

# President's Message

Greetings friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students.



The end of the fall semester was a whirlwind of movement at St. Philip's College. Fine Arts concerts, commencement, finals and grades kept activity at a fever pitch. But it was not without its lighter moments as the International Choir (AKA the President's Cabinet) entertained staff and faculty at the MLK and Southwest Campuses with a Christmas serenade.

In November our visionary and energetic Mayor presented a snapshot of education in San Antonio as our Fall semester President's Lecture Series speaker, and the United States Under Secretary of Education, the Honorable Martha Kanter, delivered a rousing address at commencement in December.

Fall was a semester of trial and triumph, with a new district-wide computer system contributing to a challenging enrollment period. But we planned, we persevered, and in the end we executed our plan and enrolled just short of 11,000 credit students.

Our emphasis on strategic planning continued, with the submission of the Quality Texas Foundation application for the Award Level in the Education Sector of the Texas Award for Performance Excellence (TAPE), modeled after the national Malcolm Baldrige Award criteria for Excellence.

Now it is Spring semester. And we celebrate Black History Month, our college's 113th anniversary, and Women's History Month, with Fiesta and CultureFest soon to follow.

We look forward to an excellent semester of teaching and learning and supporting our community by developing the young minds who are our future leaders.

As always, I look forward to meeting friends of St. Philip's College on a personal level, and I invite you to visit our beautiful campus.

Best regards,

**Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.**  
President



ALAMO  
COLLEGES

ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE  
*A Point of Pride in the Community*

Volume 4, Issue 1 — February 2011

# President's Newsletter

## U.S. Under Secretary of Education speaks at 124th Commencement



Students at the St. Philip's College 124th commencement ceremony Dec. 10 received more than 975 degrees and certificates of completion. Graduates were treated to a keynote address delivered by The Honorable Dr. Martha J. Kanter, U.S. Under Secretary of Education—the first community college leader to serve as the under secretary.

(See Commencement / page 4)

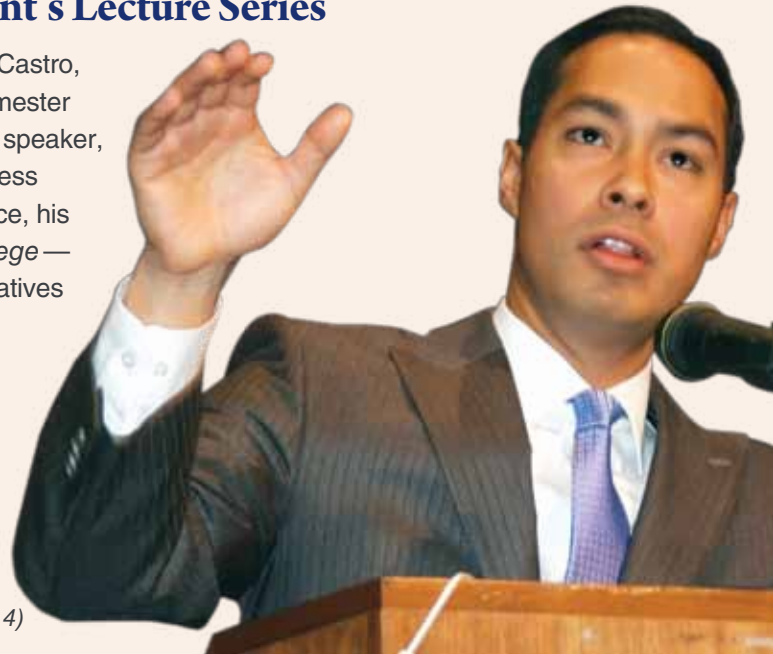
*Dr. William C. Davis, professor emeritus, and Dr. Martha J. Kanter, U.S. Under Secretary of Education and commencement speaker, received honorary associate's degrees during the St. Philip's College 124th Commencement ceremony in December. Pictured with them is George Johnson (center), SPC faculty senate president.*

## City of San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro addresses SPC as part of President's Lecture Series

San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, the college's Fall 2010 Semester President's Lecture Series speaker, delivered an inspiring address about his college experience, his newest project—*CafeCollege*—and future educational initiatives for San Antonio students.

He spoke to a capacity Watson Fine Arts Center audience of faculty, staff and visitors, including his mother Rosie Castro.

(See Mayor visits SPC / page 4)



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## SPC launches online Early Childhood Studies degree program

St. Philip's College is now enrolling students in the first online Early Childhood Studies associate degree program from an accredited community college in San Antonio.

The Early Childhood and Family Studies program, established in 2001, has over 400 alumni and is one of the college's top 10 most popular majors, said program director Pamela Ray. In 2008, the program began offering additional specializations in language and literacy, and leadership accreditation. Graduates seek jobs in the early Childhood care and education profession, or transfer to a four-year institution for a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. The new online program addresses public demand for early childhood education with both an associate degree program and a certificate of completion program, Ray explained.

"Professionalism in early childhood education

is very important in strengthening our image as educators of young children," said Ray. "Our results continue to be successful individuals who are well prepared for a variety of job and academic opportunities in the early care and education profession. Our academic facilities and our practicum are all ideal for the serious early childhood education student."

For enrollment information, contact Pamela Ray at (210) 486-2654, or Jessica Cooper, assistant professor, at (210) 486-2217.

## Other online degrees

St. Philip's also offers online degrees in Business Management and Technology, E-Business, Health Information Technology and Web Development. Online certificate programs are offered for Coding Specialist, Documentation Coding Specialist, Entrepreneurship, General Medical Transcriptionist, Specialty Medical Transcriptionist and Web Developer. For information contact Heather Cura at (210) 486-2512.



# MUSIC

# ART THEATER

# EXPERIENCE the Passion

## SPRING 2011 FINE ARTS EVENTS

**Student Art Exhibit,**  
February 1

**Spring Music Workshop,**  
February 11

**Spring Faculty Recital,**  
February 12

**San Antonio Symphony in Residence,**  
February 14-19

**Elizabeth Elequin Art Exhibit,**  
March 1-31

**Spring Theater Production,**  
April 1, 2 and 3

**Spring Theater Production,**  
April 7, 8, 9 and 10

**Spring String Ensemble,**  
April 28

**Spring Senior Recitals,**  
April 29

**Spring Jazz,**  
May 2

**Spring Dance Performance,**  
May 3

**Electronic Music,**  
May 4

**Spring Choir Concert,**  
May 8

## SPC Diesel Technology students receive green technology training

SPC Diesel Technology students received free training in the most up to date green technology during the 2010 Rush Truck Centers Technician Skills Rodeo at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in December.

The Technician Skills Rodeo is the largest of its kind held by any dealer group in the nation. It allows all of the industry's leading suppliers to display product information on new technologies, including green technologies. Rush Truck Centers, based in New Braunfels, provided the students with \$1,000–dollar–value classes on the latest in diesel technology.

“They are receiving thousands of dollars in the most up–to–date training for free for a reason—we want to make this a premiere school,” said Ronnie Newton, Vice President for Organizational Development at Rush Enterprises. “We

want high school kids to understand that the diesel folks of old do not exist as of about five years ago. The new technician is both a computer programmer and a detective—and the students at St. Philip's College get it.”

Students attended five different training classes providing factory warranty training with certificates of completion.

Rush Enterprises and the college established the opportunity for students to attend the event when the company chose to have its program in San Antonio in 2009.

“We love to hire people from St. Philip's College,” Rush Enterprises Vice President of Service Mike Besson explained. “The competition is the best part of our year, and we're pleased to include the college in our program.”



*Diesel technology students at work.*

New Braunfels-based Rush Enterprises operates the largest network of heavy and medium-duty truck dealerships in North America and a construction equipment dealership in Houston.

## SPC expands Power Generation and Alternative Energy degree to dual credit students

Students in the Harlandale, Comal, and Northeast school districts will soon be eligible to participate in St. Philip's College's new Dual Credit Power Generation and Alternative Energy degree program, allowing them to earn a college degree and a high school diploma at the same time.

Eight students have enrolled in the new program initially, and St. Philip's College is finalizing the dual credit power generation agreements with the school districts. The college received \$75,000 in federal funding for new alternative energy classroom equipment through the Alamo Region Tech Prep Consortium. The consortium is a component of the dual credit program that includes the college, industry, and the school districts that serve high school students.

The dual credit students will learn technically advanced and environmentally friendly methods to produce sustainable

electrical energy—such as wind, solar, and hydrogen fuel cells. The diploma–degree holders will be prepared for careers in electricity production at either a regional production facility or as a residential and commercial energy contractor. There have been no similar green programs of this nature within 50 miles of San Antonio until now, said Dennis McDonough, associate professor and department chair of Electronics and Information Technology.

The expanding St. Philip's College program is one of only five in Texas, and it features many unmatched facilities that are ideal for the serious science student, such as the largest rooftop solar installation in the city at the college's Southwest Campus location.

For information on all Power Generation and Alternative Energy degree programs at St. Philip's College, contact McDonough at (210) 486–2499.

## 3rd Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament scheduled for March 4

St. Philip's College will celebrate 113 years of helping students attain their educational dreams with its Third Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on March 4 at Pecan Valley Golf Course. The tournament is a centerpiece of the college's anniversary celebration.

More than 70 percent of SPC students rely on scholarships or financial aid to make their college dreams a reality. Funds raised from the tournament will help pay tuition and books for students seeking a certificate or degree.

Overall, \$200,000 in scholarships has been awarded through funds generated from the inaugural and second golf tournaments.

Interested golfers can contact Jorge Trevino, SPC Director of Institutional Advancement, at (210) 486–2576

Four of the graduates from the 124th Commencement Ceremony.



## Commencement *(from page 1)*

During the commencement address, Kanter spoke of her community college teaching and administrative experience and how it has impacted her role with the Department of Education. She focused on the value of community colleges and encouraged graduates to continue their education and training.

“We are all so proud of all of you. Just as SPC is known as ‘a point of pride in the community,’ each of you is a point of pride for your families, your communities, and your college,” Dr. Kanter said. “You

are points of pride for all of us at the U.S. Department of Education. You are points of pride for President Obama and this Administration.”

During the commencement ceremony, the college conferred an honorary associate of science degree to Dr. Kanter and an honorary associate of science degree to Dr. William C. Davis, the recently retired Professor Emeritus of the Natural Science Department of St. Philip’s College. He is the second member of his family to receive an honorary degree from

the college. Dr. Davis’ older brother, actor Ossie Davis, was the first recipient of an honorary degree from St. Philip’s College.

On the occasion of his retirement, SPC established a scholarship in Dr. Davis’s name and the Alamo College Board of Trustees approved the re-naming of the college’s science building. It was named the Dr. William C. Davis Science Building. Dr. Davis has also established an endowed scholarship for St. Philip’s College students.

## Mayor visits SPC *(from page 1)*

Mayor Castro spoke about why education is important to him. When he and his twin brother State Representative Joaquin Castro were attending a certain middle school, a teacher told the students — “look around you. One half of you will be gone by high school.” Promptly, his mother Rosie moved them to Tafolla Middle School, appalled that a teacher was validating a culture of failure.

He also encouraged students to prepare for the 21st century global economy, stressing that a high school diploma is not enough anymore, that students need at least a two-year degree. For the future, he urged youth to prepare for major industries such as alternative energy, IT security and the biosciences.

The recently opened *CaféCollege*, Mayor Castro said, aims to fill educational and access gaps by providing information,



Mayor Julian Castro with Ana Lisa Garza, chair of the President’s Lecture Series, and St. Philip’s College President Loston.

technology resources and test preparation courses to better prepare students and create a stronger brainpower community. He said that San Antonio high schools are faced with a challenging student to counselor ratio of 420 to 1.

Following his talk, a Meet our Mayor session in the college’s Morgan Gallery generated a standing-room-only meet and greet for students and the general public.

## SPC observes MLK Day of Service with marching, other activities

More than 100 SPC students, faculty and staff participated in the 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service March program.

Students staffed a booth at the MLK Commemorative Program promoting SPC's 17-year-old free tax service that returns millions to local low-income clients. The site on campus will be open to the public in the college's Bowden Building from January through April.

Radio station KRTU covered the day of service live from the campus at the intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and Meerscheidt St.

In other MLK activities, St. Philip's College President Adena Williams Loston delivered a riveting keynote speech for the 2011 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Citywide Interfaith Worship Service on Sunday, January 16 at the First Presbyterian Church. She reflected on her growing up in Mississippi during the Civil Rights era and challenged the audience to "have a King-size vision for the future."



## SPC provides free income tax preparation service

The St. Philip's College 2011 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) site will serve tax clients and provide outstanding learning opportunities for students from Jan. 24 to April 18. The site is located in Room 110 of the Bowden Building at 1801 Martin Luther King Drive. The preparation service is free of charge on a first come-first served basis; no appointments are necessary. Client parking is free, and hours of operation are Mondays and Wednesdays from 2–8 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1–7 p.m., and Saturday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites in San Antonio and Bexar County offer free tax help to persons earning \$55,000 or less with advice and tax return preparation, said site leader and

college Business Information Solutions Department faculty member Kenneth Bankston. St. Philip's College has been a successful tax preparation site for 17 years, averaging 1,700 income tax returns yearly for students and community members. This year the program will offer VITA program training sessions, a customer service email address, and a customer phone line for messages — (210) 486–2122.

St. Philip's College VITA volunteers processed \$3,610,827 in refunds for low-to moderate-income clients in 2010, serving 1,975 local clients. "The staff members at the college load our software to a server, they maintain our computers, and now they are ensuring a very professional environment for our first venture in free classroom instruction for the volunteer tax preparer. We offer excellent volunteer opportunities to scholars and community members."



VITA serves more than 1,700 citizens annually.

The college's tax site has been recognized as a leader among colleges that offer free tax preparation for low-income communities

The VITA program has training opportunities for up to 20 volunteers this year. To volunteer or register for training leave a voice message at (210) 486–2122.



## Women's History MONTH 2011 March Calendar of Events

### Art Exhibit Morgan Gallery

Works by Elizabeth Elequin  
March 1 – 31

### Watson Fine Arts Center

Meet the Artist Reception  
Tuesday, March 1  
Morgan Gallery | 6–8 p.m.

### Professor Tzarina T. Prater, Keynote Address

*"The Heroine, History and the Image: Toni Cade Bambara's Hazels and the Power of Narrative"*

Thursday, March 10  
Morgan Gallery | 1:45–3 p.m.

### "The Jungle Book"

Hosted by Dr. William Davis  
Friday, March 11  
Heritage Room | TBA

### Our History is Our Strength

*A Panel Discussion moderated by Dr. Karen Sides*

Tuesday, March 22

Heritage Room | 12:15–1:30 p.m.

### Women's History Luncheon

*Cost: \$10.00 per person*

Friday, March 25

Heritage Room | Noon–1:30 p.m.  
Contact: 486–2508 or 486–2332

### Women in Non-Traditional Occupations Conference

Thursday, March 31

SWC Building 1 | 8:30–2:00 p.m.

### Added Special:

**Presidents Lecture Series**  
*Keynote Speaker Naomi Tutu*  
March 9 — open to the public  
Watson Fine Arts Center | 11 a.m.

## LVN Program is finalist for Texas Higher Education Star awards

At a November 9 luncheon in Austin, all finalists were recognized and the Star award was presented for 2010.

St. Philip's representatives were President Dr. Adena Williams Loston; Vice Presidents Ruth Dalrymple, Dr. Sherrie Lang and Dr. Ben Kraft; Program Director of Vocational Nursing Rose Spruill; and Connie Cox, Program Coordinator for the New Braunfels Extension LVN Program. Alamo Colleges was represented by Chancellor Bruce Leslie and Trustees Joe Alderete, Roberto Zarate and Gary Beitzel.

There are several reasons why the program was named a finalist, said LVN Program Director Spruill. First, the program is keenly attuned to addressing the diversity-related needs of the community by increasing the numbers of minority graduates, an aim that supports achievement of Closing the

Gap objectives. To that end, the program graduated more Hispanic students than any other community college in Texas.

In another factor, between 2005 and 2009, the program achieved excellence in key measures recognized as critical community college accountability measures by the State of Texas. The New Braunfels campus maintained a 100% licensure pass rate from 2005 through 2009, which meets the state's criteria for excellence as defined by Texas Higher Education Accountability System.

In San Antonio, the overall licensure pass rates for the LVN program between 2005 and 2009 increased at an average rate of nearly three percentage points yearly, with an increase in licensure pass rates of six percentage points occurring between 2008 and 2009. The program's increase in pass rates between 2005 and 2009 was a big factor in the Finalist recognition because state and national trends both declined by approximately one percentage point per year over the period.



LVN students at a pinning ceremony.

The Texas Higher Education Star Award, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2001, recognizes public and independent institutions of higher education; public and private schools, and school districts for their exceptional contributions toward one or more of the goals of Closing the Gaps by 2015, the Texas higher education plan adopted by the Coordinating Board in October 2000. The plan establishes four goals – to close the gaps in student participation, student success, academic excellence and research.

## First cohort of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology students graduates

In 2005 community leaders approached St. Philip's College and identified a need for formally trained invasive cardiovascular technologists. A program was developed and the first cohort began

instruction in Spring 2008 under the leadership of Frank Arredondo, program coordinator.

That first cohort of students has now graduated, and seven of the 13 graduates are already employed. The program has accepted 16 students for Fall 2010; they will graduate in Fall 2012.

The Invasive Cardiovascular Technology Program leads to an AAS Degree and encompasses a five-semester course of study requiring a total of 64 semester hours of credit.

Students attend classes on campus and in hospital settings. The clinical sites include CHRISTUS Santa Rosa, CHRISTUS Medical Center, CHRISTUS McKenna, Northeast Baptist Hospital, South Central Texas Heart Center and the Metropolitan Methodist Hospital, among many others.

Graduates from the program are eligible to undergo an exam to become a Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS). Upon passing the exam, graduates are eligible for limited medical radiologic technologist certification in the state of Texas (LMRT).



The first graduates of the Invasive Cardiovascular Technology Program, pictured with instructor Frank Arredondo (in lab coat): Alfred Torres, Brando Currie, Debra Garcia, Denice A. Guajardo, Frances Reynoso, Ivan Ibarra, Jason Blackshear, Maria Vasquez, Ramon Rodriguez, Shirley Reyes, Stephanie Painter, Talia Hernandez and Veronica Falcon.

## SPC President competes in dance contest to raise funds



St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston placed second among contestants in the San Antonio Area Foundation *Renaissance Dancing with the Stars* gala, which benefits the San Antonio Area African American Community Fund. The fund is an organized effort to raise grant-making dollars that are governed and administered by community residents from the San Antonio area for the purpose of improving the opportunities and lives of African Americans.

## CE teams up with Elf Louise to help needy family



In keeping with the spirit of the holiday season, the Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education adopted a family in need. The staff-initiated project generated support for a family by providing and wrapping toys and clothes for the kids, who ranged in age from 2 to 16 and are being raised by their grandmother. The gifts were delivered on December 16.

Join us as we celebrate...



"A Point of Pride in the Community"

AT&T Art Donation Reception  
March 1, 2011 at 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
Center for Health Professions Atrium

## Three students named Presidential Scholars



(from left to right) Normalinda Trevino, Rachel Pounders and Nicholas Wong.

One of the most prestigious scholarships at St. Philip's College is the Presidential Scholars award. These scholarships are awarded to students with 4.0 grade point averages, individual histories of community service and commitments to involve themselves in leadership and community engagement activities. The current scholars are Rachel Pounders, Normalinda Trevino and Nicholas Wong.

Scholarship recipients each receive a \$3,000 scholarship, which includes requirements to participate in structured community engagement activities and to meet with the President of the college for mentoring opportunities.

ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE Presents

## 2011 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*African Americans and the Civil War*

### Opening Ceremony

**Dr. Morris Stribling, Guest Speaker**

**Monday, February 1**

Heritage Room | 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### Art Exhibit Morgan Gallery

**John A. Coleman, Artist**

**February 1 – 28**

Watson Fine Arts Center

### Meet the Artist Reception

Morgan Gallery | 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### Soul Food Luncheon

**Wednesday, February 9**

Southwest Campus | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Lasana Hotep, Keynote Address**

**"Relevancy of Black History in the 21st Century"**

**Thursday, February 10**

Morgan Gallery | 6 p.m.

### Symphony-in-Residence

**Damon Gupton, Guest Conductor**

**February 13 – 19**

Watson Fine Arts Theater

### Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive

**Monday, February 14**

Southwest Campus | 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

### Military Perspective: *The Civil War to Present Day*

**A Panel Discussion**

**Tuesday, February 22**

Heritage Room | 10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### The Woolworth Experience

**Monday, February 28**

Tiger Café | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The St. Philip's College President's Newsletter is published quarterly by the Office of Community and Public Relations:

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