

# President's Message

Greetings, friends –



Once again St. Philip's College is in full activity during our busy Fall semester.

And once again our enrollment surpassed 11,000 students, with faculty and staff fully engaged in our mission of education.

Among our accomplishments, for the third consecutive year, SPC has been designated a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine, a designation that proudly describes our ongoing partnership with the military. And on the scholarship side, we are developing a million dollar partnership with the University of the Incarnate Word for building infrastructure to attract Hispanic STEM students through a Hispanic Serving Institution/STEM grant.

Supporters of the college continue to help more students learn. Our robust partnership with the business community is evident in our activities with Bridgestone/Firestone, Southern Plains Cummins, LLC, the Cowboy Breakfast Foundation and SAHA. They have all shown their support once again with donations to St. Philip's College scholarships.

Our cultural activities and awareness were in high buzz mode in September and October with intense participation in Hispanic Heritage Month activities, including an art exhibit by noted artist Cesar Martinez and our popular and student-benefiting Salsa Cook-Off. And towards the end of October, students, staff and alumni bonded at the college's annual Homecoming event, which featured music, dinner and dancing. Most of all, the event enabled us to renew old ties and to strengthen our alumni organization.

As always, we remain committed to serving our community, and we welcome visitors to our campus. Look us up on our newly-designed website at [alamo.edu/spc](http://alamo.edu/spc). Contact us, and come by and visit! We wish you a great holiday season and ask that you mark your calendars for our annual golf tournament, which raises funds for scholarships, on March 2, 2012.

We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you.

*Adena Williams Loston*

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President



ALAMO COLLEGES

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

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# President's Newsletter

## SPC Celebrates Homecoming with Student/Alumni Event

St. Philip's College celebrated its free and family-friendly 2011 Homecoming evening program on October 21 in the Atrium of the Center for Health Professions. Alumni, students, employees and friends of the college enjoyed jazz from a trio led by Greg Gonzalez, associate professor of music, a choral selection from the Second Baptist Church Contemporary Mass Choir, and a vocal solo by student Eric Copeland, who recently participated in a Kennedy Center Concert as part of a Best-in-Nation 105 Voices Choir.



Homecoming King Juan Antonio Ramirez and Queen Christina Petersen.

"The program was meaningful, with wonderful fellowship, music and food, and great representation from our student participants, including our new queen, Christina Petersen, and our new king, Juan Antonio Ramirez," said President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. "We were also pleased to welcome our newest alumni life member, Maria Stevenson Green. Our four distinguished alumni---Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, Professor Emeritus Pearl Conyers, Kenneth Pulliam, and Dr. Martha Trevino---were also recognized and welcomed back home with great pride."

(See Homecoming / page 5)

## SPC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

St. Philip's College observed National Hispanic Heritage Month with five free events open to the public. The celebration launched September 15 with the opening reception for the art exhibit *Batos y más: A 2011 exhibition of recent work by César Martínez* in the Kathryn Morgan Gallery. The San Antonio-based artist produces works that address the concerns and issues of contemporary Chicano culture. His work has been exhibited at Corcoran Gallery of Art, Brooklyn Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts and Museo de Arte Moderno. In 1999, he was the subject of a major McNay Art Museum retrospective.

On September 21 the all female Mariachi Las

(See Hispanic Heritage / page 4)



Renowned Chicano artist Cesar A. Martinez opened Hispanic Heritage Month activities with an art exhibit at the Morgan Gallery.

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## Employee Is Recognized With Leadership Award



*St. Philip's College Student Success Specialist III Maria G. Botello (right) accepts the North Chamber's 2011 ATHENA® Young Professional Award.*

St. Philip's College Student Success Specialist III Maria G. Botello was recognized by the members of the North Chamber of Commerce as their 2011 ATHENA® Young Professional Award recipient during the organization's 22nd Annual Enterprising Women's Conference recently.

The ATHENA® Young Professional Award process honors emerging community leaders whose service and leadership achievements are evaluated by the North Chamber as role models for young people. The award is open to young professionals from eight surrounding counties who work in Bexar County.

The North Chamber recognized Botello as an emerging leader who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in her profession. Botello's role in the college's core mission of student success earned her the nomination.

She serves as the advisor for the college's award—garnering Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Her students successfully nominated SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston to receive the society's 2011 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, awarded to community college presidents and CEOs who promote the goals of their honor society chapters.

## President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge Kicks off With 9/11 Event



Students and staff launched the college's participation in the White House's new President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge with a National Day of Service and Remembrance event on September 12 observing the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

SPC is among more than 400 higher education institutions joining the challenge to engage college campuses in an academic year of community service with a nondenominational element. The President Obama initiative is supported by the Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The college is directing students towards this initiative to increase interfaith

understanding and improve our community through volunteerism, explained Kevin Schantz, the college's service-learning coordinator.

The commemorative event included remarks from Vice President of Academic Affairs Ruth Dalrymple, a moment of silence, lowering of the U.S. flag by students enrolled with local ROTC programs, the playing of Taps, and concluding remarks. The emphasis at the occasion was on bridging gaps and creating tolerance.

Other upcoming Interfaith Challenge events will be held this month and in conjunction with the MLK Day of Service.

## SPC Recognized by San Antonio chapter of NAACP

St. Philip's College was recognized with a 2011 Excellence in Education Award from the San Antonio Branch NAACP membership during the association's 2011 Freedom Fund Dinner on Oct. 28.

The college earned this award for its legacy of promoting diversity and student success.

"This dinner is our branch's signature event, and St. Philip's College receives our education award due to the educational opportunities the college historically extends to both African-American and Hispanic students, especially residents on the East Side of San Antonio," said Sherfield.

"We are pleased to be recognized by America's oldest and largest civil rights organization for the diversity, quality and relevance of our services to all who want to learn," said SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. "This recognition from our local NAACP is a validation of the worthwhile journey generations of our college's educators have been on since 1898 in order to promote success and prosperity for thousands of persons of all ethnicities and faiths in our service area," she added.

St. Philip's College joined civil rights advocate William Sinkin and journalists Cary Clack, Eugene Coleman and Jesse Henry as honorees receiving tributes from NAACP during the dinner, along with the late journalist Kathy Clay Little.

Guest speaker for event was Dr. John E. Arradondo, a member of the executive committee of the association's board of directors who is nationally recognized for his service in the fields of medical education, health and community services.

## Three SPC Students Selected to Best in Nation Choir. Perform at Kennedy Center

Three St. Philip's College students were selected to a "best-in-nation-for-2011" choir and performed September 18 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Eric Copeland, Markell Holland and Jessica Kemp were selected to the 2011 105 Voice of History Student Development Summit and Concert Performance program, a Historically Black Colleges and Universities initiative. The choir, summit and performance program is the flagship activity managed by Partners Achieving Success, a nongovernmental charitable organization.

At the Kennedy Center performance, Holland received a \$5,000 college scholarship, and Copeland performed as a soloist. The three students attended a post-concert reception with St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and concert hosts TONY® and GRAMMY® awards recipient Jennifer Holliday and GRAMMY® AWARD recipient Kirk Whalum.

"This was a proud evening for St. Philip's," Loston texted from Washington.



One highlight for St. Philip's College students in the 105 Voice of History Student Development Summit and Concert Performance program was a post-concert reception at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with concert host TONY® and GRAMMY® awards recipient Jennifer Holliday (third from left). Joining Holliday (from left) are Markell Holland, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and Eric Copeland.

The students traveled together by car to college campuses in New Orleans, Prairie View, Houston and Dallas to experience the campuses, to network and to perfect their roles in the choir. They learned new skills while sharpening their talent in preparation for the Kennedy Center performance.

"This was our best season ever for student success in this program, and I want to congratulate Eric, Markell and Jessica," said travel sponsor and student success specialist Maria Botello.

"When I first met our nationally-recognized students to hear them in rehearsal in August, I was just floored. Hearing small groups of

nationally-ranked students in the regional rehearsals was beautiful," she added. "The 105 students in performance were unbelievable, but the scholarship, soloing opportunity and overall networking in D.C. and at all the campuses were best of all."

G.W. Brackenridge High School graduate and culinary arts major Eric Copeland said: "I'm a local guy with an amazing opportunity. I'm giving it the best shot I've got. When we rehearsed on the different college campuses, we saw the campuses as our possible future graduate schools, and also got an opportunity to show who we were."

## SPC Offers First Online GED Program

St. Philip's College is now offering the college's first online General Educational Development (GED) preparation program.

The new program launched in August and is provided in English or Spanish. The cost is \$50, and students have a maximum of five months to use the online preparation materials.

The GED preparation program is for persons who have not obtained a high school diploma, explained Gabriela Perez, Education Skills Specialist II with the college's Community Service and Training Center, which administers the course. It is ideal for students who require a brush-up to earn the GED certificate, Perez said.

"Our staff guides every GED student to the format of preparation that is right for them, face-to face or online, to make maximum progress toward earning the GED. We know it's very empowering for students to acquire something they thought was out of reach."

Perez added that staff supports students with essay assistance, computer labs and materials from the official service provider of official GED practice tests, Diversified Computer Services.

Potential students can visit the Learning and Leadership Development Center to ask questions in person Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, please call the Community Service and Training Center staff at (210) 486-2107 or email [spc-gedprepinfo@alamo.edu](mailto:spc-gedprepinfo@alamo.edu).



Bridgestone Firestone makes a donation to the SPC Automotive program. From left: Patrick Porter, District Manager for Firestone Complete Auto Care; Dean of Applied Sciences Maureen Cartledge; SPC President Loston; and Roy Martinez, Recruitment Manager.



Diesel mechanics program students pose with the new diesel engine donated by Cummins, LLC in a ceremony at the Southwest Campus Diesel Lab.

# Hispanic Heritage

*(from page 1)*

Coronelas entertained at Southwest Campus, and on October 5 the annual Best Tasting Salsa Scholarship Competition featured six local high school chef teams in a competition to make the best salsa. The winners of scholarships to the SPC Culinary Arts program were: first place, Burbank--Gabriella Estrada and Juan D. Galviz; second place, Phoenix Middle College--Mahalia Garcia and Joshua Albert; third place, Clemens--Anthony Acuna and Katelyn Moody.

A student fundraiser on October 11 featured the music of the Latin Army Band. Also ongoing from September 15-October 15 was the visual art exhibition titled One American Spirit – Unity, Strength, Leadership in the college's Center for Learning Resources.



*HHM artist Cesar A. Martinez explains his works at opening reception.*



*Classic Salsa!*



*Salsa Cook-off contestants from Clemens -- Anthony Acuna and Katelyn Moody.*



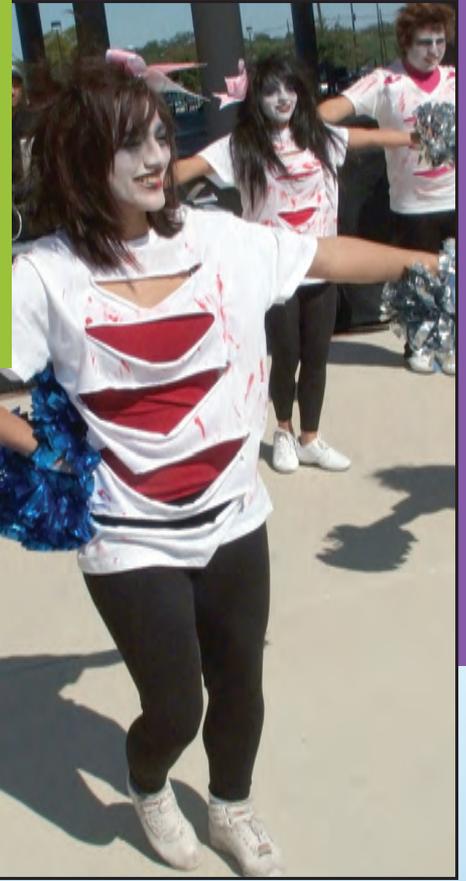
*The Latin Army Band provided salsa and merengue music on October 11 during the El Mercado fundraiser on the Campus Green.*

# Homecoming Celebration



The new Homecoming Court consists of scholarship recipients Queen Christina Petersen and King Juan Antonio Ramirez. King/Queen first-runner-ups are David Cadena and Ashley Garcia and Queen/King second-runner-ups are Arica Chaney and Rudy Padilla. Also pictured, the 2010 King and Queen.

2011 SPC Haunted Homecoming Pep-Rally.



Philip the Tiger at The Haunted Homecoming Pep-Rally.

## Homecoming *(from page 1)*

The highlight of the evening was the coronation of the 2011-2012 King and Queen of St. Philip's College, assisted by 1969 SPC Queen Gloria Ball Richardson and 1955 SPC Queen first runner up Doloris Williams.

The new Homecoming court consists of scholarship recipients Queen Christina Petersen and King Juan Antonio Ramirez. The 2011 season king/queen first runner-ups are David Cadena and Ashley Garcia and the 2011 queen/king second runner-ups are Arica Chaney and Rudy Padilla.

Both king and queen receive \$1,000 scholarships. More than 800 students voted in the online election for 2011, said Yolanda Reyes-Guevara, the college's Director of Student Life.

The Blue and White Dance with DJ Eddie C closed the evening on a high note.

"This homecoming event creates a networking opportunity and allows guests to reflect on the positive and extensive physical changes to the campus through many capital improvements over the years, and the health of the college for future generations," said Dr. Sharon Crockett-Bell, coordinator of alumni affairs and of the event.

For information or to volunteer to support future programs, contact Dr. Bell at (210) 486-2887 or e-mail [scrockett-bell@alamo.edu](mailto:scrockett-bell@alamo.edu).

A highly engaged and energized audience hits the dance floor at Homecoming.



## SPC Designated Military-Friendly for Third Consecutive Year



St. Philip's College has been designated a Military-Friendly School for the third consecutive year by G.I. Jobs magazine. The college is ranked among the top 20 percent of 7,000 colleges by G.I. Jobs, which annually evaluates the operations of colleges. The veteran-owned magazine researched thousands of schools to determine its designations.

Roughly 1,200 benefit-eligible uniformed, civilian, retired, transitioning and family service members attend the college in fall and spring semesters, and approximately 750 during summer terms, said Javier Barron, the college's coordinator of veterans' affairs.

"It's nice to have a national agency consistently confirm what our employees and the community we serve have known to be true for decades—we treasure our military consumers and we are organized, trained and equipped to supportively serve these consumers in our service area," said SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston.

Military members attend classes on the college's main campus near Fort Sam Houston and at staffed sites on Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph Air Force Base. Other options are online courses and the Southwest Campus near Lackland with its strong science, math and alternative energy programs.



SPC President Loston is pictured at a putt-putt tournament sponsored by San Antonio Cares Mentoring Program. Dr. Loston and her young teammates won first place.

**St. Philip's College**  
**FOURTH ANNUAL**  
**Scholarship**  
**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Friday, March 2, 2012**  
**Pecan Valley Golf Course**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

**ALAMO COLLEGES**  
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 alamo.edu/spc | 210/486-2576

## Long-time Employees Retire

Forty-five SPC employees, representing a combined 970 years of service to the college, were honored at an All College Remembrance in August.

Friends, family and colleagues crowded the Atrium of the Center for Health Professions for the bittersweet event. Employees were happy to be retiring after years of service; co-workers were happy for them but would miss them as well.

"From my perspective, it's very sad to be saying goodbye to our 45 friends being honored today," said SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston at the event. "But – at the same time – we thank you for your years of dedicated service to St. Philip's College and to the many, many students whose lives you have touched, those that you helped along the way."

Recognized as the employees with the longest service to St. Philip's College were Pearlene Conyers, 40.39 years; Eddie L. Harris, 40.36 and Patricia J. Williams, 39.93. The list of retirees:

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Frederick Bakenhus | Eddie Harris        |
| William Bentley    | Patricia Heckman    |
| Candy Berkley      | Louis Johnson       |
| Deborah Byrd       | David King          |
| Sandra Caise       | Robert Lass         |
| Lauren Cate        | Susie Longoria      |
| Pearl Conyers      | Mary Mackey-Pierson |
| Gregoria Cruz      | Thomas Magee        |
| Rosalinda De Hoyos | Martin Martinez     |
| Isabel De Pedro    | Jerry Narvaez       |
| Jesse Delgado, Jr. | Timothy Nealon      |
| Mary Delgado       | Carroll Payne       |
| Miguel Delgado     | Bess Porter         |
| Shirley Fagan      | Rachel Rodriguez    |
| Janet Flores       | Sherry Rollins      |
| Robert Green       | Jorge Ruano         |
| Lenora Gonzales    | Rebecca Sanchez     |
| Alma Gonzalez      | Eleanor Seiferth    |
| Linda Gonzales     | Lucia Torres        |
| Julius Gordon      | Jean Villarreal     |
| Katherine Hancock  | Jo Angelia Walker   |
| Lloyd Harmon       | Patricia Williams   |

## College Receives \$15,000 donation from Cowboy Breakfast Foundation

The presentation of a \$15,000 check to fund culinary arts scholarships in 2012 was a highlight of the 2011 Cowboy Breakfast Foundation membership reception in September.

The Foundation has contributed \$70,000 in full and part-time scholarships for the college's hospitality professions program over the past eight years. These students often become alumni employed in the local hospitality industry which is a perennial economic driver in the area, said Chef Frank Salinas, an assistant professor who is a chef instructor at the college and a recipient of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition (SALE) scholarship.

"In recent seasons, the Cowboy Breakfast experience for our students has meant coveted scholarships, work experience, community service and even an element of fun in contributing to two Guinness World Records rankings--Largest Free Breakfast and Largest Coffee Event. The Cowboy Breakfast Foundation membership has believed in our students for more than 10 years, and it humbles us," said Salinas.

In 2011, 34 students worked in food preparation at the Cowboy Breakfast, the signature San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo kickoff that attracted 55,000 fans. The students worked the typical volunteer shift of 2-9 a.m.



Cowboy Breakfast Foundation Chairman Chuck Christian and fellow Foundation members presented a \$15,000 check to St. Philip's College's Culinary Arts program.

## Performance Excellence Initiative Continues at SPC

Recent highlights of the St. Philip's College performance excellence initiative have focused on strategic planning, process alignment, quality improvement and professional development. The Quality Texas Foundation is providing informational resources, advisement and support for the college's efforts, reported Dean of Interdisciplinary Programs Dr. Karen Sides, a college leadership team member and a Quality Texas Senior Examiner who works closely with this activity.

"Our intent going forward this year is to finalize items that were initiated during the college's Good to Great strategic planning sessions last May and June," said Sides. Nearing completion are the college's strategic action plans, the college scorecard and college core process flowcharts.

In addition, a number of staff and administrators participated in Quality Texas Examiner training this fall to gain a better understanding of how to

implement the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program framework. "This level of broad-based experience will allow the college to accelerate its process alignment activities and fine-tune quality improvement measures," Sides said.

The Quality Texas Foundation provides guidance to Texas companies and organizations to improve performance by following the Baldrige leadership framework. The framework is based upon the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program whose mission is to improve the competitiveness and performance of U.S. organizations.

The Quality Texas Foundation recognized St. Philip's College with the Texas Award for Performance Excellence (TAPE) award in June. The school previously received the Engagement Level recognition in 2010. The planning effort for quality recognition effort is spearheaded by SPC President Loston, in conjunction with the college's leadership team.

## College Enters Month Five of Gates Foundation Program for Student Success

St. Philip's College's participation in the five-year Completion by Design initiative in Texas entered its fifth month in October, said student success team lead Christina Cortez.

The initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation involves five Texas community colleges currently in a planning phase, which precedes the design of an action plan to implement Completion by Design. The intent of the initiative is to enhance college completion and to help more students remain in college and complete their degree.

"The majority of vice presidents and presidents from Alamo Colleges attended planning meetings in Houston in September," said Cortez. "Our team is in the process of receiving Alamo Colleges Fall 2005 data. We are submitting that data to national partners at the Community College Research Center. That report will be returned to us. Then our task will be to narrow the Alamo Colleges data to two common groups, for submission for our November meeting in Dallas," she added.

St. Philip's College is one of five community colleges in Texas funded to plan the launch of the five-year project in the state. The initiative also includes colleges in Florida, Ohio and North Carolina.



Jason Fabianke, head of the Social and Behavioral Sciences department, "sweeps out intolerance and hatred," publicizing the department's initiative to raise awareness of the importance of tolerance and social understanding. Students joined Fabianke in the symbolic sweeping, which publicized the department's lecture program.

## Retiree Pearl Conyers Named Professor Emeritus

Pearl Conyers, a St. Philip's College employee who retired in August after 40 years of distinguished service with the college, was named professor emeritus by the Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees in September.

Conyers developed and implemented both the college's transfer and career centers, the college's general degree program, and its two-plus-two associate degree transfer program, services that support students' transfer to four year institutions.

In 1986 Conyers founded the college's transfer information center, known since 1990 as the Transfer Center. The center staff helps students make informed decisions about transferring.

A licensed professional counselor, Conyers earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Trinity University and her master's degree in counseling from Our Lady of the Lake College.



For several years, while serving on the City of San Antonio MLK Commission Scholarship Committee, Conyers helped to select applicants for approximately \$20,000 in scholarships.

Conyers joins Dr. William C. Davis as the college's most recent faculty member to be granted emeritus status.

## Theatre Group Presents Arthur Miller's Resurrection Blues



St. Philip's College begins its 2011-2012 theater season with the Arthur Miller play *Resurrection Blues*. The play will be performed Nov. 11-12 at 8 p.m., Nov. 13 at 2:30 p.m., Nov. 19-20 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the 600-seat Watson Fine Arts Center at 1801 Martin Luther King Drive.

"What if Jesus was to return? To what extent would this event be exploited or manipulated by our corporate culture of greed and profit for monetary gain?" asks *Resurrection Blues* director Vincent Hardy. "This is the central question of one great playwright's penultimate dark comedy. Our cast will help audiences laugh and do some critical thinking on these issues at the same time."

The play is for mature audiences due to adult language and situations. General admission tickets are \$10. Alamo Colleges student, faculty, staff, military, senior and SATCO member admission is \$5, and admission is free for high school students with identification. The box office at the Watson is open one hour prior to every performance, and tickets can be purchased weekdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in Room 207 of the Watson. For ticket information, contact Maria Andrews at (210) 486-2205.

## Friend of SPC Donates Money for Cookbooks

A. Baker Duncan and his wife Sally have donated a total of \$10,000 to provide cookbooks for Culinary Arts students at St. Philip's College. Their donation represents the newest collection to the St. Philip's College Library with 142 books previously purchased; the collection will be expanded to approximately twice its current size. The collection includes American and International - Asian, Indian, South African, Mexican, and Italian cookbooks.

The Duncan's have also enjoined the San Antonio community in supporting the SPC Culinary Programs by supporting the College's monthly advertisement in the North Central Times for donations of hardcover cookbooks in good condition. The donations will either be added to the library collection or distributed to Culinary Arts students in need of cookbook resources to support them in achieving their



dream. For more information on the donation please contact Lucy Duncan at 210.486.2380 or lduncan1@alamo.edu.



## STUDENTS WERE WELCOMED BACK TO THE FALL SEMESTER

with a lineup of fun activities, including a luau held on the Campus Green. Service-Learning Coordinator Kevin Schantz works on his dancing.

## Newsletter Staff

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