

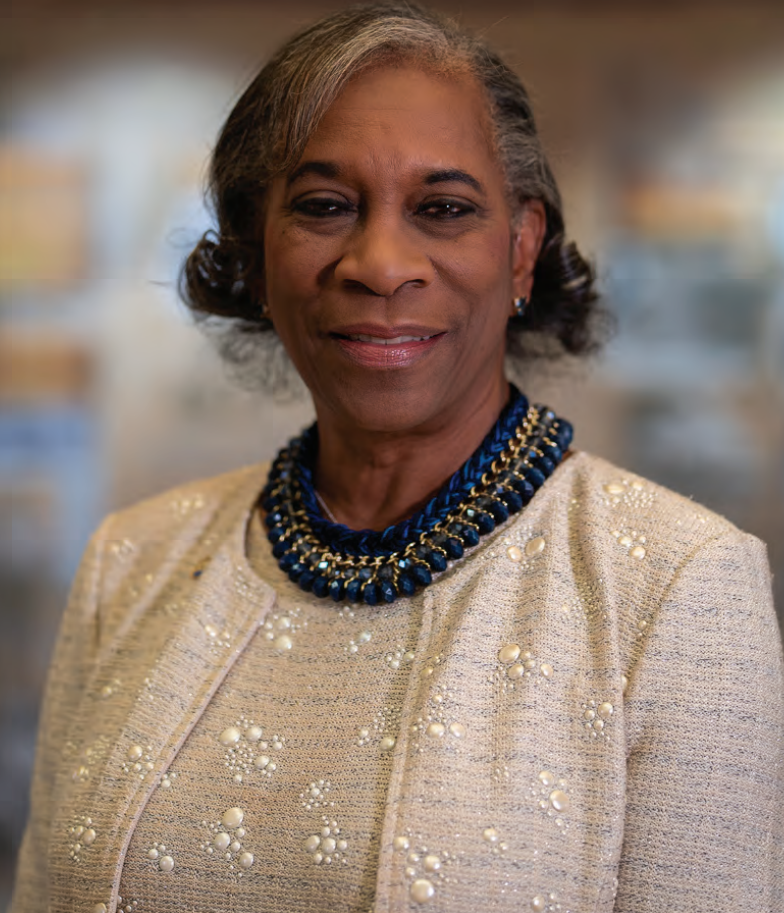


ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
St. Philip's College

"A Point of Pride in the Community"

President's Newsletter

2023, Issue 1



St. Philip's College celebrates 125 Years

Quasiquintennial! It's an unfamiliar word to most and its meaning echoes prestige, high performance, and pride. As the 14th president of St. Philip's College, I am privileged to say Happy Quasiquintennial or Happy 125th Anniversary!

As we celebrate this milestone, I reflect on the rich history and unique legacy of St Philip's College.

Our historical impact is most apparent by our dual designation as both a Historically Black College and Hispanic-Serving Institution. Serving our community for 125 years has afforded us the opportunity to have educated generations of San Antonians whose futures are improved by economically-stable careers.

What would Saint Artemisia Bowden, the "Savior of St. Philip's," think of where we are today? She laid the foundation for teaching leadership and marketable skills to the daughters and granddaughters of former slaves and we've expanded to be inclusive to all backgrounds, ethnicities, and races. The school she led for 52 years has grown to two campuses and a student body of nearly 13,000.

Saint Bowden said, "Learn to do something, and do it well." And, St. Philip's faculty, staff, students and alumni have worked tirelessly to secure the future of our institution. If she could tour the campuses and look at all the programs we offer, I think her response would be, "Well done!"



SPC's 125th Anniversary Celebration



Dr. Loston gives remarks and acknowledgements at St. Philip's College's 125th Anniversary Celebration.

On March 1, 2023, St. Philip's College's marked its 125 years of service to the San Antonio community with a celebration that proved to be a night to remember. The event was held in one of SPC's newest buildings, the William Allen Hudgins Health and Wellness Center.

The evening began with Mariachis Las Altenas and the St. Philip's College Mascot, Phil the Tiger, greeting guests. KENS 5 Newscaster Marvin Hurst welcomed nearly 450 guests to the event as Master of Ceremonies.

Sponsors for the celebration included The Links Inc., USAA, Turner Construction Company, HEB, NuStar Energy; San Antonio Area Foundation, Spurs Sports & Entertainment, Susser Bank, Valero, and Red Knight.

Students were the focus of the event. Student Government Association President Valentin Morin; Strada Scholar and alumnus Zena Hariri, and alumnus Enrique Salinas spoke about St. Philip's College's remarkable 125-year history and legacy. Additionally, Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts students provided the fine dining experience.

The night concluded with an anniversary toast and fireworks display that adorned the St. Philip's College skyline.



St. Philip's College students, staff and faculty assembled for a group photo after the conclusion of the 125th celebration.



Phil the Mascot



Dr. Loston with Dr. Gloria Jackson (seated), 8th President of St. Philip's College, and University of Texas at San Antonio Professor Dr. Brenda Jones. Dr. Jackson taught both Drs. Loston and Jones during her tenure as department chair at Alcorn State University.

SPC Celebrates Black History Month



In February 2023, St. Philip's College launched its Black History Month celebrations with programs and events for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community that reflected the national theme, "Black Resistance." The events strived to motivate, inspire and enlighten.

The most notable events were the Feb. 2 opening ceremony featuring dynamic speaker, Akeem Brown and the Feb. 16 special event with Little Rock Nine's Elizabeth Eckford.

Brown spoke about his dedication to serving students on San Antonio's Eastside. By founding a school, he seeks

to provide students with pathways to opportunities he feels are lacking in many areas of the city. His school uses a project-based learning model focusing on public policy.

Eckford shared her story of black resistance. Eckford was the first member of the Little Rock Nine to arrive at Central High School to desegregate the school in 1957. The then 15-year-old faced an enraged, racist, mob alone.

Considering both the present and past, these events worked together to define what "Black Resistance" can look like when a single life strives to bring liberty and justice for all.



Pictured above is opening ceremony speaker Akeem Brown, Essence Prep Founder and Superintendent, and Little Rock Nine's Elizabeth Eckford at their speaking engagements for Black History Month.

28th Annual CultureFest and Rib Cook-Off



St. Philip's College was bustling with energy on Thursday, April 27 for the 28th Annual CultureFest and Rib Cook-Off. As the largest official Fiesta San Antonio event on the Eastside, nearly 1,500 were in attendance.

The event began with a parade of flags, celebrating the various cultures represented at SPC accompanied by the Sam Houston Hurricane Marching Band. Directly following was a blessing from the Tehuan Band of Mission Indians of San Antonio.

Musical entertainment for the mainstage included Mariachis Las Altenas, the Palacio Brothers, Carbonlily, Roger Velasquez and the Latin Legends, and DJ Such and Such.

At the center of the event was the Rib Cook-off judged by a community member panel. Judges included Tommy Calvert, Akeem Brown, John Meyer, Teresa Menendez Myers, and Renee Watson.

CultureFest Rib Cook-Off Winners for the beef category were Simon Zuniga, Rochel'l Le Duran, and Francisco Antonio.

For the pork category, winners were Benjamin, Alexandra Wilhelm, and Burbank High School. The student choice award went to Benjamin Ochoa.

Over 50 individuals participated in the car show, including Alamo Corvette Club, Performance Mustang Car Club, Southwest Texas Shelby Car Club, Tundra Car Club, Push Rods Car Club, and the Alamo City Rods.

Car show winners include Joseph Winkler, Drew Somers, and Rupert Caro for the classic category, Walter Fletcher, Chant Ovalles, and Miguel Ramirez for the hot rod category, Chris Pandei, Ken Agres, and Miguel Rosario for the modern category, Adrian Gonzales, Francesca Cruz, and Mo Patel for the truck category, and William Moseley as the president's choice.

The event concluded with the BBQ pit raffle from mainstage. Winners are Daniel Chavez, Daniel Garcia, and Adrian Jackson.

CultureFest also included an open house, bringing 600 high school students

to campus. The students traveled from Community in Schools and Lee High School from Baytown, Texas; and, locally, Kennedy HS, Southwest Legacy HS, Southwest Legacy CAST STEM, South San Antonio HS, Judson Learning Academy, Sam Houston HS, Holmes HS, Brennan HS, Burbank HS, Somerset HS and Lytle HS.

Two students each received \$1,000 scholarships to attend St. Philip's College – Isaiha Morones from Holmes High School and Cameron Marie Escobar from Southwest Legacy High School.

The event was truly a community collaboration. Nearly 200 volunteers – students, employees, alumni and community members -- worked together to bring Fiesta to the Eastside of San Antonio, honoring the heritage of San Antonio and the cultural influence of St. Philip's College. All proceeds from the CultureFest and Rib Cook-Off go directly toward student scholarships.



Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony

Pomp and circumstance echoed through the Freeman Coliseum on Friday, May 12 at 7 p.m. while St. Philip's College students marched in formation for the Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony. A sense of pride was palpable as these soon-to-be graduates waved to their families in the stands and took their seats for the welcome address.

The Spring 2023 commencement ceremony stands in a category of its own, serving as a monumental milestone for students who started their studies at St. Philip's mid-pandemic. This ceremony also stood as a point of pride for the college, as the 148th commencement ceremony and the first in its year-long lineup to celebrate St. Philip's College's 125th Anniversary.

To celebrate this important occasion, former NBA player, David Robinson, gave the commencement speech. "You are the warriors, you are the ones to set the stage for our future... and you need to be warriors because the world is a challenging place right now," he said.

While the entire world was in complete disarray during the pandemic, these resilient students chose to pursue associate degrees or certificates. For spring 2023, SPC had over 1,100 graduates who applied to earn over 1,400 degrees and certificates, and nearly 700 participated in the commencement ceremony.

Congratulations Class of 2023!



14th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament



SPC student golfers and Dr. Loston pose for a quick picture before the tournament began.

The tee-off for St. Philip's College's Fourteenth Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament took place on the morning of Friday, March 3, 2023, at the Olympia Hills Golf & Event Center.

At the tournament, over 20 companies and nearly 200 players, including students, partnered to make the day a huge success. Among sponsoring companies were President's List sponsors CPS Energy, Valero, Jordan Ford, and The Links, Inc.

Every year, this SPC signature event is the largest fundraising source for student scholarships. Tuition per semester for a full-time student averages \$1,188 with additional textbook costs of around \$500. With that in mind, the 2023 fundraising event goal of \$130,000 has the potential to impact nearly 100 students. Scholarships will be awarded to these students in one of two forms, as a Presidential Scholarship or Student Engagement grant, both of which allow the student to partner with SPC and give back to the community that invested in them. And for SPC, that's a "Hole in One".

IT'S ABOUT GIVING BACK

Your financial contributions are vital in helping St. Philip's College strengthen the lives of our students, their families, and our community.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS GIVE BACK THROUGH SERVICE ON CAMPUS.
PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS GIVE BACK THROUGH SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY.



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San Antonio, TX 78203

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HELP US CELEBRATE ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY BY PURCHASING A LIMITED 125TH COMMEMORATIVE ITEM!

100% OF THE PROCEEDS FROM JERSEYS, NECK TIES, BOW TIES, AND SCARVES WILL GO TOWARDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.



[GIVING.ALAMO.EDU/SPC125-LIMITED-ITEMS](https://giving.alamo.edu/spc125-limited-items)

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.



Newsletter Staff

Managing Editor – Melissa Aguirre,
Strategic Communications Coordinator

Editor – Adrian Jackson,
Director of Marketing &
Strategic Communications

Designer – Larry Lopez,
Marketing Content Creator

Photography – Chanel Gatica,
Visual Content Creator

Additional photo support provided by
the Marketing & Strategic
Communications Department.



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AN ENHANCED
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