



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

*"A Point of Pride in the Community"*

# President's Newsletter

Spring 2020



From left, SPC Early College High School student Essie Richardson, Alamo Colleges District Board Trustee Dr. Yvonne Katz (D7), Dr. Loston, Trusse Norris, Trustee Dr. Gene Sprague (D6) and Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores. Norris is the son of the late Dr. Clarence W. Norris, who led the college from 1961-1969.

## St. Philip's College Celebrates Topping Out of Norris Technical Building

St. Philip's College held a ceremony to celebrate the raising of the last beam on an extensive renovation project. The Norris Technical Building was built in 1969. It was dedicated to honor Dr. Clarence W. Norris, Dean Emeritus, in 1975, and renovated in 1996. Trusse Norris, the youngest son of the late Dr. Norris, traveled from California to attend.



Signing of the beam signifies the end of a phase of the renovation. The beam was hoisted into place on the Mittman Street side.



SKANSKA Executive Vice President Ryan Aalsma presents Dr. Loston with a "Norris Project Topping Out" t-shirt worn by SKANSKA's team during the ceremony.



## President's Message



We recently celebrated the raising of the final beam to mark the end of this phase of the Norris Technical Building renovation.

The building was constructed in 1969, expanded in 1972, and dedicated in honor of Dr. Clarence W. Norris, Dean Emeritus, in 1975.

Artemisia Bowden handpicked Dr. Norris in 1943 to be her successor. She sent him a letter, including, "I urge your prayerful consideration in this matter, for somehow, I feel that the future of the institution may be affected by your decision."

Dr. Norris joined the college as an administrator. When SPC joined San Antonio College to form a district, it became a branch campus and President Bowden accepted a demotion to dean. She was not allowed in the room where decisions about St. Philip's were made. When she retired, Dr. Norris was promoted to lead the college, but not as president – a title held only by the president of San Antonio College. Dr. Norris led as Dean of College from 1961 to 1969.

A president did not return to St. Philip's College until 1983.

In 1974, Dr. Norris stepped down as the head of the college and returned to teaching. He was a faculty member until his retirement and was named a Piper Professor in 1970 by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

In 1974, he was named Dean Emeritus. This month, Alamo Colleges District Board of Trustees will consider naming Dr. Norris President Emeritus. This will correct a historical wrong and give Dr. Norris the recognition he has earned for his leadership.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## Three Selected for All-Texas Academic Team

Students, Michelle Ochoa, Jose Martinez and HBCU Scholar Catherine Cantu, were selected to join the 2020 All-Texas Academic Team sponsored by the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa International, a worldwide honor society. The All-Texas Academic Team Awards are presented annually to two-year college students nominated by their institutions to compete for one of 20 spots in the All-USA Community College Academic Team scholarship program. Students are selected based on outstanding academic achievement and demonstrations of leadership and community service. Student will be recognized during a ceremony in April at the University of Texas at Dallas.



Michelle Ochoa,  
Nursing



Jose Martinez,  
Information Technology



Catherine Cantu,  
Science, HBCU Scholar

## SPC Earns Online Learner Support Certification



Quality Matters (QM), the international leader for quality assurance in online and innovative digital teaching and learning environments, awarded St. Philip's College the Online Learner Support Certification. The certification recognizes programs that provide all the critical student and academic services needed for learner success and use learner feedback to continuously improve services. QM's Online Learner Support Certification is achieved when an institution submits evidence of direct and indirect support for online learners. St. Philip's College is the third community college in the nation to earn this type of program certification, recognizing its commitment to providing students with an exceptional online learning experience.

ST. PHILIP'S THEATRE PRESENTS



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

# ORIGINALS REX



HOW DREADFUL  
THE KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE *Truth*  
CAN BE...

**MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, \* 3, 4, 5**  
CANCELED

Fri & Sat: 8pm | Sun: 2:30 pm | \*Special High School Performance, 4/2, 10am

*The* **WATSON THEATRE** 1801 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR. SA, TX. 78203  
ST. PHILIP'S IS A POINT OF PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY AND ONE OF THE ALAMO COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

GENERAL \$10; ACC STUDENTS & EMPLOYEES, SENIORS, SATCO \$5; HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS \$5  
CASH ONLY AT BOX OFFICE • FOR ADVANCED TICKETS, CALL MARIA ANDREWS (210) 486-2205



## 142<sup>nd</sup> Commencement Ceremony

St. Philip's College conferred 750 degrees and certificates during the Fall 2019 Commencement Ceremony. U.S. District Judge Jason Kenneth Pulliam served as the keynote speaker during the ceremony. Pulliam became the first African American to sit on the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals and is now the first African American to hold a bench on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

The San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble provided processional and recessional music for the evening. The posting of the colors was presented by the Sam Houston High School Junior ROTC Cadets, accompanied by the St. Philip's College Choir's performance of the United States National Anthem.

The evening featured Student Commencement Speaker, Terrance Johnson who shared his journey to graduation including experiences with illness and homelessness. His story was so compelling that Judge Jason Pulliam announced his intent to pay Johnson's outstanding tuition. The exemplary student has since transferred to Texas A&M University -- Corpus Christi, where grants, scholarships and Pulliam's generous gift will see him through graduation debt free.





*“With the turmoil that goes on in this neighborhood, it’s easy to miss that a gem like SPC is sitting right in the middle of our community. Putting my education first was the best decision I made, SPC stood behind me and provided the support and reassurance I needed to complete my program.” – Terrance Johnson.*



## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March

Over 350 St. Philip's College students, employees, family and friends participated in the city's 3-mile Martin Luther King March. President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores led the sea of blue with the Spirit & Pride Crew and SPC leadership. Alamo Colleges District, Northeast Lakeview College, Northwest Vista College, Palo Alto College and San Antonio College also marched with the record crowd of 317,000 -- one of the largest in the nation. SPC students and employees participate in marches throughout the year, representing Tiger Nation and education.



## NAHB National Outstanding Student Chapter Award



Students and advisors from the NAHB Chapter were recognized during the Alamo Colleges District board meeting in February. Pictured from left, ACD Board Chair Marcelo Casillas, Dr. Loston, Dean for Academic Success Chris Beardsall, NAHB Lead Advisor Gilbert Noriega, students Sandra Vasquez, Ernest Anzures, Gisselle Vasquez, Jacob VanHook and Carlos Camero, Palo Alto College President Dr. Robert Garza and NAHM Advisor Maria Botello.

The St. Philip's College National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Chapter received the NAHB National Outstanding Student Chapter Award during the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas. The award recognizes the achievements and dedication of student members and faculty advisors to their community. Construction Technology Program Coordinator and NAHB Lead Advisor Gilbert Noriega traveled to Vegas with Construction Technology Program students Jacob VanHook

and Ernest Anzures, Power & Generation student Gisselle Vasquez, and Construction Management student Sandra Vaquez, who was named 2019's NAHB Outstanding Student Member. During the summit, students had the opportunity to network with the Greater San Antonio Builder Association, local Texas Industry partners and fellow student chapter members. There are 140 chapters and over 5,000 student members nationwide.

# ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF FIESTA





## 42nd Annual Cowboy Breakfast

Over 30 of SPC's Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts students participated in the 42nd annual Cowboy Breakfast. The "World's Largest Cooked Breakfast" by Guinness Book of Records draws about 30,000 annually for free breakfast tacos to kick-off the rodeo season. The Cowboy Breakfast Foundation awarded SPC \$20,000 in scholarships this year for Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts students.

### *Upcoming Events*

**12th Annual Golf Tournament**

March 6

**Maymester Registration**

March 23

**Summer Registration**

March 23

**SA Cesar Chavez March for Justice**

Canceled

**Spring Commencement**

TBD

### *Newsletter Staff*

**Editor** – Adrian Jackson  
Director of Marketing &  
Strategic Communications

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

**Designer** – Larry Lopez,  
Marketing Content Creator

**Photographic support** provided by  
the Marketing & Strategic  
Communications Department