of an international culinary exchange program between SPC and the institute, and logistics for further culinary exchange and giving back were addressed by the host staff and the guests.

A food tasting reception in Aug. at Artemisia’s student–run restaurant was held to recognize external donors and the success of this college’s first Brazilian exchange student Tiago Silvestre Queiroz. The reception was planned and executed by 55 students in the Garde Manger course, including Silvestre and faculty member Chef Patrick Costello, by providing American culinary demos in southern Brazil in 2012 in his capacity as an international exchange faculty member in the partnership with the Brazilian institution.

In addition to culinary exchanges, on Oct. 22, St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston led dialogues with education delegates from Instituto Federal Sul–rio–grandense in Brazil regarding potential college–to–college collaborations with the aircraft and manufacturing programs.

St. Philip’s City

The St. Philip’s College partnership with the MicroSociety® Inc. organization that has enabled 250,000 students grades K–8 in 40 states to connect real–life learning to work began benefiting local kids, families, partners, community leaders and local school district representatives this summer. From July 18–20 in the college’s Center For Learning Resources building, the college hosted a workshop and plenary session entitled “Global Connections” to help local and visiting educators and practitioners improve the learning environment by focusing on children’s talents, interests and values. The college’s Center for Learning Resources was the site of the college’s first MicroSociety® experience.

A 10–week program was the first Micro Night at St. Philip’s City Aug. 14 in the college’s Learning and Leadership Development Center.

Through the MicroSociety® experience the participants established St. Philip’s City with elected city officials, its own currency and city rules. Event guests included mayor Sofia Rodriguez, vice mayor Doreen Hansen and Richmond. Visitors to the student–run St. Philip’s City observed children ages 4–13 negotiating final sales of their student–made products, a group of camp leaders sharing their insights learned through simulations to improve the Eastside of San Antonio by the citizens that built it and a panel of city planners answering guest questions about building their own community while operating as adults do when solving problems through their first MicroSociety® experience.

St. Philip’s has offered a K–8 Summer Academy for several years. For 2014 enrollment details, contact Gabriela Méndez Pérez, academic coordinator, at (210) 486–2747 or email gperez@alamo.edu.

2013–2014 Presidential Scholars Dinner

St. Philip’s College ceremonially introduced its Presidential Scholarship recipients for Fall 2013–Spring 2014 during the Presidential Scholar dinner Oct. 4 in the college’s student–run Artemisia’s restaurant. First–time Presidential Scholarship recipients Serina Holder, Timothy Hollo and Shanae Rhodes joined returning scholars Hecdris Collier and Markus Lopez from the Fall 2013–Spring 2014 Presidential Scholarship cohort. St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston honored each scholar with words of encouragement toward achieving their final goals.

Scholarships are funded through monies raised during the annual St. Philip’s College Scholarship Golf Tournament. The scholarships are awarded to students with 4.0 grade point averages and individual histories of community service, leadership and engagement. Recipients are required to give back by participating in structured community engagement activities and to meet with the president of the college for mentoring opportunities.
2013 Hispanic Heritage Month

Joining St. Philip's College's 2013 Hispanic Heritage Month celebration were students, faculty, and several guests of note to include Carmen Tafolla, poet laureate of San Antonio, former Texas congressional representative Charlie Gonzalez, iconic artist Felipe Reyes, San Antonio Express-News editorial writer/columnist Ricardo Pimientel, and former St. Philip's College student Dr. Silvestre Perez, the new superintendent of the San Antonio Independent School District.

The college’s 2013 Best Tasting Salsa Scholarship Competition provided opportunities for advanced hospitality management degree candidates to assist judges of salsa prepared by 14 students from seven area high schools. While two of the competing teams were led by faculty sponsors who are alumni of this college, the contest judges who gave their time and expertise included Johnny Hernandez of La Gloria and Todd Parrish of Magic Time Machine and the finishers were Dilcasa McCollum High School ($500 scholarship per student), San Marcos High School ($250 scholarship per student) and Navarro High School ($125 scholarship per student).

Contextualization Student Art Exhibit/Faculty Starlink Interview

On Nov. 14 at the St. Philip’s College Southwest Campus, 10 college welding class students sponsored the opening of an exhibition of sculpture. This is one of the nation’s first contextualized community college students in a contextualized class format. The art and welding history-making students are Henito Alcala, Jr., Cory E. Bedel, William E. Hall, Neil A. Helms, Landon M. Lake, Russell T. Lemon, Felipe A. Martinez, Daniel R. Obryant, Rose J. Oliver, Jason A. Rodriguez and David J. Thomas. Under the sponsorship of St. Philip’s College English faculty member Dr. Jen Osborne and Sculpture I course adjunct instructor Norbert Clyde Martinez, Jr., the college has successfully contextualized its students to continue in training as those students fulfill the fine art requirement needed to complete their programs of study in welding at the college. The event was attended by parents, St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Alamo Colleges Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie and members of both the arts and sciences and applied sciences divisions at Alamo Colleges. The college has successfully used contextualization in classes for remedial students, but chose to innovate by broadening the benefit of contextualization to students in other classes, explained Osborne. Funding for this event was provided through a Carl D. Perkins Grant to Alamo Colleges by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

On Oct. 2 in the St. Philip’s College Bowden Building, the impact on student success through the contextualization program at this college was documented for the Starlink library of educational videos for subscribing college educators. The college’s interview subject was Osborne. In the program Connections: Keeping the Classroom Relevant, Starlink reports that Osborne …‘aches using an iBest curriculum model that program allows the student to start building the basic skills needed for their career path.'

Osborne led and gave back to her profession and students by addressing how the outside world can better integrate into a classroom to reinforce the relevance of college course work. Osborne also addressed how St. Philip’s President Dr. Adena Williams Loston has been successful as a team in reaching their students with subject matter that those students think has consequences for them and their world. The focus of the video Osborne contributed to was on educators who had something to say about methods they have used to make connections between their subjects and how it will relate to their students’ lives. Osborne provided viewers with background on initiating the college’s program and how that program has matured to result in positive outcomes for students. The video is forecast for distribution to Starlink subscribers in early 2014. The Starlink network provides professional development programming to member colleges.

Recognition Roundup

Please enjoy photos of the numerous recognitions this college’s outstanding students and employees have received recently.

The Fall 2013 Employee Development Day on Oct. 30 began with a welcome from St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and concluded with development sessions for employees. In between, this college provided recognition of such 28-year employees as Lucy Daniel, Adela Guzman, Maria Gloria De Lima and Jaime Watts (top left), along with staff council and faculty senate accomplishments and several presentations by guest speaker Andy Masters on work-life balance, humor in the classroom, and embracing students as customers.

Celebration highlights of the Aug. 22 Alamo Colleges board meeting included tributes to such students and employees at this college as Alamo Colleges Student of the Month—August 2013 Heather Collier (bottom left), and Alamo Colleges Employee of the Month—August 2013 Ernest Gonzalez (top right). Hundreds of nutrition, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, biology and health sciences students at this college were ceremonially honored for being given back and learning science through the Jessica’s Project science programs led by faculty member Solomon Nfor (center left). National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development award recipients (center right) and Quality Texas Foundation Award recipients (bottom right) were also ceremonially recognized by the board during the Aug. 22 meeting.

St. Philip’s College completed a week of 2013 Homecoming events with ceremonies for 275 students and Alumni and Friends Association members Oct. 18 in the Arwin of the Center for Health Professions building.

The highlights of the 2013 Homecoming were tributes to alumni and the selection of two scholarship recipients who give back while they represent this college on and off-campus as Mr. St. Philip’s 2013 and Ms. St. Philip’s 2013 through October of 2014.

The 2013 season court consists of scholarship recipient sophomore engineering degree candidate David Cadena and freshman business administration degree candidate Toni Barnes, explained 2013 event chair Dr. Sharon Crockett-Bell. Both Cadena and Barnes followed in the recent legacy of such court members as Thomas Hoover (Mr. St. Philip’s 2012), Desiree Sarver (Mr. St. Philip’s 2012), Christina Petersen (2011), Juan Antonio Ramirez (2011), Shonda L. Lute-Moje (2010), Walter Perry (2010), Dante Bailey (2009), Shante Smith King (2009), Sierra Jenkins (2008) and Rene Martinez (2008).

The month of October was additionally significant for Cadena and 1954 alumnus Vernice Warner, the college’s oldest alumna. Warner observed her 98th birthday with generations of St. Philip’s College family present that evening. Cadena was featured in a San Antonio Express-News Oct. 2 report on the Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Caucasians and Native Americans in Science 40th anniversary national conference Community College Day program for 4,000 attendees in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Cadena shared with the newspaper how the conference was further inspiring him to pursue his interests in STEM following graduation from St. Philip’s College and transfer to a four-year engineering program in the region.

2013 Salsa Scholarship Competition

On Sept. 27, St. Philip’s College employee was praised by the president of PaloAlto Community College in North Carolina for giving back to his profession as a college member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges committee team at Southern Technical College in Georgia. The St. Philip’s College employee is Dr. Gregory Hudspeth. In a letter to President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, PaloAlto College president Freddie C. Cox conveyed thanks for Hudspeth’s participation in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges process.

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Women Breaking Through Conference

On Oct. 12 at St. Philip’s College Southwest Campus, the college engaged 60 girls, grades 8–12 in its 2013 Women Breaking Through Conference. Many of the attendees were members of local Girl Scouts and Girls, Inc., organizations. The conference keynote speaker with an inspirational message for the girls was Janie Gonzalez, chief executive officer and president of Webhead, a national provider of web and cyber technology solutions. Highlights of the 2013 conference included a competition for a St. Philip’s College scholarship and eight hands-on workshops led by professional women in the STEM fields. The workshops allowed the girls options to explore from nanotechnology to robotics and forensic chemistry.

Women of Influence Award from the YWCA of San Antonio

Following St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston’s Oct. 22 keynote speech to members of the YWCA of San Antonio at the Bright Shawl, Dr. Loston accepted the organization’s 2013 Women of Influence Award for her positive impact on the San Antonio community as a role model, advocate and volunteer.

Constellation of Stars Awards Gala

On Nov. 8 in the Institute of Texan Cultures complex, St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston was recognized at the San Antonio Women’s Chamber of Commerce Constellation of Stars Gala. Dr. Loston received one of the chamber’s Comet Awards in recognition of her focus in advocating, connecting and empowering others to lead in the community, especially the students at the college. The event featured guest speaker screenwriter and novelist Kirsten Smith (10 Things I Hate About You, Legally Blonde, She’s The Man, The Ugly Truth) and KSAT anchorwoman Ursula Pari as mistress of ceremonies. According to the chamber, the honorees exhibit the attributes of advocating, connecting and empowering others. They can be called “a shooting star,” which is a popular name for a comet, remembering that comets usually appear once in a lifetime.

Monster Tech Day

Despite 15 inches of rain in its service area overnight, SPC harnessed the power of the Halloween season to uniquely recruit young consumers of career technical education during the Attack of the Monster Tech Programs Day for 500 students from area schools grades 5 and 9–12 on Oct. 31 at the college's Southwest Campus.

The day of recruitment and outreach included visits with the college’s faculty from academic programs that lead to employment for populations who are nationally underrepresented in nontraditional occupations.

"Our exploratory demos and lab tours were well-received by several hundred potential future students," said event organizer Manuel Navarro, the college's Middle College Programs director. "The Halloween-costumed faculty members were a unique marketing hook to connect potential students of college technical education to our experts," said Navarro.

Fall 2013 Graduation

On Dec. 13 in Freeman Coliseum, St. Philip's College celebrated student success during its 130th commencement ceremony conferring 630 degrees and certificates with the debut of red-white-and-blue regalia for the college's special population veteran degree and certificate candidates. The commencement keynote speaker was retired Air Force Gen. Edward A. Rice, Jr., one of only six African-American Airmen to attain the four-star general rank.
Bowden Book Donation

Future United Latino Leaders of Change student organization members and sponsors gave back this fall by delivering books to support the college’s sponsorship of Bowden Elementary School. Participants included primary sponsor Cynthia Cortez (not pictured), secondary sponsor and behavioral sciences faculty member Lang K. Coleman and student organization members Alexander A. Alonso (president), Yessica C. Vazquez (vice-president), Cara Marie Sebastian (secretary), Joseph Rodriquez (treasurer), David Acuña (historian) and Pete Hernández (vice-president). Representing Bowden Elementary (at left) was school librarian Jennifer DeSantis. (courtesy image)

President’s Lecture Series – Wil Haygood

The college opened its 2013–2014 President’s Lecture Series season by welcoming a business and creative team member for the current hit 2013 motion picture Lee Daniels’ “The Butler”—author and associate producer Wil Haygood—to a media and filmmaker reception, classroom seminars and an address as part of his presentation Oct. 24 in the Watson Fine Arts Center.

Haygood shared that the event was his first book-and-film promotional speaking stop at the invitation of one of America’s 105 Historically Black College and University member Institutions. Haygood explained that he was grateful to have his most recent and most popular film and book works to date both accepted and validated through inclusion within the HBCU community as the film based around African-American family life surpassed $100 million at the box office and his film companion book registered as a best-seller on several publishing lists.

“As one the nation’s largest Historically Black College and University member Institutions, we were elated to connect our students and our community with Wil Haygood, contemporary history, writing and film,” said St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. “The film companion book to his film project starring Oprah Winfrey and Forest Whitaker are almost as amazing as the generosity and devotion he gave back to our students during his visits to our classrooms. Wil’s original Washington Post article and the Lee Daniels film that succeeded it both brilliantly transformed the journey of one longtime White House staff member’s strong family into a much broader examination of race and American history. Wil’s ability to tell and retell an original story from both the podium and two college classrooms was yet another perfect fit for our students and our President’s Lecture Series audience.”

During his lecture, Haygood wore a tie clip the late President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) gave to the late White House butler Eugene Allen (1919-2010), the subject of his Nov. 7, 2008 Washington Post article on the momentous election of U.S. President Barrack Obama just 72 hours prior. The clip given to Allen by an American president who was two years older than him over a conversation on civil rights was given to Haygood by Allen to signify his approval of Haygood’s article. Haygood explained to the audience how honored he was to display Allen’s heirloom tie clip in 2013 while observing the 50th anniversaries of both major civil rights era legislation and Kennedy’s tragic passing in 1963.

All film companion books available for sale to support Haygood’s lecture series book signing were sold out, and many readers had their previously purchased Haygood books signed by the author as they received closer looks at both the author and his historic tie clip.

President’s Culinary Gala

On Nov. 2 in Artemisia’s, St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted the President’s Fall Culinary Gala recognizing the contributions and patronage of St. Philip’s College donors. Donors and community leaders such as Fiesta Commission CEO John Melleky, Alamo Worksource executive director Patrick Newman, and University of the Incarnate Word president Dr. Louis Agnese along with other guests were treated to a five-course meal that served as a capstone project for this college’s culinary degree candidates.
Mobile Food Pantry and Hunger Banquet

On Nov. 21 in Parking Lot 5, 161 students and community guests were served in a San Antonio Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry goodwill event. The activity was organized by the college’s Better Together Campaign staff and community partner Cooperative Ministries in Higher Education–Campus Ministries.

Outside the college’s Center for Learning Resources building, the Hunger Banquet allowed 350 degree candidates to learn, lead and give back by collecting 7,830 pounds of food for San Antonio Food Bank patrons. Students from several academic classes were involved to discuss local, national and international hunger issues.

Save the Date

April 24 - CultureFest
April 30 - Honor’s Convocation
May 9 - Graduation

Upcoming Events

Feb 7 - Rededication of G.J. Sutton Bldg.
Feb 13 - President’s Lecture Series
Mar 7 - Golf Tournament

Newsletter Staff

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