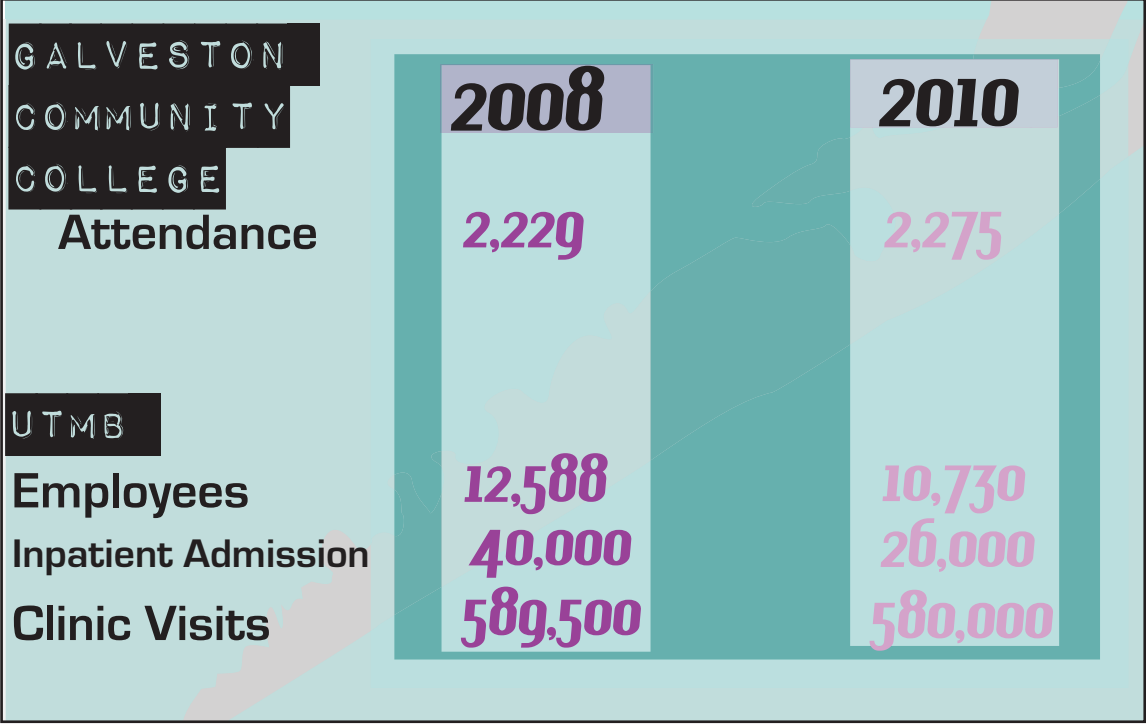




Galveston branded dead city



Galveston has been branded a dead city, but residents and city officials say the data does not support this.

Rose Pulido
The Signal

Two years after Hurricane Ike swept through Galveston causing billions of dollars in damage, the island is forced to defend itself due to a media blog labeling it as one of America’s top 10 dead cities. Douglas McIntyre, editor of 24/7 Wall St. and former editor-in-chief and publisher of Financial World magazine, recently posted an article on his blog, “America’s Ten Dead Cities: From Detroit To New Orleans,” that named Galveston as number 10. The city of Galveston discredits McIntyre’s label

of being a dead city and feels targeted since recovery is still in early phases post Ike. “This was an incorrect characterization,” Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski said. “If [McIntyre] would have visited the city and did better research, he would have seen we have never been more alive.” McIntyre’s interpretation of a dead city is when a loss of industry, tax base and a decrease in population can be measured. “Galveston was chosen based on a 60 to 70 year demise,” McIntyre said. “It wasn’t germane to one incident.” “On paper you can look at the damage but without making a trip to the island, you cannot get a good sense of the community,” said Alicia Cahill, public information officer for the city of Galveston. “I don’t think population growth is necessarily the only indicator on community vibrancy or health.” McIntyre’s research is based on past U.S. Census Bureau and Massachusetts Institute of Technology reports where future incomes for the restoration of the city such as allocations specifically for business, housing, medical and port recovery improvements were not considered.

Galveston: continued on page 6

Interim dean of students named

Hannah Pietsch
The Signal

David Rachita has been appointed to serve as interim dean of students to fill the position left vacant after the abrupt resignation of Anthony Jenkins submitted Aug. 13, which was effective immediately. Rachita is stepping in from his position as assistant dean of student life.



David Rachita

Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for student services, expressed that Rachita was the obvious choice for interim dean because of his experience with UHCL and familiarity with the

dean of students’ position. “[Rachita] worked closely with Dr. Jenkins on a lot of student issues and had stepped in and filled some of those positions before when another dean of students left,” Biggers said. Rachita has worked in student affairs at UHCL for 15 years and said the decision to step in as interim dean was an easy one. “It was not a decision that had to be made,” Rachita said. “I’m a Boy Scout leader. It was the Boy Scout thing to do, to jump in and help out where needed, so it felt very

Rachita: continued on page 6

Accreditation raises concerns

Anthony Nguyen
The Signal

Despite facing another budget cut and a drought in new faculty, the university is interviewing candidates to occupy a newly cemented position for Quality Evaluation Director. In 2004, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools implemented the Quality Enhancement Plan as a requirement for academic accreditation. SACS is the agency that grants the University of Houston-Clear Lake and thousands of other schools accreditation based on compliance with over 75 accreditation standards and commission

policies. To help facilitate proper establishment of our QEP to meet SACS requirements, UHCL is working to hire a director for a new administrative position specifically for this purpose. On its website, SACS defines the QEP as a “carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning.” Tom Benberg, vice president and chief of staff for SACS commission on colleges, explained that SACS wanted to establish a concentration on student learning at all accredited colleges

QEP: continued on page 6

UHCL Pearland Campus exceeds enrollment expectations

Corey Benson
The Signal

Classes began at the new 30,659-square-foot University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland Campus Aug. 23. “There are currently about 530 students taking 39 classes at the UHCL Pearland Campus,” said Lindsey Fulton, coordinator of student services at UHCL Pearland. The projected enrollment for fall 2010 was 308. There are 533 students currently enrolled at UHCL Pearland. “We exceeded expected enrollment by 73 percent,” said Glen Houston, associate vice president for information resources. “Also, expected student credit hours was 2613, and current SCH total is 2358. So

we are 10 percent under expected SCH total.” University administrators, faculty and staff, Pearland city officials and leaders of the Pearland Economic Development Corporation celebrated the opening of the new Pearland Campus Saturday, Aug. 14. “At UHCL, we say that we are a partnership-oriented and community-minded university, and in the case of the UHCL Pearland Campus, we could not have a better group of partners or a better community,” UHCL President William Staples said at the opening ceremony. Pearland Economic Development Corporation occupies 8,043 square feet, or about 10 percent, of the new campus. “I think the Pearland Campus has its own special identity because of our close relationship with the Pearland community,” said Kathy Dupree, director of campus operations. “The campus was created because of the community’s need for a university and we have been warmly received by the community.” The first meeting to plan the collaborative effort between UHCL and the city of Pearland was in 2004, but the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the project in 2007. “Our city leaders worked side-by-side with the University of Houston-Clear Lake to make this new campus a reality,” said Matt Buchanan, PEDC executive director. “Our combined efforts will help build a stronger,

diversified workforce in the city of Pearland.” UHCL Pearland offers undergraduate degrees in accounting, general business, interdisciplinary studies with EC-6 teacher certification, general behavioral sciences, criminology and psychology and graduate degrees in educational management, general behavioral sciences, criminology and psychology. A master’s degree program in counseling will begin in spring 2011. The university plans to offer a Bachelors of Science in Management at the Pearland Campus instead of a Bachelors of Science in General Business. “Additional programs will be added based on student demand and available resources,” Houston

said. “Long-range goals are to add up to two additional buildings. Once we exceed the capacity of the current building, the city of Pearland has offered to build a second, and later a third, under terms similar to the first one.” University administrators anticipate to reach this goal within the next three years. “We are excited and delighted at the response to the new facility,” Houston said. “With current headcount we are experiencing, this could occur in a relatively short period of time, two or three years. The number of students in the first semester clearly exceeds expectations.” The UHCL Pearland Campus has staff members from the

Pearland: continued on page 6

EDITORIAL

Galveston refuses to rest in peace

Two years after Hurricane Ike, blogger Douglas McIntyre dubbed the city of Galveston No. 10 on a list of America’s top 10 dead cities on his blog, *24/7 Wall Street*. This label comes as a bit of a surprise to many Galveston and Houston area residents who are still working diligently to overcome the aftermath of Ike. McIntyre, the former editor-in-chief of Financial World magazine, cites the loss of industry, tax base and decrease in population that Galveston has seen in the past six or seven decades as his primary reasons for including Galveston on the list.

However, by looking primarily at the U.S. Census and other statistical reports, McIntyre is not accurately taking into account the resilience of Galvestonians and other Gulf Coast residents. While McIntyre focuses on the past 60 to 70 years, Galveston has faced overcoming extensive damages during various periods of rebuilding since the Great Storm hit in 1900. Hurricanes have wrought havoc on the island in approximate 20-year intervals ever since. The most recent storm, Hurricane Ike, even caused enough turmoil to reach the status of the original Great Storm.

Sources of damage to the island include several major storms, such as Hurricane Carla in 1961, Alicia in 1983 and Ike in 2008. It is true that the University of Texas Medical Branch, the seventh-largest employer in the Houston-Galveston area and the largest employer in Galveston, experienced great financial losses from Ike. Many jobs were scaled back and more than 3,800 full-time jobs were cut causing the city to almost lose its medical branch of the economy. In addition, the island took a hit on its tourism industry because of storm damage and the overall economic downturn. As a sister to the tourist industry, the Port of Galveston, which is owned and operated by the city of Galveston, suffered costly damage to its terminal as well. After suffering from all this trauma, it is awe-inspiring to see that Galveston and other Gulf Coast communities have without a doubt made impressive strides in recovery over the past two years. Galveston College, UTMB’s neighboring institution, shows the signs of recovery with its enrollment numbers, which stood at 2,229 students in fall 2008, and fell to 2,167 students enrolled in fall 2009 during the peak

reconstruction post Ike. Two years following Hurricane Ike, however, enrollment has increased to 2,275 registered students with more continuing to register for this term. Galveston is now ranked as the fourth-busiest cruise port in the U.S., even after the sustained damages, and currently generates \$1.1 billion in direct spending in Texas. Plans for 2011 include two new cruise ships, the Carnival Magic and the Carnival Triumph, that will begin to dock along the island’s waterfront. Despite losses, UTMB is making a comeback after receiving more than \$1 billion from FEMA for repairs and renovation. Projections show that by the end of this year, nearly 1,000 contract workers will be employed and rebuilding UTMB. Old buildings will be demolished



to make room for the university’s future expansion plans, which include a more advanced academic medical center. In addition, all four UTMB schools are experiencing increases in enrollment. Five million annual visitors generate more than \$800 million in tourism revenue for the city. The tourism industry’s revenue should only continue to grow as popular tourist attractions, including Moody Garden’s Palm Beach and Rainforest Pyramid, encourage visitors with the debut of enhancements planned for

2011. Galveston was only one of many cities and communities to be devastated by hurricanes in the past decade. New Orleans was listed as No. 5 on McIntyre’s list. Just as the communities of New Orleans, Biloxi, Pensacola, and other Gulf Coast cities continue to recover from catastrophic natural disasters, so shall Galveston, Shoreacres, Bacliff and other Texas cities. The resilience of communities across the Gulf Coast will not waiver in the wake of disaster or die because of the aspersions from the blogosphere.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SACS OF WHAT?

SACS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is the accreditation agency for the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and many other colleges and schools. Accreditation agencies serve a very valuable purpose. They are the watchdogs of academe, the bodies charged with maintaining the standards of higher education. If you want your diploma to mean something, to count for something more than a degree from the fly-by-night unaccredited schools that pop up in strip malls next to the Dollar Store, you should be grateful for accreditation agencies. To do their job, these agencies have to be somewhat pushy and nosy. They sometimes ask tough

questions and make inconvenient demands. Administrators may understandably be a bit nervous when the accreditation people come to call. Accreditation agencies do the job with universities that the FDA ought to be doing with egg producers. But what if accreditation agencies begin to suffer from a grossly inflated sense of self-importance? What if they begin to see themselves in far more grandiose terms than quality-control watchdogs? What if they begin to make so many demands of universities that those schools, always short of cash and especially so now, have to hire new full-time personnel just to deal with those demands? What if they demand, on pain of loss of accreditation, that universities launch massive and

time-consuming new projects that have little relevance to actual academic quality? What if the accreditation agency moves beyond its oversight role and seeks to appoint itself as an academic shadow government that issues commands that university presidents dare not disobey? If you think that there might be anything wrong with such a scenario, welcome to the world of QEP, the pet project of SACS. What is QEP? “QEP” stands for “Quality Enhancement Plan.” The Plan, roughly, is this: Entire university communities – administrators, faculty, staff, and students – are to collaborate to produce a single overarching plan for quality enhancement (I’m sure the description alone thrills you). What will the Quality En-

hancement Plan accomplish, you may well ask? Why, it will enhance quality, of course! If you are still mystified, let’s see what the SACS people themselves say to clarify the issue: The Quality Enhancement Plan is the component of the accreditation process that reflects and affirms the commitment of the Commission on Colleges to the enhancement of the quality of higher education and to the proposition that student learning is at the heart of the mission of all institutions of higher learning. By definition, the QEP describes a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning. The QEP should be embedded within the institution’s ongoing integrated institution-wide planning and evaluation process and may very well evolve from this existing process or from other processes related to the institution’s internal reaffirmation review.

Say what? Actually, I just quoted this for the enjoyment of connoisseurs of classic bureaucratic gobbledygook. If our new bosses can’t write any better than that, should they be our bosses? Here is what QEP really is: a crackpot scheme to impose university-wide busywork that supposedly will – in the bureaucratic lingo – “enhance student learning outcomes.” In reality, complying with this mandate will cost our resource-strapped university a vast amount of time, effort, energy and money while doing absolutely nothing to improve the

quality of anything for anybody. How much time, effort, money, etc. will it cost? Well, UHCL is one of many universities that must hire new full-time persons just to deal with QEP issues. The demands of QEP are so onerous that we need that person, and I wish him or her well while deploring the fact that an accreditation agency can have the power to make such unfunded mandates. In dollar terms, the Human Sciences and Humanities faculty were recently informed by a UHCL official that compliance with the QEP demands will cost an estimated \$991,000 – a staggering sum that students will certainly help pay for with higher tuition and fees. Refusal to comply could cost UHCL its accreditation, which would mean loss of state formula funding and federal financial aid to students. It is appalling that in these lean times UHCL must spend such a sum on a preposterous boondoggle in response to extortions by a gang of bureaucratic bullies. QEP is going to happen. It will take place. None of us can stop it. SACS is like the tiger cub you keep feeding and it gets bigger and more demanding until one day it eats you. After we obey our SACS overlords and submit to QEP, does anyone doubt that there will be a QEP II, III, IV...? At some point universities will have to start fighting back, and I think it should be now. Let’s stop feeding the monster.

By Keith M. Parsons,
professor of philosophy

THE SIGNAL STAFF

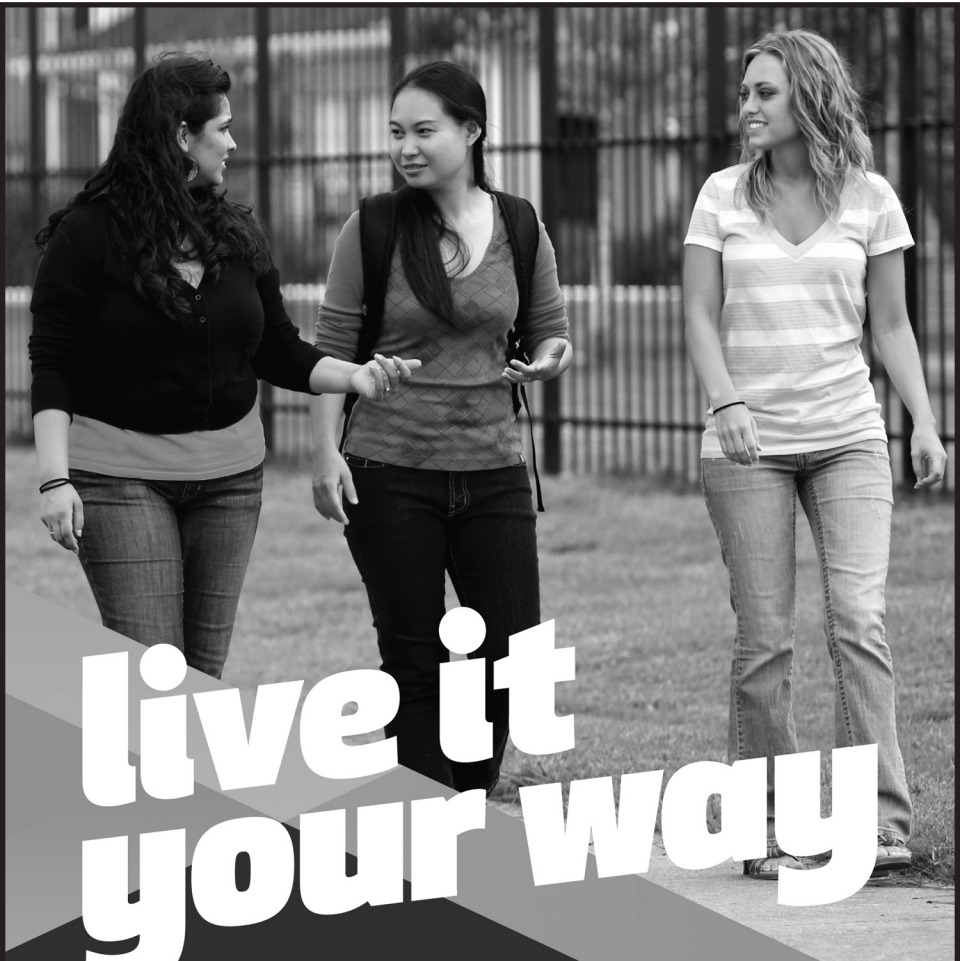
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- Letters must be no longer than 500 words.
- Where necessary, letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and style requirements.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer’s full name, address and phone number.
- The editors reserve the right to refuse letters, announcements and contributed articles deemed libelous.


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Monday, September 20
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- **Hope Village**
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- **Communities in Schools – Bay Area @ Clear Brook High School**
- **Descendants of Olivewood** (oldest African American cemetery in Houston)

Times vary per project.
www.uhcl.edu/studentleadershipinstitute
Pre-register early. Slots fill up quickly!

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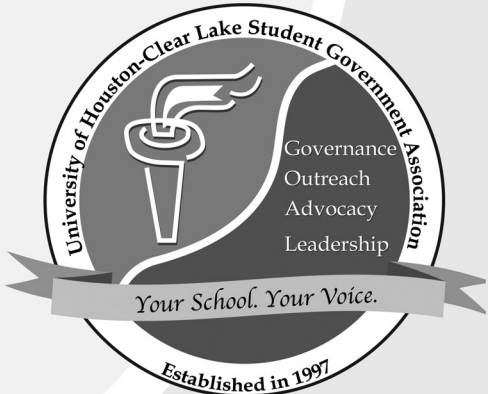
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Glitz and Glam graces local film festival

Terann Hilow
The Signal

A weekend filled with mixers, celebrity guests and film screenings can be expected throughout Clear Lake, Kemah, Nassau Bay, Seabrook and League City as the 11th annual Gulf Coast Film and Video Festival will take place Sept. 17-19.

The festival will provide guests and participants the opportunity to mingle with internationally known members of the film community and the chance to gain significant exposure in the industry.

The three-day festival will begin Friday, Sept. 17, 7-9:30 p.m., with the Celebrity Meet & Greet Buffet Mixer at the Villa Capri Restaurant in Seabrook. Film screenings will take place all day at the

new Holiday Inn located in Kemah Saturday, Sept. 18 and Sunday, Sept. 19.

As a new addition to the festival, screenings of the winning films from 2009 will be shown Sunday, Sept. 19, at the Butler Longhorn Museum in League City. Tickets are available for all three days as well as individual events and screenings. Students, the military and AARP members will receive discounts on the movie passes.

Each year, along with honoring fresh faces in the film industry, the festival gives praise to fellow established members of the film community by presenting a Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, the award will be presented to special celebrity guest Cheryl Tiegs, actress and model.

Other special affiliates include Ernie Manouse from Channel 8 – PBS, who will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Cascade Award Banquet, which takes place at the NASA Hilton Ballroom in Nassau Bay Saturday, Sept. 18, 6-11 p.m. Founding Director of the GCFVF, Hal Wixon, will present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Tiegs at that time.

Wixon, UH alumnus and actor, founded the festival more than 10 years ago with a vision of promoting the work of independent filmmakers. The festival encourages the work of independent filmmakers and promotes the notion of film as an art.

"We've had several people who were finalists and winners who have gone on and succeeded in the industry making films, and we're real happy about that," Wixon said. "I think it's an opportunity for film-

makers of all ages to get their feet wet and you need to start somewhere."

UHCL alumnus Matt Griesmyer, a designer for the festival who also works to spread publicity about the event, says that the learning opportunity is not limited to those who are directly involved with the filmmaking process or acting.

"Aside from the fact that it's an excellent opportunity for film students, it's also an excellent opportunity for public relations, all kinds of communication students and graphic design artists," said Griesmyer, who graduated with a communication degree from UHCL in 2009. "It's an opportunity for all. I'm kind of an example of that."

For more information regarding the schedule of events or ticket prices, visit www.gulfcoastfilmfest.com.



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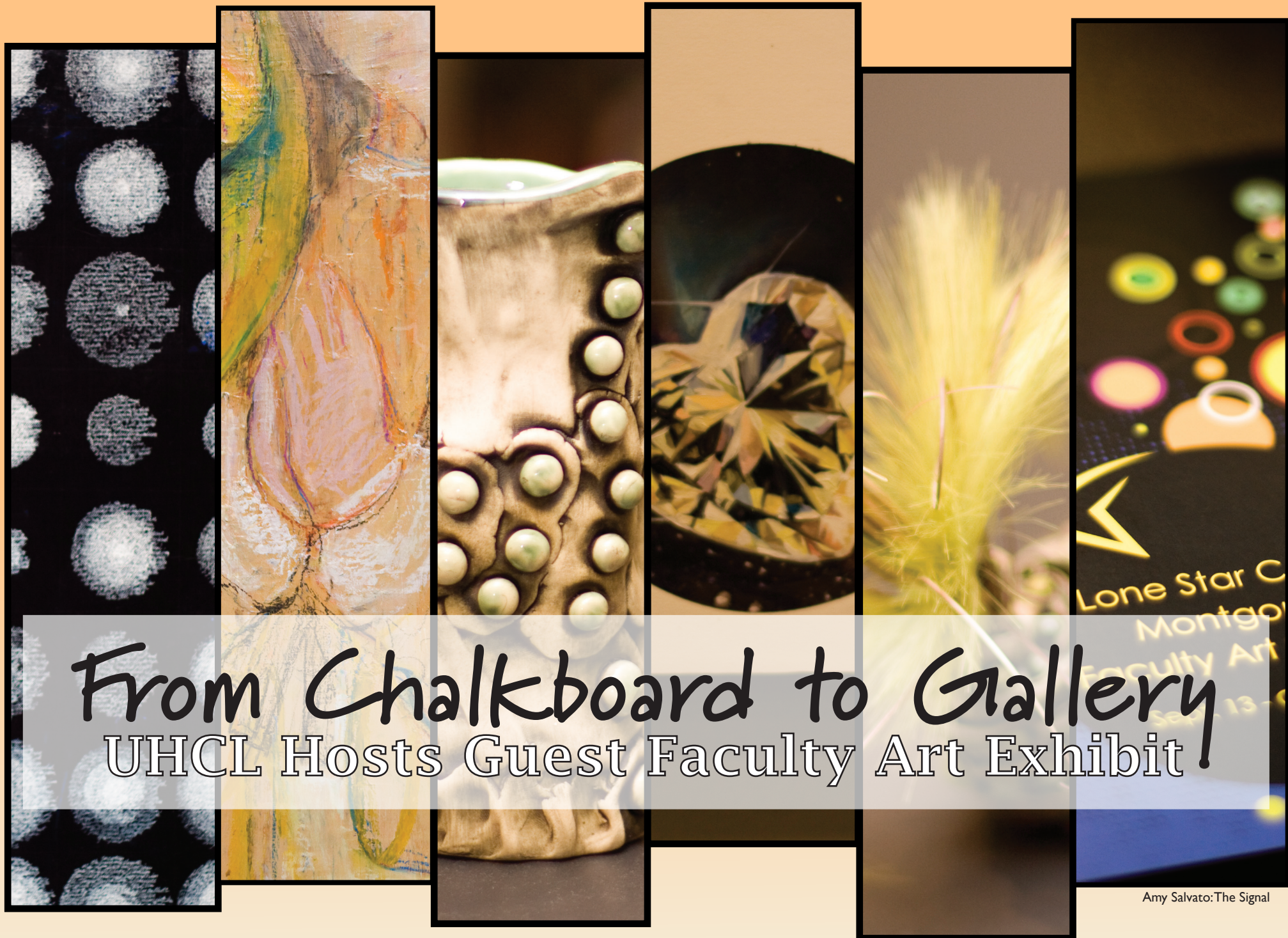
COCO AVANT CHANEL
COCO BEFORE CHANEL
Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010, 8 p.m.
Bayou Theater



INDIGÈNES
DAYS OF GLORY
Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, 7 p.m.
Student Services Building Lecture Hall



WELCOME
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010, 7 p.m.
Student Services Building Lecture Hall



Amy Salvato: The Signal

Kelly Crittenden The Signal

UHCL Art Gallery is hosting the Lone Star College Montgomery Faculty Art Exhibit, which features artwork in different types of media, including photography, painting, watercolor, printmaking, sculptures, ceramics and even painted fused glass.

While there is no theme for the exhibit, Nick de Vries, professor of fine arts and gallery director, says his goal is to feature the works of Houston-area educators. His only request of the artists was that they present artwork that had been completed within the past three years.

The featured artists are all full- or part-time faculty members from the Lone Star Community College in Montgomery. The faculty artists are John Adelman, Michael K. Brown, Andrea Canalito, Kelley Egbert, Deborah Ellington, Carlos Landa, Denise Lorenz, Jennifer Moorhead, Shelly Murney, Tara Rene Ratliff, Cynthia Reid, Melanie Sinclair, Robby

Wood, Linda Woodward and Valerie Yaklin-Brown.

John Adelman has two pieces on display, both of which he created using rules-based art. His piece entitled "Grayfish" took him roughly 120 hours to complete.

"I use a system that dictates where each series of words is placed," Adelman said. "In this work the formula determined how many text-filled circles, the size of each circle's diameter and the sequence of layering each circle."

His other piece, "16,848," took around 50 hours to complete.

"I tossed the nails directly onto the surface of the drawing allowing the nails to roll around," Adelman said. "Once the nails stopped rolling, I then traced the nail where it lay. The work is entirely composed of traced nails. I use only gel ink pens."

Adelman plans to hold a solo show in Istanbul, Turkey, next year.

Shelly Murney's photograph of automobiles and horses featured in the exhibit is from a larger collection of images called "Hinterland."

Murney said she is "inspired to create work that reflects the unique characteristics of my surrounding landscape." She is going to continue to make images for this series.

Deborah Ellington has a fused glass painting, "Choices," on display inside of a suitcase.

"I became intrigued with fused glass two years ago and decided that I wanted to translate my watercolor paintings using glass rather than paper," Ellington said.

The painting has a person, doors and paths, but the suitcase has a meaning that may not be visible to everyone.

"For me, a suitcase represents a journey and choices," Ellington said. "The items we have from our past represent the

choices we made and the journey we have taken."

Several pieces are for sale. For more information about purchasing artwork, contact de Vries or Karan Fiscus, assistant gallery director, who will supply contact information for the purchase.

The exhibit runs Sept. 13 – Oct. 28 in the Art Gallery in Bayou Building, Room 1412. The gallery is open Monday – Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The opening reception will be held Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

For more information about the UHCL Art Gallery and upcoming exhibits, call 281-283-3311 or visit <http://www.uhcl.edu/uhclart/gallery>.



HOME
Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010, 7 p.m.
Student Services Building Lecture Hall



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SUMMER HOURS**
Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010, 7 p.m.
Student Services Building Lecture Hall

TICKET COST

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QEP: *continued from page 1*

and universities in the Southern region. Benberg said the QEP is a forward-looking plan focusing explicitly on student learning as opposed to past standards that involved SACS referring to an institution’s track record, which Benberg says is the nature of compliance.

The QEP has now become a bridge for colleges to acquire accreditation.

Academic accreditation by governing bodies like SACS is what gives credibility to degree-granting, higher-education institutions.

“Moreover, this accreditation allows students to seek financial aid that is federally subsidized,” said Larry Kajs, program area chair for educational leadership, professor of educational leadership and chair of QEP topic selection committee.

The following are examples of current QEP topics by various universities: “Intellectual Development of Rice Undergraduates in Urban Houston” (Rice University); “Do the Right Thing: A Campus Conversation on Ethics” (Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas); “Discovery-Based Learning: Transforming the Undergraduate Experience through Research” (University of Houston).

“Students had the opportunity to influence the QEP by sharing their educational expectations and experience at UHCL,” said Mrinal Mugdh, associate vice president for academic affairs.

As a collective effort from administration, faculty, staff and students, each school submits its own QEP draft to SACS for approval. Before making it to SACS, four proposals were submitted to UHCL Topic Selection Committee members. After the committee compiled components of each proposal they found most desirable, they synthesized those elements into what eventually became the UHCL QEP topic: “Applied Critical Thinking for Lifelong Learning and Adaptability.”

“[The committee decided on critical thinking] realizing how important it is for our students and all of us to be strong critical thinkers and to be able to problem solve,” said Kathryn Matthew, associate dean and professor in the School of Education and QEP topic selection committee member. “One of the things, being in education, that keeps coming out to us as teachers is that ‘we are teaching our students for jobs that don’t exist yet.’”

Now that the QEP has been instated, how long will it be tethered to the accreditation process?

“Our last reaffirmation of accreditation took place in 2002,” Mugdh said,”A university goes through the reaccreditation process every 10 years.”

Benberg explained that it is essentially up to the institution to decide the permanence of its QEP. Schools can decide what parts of their QEP work best for them, and

edit them as they see fit.

“We hope that [QEP] will lose its identity and become integrated into the ongoing, operational fabric of the institution – as opposed to remaining a separately identified QEP project,” Benberg said.

The SACS commission has a protocol to review accreditation standards, in-depth, every seven years. Since 2011 falls on the seventh year, there could be various degrees of changes to the QEP system.

“[QEP] can allow a university community to decide a main overall area (i.e., a QEP topic), such as writing or critical thinking, that is important for all disciplines and students to focus on,” said Robert Bartsch, interim associate dean for the School of Human Sciences and Humanities and associate professor of psychology. “If the university agrees to work together on promoting a specific area, then we will likely be more effective than individual instructors separately working on improving students in this area.

“If both faculty and students don’t think the QEP topic is important, then there will not be the adequate participation and energy needed to increase student abilities. Also, although we need to assess how students are currently performing and how they perform after implementing the QEP, if most of the work is placed on assessing how we’re doing and little of the work is placed on actually working with students on the QEP topic, then we are not helping students.”

For every QEP topic that exists for all colleges or universities looking to renew accreditation, there stands a corresponding viewpoint in the accreditation paradigm.

“The QEP has complete support from the senior leadership, the faculty, staff and students,” Mugdh said when asked if there was any discernible resistance or embracing of the QEP among faculty and administration.

There are, however, some members of faculty who are opposed to SACS’ latest demand for accreditation.

“I think that arrogant bullies like that [SACS] need some blowback,” said Keith Parsons, professor of philosophy. “They need to hear that people are not going to put up with their BS.”

Parsons likened QEP to one of a number of “crackpot ideas” and “a mixture of vagueness and misplaced idealism backed up by not-too-veiled threats.”

“Some [faculty] are also angry that a source outside the university is telling faculty what must be done,” Bartsch said. “They feel that more regulation stifles teaching ability and decreases the time that can be spent on teaching.”

Those interested in the development of UHCL’s QEP can go to <http://prt1.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/PRV/QEP> where they can voice their comments, concerns and questions.

Pearland: *continued from page 1*

cashier’s office, financial aid, enrollment and student services to provide students with the same resources and services available at UHCL.

“I want to see as many of the student services at UHCL offered at the UHCL Pearland Campus; that can range from student organizations to career fairs to onsite tutoring and speaker series,” Fulton said. “I’m looking forward to the growing

excitement of the students, staff, faculty members and community members about the campus. In the future there will be more academic programs offered on campus to reach a wider array of students.”

“Many student services are available at the Pearland campus. Lindsey comes into the classes and asks students what services they want to see, because they are planning to expand in the spring,”

said Udeshika Amarasinghe, psychology major and UHCL Pearland Student. “It’s just like UHCL but smaller, although it definitely has the potential to grow.”

UHCL Pearland is located at 1200 Pearland Parkway, near the intersection of Pearland Parkway and McHard Road. The main switchboard phone number for the Pearland campus is 281-212-1700.

Rachita: *continued from page 1*

natural.”

While serving as interim dean of students, Rachita wants UHCL students to know that he is their advocate on campus. He hopes students will feel comfortable coming to the Office of the Dean of Students knowing that someone will listen to their concerns.

“It’s a little scary because this is a new learning experience for me,” Rachita said. “It is going to give me the opportunity to see so many different factions of the university working together.”

Rachita will serve as interim dean while UHCL searches for a new dean of students. Biggers stated that the position will not be advertised until January because spring is the peak recruitment season for student affairs positions.

“We thought we could take this semester to really think through what the responsibilities were going to be for the dean of students,” Biggers said. “As we decide on what the responsibilities are, then we can answer what the qualifications would be.”

In previous searches, the dean of students’ position has required candidates to hold a doctorate. Rachita holds a master’s degree

in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University and has 18 years of experience with the University of Houston System.

“I feel that this is a good testing period for me,” Rachita said. “I have through the fall semester to learn about the position and decide if this is something I would consider doing in the future. If so, if the opportunity were available, I would consider throwing my name in the hat.”

Rachita earned his undergraduate degree at Baldwin-Wallace College in history education.

After earning his master’s degree, he began working at University of Houston as the campus activity adviser. After three years at UH, he came to UHCL to work as the coordinator of student information and assistance. Rachita also served as director of student life before his promotion to assistant dean of student life.

Traditionally, the Office of the Dean of Students assists enrolled students in resolving academic issues and oversees the Student Success Center and the

Student Assistance Center. During this transition period, Rachita continues to supervise the Office of Student Life and Biggers will manage the Student Success Center.

While Rachita steps in as interim dean of students, Andrew Reitberger, assistant director of student life, will serve as acting director of student life.

Biggers said she was notified of Jenkins’ resignation Aug. 13, and that it was effective immediately. In his resignation letter obtained from the UH System Office of General Counsel, Jenkins did not provide a reason for leaving.

“My departure comes with mixed emotions,” Jenkins wrote in his resignation letter. “I have greatly enjoyed my tenure at UHCL. I have been fortunate to develop so many wonderful professional relationships. I cannot say enough wonderful things about my great staff and our hard work which elevated student services on campus. It is because of my team, students at the university now have services and programs to help them excel academically, which did not exist prior to my arrival.”

Galveston: *continued from page 1*

“We have federal and disaster funds that Congress has allocated for our infrastructure,” Jaworski said. “We will be in recovery for the next three to five years.”

The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston received approximately \$960 million dollars in damage due to the storm causing 2,400 job terminations.

Since then, UTMB has been able to replenish a fraction of those lost jobs. However, renovations and restorations for the hospital and school are still in progress.

The local, state and federal governments are investing up to a billion dollars to rebuild this institution,” said Raul Reyes, director of media relations for UTMB. “By the end of this year we are going to have 1000 contract workers all over the campus doing all kind of projects.”

After Hurricane Ike, residents were not allowed back on the island for approximately two weeks due to lack of electricity, gas and drinking water. Cahill explains one of the infrastructure projects the city is working on is a \$75 million waste water treatment plan.

“One of the things we can do to help our citizens get back to

their homes, assess their property and assess the damage, is to repair our infrastructure and put it into a commission or standard so this won’t ever happen again,” Cahill said.

McIntyre’s article also claims that Galveston’s tourism industry was set back and makes no apologies for the possibility that his argument may contribute to loss of revenue for the city.

“All the cities on the list are going to be upset because they may lose hotel reservations, but the fact is each city on the list has lost populations and the cities have shrunk,” McIntyre said.

The Hotel Galvez has been a part of Galveston’s history since the early 1900s, and is frequented by many tourists who visit the island.

“Our properties have not seen any kind of affect because of that blog on our hotel room reservations,” said Christine Hopkins, public relations manager for The Hotel Galvez. “The hotel is doing very well; we have not been impacted in that way.”

Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau released a report stating hotel occupancy tax increased 20 percent in May, 34 percent in June and 32 percent in July over the same months in 2009.

James W. Little, owner of Murdoch’s, a historic business that has been part of the island for more than 100 years, said his business has increased by 12-13 percent this year.

“We’ve had the best year we’ve ever had since we’ve been in business,” Little said. “I’ve never seen crowds this good on the beach.”

Other cities listed in McIntyre’s article, in numerical order, include: Buffalo, NY; Flint, MI; Hartford, CT; Cleveland; Detroit; Albany, NY; Atlantic City, NJ and Allentown, PA. The article can be found at www.wallst.com.

After surviving two catastrophic storms, Galveston’s community and city officials stand firm on their conviction that Galveston is a resilient city that can overcome any natural disaster or media branding.

“I encourage Douglas McIntyre to come out and visit Galveston and see for himself,” Cahill said. “We have a history of storms hitting the island, damaging the island, damaging the community, but we also have a history of picking ourselves up, dusting ourselves off and getting back to business.”




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WOW... WEEKS OF WELCOME

Jumping into fall term



Corey Benson:The Signal

Participants enjoyed games and activities such as mini-golf, bean bag toss, bucket toss and human tic-tac-toe at Welcome Back Bash hosted by Student Life: Orientation and New Student Programs and the Campus Leaders Committee Friday, Aug. 27. Pictured above: Students visit the Student Council for Exceptional Children and UHCL Cultural Arts booths.



Corey Benson:The Signal

Tina Ming, The Management Association member, and Frank Lemus, communication major, battle it out in the bungee run/joust combo at Welcome Back Bash.

Student organizations show their goods



Valerie Winkler:The Signal

UHCL education majors Tiffany Smith, Michelle McCrary and Michelle Richie talk about the Texas State Teacher Association Student Program during the Student Organization Expo Thursday, Sept. 2.

STUDENTS!
Is there a professor whom you would like to honor? You can!

Nominate your favorite professor for the Minnie Stevens Piper Award!

The UHCL Piper Award Committee is selecting one professor to be honored for Excellence in Teaching. This professor will then represent the university in competition for the 2011 Minnie Stevens Piper Award, a prestigious and valuable teaching prize. Your nominations for this honor are essential. It takes only a few minutes of your time, and it is one way of saying thank you.

Nomination forms & ballot boxes are located at the main entrances of all buildings and in the Dean of Students' office, SSCB 1.201.

ALL NOMINATIONS due: NOON, Sept. 22



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 THIS WEEK: Parking enforcement begins tomorrow, Sept. 13	13 • The Dream Act, 4-5 p.m., Bayou Garden Room • Servant Leader Scholar Program, 5-6 p.m., SSCB	14 • Graduation Fest, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Bookstore • Student Organizational Goal Setting, 5-7 p.m., SSCB 1202.07	15 • Fiesta, 2-5 p.m., Bayou Atrium II • Career Week Presentation : Resumes, 5:30-6:30 p.m., SSCB	16 Career Week Presentation: How to Work a Job Fair, 5:30-6:30 p.m., SSCB 3109	17 Sports Association Event, 4-11 p.m., Delta Fields	18 Celebrating Our Elders Reception, 7 p.m., Bayou Atrium II
19 THIS WEEK: Last day to apply for fall graduation, Sept. 24	20 Community Service Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bayou Garden Room and Atrium I	21 Women's Empowerment Workshop, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 1202.07	22 Gulf Coast Business and Liberal Arts Job Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bayou Atrium II	23 Gulf Coast Science and Technology Job Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bayou Atrium II	24 Servant Leader Workshop, 10 a.m. - noon, SSCB 1.100	25 Coco Avant Chanel, 8 p.m., Bayou Theater

For more campus events, visit the Calendar of Events on the Students tab at www.uhcl.edu.

Student Government Association

Applications for SGA president are due by noon, Sept. 16. Applications for committee representatives are also being accepted. For more information, contact SGA at sga@uhcl.edu or 281-283-2556.