

## Home Of Hunter The Hawk

**TIFFANY FITZPATRICK**  
*THE SIGNAL*

The cheers and excitement pouring from the sea of blue and green in Atrium II during I Heart UHCL Day could have easily rivaled any rumbling stadium.

Students, faculty and staff gathered together in the name of hawk spirit and anxiously awaited the announcement of the new mascot's name – a closely guarded secret until a team of UHCL community members, decked out in blue and green, spelled it out on stage. Each person held one letter and the crowd was teased with several false names before six letters were finally arranged: H-U-N-T-E-R.

Immediately, the crowd cheered and confetti exploded from above as Hunter the Hawk got on one knee in front of his name before looking back to watch as a banner unrolled announcing UHCL as “Home of Hunter the Hawk and others looking to soar.”

The reveal came after President William Staples took the stage and discussed the significance of the UHCL mascot.

“The last six months have been somewhat historic in the history of UH-Clear Lake,”

Staples said. “Most of you will remember that we actually introduced the hawk in April of this year at the Chili Cook-Off, but this whole process really started back in fall 2010.”

Staples thanked the Mascot Leadership Team, the Mascot Advisory Team and the Mascot Program Advisory Team for their efforts in bringing the mascot to UHCL.

“We’ve never really had what I would call an official – we’ve had unofficial – but never an official mascot, and so this really is a milestone in the development of UHCL,” Staples said.

Earlier in the presentation, Patrick Cardenas, coordinator of Student Life-Student Organizations, announced the winners for the I Heart UHCL spirit competitions. Intercultural Student Services won Best Office for the third year in a row; Student Assistance Center won Best Door; and the winner of the Best Window contest was Academic Records.

Sara Khalifa, coordinator of Orientation and New Student Programs, won the prize for Individual School Spirit, and the Group School Spirit award was given to the

UHCL Fairies: Julie Garner, accounting major; Mari Martinez, bilingual education major; and Sai Rashmika Velugula, graduate biotechnology student and teaching assistant.

The winners of each category were awarded bright blue, green and white traditional Southern homecoming mums.

I Heart UHCL is an annual event in its fifth year that has changed and grown each year since its inception.

“It has changed over the years,” Cardenas said. “It’s the fifth anniversary. I think this year it’s been taken up a notch. I inherited it around 2011. So, from 2011, 2012 and this year, we’ve been



ALICIA ALVAREZ:THE SIGNAL

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ADRIANA CAPILLA-GARCIA:THE SIGNAL

## NASA Furloughs Rescinded

**SAM SAVELL**  
*THE SIGNAL*

The local aeronautics community headed back to work Oct. 17 after Congress ended a 16-day shutdown by passing a bill that temporarily raised the national debt ceiling.

NASA and its affiliates were among the largest group impacted during the shutdown, scrubbing all activity except that related to keeping current U.S. astronauts in orbit.

The compromise deal allows for the government to be funded until Jan. 15. This means previously furloughed employees are back at work in the space community, and NASA is keeping up with their itinerary of missions to complete before the next budget deadline.

Missions are still on schedule for NASA after the shutdown. Plans are being upheld to re-arrange crew members aboard the International Space Station

(ISS), introduce three new astronauts to the ISS, and launch a satellite to Mars – all set to happen in November.

NASA opened as a government agency Oct. 1, 1958. In celebration of its 55th anniversary to the date, it was forced to close and furlough approximately 97 percent of its employees.

During the 16 days of shutdown, federal employees endured the insecurity of not knowing when they would receive another paycheck or be able to return to work. Outside NASA, furloughed employees stood together to inform the public on how they could return to space.

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), a federal government labor union, rallied outside of Johnson Space Center (JSC), the morning of Oct. 14. AFGE members, comprised of JSC employees and other

**SEE NASA, PAGE 6**

## Shutdown Impacts Veterans

**MALORI BIZZELL**  
*THE SIGNAL*

With the government shut down for more than two weeks at the beginning of October and the uncertainty of future pensions, payments and claims getting processed, many veterans and their families face a delay in the processing of future benefits.

The 2010 census reports the Department of Veterans Affairs has 297,319 veterans in Texas alone receiving disability compensation and pension payments.

The government temporarily reopened its doors Oct. 17. With services reinstated until Jan. 15, the Veterans' Affairs office will work to minimize delays in an already backlogged system.

“You don’t just flip a switch and everything turns back on,” said E.A. “Buddy” Grantham, director of City of Houston Office of Veterans' Affairs. “There will be a delayed effect.”

The U.S. Office of Veterans Affairs had employees working overtime for months before the government shutdown trying to clear backclaims. The shutdown stalled all claims from being processed for 16 days and will affect the timeline for veterans to receive benefits, payments and pensions because of the extended processing time.

The City of Houston Office of Veterans' Affairs reports Housing Houston's Heroes, a program sponsored by Houston Housing Authority, helps more than 1,000 local Houston veterans who are homeless; most receive a payment of about \$1,000 a month from Veterans Affairs.

“Eighty-four percent of veterans helped by Housing Houston's Heroes are living month-to-month,” Grantham said. Grantham went on to explain that

**SEE VETERANS, PAGE 6**

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this issue



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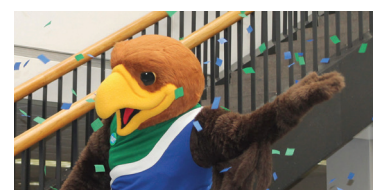
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Halloween Costumes

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**TOP HALLOWEEN COSTUMES**  
Go online to read blog by Randi Null



**I HEART UHCL**  
Go online to view video by Daniel Durbin and Victor Araiza



# Return Of Our Regularly Scheduled Government U.S. Back In Business, For Now

Two kids are at a park – one wants to play baseball, the other wants to play soccer. They have the equipment to play either sport but only have enough room to play one or the other.

Rather than compromise and play a game of kickball, both kids sit in the middle of the field, too stubborn to make the most of their day. Meanwhile, other kids can’t use the field for any of their activities either – everyone loses.

Although there are millions of people affected and billions of dollars wasted, government shutdowns are not much different than the previous scenario. Shutdowns occur when a “funding gap” is created because Congress fails to pass, or chooses not to pass, a bill that funds government operations. Unfortunately, shutdowns are not new and likely will not be going away.

Since 1977 there have been 18 funding gaps that have resulted in government shutdowns. Shutdowns have occurred under both Republican and Democratic presidents, incited by both Republican and Democratic majorities in the House and Senate. Neither party has its hands clean of these unnatural disasters.

It has been 17 years since the last partial government shutdown. Partial government shutdowns occur when only portions of

## EDITORIAL

the government are temporarily closed or services are temporarily suspended until a new budget can be agreed upon and passed through Congress.

While the length and severity of each shutdown varies, these man-made, all-too-frequent disasters cost U.S. citizens jobs, money and opportunities. The cost of these shutdowns is passed down to taxpayers.

While nearly 800,000 jobs are put on hold and citizens go unpaid for the duration of the shutdown, politicians typically keep earning their regular pay whether or not they show up to work. All the while, millions of people across the country are affected by the halting of many government services.

Research firm IHS Inc. estimates the latest shutdown will cost the country nearly \$300 million a day, for a total of \$4.8 billion in predicted damages. Some government employees put on furlough will receive back-pay for the time of closure, while contractors will add the period of inactivity to their expenses, raising the cost of government contracts for years to come.

The 16-day partial shutdown ended with an agreement to temporarily allow government funding to continue into early 2014 and allowed an additional \$886 billion to the nation’s debt limit. This means the government continues along the path it was previously headed, now with added damages, backlogs and extended wait times for many government services including passport applications, benefit claims and loan requests. Also added to that list is a looming uncertainty that in three months the scenario will happen



SEAN WESLEY

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all over again unless politicians can learn to compromise. Are these unneeded and costly shutdowns the new method of starting talks between the branches of government? If the public is being negatively affected by the shutdowns, is it not in the interest of politicians, elected to represent the populous, to invite and encourage negotiations and compromise in an effort to avoid these damaging and costly government shutdowns?

Early 2014 will show what, if anything, was learned from this latest shutdown. Also by that time, the economic repercussions will begin to take their toll as the full extent of damages becomes clearer to economists. In the meantime, we can hope the low poll numbers and general backlash from the public will encourage more compromising at the negotiating tables between now and next January.

# Celebrate Explorer’s Day, Not Christopher Columbus Day

RACHAEL DEVINNEY  
THE SIGNAL

As I acknowledged Columbus Day earlier this month, it made me wonder, why do we celebrate Columbus Day?

Are we celebrating his discovery of America? We know that “in 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue,” but Columbus was not sailing to discover America; he was sailing to find a faster trade route to the Indies for the Spanish Crown.

In fact, Columbus never set foot in North America, which had in fact already been “discovered” by our nomadic ancestors when they crossed the Bering Land Bridge, or Beringa, into North America between 22,000 and 13,000 years ago.

From there, they spread throughout what is now the United States of America into South America. There is also new evidence that our ancestors spread throughout the Americas faster than we thought by means of coastal southern migration, rather than migrating directly to North America. These are the true Na-



## STAFF COLUMN

tive Americans, the true “discoverers” of the Americas.

So if we are not celebrating Columbus’ discovery of the United States, are we celebrating the man who was Christopher Columbus? I find it hard to believe that we, as a people, choose to celebrate the life of a man who brought the African slave trade to the New World and then forced Native Americans into slavery.

Even the Spanish Crown

disapproved of how Columbus treated Native Americans, arresting him after one of his return voyages. Although they would ultimately free him, it was clear that Isabella and Ferdinand did not agree with his brutal treatment of the indigenous peoples of the lands he was invading.

Why would we want to teach our children to celebrate the life of such a man?

It also cannot be denied that Columbus’ “discovery” of the New World led to the decimation of the Native Americans who lived in both North and South America. His discoveries lead to countless others settling in the New World and following the example he set in South America. He brought horrible treatment to the Native Americans, as well as diseases like smallpox and influenza, that wiped out thousands, possibly even millions, of natives.

I am not saying that we should forget about Columbus and pretend that he didn’t exist. We cannot run from our own horrible involvement in the slave trade, nor can we run from the genocide

of the Native American Indians that our colonization caused through disease and violence.

We can, however, learn the real history of our great country so we don’t commit the same mistakes. We cannot change what happened, but we can learn from it.

Rather than celebrating Columbus, we can celebrate the lives of the millions who died in order for us to live in the United States of America now. Already there are states, including Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon and South Dakota, which have changed the day’s name from Columbus Day to something that honors those who died.

South Dakota has celebrated the second Monday in October as “Native American Day” since 1989.

Since 2002, Venezuela has celebrated the day as Día de la

Resistencia Indígena, or Day of Indigenous Resistance, to celebrate the native people’s resistance to Europeans.

And in the Bahamas, where Columbus actually landed, the day is celebrated as Discovery Day. This, or even Explorer’s Day, would be a wonderful change from Columbus Day. Yes, let’s celebrate Discovery Day and all of the people throughout history who have “discovered” different areas of the world – a list that would include Christopher Columbus.

Columbus’ exploration did lead to more people coming to the Americas and did contribute to the navigation of the ocean between the two continents. He did provide new information to the field of exploration, but so did many other great men and women.

**CORRECTION:** In Volume XLI, number 9, dated Oct. 14, the article “Innocence Project of Texas first to review convicted arson cases” incorrectly stated “Innocent until proven guilty is a constitutional right guaranteed all U.S. citizens by the First Amendment.” The article should have stated that presumption of innocence is a requirement of due process of law.

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UHCL Writing Center

Celebrates 5th Annual Rhet Fest

in honor of the National Day of Writing



Call me Ishmael

Matt Chavez, Writing Center tutor, emulates Herman Melville's famous "Moby Dick" character at this year's Rhet Fest. To find out more about Rhet Fest and other Writing Center events, visit [www.uhcl.edu/writingcenter](http://www.uhcl.edu/writingcenter).

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE HART: UHCL WRITING CENTER

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TOURNÉES

FESTIVAL

New French Films on Campus

L'Enfant D'En Haut / Sister



Sat, Nov 2 / 7 pm

SSCB Lecture Hall

\$3.75 or FREE with student UHCL ID

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New French Films on Campus

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# THE TOURNÉES FESTIVAL

## NEW FRENCH FILMS ON CAMPUS

### Qu'ils Mangent de Petits Gateaux

#### 'Let Them Eat Cupcakes' And Then Some

HALEY FOLLETT  
THE SIGNAL

The French culture swept over the campus of UHCL for the fifth year in a row as the Tournées Festival kicked off Friday, Oct. 8.

To begin the cultural extravaganza, the Tournées Festival took its participants back into the history of France with “Farewell, My Queen.” The film showed a different side to the well-known story of Marie Antoinette, filled with unrequited love and fear.

Furthering the experience, the Honorable Consul Sujiro Seam and Deputy of Cultural Attaché Lauriane Blandel of the French Consulate attended the festival.

“I think it is an honor to be here, and [the film was] a great representation of French history,” Blandel said. “It is a good way to start the festival.”

All films shown as part of the festival are in French with English subtitles. Additional help is given with a quick vocabulary lesson at the beginning of each film.

Christine Paul, director of Foreign Language Programs and Non-Credit Programs at UHCL, watches the films prior to the showing and chooses commonly used phrases and words. Before the film, Paul assists attendees with pronunciation of the words as everyone says them aloud together. This helps participants connect further with the film by allowing them to identify certain French words during the screening.

“I usually come see the films on campus,” said Ashley Connelley, an undergraduate student majoring in an-

thropology and sociology who attended “Farewell, My Queen.” “At first I wasn’t sure about the movie being in French with English subtitles. I didn’t know if I would get it, but I really enjoyed it.”

The screening of “Farewell, My Queen” featured a “Let Them Eat Cupcakes” reception with French-inspired cupcakes from Cosmo’s following the film. The rest of the festival screenings will not have a reception but will sell concessions before the film begins. Attendees are encouraged to bring cash as checks and credit card payments are not accepted.

“Our university is committed to the global community and the global perspective,” said Andrew Reitberger, interim director of Student Life. “We make sure our campus and community have exposure to the world.”

The rest of the films to be shown during the Tournées Festival range from comedy to tragedy. The movies still to be shown include “Elza,” “Sister” and “Approved for Adoption.” “The Fairy,” a French comedy was shown Oct. 9.

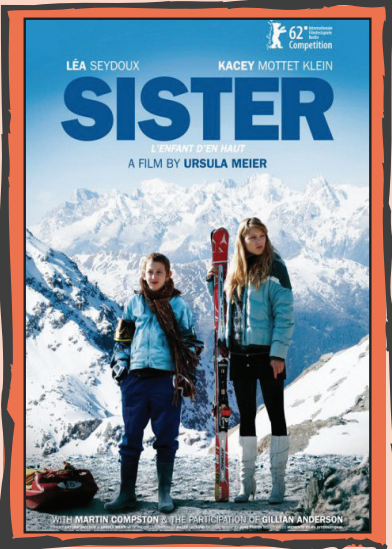
“I think these films are great for anyone who lives in the Clear Lake area,” Paul said.

The films are open to students as well as the public. Admission for students and faculty with a UHCL ID is free. For all other attendees, the fee for a movie is \$3.75.

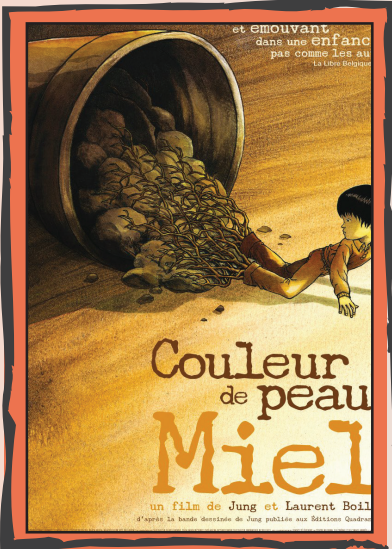
For more information on the Tournées Festival, contact Sonia Hernandez, film curator, at 281-283-2560.

For more information regarding the Foreign Language Program, contact Christine Paul at 281-283-3407.

### Upcoming French Films in the Series



Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.



Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

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HALEY FOLLETT:THE SIGNAL

Doc Pepper, non-credit foreign language student, got into the character of a French calvary man by getting down on one knee and kissing the hand of female attendees such as Sam Oser, literature and communication double major.

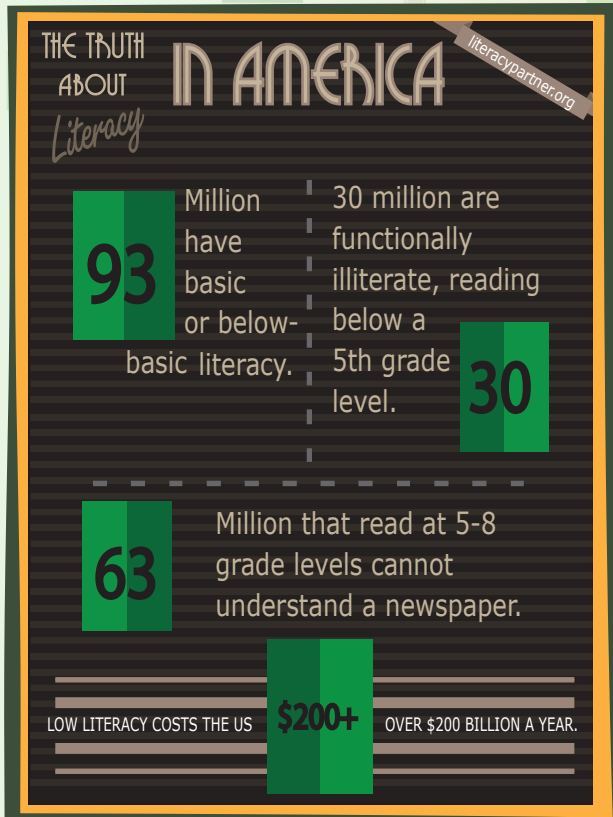


ABOUT LITERACY, WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT HOW TO ENHANCE OUR CHILDREN'S MASTERY OVER THE

IF WE TALK

TOOLS NEEDED TO LIVE INTELLIGENT, CREATIVE, AND INVOLVED LIVES."

DANNY GLOVER



HEATHER ALFORD:THE SIGNAL



JASMINE GASCAR:THE SIGNAL

Teachers and teacher candidates network at the TAIR Literacy Conference.



JASMINE GASCAR:THE SIGNAL

Guest speaker Debbie Silver demonstrates the "magic tube" trick.

## It Pays To Read, Support Literacy

**JASMINE GASCAR**  
THE SIGNAL

ProLiteracy, an international non-profit organization that promotes adult literacy learning, states on its website (proliteracy.org) that 63 million Americans cannot read or understand a basic newspaper.

Literacy Partners Inc., a nationally accredited adult education program, reports on its website (literacypartners.org) that low literacy rates account for 43 percent of impoverished Americans and 65 percent of prison inmates.

The University of Houston-Clear Lake School of Education hosted the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading (TAIR) and the UHCL Student Reading Council's annual fall literacy conference Oct. 19.

The Saturday morning workshop featured guest speaker Debbie Silver, veteran educator, educational speaker, staff development instructor and author.

The annual fall TAIR conference provided teachers and teacher candidates the opportunity for professional development by demonstrating fun and innovative teaching methods to keep students engaged and teachers motivated.

Silver emphasized the importance of the role played by teachers in students' lives and offered teaching styles that could prevent students from giving up on education, especially for those children who lack support from the adult role models at home.

"Sometimes, parents are the ones that say, 'I didn't make it to the seventh grade, look at me!'" Silver said. "So the students sometimes have had to fight the parents for an education because they see it as a ticket out. The problem is the instant gratification. The parents don't learn to postpone gratification, they focus on the instant rewards such as making money now, rather than investing in an education."

Kathy Matthew, associate dean for the School of Education, pointed out that sometimes the lack of parental support is due to the low literacy rates of the parents themselves.

"When you have children with low literacy rates, most of the time the problem is that the parents can't help them," Matthew said. "Often times, when the kids were struggling, the parents didn't know they were struggling. The parents can't help because they don't know how to help, and because they don't know when to help. They don't know how to recognize the need for help. That is why teachers are so important."

Donna Pendleton, conference

participant and education major at UHCL, pointed out that low literacy is sometimes a characteristic passed down from generation to generation.

"A lot has to do with the background of students," Pendleton said. "The parents don't always value education because they didn't have a chance to; they were always working. So then, the cycle repeats itself. I work full-time and I am a single mom and I go to school part-time. I know how hard it is to keep up with education, but at the same time, I know its importance."

One challenge that educators face at the moment is keeping students engaged and motivated to finish school.

"What happens is that when they start off bad in elementary and middle school, they drop out of high school," said conference participant Lucero Munoz-Raba, fourth-grade teacher for Clear Creek ISD and UHCL alumna. Munoz-Raba graduated from UHCL with a master's degree in multicultural education.

The Texas Education Agency website (tea.state.tx.us) states that the number of dropouts in grades 7-12 increased by almost 6 percent for the 2011-12 school year compared to 2010-11. Additionally, the Literacy Partners Inc. website states that many people who did not finish high school have basic or below basic literacy rates.

Low literacy and drop out rates have been linked to a portion of the prison population as well. The ProLiteracy website shows that 26 percent of prison inmates had parents who had not completed high school and 37 percent had not finished high school themselves.

"The most important thing with adults is not to look at them as victims, but rather as participants," Silver said. "It is what it is, so how do we get better? Stop playing the victim card and stop giving them excuses. The end. But if you take care of [low literacy] at the high-chair level, you don't have to take care of it at the prison level."

The Literacy Partners Inc. website suggests that literacy rates may have a societal impact in addition to an individual impact by reporting that for every dollar spent on adult literacy, society reaps \$7.14 in return.

For more information on resources for free adult education programs in Houston, visit: [www.houstontx.gov/education/adult/](http://www.houstontx.gov/education/adult/). For more information on Silver's books and workshops, visit [www.debbiesilver.com](http://www.debbiesilver.com). For more information on UHCL's School of Education student organizations, visit: <http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/SOE/STUDENTORG>.



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setting the bar a whole new level each time. When it first started out, it was an initiative, it was something to get the campus together in terms of spirit, because we didn't quite have that being an upper-level institution."

The event organizers were pleased with this year's turnout. "Many people came out to enjoy the activities and events put on by the organizations and the departments, and it was just a great way for the entire campus community – faculty, staff, students, even alumni – to come and show their love for our university," Cardenas said.

David Rachita, interim dean of students, said the enthusiasm at this year's festivities added to the

excitement of finally completing the creation of the mascot. "You know that was like a two-year process," Rachita said. "I'm not sure it felt like two years, but it felt like we were constantly meeting to talk about it. So, it was nice to finally see it come to fruition and people having fun with it. That is probably what is most exciting, because we spent those two years in committee meetings once a month and there's a lot of background work people never saw... Now it's fun to see it come alive, and people really enjoy it. Even ever since

the Chili Cook-Off, before [the hawk] had a name, people just seem to flock to the hawk – pun intended."

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Individual Spirit:  
Sara Khalifa

Group Spirit:  
The UHCL Fairies  
Julie Garner  
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ALICIA ALVAREZ:THE SIGNAL

Roxanne Fabiani, psychology major, Carla Bradley, digital media studies major, Megan Hall, staff assistant in the Student Life Office, Angie Montelongo, director of Orientation and New Student Programs, Nichole Eslinger, coordinator of work/life services, and Colden Snow, anthropology major, revealed Hunter's name to the UHCL community.



SAM SAVELL:THE SIGNAL

Brittany Cardenas, art and design major, shares her school spirit for Hunter the Hawk and UHCL.

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furloughed government employees in the local area, held signs to enlist the help of the Clear Lake public so they could get back to work.

AFGE's goal was to get the public to speak to their congressmen or congresswomen and push them to bring the bill to the floor and reopen the government. "The holidays are coming up and people shouldn't be out of work," exclaimed Bridget Broussard-Guidry, president of AFGE-local 2284 at NASA JSC, during the protest. "They put us under pressure and our kids simply don't understand what's going on."

Compromise from Congress was met a few days after the protest on Oct. 16, with only a couple of hours to spare before the nation went into default.

Employees contracted by NASA were also affected by the shutdown, although contracted jobs are funded by the agency before being started. Contractors working on JSC property were also furloughed and were not guaranteed back pay for the time off by Congress' budget agreement.

"I'm afraid that my project won't receive enough funding next year, and that would place a lot of stress on our work," said Cody Iven, a contracted employee for NASA.

The information shared by the many researchers, scientists and astronomers at NASA was also halted by the shutdown. Even the JSC archives hosted in the Neumann Library at UHCL could not be accessed.

During the shutdown, NASA closed its website and similar online avenues used to spread the news about scientific research, but tweeters kept the dream of space exploration alive under the hashtag #ThingsNASAMightTweet.

Keyhole.co, a website that tracks Twitter trends, reports the hashtag brought in



SAM SAVELL:THE SIGNAL

AFGE member Darrell Johnson pickets outside NASA Oct. 14 while furloughed as a result of the government shutdown.

more than 15,000 tweets from 4,368 users – from space enthusiasts to astronauts. The common-interest tag allowed tweeters to spread news on events, such as the Juno spacecraft flying by Earth on its way to observe Jupiter, which occurred Oct. 9.

Although there have been 17 past government shutdowns, this is the first in which a global online community has taken it upon themselves to uphold what would have otherwise been a federal service. NASA's return to the Internet was widely received with a new trend: #WelcomeBackNASA.

With NASA back in operation, projects such as The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution orbiter, or MAVEN, can still meet a launch date of Nov. 18. The new probe headed to Mars will study the atmosphere but must be launched within a month-long window due to planetary alignment. If this window of time is missed, MAVEN will be delayed until 2016.

VETERANS: continued from page 1

the loss of a monthly payment could cause repercussions to local veterans.

After the shutdown, Grantham received a surplus of calls from veterans and their families, with one widow in particular standing out in his memory.

The call from a veteran's widow who was concerned about not being able to pay for food, prescriptions, electricity and mortgage if her veteran's dependent payment is suspended is an example of the type of phone calls Grantham has been receiving. After her husband died of an illness relating to the loss of his arm in World War II while storming Normandy, her veteran's dependent payment is her only source of income.

"Most disabled veterans can't work and rely on their benefit check to be able to pay their bills," said John Conley, manager of Houston's chapter of Veterans' Support Organization, who pointed out that he is also a disabled veteran.

These benefits are the only available means to pay bills, go to the doctor and purchase items such as groceries, gas and other necessities for most of the country's veterans.

Conley went on to explain that veterans who have served in war for our country want the government to work together and help our nation by coming together and fighting for the citizens of our country just as they have.

When the shutdown began Oct. 1, veterans felt "the government wasn't keeping them in mind and that they were easily cast aside," Grantham said.

Veterans attending school at University of Houston-Clear Lake might have seen these negative effects if the shutdown lasted through the beginning of November if they are receiving GI Bill benefits to pay tuition costs for the spring 2014 semester.

While the government was shut down,

veterans could not have their applications processed for benefits for the upcoming spring 2014 semester.

Because the government reopened before November, UHCL veteran students will not have a delay in benefits for the spring 2014 semester.

"Most disabled veterans can't work and rely on their benefit check to be able to pay their bills."

– JOHN CONLEY,  
MANAGER  
HOUSTON CHAPTER  
VETERAN'S SUPPORT  
ORGANIZATION

"The processing time for UHCL's students applying for the GI Bill benefits will not be affected for spring registration," said Trisha Ruiz, UHCL Veteran Services Office coordinator. "Students are able to apply for benefits at the UHCL Veteran Services Office."

Veterans are encouraged to visit the UHCL Veterans Affairs office for more information about GI Bill benefits being offered for the spring 2014 semester.

For more information and updates about the effects of the government shutdown on our nation's veterans, visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).





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## UHCL V DAY IS LOOKING FOR ACTORS

Performance will take place between February & April 2014



**AUDITIONS:**  
NOV. 8, 4 - 8 p.m.  
NOV. 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**SSCB STUDENT ORGS ROOM**

Men and Women are both encouraged to audition! All Actors must participate in ALL aspects of V Day including bake sales, selling tickets and fundraising.



**CONTACT:** PAVE [pave.uhcl@gmail.com](mailto:pave.uhcl@gmail.com)  
SHAUN SIMON [simon@uhcl.edu](mailto:simon@uhcl.edu)

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# 17th Annual STUDENT LEADERSHIP Conference

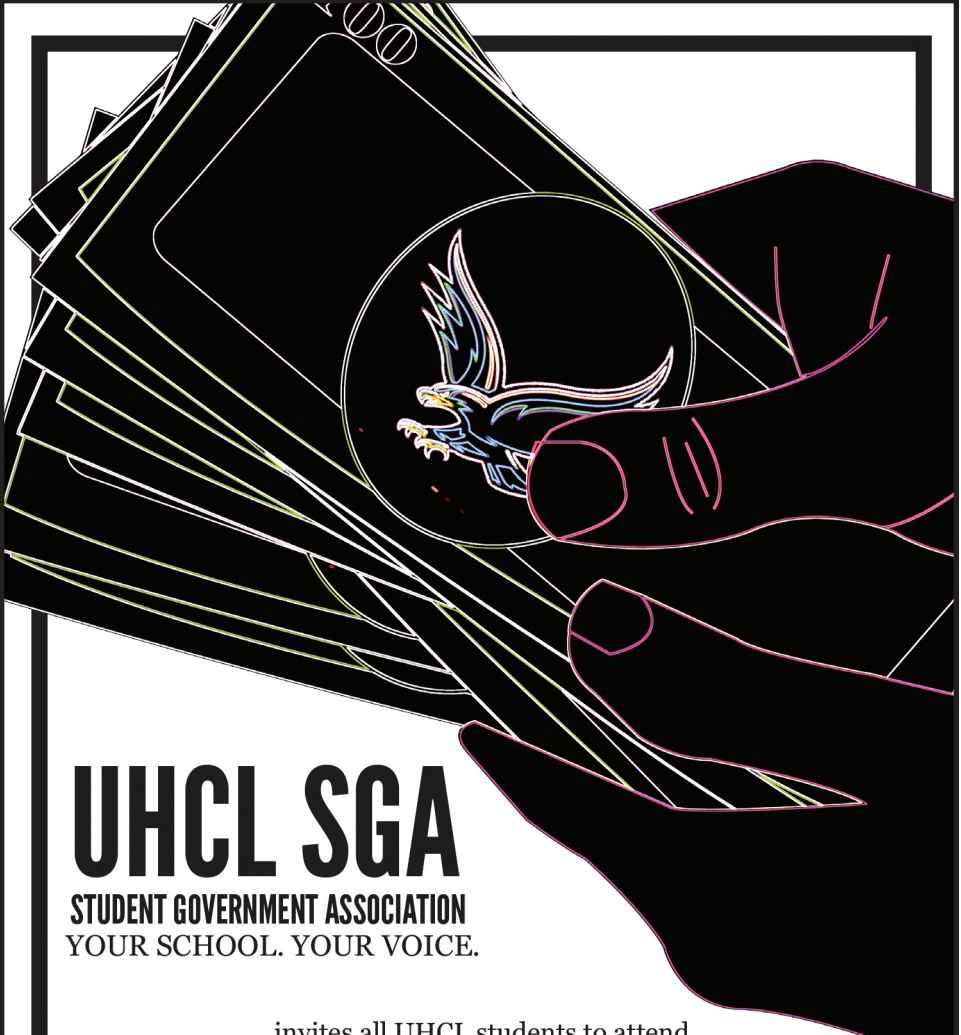
Saturday, Nov. 2



**FREE REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT UHCL STUDENTS UNTIL OCT. 29**  
REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.uhcl.edu/slice](http://www.uhcl.edu/slice)



Any person needing an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this program should contact the Office of Student Life at 281-283-2560 at least one week prior to the event to arrange for accommodation.



## UHCL SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR VOICE.

invites all UHCL students to attend

### TUITION & FEES MEETINGS

Tue, Nov 5, 11:30am - 12:30pm  
Tue, Nov 19, 11:30am - 12:30pm  
SSCB Lecture Hall

### TOWNHALL MEETINGS

Wed, Nov 13, 12:00 - 1:00pm  
Thu, Nov 14, 6:00 - 7:00pm  
SSCB Student Lounge

Any individual who requires a special accommodation for a disability to participate should contact the Student Life Office at (281)283-2560 one week prior to the event.

**For more information, contact us**

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# Becoming A Super Influential Model Leader

**KIMBERLY WARREN**  
THE SIGNAL

UHCL will be hosting its 17th annual Student Leadership Conference Nov. 2. The conference is sponsored by the Student Leadership Involvement and Community Engagement Program (SLICE).

The mission of SLICE is to foster learning and personal development through exploring leadership trends and civic engagement.

This year the conference fundraisers will benefit the National Association of People Against Bullying (NAPAB), a non-profit public benefit foundation whose main focus is to advocate for victims of bullying. The fundraising effort will include raffles and conference CD sales.

The Student Leadership Conference at UHCL is the largest campus-based conference in Texas, and it is open to college students throughout Texas. In the past, there have been as many as 3,000 students in attendance.

Jennifer Clark, assistant director of Student Life and SLICE, has a team of students who work alongside her to help choose conference themes and speakers.

The keynote speaker this year is Houston's own Jerome

Love. Love is a nationally known motivational speaker and bestselling author. Two of his books are titled "Get up, Get out and Get Something" and "Love Them, Lead Them."

Before becoming a motivational speaker, Love was an entrepreneur who started his first business at the age of 19.

After spending time with his mentor Jonathan Sprinkle, the keynote speaker at the 15th annual Leadership Conference, Love became a motivational speaker.

Clark explained that during the last few years of the conference, all of the keynote speakers had published books.

"Our goal is to get their message into the hands and that the students have a take away so that they can continue to think about ideas," Clark said.

Love has his own take on what makes a good leader.

"In order to be a good leader you have to have followers," Love said.

He also mentioned that becoming a good leader is a process, and it does not happen overnight. Individuals must be persistent in achieving what they want.

"Everybody can be a leader if they get up, get out and get some-

thing," Love said. "Influence people; be the model for followers."

The layout for the conference will consist of an opening and closing ceremony led by the keynote speaker with two educational sessions in between. With that, attendees have a choice of several different workshops that they can attend.

UHCL alumni, along with others who have attended the conference in previous years, present the workshops. During the conference there will be five tracks available: General student leaders (campus leadership), Leadership in the workplace, Diversity in leadership, Community service leadership, and Advisor and Staff.

A goal of the Student Leadership Conference is to teach individuals the necessary tools to be a superior leader or a super influential leader.

Darlene Biggers, associate vice president of Student Services,

believes that leaders are important in every facet of life.

"We all live in communities that need leaders, and whether it is in our places of worship, schools, or non-profits, they need people who can organize people and lead people for the better good of society," Biggers said.

For those who are interested in attending the leadership conference, registration is still open.

Preregistration ends Oct. 29; on-site registration will be available at the door. The conference is free for all UHCL students with their student ID and \$50 for non-UHCL students. Everyone is encouraged to preregister.

To preregister or for any UHCL students interested in volunteering at the conference, email Jennifer Clark at [jenclark@uhcl.edu](mailto:jenclark@uhcl.edu).



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT LIFE OFFICE

From left to right, student volunteers: Jessica Narvaez, social work major, Phuong Ngo and Rachel Morales, psychology major.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT LIFE OFFICE

Last year's keynote speaker Jason Jaggard talks about igniting leadership through Service, Purpose, Action, Risk and Knowledge (SPARK).



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT LIFE OFFICE

Student volunteer Roxanne Fabiani, psychology major, assists conference attendees.

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