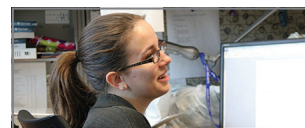




## uhcl the signal

NEW SGA VEEP  
PG. 8A MEMORY,  
A MONOLOGUE, A RANT  
AND A PRAYERV-DAY ON CAMPUS  
PG. 4&5

February 17, 2014

VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 2

## Catch the



HAWK SPIRIT:

## VOLUNTEER

SAM SAVELL: THE SIGNAL

## Students pay it forward

LARISSA BARNES  
THE SIGNAL

Service. To most this word means doing work for someone else or helping others. UHCL's Annual Day of Service embodies this concept.

The Annual Day of Service began in Spring 2003, then known as the "Community Outreach Day," and was held once each semester.

In 2011, the event became annual and the name was changed to the Annual Day of Service. Every year UHCL faculty, staff, students, student organizations, family and friends join together to provide meaningful service to the Houston-Galveston community.

The Day of Service is a two-part event sponsored by the Student Leadership Involvement and Community Engagement (SLICE) program. Friday, Feb. 28, SLICE will kick off with a volunteer reception and speaker program, which will feature Twila Lindblade, executive director of the Galveston County Food Bank.

The kick-off event will provide volunteers with information on the various service projects scheduled for the next day as well as an inspirational message from Linblade about the benefits of being involved with the community as a servant leader.

Saturday, March 1, UHCL volunteers will engage in community service throughout the Houston-Galveston community.

SLICE has arranged service projects with the Houston Food Bank, Galveston County Food Bank, League City Animal Shelter, Armand Bayou Nature Center, Krause Children's Center in Katy, Moody Gardens, the Environmental Institute of Houston and an On-Campus Clean Up. Volunteers also have the option of providing games and activities for seniors living at the Mountbatten House assisted living home in Highlands, Texas.

"Day of Service aims to inspire our students to make a lifelong commitment to being engaged in social change, to giving back to their community to help create a better society for all," said Jennifer Clark, assistant director of Student Life. "The overarching goal of Day of Service is to engage – to engage our students with our faculty and staff and alumni, and to partner with our community."

SLICE will be distributing a Service Learning Journal. This journal can be used as a resource for volunteers to reflect on their service, tips for planning service projects and contacts for nonprofit organizations. In addition, SLICE will give out free T-shirts for pre-registered volunteers to represent SLICE and UHCL while they work on their projects Saturday.

This year SLICE has partnered with the UHCL Student Council for Exceptional Children's "Take a Buddy to the Fair" event that will be going on Friday during the day on campus.

SEE DAY OF SERVICE, PAGE 6

## Helping a little amounts to a lot

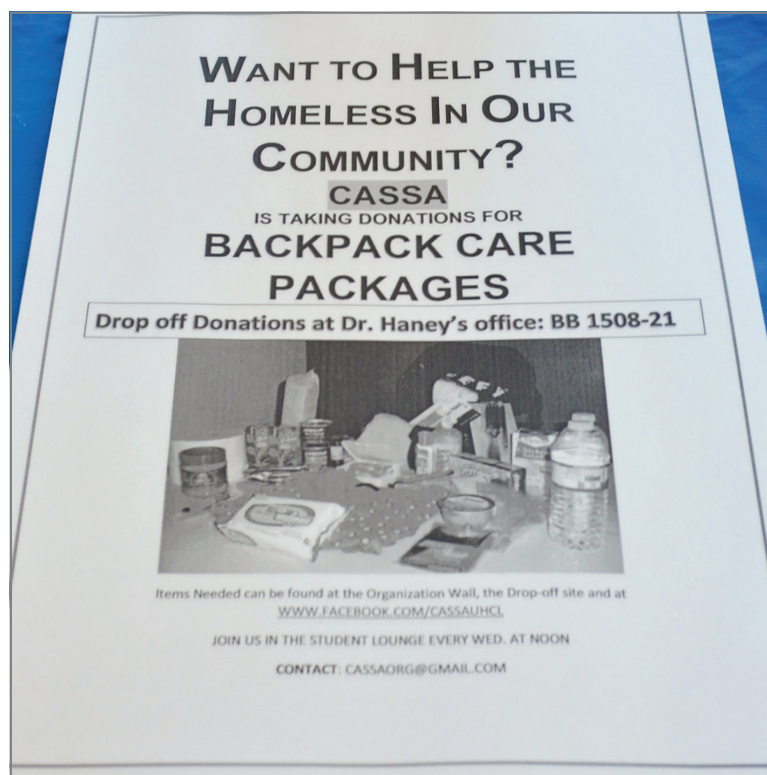
MARY MILLER  
THE SIGNAL

There are dozens of ways to help out those who are without. The Cross-Cultural Anthropology Sociology Student Association (CASSA), along with Women Studies Student Association (WSSA) and UNITY, have teamed up to collect donations to assemble and distribute backpacks full of basic necessities to the homeless in and around Houston.

Liza Wilkins, president of CASSA and anthropology major, hopes to obtain 20 backpacks filled with items. She anticipates getting all 20 backpacks donated as well as the items that will fill them by the end of February.

"We are just asking for items that most of us use every day and take for granted while the homeless go without," Wilkins said.

The students are collecting items such as socks and shoes, toothbrushes, scarves, blankets, wash cloths, female products and condoms, as well as perishable foods and the other various daily items. The organizations recommend purchasing clothing and



LOREE COUCH: THE SIGNAL

CASSA has held bake sales and is currently accepting donations to raise money for their backpacks for the homeless project.

bedding items at local thrift stores and garage sales or by looking for gently used items in your home.

Ginnie Sandison, psychology and anthropology major,

got the inspiration to start the mission from a YouTube link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Zp46NOKEM>.

SEE BACKPACKS, PAGE 6

## Get LinkedIn to find volunteer opportunities

KELSEY CIABATTONI  
THE SIGNAL

Last month, LinkedIn, a social networking website for people in professional occupations, teamed with volunteer organizations Catchafire, Taproot Foundation, BoardSource and VolunteerMatch to add a volunteer marketplace feature to the site that will connect professionals to nonprofit volunteer opportunities.

Allison Dorsey, social impact manager for LinkedIn, said the website wanted to provide nonprofit organizations with an easy way to find professionals who want to donate their time and talent and to give professionals an easy way to find skilled volunteering opportunities.

The launch of LinkedIn Volunteer Marketplace now gives nonprofits the ability to post volunteer opportunities. The Volunteer Marketplace feature is one of the outreach programs housed under LinkedIn For

Good, a department created to use the company's social networking capabilities to generate a positive social impact on the world.

"Talent is critical to the nonprofit sector, and LinkedIn's platform is a way to find the right professionals to fulfill their needs," said Meg Garlinghouse, head of LinkedIn for Good. "At LinkedIn we connect talent with opportunity on a massive scale, and we believe we have a unique opportunity to create impact in the social sector."

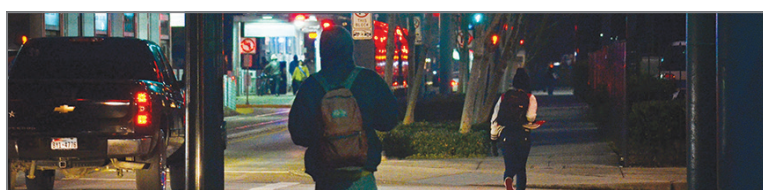
Dorsey said employers take notice of volunteerism when reviewing potential candidates. LinkedIn conducted a survey on its site asking hiring managers their thoughts on volunteerism from current and potential employees.

"Forty-two percent of those surveyed said that they consider volunteer work the same as professional experience, and one in five hiring managers said

SEE LINKEDIN, PAGE 6

## online this issue

Scan the QR Code below to access The Signal online.



HOUSTON HOMELESS

Go online to view slideshow of local efforts to help the homeless

CRAFT BEER –  
FAVORITE BEER LIST

BLOG

30 is not the new 50

SLIDESHOWS

Black History Month events on campus

UHCL V-Day 2014



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# Houston’s homeless: ways to help

Houston is the largest city in Texas. The website, [houstontx.gov](http://houstontx.gov), reports that the city of Houston makes up 2.2 million of the state’s population. The website for the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reports that, as of Jan. 29, 2013, the homeless make up 6,359 of Houston/Harris County’s population.

The homeless statistics do not include: persons incarcerated in jail or penitentiary, persons in substance abuse treatment facilities, wards of the state CPS, living with a family member or friend, and persons in hospital beds or waiting rooms.

HUD specializes in creating strong communities free from discrimination. Sadly, the homeless population goes largely unnoticed. In fact, HUD designated Houston one in nine priority cities in need of funding for the homeless.

When traveling to certain areas of Houston, the downtown area to be specific, witnessing a large amount of our city’s population living in horrible conditions is not out of the ordinary.

How people become homeless is hard to answer. Some have brought this kind of living upon themselves with bad choices. Some come from impoverished backgrounds with a history of chronic homelessness. Many have mental health issues. Others have lost jobs and then their homes. With a weak economy and high unemployment rate, many are unable to find jobs. There are also teen run-aways, victims of domestic violence, a lack of affordable housing for minimum wage workers, etc.

HUD.gov states that one in five of the homeless population is identified as chronically homeless. One in four have mental health issues. One in seven is a veteran. Almost one in three has substance abuse problems. Whatever the reason behind the unfortunate living conditions of the homeless, the main concern and issue is: what is the best way to actually help the homeless?

This is a broad question and there is no right or wrong answer because, ultimately, there are an infinite number of ways to help.

One of the most controversial ways to help a homeless person is by offering him or her money. Giving a homeless person money gives him or her the opportunity to purchase something he or she wants versus

## EDITORIAL

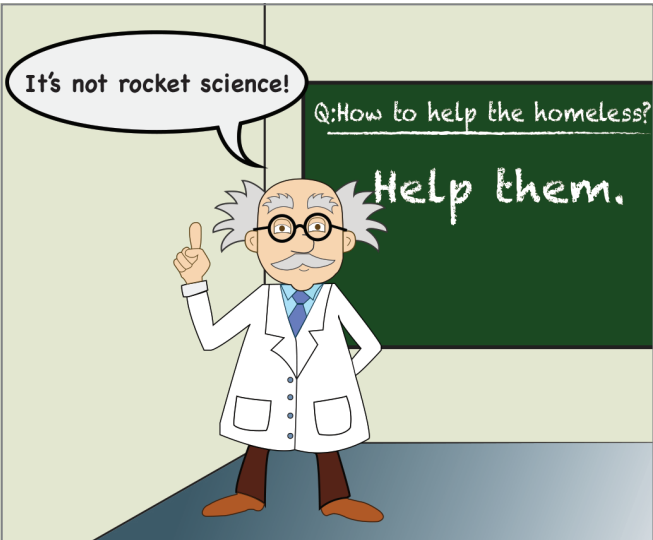
something he or she needs. Although there is a legitimate need to purchase items such as hygiene products or food, there is also a concern that the money will be used for alcohol or drugs. That is why many people prefer to hand out food rather than money.

However, Houston’s City Council passed an ordinance April 4, 2012, that bans serving charitable meals for more than five people on public or private properties without permission from property owners. The fine for violating this law is \$500, which is enough to make people think twice before handing someone who looks hungry a burger and fries. An alternative to this could be gift cards. Giving the homeless gift cards to fast-food restaurants is another possible way to help.

Donating or volunteering to help the homeless through an organization is yet another option. There are many nonprofit organizations, such as the Star of Hope, dedicated to helping the homeless. There are many ways to volunteer and/or donate to those organizations. Star of Hope focuses on meeting the needs of homeless men, women and children by empowering them. This organization offers developmental classes such as, spirit and life-skill classes, alcohol and drug education, guidance, support and much more.

Another organization dedicated to assisting women, children and men exposed to sexual assault, domestic violence or homelessness is The Bridge Over Troubled Waters. This organization’s mission is to build stronger homes for families by establishing healthy relationships. The organization employs professionals trained in communication tactics.

The Boys and Girls Harbor is a home for children who need different homes due to neglect and abuse. Hotlines, such as National Runaway Hotline and 24hr Hotline, also provide services for youth counseling and information about local shelters. Other ways



CARTOON BY FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ

to volunteer and donate include charitable food service groups that help the homeless eat better quality meals and connect to service providers. The website [houstontx.gov/health/charitable](http://houstontx.gov/health/charitable) lists a number of food service groups.

With all the different ways to help, there are still questions that make people hesitate. When one donates money to an organization, how does he or she know that the money is being used in the right ways? How far does that money really go? Is the organization or charity using it to help feed, clothe and shelter the homeless, or is the organization or charity using the amount of money on administrative costs? By giving a homeless person a handout, am I helping or enabling?

The personality of an individual and the kind of life that she or he lives determines his or her outlook on helping the homeless. People all find solace in different ways. No matter what personal stance an individual has on the issue, choosing to help in some way is more beneficial than not.

To think about what life would be like without clothes, food, shelter or hygiene products is unimaginable. Although it is important to use common sense when encountering strangers, identifying with a homeless person as a real human being behind the external image will bring gratification to the person giving as well as give the homeless a sense of respect.

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# Craft beer vs. commercial beer: taste the difference

KRIS STIVERS  
THE SIGNAL

I know beer. As a self-proclaimed beer connoisseur, I have tasted numerous brews from around the world.

I have been immortalized in the Ring of Honor at the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium (you can see my golden plate on the wall, just above the ladies room).

I have waited in lines for hours at a time to snag hard-to-find, limited-release beers. On one of my many beer-hunting adventures, I even had my picture taken for the Houston Chronicle’s “Beer, TX” blog.

I know beer, but it wasn’t always that way.

In my early beer-drinking days, I admit that I “tapped the Rockies” once or twice. I was known to hang out with “The King of Beers” here and there. And yes, on occasion it was even “Miller time.”

As I grew older and wiser, my palate developed and I began yearning for something greater. That was when a good friend introduced me to the wonderful world of craft beer.



## STAFF COLUMN

There are three characteristics that define what craft beer is.

First is size. A craft brewery cannot produce more than 6 million barrels of beer annually (previously only 2 million barrels). In comparison, commercial breweries like Anheuser-Busch produce around 125 million barrels every year.

Secondly, it must be independently owned. No more than 25 percent of a brewery can be owned or controlled by a non-craft brewer.

Last but not least, and in my opinion the most important factor, a craft brewery must adhere to traditional brewing methods.

Traditionally speaking, there are four main ingredients that make up beer: water, yeast, malt (typically from barley) and hops. Commercial breweries have been known to substitute ingredients such as rice and corn to cut back on production costs.

While these commercial breweries see increased profits, they are sacrificing where it really counts: taste. Craft brewers, on the other hand, spend a lot of time focusing on the quality and flavor of their beers. In addition to some pretty awesome ingredients, they put their heart and soul into each and every batch.

There are several things that set craft beer apart from commercial beer.

Most commercial breweries give you two choices: original or light. Craft brewers produce a number of styles and varieties. They are not just brewing your everyday run-of-the-mill beer. They are constantly innovating and putting new spins on traditional styles.

Barrel aging seems to be a popular trend among craft brew-

ers lately. Many of my favorite breweries are now aging their beers in everything from wine barrels to bourbon barrels. This has led to some very interesting concoctions.

On average, a typical craft beer contains 6 to 10 percent alcohol by volume (ABV). In my time as a craft beer drinker, I have even tried a beer that was 27 percent ABV (Sam Adams Utopias). Craft beers can definitely pack a punch. Commercial beers, on the other hand, tend to hover around 3 to 5 percent ABV and taste watered-down in comparison.

To some this may seem like a bit of a stretch, but numerous studies have concluded that craft beer, when consumed in moderation, actually has certain health benefits (even more so than red wine). It certainly has more nutritional value than commercial beer, which has been stripped of the good stuff (including flavor).

I could go on and on about the perks of craft beer, but for me personally, one of the biggest has been the friends I have made along the way. I think the

late, great Hunter S. Thompson said it best, “Good people drink good beer.” From home brewers to enthusiasts such as myself, the craft beer community is definitely a passionate bunch.

So if reading this has inspired you to try a tasty craft beer (and I hope it has), the Bayou City is full of excellent craft beer spots. It seems like a new one pops up every day.

While you’re at it, be sure to visit to your local breweries. Most of them offer tastings and tours. Two of my personal favorites, Saint Arnold and Karbach, are open at various times throughout the week and on Saturdays.

What are you waiting for? Get down to your local watering hole and ask to see their craft beer selection. Nobi Public House, which is not too far from UHCL, is a great place to start. And please remember to drink responsibly.

For a list of my favorite Houston craft beers, check out our online edition.



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# UHCL's DAY OF SERVICE



ORIENTATION & KICK-OFF SPEAKER

Friday, February 28 • 6 – 8pm • Bayou Garden Room

GUEST SPEAKER: TWILA LINDBLADE >> Executive Dir. of Galveston County Food Bank  
Dinner, Volunteers Orientation, and free SLICE t-shirt and Service Journal. for people registered to serve on Saturday

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 1 >> Pre-Register Online [www.uhcl.edu/slice](http://www.uhcl.edu/slice)

Open to all students, staff, faculty, UHCL alumni, family and friends!

UHCL SGA  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
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WARM UP WITH SGA

Meet your SGA Executive Council &  
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Free coffee and other light refreshments!

Feb 24

4:00 - 7:00 pm Bayou Atrium I

Feb 25

5:00 - 7:00 pm Delta Lobby

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# V RANT AGAINST VIOLENCE

## 'A MEMORY, A MONOLOGUE, A RANT, AND A PRAYER'

**ANDREA THOMAS**  
*THE SIGNAL*

V-Day is a global movement of activists united to help shine some light on the dark subject of violence against women and girls.

UHCL joins the V-Day campaign for the sixth year by hosting a production of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer."

This year's production is sponsored by various on-campus organizations: People Against Violence Everywhere (PAVE), Women Studies Student Association (WSSA) and the Office of Intercultural Student Services (ISS).

This series of monologues differs from the productions of "The Vagina Monologues" performed in previous years.

"The goal this year was to break the mold and incorporate men because it is important for our audience to know that not all men wish to marginalize women," said Melissa Negrete, PAVE president and psychology major.

Fellow PAVE member Kristen Skipper jumped on board in 2013 after seeing the 2012 production because she "loved the overall idea of raising awareness about violence toward women and wanted to be a part of something so special."

A biology and pre-med major, Skipper is active on campus in a variety of roles, including SGA representative for PAVE and vice president of Pre-Health and Science Association (PHSA).

"This year's production is definitely different in the aspect that it includes men, and it is a more serious production," Skipper said. "'The Vagina Monologues' had some funny aspects to it, 'Reclaiming Cunt' and 'My Angry Vagina,' but this one has more pieces that get to you emotionally and makes you really think about the impact sexual and

domestic violence has on people."

Not only is Skipper actively involved in the fundraising, advertising and logistics side of the V-Day production, she is taking on the additional responsibility of directing two actors. Colden Snow, anthropology major, will perform "Rescue," and Randi Hall, literature major, will perform "Groceries."

There are two male cast members acting in the series of monologues: Snow and John Pillion, a volunteer from the community, as well as a male director, James Elmore, PAVE vice president.

"It feels a little weird being one of the few males in the production," Snow said. "That is why it is important to remember that men can be feminists too and take on an equal role in ending domestic violence."

Snow was previously involved in the behind-the-scene aspects of last year's performance. This year he decided to take the stage and take a stand.

"There is a lot more pressure this year-actually being on stage," Snow said. "People are paying to see the show, and I want them to really be moved."

This production's series of monologues are written by world-renowned authors and playwrights.

"A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer" features authors and topics such as: Edward Albee on sadomasochism; Maya Angelou on women's work; Michael Cunningham on self-mutilation; Patricia Bosworth on her own physically abusive relationship; Jane Fonda on reclaiming her "Mojo;" and many more.

The V-Day website reports that one billion women and girls will be raped or beaten in their lifetime. The V-Day campaign acts as a catalyst that helps bring people together, promotes creative events, raises money while raising awareness and encourages a global

stance against violence. In 2012, there were more than 5,800 V-Day benefit events, educating millions around the world. Since 1998, the nonprofit organization has raised more than \$90 million for women's anti-violence groups.

"The problem with violence against women is that it's not strictly a women's issue," Negrete said. "It affects children, loved ones, parents, daughters, sons, grandmothers and people on the outside looking in. As we come together to raise awareness, collect donations, we are also trying to educate UHCL students...not just on statistics but on ways they can become part of an organization [People Against Violence Everywhere] dedicated to supporting the survivors of violence. We all have the power within us to say 'enough is enough.' It is time to reclaim our voices."

The V-Day production is scheduled for Feb. 28. Tickets are \$10. For information on dates of fundraisers and where to purchase tickets, contact Melissa Negrete at [pave.uhcl@gmail.com](mailto:pave.uhcl@gmail.com) or call the Student Life office at 281-283-2560.

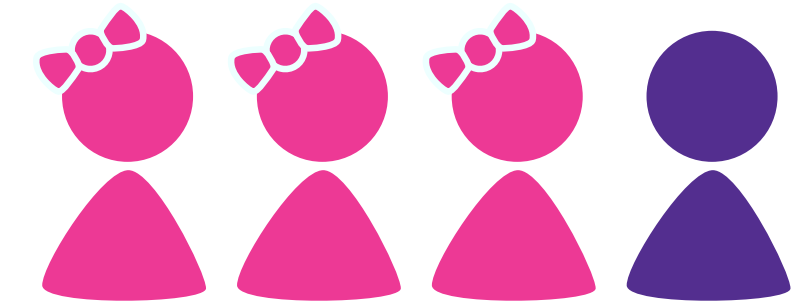
Ninety percent of proceeds will go to The Bridge Over Troubled Waters in Pasadena, Texas, a nonprofit organization that assists women, children and men in crisis, particularly those who have been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault or homeless situations. The remaining 10 percent goes to this year's V-Day spotlight campaign, which will help build safe houses for women in Haiti.

To shine your own light and join in the global fight against violence, you can take a stand and let your voice be heard by visiting the official V-Day website at [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org) and/or attending the UHCL production of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer."



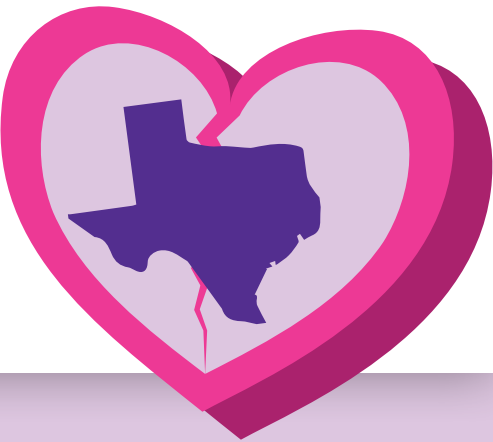
The cast and directors of UHCL's performance of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer."

Courtesy: UHCL V-DAY



3 OF 4 FAMILY VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
ARE FEMALE

188,992 INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
OCCURRED DURING 2012 IN TEXAS



STANDING UP  
TO ‘V’IOLENCE

(from left to right)

Julie Garner, actor and accounting major;  
Julie Smith, director and community volunteer;  
John Pilliod, actor and community volunteer;  
Amber Davis, actor and community volunteer;  
Maria Gamboa, director and psychology major.



TIFFANY SEXTON/THE SIGNAL



“I’m ranting to make the world  
a safer place for my neice.”

Julie Smith, Director  
Community Volunteer

“I’m ranting  
against violence!”

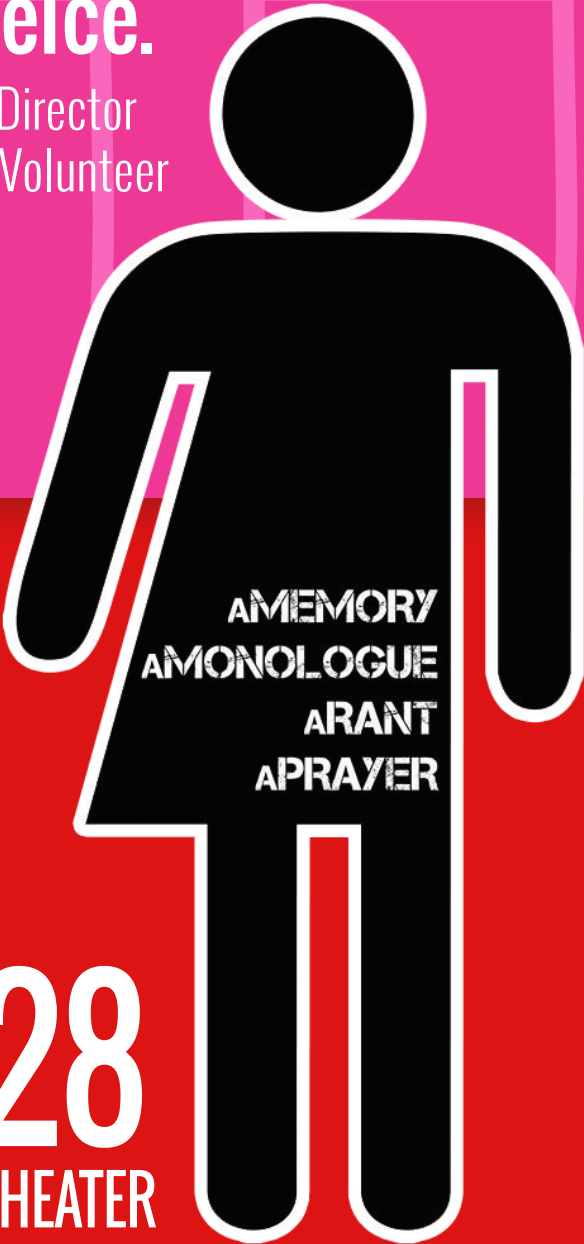
James Elmore, Director  
Vice President of P.A.V.E.



Scan the QR Code to go to the V-DAY homepage and learn  
how you can end violence against women and girls!



\$10  
8 PM  
FEB. 28  
UHCL BAYOU THEATER





DAY OF SERVICE: continued from page 1

The Annual Day of Service is designed to provide faculty and students alike an experience of what it feels like to give back and help the community while working together as a school. SLICE strives to enrich its volunteers with appreciation and commitment to lifelong servant leadership.

Jeremy Mejia, president of National Society of Leadership and Success, said there are several reasons why the Annual Day of Service is important.

“Ask yourself, when was the last time you volunteered in your community?” Mejia said. “Living in the United States, some may notice how our mainstream society has become more of a ‘me, me’ attitude versus a ‘how can I give back’ mindset.

“There are several reasons why this event is very important to the university. First, the event teaches volunteers the mutual benefit of giving back to the community. A healthy community equates to healthy citizens. Second, Day of Service provides members of the UHCL

“Day of Service aims to inspire our students to make a lifelong commitment to being engaged in social change, to giving back to their community to help create a better society for all.”

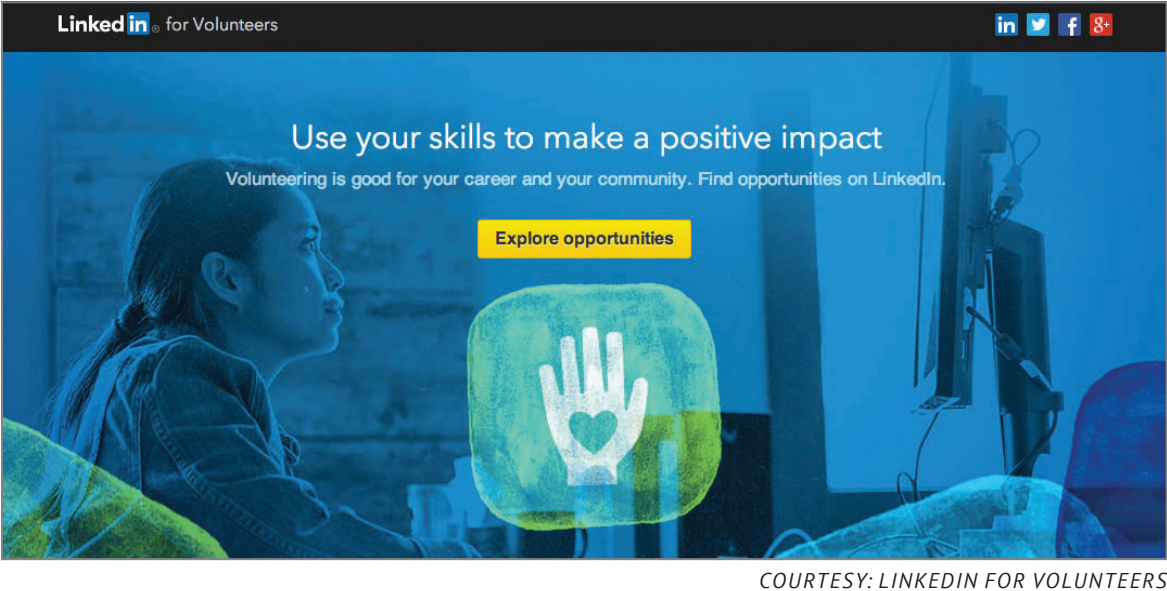
– JENNIFER CLARK  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
OF STUDENT LIFE

community with the unique opportunity to work alongside one another outside the usual classroom setting. Finally, this event makes a perfect platform for promoting the thriving spirit of our UHCL Hawks. What better way to represent our beautiful campus than enriching the very communities we call home?”

The Annual Day of Service will be held Feb. 28 and March 1. The deadline for registration is noon Feb. 26. Volunteers can register online at [www.uhcl.edu/slice](http://www.uhcl.edu/slice). The kick off is Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in SSCB Lecture Hall, room 1100. Dress code is casual.

On the Day of Service, March 1, it is encouraged that volunteers wear T-shirts or sweatshirts that represent UHCL or their student organization. Volunteers can also wear their SLICE T-shirt if they attend the Friday night event. For outdoor projects, pants, long-sleeved shirts and tennis shoes are recommended. The food banks also require tennis shoes.

LINKEDIN: continued from page 1



COURTESY: LINKEDIN FOR VOLUNTEERS

they’d hired someone specifically because of their volunteer experience,” Dorsey said.

Dorsey also said that by including the volunteer experience in their profiles, students could enhance their resumes and show potential employers they are willing to heighten their skills while making a positive impact on the world.

Jennifer Clark, assistant director of Student Life, said volunteering not only serves as a way to give back to the community, but it also allows an individual to become a well-rounded and experienced worker by increasing a person’s social connections, professional contacts, skills and practices.

“Volunteering is not just good for the community, it’s good for your career,” Clark said. “It eliminates your popularity and

GPA, gives you the practical experience of teamwork and provides you with natural leadership and transferable skills.”

LinkedIn works similar to Facebook and Twitter in the sense that users can connect, interact and stay in touch with other people. In addition to sharing photos and statuses, users share their skills and resumes. LinkedIn also gives users the opportunity to discover business deals and new ventures, as well as receive the latest news and insights on every profession.

Chuck Crocker, associate director for Career Services, points out it is important to keep in mind the type of social networking site forum on which you are interacting.

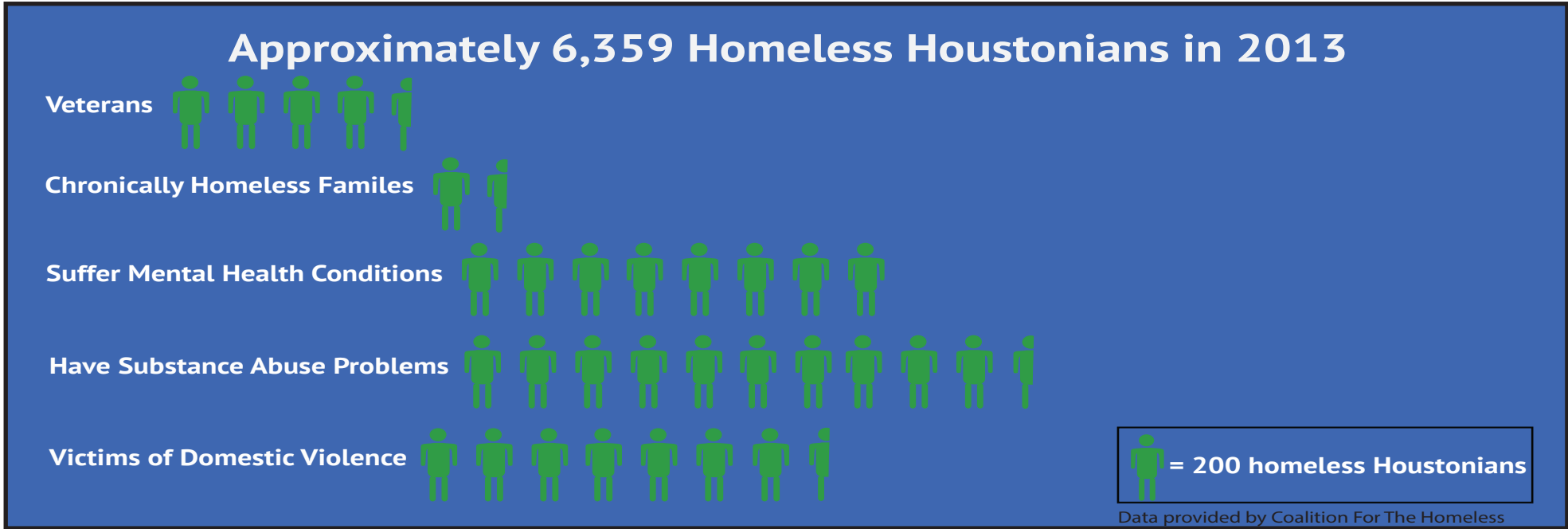
“LinkedIn, just like any social media site, can work for you or against you,” Crocker said. “You

want to make sure you keep it strictly professional when it comes to your online presence on this site.”

Crocker said students at any stage of their collegiate career would benefit from utilizing the site to build and engage their professional networks and identities and that it could also be used as a research tool to find information on the different professions that a student could enter into based on his or her degree.

“LinkedIn allows students to see and connect with alumni from their school and gives them an idea as to what career path they’ve taken,” Crocker said.

LinkedIn is open to the public and free to join. Members seeking volunteer opportunities can visit [volunteer.linkedin.com](http://volunteer.linkedin.com) to find out more information.



BACKPACKS: continued from page 1

Participation is highly encouraged for all UHCL students and staff. Every Wednesday at noon in the SSCB Student Lounge, the organizations meet to collect and assemble the donated items. There is also a drop-off box outside Professor of Anthropology Charlotte Haney’s office located in the Bayou Building, room 1508-21.

“Homelessness is a growing problem in Houston; it feels rewarding to be a part of this mission,” Haney said.

In 2011, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development named Houston a priority community. The Houston Coalition for the Homeless ([www.houstonhomeless.org](http://www.houstonhomeless.org)) reported the estimated population of homelessness in Houston/Harris County as of Jan. 29, 2013 was 6,359. The average age of a homeless person in Houston is 44.2 years old; 69

percent are males and 30 percent females. Within that percentage of females 5.5 percent are pregnant.

Terry Henry, program director for The Way Station, a program to help feed and clothe people in need operated out of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, provides hot breakfasts Monday-Friday for those unable to do so themselves.

“This is the only place in Houston you can get a hot meal Monday-Friday, rain or shine,” Henry said.

The Way Station has two part-time employees; the rest are volunteers. They have been providing meals to the homeless for 23 years, sometimes serving 300 clients a day. Henry said they could not do it without the help, love and support of the community.

“Ninety percent of the food for the meals comes from the

Houston Food Bank, the largest nonprofit food bank in the nation,” said Kim Mivelaz, front desk receptionist at the Houston Food Bank.

The reasons why some people find themselves without a home varies from a case-to-case basis. Scott Arthur, director of public relations for the Star of Hope, a Christian-based organization with the mission to end homelessness by providing food and shelter, said the reasons why Houstonians are homeless is due to either situational or generational conditions.

“Situational is any one of us, just one paycheck away, but when a person is born into poverty and knows no other way than on the streets to live, it is considered generational,” Arthur said. “At the Star of Hope we aim to break that cycle.”

One of the regular servers at The Way Station is, himself,

homeless.

“I lost my job a year and half ago and haven’t been able to get back on my feet,” said the man; he lives on the streets of Houston and did not want to release his name. He stated he appreciates all the support and generosity from the community, and he volunteers at The Way Station as a way to give back to the community that is helping him.

Arthur said he has seen people from all walks of life, from the more than 9,000 victims that find themselves homeless in Houston, from lawyers and CEOs of major companies to high school dropouts and domestic violence victims.

The Star of Hope has three separate facilities and has to raise a total of \$23 million a year to keep all three facilities running. The money comes from donations from corporations, universities,

philanthropists, churches and others who want to give or help those in need.

Donations for the backpack mission are being accepted through the end of the month. Sandison said they decided to team up with Star of Hope and The Mercy Tree.

The Mercy Tree is a Clear Lake-based organization that provides food to the homeless and hungry. Their vision is to provide a safe, comfortable environment in which anyone can sit and enjoy a hot meal.

Some may argue collecting 20 backpacks will not go far in helping the more than 6,000 who live on the streets of Houston, but Authur insists, “every little bit helps.”

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# SGA welcomes new exectuive council member

**TIFFANY FITZPATRICK**  
*THE SIGNAL*

Accounting major Julie Garner wears jazz shoes with jeans on her first full day as a member of the Student Government Association Executive Council. She’s prepared, she says, to rehearse a routine for Cultural Extravaganza later.

Garner was elected to the executive council as Vice President-Outreach and Communication by a majority vote at the SGA meeting Feb. 4. The position became vacant when art and design major Safyah Alam resigned in December. Garner will hold the position until regular elections take place later this spring.

Although new to the executive council, Garner looks every bit as comfortable in the SGA office as her three colleagues.

The amount of activity in the room is abundant for four people. They are finishing up the agend for next week’s SGA meeting.

Kenneth Kettler, vice president-committee coordinator for SGA and legal studies major, is holding an impromptu debate with Garner over the pros and cons of various presidential administrations while she assembles decorations for an upcoming SGA event.

The debate stops momentarily while the four of them discuss which quote will go at the bottom of next week’s agenda but quickly resumes when that conversation ends.

Chaitanya Kala, vice president-administration for SGA and graduate computer science major, is mostly quiet, focused on the work in front of him, but he occasionally smiles or laughs in reaction to the ongoing conversation.

Minutes later, Garner jokingly complains about Facebook to Carla Bradley, SGA president and graduate digital media studies major, and the room fills with

laughter. The topics discussed switch easily between SGA business, classes and everything in between. Several textbooks are cracked open around the room.

There are four distinctly different personalities in the room, but they work together as if they have always been a group.

“The most important thing to know about us is that we work as a team,” Kettler said. “That may sound a little obvious, but when four people represent the interests of thousands of students, collaboration is essential.”

Their individual levels of involvement at UHCL outside of their SGA positions and responsibilities may explain their comfort level around one another.

One of the requirements for holding a position on the executive council is that each student must be the elected SGA representative for one of UHCL’s recognized student organizations.

Each of the current executive council officers is a member of multiple student organizations.

Elections for the executive council are typically held in the spring semester each year and installation takes place at the annual Student Leadership Banquet. Students elected to the executive council are expected to commit for the entire academic year – until the following year’s Student Leadership Banquet.

Elections for the 2014-2015 academic year will take place at the SGA meeting March 18.

Bradley encourages all interested students to apply for executive council positions for the upcoming academic year.

Officers are elected to one-year terms in each of the four positions.

“A president must represent UHCL both on and off campus,” Bradley advises potential candidates. “A president needs to be considerate of not only student

needs but of faculty, staff and administrators because their mission is to essentially provide better services for students.”

All executive council positions are unpaid and require a large amount of time and responsibility, but each of the members expressed enthusiasm for their current position.

“At UHCL we have a real opportunity to listen to students and work with administrators on a wide variety of student concerns,” Kettler said. “I really appreciate that the administrators take us seriously and work with us to see how we can continue to improve UHCL. Working on the executive council has given me a great sense of community here.”

Of course, they say, there are other perks.

“The SGA reserved parking spot is pretty legit,” Bradley said.



Julie Garner enjoys her newly acquired position as Vice President-Outreach and Communication.



From Left: Carla Bradley and Chaitanya Kala discuss the upcoming SGA meeting.



From Left: Kenneth “KC” Kettler, Julie Garner and Carla Bradley.

ALL PHOTOS BY TIFFANY FITZPATRICK: THE SIGNAL

## GET TO KNOW YOUR SGA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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	CARLA BRADLEY	JULIE GARNER	KENNETH “KC” KETTLER	CHAITANYA KALA
WHAT IS YOUR MOST MARKED CHARACTERISTIC?	I’ve been told I’m approachable.	My Laughter	Confidence	My ability
WHAT IS YOUR DREAM OF HAPPINESS?	To make sure I am doing what I love after I graduate.	To change the world for the better.	I particularly like toast. So I’m sure my dream of happiness will somehow involve toast.	Being rich
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?	Awesome	A CPA	What I am. I want to improve myself over time.	A happy man
IN WHAT COUNTRY DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?	The United States of America!!	Italy	The States. I’ve been to a few other countries... but this one is home.	India
WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE FICTIONAL HEROES?	Harry Potter	The Doctor	Pretty much anyone played by Jimmy Stewart or Woody from “Toy Story.”	Iron Man
WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE FICTIONAL HEROINES?	Shadowcrane	Cassandra Cain	Dory from “Finding Nemo.”	Black Widow
WHO ARE YOUR HEROES IN REAL LIFE?	My mom and Shadowcrane	Nickola Tesla	Mahatma Ghandi and Clarence Darrow. Both were lawyers, go figure.	Abdul Kalam
WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE HEROINES IN HISTORY?	Dorothea Lange and Dolores Huerta	Queen Elizabeth I	Queen Elizabeth I, one of the few leaders of her time who wasn’t a despot.	My mother
WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?	#Saylove	Hakuna Matata	“To succeed in life, you need two things: ignorance and confidence.” - Mark Twain	To be proficient enough in whatever field I choose.