



ALAMO
COLLEGES

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

President's Newsletter

SPRING 2015

President's Message



The spring 2015 semester proved to be a successful one at St. Philip's College.

A main focus for us over the past year has been to finalize our SACSCOC submission for our reaccreditation. I am happy to announce that the document was successfully submitted on February 27, 2015. My most sincere gratitude for all of those who carried out your role in ensuring this task was handled with such attentiveness and persistence, thank you.

In addition to the many successful campus events that happen each spring, like the Cowboy Breakfast, Black History and Women's History Month observances, I want to deliberately call attention to our annual golf tournament. This year, with the generosity from our donors and supporters, we hit the \$1million mark! This affords our students access to educational opportunities that may not have been possible without this financial support.

Each of these successes are only but a few reasons why I am so proud to be your president. Not only do you lend your expertise to your colleagues and our students, but many of you have commitments beyond the campus. It is through your dedication that we continue to advance our legendary institution. Have a fantastic and fruitful summer!

Best Regards

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.
President

CultureFest, Celebrating 20 Years of Fiesta

On April 23 over 4,500 guests visited the Martin Luther King campus to help celebrate the 20th anniversary edition of CultureFest, an official Fiesta San Antonio event. The program raised funds for scholarships as it celebrated the cultural influences of SPC as an institution of higher learning. Approximately \$10,189.35 was raised for the 2015 season.

The lineup of activities included a rib cook off, Fiesta royalty, massages, music and a scholarship fundraising raffle-and-auction. Parking Lot 20 was transformed into a live party with musical guests, Mariachi Los Conquistadores, Villela, Lipstick Junkies Paris Calling and DJ Electronic Dance spinning top hits including the Wobble, one of SPC's favorite line dances.

A hit addition to the CultureFest was a custom made BBQ grill, designed and crafted by St. Philip's College students and staff at the Southwest Campus. All proceeds from the raffle went to the SPC general scholarship fund.

The Culturefest has become a tradition on campus. Barbeque enthusiasts across the city are invited to participate in the much-anticipated Rib Cook Off contest. This year SPC celebrity judges were: Alan E. Warrick, II, City Councilman- District 2; Mr. Darnell White, Principal of Sam Houston High School; Anita O'Neal, Bowden Elementary School Principal; David Uminski, SPC Hotel Management faculty and Riverwalk Prince; and alum Chef Bully (David Page) winner of Spike TV's Frankenfood for his PB & Jellumbo Po'boy creation.



Ms. St. Philip's College Miya Frazier welcomes Fiesta royalty during the 20th anniversary of CultureFest. Trophies in both the pork and overall categories were earned by the Midnight Cookers team of Mike Treviño and Rick Martinez.

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Certified Executive Pastry Chef

The spring semester opened with great news in the Department of Tourism Hospitality and Culinary Arts. SPC pastry program instructor, Chef Cynthia De La Fuente was notified that she successfully earned the *Certified Executive Pastry Chef* credential from the American Culinary Federation, after successful completion of all practical and written exams and requirements to achieve that credential.

Achieving executive chef status is a momentous occasion in a professional chef's career, and leveraging that status as a college faculty member is Chef De La Fuente's way of giving back to the profession. She is the second SPC faculty member to achieve an executive chef designation from the foundation, joining SPC chef instructor Will Thornton, who holds the *Certified Executive Chef* credential.

By enhancing her capacity to serve the interest of SPC student success, while making college history as SPC's first faculty member to earn the pastry chef designation, SPC students join an elite group taught by professionals who hold this credential. The exams are rigorous with only a national average 57 percent pass rate. Chef De La



SPC pastry program instructor, Chef Cynthia De La Fuente achieves executive chef status from the American Culinary Federation



Fuente tested at SPC, which has been a testing site since September of 2013, when SPC became the first site of this practical exam in San Antonio.

Her practical test alone was conducted in one day that lasted from 6:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. As a candidate for the credential, Chef De La Fuente executed test menus and recipes to demonstrate skill at the executive level, evaluated by a team of three federation evaluators.



College Leaders are Lifelong Learners

SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston participated in the American Council on Education's 97th Annual Meeting from March 14-17 in Washington, D.C.

The meeting provides presidents, chancellors, and other senior-level leaders a platform to discuss trends and promising practices with colleagues across all sectors of higher education.

Dr. Loston participated as a panelist for a council session titled, Leaders of Minority-Serving Institutions:

Perspectives on Promises to Keep. The council is the nation's most influential, respected and visible higher education association, representing the presidents of U.S. accredited degree-granting institutions, which include two- and four-year colleges, private and public universities, and nonprofit and for-profit entities.

Together, council member institutions serve 80 percent of America's college students. The council's annual meeting is where leaders have access to experts and workshops that provide practical resources and tools to aid day-to-day decision-making, as well as long-term strategic planning.

Dr. Loston and members of the SPC executive team gained additional insight into education best practices at the USA Funds Symposium on February 23-24 in Atlanta.

The theme, Transforming MSIs by Investing in Innovation: From Disruption to Solutions encouraged participants to begin thinking of innovative methods with which to leverage financial literacy, student loan debt management and default prevention as a vehicle to support student retention and degree completion.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site services

The 29-member St. Philip's College Volunteer Income Tax site team for 2015 has been recognized for best-in-city performance for the third straight season by the coalition that organizes sites throughout Bexar County. As of April 1, the 29-member site team served approximately 4,000 clients with \$8 million in returns.

All team members shared an award for most returns processed, one of three awards presented April 28 in San Fernando Hall through a citywide coalition event co-led by the City of San Antonio, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, and Catholic Charities of San Antonio, Inc. During the event, college VITA site coordinator, Kenneth Bankston, was presented a plaque in recognition for 20 years of service to the VITA program. This is one of the primary poverty reduction programs in the nation.

Video tribute to Tom Dobson



Whataburger owner Tom Dobson also serves as a member of the college's Advisory Board.

On January 29 at Whataburger headquarters, SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston participated in a video tribute to Tom Dobson, owner of Whataburger, in recognition of being inducted into the San Antonio Hall of Fame. Last year Dobson endowed a \$50,000 scholarship for SPC students. Dobson also serves as a member of the SPC Advisory Board.

Emeritus Status

Four recently retired SPC faculty members were recognized with emeritus status. Retired SPC faculty member Lucy E. Duncan was granted Emeritus Status in recognition and appreciation for 26 years of dedicated service to Alamo Colleges. Duncan's new title is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Library Alamo Colleges - St. Philip's College.

Hilario (Larry) Garcia was granted Emeritus Status in recognition and appreciation for 17 years of dedicated service to Alamo Colleges. Garcia's new title is Assistant Professor Emeritus of the Department of Counseling and Student Development Alamo Colleges - St. Philip's College. Both Duncan and Garcia were recognized for their achievements during the December, 16, 2014, Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees meeting.

During the April 28, 2015 Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees meeting, retired SPC faculty members Paul Steldt and Dr. Joseph D. Whitson were granted Emeritus Status. Steldt was recognized in appreciation for 37 years of dedicated service to Alamo Colleges. His new title is Professor Emeritus, Natural Science Department, Alamo Colleges - St. Philip's College. Dr. Whitson was granted Emeritus Status in recognition and appreciation for 19 years of dedicated service to Alamo Colleges, with the new title of Associate Professor Emeritus of the Natural Sciences Department, Alamo Colleges - St. Philip's College.

Going Beyond Campus Commitments

Adena Williams Loston: President

San Antonio Area Foundation Board of Directors

Lacy Hampton: Vice President College Services

433rd Airlift Wing Honorary Commander

Art Hall: Dean Workforce Development and Continuing Education

Mayor's Charter Review Commission
Fire and Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees
Fire and Police Health Fund Board of Trustees
Texas Tech University National Alumni Association Board of Directors
Texas Tech University School of Law Foundation Board of Directors

Erik Akins: Title III Director

Carver Cultural Center Board of Directors

Tracy Ross-Garcia: Director of Community and Public Relations

SAGE Board of Directors, Secretary
Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Board of Directors, Del Oro Co-Chair
San Antonio Area African American

Community Fund (SAAACF) Board of Directors
SAAACF-Rising Professionals Co-Chair

Johnny Rodriguez: IT Senior Digital Media Specialist

SAAACF Rising Professionals marketing committee

Mary Kunz: THCA Chairperson

SA Tourism Council Board Member

Will Thornton: Chef Instructor THCA

American Culinary Federation Certification Evaluator

Patrick Costello: Chef Instructor THCA

Texas Restaurant Association Education Foundation Board of Trustees, term extended through 2018
Member of executive committee
Chair of nominations and bi-laws
Chair of Texas pro-start curriculum committee

David Uminski: THCA Faculty

Immediate Past Chairman
Alamo Area Hospitality Association
2015 Riverwalk Prince

Good Neighbors

The Child Development Center, Bimbo Bakeries leadership along with SPC leadership had a ceremonial ribbon cutting on April 21. The center underwent a \$13,744 upgrade of the mulch surface under the Center's outdoor playground equipment to a permanent pour-in-place fall protection surface.

The award was part of the firm's Bimbo Good Neighbor Project. Currently installed, the new surface is expected to enhance safety for children enrolled at the only center accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children within the Eastside San Antonio 78203 zip code.

The U.S. Division of Mexico's Grupo Bimbo, one of the world's largest baking companies, funded the upgrade work. Thank you, Bimbo Bakery for being a good neighbor!



SPC leadership had a ceremonial ribbon cutting on April 21 for a \$13,744 upgrade of the mulch surface under the Center's outdoor playground equipment to a permanent pour-in-place fall protection surface.



2015 Cowboy Breakfast



Mary Kunz (left) and Chuck Christian share a smile during the program. Christian is chairman of the Cowboy Breakfast Foundation and Kunz is chair of the college's Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts department. (Below) 44 SPC students gave back to the community by serving a reported 30,000 guests.

On January 30 at Cowboys Dance Hall, 44 SPC students gave back to the community by serving a reported 30,000 guests at the 2015 Cowboy Breakfast, an event that enjoys regional and national status as the signature San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo kickoff.

The breakfast is a one-of-a-kind experience where SPC culinary students receive high-volume industrial food preparation experience. Students use old cowboy hot coal fire burners and large barbecue pits for thousands of guests.

Proceeds from past breakfasts have funded scholarships for study in the hospitality professions at SPC since 1999. SPC students from three classes were led by SPC faculty members chefs Frank Salinas, Will Thornton and Rey Valdez during the 37th version of this event.



Pathways of Excellence

In early March, the SPC early childhood and family studies program reported the initial success of an educational partnership in a grant-funded initiative aspiring to create a cohort of degreed child care center teachers within the Eastside Promise Neighborhood footprint.



The \$25,000 Pathways of Excellence Grant awarded in September to SPC is funded by United Way Eastside Promise Neighborhood under the sponsorship of Morgan-Chase Bank.

CHASE 

The grant supports 10 SPC students who serve in the Miller, Healy Murphy and Ella Austin child development centers as they work towards associate degrees in early childhood and family studies.

Links Continue to Support

President Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted a celebratory reception on March 19 for members of the San Antonio Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

The Links have donated a total of \$61,000 for scholarships to SPC students since 2012.

At the reception The Links members were introduced to the current recipients of the scholarship: baking and pastry arts major Ashley Hardaway, hotel management major MiCara Mosby and business administration major Catina Tennessee.



Current recipients of the scholarship include baking and pastry arts, hotel management and business administration students.



Living in God's Love present a big check at the President's Reception.

Living in God's Love

On January 15, the SPC President's Reception that was part of the spring 2015 Professional Development Week for full time and adjunct faculty featured the presentation of a \$2,500 check for student scholarships from Living in God's Love Ministry (community choir).

Ceremonially accepted by SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston from choir members, the scholarships are available to degree candidates of any major at SPC enrolled full time or part time.

Golf Tournament Reaches Million-dollar Mark

On March 6 at the Republic Golf Course, SPC achieved its \$1 million scholarship fundraising milestone during the Seventh Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Proceeds from the goodwill event provide innovative opportunities for students to gain knowledge and give back while learning marketable skills that service the economic health of San Antonio.

Donor contributions fund tuition and textbook costs for students seeking degrees and certificates from more than 100 career options through the SPC Scholarship fund.

Thank you for your time and investment in the future of SPC students.

Golfers (two images at right below) and students (image at top right) helped the college break the \$1 million scholarship fundraising milestone.



Remember the Alamo

On March 4 in the Heritage Room of the Campus Center, nearly 100 students and guests attended a lecture from professor of Texas and American history, Allen Lee Hamilton.

Part of local 2015 Texas Independence Day observances, Hamilton described his program themed Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Alamo but Were Afraid to Ask, as a lively and humorous one hour PowerPoint presentation on the iconic site, and all the amazing circumstances and personalities that went into creating one of the most enduring myths and legends in all of Texas history.

It has been said that "the Alamo is the most famous battle in history... about which almost nothing is known for certain." " The author of books and articles in both historical and popular journals, Hamilton is a member of a four-generation Texan family which has been in the state since 1866.

Jessica's Project: Type II Diabetes

Jessica's Project is an active service learning analysis that takes place each semester. Using a case study approach, students across disciplines tackle a specific nutritionally related disease or disorder. The project has grown to include courses within Natural Sciences, other departments, and several community organizations.

On March 19 in the Bowden Alumni Center, guests and students studied Type II Diabetes during the spring 2015 Jessica's Project event. SPC faculty member Chef Cris Goloby and her students' prepared two healthy recipes of mango quinoa salad and apple crisp for distribution at the program.

The guest speaker was Daniel E. Hale, M.D., professor of pediatrics and chief of pediatric endocrinology and diabetes at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio. To learn more about Jessica's Project, including past and future studies visit: alamo.edu/spc/jessicasproject.

Workforce Development Summit

On January 27 in the Bowden Alumni Center, President Dr. Adena Williams Loston served as the mistress of ceremonies for the Workforce Development Summit co-hosted by Mayor Ivy Taylor and Judge Nelson Wolff. Over 150 community leaders from various industries and organizations participated, focusing on strategic collaborations to improve the economic competitiveness in the city, some of which will be led by the Alamo Colleges.

Community Improvements

BexarWitness.com--a website that reports on current construction, transportation and water news highlighting the growth of San Antonio--recognized the efforts of SPC students. According to the site's East Side Park Ribbon Cutting report on long-term plans to improve the Iowa St. corridor near the MLK campus, "San Antonio city officials and community members from the near East Side gathered in December at Pittman- Sullivan Park to celebrate the end of a series of improvements there."

The Pittman-Sullivan Park enhancements were part of a larger East Side, city-run improvement project that has involved \$1 million locally from various grants, donations, and city funding. Another recent notable improvement project featured residential housing repairs with help from staff, faculty and student volunteers from St. Philip's College.

On February 12, Dr. Adena Williams Loston provided a welcome at the Wheatley Courts (WC) Employment Opportunities and Construction Training event at the SWC. This event provided former residents of WC information about employment within the Wheatley Courts Redevelopment Project and construction training for trades available at SPC needed on the project.

Outstanding Student Profile



Hannah Mahaffey, SPC Presidential Scholar, was named as an Alamo Colleges alternate student trustee serving a one- year term from May 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016. Hannah

received the Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship, the La Prensa Foundation Inspirational Scholarship and was a finalist for the Texas Business Hall of Fame scholarship. Her literary work was published in "Tiger Paws", a St. Philip's College academic writing publication where she received judge's choice award for that work. Recently, Hannah was selected to the 2015 All Texas Academic Team.

While pursuing her Associates of Applied Science degree in Web Mobile Developer, with a GPA of 3.92, Hannah excels outside of the classroom as well. She is the Instructional Technology officer of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and participated in the Alamo Colleges Student Leadership Institute. She volunteers at the Davidson Respite House, Habitat for Humanity, CultureFest, and the Animal Defense League. Hannah received the Bronze President Volunteer Service Award from Washington, D.C.

Hannah believes that her involvement in extracurricular activities has contributed to the likelihood in completion of college. Hannah says that, "Making the decision to enroll at the Alamo Colleges was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Congratulations, Grads!

The December 12 and May 8 commencement ceremonies in Freeman Coliseum were celebrations of student success as the college awarded a combined **1,578 degrees** and certificates to a combined **1,275 students**. The keynote addresses for the 132nd and 133rd commencement ceremonies were respectively provided by The Honorable Ivy R. Taylor, Mayor of the City of San Antonio (Fall 2014), and The Honorable William Ballard "Will" Hurd, U.S. Representative for Texas's 23rd congressional district (Spring 2015).

Alyssa Gutierrez (culinary arts) the first student from St. Philip's College to receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame, The Whataburger Scholarship endowed for 2014-2018 through the foundation by Tom Dobson, owner of Whataburger. Gutierrez is also among the nation's first transfer students to enter the University of Houston branch of their Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management in San Antonio.

Amber Sanchez and **Sonia Rincon-Sanchez** (liberal arts degree with pre-nursing concentration) walked the stage May 5 as dual generation, dual degree graduates, and Amber graduated with Summa Cum Laude academic honors for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. Both women aspire to transfer to registered nursing programs.

Sara Escobar (associate of applied science with advanced manufacturing technology concentration) was among the first graduating class of SPC's unique associate of applied science advanced manufacturing technology degree program that features two years of paid employment in advanced manufacturing at the Toyota assembly plant in San Antonio.



Amber Sanchez and Sonia Rincon-Sanchez walked the stage May 5 as dual generation, dual degree graduates.



Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

The kickoff to National Women's History Month observances began on March 3 in the Center for Learning Resources, with an opening ceremony themed *Artemisia Bowden: Weaving HERstory*. Dr. Adena Williams Loston spoke on the legacy of Miss Bowden, an esteemed founding administrator who served the college for 52 years.

Women's History celebrations continued throughout the month with the observance, *A History of Women in the Military and Women Weaving Their Way in the STEM Fields* programs featuring panels of females who shared their inspiring professional and personal experiences with guests.

On March 20 in Artemisia's, Dr. Loston hosted a luncheon honoring the dynamic legacy of Artemisia Bowden with members of organizations who are a part of Miss Bowden's legacy and footprint. To close out the month long observance, on March 25, Dr. Loston was invited as the guest speaker for the men and women of the San Antonio Military Medical Centers with her title presentation mirroring the national theme, *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*.

Story Hour and Lunch Bunch

At the start of the spring 2014 semester, Dr. Loston participated in the SPC-ECHS Lunch Bunch mentoring program speaking to students about her journey in becoming president of a college and answered questions the students had about preparing for a career in business.

On February 16 in the Child Development Center, Dr. Loston engaged with an even younger cohort of St. Philip's students as she led a story hour in observance of 2015 President's Day for classroom children. Guided by the book *Celebrating President's Day, What is a President?*, the interactive program allowed children to learn who and what a president is, and that they are leaders, helpers, community builders and problem solvers as well.



Dr. Loston engaged with an even younger cohort of St. Philip's students as she led a story hour in observance of 2015 President's Day for classroom children.

Black History Month - A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture



On February 4 in the Bowden Alumni Center, Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted approximately 100 guests for the Lila Cockrell African American Art Collection gallery

opening. The event marked the college's kick-off to Black History Month.

The following day in the Watson Fine Arts Center, an audience of 600 students and community guests gathered for the President's Lecture Series speech *From Alabama to Obama* by The Honorable Julian Bond, statesman and former NAACP Chairman (1998-2010).

During the lecture series program, the audience heard from and asked questions of the statesman and American civil rights movement leader.

As a staunch supporter and activist for current cutting edge social change and leadership, Bond shared his personal story as he related messages of equality, freedom and justice for all.



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HBCUs Engage SPC

SPC hosted visits by Texas Southern University (TSU) and Grambling State University (GSU) in January and March. On January 30, SPC hosted a TSU recruiting delegation event led by TSU president Dr. John Rudley, his administrators, staff and eight TSU students to share best practices and information about their institution. Two \$2,000 scholarships were presented to SPC Early College High School students and four \$2,000 scholarships were presented to current SPC students.

On March 5 in the Turbon Student Center, SPC hosted a transfer, admission and scholarship information presentation by GSU president Dr. Cynthia Warwick and her recruiting staff members to stimulate SPC student interest in transferring to Grambling State University.

On March 7 at the Plaza Club, Dr. Loston participated in the GSU Scholarship Luncheon hosted by the GSU San Antonio Alumni Chapter, raising not only scholarship



SPC hosted a TSU recruiting delegation event led by TSU president Dr. John Rudley.

dollars but also awareness of such HBCUs as GSU, TSU and SPC. Earlier this year, the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities mentioned SPC's diverse student body positively in its online article America's College Promise and HBCUs that focused on implications of the recent, *The America's College Promise* proposal.

SPC is mentioned as one of 12 Title IV participating HBCU community colleges that would benefit directly from President Obama's America's College Promise proposal.

Upcoming Events

Fall Semester - August 24
Homecoming - October 30

Save the Date

President's Lecture Series - October 01
Hispanic Heritage Month - Sept. 15- Oct. 15

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