

the WILDGSPAD



2015

the 
WINGSPAN

The Freshman Yearbook 2015

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Our university opened its doors to freshmen and sophomores in fall 2014, so Dr. Darlene Biggers, vice president of Student Services, envisioned a yearbook to document our transition from an upper-level institution to a four-year university.

My staff and I would like to thank Taleen Washington and Lindsay Humphrey for allowing us to work in a portion of the newsroom and helping us get started. We would like to thank Andrew Reitberger, acting director of Student Life, for suggesting The Wingspan as the title of the yearbook. And last, but certainly not least, we would also like to thank Royce Walker, our faculty advisor, for not only dealing with our craziness, but also for dealing with payroll every Wednesday.

I really hope this yearbook looks awesome on holographic screens when students 50 years from now review their university history while procrastinating on a research paper.

It has been my pleasure to witness the university make this historical transition, and it has been my honor to document it.

Thanks, UHCL.

(Get back to your research paper, kid. I'm technically older than you at this point.)

Sam Oser

Samantha Oser is an undergrad student double majoring in literature and communication. She loves climbing trees and eating cheese. In her free time she likes to go bicycling in Montrose and she enjoys binge watching Netflix documentaries. She lives with her two cats.

MEET THE STAFF



Abhi Jain

Abhiruchi Jain is from India, the land of diversity. She worked with KPMG India and is pursuing MBA at UHCL. She likes to sing, dance and enjoys philosophy and staring at the night sky. She speaks four different languages and believes there's a lot to learn and take in.



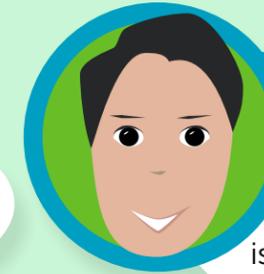
Chad Johnson

Chad Johnson, a communication undergrad, makes a living doing online resale. In his free time, he enjoys going to concerts, festivals and really loves animals and wildlife.



Bianca Salinas

Bianca Salinas is a first-generation college freshman and plans on majoring in communication. She believes in the power of positive energy and the power of counting your blessings. She's always looking for ways to improve herself and to help others.



Eric Yanez

Eric Yanez is a freshman and is an undecided major. He loves getting involved on campus, and his favorite food is grilled cheese. His biggest challenge in college has been studying, but making friends has become a lot easier than he expected.



Jill Whalen

Jill Whalen, digital media studies major, graduated in December 2014, and is excited about this new phase of her life. She loves to travel, paint, dance and volunteer for non-profits.



Stephanie Settlemyre

Stephanie "SWOOPS" Settlemyre is a graphic design undergrad and the Wingspan photographer. She loves her faith, family and photography. Most days you can find her "SWOOPING" at UHCL freshman events.



Sam Savell

Sam Savell is a communication senior who has a serious way of designing the best things in his life. Outside of school, he enjoys tinkering with electronics, restoring arcade games, learning about how anything works and playing with his two dogs.

OUR HISTORY



These pictures show key moments from the early years of the campus. Photo credits: UHCL Archives

The university was established in 1971 with the 62nd Texas Legislature. In 1968, a report by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System (now the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) called for a second University of Houston campus to provide upper level classes and graduate programs. The Texas Senate authorized construction of a permanent campus at Clear Lake in 1973.

The first phase of construction for the Bayou Building began in early 1974. The building was designed with a mall format in the event the university was not successful. The Bayou Building is

now the largest of the university's five buildings. In September 1974, UHCL's founding chancellor, Alfred R. Neumann, led the university's 60 charter professors to teach the first 1,069 students.

In addition to the Clear Lake campus, UHCL partnered with the City of Pearland to create UHCL Pearland campus. Classes began at the satellite campus on Aug. 23, 2010.

UHCL received approval from the state for downward expansion during the state's 2011 legislative session. Even though the legislative session is from January to May, Gov. Rick Perry signed the legislation in June.

"When we first started considering adding the first two years of college, I was very excited," Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for Student Services, said. "I looked forward to the energy and enthusiasm they would bring to our campus."

The university did not receive fundraising from the legislation in 2011 because there weren't any freshmen on campus.

"There's always competition for funds, and they didn't want to give money to an invisible product," President William Staples said. "We anticipate funds in the 2015 legislative session for

our STEM building."

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) building is being planned to have more classrooms geared towards the sciences. The freshmen and sophomores have course requirements for science that need to be met.

The university had its first 211 freshmen on campus in Aug. 25, 2014.

Staples said, "We are delighted with the turn out. I am very, very pleased. Underline that five times."



Sam Oser

the
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HAWK PREMIER

&

FRESHMAN

PROGRAMS



HAWK PREMIER

FRESHMAN OPEN HOUSE



Left: Kun Lê Phu Trúng, graduate student, speaks with a university leader.
Above: View of Hawk Premier from higher floor.
Right: Hunter hangs out with a Hawk and handler, Michelle Johnson. Photo credits: ONSP

The Hawk Premier presented an inaugural open house for prospective freshmen and sophomores with an emphasis on the freshmen. The premier took place on Saturday, Nov. 1, with an average of 200 people attending. Prospective students and parents received a wide range of knowledge pertaining to the university schools, faculty, campus events and general information including financial aid and scholarships. The premier also included fun activities such as face painting, wax hands and a live DJ.

"The purpose of the Hawk Premier is to show prospective freshmen and their parents why the 'Choice is Clear' for them to attend UHCL," Lori Lopez, assistant director of admissions – special events, said.

The morning began with prospective students and parents touring the Student Organization Expo in the Bayou Building. Current students presented information about their organizations and how students benefit from having extracurricular activities.

Prospective students and guests met with faculty from the four schools: School of Business, School of Education, School of Human Sciences and Humanities and School of Science and Computer Engineering. Students had the opportunity to interact with possibly their future professors and career mentors.

By the end of the day, freshmen were asking career counselors about the admission process to become a student at UHCL.

This Hawk Premier differed from past events because several events were included specifically for prospective freshman students. The first premier was held February 2, 2013.

"Most of our feedback is great and students and parents have told us that the event finalizes their decision on applying to UHCL," Lopez said.

Per several responses from the evaluations, prospective students and guests shared the following comments:

"I honestly do appreciate every ones effort as far as informing me and getting me prepared for my future. Thank you so much!" and "It was very far from my house, but it was worth it."



Jill Whalen

STUDENT ORIENTATION



AJ Johnson leads an orientation group.



Photo credits: ONSP Staff

Student Orientation And Registration (SOAR) became one of the many programs to create a place to welcome first-year students who have between zero to 29 credit hours.

When Angela Montelongo, director of student orientation, arrived on campus in April 2013, Orientation and New Student Programs (ONSP) already had an outline of possibilities for the freshman orientation provided by the previous director. Sara Khalifa, coordinator of ONSP, joined the team in August 2013.

A committee consisting of Darlene Biggers, associate vice president of student services, Montelongo, Khalifa, and enrollment management met consistently during fall 2013 to discuss the content of SOAR. By spring 2014, Khalifa had designed a manual for the presentations, skits and icebreakers.

Both Montelongo and Khalifa are active in the National Orientation Directors Association

(NODA), and attended these conferences to further ensure the stability of the orientation process.

"Orientation is not just an event; it's a process," Khalifa said. "It's planting that seed to start relationships on campus and providing students with tools to succeed at UHCL."

SOAR places a strong emphasis on their orientation leaders because incoming students need to have someone relatable.

"There is a lot of research showing how much impact a peer mentor can have on a student," Montelongo said.

The first SOAR session, held June 13, 2014, had 25 students attend. Altogether there were 10 sessions 341 students in attendance.

"It was nice to see the excitement at the first orientation," Montelongo said. "And from a logistic standpoint, everything went accordingly."

The SOAR sessions included a portion where

students are able to interact with clubs and organizations on campus.

"All the clubs helped," Nathan Thompson, freshman, said. "I'm excited to see it keep growing."

Because the SOAR sessions are so content heavy, it does not allow much room for social interactions. Montelongo and Khalifa wanted to include more social pieces such as Hawk Launch.

"Hawk Launch is designed to be a supplement to the social and community elements that are needed for students to have that tie to the university," Khalifa said. "The social aspect is necessary for success on campus."

The spring 2015 SOAR sessions will change slightly, but there are no plans to tremendously alter the sessions. Spring 2015 allowed current freshmen to participate as orientation leaders.

"We are primarily still a transfer and

graduate student population, so some of the upperclassmen may not be as focused or able to be an orientation leader," Khalifa said. "Aside from that, they don't have the first time feeling of being at UHCL like the freshmen do."

The freshmen were interviewed and selected. They will go through the same training process for orientation leader as if they were upperclassmen.

"People had this initial fear that freshmen would change the campus completely by running around and being loud," Montelongo said. "But because of the type of institution that we are and who we recruited, these are still students who are academically focused. They just happen to be a little bit younger than our current population."

SOAR ONSP



Photo credits: ONSP Staff



WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE

ORIENTATION & NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

Video credits: Jill Whalen

Since having the university's first freshmen in fall 2014, Orientation and New Student Programs (ONSP) has recruited freshmen to be orientation leaders for spring and summer orientations.

ONSP received 97 applications for orientation leader positions allowing the program to be more selective and choosing their leaders based on leadership and community involvement.

"The orientation leader staff is balanced in that it represents the student population," Khalifa said. "There are a couple of freshmen to represent that demographic and plenty of upperclassmen to represent them too."

This spring the President's Office funded ONSP to take 10 orientation leaders including three freshmen, to National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) in St. Louis, Missouri. All leaders were required to go to a certain number of workshops and participate in competition. Two leaders placed in Case Study: Best Problem Solving and Case Study: Best Critical Thinking of 400 participants.

The orientation leader process has evolved so much over time. It initially began with only completing an application and a four-hour training

the day before orientation. Then the process involved completing an application, interviewing and a two-day training. Now, applicants must interview and go to a Training Retreat in Livingston for a weekend to review information learned at NODA and to train for the orientations.

"Our goal is to build relationships that last beyond the orientation," Khalifa said.

Starting this summer, SOAR is scheduled to have more community building pieces with new students and orientation leaders. Behind Closed Doors will allow new students to speak with orientation leaders without staff and faculty overseeing the scheduled event. Creating Community will allow new students to carry around a Polaroid camera during orientation and then display the pictures with a fear written on the back of the picture.

"We want SOAR to be less transactional and more relational," Khalifa said. "It is important for new students to have a sense of belonging."



Sam Oser

HAWK'S LANDING



Zach Mantei, Elizabeth Craft, Sky Davis, Jordan Dabney, Ericka Piercy, Rachel Sibayan, Jessica Fernandez pose with pumpkins at Hawk's Landing.



Aina Alleyne, Yesnia Jaime, and Swetha Shankar are the Resident Assistants at Hawk's Landing.



Students enjoy the variety of events, like pumpkin carving and a waffle bar sponsored by Hawk's Landing.



Ariel Thom grabs a coffee on her way to class. Photo Credits: Stephanie Settlemire and UFA.

UHCL established an exclusive community for the incoming freshmen called The Hawk's Landing. With over two years of planning, the Hawk's Landing is more than just a place for freshmen to live; it is a Living Learning Community (LLC). Such communities are popular and supportive of incoming freshmen, giving them a sense of identity and a well-grounded start to their academic career.

The project was put into motion by collaborative efforts between the Management Team and University Forest Student Village (managed by Campus Living Villages) and administrators at UHCL. These administrators include Yvette Bendeck, associate vice president of enrollment, Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for Student Services, David Rachita, interim dean of students, and Michelle Dotter, vice president of administration.

Lawrance Samaranayake, general manager at University Forest Student Village, discussed the group's effort in hand picking the name, floor plan style, building location and a variety of other details to establish the first on-campus LLC that hatched as the Hawk's Landing. Building one is dedicated to the freshman's residential life program. It consists of two-bedroom/two bath fully furnished units including water, electricity allowance and gas. It also provides students with a multifaceted program supporting social, academic and life skills.

"The current Hawks living on campus were very supportive and made sure our new freshmen felt welcome at the Hawk's Landing. In fact, a number of our current students were kind enough to relocate from

their apartments in Building one, so that we could turn it into the the Hawk's Landing," Samaranayake said.

The University Forest Apartments (UFA) staff guided them through their first move-in process, and also had dedicated community volunteers on hand to help on move-in day and be the first friends on campus.

"The Hawk's Landing is a more specialized LLC as all the first year Hawk's Landing students are located in one specific building with a dedicated residential life program and residential assistant (RA) to support their success as they 'Live, Learn and Grow'," Samaranayake said.

Freshmen RA Allen Portier, who is pursuing master's degree in psychology at UHCL, believes the freshmen are a lively, intelligent group and are also very diverse. They are very unique and each individual brings something different to the events, which enhances the experience for everyone.

"I work in collaboration with the University Forest professional staff and my peers to promote their student success and provide enjoyable events as outlets for these students while making myself available as a support system and resource whenever needed," Portier said.

The first Hawk's Landing event challenged the freshmen to find their classrooms before the first day of their class, relieving some of the first-day stress.

"This really helped," said Gabe Vela, freshman computer science major. "I felt more confidence in knowing where I needed to go on the first day and would not get lost."

UFA hosts special events every

month exclusively for the Hawk's Landing. Two of their most popular events were a Mediterranean culinary experience at Wael's Mediterranean cuisine and a trip to haunted houses in Houston for Halloween.

Portier said the freshmen have shown consistent attendance for all their events. They have also noticed their involvement outside of residential life juggling jobs, volunteer work and other commitments. This group of students has been interactive, outgoing and very busy with a full schedule.

Biggers believes the Hawk's Landing is special because of the camaraderie and friendship among the students. Biggers got her start in education working in housing and is still in contact with roommates she had in her freshman dorm. She also believes the gated community and regular campus police patrol adds a higher level of security.

"That was a big relief for parents who were having their child live on their own for the first time," Biggers said.

The program's philosophy centers on a "Live, Learn, and Grow" experience. The students' time at the university receives enhancement from this program.

"Statistics show students that are connected within the first two weeks of their first semester are apt to be retained, are more satisfied and are going to enjoy

their time here," Rachita said.

This gives the student the tools needed to keep working at their studies, graduate and become successful.

Although not residing at the Hawk's Landing, Zachary Talbot, biology major, lives at the University Forest Student Village.

"I feel that I still have an advantage over other students not living on campus. I enjoy having all the resources that are available to the residents," Talbot said.

Kimberley Hall, freshman psychology major, appreciates the apartment complex and that she has a room and a bathroom to herself. She thinks it is a blessing that the apartments are so close to school that she can just walk.

"This building is only for the freshmen, which is really nice," Hall said. "I know half the people because of classes and it's nice that we get to complain about the same homework. It's good to know people who moved in around the same time."

The Hawk's Landing freshmen are getting a great start to their college career by residing there, resulting in a win-win situation for both.

Biggers said, "It is a great beginning for us in terms of freshman living on campus."



Abhi Jain



Bhoomi Jani, biology major, studies in the Hawk's Landing clubhouse. Photo credits: Stephanie Settlemire

Study group events held at Hawk's Landing clubhouse always include free snacks and coffee as well as the use of the study room and main room.



UFA EARTH HOUR

MARCH 27

*In the top row:
Jonathan Gibson, Stephanie Romero,
Harsha Patil, Akrati Dosi, Madhura Sapre,
Swetha Shankar, Jonathan Gibson*

*In the middle row:
Akrati Dosi, Swetha Shankar, Estephany
Sanchez, Allen Portier, Madhura Sapre,
Harsha Patil*

*In the bottom row:
Ping-Hsun Tsai, Zherofang Zhang,
Jing Zhou, Joshua Shankle, Saba Khan,
Abhiruchi Jain, Sandeep Vasani, Eric
Garcia*

Photo credits: Stephanie Settlemire



Hawk Landing hosted an Earth Hour event for residents on March 27, 2015. Earth Hour engages students to turn off the lights for one hour as a symbolic commitment to reserve planet resources. The residents eat grilled hotdogs and corn, chips and soda; wear glow-in-the-dark swag and play games to finish off the evening.

FRESHMAN SEMINAR DYAD

The first day of college is quite a memorable one. Happy, curious, excited, scared of the unknown – feeling everything at once when one walks through those doors. The transition from school to college is not easy. From being spoon-fed to finding who one really is, it is a lot like jumping into the deep end of a pool.

UHCL understands the whirlwind of emotions freshmen go through, so the university has developed a dyad called The First-Year Seminar or Learning Frameworks (PSYC 1100). A one-credit hour course, it will evolve into a three-credit hour course the second year. A history or government class is combined with this course. It involves two major tasks: an academic task of teaching critical thinking and a social task of helping the students feel a sense of belongingness at the university. More than 200 students are enrolled in the course in the fall semester.

“Critical thinking is thinking about how you think. In class, we are trying to improve thinking by analyzing,” Charlotte Haney, an anthropologist who studies gender and violence in Northern Mexico and the coordinator of the freshman seminar, sheds more light on the dyad.

The students and faculty engage in a shared process of inquiry around the broad, interdisciplinary topic of civic engagement in a learning community combined with a core curriculum course. The faculty has unified the co-requisite courses through the idea of civic engagement and have pulled in their common reader, “The True American.”

Each week, the students read a chapter from “The True American” and fulfill different roles: discussion leader, devil’s advocate, global citizen, passive master, reporter and creative connector and discuss the book in a group. The students are put in these roles, so each person brings a different view of the book. The other required textbooks are “Critical Thinking: Concepts & Tools” and “How to Study and Learn.” These books present different concepts and how to go about learning. The students are graded on various parameters such as clarity, significance, depth, importance, logical thinking, and questions.

While discussing the second important piece, the social task, Haney explains that the students are involved in group

activities and community service to develop good friendships. The faculty also wants the students to see models of student success, so they have selected peer mentors. Each seminar has one such student and has been embedded in the freshman classroom.

AJ Johnson, one of the peer mentors for the freshmen, says that it is important for the students to take these classes because critical thinking can be used in other classes. It applies to all other courses, no matter what the curriculum is because they are being taught a different process of thinking.

“They do a lot about how to think differently,” Johnson said. “We are teaching them to look at any situation from different perspectives. We are basically making them individuals, making them think on their own, without opinions or biases.”

Sharmitha Sampath, a student from Haney’s class, shares her experience on the Learning Frameworks class. Students concentrate on critical thinking and introduction to the university: basics such as how to approach professors, how to write emails and how to cite sources. Sampath volunteered with the Houston Food Bank as part of her community service activity for the course.

“In high school, your teachers are constantly behind you about the due dates. At the university, you are left to yourself,” Sampath said. “You become more independent, and you have to make your wise choices.”

“The course is about giving your point of view, and no matter what it is, it is accepted.”

- Hunter Young

Hunter Young, a freshman pursuing computer engineering, said the course teaches critical thinking. Young feels everyone does that to an extent, but this class is asking them to do more by stretching their boundaries. He also

Video Credits: Jill Whalen

“THE FIRST-YEAR ISA SEMINAR COURSE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE INTELLECTUAL READINESS THAT ENSURES STUDENTS THRIVE IN COLLEGE”
WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE

says that the interaction with the librarian for assistance has helped him and feels it would be useful in the future at the university.

“The course is about giving your point of view, and no matter what it is, it is accepted,” Young said.

With 10 seminars this fall, Haney teaches two sections. Wanalee Romero, a literary scholar who researches Mexican women writers, is the other primary instructor for the course. Other faculty members include the co-directors of Teaching Learning Enhancement Center, an organization on campus that promotes excellence in teaching among faculty. The co-directors are: Kim Case, associate professor of women’s studies and psychology and runs the social psychology program; Lillian McEnery, associate professor in literacy, language and library science; and Desdemona Rios, assistant professor of social psychology and participates in Empowering Latinas in the Education System.

“I have been really fortunate and blessed to have such a wonderful faculty who are willing to work with us on this first adventure,” Haney said. “We are all bringing our own style to the class.”

The concept of First-Year Seminar is about integration and metamorphosis. It is about adjustment to the new social fabric, enhancement of comfort level of the freshmen along with the development of their inherent faculties like analytical skills and also the social skills.

Haney said, “We are trying to create a supportive environment where students can really soar.”



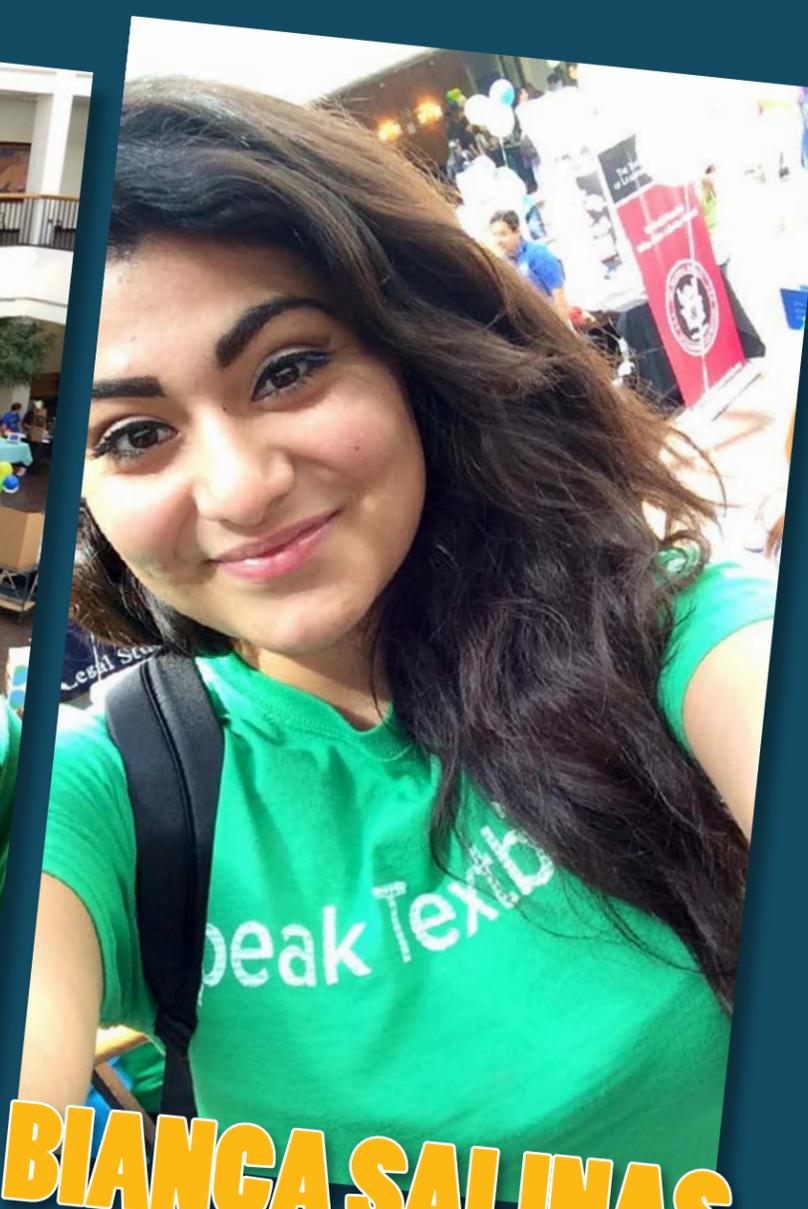
Abhi Jain

WINGSPAN BLOGGERS

The Wingspan documents the first freshmen on campus, and to further give the freshmen a voice, Bianca Salinas and Eric Yanez became the university's first freshman bloggers. Salinas and Yanez had weekly blogs posted on The Wingspan's website detailing their freshman experience.



ERIC YANEZ



BIANCA SALINAS

Find us online:

- <http://uhclwingspan.wordpress.com>
- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UHCL-The-Wingspan/>
- <http://twitter.com/UHCLTheWingspan>
- <http://instagram.com/thewingspanuhcl/>





Photo credits: Sam Savell

Bianca Salinas graduated from Chavez High School in 2015 at the top 25 percent of her class.

"I wasn't active at all," Salinas said. "I took a lot of extra classes at the beginning of high school, so I only had three classes senior year and I usually went home afterwards."

Before considering UHCL, Salinas planned to major in business at Lamar University. Salinas chose UHCL based on the proximity to her house, tuition rates, and the beautiful landscapes on campus. As soon as Salinas was accepted, she applied for the Hawk Leadership Institute (HLI) to become more involved.

"HLI really inspired me to get involved," Salinas said. "It helped that I already came in with the mindset of getting involved because college has given me the chance to start over where people don't know me."

Salinas entered UHCL as a psychology major and after a couple of months changed her major to communication.

"I want to continue to volunteer, and I want to apply for leadership positions on campus," Salinas said.

"What would I tell my high school self? Volunteer more; be better to yourself and for others; and please take the opportunities presented."

Eric Yanez graduated from Sam Rayburn High School in 2015 taking some AP classes, but he did not get involved in any extracurricular activities.

"I didn't go to any of the high school dances," Yanez said. "Except for prom because it's a big deal."

Yanez considered going to University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Texas Arlington to be more independent, but chose UHCL because he wanted to stand out.

"I didn't just want to be another student going to school," Yanez said. "By being part of the first freshman class at UHCL, I made history and it feels good."

Initially Yanez was scared to get involved

at UHCL because he did not know where to start. Yanez started as an undeclared major and attended Hawk Launch. At Hawk Launch, Yanez networked and Sara Khalifa, coordinator of Orientation and New Student Programs office (ONSP), encouraged him to volunteer.

"I knew I didn't want to be high school Eric," Yanez said.

Yanez is now majoring in environmental science and holds leadership positions in ONSP.

"I would tell my high school self to stop being a nobody and get involved. Do something. Ask your crush out! Most importantly, don't be so afraid." 



Sam Oser

WHO ARE THE FRESHMEN?

UHCL has expanded and opened its doors to a wider population and several programs have been implemented to assist the incoming freshmen and sophomores. Faculty and staff implemented the changes by preparing programs such as Student Leadership, Involvement & Community Engagement (SLICE), the Hawk Leadership Institute (HLI), Student Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and the freshman seminars.

The new population is diverse and intellectual. Charlotte Haney, freshman seminar coordinator, said most freshman students are first-generation college students in their families and have record high SAT scores. The university also received a large population of Hispanic females and a handful of international students.

Photo credits: Hawk Launch Staff

HELEN NGUYEN

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE

HELEN IS AT
NGUYEN AT
FRESHMAN UHCL
STUDENT UHCL

Freshman student Helen Nguyen, math major, and a graduate from Clear Springs High School, started her semester volunteering with SLICE. Nguyen's participation with SLICE has been simply positive, as she obtained leadership skills and made lasting relationships.

"We were able to embrace our school spirit, and the friends that I made there are the friends I currently have now too," Nguyen said.

She was also inspired to promote more fitness activities on campus by starting a student organization soccer club, the Hawk Futbol Club (FC). The club has become a social gathering for students from different nationalities to bond over the love for the sport. Nguyen plans to become a math teacher.



SANDY SAMAAAN

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE

SANDY
SAMAAAN IS A
FRESHMAN
STUDENT
AT UHCL

Sandy Samaan, biology major, was born in Kuwait, raised in New Jersey, and graduated from Clear Springs High School. She participates in the HLI program and maintains membership in the Pre-Health and Science Organization and the Chemistry Club. Samaan, dedicated to her career, keeps herself very busy with clubs and maintains her GPA.

"Package wise, UHCL had everything to me, being the first freshman class and the whole staff and faculty made you feel like you really were important and they really wanted you here," Samaan said.

Samaan's goal is to continue her education to become either a pediatrician or a family physician.



JORGE VICUNA

Jorge Vicuna, chemical engineering major and originally from Mexico City, grew up in Houston and graduated from Yes Prep East End High School. Vicuna is a first-generation college student. He is a member of the Chemistry Club and the event coordinator for the Hawk Futbol club. Recent changes with the freshman expansion inspired Vicuna to attend UHCL.

"Being a part of the first freshman year of this university has made me proud because I feel like we can make a change, this university has opened new doors," Vicuna said.



These three examples of dedicated freshmen expressed joy, pride and enthusiasm to be a part of the UHCL community. Their eagerness to take advantage of the possibilities offered at the university and the freshman programs, has enabled them to have a better college experience than they anticipated.



Jill Whalen

CLASS ACTS

College Students
Weekly Schedule

SUBJECT	HRS
Friends / Family	20
In class / studying	20
Online with PC / Laptop	18
Working	14
TV	10
Online with mobile device	5
Radio	5
Exercise / Sports	5

College Students
Use an Electronic Device



College Students
Play Online Games



College Students
Favorite Smartphone App

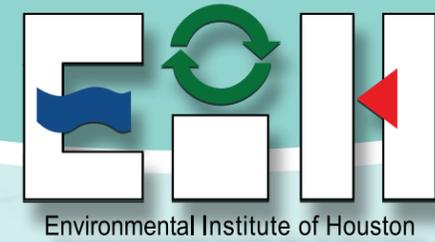


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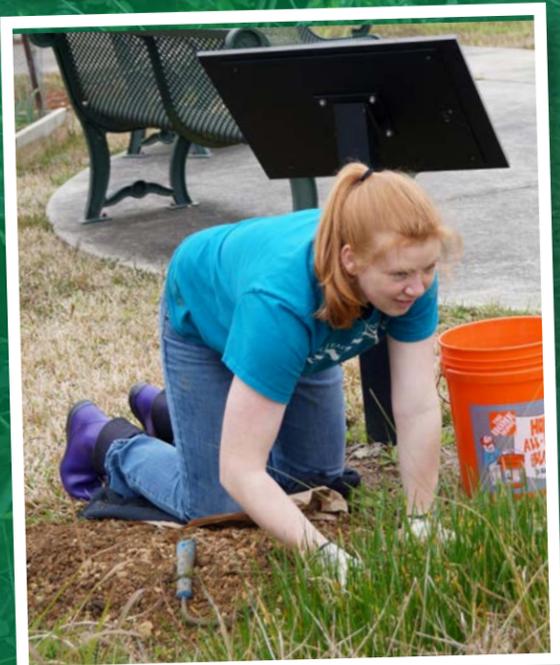
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



HABITAT WORK DAY



Top Left: Helen Nguyen, Julie Brenegen, Madison Stults and Bianca Salinas help out on Habitat Work Day. Top Right: Hannah Philibert removes weeds.



Madison Stults digs in the soil to find worms.

WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE

Volunteers are HAWKsome @ UHCL

Photo and Video credits: Stephanie Settlemire

One of the greatest aspects of University of Houston - Clear Lake is the environment surrounding the campus and the freshmen and sophomores roaming the halls. The Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH), established in 1991, promotes environmental research, education and outreach in the community. The EIH is responsible for hosting environmental workshops and projects throughout the year, but Habitat Work Day is an ongoing event every Tuesday morning. The purpose of Habitat Work Day is to allow citizens of the community and students to give back to the environment.

"Volunteering is important because you get to give back to your community and get to enjoy interacting with friends and making new contacts," Wendy Reistle, environmental education coordinator, said.

Volunteers help anyway they can by doing garden work. No experience is necessary; all that is needed is some water to drink and clothes that can get dirty.

The EIH is located by UHCL's third entrance off of Middlebrook Drive next to the North Office Annex building. The demonstration school habitat garden was created in 2006, and Habitat Work Day began four years ago with a partnership with the Texas Master Naturalist group.

Although anyone is welcome to volunteer, retired citizens of the

community are the main volunteers. Students from UHCL have volunteered, but not on a consistent basis.

Weeding, trimming plants and trees, replanting, replacing mulch, adding soil to beds and adding crushed granite to paths are simple yet effective tasks that must be done to maintain the beautiful garden.

"I decided to volunteer for the EIH because I love protecting and working for the earth in any way I can," Mackenzi Creamer, freshman volunteer, said. "Even if it's planting a few trees on the campus grounds. It's also relaxing and healing for me to be able to take my stress and anxieties to create something beautiful in nature."

Members of the Hawk Leadership Institute (HLI) decided to take time out of their day to volunteer with the EIH habitat. Freshman students Helen Nguyen, Madison Stults and Hannah Philibert all helped in assembling binoculars for wildlife observations and weeding the garden grounds to help preserve the plants.

"It is important to volunteer because it is important to sacrifice," Stults said. "I've felt so blessed in the last few years. So, I want to give back. I can't always give monetarily, but I can always give my time. I think the importance comes from striking a balance between what you have and what you give."



GENERATION ONE

If a student's mother or father has not obtained a bachelor's degree, the student is considered a first-generation college student. Generation One (Gen-One), a free

program, was specifically designed for first-generation college students to help with the transition from high school to college.

Linda Bullock, director of Intercultural Student Services (ISS), and Susana Hernandez, former director of ISS, are both first-generation college students and created this program to help others going through the same process.

Rosa Valdovinos, Angie Escobedo and Karina Acosta are the Student Ambassadors for the Gen-One program, and are also first-generation students who work alongside the students guiding them through their college career.

"It makes me feel grateful to be able to be here in the position where I am able to help them now because I didn't have that," Acosta said. "The connection is there because we are all going through the same thing. I'm able to tell them what not to do. Everything I did wrong, I don't want them to do it."

As of today, there are nine members in Gen-One: six freshmen, two sophomores and one junior. The students are given a calendar with the dates of important events happening on campus to encourage students to build friendships and build a sense of community on campus. Interactive monthly workshops are in place for students to learn how to maneuver around campus, to apply for financial aid and scholarships, to develop time management skills, to budget financially,

to handle credit cards and e-mail etiquette.

"I joined Gen-One because I wanted to know other first generation students, and I wanted to know how to adapt to college," Maria Barron said.

Barron, a first generation college student, has been in Gen-One for two semesters. She is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico and moved the United States in 2011. Barron's parents are her No. 1 fans and support her in any way they can.

Gen-One fulfilled its expectations as Barron knows about all the resources readily available to her such as the Math Center and the Writing Center and utilizes them fully.

"Being a first generation student is very important for me, and it makes me very happy because it would allow me to motivate and support my younger siblings," Barron said.

Ana Trevino, originally from Monterrey, Mexico, moved here when she was three years old. Her parents graduated from the University of Monterrey, but the customs of Mexico and the United States are vastly different.

"Being a first-generation college student has given me a huge sense of pride and responsibility." - Ana Trevino

"Being a first-generation college student has given me a huge sense of pride and responsibility," Trevino said.

Trevino's parents are extremely proud of her quest through the United States college system and support her every step of the way.

"I really do recommend this program to others since it helps you push yourself and stay on track with your assignments," Trevino said.

Trevino points out that she has developed a close bond with one of the ambassadors, Acosta since she takes the time to ask her how she is doing with her classes and that support is very beneficial to any college student.

Jorge Vicuña, who moved to the United States from Mexico City in third grade, is the first in his family to go to college.

"Even when we don't have the meetings, they still ask me how it's going. That is why I always come to the office and get coffee," Vicuña said. "I feel comfortable talking to them and I could tell them how school is going, tell them about my assignments, or just anything."

Although his family is supportive of his college endeavor, he cannot always go to them for advice on the college experience. Vicuña heard of Gen-One through Shaun Simon, coordinator for Women's & LGBT Services, and immediately wanted to sign up after learning this program was designed to help motivate first-generation students like himself to get through college, to form a support system, and to receive guidance through UHCL's resources on campus.

The students in Gen-One all have the same motive: education. Through these mentors and interactive workshops, they have gained valuable advice and now spread their knowledge among their peers. It is more than a program, it is a family. It takes a lot of courage for someone to take the initiative to attend college when no one in their family has graduated. They all are embarking on a journey to the unknown, but this program was put in place to help mold them to their fullest potential.



Bianca Salinas



THE HUNTER GAMES

Hunter Games, a two-day event organized by Intercultural Student Services (ISS), takes place during the first week of the semester. Apart from the scavenger hunt and pingpong tournament, many other games like foosball tournament, Wii basketball shooting tournament and minute-to-win-it games get students involved in the activities. It gives new students an opportunity to meet fellow students and staff members.

The Games provide free snacks for everyone and lots of goodies and gift vouchers to be won. Nhee Vang, ISS program coordinator, says they also introduce students to the ISS resources to reassure them the office is for all students, both international and local.

The ISS office developed the idea of Hunter Games two years ago. It has evolved and improved since they first started. ISS was not sure if the students would be interested in playing scavenger hunt across the campus, but they received a very positive response. Over time, they have added more offices and games.

Bowen Zhu, sophomore CIS major, participated in the scavenger hunt and pingpong tournament at the Hunter Games for his first semester. He made many new friends at ISS and in his team that day.

"I got second place in the pingpong tournament," Zhu said. "The scavenger hunt helped me know the buildings while we searched for clues and my team got the first place. It was good fun."

In the scavenger hunt, teams have to get clues from eight different offices across campus. They start with the first clue, which leads them to an office, and then each clue takes them to various places on campus. They have to return to ISS with all their clues.

The first team to return with all the clues wins the hunt.

"It has helped students in getting to know the place a little bit," Vang said. "For example, a lot of people may not take a math class, but they now know where the math center is, or where Dr. Biggers' office is. It gives them an opportunity to really explore."

The other offices on campus are really excited to be a part of the games, Vang adds. They have a crowd of students coming in, looking for their clues during the scavenger hunt.

ISS also had several student volunteers at the games to help with the food and beverages stalls, scavenger hunt and raffle ticket stalls. Kratika Jain, graduate student in MIS, served as one of the volunteers.

"The scavenger hunt helped me know the buildings while we searched for clues and my team got the first place. It was good fun."

- Bowen Zhu

"I have been volunteering at various events for ISS. Hunter Games is one of them," Jain said. "It creates a platform for the students to meet and interact with each other while participating in various games. I got a chance to interact with many fellow students who were from varied parts of the world and possessed different cultures."

Zahra Sadegh, pursuing a master's degree in environmental geology, participated at the games on the second day. She was one of the semi-finalists and made it to the top three in the pingpong tournament. Even though this is her second semester here, this was the first

time she had participated at any event on campus.

"It was a lot of fun because I really enjoy playing table tennis. I have played at inter-state level in high school, and it felt nice getting back in the game," Sadegh said. "I won a UHCL T-shirt that day. I was also one of the winners in the raffle contest."

Sadegh says that the Hunter Games really motivated her to participate more often. She planned on playing at the singles table tennis game in late February.

Since students have classes at different times on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the ISS office kept Hunter Games as a two-day event to reach as many different students as they possibly could. It takes them four to six weeks to organize the games and the prizes. This semester they had about 40 students on the first day and 35 students on the second day.

"It's really good to put all the friends in different teams. By splitting them up, you get a mixture of international students, freshmen and sophomores in one team," Vang said. "That is the good part about the scavenger hunt. They have the whole time together, chasing up and down for the clues."

Revathy Vaidyanathan, a MBA student who participated in the scavenger hunt, agrees with Vang. She liked how she got to meet many new students. Vaidyanathan says it was a good way to network with fellow students. Whenever she runs into her teammates now, they always get to talk a bit and know each other a little better.

"Even though it is my second semester here, I realized I didn't know much about my campus. It was quite challenging finding the offices, which made it a lot more fun," Vaidyanathan said.



Bowen Zhu and Dat Nguyen's teams face off in foosball.



Zahra Sadegh is awarded with an ISS T-shirt from Nhee Vang.



The participants of the Hunter Games scavenger hunt. Photo credits: Intercultural Student Services



I HEART UHCL DAY

I Heart UHCL Day celebrates a campus tradition that brings all students, alumni and faculty members together to show their love for the school by painting it blue and green. On Oct. 15, UHCL's sixth year of the tradition, it was on a much bigger scale as compared to previous years.

"What we did to make I Heart UHCL Day the epicentre of spirit was expanding it into Spirit Week," Patrick Lawrence Cardenas, coordinator of student life - student organizations, said. "Making it a week-long program was keeping UHCL community in mind. It was to bring elements of the community together."

This year Student Life office dedicated a whole week to displaying school spirit. They collaborated with various departments on campus to offer opportunities for all students to participate in different capacities. Not only did they design it with keeping freshmen and sophomores in mind, but they also ensured that the rest of the student body, of all levels, became involved.

The entire UHCL community was brought to life. On the first day of the Spirit week, Monday, the UHCL bookstore hosted a Grad Fest and the Hawks Spirit and Traditions Council (HSTC) did a cap decoration contest. It was a new event initiated this year in an effort to target the students about to graduate.

Tabitha Tipton, assistant director of student life - campus recreations, planned a field day Campus REcess for the students and the faculty on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, I Heart UHCL Day, Atrium II filled with blue and green spirit. All the student organizations on campus set up booths with games and give aways for the students.

Student Life also organized prizes and a photo booth.

Every year, offices and students participate in a contest held by Student Life. Participants start decorating in September every year and by October the pictures are posted online for UHCL to vote for their favorites.

"It's very rewarding to see the blue and green everywhere in the atrium, the offices decorating and seeing an increase in the number of offices participating," Cardenas said. "I Heart UHCL Day for employees it is a reminder of why they are working here; for students, it is a reminder of why they chose this university to study. I love it. I Heart UHCL."

On Thursday, the Student Government Association, HSTC and the Alumni Association hosted Breakfast for Dinner, serving breakfast-type foods, providing game stations and lounge chairs for students to enjoy and interact in different groups. It was a way to reach out to afternoon and evening students to engage them in the activities and incorporate them in the series of events.

Concluding Spirit Week was UHCL Cares Day. Two-hours were dedicated to a beautification program on that Friday afternoon. With the help of Facilities Management and Construction, students and staff participated by replacing plants in front of the Bayou Building.



Top: Hunter the Hawk is ready to play a game of soccer.
Bottom: Tri Nguyen serves up a hot dog to an I Heart UHCL attendee.
Photo credits: Student Life Office

I HEART UHCL DAY



Contest winners 2014

Best Door:
Student Success Center

Best Office:
Intercultural/International Student Services (IISS)

Best Window:
University Computing & Telecommunications Support Center

Most School Spirit Group:
Student Assistant Center UHCL Pirates

Most School Spirit Individual:
Stephanie Romero

The arrangement for the event starts a few months prior to it. Facility-wise, the spaces are booked a year in advance and the planning for decorations, prizes and shirt designs starts well into late spring or early summer.

Over the years, I Heart UHCL has evolved. Because things are now set in place, it does not take that long to set up for the event. It is becoming a staple of the university and people know that a spirit event comes every fall, be it the staff and current students at UHCL or the new students who are introduced to it in the orientation.

"I Heart UHCL Day is designed to share one common interest which is: why we love UHCL. To be able to share that with one another through passing conversations, participating in games together is very important in getting [freshmen] connected, making them feel welcomed and giving them the ability to network and make new friends,"

Cardenas said.



Abhi Jain

I Heart UHCL Day transforms the campus into a place where students can eat snacks, play games, and celebrate their school.

*Photo credits:
Student Life Office*



Photo credits: Student Life Office

UHCL LETTERS: AN UNEXPECTED TRADITION

On top of the lush green hill by the Bayou Building's north entrance sits the traditional UHCL letters. Many students take group pictures celebrating moments like their first day on campus or with a cap and gown for graduation. While the letters have become an iconic symbol on campus, the tradition of the letters was a complete accident.

In fall 2008, Robert Nagle, Bayou Theatre supervisor, created and mounted the letters to supplement the Hollywood theme for Welcome Back Bash. The letters were put into storage until fall 2011 when the letters were needed to establish an annual photo tradition at Welcome Back Bash.

The letters were taken down after the 2011 Bash, but were put back up for I Heart UHCL Day with the addition of the letter "I" and a blue heart.

After the fall 2012 Welcome Back Bash, the Student Life office became busy with their daily routines and procrastinated with putting the letters away. Through the large windows, Student Life workers noticed students started gathering by themselves around the letters to take pictures. Most students would even take selfies with the letters.

"Things got busy after Welcome Back Bash, so we didn't take the letters down," said Andrew Reitberger, acting director of Student Life. "Then more and more people started taking pictures – graduation, weddings, families – we put it out there, but people embraced it."

Ali Albrecht, alumna, worked with Derrell Means, director of grounds department, to maintain the letters as a permanent icon on campus.

In October 2013, Student Life hosted the first Pop Up

Pumpkin
Pics
in which 120
students posed for pictures
with pumpkins in front of the letters.

In December 2013, Student Life held the first Lighting of the Letters, which included free hot cocoa and a group picture with the lighted letters.

"We have a lot of pride in UHCL for a lot of reasons besides sports," Reitberger said. "We have our academics, volunteer events, community partnerships, wildlife and we have our international students. So we're creating our spirit events based on that aspect."



Photo credits: Jill Whalen

In addition to the UHCL letters, Student Life placed HAWKS letters by Entrance Two to further showcase the campus spirit.

"UHCL is not one for conformity. We are pleased with our past and excited about our future," Reitberger said. "The best traditions start off half-hazardly."



Sam Oser

LIBERTY BELL REPLICA NESTS AT UHCL



Wingspan blogger Bianca Salinas and Jay Hernandez of Veteran Services stand proudly next to the Liberty Bell. Photo credits: Jill Whalen

Nested in the Bayou Building in the North Lobby Entrance rests a replica of the Liberty Bell along with a wall highlighting the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights and the story of the UHCL Liberty Bell installation in September 2014.

James Benson, associate professor of legal studies, started the UHCL Liberty Bell Project in hopes of developing constitutionally-literate students who comprehend the roots of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

During two special events in September, UHCL publicly dedicated a replica of the Liberty Bell.

Several national reports note the decline in civic education, which drove Benson to create the UHCL Liberty Bell Project and ensure students receive the civic education necessary. Benson approached the university's Office of University Advancement to help fundraise and provide logistical support for the bell.

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, which cast the original Liberty Bell in 1752, created the full-scale replica that is now nested at UHCL. This replica bears the

inscription on the original bell: "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof."

Benson's wife, Susan, not only provided the motivation for the project, but she also offered financial contributions to making the project a reality on campus. Benson also contacted friends and former students including UHCL alumnus and Delta Air Lines CEO Richard Anderson. Others providing support with Anderson and Benson included Jane P. and Roberto C. Garcia, Ann and Micael Landolt, Norman Frede Chevrolet, and Marily and Charles Sims.

Alumni contributed funds on their behalf in honor or memory of someone. Fifty female honorees were named Belles of the Bell, and 23 male donors or donations made in honor or memory of someone received the Men of Honor distinction.

"It's not the university's bell," Benson said. "It's your bell, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this possible."



Sam Oser



FRESHMAN CLUBS

Goal! That is all the soccer club members like to hear! The University of Houston Clear-Lake has more than 80 student organizations. Freshmen have helped contribute to the number with the addition of the Hawk Futbol Club (Soccer Club). Helen Nguyen, the freshman that started the organization, hopes to engage students to play soccer while meeting and learning communication skills.

Hawk FC meets every Friday at the Delta fields. It is one of the most fun ways to stay in shape while making memorable friendships. There are no tryouts for the team, as everyone is welcome to be part of the club despite athletic capabilities.

"I love soccer man!" Kun Lê Phu Trúng said. "Making new friends and staying in shape is great." Trung, graduate student, majors in accounting and finance.

With more than 50 players on the team, there is always room for more. It is a very team-oriented sport, as soccer requires the players to communicate with each other and learn how to respond in a fast-

paced environment. Every member is important in making that goal.

Officers Nguyen and George Vicuña are in the process of getting uniforms for the team. Fundraising items such as laptops in the Silent Auction is one of the way they have fundraised funds to meet their goals. They were able to make more than \$400 by auctioning an HP laptop. This brings them one step closer to having the team in matching uniforms.

"I'm trying to incorporate sports into the university," Nguyen said.

Current members plan to stay and continue in the club such as Sai Shankar, graduate student studying biotechnology.

"I do plan on staying in the club," Shankar said. "There is a lot to learn about teamwork and people skills."

There are no requirements for joining the club. It is simply to play soccer and have fun while burning a few extra calories.



Eric Yanez



The Hawk Futbol Club stands as a team. Photo credits: Jill Whalen



NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

National Coming Out Day celebrates love, support and the power of voices to change the world one story at a time. This year marked its 26th year of celebration and was first observed on the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Unity Club aims to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer plus (LGBTQ+) and allies within the campus community and provide resources, information, support, and fun to anyone who would like to become involved in the LGBTQ+ and ally community.

On Oct. 8, 2014, Unity Club celebrated National Coming Out Day. The first event of the day provided coming out stories from faculty, staff and students who came out as LGBTQ+ and as allies. Support from an ally can make a world of a difference to a person who has mixed emotions as they are coming out. These allies and supporters were also celebrated.

"Last year at Coming Out Day at school, I came out," said Ashley Connelley, president of Unity Club. "This year was so great because not only did I share my coming out story in front of 15 people and throughout the entire atrium, but I was also able to be there for people who were with me last year. People's stories touched my heart and coming out still matters!"

At the event, the Coming Out

Closet provided a place to "post secret" struggles or fears related to those remaining in the closet. The outside of the closet provided a place for positive, supportive messages and a gallery of handprints to visually show support for the LGBTQ+ community.

In the afternoon, students, faculty and staff led a panel discussion about such topics as coming out, labels, terms and transgender issues.

"I decided to join Unity Club because I wanted to make a difference at UHCL and show people that it doesn't matter what sexual preference you have," said Nelly Tanori, a freshman pursuing business management. "We're all the same, and we should all try to get along."

Because Tonari wanted to be there for anyone that felt like they were not comfortable in their own skin, Tonari shared her story at the event. When she came out as bisexual, she had someone supporting her. She said it was hard coming out to a community or school that was ignorant towards LGBTQ+, but now she really does not care about what people say because she has this support.

Tonari said, "It makes it easier being on a campus that supports and respects because no one is judging you or giving you a hard time for who you are."



Abhi Jain



Photo credits: Student Life Office

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Food, games and tons of speaker series! The Black History Month kick off was a great way to let students know

the happenings in February. Students flocked to Atrium I to make djembe, play board games and eat. Black History Month offered a great way to learn many new facts and information about race and culture.

“The kick off event was a lot of fun. I got to meet so many new people and learn about their culture.”

- *Estefany Ozuna*

“The kick off event was a lot of fun. I got to meet so many new people and learn about their culture,” Estefany Ozuna, freshman and fitness and human performance major, said.

The month followed with many speakers series ranging from “Hip-Hop Politics” to “Shifting Race in the 21st Century” and even screening “Afraid of the Dark.” “Hip-Hop Politics,” for example, was a panel-based Q&A that answered questions and discussed the history and transformation of hip-hop throughout the years. “Shifting Race,” also a Q&A

panel, was based more on how race has changed in America. They discussed many issues involving race and how cultures have grown over the years. The documentary, “Afraid of the Dark,” took on a more serious topic of: Why is everyone so afraid of black men?

“I never knew how much February had to offer until I saw so many informative events on Black History Month,” Guadalupe Sicilia, freshman majoring in education, said.

The Intercultural Student Services (ISS) office posted facts during Black History Month facts everyday. They were composed of facts on African-American role models such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Oprah Winfrey. Students were not only able to learn history and its impact on today’s society, but students were also able to connect and form friendships through the discussions.



Eric Yanez



AJ McQueen, DJ DMD Dorsey, Random Taylor, John Chiles and Josie Pickens lead the Hip-Hop Politics panel.

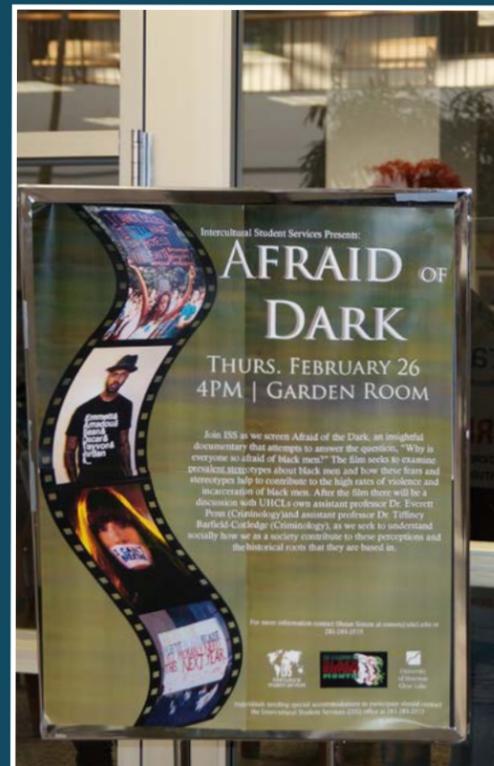


Photo credits: Stephanie Settlemire

CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA



Kukkala Deepthi performs Kuchupudi, a traditional Indian dance



Freshmen Hannah Zoe Philibert and David Wallack perform the Phantom of the Opera

UHCL has a huge, diverse student body from different cultures and backgrounds. Cultural Extravaganza is an annual event which gives students a platform to showcase their culture.

Intercultural Students Services (ISS) hosted the 19th Cultural Extravaganza this year. The first year of the show's performance had 10 groups participating. Now it has grown to almost 35 performances every year.

The show was four hours long with students portraying their culture through singing, dancing, reciting poems, skits among other talents. The show concludes with the Cultural Walk where students walk with their country flags and highlight the diversity on campus.

This year there were 23 countries that signed up to perform. Every year the auditorium fills up with more than 300 people coming to watch the show. Since it is such a big event, ISS starts preparing when the spring semester begins. They start advertising and calling for performers a month before the program. They had around 18 staff members, including 13 Ambassadors and one intern working on the show.

"I was part of the Cultural walk recruitment and performers recruitment team. My responsibility was to advertise the event and call for performers, and recruit people for the cultural walk," Jesus Altamiranda Molina, ambassador for ISS office, said.

The other two committees were the volunteers, who had different roles ranging from serving food to helping performers and guests in the auditorium and the marketing committee, which was responsible for putting flyers and posters around campus.

"The freshmen were quite involved," Nhee Vang, the coordinator of ISS programs, said. "The Phantom of the Opera singers were both freshmen and Helen Nguyen came in to sing and play the guitar. It was pretty cool to see the freshmen participate."

According to Vang, the performance that stood out for him this year was the line dance because that traditional Texas dance has never been done before.

Hannah Zoe Philibert, freshman humanities major, performed a hauntingly beautiful duet from The Phantom of the Opera because she loves the movie and play. Philibert said that she has always been into music and art and wanted to do something different at her first Cultural Extravaganza.

"It was a lot of fun to see what everyone was doing," Philibert said. "UHCL is all about diversity, but I didn't realize how strongly connected people were with their culture and that was really cool to see that night."

This year there were a variety of performances representing the Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Latin culture. Students sang songs, played the piano, and prepared skits and dances to display their country's art.

After the show, dinner that had cuisines from different countries such as India, Vietnam and Mexico were served.

Saba Khan, a MBA student, attended the show for the first time. She feels that the show was a great way to expose everyone to different cultures, traditions and music.

"I liked seeing the variety of dances, the flags and especially the beautiful clothes everyone was wearing," Khan said. "That really stood out for me."

Cultural Extravaganza is a great way to bring the entire UHCL community together to give a glimpse of our multifaceted student population.



Jesus Altamiranda Molina sings at his first Cultural Extravaganza. Photo credits: Raj Sheth



Abhi Jain

CHILI COOK OFF

UHCL's traditional Chili Cook-Off was set to happen April 11, 2015. Due to rain, the event was postponed for the next weekend, April 18, 2015. The event was ultimately canceled for the year April 17, 2015 when thunderstorms caused power outages in the area.

Chili Cook-Off will return next year.



Photo credits: Student Life Office



HUNTER'S BIRTHDAY

APRIL 20

2

Hunter the Hawk turned two years old April 20, 2015, in the Student Life Lounge. Hunter was created a year before the freshmen arrived on campus. All gathered for pictures and cupcakes in celebration of the university's mascot.



WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE

Photo and Video credits:
Stephanie Settlemire





Photo credits: Stephanie Settlemire

UHCL'S FIRST FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE CLASS

Brina Adeyemi
Mohammad Adi
Hussain Alabduhmuhsin
Maria Alarcon
Imani Alexcee
Samantha Ali
Alfonso Alvarez
Joseph Alvarez
Victor Andrade
Raquel Anton Pinero
Afifa Arif
Corrina Arredondo
Yarah Attia
Rauna Ayoub
Michael Aziz
Christian Baker
Yuliana Barajas Barragan
Samantha Barbosa
Maria Barron
Lennon Beavers
Malinda Beck
Tiana Bell
Jose Berlanga
Shreena Bhakta
Erin Blackwell
Jeffrey Bolton
Christopher Boudreaux
Maci Bourgeois
Sierra Bower
Ryan Brantley
Kayla Browder
Zachary Brown
Renee Browning
Kara Burge

Ruth Burkhalter
Sarah Cao
Leann Carrico
Gabrielle Casper
Victoria Cassell
Christie Castillo
Edgar Castillo
Isabel Chavez
Kasey Clark
Lindy Clark
Bani Coello
Marissa Coker
Ashlynn Colson
Kaylin Concagh
Makenzie Cooper
Sharamie Cooper
Elizabeth Craft
Ramona Creamer
Heidi Crist
Jordan Dabney
Emily Davis
Ryan Davis
Sky Davis
Stuart Davis
Tania Davis
Kayla Dickinson
Jacqueline Duarte
Andres Dueri
Makayla Ellis
Lisset Escobar
Kimberly Estrada
Robert Exnicious
Devan Falke
Jessica Fernandez

Ethan Field
Catalina Flores
Matthew Frost
Karen Fuentes
Hannah Fuller
Kellie Gamino
Isaac Gaona
Emily Garcia
Madeleine Garcia
Natalie Garcia
Raquel Garcia
Ashley Gebhardt
James George
Michele Gibson
Megan Glanville
Larissa Gomez
Melissa Gonzales
Mehrdad Gorek-Yaraghi
Amy Green
Minh Ha
Nakala Harris
Blake Harvey
Madison Hastings
Elisha Hehir
Elizabeth Hehir
Armando Hermoso
Antonio Hernandez
Meagan Hernandez
Luis Herrera
Anna Herzik
Garrett Hobbs
Rita Holt
Jay Hong-Thorstensen
Jaclyn Howell

Glory Hughes
Lauren Ibanez
Zainab Iftikhar
Kelvin Ikhaliya
Danial Javadian
Lauren Jennings
Greissy Jerezano
Ashley Johnson
Neida Juarez
Krista Kamp
James Kilborn
Micaela Kinsey
Maresa Klinger
Mariah Knocke-Melis
Jonathan Kocian
Jessica Kunzat
Katherine Lara
Mikayla Larkin
Taylor Laurence
Rachael Leach
Foster Lebeau Harrison
Evelyn Ledel
Jacob Lippincott
Constance Lofland
Karina Lopez
David Louis
Itzel Lucio
Alondra Lugo
Devonne Lyon
Zach Mantei
Chelsea Martinez
Tyler Matejka
Derek Matousek
Joseph McMahon

Stephanie McSheehy
Justin Mcalpin
Aaron Mcdowell
Makenzee Meaux
Monica Medina
Andrew Medrano
Abbey Menard
Jesus Mendez
Cameron Miller
Christopher Mitchell
Tessa Montanez
Garrett Moore
Ashley Morales
Melissa Morales
Colton Myers
Emily Myers
Courtney Nelson
Helen Nguyen
Jennifer Nguyen
Jessica Nguyen
Mailynn Nguyen
Tu Nguyen
Isaac Osteen
Melquiades Pacheco
Stephanie Pacheco
Shayna Painter - Jones
Casey Parker
Sam Parker
Valerie Paul
Sindel Pena
Jessica Perales
Jacob Perez
Jefferson Peter Francis
Hannah Philibert

McKenzi Phillips
Sarah Pierce
Ericka Piercy
Andrea Pina
Michael Presley
Lance Prince
Derek Rauh
Jorge Resendiz
Ana Reyna
Amanda Rickert
Alexandra Riley
Sveta Roady
Mayve Rodriguez
Monica Rodriguez
Victoria Rosas
Gabriela Ruiz
Emily Sagastume
Bianca Salinas
Barbara Saltsman
Sandy Samaan
Rachael Sanders
Gabriela Saucier
Shelby Schillings
Colton Schultz
Darah Scruggs
Rachel Sibayan
Guadalupe Siclla
Mary Siegfried
Tieler Slocum
Sydney Sly
Brittany Stambolis
Morgan Stang
Hannah Strahm
Bailey Strother

Cameron Strother
Madison Stults
Nereida Tanori Gonzalez
Jeremy Temple
Randi Thomas
Nathan Thompson
Will Timme
Yazmin Torres
Tammy Tran
Ana Trevino
Bay Turner
Elizabeth Umanzor
Lauren Urick
Gabrian Vela
Jorge Vicuna-Ortega
Carlos Villarreal
David Wallack
Hayleigh Wallingsford
Caylee Walton
Rachel Womack
Elizabeth Wood
Amanda Woods
Eric Yanez
Jenica Ybarra
Dylan Yeamans
Hunter Young
Zehra Zaidi
Joshua Zamarron
Kiley Ziegelmann

FALL 2014 - SPRING 2015



Stephanie Settlemyre, Sam Savell, Eric Yanez, Abhi Jain, Sam Oser, Bianca Salinas, Chad Johnson and Royce Walker. Photo credits: Stephanie Settlemyre

FIND THE STAFF!

Can you find all eight Wingspan staff members?



SAM O.

CHAD

ABHI

STEPHANIE

SAM S.

BIANCA

ERIC

ROYCE

THANKS

FROM THE WINGSPAN STAFF