President’s Newsletter

Celebration was in the air in March, and it ramped up on March 11 with a joint news conference with the City of San Antonio and UTSA, when St. Philip’s College announced a federal stimulus funding grant of $2 million for a solar energy installation at the Southwest Campus. The grant will dovetail perfectly with the College’s new Center for Excellence in Science and its new Alternative Energy course of study.

The $2 million grant from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts will enable the college to install a 400-kilowatt grid solar energy system on Building 1 of the Southwest Campus. The grant is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the U.S. Department of Energy and is intended to demonstrate the feasibility of producing electricity via renewable technologies in decentralized locations. The grant is managed by the State Energy Conservation Office.

CPS Energy, the major partner with St. Philip’s College on the grant proposal, will provide ongoing support until the system is connected to the power grid. The rooftop installation of solar panels will serve St. Philip’s as a green laboratory and as an essential component of the solar energy center for Excellence in Science. It will produce energy for the college, enhance SPC’s standing as an area leader in workforce education, and actively engage the community in a component of our education.

St. Philip’s expects to receive its federal stimulus bill over $100,000 the first year, and it will save the Alamo Colleges approximately $3 million over the project’s expected 30-year lifespan. The installation will be the largest solar installation in San Antonio, doubling the 200-kilowatt capacity of the Pearl Brewery. Greenhouse emissions will be reduced by 200,000 pounds a year, the equivalent of planting 98 acres of trees. The project will also provide 47 jobs during construction and implementation phase of the grant. (See Solar Grant/page 8)

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7 Campus hosts Women Breaking Through Conference
8 Women’s History Month brings variety of speakers, events

SPCCongratulations
Pamelia E. Ray, assistant professor and program director of Early Child- hood and Family Studies, has had an article accepted for publishing in the College Teaching and Learning Journal. The article is titled “A Fresh Approach: Ethnic Diversity on Campuses in America.”

SPC Welcomes
Mary Cottier – Dean of Arts and Sciences
Jorge A. Romiles – Interim Director of Public Relations
Bobby Arias – Dean of CE and Associate Provost
Dr. Paul Machen – Assistant to the President

SPC Faculty
upco Salvidar, III; Elizabeth Lerma; (standing from left of Young) Albert Rios; Homero Guerrero; Guadalupe Fonseca; Haydar Sahin, assistant professor and Microsoft IT Academy Director; Pamela E. Ray, assistant professor and program director of Early Childhood and Family Studies. The College celebrated its 112th birthday with a week-long celebration. On March 3, we very appropriately renamed the College’s student-operated fine dining restaurant Artemisia’s, after St. Philip’s icon Artemisia Bowden.

Students from SPC’s Automotive Technology program were recipients of the magazine’s statewide $2 million grant. The $2 million grant was awarded to the College’s automotive technology program, which will serve as a green laboratory to test and implement renewable energy technologies. The $2 million grant is managed by the State Energy Conservation Office.

Automotive Technology faculty assists San Antonio Battered Women’s Shelter

Texas Independent Auto- mobile Association (TIAA) technicians joined Automotive Tech- nology faculty from St. Philip’s College for 12 hours of service to the community on April 10. Seven faculty members helped provide automobile repairs to vehicles belonging to women from the San Antonio Battered Women’s Shelter. Repairs provided to women from the San Antonio Battered Women’s Shelter totaled over $9,000 and included installation of new tires and new brakes. They also included tune-ups, intake manifold gasket repairs, rear-end and suspension and air conditioning repairs. The community service has been provided by SPC and TIAA for several years.

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Participants at the 2009 Gunn Automotive Group Tool Scholarship ceremony Feb. 24 at St. Philip’s College included Paul Young (far left) and James Eakin (far right). Young was a scholarship co-recipient. SPC’s executive vice-president of Gunn Automotive Group, Eakin is Alamo Colleges Executive Director of Institutional Advancement. Recipients of the program were (kneeling from left) Homero Guerrero; Guadalupe Fonseca; Haydar Sahin, assistant professor and Microsoft IT Academy Director; Pamela E. Ray, assistant professor and program director of Early Childhood and Family Studies. The College celebrated its 112th birthday with a week-long celebration. On March 3, we very appropriately renamed the College’s student-operated fine dining restaurant Artemisia’s, after St. Philip’s icon Artemisia Bowden.

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AT&T donates $100,000 to support scholarship programs

St. Philip's College and AT&T announced on March 3 the launch of a scholarship program in support of job training programs that prepare underserved populations for meaningful employment. The multi-year plan will be underwritten by a gift of $100,000 from AT&T. According to St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, “AT&T has been a dedicated supporter of the educational efforts of the Alamo Colleges, and this ranks as a major commitment on their part to our scholarship efforts. Our college is honored to accept this award on behalf of our students,” she said.

San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro applauded AT&T for stepping up and making the donation, noting that the cities that will thrive will be those that succeed at improving the education level of their workforce. Speakers at the event included Mayor Castro.

SkillsUSA Texas Championshipships held at Southwest Campus

The 2010 SkillsUSA Texas College/Postsecondary Division Skills and Leadership Championship were held March 4-6 at SPC’s Southwest Campus. More than 400 students from the Alamo Colleges and other community and technical colleges around the state tested their skills in 80 categories, including robotics, crime scene investigation, TV news anchoring, welding, web design, aviation maintenance, diesel equipment technology and automotive technology.

First place winners will advance to the national competition in Kansas City, Missouri June 21-26. SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students and their instructors in preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations including health occupations. The SkillsUSA Championshipships showcase the best career and technical students in the nation. Competitions begin locally and continue through the state and national levels. Approximately 5,000 students compete at the annual national SkillsUSA Championships.

SkillsUSA programs help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom. Competitions are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry.

President Loston receives CPS Amazing Energy Award

St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston was awarded a 2010 Amazing Energy Award from CPS Energy during a February 25 Black History Month Banquet at the Bright Shawl in San Antonio. Dr. Loston was recognized by CPS Energy as an educator who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, remarkable talents, and Amazing Energy.

Dr. Loston was recognized by CPS Energy as a national college’s Mathematics Department. Dr. Lankford has lectured on a yearly basis at the American Mathematical Association of University Women-San Antonio and the Time Warner Cable/Time Warner Connect a Million Minds philanthropic initiative.

SPC hosts Spring 2010 STEM lecture featuring NASA engineer

The Morgan Gallery at the Watson Fine Arts Center was filled to capacity April 9 with students and community guests for a program featuring NASA engineer and former Alamo College student Dr. James Lankford, guest speaker for SPC’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Lecture Series. STEM lectures are presented twice yearly by the Presidential Scholars Project within the college’s Mathematics Department. Dr. Lankford has worked for 15 years on protecting the people behind the windows of the International Space Station from collisions with meteors and space debris.

In his presentation, he shared how problem-solving on his recent NASA work with the windows of the International Space Station often involved the integration of such diverse disciplines as materials science, mechanical engineering, computational science, and statistical analysis.

“St. Philip’s College students candevote their careers to service on similar pursuits,” Lankford said. He added, “I like to take advantage of opportunities to encourage students to consider careers in science. My visit with the St. Philip’s College students was great.” The STEM lectures are funded in part by the National Science Foundation.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics lectures are sponsored in part by a $436,000 National Science Foundation grant. This lecture series offers students the opportunity to listen to actual scientists and engineers, and to interact with professionals in STEM areas.
College hosts first Women in Nontraditional Occupations Conference

Women’s History Month at St. Philip’s College ended with the college’s first Women in Nontraditional Occupations Conference held on March 31 at the College’s Southwest Campus.

More than 300 female students in nontraditional occupational programs of study from local area colleges and high schools attended the only program of its type among the Alamo Colleges.

The students networked with corporate mentors, guest speakers, successful alumni and career fair guests, and visited with advisors at academic departments that are a gateway to well-paying jobs where women are a minority. These include Alternative Energy, Aerospace, Electrical, Welding, HVAC, Electrical or Computer-Aided Manufacturing.

Beverly Beavers-Lyle, Regional Administrator for the Women’s Bureau with the U.S. Department of Labor, who delivered the keynote address, said “I am impressed that St. Philip’s College is focused on bettering the lives of women through their education programs that lead to secure, meaningful and well-paid jobs traditionally held by men.”

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The tools and a tool box are intended for use by all students enrolled in the College’s Automotive Technology department because the College participates in the SkillsUSA program.

Lowe’s is a major national sponsor, and St. Philip’s College’s students are participants in SkillsUSA.

“The tools, valued at $1,000, include a five-drawer top tool chest; a 227-piece SAE/metric mechanics tool set; a 110-piece SAE/metric socket set; two half drive 1/2-piece SAE/metric socket sets, two seven-piece SAE ratcheting wrench sets; two seven-piece metric ratcheting wrench sets; two 10-piece SAE wrench sets, and two 10-piece metric wrench sets.

“Only a few students have seen or used the department’s newest tools, but they will all get their hands on the tools this summer,” said automotive technology chair John Eichelberg. “Some of the tools are unique, with pass-through sockets that I have not seen nor used before.”

SPC celebrates Black History Month in February

A month long celebration of Black History brought a home town performer, legendary Rhythm & Blues Artist Mel Waiters, back to San Antonio to perform a concert for St. Philip’s College.

More than $7,000 was raised to benefit the St. Philip’s College Alumni and Friends Association Scholarship Fund.

The month-long celebration also featured Professor Robert Darden, scholar and music historian from Baylor University.

Black History Month culminated with a Gospel Fest at our founding church, St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, featuring gospel artists Michelle Burnett, Deborah Seaborn, Timothy and Thomas Harris, Rev. John J. Rector, III, Sr. Rodney Warner, praise dancers God’s Children Ones and Three choirs-Eternal Praise, Victory in Praise and St. Philip’s Episcopal Choir.

Project Connect introduces students to nursing profession

St. Philip’s College provided a 30 contact hour exploratory program introducing Project Connect students to the nursing profession. Project Connect is an SAISD-Highlands High School program funded through the Texas Education Agency to help prevent at-risk 9th grade students from dropping out of high school.

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St. Philip’s 2nd annual scholarship golf tournament a huge success

Gabe Farias, State Representative Joe Farias, Michelle Thomas and Mel Berger make up team AT&T.

St. Philip’s College’s second annual scholarship golf tournament held on March 5 at Pecan Valley Golf Club exceeded expectations. An overflow of 105-plus golfers representing 31 major contributors paid tribute to education by funding scholarships for 200 St. Philip’s College students.

Title sponsor for the event was AT&T.

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Fiesta event draws record crowds

St. Philip’s College’s annual fiesta event, CultureFest, was held on April 22, featuring 30 booths, medal sales, several bands, mascots from various organizations, and a visit by the Fiesta Association President and Rey Feo Baltazar “Walter” Serna.

A highlight of the event was a competition among rib chefs that yearly draws a loyal audience to world-class ribs. This year’s winner was a team from the Eastside Boys and Girls Club.

According to SPC Director of Student Services Julius Gordon, this year’s event was the best-attended ever, with an estimated 1,500 visiting the grounds during the 10 am to 4 pm event. At any given time, 300-400 people were in attendance.

St. Philip’s College has hosted CultureFest, an official Fiesta event, since 1995. The event celebrates the cultural influences of 112-year-old St. Philip’s College as one of San Antonio’s most historically distinguished and ethnically diverse institutions of higher education.

Attendees hungrily munched on traditional Fiesta fare such as turkey legs and corn on the cob. They were entertained by various bands and country and western singer Ashley Dixon, who also stirred the gathering with her MC work. A high visibility location at the corner of Walters and Wyoming helped boost community participation in the event, said Gordon.

SPC automotive students and Center for the Intrepid create driving simulator for wounded military—one of only two in the U.S.

A driver training simulator designed to help wounded service members relearn how to drive a vehicle as part of re-integrating into civilian life was unveiled to the public on April 22 at the Center for the Intrepid (CFI) at Brooke Army Medical Center. The Center works to prepare severely injured amputees, limb salvage patients, and burn victims for return to active service or retirement.

The vehicle, a 2008 Colorado pick-up truck donated by General Motors (GM) and retrofitted by St. Philip’s College students, is only the second of its type in the nation; the other one is at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

The simulator project is a joint research effort project of GM and the Army Center for Enhanced Performance (ACEP). It was enabled through a partnership of General Motors Automotive Service Education Program (GMASEP), the Center for the Intrepid (CFI) and St. Philip’s College automotive technology students.

In October 2008 General Motors executives contacted Russell Gill, a St. Philip’s instructor and head of the Automotive Service Education Program (ASEP) at St. Philip’s College. This led to the project, which called for the vehicle to be modified by St. Philip’s, the local GM ASEP college. ACEP built the hardware and software components for converting the vehicle into a simulator. Bruno Mobility donated mobility controls.

The fully operable donated vehicle was rewired so the steering wheel, the accelerator and brake pedals are usable and life-like. Patients simulate driving the vehicle while watching their performance on a 140-degree video monitor.

According to Gill, three classes of St. Philip’s students provided the labor for the project over a period of 15 months, performing the installation of computer parts and wiring. The vehicle’s front was shortened, seats re-covered, and a chassis to mount the cab was built. The top and bottom of the cab were cut off, and the vehicle was positioned upright in an elevator to move it to its site on the fourth floor of the Center for the Intrepid.

Final adjustments, including mounting on its specially-built chassis, took place then.

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According to Dr. Rebecca S. Hooper, Program Manager for the CFI, as many as 80-90 wounded service members will train on the simulator yearly. Commercial partners included Alamo Iron Works, Bruno Mobility Products and Driving Systems, Inc. and Alamo Mobility. Gill served as project manager responsible for oversight in preparing the vehicle in coordination with the donors and the students.
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Spring transfer fair big success

The Spring transfer fair held on April 14 was a huge success. Approximately 300 students participated and were able to meet with 25 university recruiters to learn about transfer admissions requirements and transfer scholarships. Students also received a free backpack if they met with three university recruiters.

Artemisia’s

In honor of Artemisia Bowden, the Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts has changed the name of its student-operated restaurant to Artemisia’s. Under the direction of Miss Bowden for over 52 years, St. Philip’s College introduced a new look to the school’s dining experience.

The former name, Mel’s, was changed to Artemisia’s in honor of Miss Bowden’s daughter, a former student at the school.

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SPC Golf Tournament winners are Floyd Wilson, Ben Alexander, Joe Linson and Chuck Andrews from Team Frost Bank, with President Adena Williams Loston.

Gabe Farias, State Representative Joe Farias, Michelle Thomas and Mel Waiters make up team AT&T.

The Golf tournament held on March 5 at Pecan Valley Golf Club exceeded expectations. An overflow of 105-plus golfers representing 31 major contributors paid tribute to education by funding scholarships for 200 St. Philip’s College students. Title sponsor for the event was AT&T.

“AS a result of your support St. Philip’s College is in a position to provide scholarships for 200 students, “ St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston told cheering golfers, donors and student volunteers during the luncheon following the tournament. “We may consider ourselves as overachievers in accomplishing our goal and the level of participation—the turnout is phenomenal,” Dr. Loston said to applause from the group.

“St. Philip’s College put on a great event,” said guest golfer Josh White, the San Antonio Silver Stars Business Operations Manager. “While we supported a great cause, we had a great time because this tournament was put on at the great caliber the college is known for.” More than 70 percent of St. Philip’s 11,000 plus students rely on scholarships or financial aid to achieve their educational objectives. Increasing the number and types of scholarships available is a major goal of the institution.

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“AS a result of your support St. Philip’s College is in a position to provide scholarships for 200 students, “ St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston told cheering golfers, donors and student volunteers during the luncheon following the tournament. “We may consider ourselves as overachievers in accomplishing our goal and the level of participation—the turnout is phenomenal,” Dr. Loston said to applause from the group.

“St. Philip’s College put on a great event,” said guest golfer Josh White, the San Antonio Silver Stars Business Operations Manager. “While we supported a great cause, we had a great time because this tournament was put on at the great caliber the college is known for.” More than 70 percent of St. Philip’s 11,000 plus students rely on scholarships or financial aid to achieve their educational objectives. Increasing the number and types of scholarships available is a major goal of the institution.

Next year’s Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for March 10, 2011.
AT&T donates $100,000 to support scholarship programs

St. Philip’s College and AT&T announced on March 3 the launch of a scholarship program in support of job training programs that prepare underserved populations for meaningful employment. The multi-year plan will be underwritten by a gift of $100,000 from AT&T. According to students, “she said, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro applauded AT&T for stepping up and making the donation, noting that the city will thrive with those that succeed at improving the education level of their workforce. Speakers at the event included Mayor Castro.

SkillsUSA Texas College Championships held at Southwest Campus

The 2010 SkillsUSA Texas College/Postsecondary Division Skills and Leadership Championships were held March 4-6 at SPC’s Southwest Campus. More than 400 students from the Alamo Colleges and other community and technical colleges around the state tested their skills in 80 categories, including robotics, crime scene investigation, TV news anchoring, welding, web design, aviation maintenance, diesel equipment technology, and automotive technology.

First place winners will advance to the national competition in Kansas City, Missouri June 21-26.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students and their instructors in preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations including health occupations. The SkillsUSA Championships showcase the best career and technical students in the nation. Contests begin locally and continue through the state and national levels. Approximately 5,000 students compete at the annual national SkillsUSA Championships.

SkillsUSA programs help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry.

President Loston receives CPS Amazing Energy Award

St. Philip’s College President Dr. Adena Loston received a 2010 Amazing Energy Award from CPS Energy during a February 25 Black History Month Banquet at the Bright Shawl in San Antonio.

Dr. Loston was recognized by CPS Energy as an educator who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, remarkable talents, and Amazing Energy.

SPC hosts Spring 2010 STEM lecture featuring NASA engineer

The Morgan Gallery at the Watson Fine Arts Center was filled to capacity April 9 with students and community guests for a program featuring NASA engineer Dr. James Lankford, guest speaker for SPC’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Lecture Series. STEM lectures are presented twice yearly by the Presidential Scholars Project within the college’s Mathematics Department. Dr. Lankford has worked for 15 years on protecting the people behind the windows of the International Space Station from collisions with meteors and space debris.

In his presentation, he shared how problem-solving on his recent NASA work with the windows of the International Space Station often involved the integration of such engineering disciplines as materials science, mechanical engineering, computational science, and statistical analysis.

“St. Philip’s College students can devote their careers to service on similar pursuits,” Lankford said. He added, “I like to take advantage of opportunities to encourage students to consider careers in science. My visit with the St. Philip’s College students was great.” The STEM lectures are funded in part by the National Science Foundation.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics lectures are sponsored in part by a $436,000 National Science Foundation grant. This lecture series offers students opportunities to listen to, ask questions of, and interact with professionals in STEM areas.
President's Newsletter

St. Philip's receives $2 million solar energy grant

Celebration was in the air in March, and it ramped up on March 11 with a joint news conference with the City of San Antonio and UTSA, when St. Philip's College announced a federal stimulus funding grant of $2 million for a solar energy installation at its Southwest Campus. The grant will dovetail perfectly with the College's new Center for Excellence in Science and its new Alternative Energy course of study.

The $2 million grant from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts will enable the college to install a 400 kilowatt grid solar energy system on Building 1 of the Southwest Campus. The grant is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the U.S. Department of Energy and is intended to demonstrate the feasibility of producing electricity via renewable technologies in decentralized locations. The grant is managed by the State Energy Conservation Office.

CPS Energy, the major partner with the State Energy Reinvestment Act through the State Energy Conservation Office, will provide 47 jobs during the planning, construction and implementation phase of the grant. (See Solar Grant/page 8)

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