



## SPC honors the life of Dr. William C. Davis

St. Philip's College Professor Emeritus Dr. William Conan Davis passed away on March 16, 2022, at the age of 95. Friends and family of Dr. Davis joined the college community for a reception on April 14 to celebrate his life and legacy.

Dr. Davis led a remarkable career as a researcher, food chemist and educator. His career was set in motion when his father took him on a road trip from the family's home in Valdosta, Georgia, to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There, the young Davis attended a workshop with George Washington Carver and Henry Ford. Seeing African American professors and scientists in action inspired Davis to become a chemist.

Dr. Davis created instant mash potatoes, soft-serve ice cream and industrial glue. He standardized medical tests for insulin and growth hormones. Working with a St. Philip's College colleague, Dr. Lanier Byrd, Dr. Davis studied the characteristics of drinking water and co-created the formula for Dasani brand water. William Conan Davis was born on August 22, 1926, in Waycross, Georgia to Kincaid Charles and Laura Jane Davis. He graduated from a segregated high school

and went to New York City to further his education. He lived with his brother, the late actor and civil rights activist, Ossie Davis, and briefly attended the City College of New York.

Davis went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Talladega College (Ala.) in 1956 and a Master's of Science in Organic Chemistry from the Tuskegee Institute in 1958, where he was a George Washington Carver Research Fellow.

He was determined to pursue a Ph.D. in research—an extremely difficult goal for a black student at the time. The University of Idaho was the only institution willing to accept him as a research-track grad student. He was the first African American to earn a doctoral degree from the university. His thesis was A Study of Sloughing in the Potato Tuber (1965).

With a Ph.D. in hand, Dr. Davis began to explore human health, studying hay fever antigens, learning radioimmunoassay techniques, and spent nearly 15 years as director of United Medical Laboratories in Portland, Oregon. He helped establish a free medical clinic in Portland's Albina neighborhood before relocating to San Antonio,

[alamo.edu/spc/mourns-professor](https://alamo.edu/spc/mourns-professor)

# President's Message



There is something special about St. Philip's College. Something that brings us all here. The institution has grown in many ways and continues on a trajectory rooted in the vision of its founding president, Artemisia

Bowden. For the past few years, St. Philip's has undergone constant construction or upgrading of buildings on both campuses.

Many of the changes took place while students and employees worked in remote environments as a result of the pandemic. Lockdown restrictions prevented many of us from visiting campus and seeing capital improvement projects come to fruition. Now, we will have the opportunity to gather and celebrate the completed projects on a day special to the college. We are excited to share the growth of the campus with community members and the families of those who contributed greatly to our mission.

Every year on August 18, the college observes Feast Day, commemorating the canonization of Artemisia Bowden. Saint Bowden, a visionary, has continued to guide us in exceeding the assignment and going above and beyond to foster excellence. On August 18, 2022, we will honor her service with Legacy Day, a celebration that will feature an unveiling of Saint Philips Way, a Mason's Cornerstone Ceremony, and an Oak Tree Dedication in honor of Col. Roy W. Burley, Sr. In addition, we will officially celebrate the grand opening of the Saint Artemisia Bowden Building, Clarence W. Norris Building, William Allen Hudgins Health and Wellness Building, and host an open house for the Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts Building.

A ceremony for the new Welding and Auto Collision Center will be held later this year. As we approach our quasiquicentennial, we acknowledge that Legacy Day has been 125 years in the making. The work goes on today and will continue as the college's future stewards guide it through this century and beyond.

We hope to see you at Legacy Day and encourage you to visit [alamo.edu/spc/legacyday](http://alamo.edu/spc/legacyday) for more information.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President



**Dr. Loston pictured with (from left) Dr. Cheryl Davis (daughter), his widow Ocia Davis, Nora Davis Day (niece), Mark Alan Davis (son), and other family members.**

Texas. From 1979 to 1982, Davis was a research associate in Molecular Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and, in 1983, he became a chemistry professor at St. Philip's College. Dr. Davis served as department chair of Natural Sciences, starting in 1996. He was named professor emeritus upon his retirement in 2009. On the day of his retirement, Dr. Davis awarded the college a \$20,000 endowment toward scholarships for science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics (STEM) students. In 2012, the college science building was named in his honor, the William C. Davis Science Building. Davis enrolled in the U.S. Army Officer Training Corps while a student at Talladega College. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, he served during the Korean War and was awarded with a Purple Heart in 1953. He interred at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery in San Antonio.



**In a lunchtime ceremony, the After-School All-Stars Alamo City recognized Dr. Loston as a Superhero for her leadership in education. Alamo Colleges District Board Chair Dr. Gene Sprague and ACD Chancellor Mike Flores introduced Dr. Loston to an audience that included the St. Philip's College leadership team.**

Visit the President's Photo Gallery online

[alamo.edu/spc/photo-gallery](http://alamo.edu/spc/photo-gallery)



## Histology student recognized as AlamoPROMISE Student of the Month



*Minh Ngo is pictured with (from left) Alamo Colleges District Board Chair, Dr. Gene Sprague, Dr. Loston, and Alamo Colleges District Chancellor, Dr. Mike Flores.*

St. Philip's College student, Minh Ngo, was selected as the March 2022 Districtwide AlamoPROMISE Student of the Month. He was recognized during the March 22, 2022 Alamo Colleges District Board of Trustees Meeting.

Minh is a student in the Health and Biosciences AlamoINSTITUTE. He is currently enrolled in the Histologic Technician Program and is a student member of the Texas Society for Histotechnology. Originally from Vietnam, Minh graduated from Judson High School in 2020. He first learned about SPC's Histologic Program from his high school science teacher. He became invested in it as his future after visiting the program during a field trip to SPC. Upon his return home, he worked hard and dedicated himself to doing everything he needed to do to gain acceptance to SPC and then the Histologic Technician Program.

He is very grateful to have learned about the program through his high school science teacher because he did not know about any laboratory occupations when he was in Vietnam.

Minh finds it fascinating to study the tissues and observe them under a microscope and is working very hard to become a certified technician. His professor, Lucila Escobedo, describes him as "a great team member who has learned quickly and excelled in the basic techniques of the Histology profession." She does not doubt that he will be a great Histology Technician and an asset to the Histology community.

AlamoPROMISE distinguished students are nominated by their college faculty and staff and meet eligibility requirements, including being in good standing with the College and having a minimum 3.0 GPA.

[alamo.edu/spc/apsotm](https://alamo.edu/spc/apsotm)

## SPC HIT program named 'Best in the South'

St. Philip's College Health Information Technology Program was ranked #4 in the nation by Intelligent.com for having one of the Best Registered Health Information Technician degree programs in 2022. SPC was also named "Best in the South." Over 150 college and university HIT programs were evaluated, 27 were included on the list. Rankings are calculated through a scoring system that reviews student engagement, potential return on investment, curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, post-graduate employment, and leading third-party evaluations.

"The success of the HIT Program is a result of having a strong and collaborative team that supports SPC's missions and values in giving back to the community," Program Director, Beatrice Avila. Avila has been with Alamo Colleges District since 2005.

There are currently three faculty members who hold elected positions within local organizations: Beatrice Avila is Texas Health Information Management Association (HIMA) Board Education Committee Chair; Patricia Lamson is Texas HIMA Board Marketing Chair; Cecario Guerrero is Alamo HIMA Board President-Elect. All three faculty

members are SPC alumni.

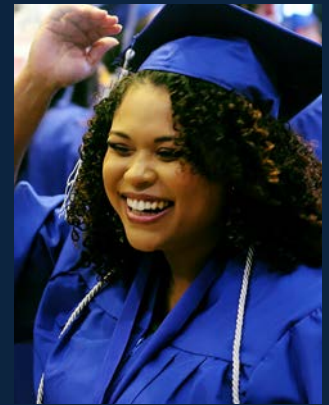
The mission of the Health Information Technology program is to provide an environment fostering excellence in technical achievement while remaining responsive to the needs of the community. The program offers an Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Technology. Graduates work in hospitals, long-term care facilities, health insurance companies, state and local government healthcare agencies, and other companies that provide patient care services.

[alamo.edu/spc/hit-best](https://alamo.edu/spc/hit-best)





Spring  
2022  
graduates!





# HAPPY 109<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY GERTHA MURPHY



At 109-years-old, Gertha Lockett Murphy is the St. Philip's College and Alamo Colleges District (ACD) oldest-living alumni. Murphy was born on May 20, 1913, in Goodwill, Texas, a small community in Washington County. She is the daughter of late farmers and the granddaughter of a former U.S. slave. Murphy graduated from St. Philip's in 1936 and worked in civil service for 27 years at Kelly Air Force Base. At the age of

60, she earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of the Incarnate Word.

In 2019, the college honored and celebrated Murphy with a 106th birthday bash hosted by SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. ACD Chancellor Mike Flores, SPC employees and Murphy's loved ones attended the event. In 2020, more than 100 cars participated in a car parade to wish her happy birthday. The

car parade included the San Antonio Fire Department, San Antonio Police Department and Bexar County Sheriff's Office. Murphy has met every one of the college's presidents, including President Emeritus Artemisia Bowden. During an interview in 2019, Murphy expressed her biggest life lessons: do the right thing, mind your own business, pray a lot, and be kind to people.

## Dr. Loston attends HBCU President's Summit



**From left: Dr. Loston, Dr. Glenda Glover President of Tennessee State, and Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith President of Harris-Stowe State University participated in a panel discussion during the event.**

Dr. Loston attended the 2022 HBCU President's Summit held at the Hyatt Hotels corporate office in Chicago, Illinois. Topics discussed included the role of corporations & HBCUs in building a talented and diverse workforce, shifting mindsets on HBCU partnerships to build talent skills for tomorrow, and sustainable behaviors and practices for engaging with HBCUs. Presidents had the opportunity to meet with corporations including American Airlines, McDonald's Corporation, Motorola Solutions, CDW Corporation, and Walgreens Company. Dr. Carmen J. Walters of Tougaloo College, Dr. Vernell Bennett-Fairs of

LeMoyne-Owen College, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover of Tennessee State University, Dr. Avis Proctor of Harper College; Dr. Christian Johnson McPhail of Saint Augustine University; Dr. Lesia Crompton Young of Texas Southern University; and Dr. Cynthia Warwick of Stillman College were among those in attendance. President and CEO of Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Mark Hoplamazian, and Chief Empathy Officer of Hyatt Hotels, Tyrone Stoudemire, also attended.



## Jessica's Project Spring Symposium Addresses Maternal Health



*Keynote speakers included (from left) SPC Personal Counselor Eitandria Tello, SPC Personal Counselor Roxanne Maynard, Director of Student Advocacy Center Sasha Wilhelm, (not pictured) Ophthalmologist Dr. Vasudha Panday, and (not pictured) student speakers Sandra Scott and Stephanie De La Rosa.*

Jessica's Project is a civic engagement program that strengthens student interest in STEAM (Sciences, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) by connecting academic topics to issues affecting the local community. Through this program, students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to engage with the community by utilizing their skills to conduct research on topics the program will focus on. This year the research was focused on Maternal Health. Part of the student conducted research involved interacting with community members to learn about their experiences with pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period. Students presented their research during the Jessica's Project event.

## National PanHellenic Council donates to HBCU Foundation Scholarship fund



The San Antonio National PanHellenic Council (SANPHC) awarded St. Philip's College a \$2,065 HBCU Foundation Scholarship during a luncheon hosted at Artemisia's in April. Organizations in attendance were members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Not present were Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

SANPHC hosted its 2nd Annual HBCU Virtual Race Challenge (September 19-25, 2021) in honor of National HBCU Week to raise

awareness of HBCUs and award a scholarship to an HBCU with the funds raised. Walkers/runners collectively completed the 'HBCU Trail' known as the distance it takes to travel to each HBCU, starting at St. Philip's College and ending at Howard University. Members of the PanHellenic Council have a healthy competition among the 9 Greek Letter Fraternity and Sororities that comprise the council. The winning Greek Letter organization selects the HBCU to receive the scholarship, this year's winner was Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. who chose St. Philip's College, their adopted HBCU since 2019.

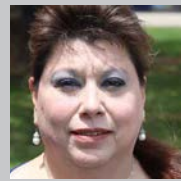


# Annual scholarship golf tournament yields \$130,000

St. Philip's College hosted its 13th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Quarry Golf Course. The event raised over \$130,000 in student scholarships. The financial contributions fund Presidential Scholarships. The funds also support Student Engagement Grants that provide opportunities for faculty and staff to create projects aimed at engaging students in campus programs. As a primary funding source, contributions from the tournament are vital in helping St. Philip's strengthen the lives of students, their families and our community. The tournament was executed with the support of over 25 sponsors including Turner Construction Company, Jordan Ford, Valero Energy Corporation, and B&A Architects. The 2023 golf tournament will take place on March 3, 2023. The event will kick off the College's quasicentennial celebration.



## NISOD Excellence Award Recipients



Valerie Moke



Naphtali Bryant



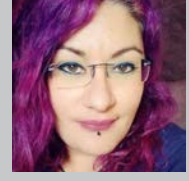
Randall Dawson



Spencer Galvan



Dr. Diane Gavin



Stephanie Gibson



Dianna Garza



George H. Johnson, III



Shelley Kozel



Jaime Miranda



Dr. Basu Panthi



Enida Rehome



James Satchell

## Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Psi Kappa Chapter wins big at Texas Regional Convention



*Pictured from left: Tyrell Williams, Mari Eslora, Dr. Loston, Keana Bowdry, Desiree Dennis, Robert Bartlett, and Janel Sohl.*

During the Texas Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) conference held in early March, the Texas Region recognized the St. Philip's College Psi Kappa Chapter with five awards: Hall of Honor for Outstanding Members, Distinguished Officer Team, Distinguished Member (Janel Sohl), Best Digital Yearbook Award, Hall of Honor for Outstanding Advisors (Tyrell Williams), and the Horizon Award (Tyrell Williams). The conference was held March 10-12 in Frisco.

The Distinguished Officer Team award recognizes PTK officers for their exceptional atmosphere of teamwork, leadership abilities, promotion of Honors in Action, and engagement in the Society and the Texas

Region. The officers recognized include Robert Bartlett, Keana Bowdry, Mari Eslora, Martin Hernandez, and Janel Sohl.

Associate Professor of Speech Communication and PTK Advisor, Tyrell Williams was recognized for significant contributions to the growth of individual members, his service as the chapter's advocate on campus, and his leadership in encouraging the chapter to be involved on the local, regional, and/or international levels of the organization.

In April, PTK members attended the Catalyst 2022 Annual Conference held in Denver, Colorado. During the conference, Sohl was named a 2022 Distinguished

Member; Williams was named a 2022 Distinguished Advisor, and officers received the 2022 Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award.

SPC's PTK chapter was established in 1972 and has held 5 Star Chapter status for ten consecutive years. Additional regional level accolades include the Friend of Texas Award, Most Distinguished Advisor for the Texas Region, Scholarship Hallmark Award, Regional Milestone Award, Top 3 Chapter for 2012, Icarus Award, Texas Awards, Hallmark Service Award, and All-Texas Academic Team.

[alamo.edu/spc/ptktxregionals](https://alamo.edu/spc/ptktxregionals)

## SPC Named Among Top 10 Most Affordable HBCUs

St. Philip's College was ranked among the top 10 most affordable Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) by Student Loan Hero. The College ranks ninth among all institutions and number one in Texas for affordability. With a yearly net cost-of-attendance of \$6,250, it also ranks the third lowest in student loan debt among graduates from HBCUs.

Student Loan Hero researchers reviewed Department of Education College Scorecard data, using average annual net costs, which include tuition, room, board, and books, to determine most and least affordability. Student Loan Hero was founded in 2012 to help student loan borrowers organize, manage, and repay their student loan debt through smarter and more informed decisions.

Today, there are over 100 HBCUs across the U.S. granting degrees to students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. St. Philip's College is one of nine HBCUs in Texas. The College has been recognized as one of the fastest growing HBCUs, as mentioned in a December 2021 article by the Business Journal.

[alamo.edu/spc/top10affordablehbcu](https://alamo.edu/spc/top10affordablehbcu)





## CultureFest Brings Fiesta to San Antonio's Eastside

After pausing the party for two years due to the pandemic, the St. Philip's College CultureFest and Rib-Cook-off was back for the Fiesta season. The official Fiesta San Antonio event is the biggest Fiesta celebration on San Antonio's Eastside. The opening ceremony featured remarks from Dr. Loston, Alamo Colleges District Board Chair Dr. Gene Sprague, District 2 Trustee Gloria Ray, Miss San Antonio 2022 Elaina McCoulskey, and 436th District Court Judge William "Cruz" Shaw. Fiesta San Antonio Commission Leadership presented the college with a Participating Member Organization Certificate for its commitment to the Fiesta mission in presenting a safe, educational, annual celebration of the diverse heritage, culture and spirit of San Antonio. The festival featured live music, food, dance, games, a car show sponsored by the Automotive Department and Jordan Ford, and a celebrity-judged rib competition managed by SPC culinary faculty and students. The event also included a raffle for three BBQ grills made by welding students at Southwest campus.



## Students attend first-ever Texas HBCU Conference

Members of Texas' historically Black colleges and universities gathered for the inaugural Texas HBCU Conference held at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin. The conference focused on topics surrounding structural problems in higher education and how to better serve students from historically-marginalized communities.

The event featured speeches from campus leaders, conversations with state lawmakers who represent HBCUs in their districts, and a roundtable discussion with students who spoke about the experiences and challenges of attending HBCUs.

Students and community members from seven HBCUs in Texas — Jarvis Christian College; Prairie View A&M University; St. Philip's College; Southwestern Christian College; Texas Southern University; Wiley College and Huston-Tillotson University — attended.

"The HBCU Conference was an amazing experience and so informative. I enjoyed learning about the history of our college and meeting some amazing and powerful individuals," said student Pedro Titsworth.





## IN THE MEDIA

SPC cyber grads accept an average starting salary of **\$55,000**

### SPC touted for building talent pipelines in tech industry

In an article published by the Business Journals, St. Philip's College is at the forefront of 2-year HBCUs receiving recognition for their role in U.S. workforce development. Article author Hilary Burns highlights corporate America's increasing willingness to find diverse entry-level talent to fill labor gaps in information technology positions.

The article mentions how minority-serving institutions are often overlooked and underfunded. Yet for years, minority-serving institutions like St. Philip's have successfully produced talent pipelines that support the nation's workforce demands.

The article includes information on the new Saint Artemisia Bowden Building that will host a cyber range where students can learn how to detect and mitigate real-life cyberattack scenarios and quotes Dr. Loston, alumni Dione Delon, Information Technology Director and Associate Professor Rick Lopez, and Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology (MLK) Edith Orozco.

Read the full article here:  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2022/04/08/2-year-hbcus-tech-talent-pipeline.html>

SPC received **\$93.2M** in Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF)

### \$55M in ARP funds allocated towards SPC building renovations

As part of the American Rescue Plan, St. Philip's College received \$93.2 million in federal funds from a relief program targeted at higher education institutions. \$55 million of the funds are reserved for building renovations.

In an article by the San Antonio Business Journal, Mitchell Parton explains how the designated amount will cover a range of institutional improvements, including strategies to transform the learning environment. Improvements include classroom renovations, upgraded learning technology, and instructional design.

Read the full article here:  
<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2022/02/15/st-philips-college-renovations.html>

**40%** of cybersecurity positions remain unfilled in San Antonio





## SPC's second female president, Dr. Gloria M. Jackson, celebrates birthday



*Former SPC President Dr. Gloria Jackson (far left) recently attended a tea service at Artemisia's with Sally Turbon, wife of the late E.L. Turbon; Dr. Loston; and Dr. Marie Pannell Thurston, author and historian.*

Dr. Gloria M. Jackson led St. Philip's College from 1982 to 1984. St. Philip's College celebrated her contributions and service on May 20, 2022, the day of her 91st birthday. Dr. Jackson joined SPC as an assistant professor in the Business Department. She later became department chair and held various leadership positions. She was selected as President of St. Philip's College and led for two years. She left St. Philip's in 1984 to work for ACCD Chancellor Dr. Byron McClenney on special projects, including the opening of Palo Alto College in 1985. Dr. Jackson found that she missed teaching and interacting with students, so she took a faculty position at San Antonio College. Her retirement in 1999, marked her 50th year in education.

## Napa Valley internship offers student experience of a lifetime



*Marcus Clark (center) pictured with Fantasca Estate & Winery Director DLYnn Proctor, and Dr. Loston.*

Culinary Arts student, Marcus Clark, has been awarded a unique experience to spend five days at the Fantasca Estate & Winery located in Napa Valley, California. The internship is part of an experiential learning scholarship award funded by DLYnn Proctor, Fantasca Director. Mr. Proctor will serve as a mentor to Mr. Clark for the duration of the

internship. The two met in early April during a luncheon at Artemisia's.

The award includes internship travel and living expenses. The experimental learning opportunity has a value of over \$10,000. Additionally, Mr. Clark will receive over \$8,000 in financial support to cover tuition and books during the course of his studies



*Mr. Proctor had the opportunity to meet with college leadership and tour the new Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts Building.*

at St. Philip's College. Mr. Clark holds a 4.0 GPA and is active with various campus organizations. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, and National Society of Minorities in Hospitality. He is expected to graduate in Spring 2023.



Three Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts students traveled to Bethune-Cookman University in Florida for the Super Regional Conference of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH). Marcus Clark, Sarah Morehead, and Audrey Aguirre took part in a variety of professional development workshops, networking, and career development activities with industry leaders, peers, and academics from across the nation. Students were led by SPC Hospitality Management Faculty and NSMH Faculty Advisor Corey McNair. SPC students, Sara Morehead (center), NSMH President; and Donyell Morehead (right), NSMH Vice President met with Dr. Loston to share with her what students experienced and the opportunities offered to students who attended.

St. Philip's College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees and certificates. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of St. Philip's College.

### *Upcoming Events*

For more information on upcoming events and to receive the latest information on campus announcements follow us on social media.



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**Managing Editor** – Alexa Saavedra,  
Strategic Communications Coordinator

**Editor** – Adrian Jackson,  
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