

THE SIGNAL

Volume XXXVII, Number 5

www.uhcl.edu/thesignal

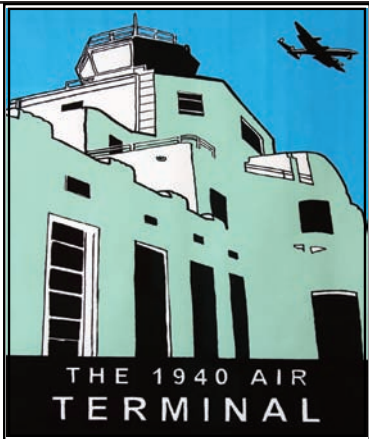
April 6, 2009



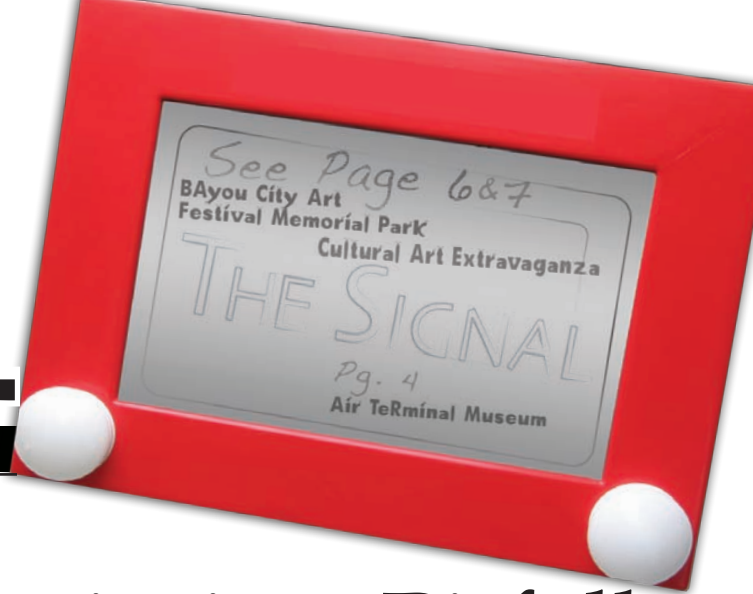
BAYOU CITY
ART FESTIVAL pg. 7



KING RANCH pg. 5



AIR TERMINAL
MUSEUM pg. 4



31st Annual Faculty and Staff Awards



UHCL Courtesy

From left to right: President William Staples; Vice President for Administration and Finance Michelle Dotter; Academic Advising Coordinator for the School of Human Sciences and Humanities and recipient of the Hugh P. Avery Prize – President's Distinguished Staff Service Award Ann Hinojosa; Professor of History and recipient of the UHCL Distinguished Service Award Angela Howard; Professor of Literature and recipient of the UHCL Distinguished Teaching Award Gretchen Mieszkowski; Professor of Philosophy and Educational Foundations and recipient of the UHCL Distinguished Research Award Paul Wagner; and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Carl Stockton

New Pearland Campus To Break Ground This Summer

Nancy T. Nguyen
The Signal Staff

Plans to expand the University of Houston-Clear Lake are moving forward. The building of a new campus will start in the summer of 2009 and will be completed in September 2010.

The Pearland campus, located at Pearland Parkway and McHard Road, will include classroom space and a center for arts.

The new campus will offer a variety of classes for undergraduate and graduate students. The campus plans to fill 300-400 seats when it opens.

"Initially, only one building will be built; new buildings will be added in the future as needed and as resources allow," said UHCL President William Staples. "Two-thirds of the building will house classrooms, teaching labs, a computer lab, a small library, a conference area and several support staff offices. The remaining one-third will be home to the Pearland Economic Development Corporation."

Most UHCL students come from local commu-

"Initially, only one building will be built; new buildings will be added in the future as needed and as resources allow."

- William Staples
UHCL President

nity colleges including: San Jacinto Community College, Alvin Community College, Houston Community College, Lee College, College of the Mainland and Galveston College.

Commuting to UHCL in the evening can be difficult during rush hour traffic. The location will be close to many accessible routes such as the Hardy Toll Road and Highway 288.

"With all the local junior colleges and the medical center only 20 miles away from where the school is going to be, it was only convenient to expand to Pearland," said Tom Reid, mayor of Pearland.

UHCL has been offering classes at the Pearland College Center since 2004.

"I was able to take two of my psychology classes in the evening," said UHCL psychology undergraduate student Jason Thomas, "this was very convenient for me as my job was closer to the Pearland Center."

"The Pearland Center was a convenient location last year when I was in school," said UHCL commu-

Pearland: continued on page 10

Plagiarism Pitfall

Lucia Y. Rodriguez
The Signal Staff

May commencement is fast approaching. Graduation candidates have ordered invitations, caps and gowns. The late-night study sessions and weekends spent at the library have culminated to the award of either one's master's degree or bachelor's degree. Unfortunately, plagiarism may deny some UHCL students the honor of walking across the stage to receive their degree.

"In 2008 there were 75 reported cases of plagiarism," said Anthony Jenkins, dean of students. "However, this matter is grossly under reported on our campus."

The rise in plagiarism

"In 2008 there were 75 reported cases of plagiarism."

- Anthony Jenkins
Dean of Students

cases has plagued University of Houston-Clear Lake undergraduates and graduate students alike. So far, approximately 15 reported cases of plagiarism have been reported for this semester. The increase in reported cases of plagiarism can be attributed to students reporting other students and instructors being more alert.

Plagiarism has many different forms other than just failure to acknowledge sources on. It can

Plagiarism: continued on page 10

Arrest Follows Suspicious Activity On UHCL Campus

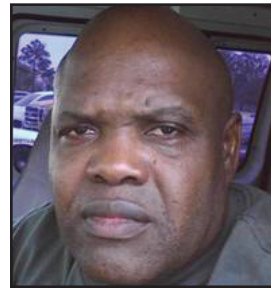
Adolfo P. Gonzalez
The Signal Staff

On Wednesday, March 25, at 9:15 a.m., a University of Houston-Clear Lake police officer observed a white Ford panel van, license plate 04Z-VP6, roaming Lot G, Lot J and the University Forest Apartments.

When the officer stopped the van to investigate, the two occupants, driver 32-year-old David Cruz Espinoza, and passenger 53-year-old Cecil Lee Bobo, claimed they were posting flyers for a local restaurant. The officer determined the flyers were false because the restaurant did not exist.

Espinoza had no driver's license or proof of insurance. Bobo was identified as a multi-time felon who had been released from prison March 23.

Espinoza was arrested for driving without a license, failure to provide proof of insurance, and being in the United States illegally. Bobo was es-



Cecil Lee Bobo



David Cruz Espinosa

Arrest: continued on page 10

Charges Dropped For Robbery Suspect; Assailant Still At Large

Adolfo P. Gonzalez
The Signal Staff

Students and faculty are once again being asked to be careful and vigilant while on campus; the assailant for the March 3 strong armed robbery has still not been apprehended.

The charges against 31-year-old Joseph Jones were dropped when officers were able to substantiate Jones' alibi that he was not in the city of Houston on the day of the UHCL robbery.

Crime Update: continued on page 10

Academic Infidelity Cheats the Cheater

Earning a college degree is something that you achieve with hard work and determination.

Balancing classes and homework with family and a job can be stressful, and some may think that a shortcut would be an easy way out. A little copy here, a little paste there and bingo bango bongo, you have a complete research paper. What was that? You didn't cite the source? You have just committed one of the most serious of academic crimes — plagiarism.

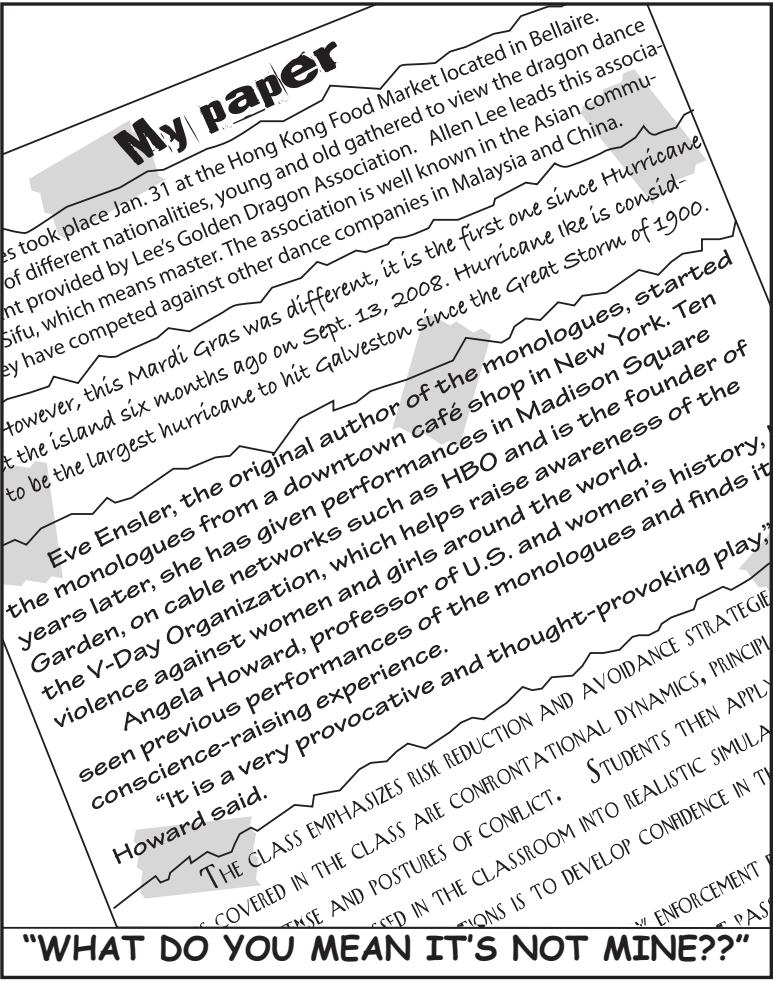
Last semester, the University of Houston-Clear Lake saw an increase in reported cases of plagiarism regarding assignments on campus. What is the cause of this? Why do students feel the need to steal other people's work?

That is not an understatement either. When you plagiarize, you are stealing from the author. It is the same as if you worked hard on a contract job that you went above and beyond the call of duty for, got paid and put the money into your bank account. Shortly after that, someone comes along and steals the money out of your bank account by assuming your identity. Just as that would be a most heinous crime, so is the act of taking credit for other people's work.

Why is it done? The act of plagiarism is caused by many things, one of the most popular being laziness.

Laziness goes against the core values that must be obeyed while at college. Yes, writing a term paper is hard. Yes, you will have to stay up late and pull all-nighters and become more familiar with the Dewey decimal system in the library than Dewey himself, but to credit another's work as your own by intent or omission is a much harder work in the end than if you were to do the work yourself.

The appeals process revolving around academic infidelity is extensive, involving appearing before a council, enough paperwork to extinguish a large rainforest and more trouble than it's worth. By the time that someone is caught and goes through the process, more time is spent in an office talking to deans and academic advisors than if the work was done legitimately and honestly in the first place. If the act is truly done out of laziness, pick the path of least



Matt Griesmyer:The Signal

resistance and do the work correctly!

What are the ramifications of plagiarizing? Well, it depends completely on the institution and teacher involved. If it were a simple issue of a student making a stupid mistake, the student could just receive an "F" for the assignment. More serious acts of academic theft could result in the student failing the class, being put on academic probation and having a mark on your transcript — thus notifying future schools and employers of the transgressor. Repeat offenders face suspension or expulsion.

Thinking that the only cases of plagiarism involve evil-

doing, moustache-twirling ne'er-do-wells would be a foolish move. People can be genuinely unaware of the standards involved in crediting work. What is the best advice that students can follow? When in doubt, cite. There are regulations involving what constitutes unique thoughts and what belong to others, with different style sheets for different degrees. If unsure about how to cite sources and ensure proper accreditation, seek a professor or, if your campus has one, a writing center.

It is true that people can commit an act of plagiarism out of pure ignorance. Know that when you write any sort of academic or professional project and take ideas, concepts or research from another, it is absolutely paramount that you give proper reference to the works cited.

Now, some people also plagiarize as an act of desperation in reaction to stress. Students at this campus are under a different sort of pressure attending a college designed more for commuters than live-in college students. The stresses involved can generate from keeping up with family responsibilities, class assignments and becoming overwhelmed by work or other commitments. Know that while stress is a legitimate reason to find ways to make things easier on yourself, cutting corners by not doing your own work is not the answer. You will create more stress in your life if you get caught doing a foolish thing such as stealing ideas and words.

Need help with writing your research papers? Seek out the professor of the class or even previous instructors. College professors have gone through similar situations involving writing papers and have great experience in referencing research. If you feel you need more help, go see the aforementioned writing center. Again, they are in place strictly to assist students with their writing needs. If you are stressed with your life, there are also provisions in place to give help where it is needed; you can see the school counseling center or, again, talk to the professors. There is no need to fall into the foolish and terrible habit of plagiarizing other people's work to help yourself out...in the end, the only thing that gets cheated is the cheater.

Cross Signals

The Signal staff invites students, faculty and staff to visit our new blog via our Twitter site at www.twitter.com/uhclthesignal to voice your comments and opinions about anything involving UHCL campus life.

The editors will follow the blog dialogues closely as a way to track topics of importance for possible inclusion in the student newspaper.

We may even pull blog entries to post in our Cross Signals section of The Signal to emphasize these threads of conversation. The newspaper has always been a forum for student voices on campus. This new blog offers a more convenient way for students to find that voice.

We are now on twitter

To Do List

- ☒ Sign up
- ☐ Log In
- ☐ Find "uhclthesignal"
- ☐ Become a follower
- ☐ Leave a comment

www.twitter.com/uhclthesignal

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LETTERS POLICY

The Signal is a public forum and will print letters to the editor subject to the following: 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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California Dreamin’

I’ve always believed that seeing new places and experiencing new things can change your perception, but not necessarily your life. While in my teens, I knew what I wanted to do in the future, but not by what means or even how or where I could make that happen. By the time I was 18, I had seen Rome and Athens, New York and Florida, and so many other places in between. All of these places inspired me to want to live my life a certain way, filled with culture and history. Although all of these destinations were great to visit, none of them made me feel I could ever call them home. It wasn’t until I took a vacation to California that I discovered my true calling—that vacation changed everything.

On a whim, my parents decided to take our family on a week-long trip to central California the summer after I graduated. We visited Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley, Sonoma County, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and many other small scenic towns along highway one. Having lived on the coast my entire life, I was used to the ocean. I had walked along the beaches of Galveston countless times, but never like this. I walked along the cool sands of the beaches of Santa Cruz with the mountains in the distance and the small town behind me. Until then, I had fallen in love with many other places, but I knew this now held the number one spot in my heart.

A couple years passed and I continued my life here in Texas, but even still, I couldn’t shake it. I hung all my pictures and postcards in my room and tried to relive my experience vicariously through my four seasons of “The O.C.,” but it wasn’t enough. After much time had passed, I decided to take the financial plunge and returned again last summer. The second

time around I visited Southern California. I explored everything, as much as I could within six days. I walked down Holly-

wood Boulevard, had lunch on the pier in Newport Beach, dove in the ocean of Malibu and watched the most amazing sunset I’ve ever seen on Pacific Beach in San Diego. Watching that sunset will forever be engraved in my memory; it was then that I decided I didn’t ever want to leave – I have to move here.

Since then, everything I have done has revolved around my mission to live on the West Coast.

I’ve picked out where I want to live, budgeted how much I need to save and have been preparing myself mentally for the change of scenery. Everyone knows that I want to move there. My parents give me lectures about how much money I will be wasting and my friends tell me I’ll be lonely without my loved ones around.

What everyone doesn’t seem to realize is that I already know this and, at this point, I feel like not going would only serve to be the biggest regret I’ll ever have.

Lately though, with the economy how it is and the search for work becoming more difficult, I’m being even more discouraged by people who care about me. The way I see it is, I figure if I’m going to have to be a young adult in these times anyway, why not let it be with the Pacific Ocean outside my window?

Until the day I can sit comfortably in my own place in Huntington Beach, I will continue to humor everyone’s criticism, read the Los Angeles Times via my Twitter account, watch “The O.C.” DVDs and admire the full-size California flag hanging in my room, because every great reality begins with just a dream.



Jenna Simsen
The Signal Staff

“Until then, I had fallen in love with many other places, but I knew this now held the number one spot in my heart.”

A Day At the Compound

For many of us times are tough. The economy is not what it used to be. I have decided to ride out the tough times with my family. My older brother, his wife, their two children, my boyfriend and I have all moved back home with my mother and her partner to live together and pay rent.

My mother and her life partner –yes, she’s gay– bought a 5,200-square-foot foreclosed home about a year ago. The plan is that we will all live together for a couple of years until the market gets better, eventually selling the house to make a profit for everyone. My boyfriend and I will pay rent, as will my brother and his family, until we move or sell the house. It is like a family investment.

We have lived with each other for more than six months now and, so far, we haven’t killed each other; we’ve come close, especially during the hurricane.

When I say compound, I’m not talking about a compound in the “Big Love” TV series sense; I am talking about our house. With so many people in one living space, things can get dramatic and chaotic. Especially when living with a newborn, a 4-year-old, a stand-up comedian and a retired cop. Although it is stressful, it actually isn’t as bad as one would think.

The day starts out with staying in my room until the last possible moment. When I finally do emerge from my room the chaos is normally in the kitchen. Rarely do I get to walk into the kitchen with the relief of not having to see anybody or talk to anybody; I am not a morning person. People are normally asking who is going to do the dishes, who is going to take out the trash, and who made the mess in the sink last night? Someone always gets defensive and there are hurt

feelings at least twice a day; sometimes it’s me, sometimes it’s my sister-in-law and sometimes it’s the cop.

After thinking in my head at least twice a day, “Why do I live here and even pay to live here?,” I realize there are some fun parts to living with family. For instance, I get to listen to every insane, but hilarious, story that comes out of my 4-year-old niece’s head. The other day it was giant metal cockroaches that live under our dining room table that no one can ever kill. After telling the story, she threw up in her

mouth and proceeded to finish chewing it; her reasoning was, “It’s just chicken.”

By evening, everything has usually settled down and we start to enjoy ourselves after the stresses of the day have been released, mainly through alcohol, but nonetheless released. As I mentioned, my mom

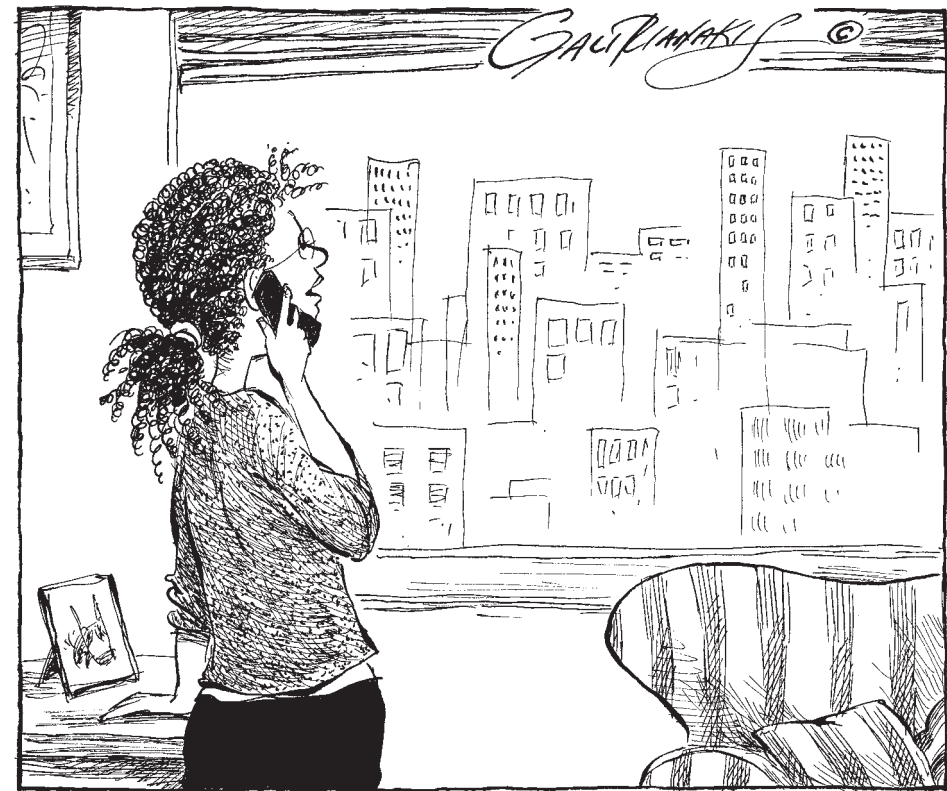
is a stand-up comedian and on some nights we get to bask in her glory. We have taken the entire household out in a limo to one of my mom’s events. We got dressed up, especially the 4-year-old, who wore her Little Mermaid costume, and went downtown to my mom’s show. On the way there, we made the limo driver stop at McDonald’s so we could get the mermaid something to eat and return a movie at Redbox. You should have seen the stares we got when we pulled up to McDonald’s in a stretch Explorer limo. We took up the entire parking lot.

It really isn’t that bad to live with my family at the compound. Family will always be there for you and even if it is hard to get a job, go to school or find any money, they will be there for you, supporting all that you do.

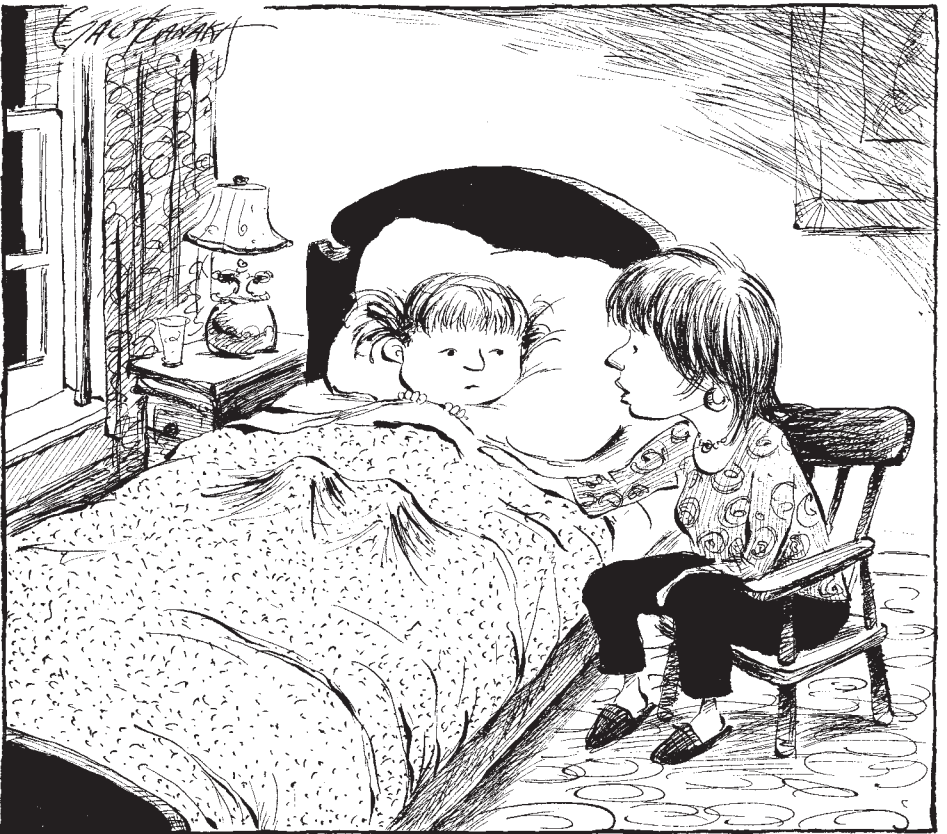


Hayley Shaw
The Signal Staff

“After telling the story, she threw up in her mouth and proceeded to finish chewing it; her reasoning was, ‘It’s just chicken.’”



WHY IS IT “MEDDLING” WHEN THEY DO IT, BUT WHEN IT’S COMING FROM YOU, IT’S “ADVICE”? TAKE YOUR TIME.



AND REMEMBER, IF YOU GO A WHOLE DAY WITHOUT ACTING SPOILED, DADDY WILL BUY YOU A PONY.

UPCOMING EVENTS



GENGHIS KHAN

The Houston Museum of Natural Science

Feb. 27-Sept. 7, 2009

Visit www.hmns.org for more information



MICKEY & MINNIE'S MAGICAL JOURNEY

Reliant Park

April 15-19, 2009

www.reliantpark.com



RENT

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Visit www.tuts.com for more information



TEXAS CRAWFISH & MUSICAL FESTIVAL 2009

Old Town Spring

April 17-19 & 24-26, 2009

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Shawnie Boudreaux: The Signal

Pilot P.J. Gustafson waves to the camera as he and Mike Kelly take off in Kelly's vintage Boeing Stearman airplane.

Houstonians Take Flight

Wings and Wheels at Hobby Airport

Shawnie Boudreaux
The Signal Staff

Now that the weather is warming up, families are getting out of the house and into the sun. Since the economy is in a slump, some are heading to free beaches and boardwalks, but others may be looking for something a little different.

That's what Cynthia McGowan was seeking for her family when she discovered an event called Wings and Wheels while browsing a local art events page.

"I've lived here my whole life and never knew [the museum] was here," McGowan said as her son John squirmed excitedly out of a nearby helicopter into his father's waiting arms. "There's so many fun things to do around Houston that people don't know about."

The Houston Municipal Air Terminal, located on the west side of William P. Hobby Airport, holds the event on the third Saturday of every month. The Houston Municipal Airport served as Houston's primary commercial air terminal between 1940 and 1954.

The Houston Aeronautical Heritage Society began leasing the building and property in 2003, and began the journey of restoring the terminal and creating a place where Houston's aviation history is available to educate and entertain. HAHS is a Texas non-profit organization whose mission is to restore and preserve the art-deco air



Shawnie Boudreaux: The Signal

Wings and Wheels allows guests an up-close view of Hobby's west runway as airplanes take off and land.

terminal museum as a civil aviation museum. Although repairs are still being made, the museum has been able to open the atrium and the North and South Wings of the museum to the public.

The museum has several exhibits including: galleries featuring original artwork, photographs, models, uniforms, artifacts, documents and memorabilia from many past and existing airlines; galleries featuring vintage equipment such as air traffic controls, weather charts, radios and navigational maps; and The Children's Dream of Flight Gallery featuring vintage toys, books and an aviation play table.

The 1940 Air Terminal Museum

is currently raffling a vintage 1957 Cessna 172 as a fundraiser. There are 2,500 tickets being sold for \$50 each. The winner will be announced during the July Wings and Wheels or when all the tickets have been sold. Until that time, the raffle airplane is displayed at Wings and Wheels open houses and other local airshows and fly-ins.

During Wings and Wheels, local pilots are encouraged to come enjoy the event free of charge and get the chance to show off their planes and sometimes even take an eager observer for a ride. Pilot Jeffrey Weiss loves taking first-timers up in his airplane and will never forget the looks on the faces of two cub



Shawnie Boudreaux: The Signal

Jeffrey Weiss helps Ronald Davies prepare to take a joy ride around Houston.



Shawnie Boudreaux: The Signal

You can enjoy this arial view of the city of Houston if you are one of Jeffrey Weiss' lucky guests.

scouts when they looked up from their lunch when he asked them if they wanted to go for a ride.

"I try to contribute to the monthly Wings and Wheels events by taking passengers up in my airplane just to expose them to the magic of flight and the beautiful city of Houston below," said Weiss, who has been involved with the museum for 10 years and is now on the board of directors. "Houston has been very good to me, and aviation is my passion. I wanted to give back to the city, and the museum was the perfect opportunity."

The April Wings and Wheels falls during Hobby Fest this year and people are already excited to talk about the upcoming events.

"We'll have many, many more aircrafts; we have a live band, and the zoo mobile," said Megan Lickliter, administrator for the museum. Aside from airplanes, vintage cars, the zoo mobile, a live band and free lunch, Hobby Fest also features raffles, door prizes, face painting, airport rangers on horseback and numerous other activities for the public to enjoy.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and lunch is free. For more information about the museum or Wings and Wheels events, call 713-454-1940 or go to www.1940airterminal.org.



Shawnie Boudreaux: The Signal

Michelangelo Sabatino and Serge Ambrose browse the exhibits.

HISTORIC KING RANCH

Savannah Drake
The Signal Staff

The King Ranch, United States' largest ranch and, at one time the largest ranch in the world, is located deep in South Texas in Kleberg County. The King Ranch has land in several states including Texas, Florida and New Mexico. The land in South Texas covers 825,000 acres, which is larger than the state of Rhode Island. You may think that you have not heard of this ranch, but if you have driven down the road, you have.

Ford has a luxury edition of their F-series trucks that contain the King Ranch logo and luxurious leather seats. This, however, is just one of the many projects of this world-famous ranch. What many don't know is how historic and influential this ranch is and it is located in our own backyard.

The King Ranch is credited with producing America's first breed of cattle, the first breed developed in the entire world in more than a century. This breed, known as the Santa Gertrudis, is comprised of the shorthorn and the Brahman bull. First recognized in 1940, the Santa Gertrudis breed became very popular, very fast. King Ranch employee Beto Maldonado recalls he and his father showing the bulls all over the world.

"We took him to the Dallas Airport, where he behaved like a perfect gentlemen," recalls Maldonado of prize bull, Macho. "He stood and took pictures with everyone around

him."

The famous bull also appeared on national television before departing to the International Fair in Casablanca, Morocco.

The Santa Cruz breed of cattle was first produced by the King Ranch and can be seen throughout the ranch today. The Santa Cruz is comprised of the Santa Gertrudis and the Red Angus. They are known for producing superior results as a feeder and seedstock animal.

The King Ranch also produces a lot of goods sold all over the world. Daniel Morales, the comptroller for the Santa Gertrudis division, says that the ranch has much more to offer than just livestock.

"The ranch produces almost 40 million pounds of beef, 17 million boxes of oranges, 650 thousand tons of sugarcane, and 450 thousand crates of sweet corn in one year," Morales said. "We also produce an abundance of cotton and pecans as well."

Horses are also the pride of the ranch. The King Ranch has

produced many successful racing horses, such as Triple Crown winner Assault and Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes winner Middleground. The ranch is known for producing champion cutting and quarter horses as well, and every single one of them is as tame as a family pet.

The King Ranch can mostly be identified by its unique "Running W" brand. Everything associated with the ranch bears this unique brand, from its cattle to the leather goods



The Santa Gertrudis breed was the first breed of cattle developed in America as well as the first breed to be developed in more than a century, making the ranch known around the world.

Savannah Drake: The Signal



Savannah Drake: The Signal

ABOVE: The Santa Cruz breed, comprised of the Santa Gertrudis and Red Angus breeds, are abundant in several locations throughout the ranch.

RIGHT: The ranch's well-recognized "Running W" brand.



Savannah Drake: The Signal



*Volunteering -
the opportunities
endless;
the rewards
boundless!*

Volunteers:

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- Meet new people
- Explore new interests
- Build leadership skills
- Improve their communities
- Enhance their resumes



Volunteer Kevin Colovin has raised the flags every morning for the United Way and American Red Cross for more than 15 years.

VOLUNTEER HOUSTON Bay Area


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Call 281-282-6034 or visit
www.volunteerhouston.org.

*** Student Life ***

Student Government Association


**Congratulations to the newly elected
Executive Council
2009-2010**



From left to right: Patrick Cardenas, President; Steve Steiner, VP Committee Coordinator; Amanda Schoolcraft, VP Outreach and Communication; Chris Greenfield, VP Administration.

**The new executive council members will be sworn in at the
Student Life Banquet on April 24, 2009.**

**Attend the Student Government Association meetings
every Tuesday at 11.30am in the SSCB Lecture Hall
1.100.03.**



For Details Contact The SGA Executive Council:

Patrick Cardenas - President
Steve Steiner - VP Committee Coordinator
Jessica Williams - VP Outreach & Communications
Connie Lafayette - VP Administration

SSCB Rm.1.205 * 281-283-2556 * SGA@uhcl.edu * www.uhcl.edu/SGA

Lets Get Cultured

Cultural Extravaganza

Lindsey Lashway
Signal Staff

The Cultural Extravaganza does exactly what it advertises; it is diversity at its best. Looking around the Bayou Theater Saturday, March 28, at all the students from all over the world gathered in one place showed just how diverse the population here at University of Houston—Clear Lake really is.

The Cultural Extravaganza has been an annual event celebrated at UHCL for the past 13 years. This year, more than 100 students participated, representing 20 countries. Students performed skits, sang songs, read poetry and danced.

Students do not, however, have to do a skit, sing or dance to represent their country. At the end of the performances, students who didn't participate earlier do a "culture walk" and walk across the stage holding their countries' flags, and sometimes, wearing traditional dress.

The Cultural Extravaganza is a "student-driven event," said Sameer Pande, assistant director of Intercultural and International Student Services.

"It [Cultural Extravaganza] is diversity at its best here at UHCL," Pande said. This year's Extravaganza will be his tenth. "People in the community have really started looking forward to this event."

The performers for the evening

consisted of groups from India, Vietnam, Wales, Trinidad, Tobago, and Mexico. Countries that were represented in the culture walk were Burkina Faso, Bulgaria, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Iran, Jamaica, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Netherlands, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S., which Pande said is the hardest country to represent find students to represent.

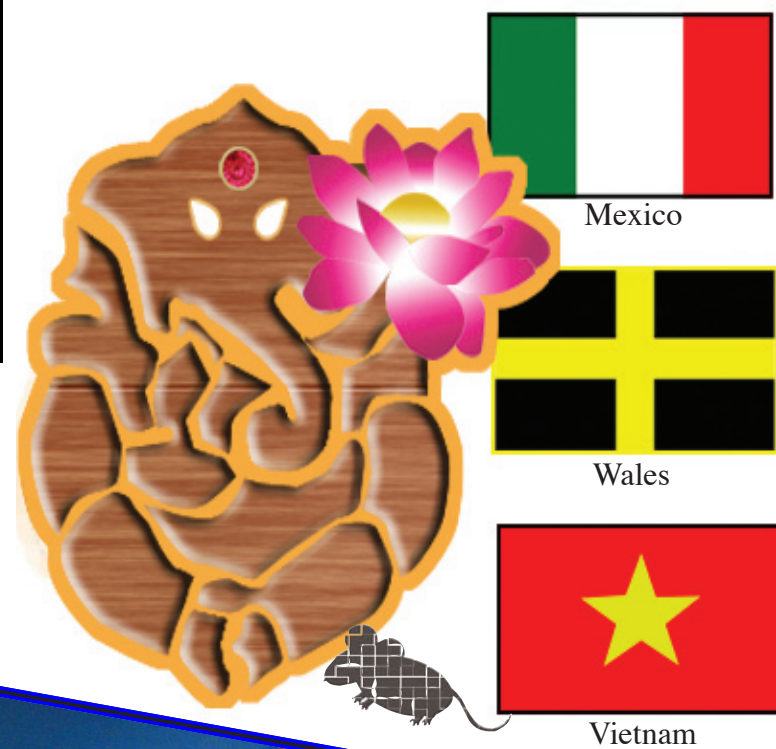
After the performances were over, booths representing the different countries gave the audience members the chance to sample different kinds of foods from the various countries.

"I'm excited to be involved in this event," said Doyle Rodrigues, chair of the Cultural Extravaganza. This is Doyle Rodrigues' second year participating in the Extravaganza.

"The success of this event depends on student involvement," Pande said.

This year, it was the Indian Students Organization, the Vietnamese Students Organization, and the Black Students Organization that made the initial fund request and got the ball rolling on organizing the event.

For students looking to participate in next year's Cultural Extravaganza, the information is available in the IISS office, located in suite SSB 1203, or by calling 281-283-2575.



Students from the Black Students Association give us a taste of what Carnival is like in Trinidad and Tobago.

Lindsey Lashway: The Signal



Lindsey Lashway: The Signal

Students from the Indian Students Association show the different dances for different festivals in India.



Lindsey Lashway: The Signal

Phuong Nguyen, Giang Ngo and Thi Tra sing in Vietnamese.



Lindsey Lashway: The Signal

Students from the Vietnamese Students Association represent the beauty of a cool season through song and dance.



Jade Emanuel
Signal Staff

On any other weekend, the 1.1 mile loop at Memorial Park is filled with joggers, families and picnickers. March 27-29, however, Memorial Park was transformed into an extravagant outdoor gallery, as artists and festival-goers interacted at the Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park.

"The festival began as a fundraiser in the early '70s to promote charity for AIDS," said Wendy Harshbarger, accountant for the Art Colony Association. Today, the festival, which is produced by the Art Colony Association, not only aids the livelihood of artists, but has raised more than \$2.5 million for local art-based non-profit organizations.

"The Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park is a unique avenue for up-and-coming artists," said Joe Pogge, president of the board of the Art Colony Association. "Our top-level art festival draws artists from all over the world."

With more than 1,200 applicants and only 300 entries granted, there was an eclectic group of creative works. Artists representing 19 media formats displayed everything from clay sculptures, to hand-blown glass and functional furniture art. Each booth held individual artists and allowed festival-goers to admire and even purchase their favorite pieces of artwork.

"It's like walking through a museum," Pogge said. "There is a flow ... there is a feel to it."

While the outer loop of the park was littered with booths and observing crowds, the middle of the park featured cuisine chefs, wine tasting, an interactive children's Capitol One Bank Creative Zone and an array of performance dance groups.

Avid toy collector, watercolorist and the 2009 Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park "Featured Artist" Larry Stephenson wowed the crowds with his whimsical collection. His premier piece, "A Day at the Airport" was displayed proudly at the entrance of the festival, along with billboards, programs, t-shirts and posters donning the featured piece. The Kansas-based artist established most of his work around his collection of vintage toys. Paintings of antique marbles, wind-up tin men, and model planes and cars could be found throughout his display.



"It kind of marries a couple of imaginative avenues for me, both that of painting and

collecting," Stephenson said. "I've done the show for a number of years ... I really didn't politic for [becoming the featured artist]. They just ... called me one day and asked if I'd be willing to do this, and that's when I started working up some ideas for the posters."

For most participants, art is a full-time occupation. Daryl Thetford made the drive to Houston from Chattanooga, Tenn., for his fifth showing at the festival. Thetford began his career as a straight "Americana" photographer.

"I've always been drawn to old signs, old billboards, old posters and from there then it became, well, what if I created my own signs?" Thetford said. It was this line of thinking that led him to create pieces like "The Carousel Horses" a collage of vintage signs used to create the background and foreground of a desired subject.

Throughout the booths, several artists had pieces of work with no formal titles. When people would ask about the piece, the artists enjoyed discussing their opinions and thoughts pertaining to the art.

"Some artists want the viewer to have their own dialogue with each piece ... giving it a name takes that element of thought out of the process," said Austin-based acrylic painter Micheal Babyak. "Some pieces don't need names; they should have their own visual vocabulary."

While walking along the decorated paths of the park, onlookers had a rare chance to communicate with artists about their original and sometimes perplexing pieces.

"The festival is a great place to find one-of-a-kind, unusual presents for people who have everything," said Houstonian Patti Lapp, a second year attendee to the Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park.

As for hopeful artists interested in



Jade Emanuel: The Signal

Guitar enthusiast Micheal Babyak discusses one of his pieces with interested art lovers.

entering the festival, the competition is highly advanced. Out of the 300 artists in attendance this year, only about 30 were first-time participants.

"My advice for upcoming artists is to follow your passion and don't expect [everything] to happen overnight," Stephenson said.

Art lovers can be very fickle when it comes to the approval or disapproval of an artist's piece of work. Some may loathe the creation that an artist feels is his/her best work yet.

"You have to find your own crowd; you have to find people that are drawn to your work," Thetford said.

The ambience and entertainment the Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park offers can both visually and physically stimulate an unforgettable experience. Whether it's the soft sounds of jazz leaking throughout the tree-lined paths, or the odd life-size metal cow that makes you strike up a conversation with a stranger; the Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park is a solidifying part of Houston culture not only for Houstonians, but for art lovers across the country.



Jade Emanuel: The Signal

ABOVE: Second year attendee Mary Conner (right) and daughter Isabella Conner, 3, made ornamental rocks in the Capitol One Bank Creative Zone.

BELOW: CORE performance company performed "WIND-UP, implode, Begin!"



Jade Emanuel: The Signal



Jade Emanuel: The Signal

The "Carousel Horses" by Daryl Thetford was made from a collaboration of vintage signs.



Jade Emanuel: The Signal

"Face No. 63" by digital graphic artist and painter, Ray Phillips, returned for his fifth year to the festival.

CAUTION: Gators, raccoons and deer, oh my!



Staff: The Signal

Alligators like the one above have been spotted on a number of occasions swimming in the bayou that runs through the campus.

Brenda Cabaniss
The Signal Staff

First-time visitors to the University of Houston-Clear Lake are usually amazed at the nice layout of the eco-friendly campus. Nature lovers are in awe of the large green trees, the lush woods surrounding each building and the many ponds around the 500-acre plus campus.

However, if one is not used to the sights of nature and all that is involved in having a campus located on a wildlife and nature preserve, then you may be intimidated by the street signs posted around campus that warn cyclists, joggers and walkers of the dangers of predatory animals. The "Caution: Wildlife on Campus some are Predatory," "Caution: Watch for Deer" and Caution: Alligators Present, Do Not Feed or Approach" signs are a little disconcerting.

So, what type of predatory animals are we talking about?

"The campus is known to be home to bobcats, various types of venomous snakes and alligators," said UHCL Chief of Police Paul Willingham. These are the animals people consider predators.

Willingham says in the 18 months he has worked at

UHCL, he has only seen one alligator in the bayou. However, it did not pose a threat to students or faculty. Luckily, Willingham says most of the animals on the predatory list are nocturnal, so they pose little threat to anyone.

On the other hand, Bobby Donald, H-Vac operator at the UHCL control plant who often works the night shift, has seen raccoons, turkeys, foxes, cougars and even heard a wolf. He also recalls seeing a 12- to 15-foot alligator in the nearby bayou just before Hurricane Ike. Still, Donald says in the 10 years he has worked at the university, none of these animals have injured university students or area residents.

Of course, "if some of the students knew what was out here, they wouldn't walk to the [University Forrest Apartments] at night," Donald said with a grin on his face.

If anything, the leading threat to humans is not an alligator or copperhead snake slithering about campus. Instead, Bambi seems to pose the greater threat. Indeed, most of the animal-related incidents around the UHCL campus involve deer. Practically all animal-related incidents reported to campus police have either been deer versus vehicle accidents or reports of abandoned fawn. That is not much of a surprise since deer are often seen at all times of the day and seem to be used to living in close proximity to humans. Donald recalls seeing "28 deer between the Bayou Building and Student Services Building on one evening alone."

So, what should students do if encountering a predatory animal or a run-in with a deer? Willingham says "call the university police department." UHCL has a plan in place for dealing with animals on university grounds. Once at the location, university police will determine if the animal poses a threat to humans. If assistance is needed, campus police call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. If it is determined the animal needs to be relocated, rangers will either

tranquelize the creature or simply cage it, if the animal is small enough. As a last resort, university police or rangers will euthanize the animal if the threat is determined to be too high.

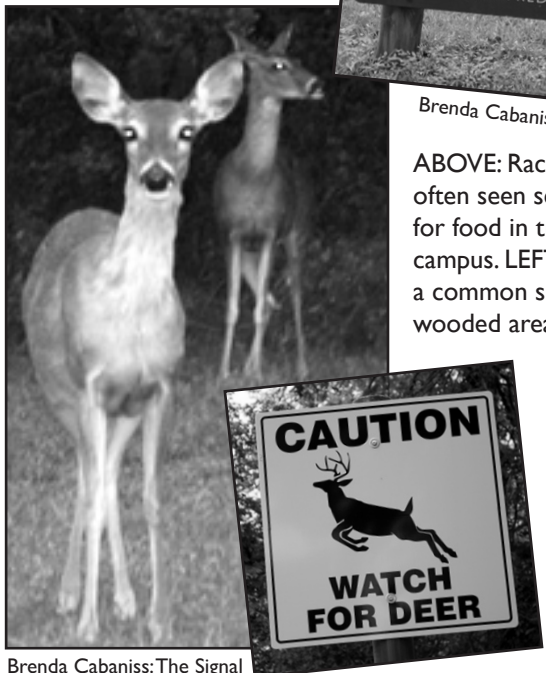
"The goal is never to hurt or harm animals, but to live in harmony with them" Willingham said.

Therefore, the signs serve as a reminder and a warning to students and area residents that the animals are out there and caution should be taken.

"If an animal is spotted, leave it alone," Willingham said.



Staff: The Signal



Brenda Cabaniss: The Signal

Brenda Cabaniss: The Signal

ABOVE: Raccoons are often seen scrounging for food in trash cans on campus. LEFT: Deer are a common sight near the wooded areas at UHCL.

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

April 6
Sexual Assault Awareness Month:
Seminar on Sexual Assault,
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bayou Forest
Room

2009 Physics Seminar Series:
“Non-linear Effects in Dense
Nano-Particulate Systems,”
7 p.m., Bayou 1211

Summer/Fall 2009 Class Schedule
Available Online

April 7
Spring Teacher Job Fair,
12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Atrium II

Poetry Reading
5 p.m., Student Services and
Classroom Building

April 8
Business Fair
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bayou Atrium II

Voices of Colour Speaker Series
Woman and the Law presents,
“Have you met a slave today,”
12-1 p.m., Bayou Forest Room

April 13
2009 Physics Seminar: “Medipix,”
7 p.m., Bayou 1211

*Ongoing through April 23
Summer and Fall 2009 Early
Registration*

April 14
Social Services Networking
Reception, 4:30 - 7 p.m., Bayou
Garden Room and Atrium I

April 16
Foreign Language Course Reg-
istration, 12-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.,
Bayou Atrium I or online

April 18
Film Screening, “Valykrie”
7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall

April 20
2009 Physics Seminar Series:
“Plasma Physics Applications for
Aerospace Technology,” 7 p.m.,
Bayou 1211

April 20-24
Early College Campus Visit Week

April 13-June 11
UHCL Senior Art Exhibition,
Bayou Art Gallery



Showcase: Burning Up for Education

Dianna Shaw
The Signal Staff

Much like the student body, the faculty of UHCL represents its own body of diverse people from mixed backgrounds. These professors offer vast amounts of information to their students pertaining to their curriculum while offering real-life experiences. Despite the appreciation of the university’s full-time faculty, The Signal would like to spotlight those educators who teach in addition to holding down full-time-jobs – the adjunct professors. The Signal will be profiling an adjunct professor from each school to be acknowledged for their dedication to education as well as the real-world experiences they bring to the university. This is part three of a four-part series.

“Upon first glance he can be an imposing figure – 6 foot plus, bald head, piercing eyes,” said Education Management student Nefertari Mundy. “But once you make it past the exterior and begin to absorb the knowledge he is imparting your focus shifts. He’s extremely engaging, has a sharp

“I bring a wealth of experience to the classroom.”

- Heath Burns
Adjunct Instructor in Education

wit, but above all he’s honest, approachable and accessible.”
Heath Burns, off-campus adjunct professor for the School



Courtesy: Heath Burns

Heath Burns, off-campus adjunct professor for the School of Education, University of Houston-Clear Lake at Angleton

of Education, University of Houston-Clear Lake at Angleton, is also the superintendent for Angleton Independent School District. He teaches the Education Management program, which leads to a master of science with principal certification.

“There are many things that I’ve learned over the 18 months that I’ve taken classes from Dr. Burns,” Mundy said. “One of the golden nuggets that stays with me is every action we take as administrators must be purposeful and deliberate – nothing should happen by accident. Be prepared for everything and leave nothing to chance.”

Burns earned a B.S. in communication and a master’s degree in education in school administration from Lamar University. He then earned a doctorate in education from Sam Houston State University.

Prior to his current appointment, Burns worked three years as a principal in the Livingston Independent School District. He has also served as principal at

Assumption Catholic School in Beaumont. In addition to teaching at UHCL, Burns has also taught at Sam Houston State University, Tomball and Port Neches-Groves Independent School Districts.

“I bring a wealth of experience to the classroom,” Burns said. “This experience helps me to train new administrators to meet the challenges they will face in the field.”

Balancing his busy career with family life is tricky, as Burns is a husband and father of two sets of twins.

“I do not sleep much, never have,” Burns said. “I work late and from home so I can spend quality time with my family.”

Those who know him as a teacher and superintendent claim that Burns is dedicated to excellence and strives to do his best by each student whether they are his classroom students or students at AISD.

“He runs his school the same way he conducts class, with unlimited energy and passion for doing what is right by children,”

said Katie Laza, a former student of Burns. “It’s very inspiring to work in a district that keeps kids first.”

Burns explains why education is his passion.

“I was drawn to education as a way to serve children,” Burns said. “On a selfish note, by teaching, I am able to identify, develop and hire the brightest students.”

In the classroom, Burns teaches real-life situations in order to prepare his students for the challenges they will face.

“He forces students to make hard decisions and explore all outcomes of those decisions,” Laza said. “Vigorous debate and discussion are a regular part of his class.”

Mundy concurs with Laza’s assessment of Burns’ quality teaching abilities and his passion for students.

“Knowledgeable doesn’t even begin to describe the breadth of information Dr. Burns is skilled in relaying,” says Mundy. “His insight and understanding of school law, finance and topics that most people would consider drudgery are tackled with zeal and you walk away with more than entry level knowledge and a desire to apply the skills beyond the classroom.”

Burns is also one to stay on top of the changes in education. Technology has incurred the biggest shift in the way in which students are educated.

“The growth of technology has and will continue to change the face of education,” Burns said. “The traditional brick and mortar school house is becoming a thing of the past. In the future, students may receive all of their training through the internet, perhaps from home.”

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- \$5 gift certificate to Ben & Jerry’s



Deadline to take the survey is April 20th!
www.uchl.edu/thesignal

Plagiarism: continued from page 1

include blatant cheating on exams and assignments. “There can be many reasons for academic honesty hearings,” said Steve Steiner, vice president/committee coordinator for The Student Government Association. “First is that the student has plagiarized a piece of original work (either in part or in full) “Secondly, a student could be caught cheating on an exam or assignment.”

Another factor is that UHCL is an upper level institution and English composition classes are not taught here. “Although most undergraduate degrees require an advance writing course, there is not a timetable that states a student must take that class in their first semester here at UHCL,” Steiner said. Therefore, transfer students may not have been properly educated on what is plagiarism and what is not.”

In some cases, the student may have committed plagiarism one or more times already in his or her academic career here at UHCL. The penalties range from an F for the assignment or an F in the course to suspension or expulsion from the university. Hearings are held in front of a council composed of four students and four faculty members, and they decide on the applicable penalties for each case.

“Being a student in the pool for these hearings, it can be intense, but is also very rewarding,” Steiner said. “It is important to note that what is discussed in these hearings is confidential and cannot be talked about with the student or anyone outside the hearing.”

Plagiarism is explained in the Academic Honesty Policy in the UHCL 2008-2009 catalog

Page 79, Section II: 3 plagiarism: (a) Incorporating the work or idea of another’s work without acknowledging the source of that work

“UHCL students who intentionally plagiarize not only cheat themselves, but they jeopardize the academic integrity of our university and devalue the degrees of hard-working students.”

- Anthony Jenkins
Dean of Students

“My position on addressing plagiarism issues is to use a dual approach that seeks to educate both faculty members and students.”

- Anthony Jenkins
Dean of Students

addressing plagiarism issues is to use a dual approach that seeks to educate both faculty members and students; thus, creating partnerships that allow us to collectively rid our community of scholars of this growing issue,” Jenkins said.

Students have resources available to them to avoid plagiarism pitfalls including their instructors and the UHCL Writing Center, Suite 2105 the Student Services Building. The Writing Center offers MLA to APA documentation workshops.

“UHCL students who intentionally plagiarize, not only cheat themselves, but they jeopardize the academic integrity of our university and devalue the degrees of hard-working students,” Jenkins said.

Pearland: continued from page 1

nication undergraduate Ruth Garay, “I started volunteering more at my church which was close by the Pearland location.

The Pearland Center will bring new opportunities to the City of Pearland.

The project budget for the first building is estimated at \$11 million however the majority of the funding will be coming from the city of Pearland. An estimated \$10 million will come from issue bonds.

Administration of the new campus will be provided by the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, who reports to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Carl Stockton and serves on the UH-Clear Lake Dean’s Council.

“As a community-minded, partnership-oriented university, we are excited about bringing higher education, at both the bachelor’s and master’s level, to the City of Pearland, where city leaders have demonstrated a strong commitment to education,” Staples said.

“The Pearland Center was a convenient location last year when I was in school.”

- Ruth Garay
Student

REPORT TO COMMUNITY



Hayley Shaw:The Signal

Attendees for University of Houston-Clear Lake’s Report to the Community 2009 breakfast and award ceremony pour into the Lakewood Yacht Club for the March 26, 7:30 a.m. breakfast presentation. President William Staples honored the City of Seabrook and the Greater Texas Foundation, for outstanding leadership and commitment, with the UHCL Community Partnership Award.

Arrest: continued from page 1

corted off the property and given a criminal trespass warning.

“The reason Bobo got a warning for criminal trespassing was because he entered the property through the gate,” said Paul Willingham, chief of police “unlike Jones [Joseph Jones, who was arrested March 11] who had charges pressed against him for criminal trespassing because he jumped the fence onto the property.”

There is no solicitation on campus; therefore, any solicitation is a suspicious act. Since the van was not registered to either party it had to be towed.

The police department believes that the two individuals were casing the campus for opportunities to commit crimes.

“I’m glad they got caught,” said Yvette Aguirre-Pulido, currently working on her master’s degree in business, “Just because the police are keeping a closer eye out on things doesn’t mean I can let my guard down for any reason.”

The police encourage anyone who sees either of the individuals or similar suspicious activity on campus to contact the UHCL Police Department immediately at 281-283-2222.

Crime Update: continued from page 1

On March 11, the University Forest Apartments received complaints about a suspicious man attempting to sell magazine subscriptions door to door. Jones was detained, and officers concluded that he fit the description of the man who was thought to be the suspect of the strong-armed robbery that occurred March 3.

“If a student suspects something wrong, do not be afraid to contact the university police.”

- Paul Willingham
Chief of Poilce

The UHCL employee who was assaulted positively identified Jones among a lineup of other photos of possible suspects. Charges were pressed and Jones was taken to jail.

Jones pleaded guilty for criminal trespass after the arrest. After confirming Jones’ alibi, the charges of strong-armed robbery were dropped, and he was released.

“It’s a shame they caught the wrong guy,” said Yvette Aguirre-Pulido, currently working on her master’s degree in business, “But at least I find it comforting knowing that the police really are doing something to try and catch him.”

With the real assailant still on the loose, students and faculty are strongly urged to stay alert and aware of their surroundings.

Paul Willingham, chief of police, urges students to walk in pairs in well-lit areas.

“If a student suspects something wrong do not be afraid to contact the university police,” Willingham said.

The Police Department is continuing its investigation following additional leads that have surfaced this week. Again, the description of the suspect is:

- 5’ 9”, medium build, Hispanic male
- Dark short hair
- A 7” cross tattoo on the underside of his right arm
- Mid 20s to 30s
- The subject may be wearing the victim’s large diamond stud earrings

The police encourage anyone with information about the March 3 robbery on The UHCL campus to contact the UHCL Police at 281-283-2222.

Students Invited To Speak Their Minds

Luis R. Aceves
The Signal Staff

The Office of Student Life sponsored its 2nd annual campaign with hopes of opening the lines of communication between the student body and the University of Houston-Clear Lake administration. This event, perfectly outfitted with the title “Speak Your Mind.” It was held March 23-27 in Atrium II of the Bayou Building, and open to all students wishing to voice their opinions regarding issues that affect them. To learn more about the “Speak Your Mind” event and the questions and answers featured, please visit uhcl.edu/thesignal.



Tina L. DiVora: The Signal

ABOVE and MIDDLE RIGHT: Newcomers to the local car show will see revamped classics like this late 1960s Ford Falcon (top) or this 1957 Chevy pickup truck (right).



Tina L. DiVora: The Signal

BOTTOM RIGHT: Wally Peckham's latest project car, a 1950 Mercury Coupe. Peckham purchased the car from its original owner and brought it down from Hutchinson, Kan.



Tina L. DiVora: The Signal

Saturday Night Lights

Tina L. DiVora
The Signal Staff

Need a switch from the normal Saturday night routine? Need to find a place where you can see cars from different eras, makes and styles all in one location? You need to look no further than Clear Lake Shore's Target parking lot.

Every Saturday night, weather permitting, locals from League City, Kemah, Clear Lake Shores and surrounding areas come to the Target parking lot, off Hwy. 146 near Kemah, to show off their classic or unique cars.

No one is sure how it started. Some speculate that two or more guys drove up in their classic and one-of-a-kind cars, parked and talked shop. Then the word spread, and friends and others with a similar interest in cars showed up and the tradition grew from there.

"No one is sure who is the one who really started it," said Beau Martin, car enthusiast. "I have been coming here for more than five years with my family and we always see something interesting."

If you come out, you will see a range of new and old cars. You will see a 1960s Ford Mustang parked next to a 2000s Ford Mustang; it is interesting to see how the evolution of the Mustang has come about.

Though there are some complaints that there are not enough older model cars that come out to this local event.

"We need more older cars out here," said Wally Peckham, who restores cars on the side. "I think they don't come out here because there are too many young people out here with their newer cars."

This Saturday Peckham brought his newest project car, a 1950 Mercury Coupe, which he brought down from Hutchinson, Kan. Peckham bought the car from a 93-year-old man who had kept the car in the garage since 1959. The coupe has only had one previous owner and is in its original condition, from the original brown tweed and vinyl upholstery to the small block Chevy

engine.

Peckham almost did not get the car; he had to make two 1,700-mile-round-trips to get the coupe. The man he bought it from did not remember agreeing to sell it. When Peckham made the first trip the man said he did not recall that he was selling it and that he would have to talk to his wife.

"His wife was out of town for a class reunion and would be back in four days," Peckham said. "So I had to wait 'till the next weekend to make sure his wife was there so when I made the trip up there, there would be no problems."

This is not Peckham's first project car. He has more than 10 cars that range from a 1932 convertible to a 1957 Thunderbird that he keeps in a garage that are titled and insured.

Another regular to the Saturday show is David Perkins, who is currently in the middle of building a Rat Rod. Perkins thinks that small car shows like this are a good idea and that everyone can enjoy.

"People come out to take a look at the cars and maybe get ideas for their own project," Perkins said.

Perkins says that the car shows are also another way to network. People make connections and swap parts. They tell their stories about what worked for them and find alternate solutions to their car project problems.

As far as problems with people getting rowdy or fights, Perkins said there are no incidents like that.

"Cops drive by, but that is about it," Perkins said.

There are other local car shows that happen all over the city. In Alvin there is a car show that takes place on Saturday nights at the local Home Depot parking lot, and another one in League City organized by the Space City Cruisers that is membership-based and happens on Fridays at the League City Park.

So if you need a change from the normal weekend routine, in the middle of doing a project car or just a car lover in general, head up to the Target on FM 2094 on Saturday evening and check out the classics, retro and new cars.

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MARCH MADNESS

Mark Guillory
The Signal Staff

The anticipation was over and the day had finally arrived; it was game time. Hoop It Up was back in Houston and teams from all over the state of Texas came to compete for city champs.

For the second straight year, Hoop It Up teamed up with the Houston Rockets to play what is referred to as the Blacktop Battle. The tournament took place downtown outside of the Toyota Center March 21 and 22.

Team Living Proof was just one of the many teams competing in the Blacktop Battle and they wanted to win like everyone else. Living Proof last won their division in 2002, in the Dome Ball 3-on-3 basketball tournament, at Reliant Stadium.

The guys that assemble team Living Proof have been playing together in Hoop It Up since 1998. I happen to be a (sometimes) proud member of team Living Proof, which is the most recent name we use; we have also been B-Ballers, K-Mart Special, Six-Pack Attack, Team Crump and Team Hunt.

Some of our past performances have led us to change our team name out of fear of being tagged losers; we simply ditch our name and start with a fresh one. This has not worked recently and has just cost us more money buying jerseys.

One of the major problems the team struggles with is practicing, or our lack of practicing. Regrettably, the last time Living Proof played together was at the Hoop It Up in Austin in June 2008. We intended to practice; we even set up meetings at places like Buffalo Wild Wings, Bayou City Wings and Hooters to arrange practice dates. Showing up for the meetings has never been a problem, but something always went wrong when it was time to show up for practice.

Despite our past struggles, we were positive this year; this could be our time to shine again. Unfortunately, we were immediately hit with a major hurdle; we were forced to move up in brackets to the 6 feet and over division.

Hoop It Up is broken down into several different divisions so everyone can play. We have always competed in the 6 feet and under bracket but they have now changed the rules to where if one player is 6 feet tall the team must compete in the 6 feet in over bracket.

At 6 feet tall, I am the tallest person on our team and the reason we had to move up in divisions. It was a situation that was totally out of my hands. It was, however, too late to complain about practices, height and divisions as it was time to play ball. Our first game was at 8:30 a.m. at court 21.

I really couldn't tell you how this game went because practicing is not our only issue. Some of the team members, including myself, have had problems showing up on time for games. The snooze button on the alarm clock had me running really late this particular day.

While hurrying to get downtown, I got a call from one of my teammates, Delon Guy, who was also running late. Things were falling apart already. Delon and I happen to be the two tallest guys on the team.

I showed up at the Toyota Center at about 9:20 a.m.; free parking was offered at the Toyota Tundra parking garage. After I parked and came off the elevator, I was amazed to see all the people playing basketball on the streets downtown.

Sadly, by the time I found court 21, it was too late. My team had already played their first game. They were, to say the least, outmanned. Delon had yet to arrive



Mark Guillory: The Signal

Papa's Players' Deshaun Blackshear takes the ball to the basket during Houston's Hoop It Up tournament, held March 21 and 22.



Mark Guillory: The Signal

Teams search for their scheduled court just before game time.

downtown as well, so it left our team with just three starters and nobody coming off the bench.

"They were just too big and we could not do anything with them down low," said Living Proof teammate and Captain Kevin Crump. "Every single guy on their team was taller than every one of us."

There was no time, however, to pout. Another Hoop It Up rule had changed this year: every player had to check in at the headquarters tent. Players had to sign a waiver, verify what team they played on and receive a wristband before they could play.

Delon finally showed up. We both had to hurry up and check in because our next game was starting at 10:30 a.m. at court 25. We signed our waivers, got our bands and headed off to find court 25 for our next game.

We were at full strength and as ready as we could be for the moment. We played hard to the very end, but could not hang on to the lead. Toward the end, we started to fade. Our inability to guard the 2-point shot caused us to lose by five.

Once again, this year we found ourselves down but not quite yet out. We were in a 2-point hole and needed a victory bad. Our next game was only an hour away and our bodies were aching.

In between games most players like to watch other games until their game starts. We watched a team called Papa's Players, since their bracket was playing on the court next to ours. They were playing in a 6 feet and under 19-29 year-old division, but despite all their players being less than 6 feet tall, they were dunking the ball.

"We all play above the rim on our team," Papa's Players team member Justin Douglas said. "We are going to win this whole thing."

After watching Papa's Players win their game it was time for us to find court 25 for our last game of the day against a team called Good Grubbin.

It was obvious that we had finally shaken off some rust in our last game on Saturday. We dominated the whole game until the end, with 30 seconds left in the game and up by two, it all started to unravel for us.

Like so many times before, we could not hold the lead. We had two straight turnovers, they hit one basket and then we were only up by one. Then the unthinkable happened – with only 15 seconds left, we turned the ball over and they ended up hitting a two-point shot to give them the final lead 15 – 13.

Another unsuccessful tournament, but we were not alone. The young guns with all the talent – Papa's Players – also were eliminated. The agony of defeat hurt a little more for them because they had come all the way from Austin to compete in the tournament.

"I can't believe we lost," Papa's Player team member Deshaun Blackshear said. "I just can't believe it's over."

As for team Living Proof, it is on to San Antonio from here in June and this time we are going to practice. Before we practice, however, we need to have a team meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings and discuss practice dates. It is also about time for a name change; Living Proof hasn't worked out too well.

It's strange, but for some reason after this tournament I don't feel 6 feet tall anymore. Maybe I need to measure myself again; people do tend to shrink when they get older. Something tells me I'm going to be only 5 feet 11 inches for our next tournament.