

2023

# PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

The Homecoming  
Blue and White  
Sneaker Ball  
Dinner & Dance.



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

ISSUE  
**03**

## President's Message



Progress is not merely about reaching a destination; it is about the continuous journey of improvement and growth. Every day, we strive to be better than we were yesterday.

As president of St. Philip's College, I've had the pleasure of watching transformative progress on both campuses. We've opened six new buildings, renovated four buildings, have three buildings currently under renovation, and two more scheduled for renovations.

Progress is a shared mission. Our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community have all played a vital role in propelling us forward to serve the ever-changing needs of the city of San Antonio. We have accomplished a tremendous amount in our 125-year history and there's more to come.

St. Philip's is uniquely positioned for even greater things because of our history, location in the city, and dual designation as one of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI). This year, we achieved a milestone of reaching over 14,000 students. As we look ahead, let us be inspired by the perseverance demonstrated by those who came before us. To quote Saint Artemisia Bowden: "I am just as hopeful as ever!"



## SPC hosts Tiger Nation Family Day



At Tiger Nation Family Day, nearly 300 St. Philip's College students and their 200 family members were officially inducted into Tiger Nation.

Tiger Nation Family Day is an all-day event designed to introduce students to college leadership, highlight programs and services, inspire students, welcome families, and orient everyone to the beautiful MLK Campus. This semester's event was about resilience and strength as SPC celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

Since 2014, this signature event has held a special place in the college's tradition, serving as a kick-off to the semester and promoting a sense of unity and enthusiasm among the SPC community. Building a support structure with other students, faculty and staff is critical to success. Students who engage in college outside of the classroom are more likely to persist and graduate.

"Success looks different for each person and that's what this event is about. We help students identify people who will help them



reach success and give them a glimpse of what their future at SPC will look like," said Committee Co-Chair and Director of Student Success Liz Castillo.

Highlights of the event included campus tours, a student service support expo, financial literacy family feud, and a student job fair. Every part of the event was carefully orchestrated to create an environment of success for our students. At the event, two iPad packages and three \$500 scholarships were given to incoming SPC students.



Show here, from left, Executive Assistant to the President Dr. Jeanie Murphy, Director of Strategic Initiatives Marsha P. Hall, Dean for Academic Success, Academic Services Dr. Kimberley Irving-Conaway, Interim Dean for Student Success, Enrollment Management Andres Arredondo, Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology - SWC Chris Beardsall, Director of Marketing & Strategic Communications Adrian Jackson, Dean for Academic Success, Health Sciences Christopher Metsgar, Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology - MLK Edith Orozco, President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Dean of Performance Excellence Dr. Diane Gavin, Vice President for Academic Success Randall Dawson, Interim Dean for Academic Success, Arts & Sciences Dr. Michael Grillo, Vice President for Student Success Wesley B. Wells, College Budget Officer Jorge Flores, Interim Dean for Student Success, Educational Support Services Enida Rehome, Interim Vice President for College Services George H. Johnson, III, Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Sharon Crockett-Ray, and Academic Program Director, Title III Grants Management Office Dr. Tomeka C. Wilson.

## Hispanic Heritage Month at SPC

As a Hispanic Serving Institution, St. Philip's College takes great pride in hosting events from September 15 to October 15 in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. This year, SPC adopted the national theme, "Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America."

The kickoff celebrations were done in style as Mariachis serenaded students, faculty, and staff at the MLK and Southwest campuses, setting the perfect mood for the monthlong festivities. The college hosted various events including the Meet the Artist Reception featuring Larry Portillo, Millennial Loteria, Make Your Own Picado, and a high school salsa competition.

One highlight was the "It Matters Enough to Talk About It: Excelling While Latino" panel featuring prominent local Hispanic men who have made a lasting impact in their respective fields. At the conclusion of the event, the Rey Feo Foundation Scholarship provided 39 construction trade students with \$1,000 scholarships. Additionally, the Joseph M. Tarin Scholarship, established by parents Dr. Victor and Rachel Tarin, was awarded to culinary arts majors Rosa Boyles and Jacob Rodriguez in the amount of \$1,250 each.

At St. Philip's College, Hispanic Heritage Month is not just a month of celebrations; it is an educational journey fostering a sense of unity among students, faculty, and staff. Although the month ended, the spirit of appreciation continues to thrive through the college's commitment to creating engagement through social, cultural, and intellectual enrichment experiences for the entire community.



*Congratulations to the winners of the high school salsa competition. In first place was Wagner H.S., second place goes went O'Conner H.S., third to Roosevelt H.S., and the people's choice award was given to La Vernia H.S*



*St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted It Matters Enough to Talk About It: Excelling While Latino panel discussion. Pictured here, from left, President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Executive Director of the Greater San Antonio (GSA) Chapter of the American Red Cross Dr. Daniel P. Martinez, the #CPAguy Robert Garcia, President and Chief Executive Officer for Modern Managed IT Luis A. Rodriguez, Regional Vice President of Ward North American Van Lines Jason Massiatte, and College Budget Officer Jorge Flores who served as moderator.*

SPC



*Congratulations to the 2023 - 2024 Homecoming King, Queen and Royal Court Winners! Pictured here, from left, SPC Duke Roland Cantu, SPC Duchess Bertice Scott, SPC Princess Alyssa Vasquez-Garza, SPC Prince Jeremiah Salazar, SPC Queen Audren Pineda, SPC King Marq Vaughn, SPC ECHS Queen Breann Davis, and SPC ECHS King Sincere Spivey.*



# HOMECOMING BLUE AND WHITE SNEAKER BALL DINNER & DANCE

2023



*St. Philip's College President College, Dr. Loston pictured here with SPC Queen Audren Pineda and SPC King Marq Vaughn.*

*Show here, from left, former SPC Queen Brittney Carson, President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, and former SPC King Tony Sanders.*

## Student Spotlight: Amy Hardy



*Amy Hardy*

Last fall, St. Philip's College student Amy Hardy was considering dropping out of college. Then, she got a call from her

Spanish professor, Spencer Galvan, who offered her a grant-funded position as a research assistant for the Extended Reality Initiative - a team of faculty and students at SPC who work together to introduce new technology into the teaching and learning experience.

"At first, I didn't realize the difference between St. Philip's and the past colleges I attended. The previous schools I went to marked off my attendance and saw me as a number, but SPC was different. Assistant Professor Galvan saw my potential and offered me an opportunity that changed my education trajectory and helped build my confidence," said Amy. Just a year later, Amy proudly represented SPC at the Converge 2023 Conference in Baltimore, which is mostly attended

by students in graduate programs. The conference brings together individuals from academia, industry, the non-profit sector, government, and communities. Amy presented two sessions on her research findings for the ImmerseMe Spanish program that tracked student motivation factors and engagement rates. After the conference, Amy received several accolades from graduate research peers and offers to continue her research studies at several universities. "She's such a gem. I'm so glad she stayed at the college. SPC would be missing out on so much," said Assistant Professor Spencer Galvan. Amy will graduate in May 2024 with her Associate of Arts degree pre-majoring in Business Administration.

## SPC Announces Fulbright Scholar

St. Philip's College welcomes this year's Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Prof. Vladimir Narsia of Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Fulbright SIR Program brings visiting scholars from abroad to U.S. colleges and universities, helping institutions diversify the educational experiences of their students.

Narsia is one of more than 45 Fulbright Scholars, and among 1,000 foreign faculty and professionals who will teach and pursue research in the United States for the 2023-2024 academic year. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kutaisi State University (Tbilisi) and a law degree from Tbilisi State University. He also earned two post-graduate degrees: a Master of Theology (M.Th.) degree from Tbilisi Theological Academy and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from Cardiff University (Wales, U.K.).

Narsia is an Assistant Professor of Theology and Canon Law at Ilia State University, where he is also the head of the Canon Law Centre. He previously held academic posts in Tbilisi at the Georgian American University and The Saint Andrew the First-Called Georgian University of the Patriarchate of Georgia. During the academic year 2021-2022, he lived in Rome as a Russell Berrie Fellow at the John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue at the Pontifical



*SPC's Fulbright Scholar was recognized at the Alamo College District Convocation, from left, Chancellor of the Alamo Colleges District Dr. Mike Flores, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Fulbright Scholar Professor Vladimir Narsia, Northwest Vista College President Dr. Amy Bosley, and Professor Andrew Hill.*

University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Prof. Narsia is a recognized expert on ecumenical relations and interfaith dialogue, and promises to be a valuable resource for the "Introduction to World Religions" (PHIL 1304) course, and our campus-wide Interfaith Dialogue initiatives. He has taught courses on Religion and Law; Religion and Politics; Religion and Society; and Church-State Relationships in Georgia.

## Presidential Scholars



Congratulation to the Presidential Scholarship recipients for the 2023-2024 academic year. Pictured here are recipients Valori Rodriguez, Amy Ayala, Jaskiran Kahlon, and Dr. Loston.

## Strada Scholars

Congratulations to Kristin Jackson, Caesar Perez, Suzanne Meegan, Nathaniel Herrera, and Kaylah Soto, our Strada HBCU scholars for the 2023 – 2024. These students actively participate in clubs and organizations on campus, and engage in various community service programs in San Antonio.





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**DECEMBER 15 7:00 P.M. FREEMAN COLISEUM**

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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