



## Students, tourists and 39 years of history: SPC professor Allen Lee Hamilton



Dr. Allen Lee Hamilton, the college's professor of Texas and American History, has been recognized for teaching excellence. The Boston-based Road Scholar Programs <https://www.road scholar.org/> praised him as a presenter in their continuing education series, most recently at the Drury Plaza Riverwalk, as keynote speaker on Texas History for

visitors from all over the world. Road Scholar Programs senior program coordinator Karen J. Roe wrote, "The participation of Allen Hamilton plays a large part in the success of our programs... Many of our customers say they would have taken more history classes in college if they'd had Hamilton as a professor..." Hamilton was recently

## SPC honored with recognition by The Aspen Institute



St. Philip's College is among four in the Alamo Colleges District included as a Top 150 Finalist of almost 1,000 entries in the competition for the 2019 Aspen Institute Prize for Community College Excellence. The nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges recognized SPC for outstanding

achievements in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students. The Top ten finalists are announced in May, and the grand prizewinner, finalist(s) with distinction, and rising star(s) are announced in 2019. The grand prize is a \$1 million award.

## President's Message



St. Philip's College has grown from a tiny, church school with six graduates, all the daughters and granddaughters of former slaves, to a community college with two campuses and 13,000 students.

We are the only college in the U.S. federally designated as both a Historically Black College and a Hispanic-Serving Institute. We have earned attention for performance excellence from the prestigious Aspen Institute, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Quality Texas Foundation. Look how far we've come!

Our 120th anniversary falls in the same year as San Antonio's Tricentennial.

In 2018, we want to honor our history and remember those who played pivotal roles in getting us where we are today.

We want to celebrate our students who go on to do great things as doctors and nurses, lawyers and judges, performers and presidents, entrepreneurs and engineers.

We want to recognize our staff and faculty for their contributions. In the early years, many worked without pay to support SPC's mission. Today's employees are stalwarts, using their talents to address hunger, teen pregnancy, health care and educational attainment.

We are celebrating throughout the year with a variety of events, including our scholarship golf tournament (March), 2018 CultureFest (April) and President Lecture Series (September).

SPC is one of four anchor institutions to host community events during the Tricentennial Founder's Day Ball. We will host Dr. Ruth Simmons, president of Prairie View A&M University and chair of the board of the directors of the Holdsworth Foundation.

What a grand year we've got planned!

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## Former congressman motivates students for success



*SPC capped off Hispanic Heritage Month with a special program featuring guest speaker Henry Bonilla, former U.S. Congressman. Bonilla shared insight in a program themed Motivation for Success.*

## Monster Tech attracts 600 potential students



*SPC hosted its 2017 Monster Tech Fest: Fifth Anniversary Edition at Southwest Campus for 600 prospective college students from 13 schools, including Brennan, Burbank, Lanier, Harlandale, Lytle, Memorial, Sam Houston, South San, Southside, Southwest, Taft and Wagner high schools and George Gerwin Academy. The event featured campus tours, college advising, a career and education fair, and hands-on demonstrations with faculty.*

## Students, tourists and 39 years of history: SPC professor Allen Lee Hamilton continued

nominated for the prestigious Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award. He is also a community leader in his capacity as the college's higher education representative on the City's Intra-University Tricentennial Committee. The college is an educational partner in the yearlong San Antonio celebration, highlighting the role that institutions of higher learning have played in the city's 300 years of development. "I'm teaching seven classes currently and next semester with 40 students per class," said Hamilton. "Teaching for 39 years, I've taught 25,000 students in that time," Hamilton said.

"Military history is one of my major fields of interest and I don't teach it much, so I like to write about it," Hamilton explained when the book was released last year. "Paul Davis and I are both interested in the field and we decided to talk about what made the 220 warrior people from fighting groups special in 1,000 words or less,

I didn't want to give terrorists any credence but the publisher insisted, and given that the Medieval figures were not too into the Vikings either... a few were researched and included. We had people in our Social and Behavioral Sciences department who submitted articles when I offered them a chance. If we knew experts who knew more about a topic, we approached them. We are happy to approach scholars everywhere. Cynthia Pryor wrote on the Kiowa and Matthew Fuller wrote about the IRA and their Protestant counterpart in Ireland," Hamilton concluded.

## Faculty Philanthropist gathers 9,000 books for cameroon



*An archival image of a 2016 ceremonial reception for microscopes and books in Cameroon is a reminder of ongoing local efforts to give back, led by nursing program alumnus and biology faculty member Dr. Solomon Nfor. (SPC image)*

Nursing program alumnus and biology faculty member, Dr. Solomon Nfor, recently recognized local high school students for philanthropic excellence for their involvement in getting books and equipment donations to Cameroon.

Donation logistics draws student volunteers from across the city, most recently from La Vernia High School. On Nov. 9, Nfor acknowledged student council members and their high schools who joined in collecting 9,000 books for English-speaking schools in Cameroon that are unable to get this quantity of books for their students.

In May of 2016, the college completed an international goodwill project to ship educational materials in the science and nursing fields at the University of Buea school system in Cameroon. Led by Nfor, the project team of faculty and students from St. Philip's College collected 1,800 pounds of books and 11 microscopes.

College contributors included natural sciences faculty members who donated items from their personal libraries and the college's student success staff. Additional contributors included the library staff at University of Incarnate Word, and Pearson Book Company. Financial support for shipping the materials came from college natural science students and faculty. In acknowledgement, higher education officials from Cameroon visited the college. Dr. Nfor, a Cameroonian, was present to distribute the books and lab equipment.

"After high school, my father said he could not afford to send me to the university; that he had done all he could for me. Life was hard and I thought going to the Marist Seminary to become a man of God was the easiest solution. It did not work out and

I literally ran away from my hometown to my cousin in the big city who initially enrolled me at the University of Buea. It is at this university that I earned my first degree and first masters degree most of the time self-sponsoring myself by selling odd goods on the streets in Cameroon, Nfor said. "I believe education is the way forward. Teaching is my way of giving back."

Dr. Nfor is also the architect of the six-year-old college classroom series known as Jessica's Project <http://alamo.edu/spc/jessicasproject/> with semesterly classroom events that have engaged hundreds of SPC students and faculty with the community to address health issues through evidence-based programming. With faculty sponsorship, students learn about the impact of nutrition on health as they raise awareness in the community. Past projects have addressed spina bifida, cardiovascular health, celiac disease, gastroparesis, Crohn's disease and unplanned pregnancy prevention. The project helps San Antonio seniors get healthier and go greener while working in the 100 percent organic community garden on San Antonio's Eastside. The opportunity for gardeners to take organic produce home was initiated by a group of local seniors who are assisted by volunteers and neighbors as part of Jessica's Project.

The most-recent Jessica's Project wrapped up with a symposium on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. Guest speakers were James Lechleiter from UT Health Science, Rhonda Johnson from Hope4mind, Kelly Ramsey the president of TXBI, and Jonas Crafts, Retired NFL Player. The symposium presented information on the dangers of head injuries as well as research that may help to repair the damage.



## Homecoming 2017

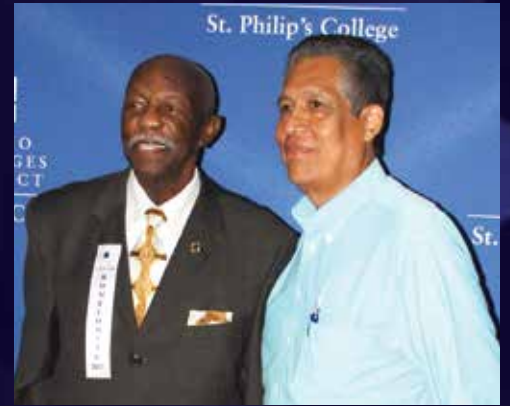
Homecoming events concluded with a Blue & White Alumni Mixer, Dinner and Dance for 300 students and family members and the naming of the 2017-2018 royal court. Student representing the 119-year-old SPC brand are Terrell Thompson (King, Mr. St. Philip's), Arabela Alvarado (Queen, Ms. St. Philip's), Cody Cocchia and Angelia Jacobs (First Runners Up), Reshonna Rifenburg (Second Runner Up), Passion Williams-Toomer (Third Runner Up) and Travon Chaney and Cherish Burks (Early College High School Royal

Court Members). As Ms. St. Philip's, Alvarado gives national visibility to the efforts of two-year college students who comprise more than half of all college students in America. In her capacity as a contestant for the EBONY magazine contest, Alvarado has created a video about SPC's history. Homecoming guests also recognized and paid tribute to the college's oldest living alumna, Mrs. Gertha Murphy, who graduated in 1936 and is 104 years of age.





*SPC Early College High School students came out in support of Homecoming, representing the youngest of our alumni.*



*Center Middle: Gertha Murphy has been an active alumnus since her graduation from SPC eight decades ago.*



*Bottom Left: San Antonio's DJ Men-Yo dressed in blue to show his school pride. Bottom Right: Guests and SPC employees recognized and celebrated the President's birthday.*

## Scholars



*Amanda Campos*



*Kasumi Chan*



*Katrina King*



*Monica Magana*



*Nicholas Lokey*



*Shawn Holder*



*Sonia Garci*



*William Bower*

Each recipient was awarded a scholarship based on a 4.0 GPA and an eight-month commitment to participate in a community service project. Each received \$1,500 in the fall semester and \$1,500 in the spring semester for a total of \$3,000.

## Little Dresses for Africa



*Dr. Loston led College Leadership in creating dresses from pillowcases for Little Dresses for Africa, a program “to provide relief to vulnerable children throughout the Continent of Africa and beyond,” according to the organization’s website. The community engagement project was part of the President’s Cabinet Leadership Retreat, and was an expression of one of the college’s core values.*

## MLK March 2018



*SPC led the Education section of the MLK March.*



*SPC faculty, staff and students, including exchange students from China, marched in a group.*



## Whataburger scholarship goes to business student, entrepreneur



SPC business student Jeannie Gusme was named a scholar during the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation gala and earned recognition for her entrepreneurship. The foundation focuses awareness on the positive achievements made by outstanding business legends. Contributions to the foundation's scholarship endowment program play a key role in the growth and health of future Texas communities. Gusme's \$15,000 award is The Whataburger Scholarship, endowed for 2014-2018 through the foundation by Tom Dobson, owner of Whataburger. Gusme is the fourth SPC recipient. Gusme has entered into the world of landscaping

as a contractor this year while seeking to become a certified woman-owned entrepreneur. "The landscaping business I've started has been going well. So far I mainly have residential customers, but recently I was blessed to be able to do business with a local homebuilder to take care of his 20-plus acres. Needless to say I've been pretty busy with that," said Gusme, who is earning her degree entirely online. "I'm so incredibly grateful for this opportunity. This experience is one that I'll cherish until the day that I die. I'm looking forward to seeing what doors God is opening up for me next!," Gusme said with a smile.

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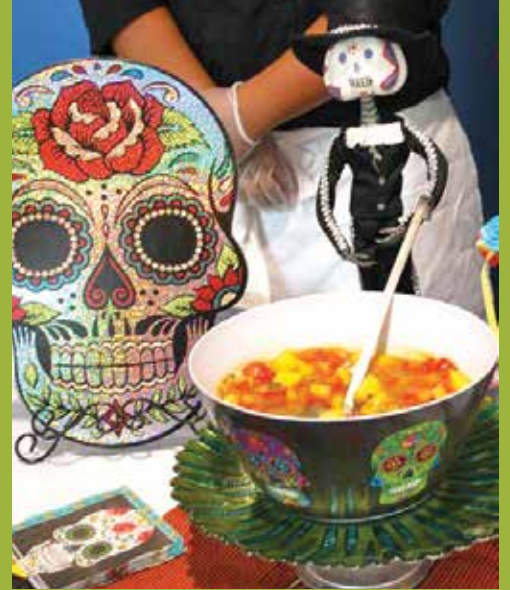
## Loston named 'Community Builder' for service



*SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston is the recipient of the Community Builder Award from members of the first and oldest Masonic Lodge in San Antonio and in Bexar County---Masonic Lodge No. 44 of The Grand Lodge of Texas Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. She received the award Sept. 23 during a lodge ceremony held in the banquet hall of the San Antonio Scottish Rite Theater. In addition to the host lodge, masons from Triune No. 15, Highland Hills No. 1373, Kelly No. 1131, San Antonio No. 1079, Perfect Union No. 10, Charles W. Anderson No. 1413, Victory No. 1160, Texas No. 8 and Nat M. Washer No. 1270 attended with guests who included Loston's family and SPC employees. The Community Builder Award is bestowed upon a man or woman who shows devotion to a community and its people without the expectation of awards or honors. The award program enables the lodge to meaningfully recognize outstanding non-masons who have distinguished themselves through their service.*



## Big salsa winners hail from Brandeis



The 2017 SPC Best Tasting Salsa Scholarship Competition: 10th Anniversary Edition ended with the Brandeis High School team -- Adalene Benavides and Tristan Bond -- on top. Each winner earned a \$500 scholarship to SPC's award-winning culinary program. The judged salsa contest included student chefs from La Vernia, Taft, Whitehouse (third place), Floresville, Clemons, Steele and East Central high schools. By placing twice---second and people's choice---Taft High School established a record for most scholarship money awarded per student (\$1000 each).

## Skills grant to fund training for 957 healthcare professionals and students



*Students pursuing healthcare professions with benefit from a Skills Development Grant for professional development that comes with additional equipment.*

Through an innovative training partnership with Texas Workforce Commission, Methodist Healthcare System of San Antonio employees will become alumni of St. Philip's College professional training programs in health sciences and nursing. A \$516,538 Skills Development Fund grant allows for customized training for 957 experienced, new and incumbent workers in the nursing, acute patient care and cardiac life support professions. According to the Methodist Healthcare web page, as San Antonio's second largest private employer, Methodist Healthcare facilities employ more than

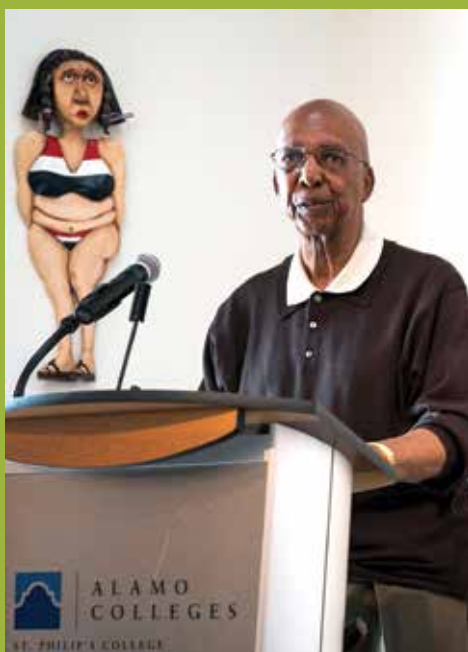
10,000 individuals. After Texas Workforce Commissioner Ruth R. Hughes presented a ceremonial check to representatives from both Methodist Healthcare System of San Antonio and Alamo Colleges District in the Atrium of the Center for Health Professions at the college, guests toured the state-of-the-art facilities where the innovative training will occur. The center is part of a \$49 million 215,000-square-foot multipurpose academic complex completed in 2009 and funded as part of a \$450 million bond package approved by voters in November 2006.

## Sculptor Paul Hurd



Sculptor Paul Hurd said, "As a child, we didn't have much money for toys, so I made my own toys and found that I liked them better than the ones other kids had. This has always been my way; I would get an idea and build it.

In high school, I was kicked out of band. The art teacher took me into the art department – Art was my savior. God has blessed me to be successful. Hurd kicked off SPC's Black History Month celebration with a unique collection of wood and clay pieces. Hurd, a retired Airman and civil servant, is a member of the San Antonio Ethnic Art Society (SEAS) and has exhibited his work for more than 30 years with the Society. Hurd is a self-taught sculptor and a storyteller through his art.



## Williams-Toomer named to White House HBCU all star team

SPC student Passion Williams-Toomer was ceremonially introduced as the third White House HBCU All Star Team member during a recent Alamo Colleges District Board of Trustees meeting. Williams-Toomer is one of over 60 students chosen from applicants across the county to earn this honor. Her project this year is to educate fellow students on the Voting Rights Act. Williams-Toomer holds a 3.7 GPA and is a member of the volleyball team. She is a student coach and community volunteer.



*Alamo Colleges District Board Chair Dr. Yvonne Katz acknowledged achievement of Passion Williams-Toomer, an HBCU All-Star, during the October board meeting with the congratulations of Dr. Loston and Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie.*

## Gastronomical forum coming to San Antonio



*Dr. Loston joined a recent contingent to Cancun for an international culinary exchange. Encuentro Gastronomical De Las Americas is a forum for exchanging ideas on cooperation among hospitality education professionals in the Western Hemisphere. Loston addressed participants, preparing them for the 2018 forum to be held at St. Philip's College.*

*Celebrating 23 Years of Fiesta!*

*St. Philip's College* 2018  
**CultureFest**  
& RibCook-Off

*April 26, 2018*  
*10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.*

**FIESTA**  
SAN ANTONIO

*Admission is free!*

*Proceeds from CultureFest help fund student scholarships.*



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

1801 Martin Luther King Drive, San Antonio, TX 78203  
[alamo.edu/spc/culturefest](http://alamo.edu/spc/culturefest)



#SPCCulturefest

## First Texas Higher Education Star Award Recognition for SPC

An exceptional contribution toward achieving one or more higher education goals of Texas' long-range strategic plan to remain globally competitive has earned SPC special recognition. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board named the Automotive Technology program one of eight finalists for its Star Award. Perennially one of the college's most popular programs in terms of enrollment, automotive joins the nationally-regarded Alamo Area Academies as a recipient of finalist status (2012). "Our college's automotive technology program has all the elements required for student

success: high program standards; affordable cost; commitment to student success; student engagement activities; increasing network of business affiliates; involvement in community; and a student-first philosophy. We are honored that the exceptional performance of our students, faculty and industry partners has been recognized beyond our service area," said Dean Chris Beardsall, who was invited to present program highlights at the annual Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference, held in Austin.

## Young - Malcolm headlines etiquette dinner



*More than two dozen girls from the Boys and Girls Club and Girl Scouts joined Dr. Loston recently for an etiquette dinner with retired WNBA athlete, Sophia Young-Malcolm. The meal was provided by culinary arts students.*



*Etiquette dinner attendees*

## Vision Care



*With ten days to prepare, 15 SPC Vision Care Technology students completed 280 free vision care screenings for junior and senior Texans Can High School students in partnership with the University of the Incarnate Word's Bowden Eye Care & Health Institute. Each high school student toured SPC with college recruiters following student-run screenings that revealed 99 of the visitors needed additional care. UIW provided free glasses and further eye care.*

## Hispanic Contractors



*The Hispanic Contractors Association Named Alamo Colleges District the 2017 Project Owner under \$10,000,000 for the St. Philip's College Veterans Outreach and Transition Center Project. Accepting the award are, from left, Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie, Dr. Loston, Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities Operation and Construction Management John Strybos and ACCD Board Chair Dr. Yvonne Katz.*

EBONY  
HBCU CAMPUS  
Queens



Vote for Arabela Alvarado, Miss St. Philip's College  
as your favorite EBONY HBCU Campus Queen!

**VOTE TODAY AT [ALAMO.EDU/SPC](http://ALAMO.EDU/SPC)**



# SAN ANTONIO'S EASTSIDE TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

featuring

*Dr. Ruth Simmons*

**May 3, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.**

St. Philip's College  
Watson Fine Arts Center  
1801 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.  
San Antonio, Texas



On May 3, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, administration, faculty and staff request your presence for the Tricentennial Celebration and Keynote Presentation by Dr. Ruth Simmons. The event, including a short play about the Savior of St. Phillip's, Miss Artemisia Bowden, starring Antoinette Winstead, and a reception for Dr. Simmons and the community, will be held in the Watson Fine Arts Center.

Dr. Ruth Simmons, a Houstonian and graduate of Houston's Phillis Wheatley High

School, is past president of both Smith College and Brown University. She has received numerous honorary degrees and honors and this spring, she was named chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Holdsworth Foundation that was created and funded by Mr. Charles Butt, Chairman and CEO of the HEB Corporation. The foundation is named for Mr. Butt's mother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Butt, and focuses on education and leadership. Meanwhile, Dr. Simmons is serving as president of Prairie View A&M University.

*This event is free of charge and open to the public. Seating is limited.  
RSVP by email to: Marsha Hall, [mhall13@alamo.edu](mailto:mhall13@alamo.edu) and include the names of persons in your party.*



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

# Graduation 2017





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Author

Margot Lee Shetterly

President's Lecture Series • September 2018

### *Upcoming Events*

- SPC 120th Anniversary - March 1
- 10th Annual Golf Tournament - March 2
- San Antonio's Cesar Chavez March for Justice - March 31
- Morgan Gallery Opening: Short and Shoe Stories - April 2
- CultureFest - April 26
- SA300 Tricentennial Event featuring Dr. Ruth Simmons - May 3

### *Newsletter Staff*

- Managing Editor – Adrian Jackson  
College Director of Public Relations
- Designer – Larry Lopez,  
Senior Multimedia Specialist
- Writer/Reporter – John Dendy,  
Public Information Officer
- Photographic Support – PR Staff