

# President's Message

Greetings friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students.



The 2011-2012 semesters have been quite exciting as we prepare our next generation. During the fall HBCU Week, three students represented our college as best-in-nation choir members in a concert at the Kennedy Center; and one continued on to sing at the Grand Ole Opry. We ended the fall term with our 126th commencement ceremony with inspiring words from the Honorable Joaquin Castro, a visionary friend of the college.

In January, students executed the college's personal-best day of service with over 300 students serving others for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Our interfaith tolerance initiative engaged 200 students to consider social inequality regarding the distribution of food during our Hunger Banquet, 70 of our health science students accepted high-profile roles in a mass casualty exercise in the city. We launched our free tax preparation through student engagement scholarship students providing financial assistance in order to generate millions of dollars in refunds for our neighbors. Our Watson Fine Arts Center with its beautiful gallery celebrates its 20th year of service with new sound and lighting systems.

Beginning Fall 2012 we will be the first community college in Texas to offer associate of science degrees in biotechnology and chemical research assistant, both will be fully transferrable to four-year colleges. We are now saying "well done" to alumni of the city's first two-year college network security administrator program where students each earn two certifications of training approved by the National Security Agency. Dave Weaver was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award for demonstrating excellent teaching skills and dedication to his students, his academic department and the academic profession. In addition we honored our Piper Professor Award Nominee Dr. Jeanette Passty; and we recognized a new professor emeritus in mathematics, Dr. Frederick A. Bakenhus.

I invite you to support our 4th annual scholarship golf tournament, Black History and Womens History Month activities, our upcoming 114th anniversary, our student theater program, initiatives to honor the legacy of Ms. Artemisia Bowden, CultureFest and the upcoming 127th commencement ceremony.

Our season of education continues!

Regards,

*Adena Williams Loston*  
**Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.**  
President

# President's Newsletter

## 2012 Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day Of Service

St. Philip's College successfully supported the city, the success of our students and education for all through our college's participation in the National Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service for 2012. More than 300 of our students and many more employees and family members took part in the historical event while listening to the inspirational words of keynote speaker Martin Luther King III, during the city's celebration of its 25th anniversary of the march.

Social networking was used to sign up St. Philip's students and employees to help the San Antonio Housing Authority and city's Parks and Recreation Department in a day of clean-up along the march corridor. Our students served in the march corridor revitalization partnership program that included tree planting in front of Spring View Townhomes located on Martin Luther King Drive. The partnership and networking to support the effort was coordinated by Kevin Schantz, our Service Learning Coordinator.

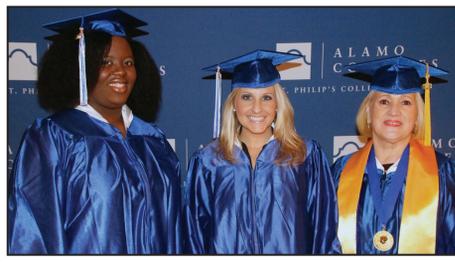
( See MLK Day of Service - page 5 )



## 126th Commencement Ceremony

St. Philip's College awarded 760 degrees and certificates to 560 students at our 126th commencement ceremony with the help of guest speaker Joaquin Castro, four-term member of the Texas House of Representatives (District 125) and one of our nation's young Latino leaders. We celebrated our 2011 network security administrator graduating class, the first graduates of the city's first two-year college program where students earn certifications of training approved by the National Security Agency. We were excited to share the stage with Rep. Castro during this special celebration.

St. Philip's College Students Jessica Kemp, soloist; Brooke Carter, student speaker; Marilinda Rivera-Torres, invocation



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# Alamo Excellence Award



Eleven of our employees are among the first recipients of a new Alamo Colleges award for individuals who are formally training to improve the delivery of instruction or services to students and colleagues in the district's service area. The award is the Alamo Excellence Award, and the following 11 St. Philip's College employees are the

college's first recipients: Paul Borrego; Maureen Cartledge; Jason Easterling; Ana Lisa Garza; Lacy Hampton; Dr. Paul Machen; Kimberly Morales; Mecca Salahuddin; Dr. Karen Sides; Rose Spruill; and Sonia Valdez.

Our 11 were participants in a Texas Award for Performance Excellence examiner training session offered by the Quality Texas Foundation. We feel the training offers our employees many examiner-level skills to improve student success through customer service. We also feel the college's examiners have been trained to provide analysis and insight to lead us to our next level of maturity in our delivery of instruction or services to our students. These 11 newly-qualified examiners also learn the Baldrige Performance Excellence Criteria and best practices from leading organizations in all industry sectors. The award was initiated by the Presidents and Vice Chancellors leadership team.

## Free Income Tax Preparation Services

No student-centered service program at our college has returned more money to residents in the surrounding community than our 19-year-old Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. Our site provides learning opportunities for our student engagement scholarship students as it positively overflows with tax clients in Room 110 of the Bowden Building. We offer the pro bono preparation service on a no-appointment basis every day excluding Sundays and federal holidays through Tuesday, April 17.

Student Kissiebabe Trejo, a 10-season volunteer who lives within blocks of the site, says the millions of dollars she helps refund to people in her neighborhood are millions that people there deserve. She said she is sure that income tax refunds are a big help to people in the East Side neighborhood surrounding our college, and few can disagree.

Our 2012 tax team students are also learning by partnering with the citywide Financial Aid Saturdays program which operates in Room 108 of the Bowden Building as part of our mayor's efforts to raise the numbers of persons applying for student financial aid by five percent.

Our site leader is college Business Information Solutions Department faculty member Kenneth Bankston. His team processed \$5.9 million in refunds for 2,964 low- to moderate-income clients in 2011, en route to ensuring those clients received \$65.3 million in adjusted gross income and \$2.3 million in earned income credit. Janie Gonzales, Chair of our Business Information Solutions Department which manages this very dynamic service, appreciates that her program provides opportunities for students and the public to work as volunteers with a very successful service operation. Students are each providing 20 or more hours per week, in our center or off-campus distributing information on our services to potential clients at workforce centers in the city. We are making a difference.

## Student Memorial to College Education for Veterans



For Veteran's Day, more than 500 of our two-year college honor society students dedicated a memorial to college education for veterans, followed by discussions led by students on their lives before, during and after their service in the armed forces

We invite you to view the new marker on the Campus Green located between our Welcome Center building and our G.J. Sutton Learning Center building. The students who conceived and funded the marker are members of our chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and their project leader Jennifer Garcia-Valdez.

One original primary mission of community colleges in America was to serve the workforce education needs of servicemembers such as the such as the Tuskegee Airmen as they transitioned back to civilian life in the final months of World War II. Today, community colleges educate half of America's college students. Our marker is a tribute conceived by honor students to honor the legacy of our college as a trusted provider of education to servicemembers of the past, present and future. The American concept of memorials for college students in the armed forces that began with war memorial stadiums and other buildings named in tribute to students serving their country continues on our campus today.

Historically among the area's top three colleges preferred by local military consumers, roughly 1,200 benefit-eligible uniformed, civilian, retired, transitioning and family servicemembers attend our college in fall and spring semesters, and approximately 750 during summer terms. For the past three years St. Philip's College has been designated a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine. In addition, we are one of the 1,900 Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges® Consortium Member Institutions, a consortium of Pentagon-certified "military-friendly institutions with flexible policies that allow mobile servicemembers and their families to complete degrees rather than just accumulate course credit." The colleges also pledge to be military-friendly and design policies and practices in the student services, admissions, and marketing areas that provide easy access to accurate information about the school, its degree programs, policies, and procedures. We have operated a campus on a former Air Force base at 800 Quintana Road in San Antonio for 24 years. Organized by the staff in our Veteran's Affairs Office, our Veteran's Day event is an annual special occasion we invite all to experience.

## SAVE THE DATE

St. Philip's College 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

*March 2, 2012*  
*The Republic Golf Course*



# President's Lecture Series

St. Philip's College hosted seminars with an actor who brought several classic addresses of national hero Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to life as our college's first President's Lecture Series event of 2012.

The interpreter of the life and work of Dr. King was Jim Lucas. His film and television credits include appearances in *Head of State*; *Ladder 49*; *National Treasure I and II*, *Something the Lord Made*; *The West Wing*; *The District*; *24* and *The Wire*. His public seminar February 9 in our Watson Fine Arts Center followed two classroom seminars for our students and meetings with our leadership team.

Knowledge of Dr. King's words and deeds are as fundamental to today's students as those of



Frederick Douglass, Gandhi, Confucius or Plato were to students of previous centuries. We thank Mr. Lucas for inspiring our students to sharpen their senses of inquiry into the many positive meanings of Dr. King in a thoroughly modern context.

Mr. Lucas is an ambassador for the words and deeds of Dr. King during the 12-year period of King's life in which the activist became a world-respected figure. He expects audiences to be inspired by re-rehearing his words, adding "we still have a ways to go, and that battle to do good is not over."

"Dr. King is my hero and the things he did were of significance to his country to help all human beings," Lucas shared. "When I get into his words, I try to remind people that many still struggle to find food, justice, fair housing and loans at fair rates ... today."

During seminars and post-performance press opportunities, the actor explained how he was inspired to learn and later recite King's addresses nationwide after growing up on the Louisiana-Mississippi border during the civil rights movement and later attending the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Lucas' father Curtis traveled from Houston to observe his son teach at our college.



"I was crying and I sat wiping my tears away today," Curtis Lucas said. "Our church in Louisiana was burned to the ground twice," Lucas recalled of the 1960s civil rights struggle for himself and his son. "My son speaks from personal experience, which adds light and strength to his message. His talent is a gift, and he expresses it well."

Our President's Lecture Series provides opportunities for the college and community to hear noted speakers' perspectives on local and global issues once each fall, spring and summer. The forum is free and attracts students, faculty and staff from the college in addition to members of the local community.

## NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH



*Black History Month co-chair Nina McGrath with San Antonio Municipal Court Judge Linda H. Conley, St. Philip's College President Loston and chair Dr. Sharon Crockett-Bell*

of service to assist the clients of Roseville Senior Opportunity Center.

**You are invited to attend the following remaining 2012 observance events:**

**2012 Soul Food Feast** | Paid event | Feb. 29 | 11:30 a.m. | Heritage Room

**Faith, Hope and Persistence – Artemisia Bowden's Dream Art Exhibition** | Center for Learning Resources building | Feb. 1-29 | Mondays-Thursdays from 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Fridays from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



*Black History Month Exhibiting Artist Claudette Hopkins*



## Artemisia Bowden Day

Please join the St. Philip's College community as we honor the legacy of Artemisia Bowden as a pioneer educator, social activist and community leader. Her contributions over 52 years of leadership to our college have had a lasting impact on our school and our students and alumni. Join us for food, music, art and games on March 1 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. under the Heritage Pavilion as we pay tribute to this incredible woman.

## 2012 Student Financial Aid Saturdays Program Site

Our college is helping our mayor to stimulate a five percent increase in the number of prospective students completing their federal and state financial aid applications this academic year. We offer an enhanced version of the mayor's first-ever Student Aid Saturdays program, and we applaud the mayor's effort to stimulate the college-going culture in our service area, particularly among families who have members who could be the first in the family to go to college as a result of this initiative.

Offered in both English-language and Spanish-language, clients are receiving free help in completing complex scholarship, federal and state forms for college financial aid from experts at local businesses and college financial services offices, to include our employees. In particular, staff from our Student Recruitment and Student Financial Services Offices are on hand to provide one-on-one assistance as part of the Alamo Colleges' College Connection Financial Aid Saturdays initiative. The next events are scheduled for March 3 and May 5 on our main campus.

What distinguishes our participation from others citywide is our depth of involvement and commitments of resources. Before any customer service began citywide, the service representatives who are assisting clients in eight locations citywide were trained in classrooms on our campus.

## 2011 Turkey Dinner Competition



Our college's professional relationships with the specialty food consumers and employees at Central Market® are not-so-secret ingredients to our recipe for outstanding opportunities for our culinary arts students each year. We call this partnership the Central Market® San Antonio/St. Philip's College Thanksgiving Culinary Competition, and the annual free event in the Café of the food store was once again a big hit for education and food lovers.

We invited all to learn while examining, tasting and rating the quality of student-prepared holiday specialty foods. Our student chefs were only in the café for a few hours as part of their graded advanced culinary arts class. The advanced class-within-a-class occurred when specialty food lovers congregated in the café asking questions of students while carefully examining, tasting and rating the student chef-prepared meals.

Under the tutelage of Professor William D. Thornton, a certified executive chef and an advisor in our culinary arts and restaurant management program, many of our students are on their way or already working professionally in San Antonio's food industry. Our college's 16-year-old culinary competition inspires students to show off their culinary skills. We moved our event to the store as part of its soft opening in San Antonio in 1999.

## Interfaith Challenge

Our students are making a difference by partnering with 400 higher education institutions in a challenge to engage students in community service with a nondenominational element at the invitation of President Obama.

A complex example of positive student participation was reflected in many aspects of one of America's larger Martin Luther King Day of Service marches. Individual acts of participation ranged from beautification of the lots and areas along the march route, marching and assisting visitors when we partnered with the city to operate a park-and-ride site on our campus.

Nationally, this initiative is led by the White House and is supported by the Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Kevin Schantz, our college's service learning coordinator, informs and recruits students to re-focus their 2011-2012 service in this direction, and works independently and with community partners to help our students serve meaningfully.



Our social and behavioral sciences faculty served the national vision by organizing a well-attended conversation on chaplaincy and interfaith dialogue in the military September 21 in our Heritage Room. The faculty moderated the program with locally practicing U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force chaplain panelists who discussed the topics and took questions from an audience of students and campus visitors.

Faculty member Jason Fabianke, said the event was an excellent example of the campaign's power to stimulate student and community

success. Through the year, people of different faiths and no faith at all are speaking sincerely together about the needs in their community, and learning from practicing experts in the field how an interfaith dialogue adds to our lives in the Alamo City.

Our initial student challenge project was a National Day of Service and Remembrance event observing the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Our interfaith promotional table initiative in the Fall 2011 Semester allowed intimate groups of students and employees at both of our campuses to informally reflect on the meaning of interfaith in their lives. Similarly, a Fall 2011 Hunger Banquet on November 17 attracted more than 200 students to consider the positive impact respect for all faiths can have in the quest to reduce hunger worldwide. Our upcoming college interfaith events include interfaith promotional table programs for the Spring 2012 Semester starting in late February, a day of service to assist the clients of Roseville Senior Opportunity Services and an interfaith wrap-up dialogue in April in collaboration with the San Antonio Interreligious Council.

(from page 1 - MLK Day of Service)



## MLK National Day Of Service

Our entire day of service program was enhanced when Kevin and Dean of Student Success Dr. Paul Machen connected our students to the White House's new National Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge. We were among 400 higher education institutions engaging students in a non-denominational community service activity at the invitation of President Obama. For our students, the four-day 25th MLK anniversary program will be remembered as an effort that bridged gaps and encouraged tolerance through community service and innovative thinking.

Students, employees and family members who joined in the annual march walked several miles, a portion of which bordered the college. It was our largest group of marchers as a college. The conclusion of the march marked the start of the free commemorative program in

Pittman-Sullivan Park. There, an additional 100 students greeted marchers with information promoting the college's free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance services.

Our partnerships included hosting the city's Youth Empowerment Summit of workshops and music for high school students citywide in the academic wing and auditorium of the Watson Fine Art Center. Our tradition of support continued as we once again hosted a VIA Metropolitan Transit park-and-ride site for the march, and for those who were unable to attend, the staff of radio station KRTU Jazz 91.7 was on campus covering the march and commemorative program live.

We also partnered with the city to display a large and inspiring outdoor banner from our Watson Fine Arts Center. Our banner complemented dozens of similar banners bearing quotes from



*SPC student Mathero Stevens and Rachel Cywinski, adjunct math instructor and tutor from the Tutoring and Technology Center.*

such local civic leaders and activists as the late activist Rev. Claude Black and current San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro. The phrase chosen for our backdrop, Love has the Final Word, says a lot about the spirit and the character of the event. We invite you to join our students for the next National Day of Service in 2013.

## Hunger Banquet

More than 200 of our nutrition, algebra and social psychology students recently studied the phenomenon of hunger while donating 1,425 pounds of food and \$200 to help patrons of the San Antonio Food Bank during their Fall 2011 Hunger Banquet.

To the students, the event was a means to a greater understanding of the cause and effect of hunger.

From our perspective, the event was a huge success, proving once again that close collaborations can be achieved interdepartmentally and that our students are capable of doing amazing things. Over 200 students, staff and faculty gathered outside of our Center for Learning Resources building to make this our largest banquet ever. Post-event comments and reflection papers prepared by students indicate all logistical challenges were worth the efforts.

The effort required a seamless cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculty members Mary Kunz (Nutrition, Culinary Arts), Sounny Slitine (Mathematics), Irene Young (Social Psychology), Kathy White (Online Nutrition), Solomon Nfor (Nutrition) and Kevin Schantz, Service Learning Coordinator. They achieved two goals: 1) encouraging students to apply concepts normally learned in the classroom to an outside setting and 2) running a food drive in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank.

Collaborative meetings were held throughout the previous spring and recent fall semesters. Posters for the event were made by students from Kathy's online nutrition class. Rice and beans for the event were prepared by Mary's culinary students. Scripts were prepared and presented by Irene's students. Solomon's students conducted both the food drive and community group information booth partnerships. Students from several organizations also donated food. All of these activities were coordinated by Kevin.



## Student Obtains Cybersecurity Job

Our college boasts the city's only community college students who receive degrees and cybersecurity certifications approved by the National Security Agency. Our second class of these students includes one current student who landed his entry-level dream job in the industry one semester before he completed the course.

As the first group of students in the program prepared for graduation this winter, current student Trey Houston attended a recruitment effort in San Antonio initiated by the NSA. There he met recruiters from Rackspace, en route to becoming our first student in our enhanced program to find full-time employment in the field before graduating.

As anticipated, life at Rackspace has been an excellent whirlwind, with information constantly flying at him, Houston shared recently. He is going through the process of immersion into the many systems of Rackspace with the extremely knowledgeable crew with whom he works.

Cybersecurity faculty member Robert Fransman tells his students they can find success in education while their education is in progress. He tells them he can teach them in class, but there is more a student must do to supplement what is taught in class, including interning, networking and employment in the industry. Are you prepared to go the distance?, he frequently asks.

At week 13 of a 16-week class last year, Houston went the distance.

"I wore a suit and tie to meet people at a job fair with FBI, NSA and CIA recruiters in November, and I worked the room to see what each agency needed and what schooling I had," said Houston. "With Rackspace, I started talking about things we were doing in our classes which I enjoyed," Houston said.

"As the conversation turned, there were five Rackspace people at their booth, and the next thing you know, there were four people talking to me," said Houston. "I told them I would love an entry-level job coming out of college with my NSA certificates. They connected with that, and later, I got a call from a recruiter," Houston recalled. "I told a four-person interview panel what I was going over in class that week, and I left feeling good. A few days later, I received the job offer and I said yes. Having resumes ready and attending job fairs are indispensable tools for me. Also, I don't dress in T-shirts and flip-flops for interviews," Houston concluded with a smile.

We have enhanced the capacity of our network security students to serve in their field by providing them the opportunity to earn some of the top-paid professional certifications from the NSA. The first groups of degree recipients in this group took good advantage of options to enter the world of employment in this demanding industry that protects us all, and the current degree candidates are enjoying success in the field at their earliest convenience as well.

## STEM Symposium

Each year we improve the quality and quantity of science education available in San Antonio by uniting representatives from city, school district, university, and industry and government sectors at our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) symposiums. While our winter symposium on our Southwest Campus featured a Chesapeake Energy speaker on the Eagle Ford Shale play and the future of compressed natural gas in Texas, our first environmental science program alumnus, Ashley McCullin, spoke of her opportunities as an intern with the environmental petro-science firm SOLGENS before she graduated from us and successfully transferred to UTSA.

High school student panelists presented their findings in STEM fields for our guests who included Dr. Afamia El Nakat, spokesperson for the Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute. Teams of visiting student panelists shared meticulous presentations that ranged from network security to community garden building and energy generation to investigations of salts and bacteria.

Ruben Prieto is the symposium organizer and Community Outreach Coordinator for our math department who promotes STEM opportunities to local high school students and stakeholders citywide.

We will continue to hold forums where the local STEM community networks nourish the future of the STEM workforce in San Antonio. We established partnerships in year one, and we hope to continue those and establish more with school districts, four-year colleges, business and industry, all focused on STEM. The partners convened to discuss expanding the STEM education and STEM workforce pipeline in San Antonio. What we have to offer is a college where aspiring STEM minds belong, due to our historic science education expertise, our facilities, connections with the sources of funding for science scholarships, and the expanding number of industries that want to hire our graduates. For information on future STEM events, contact Ruben at (210) 486-2470, or email rprieto@alamo.edu

## Best-in-Nation Choir Member Sings on Grand Ole Opry® Stage in Nashville

The 105 Voices of History Student Development Summit and Concert Performance program taking place on 105 college campuses nationwide is elevating our music major Jessica Kemp to new heights in study, performance and marketability in Washington, D.C., and in Nashville. Kemp performed on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry® January 22 in Nashville with students representing the nation's 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Two prominent music industry businesswomen, five-time Grammy® winner Wynonna Judd and 11-time Grammy® winner Shirley Caesar, performed with the choir.

Ms. Kemp's parents travelled to Nashville to hear her perform. Her father is the pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and everyone at her church knew about the concert, the 2006 Douglas MacArthur High School graduate said.

Kemp said she has enjoyed the honor of rehearsing extensively at several of



the Historically Black Colleges and Universities member schools this past summer, and performing in Washington, D.C., at the Kennedy Center during the 2011 HBCU Week season. While

school was starting in September, she attended memorable business and marketing workshops in Washington with Fortune 500 and nonprofit executives. Since that trip, Kemp says she's a little more focused on what it is she wants to do with her music.

"When I got back from Washington, I realized what I have been experiencing at St. Philip's College is what I thought I would be preparing to experience from a major university," said Kemp. "St. Philip's College opened my eyes to options I never thought about, until I went to several of the historically Black colleges to see their music programs and meet their students. Many of those schools have thriving graduate programs. I'm interested," Kemp said.

# 2012 Cowboy Breakfast

Roughly 450 of our culinary arts students have prepared much of the food for 14 years for the signature San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo kickoff. Thirty-two of our first-year students enjoyed a special part of this St. Philip's College experience during the 2012 Cowboy Breakfast on January 27 at Cowboys Dance Hall.

In the east end of the cooking zone tent at one of the world's larger free breakfast events, students Serenia Hood and Patrice Williams shared the honor of assembling the final taco of 10,000 prepared. Roughly 40,000 guests

waited outside the cooking tent while nearly all television news and radio stations in the college's service area focused on the talents of students in our program, which is one of the world's top 25-rated college-level culinary arts programs.

The day of service and learning for the culinary students included preparing Cowboy Breakfast meals for 40,000 onsite and additional meals for delivery to several thousand members of the armed forces who are convalescing from their battle wounds in the Warrior and Family Support Center at Fort Sam Houston near our campus.

Chef Frank Salinas, an assistant professor who is a chef instructor and one of the original recipients of a Cowboy Breakfast Scholarship, said proceeds from past breakfasts have funded scholarships for study in the hospitality professions at our college. The Cowboy Breakfast Foundation members have presented \$73,000 to fund scholarships for study in the tourism, hospitality and culinary arts program over the past eight years. Recipients of these \$2,000 scholarships for the 2011-2012 season are second-year students Normalinda Trevino, Genaro Trevino, Latrice Williams and Leonel Guajardo.



*Dr. Loston placed 3rd in the annual cow chip toss.*



## Mass Casualty Exercise and Evaluation



Since 2008, our health sciences students and faculty members have been indispensable volunteer partners in the most important mass casualty exercise and evaluation in the city. Seventy of our students served in the latest drill on October 27 at the San Antonio International Airport and more than 20 leading area hospitals.

Nursing faculty member Rhonda Webb and colleague David Reiff co-lead our partnership in 2011 as members of the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council team. The council members focus on continuous improvement of trauma care systems in a service area that includes San Antonio.

At 5:30 a.m. 70 students descended on the exercise headquarters near the airport. There, 45 students were assigned roles requiring an application of realistic makeup to simulate complex wounds or blood in an advanced medical research environment. Once made up, all of the students served as patients with the exact simulated injury, trauma signs and symptoms which medical teams were expected to deal with at such participating area hospitals as Mission Trail Baptist Hospital, Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio State Hospital, Methodist Stone Oak Hospital and North Central Baptist Hospital. In return for service, each student learned and attended individual recruitment interviews at local hospitals, where they learned of jobs in the industries they wished to be employed in.

## New Student Orientation

St. Philip's College helped our students navigate their way through our twice-yearly New Student Orientation program held this year in the Atrium of the Center for Learning Resources building and the Theater of the Watson Fine Arts Center.

The program was first organized by our First Year Experience Center staff in 2006 as a convocation and evolved into an orientation in 2009. It succeeds by motivating our students to make well-informed, successful and affordable transitions through college life. Motivational testimonials were provided by St. Philip's President Dr. Loston and Dr. Karen Sides, the college's Dean of Interdisciplinary Programs. Both testimonials received excellent ratings by students surveyed. The testimonials were provided in response to a quality improvement suggestion from the college's Student Government President during a Chancellor's Student Forum held in December. Events concluded with campus tours and an expo on degree programs and services for students. The date of the Fall 2012 orientation will be shared with students when the Fall 2012 Academic Year schedule is announced in March.

## Upcoming Events

- March 2012** Women's History Month
- March 1** Artemisia Bowden Day
- March 2** 4th Annual Golf Tournament
- March 29** Women in Nontraditional Occupations Conference
- March 31** Women Breaking Through Conference
- April 26** CultureFest
- May 11** Graduation

## Teaching Excellence Award Recipient

It gives us great pleasure to announce the recipient of our award for a faculty member who demonstrates excellent teaching skills and dedication to students, their academic department and the academic profession.

Our faculty member is David Weaver, an assistant professor in our aircraft technology program with 16 faculty and staff members currently serving more than 170 students as the primary aerospace training resource in South Texas. We presented Weaver with our new Teaching Excellence Award during our Spring 2012 All College Meeting January 10. Nominations going forward will be open all year and will be reviewed annually, with the recipient announced the following year.



Rafael Brisita, our Aircraft, Construction and Manufacturing Department Chair, said the award for Dave reflects the quality of people we have. "When we look at what he does, many others do the same things for students and industry, but we know he goes above and beyond the required and the inspired. Our internal award shows we appreciate our people who excel for our students, and serves as a model to inspire others," Brisita said.

"I quickly realized education was a profession I could see myself doing for a long time," said Weaver. "To be able to provide skill training to someone, and then see that knowledge change their life... brings a certain amount of satisfaction in what my colleagues and I do. We are all extremely proud of our program, and it compares favorably to any program nationally," Weaver said.

"The excellence award means a lot to me beyond my personal commitment to student success," Weaver said. "Equally important, it recognizes the tremendous faculty and staff team we have in our department. Everyone here is always willing to step up and help to make things happen. Their willingness to work as a team has been key to every success we have had in our aircraft program. The leadership of Mr. Brisita and our program chair Rod Cotter creates an atmosphere of cohesiveness. We simply would not be where we are now—with the area's top program—without them," said Weaver.

## Nominee for 2012 Piper Professor Award



Approximately 300 students in 10 English classes at St. Philip's College are students of our 2012 Piper Professor Award for Faculty Excellence nominee.

Our nominee is Dr. Jeanette N. Passty, an

associate professor of English who earned her doctorate at the University of Southern California (1988). She was selected by the faculty senate.

Established in 1958, 10 awards of \$5,000 each are made annually by the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award Foundation to professors in Texas for their superior teaching services at the college level.

During her early academic career in California, Passty developed the curriculum for the first college study skills course to be offered at USC. She also developed and taught USC's first courses in science fiction and detective fiction. As a faculty member at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, she co-designed and taught that college's first remedial course in literature. She joined us

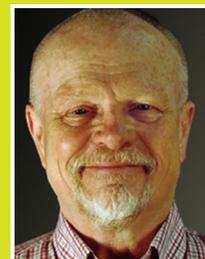
in 1988 as the recipient of the American Library Association Outstanding Academic Book Award for the 1988-1989 season. Twenty-four years later, she is being recognized as an influential faculty member who has helped us lead the nation's third-largest state in graduating at-risk students for success in life for almost one-quarter the lifespan of our 113-year-old college.

"I am teaching because, from the fourth grade through the Ph.D., gifted, talented and dedicated teachers encouraged me to fulfill my potential and inspired me with the belief that what I do every day in the classroom has made a difference for the better in thousands of individual lives and also in the world," said Passty.

Passty has presented and/or published 30 papers in literary studies, multicultural studies and developmental education for members of academic departments or at scholarly conferences from UCLA to the University of London. As a writer and researcher, she is the recipient of the ALA Outstanding Academic Book Award (1988-1989). As a faculty member, Passty is the college's Teaching Excellence Award recipient (2003-2004), and the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Medallion for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership recipient (2003). She also serves as editor-in-chief of the SPC Press. She can currently be observed teaching developmental English or freshman survey of literature to five classes of 30 students in addition to former students who come by for mentoring.

## New Assistant Professor Emeritus

Our Dr. Frederick A. Bakenhus has earned the status of Assistant Professor Emeritus of Mathematics.



Bakenhus joins Pearl Conyers (2011) and Dr. William C. Davis (2010)

as our most recent faculty members to be granted emeritus status. During his 16 years of accomplishments with our college, he enhanced the academic success of thousands of students at one of the nation's most innovative college-level mathematics departments. He was among the first math faculty members to teach an online math course here, an option today's students equate with the St. Philip's College experience.

Recognized for excellence in teaching and service by induction into the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Bakenhus served as the chair of our mathematics department from 2001-2003. He earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics from the University of Houston, his masters from Southern Methodist University and his doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Texas at Austin.

Within our college, he served as an assessor on our original Quality Enhancement Plan team (2005). That team focused us on enhancing the level of critical thinking skills which employers seek in students.

A career Airman before entering the education profession, Bakenhus' commitments to furthering excellence in teaching mathematics to community college students were reflected in his active memberships in the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, and a term as treasurer of the Texas Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges.

An active member of the mathematics community, Bakenhus is currently teaching mathematics to our students as an adjunct faculty member.

## ENJOY FINE DINING AND THEATER

Once on This Island will run for seven performances April 13-22 in the Watson Fine Arts Center. The second annual opening night Dinner and Theatre event will take place on April 13th, tickets are \$20 per person.

General admission is \$10, Alamo Colleges student, faculty, staff, military, senior and SATCO member admission is \$5, and admission is free for high school students with identification. For more information contact Maria Andrews at (210) 486-2205.