SPC celebrates 113th anniversary

St. Philip’s College celebrated the 113th anniversary of its founding on Tuesday, March 1 with a reception at the college’s Center for Health Professions atrium.

More than 100 attendees witnessed the recognition of corporate partner AT&T, which donated an original art work collection valued at nearly $100,000 to the college. The 25-piece collection is displayed at the college’s three newest buildings—the Welcome Center, the Center for Health Professions and the Center for Learning Resources.

Among the community leaders and educators present were Michelle Thomas and Larry Keller from AT&T, District 2 Councilwoman Ivy Taylor, Alamo Colleges Trustee James Rindfuss and Chancellor Bruce Leslie, Pastor Tony Regist from St. Philip’s Episcopal Human rights activist Nontombi Naomi Tutu speaks at St. Philip’s College

The Watson Fine Arts Theatre was filled to capacity on March 9 for an address by ethnicity and gender justice activist Nontombi Naomi Tutu, the daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu. The topic of Tutu’s President’s Lecture Series address was building gender coalitions across ethnic lines.

Tutu followed her lecture with a classroom visit to Dr. Gregory Hudspeth’s two government classes.

“If you are planning to build true coalitions you have to be willing to examine your place in society. You also have to be willing to hear how others perceive you, and how you perceive others. What comes out of that experience is community,” Tutu told the audience of nearly 600 students and community members.

On March 4, we held our 3rd annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, which raised nearly $150,000 in donations for student scholarships. The tournament was also a high water mark in staff and student participation, with 60 volunteers insuring the success of an event that has become a model for other institutions.

Women’s History month had its highlights as well. Charismatic human rights activist Nontombi Naomi Tutu delivered a riveting address to a packed Watson Theater. Closing Women’s History Month in peak form, 300 female high school students practically took over the Southwest Campus for the second Women in Non-Traditional Occupations conference.

Indeed, St. Philip’s College remains a hub of positive activity. Following our CultureFest in April, we will momentarily shift gears and go into planning mode, with our Good to Great retreat involving a cross section of 85 faculty, administrators, students and staff.

I invite all our friends to come by and visit us. We will be pleased to show you around “A Point of Pride in the Community.”

Best Regards,

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.
President
The future of San Antonio’s leading auto technology college degree program is greener and more relevant with the arrival of a fuel-efficient hybrid vehicle as a training aid. It is expected to benefit 300 students yearly as they learn how to service this type of vehicle.

In January, the St. Philip’s College automotive technology program acquired a used 2007 Toyota Camry with a gasoline/electric hybrid drive train. Faculty familiarization with the training aid is underway and students begin hybrid vehicle training in August, said Herman Hauschildt, chair of the college’s automotive technology program.

“One of our new goals is for every student in each of our automotive programs to graduate with an understanding of hybrid technology. This new tool will help us start a new green era.” Hauschildt said.

A hybrid vehicle uses two or more sources of power to indirectly or directly propel the vehicle, explained John Eichelberger, automotive technology program coordinator. Most servicing of hybrids sold after 2000 still occurs at new car dealers. As warranties expire on older hybrids, their owners may seek independent auto service providers in the local community. Green vehicle service training will be available in advance of demand at SPC.

St. Philip’s College’s automotive technology program is a regional training center for 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.

For information about these programs call (210) 486-2060.
Symphony-in-Residence features Maestro Damon Gupton

The 2011 San Antonio Symphony-in-Residence at St. Philip's College was held February 14-19. The Finale Concert on February 19 featured guest conductor Damon Gupton leading the orchestra for a full house at the Watson Fine Arts Center.

Maestro Gupton spoke to a roomful of music lovers at a 7 p.m. pre–concert lecture, which ended with a performance by student musician Jessica Adams playing a marimba composition, “Yellow After The Rain.” Jessica won a student competition and received four weeks of private lessons with the symphony's principal percussionist, Trent Leasure.

3rd Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament huge success

One of the highlights of St. Philip’s College’s 113th anniversary was the Third Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on March 4. Title sponsor CPS Energy fielded two teams. Nearly $150,000 was raised through corporate donations and from individual players and teams.

Corporate sponsors, alumni and friends were in full support, through their generous gifts and cash donations, of the SPC mission of providing scholarship opportunities. Presently, 77 percent of SPC students receive financial aid of some type. The Tournament funds Student Engagement Grants and Presidential Scholars grants.

A total of 120 golfers participated, and for the first time, SPC students fielded two teams in the tournament. More than sixty SPC administrators, faculty, staff and students were instrumental in volunteering their time and effort to make the event a huge success.


Student participation was at an all time high, with cheerleaders, nursing students, massage therapy students and ten student golfers representing student organizations participating in the tournament. In preparation, our student golfers received a series of professional lessons.

Student golfers were Rudy Padilla, Noel Rene Chapa, Jason Garcia, Ricky Noriega, Edward Taylor, Jennifer Garcia-Valdez, Jeff Yager, Vincent Spadafore, Erik Extrell and Brenda Emmons. The students were recipients of Student Engagement Grants, Presidential Scholar Grants, or were active in campus organizations. The winning team was sponsored by McCombs Ford West.
St. Philip’s College celebrates 2011 National Black History Month

St. Philip’s College celebrated National Black History Month with a diverse lineup of inclusive programs, ceremonies and activities honoring the history, accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans. The opening keynote address was delivered by Dr. Morris Stribling, a local podiatrist and civic leader in San Antonio.

“The 2011 national theme, African-Americans and the Civil War, refers to the national observance of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the U.S. Civil War in 1861,” said Dr. Sharon Crockett-Bell, coordinator of Alumni Affairs.

The 2011 observation included an opening reception and month long art exhibition by John A. Coleman, one of the first fine arts graduates at St. Philip's College. Other key events included a multi-media presentation on the Relevance of African-American history in the 21st century by Lasana Hotep, a nationally known consultant who developed the model for mentoring programs for African-American college students. Other featured activities were the 2011 San Antonio Symphony-in-Residence and The Woolworth Experience, a recreation of a Civil Rights era lunch-counter demonstration.

The month was brought to a stylish conclusion with The 70’s Soul Train Alumni Scholarship Dance, which raised more than $4,300 for scholarships during Black History Month.

Lasana Hotep, a noted lecturer on programs for young black men, spoke during Black History Month.  Photo: (from left to right) 2011 Homecoming King Walter Perry, student Julius Green, Hotep and 2011 St. Philip’s College Student Engagement Grant Scholarship recipient Austin Wells.
CultureFest at St. Philip’s College keeps getting bigger, better and brighter every year after sixteen years. The April 14 event was heavy on pageantry and participation from dance groups such as Kazamba Dance Troupe and MLK Panthers.

A procession headed by SPC President Loston was escorted by the Cole High School Color Guard. President Loston delivered welcome remarks and recognized Fiesta Commission President Sam Steves, Miss Fiesta Lauren Holt and Miss Bexar County Ashley Dixon, a former SPC student.

Rey Feo Bill Drain visited, as did the Silver Fox, mascot of the Silver Stars.

The heady mix of uniformed royalty, mariachis, amusements, rides, food, craft and cultural information booths proved a winning combination. SPC students received a $5 credit on food and drink tickets.

This year the Fest was also heavy on the music end, with nonstop blues, rock, pop and R&B, and progressive rock courtesy of Bobby G and the Drive, Oridium, Sevan, Ready Revolution and MoJoe.

As always, at the core of CultureFest were the student–run information booths focusing on the world’s food cultures. Another top draw was a Rib Cook-Off. The Beef Rib Cook-off was won by the Candlewood Boys and Girls Club. Bad Boys BBQ was second and B&GB Smokehouse third.

On the pork side, first place winner was Hoosier Daddy, second place was Bad Boys BBQ and third place was the Candlewood Boys and Girls Club. The Student Choice award went to Hoosier Daddy. Judging was conducted by community leaders Tommy Moore, Gloria Ray, Bennie Cole and Doug Vair.

“It was fun, it was colorful, and the food and the music were non-stop,” said one of the hundreds of attendees. “This was by far the best CultureFest yet.”

Dr. Paul Machen, Dean of Student Success, was overall coordinator of the event.
Recognized at National Phi Theta Kappa Convention

Dr. Adena Williams Loston received the 2011 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction presented to college presidents and CEOs at the 2011 Annual Convention of Phi Theta Kappa in Seattle on April 8. She was one of only nine presidents recognized nationally.

The Shirley B. Gordon Awards of Distinction are named in honor of the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, founder and President Emeritus of Highline Community College and Chair of the Phi Theta Kappa board of Directors from 1988-2008.

Dr. Loston was nominated by the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa for the Hallmark Award based on her support of the chapter and its activities as well as the college’s financial support of the chapter. “Without Dr. Loston’s participation, our chapter would not have achieved the many milestones we have reached during the past two years,” said Maria Botello, advisor of the Psi Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on campus. She is an inspiration to us all,” she added.

Named vice-chair of board of directors for SAGE

Dr. Adena Williams Loston has been named vice-chair of the board of directors for the non-profit organization San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE). Her appointment to the 11-member SAGE board runs through January 1, 2013.

The SAGE board leaders identify needs and provide financial assistance to businesses with current footholds in the East side of the city.

Named Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International

Dr. Adena Loston was recognized at the April meeting of Rotary International as a Paul Harris Fellow. Donors of $1,000 or more to various Rotarian funds and grants programs, or people who have that amount contributed in their name, can be recognized as Paul Harris Fellows.

As a new Paul Harris Fellow, Dr. Loston received a commemorative certificate, a medallion and a pin identifying her as an advocate of the Foundation’s goals of world peace and international understanding.
SPC keeps cookin’ at Cowboy Breakfast

Thirty four students from the College’s culinary arts program cooked and served a delicious meal at the 2011 Cowboy Breakfast held on January 28 at Cowboys Dance Hall.

The breakfast is the signature San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo kickoff. For a number of years, culinary arts students have prepared much of the food enjoyed by thousands of guests. Proceeds from past breakfasts have funded $2,000 per academic year scholarships for study in the hospitality professions at the college. The Cowboy Breakfast Foundation has given $55,000 to the Tourism, Hospitality and Hotel Management and Culinary Arts Program at St. Philip’s College over the past seven years.

As they have done in the past, the volunteers were in the cooking zone at two in the morning, ready to prepare food for tens of thousands of visitors, with one noticeable difference from years past. This time the weather was agreeable.

Theatre program performs “The Gospel at Colonus,” launches dinner theatre

The St. Philip’s College Theatre Program presented its spring production of “The Gospel at Colonus,” conceived and adapted by Lee Breuer, music by Bob Telson and directed by Vincent Hardy.

“The Gospel at Colonus,” a unique theatrical presentation that combines the pathos, passion and poetry of Sophocles’ Oedipus Trilogy with the power, theatricality and exhilaration of the African-American Pentecostal Church, was well received by audiences.

For the first time, St. Philips College offered a dinner theatre option on April 8th, which quickly sold out. In conjunction with the student operated fine dining facility, Artemisia’s, for $20 patrons enjoyed a five course dinner at Artemisia’s at 6 p.m. followed by the theatre production at 8 p.m. Plans are underway to continue and expand the program.

Mary Cottier, Dean of Arts and Sciences, said “This was a great performance and attendance was at its highest in seven years.”

Phi Theta Kappa shines at convention

Eight members of the Psi Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society attended their Texas Regional Convention in Round Rock March 3-6 and reaped a number of awards.

Jennifer Garcia-Valdez, Brenda Emmons, Matt Fisher, Vanessa Guevara and Vincent Spadafore were placed on the District 5 Hall of Honor. SPC President Adena Loston received the Chief Executive Officer Hallmark Hall of Honor award in recognition of her support for the chapter.

Other awards at the event included the Pinnacle Award for increased membership from one year to the next; the Chapter’s yearbook was named one of the top two yearbooks; and Brenda Emmons was named Distinguished Chapter member.

The chapter received the Regional Milestone Award, placing it first among 25 chapters. The SPC chapter continues as the only 5 Star Psi Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa chapter within the Alamo Colleges.
Congratulations

Lacy K. Hampton has been named Interim Vice President for College Services. Mr. Hampton has served for the past three years as SMWBE (Small, Minority, Women Business Enterprise) Diversity Administrator for the Alamo Colleges.

Kimberly Moralez is the new Assistant to the President. She was recently employed by Wichita State University.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D., recipient of the Amazing Energy Award in 2010, delivered the keynote address February 24 for CPS Energy’s Amazing Energy dinner. She also delivered an invocation and led two workshop panels during the Mayor’s Commission on Women conference on March 8.

Dr. Sharon Crockett-Bell, coordinator of alumni affairs, has authored a book about the effectiveness of dual credit programs — Measuring the Effectiveness on Students’ Transition from High School to College, published by Lambert Academic Publishing.

Upcoming Events

April 26
Green Tie Affair — Dedication of Centers of Excellence

April 30
Women Breaking Through Conference

April 29–30
Men of Color Conference

May 6
Spring Commencement — Freeman Coliseum — Speaker Juan Sepúlveda, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, United States Department of Education

June 14
Summer 2011 President’s Lecture Series — Speaker Jim Lucas

Newsletter Staff

Editor/Writer – Jorge A. Ramirez, Interim Director of Community & Public Relations

Designer – Dimona R. Esparza, Senior Multimedia Specialist

Writer/Reporter – John Dendy, Public Information Officer

Editorial Assistant – Connie Garcia, Senior Secretary

Photographic Support – Patrick Evans, Media Services

State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon conducted a town hall meeting on February 10 to discuss higher education funding.

Dr. Paul Machen, dean of student success, congratulates iPad winner Rosa Wilson at a Student Services event.

Members of the Bowden Society of Professional Women presented President Loston and administrative team members with a flag flown at the nation’s Capitol in honor of Artemisia Bowden’s achievements.

SPC opened an Employee Wellness Center on February 17. Holding a ribbon for cutting are Wellness Committee members Emily Staats, Pat Heckman, Randall Darason, Ruben Guerrero, Elizabeth Ehler, Natasha Schmittou, Carrie Dixon, Greg Jones (chair) and John Gomez.

Librarians and students gather around President Loston at the grand re-opening of the newly-renovated library at the Southwest Campus.

Earvin “Magic” Johnson hosted a youth rally on the St. Philip’s College campus during a recent fundraiser in San Antonio.

San Antonio Spurs superstar George Hill signs autographs at the youth rally featuring him and the legendary Earvin “Magic” Johnson.

Addressing the issues with the Representative was Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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