

# THE SIGNAL



## Campus provides political platform for candidates



Matt Griesmyer: The Signal

At a political forum hosted by area interest groups, politicians discussed topics that are on local residents' minds Sept. 26. Pictured from left: candidates Peter Brown, Gene Locke, Annise Parker, Wayne Garrison and Roy Morales.

**Matt Griesmyer**  
The Signal Staff

Members of Houston's political system gathered at the University of Houston-Clear Lake campus Sept. 26 for a political forum hosted by the Bay Area Association of Democratic Women, Bay Area New Democrats, and The College Democrats UHCL student organization.

Scheduled to attend were Mike Sullivan, current District E representative for Houston City Council seeking re-election; Wayne Garrison, candidate for District E representative; Peter Brown, Annise Parker, Roy Morales and Gene Locke, candidates for Mayor of Houston.

All candidates were present save for Sullivan. Due to a scheduling conflict Sullivan was unable to attend.

Prior to the mayoral forum, the candidates for city council were asked to comment on issues that are on residents' minds within the South Houston and Clear Lake area.

Garrison, as the only candidate for District E in attendance, took this opportunity to speak on behalf of the residents that he is hoping to represent.

"Residents need to see where their tax dollars are, or are not, coming back to this district," Garrison said. "I want to create an atmosphere through accessibility and accountability."

The UHCL campus lies within the boundaries of

**Mayor Forum:** continued on page 6

## Think Pink

### A cure is on the brink

**Vivian Volirakis**  
The Signal Staff

Join the fight and think pink this October for breast cancer awareness month. It is a time for grandmothers, mothers, daughters, sisters, friends and family to remember loved ones lost and celebrate survivors who have won the battle.

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women besides skin cancers. Approximately 211,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer are anticipated to be revealed in American women in 2009. That is one woman diagnosed every three minutes and one life lost every 13 minutes.

"There probably isn't anybody who isn't touched by breast cancer in some way," said Betty Brown, counselor and testing coordinator in the Career and Counseling Center.

Invasive breast cancer, one of the most harmful forms of cancer, begins with abnormal cells inside the breast ducts that spread toward the outer tissues of the breast, eventually spreading to the lymph nodes and other vital organs such as the liver, lungs and bones.

Although men can become victims of breast cancer as well, women are at a much higher risk. Some of the prime risk factors are just being female and getting older every day, but there

**Breast Cancer:** continued on page 6

## UHCL is in the house

**Jeffry Tupa**  
The Signal Staff

Students learn about campus and programs at Open House event

The University of Houston-Clear Lake provided an opportunity for prospective students and their family members to learn more about the programs and services offered by the university at its Oct. 3 Open House. Application fees were waived for students who submitted applications for admission while in attendance.

"It is an open invitation for prospective students and their family to come," said Yvette Bendeck, associate vice president of enrollment management. "This is really an event atmosphere where support services and academic programs have representation to talk to people so they can really come and do it all and, if they are interested, they can apply on that day and have no fee assessed."

Prospective students crowded every hall and open space on campus.

"It is really great so far," said Michael Merta, a student from San Jacinto Community College-South Campus. "They welcomed me in

**Open House:** continued on page 6

## Go Green: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

**Ashley Tobar**  
The Signal Staff

A new organization at the University of Houston-Clear Lake is an environmental friendly association appropriately called the Green Team. The Green Team's goal is to recycle all plastics, aluminums and papers on campus.

Sue Halamicek, senior secretary for UHCL's environmental institute of Houston and recycling coordinator, explained that the UHCL Green Team is comprised of 35 concerned staff, faculty and administration members who just want to do the right thing with recycling.

"We will be sending out a survey to everyone to find out their recycling habits and, if they had a choice of throwing plastics,

aluminum, etc. in the proper container so that it would be disposed of properly, would they, so that it does not end up in the landfill," Halamicek said. "Our goal is to provide the proper containers for everyone."

The Green Team and its goals originated with UHCL alumnus Ryan O'Connor, who encouraged the conscious efforts to provide the university with proper stations in which to dispose of recyclable materials.

"O'Connor did his thesis project on plastic recycling here at UHCL in the Bayou Building and presented his findings to the University Facilities Support Services Committee," Halamicek said. "The committee adopted a resolution to move forward to start the Green Team to help promote making UHCL a greener

**Green Team:** continued on page 6

## Officers promoted to command



Juan Loya: The Signal

A ceremony was held Oct. 7 to honor UHCL Police Department promotions. Pictured from left: Sergeant Lucio Leal, Lieutenant Paul Jones, Lieutenant Cory Mickens, Chief Paul Willingham, Detective Sergeant Allen Hill, Junior Officer Victor Ungar, Sergeant Clifford Douglas, Detective Kyle Pirtle.



THE SIGNAL

**Editor**  
Matt Griesmyer

**Assistant Editor**  
Christopher Curry

**Designers**  
Todd Blair  
Juan Loya

**Assistant Designers**  
Cody Anderson  
Grant Chesshir

**Webisode Videographer**  
Armand Shafaii

**Videographer**  
Daniel Benitez  
Frank Lemus

**Social Media Manager**  
Clare Kemp

**Reporters**  
Courtney Brodbeck  
Lesli Cokley  
Christine Crump  
Caroline Fry  
Ruth Garay  
Ashley Tobar  
Jeffry Tupa  
Vivian Volirakis

**Photographers/  
Broadcast Reporters**  
Justin Joseph  
Alison Schwamkrug  
Mary Ann Wangler

**Ad Manager/  
Production Assistant**  
Lindsay Humphrey

**Faculty Adviser**  
Taleen Washington

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.

**Address letters to:**  
The Signal  
UH-Clear Lake  
2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 456  
Houston, TX 77058

**Reach the staff:**  
Phone: 281-283-2570  
Fax: 281-283-2569  
E-mail: thesignal@uhcl.edu

**Visit the Web site:**  
www.uhclthesignal.com

**The Signal on Twitter:**  
www.twitter.com/UHCLTheSignal

**The Signal on Facebook:**  
www.facebook.com/UHCLTheSignal

**The Signal on YouTube:**  
www.youtube.com/TheSignalNews

**The Signal on Flickr:**  
www.flickr.com/thesignalnews

EDITORIAL

Today's students, tomorrow's alumni

What role does alumni play in a university?

Today's students are the future alumni for the University of Houston-Clear Lake. As they leave the hallowed halls of UHCL, what will they take with them?

Before walking across the stage to receive a diploma, students may look back and be proud to be counted as one of UHCL's alumni. The intimacy of a small classroom compared to a large auditorium filled with unfamiliar faces could be one experience that makes UHCL a great learning environment. The smaller classes put more emphasis on learning and hands-on experience.

Also, the ability to develop close relationships with professors may be both beneficial and rewarding when entering the professional world. At a larger university, it does not matter how many questions students ask in class, the professor may still not know their names. The student/professor interaction proves to be an invaluable networking asset and is a great way to get a personalized letter of recommendation.

At UHCL the student is more than a number on

an ID card, here the student is treated as a person with a face and a name, which brings a greater sense of community. Students do not get lost in the crowd, but are identified as individuals with uniquely designed majors.

These are experiences that prior students have taken with them. Although they are no longer at the university, as alumni they continue to play an important role in the life of UHCL.

Alumni may volunteer their time to provide career insights for students and assist in student recruitment. They represent the university world wide, reaching out to assist present students in their education through student financial assistance in the form of awards and fundraising.

Students may also start meeting alumni who can give them insight into their experiences as professionals, relate their struggles and accomplishments and help guide students in their career aspirations.

The spirit of UHCL continues to live on well after graduation day through the generosity and leadership of its alumni.

After graduation, students are automatically regognized as alumni of the university, however they can begin leaving their imprint at UHCL by becoming involved on campus.

Students create experiences outside of the classroom and practice it through participation in student organizations. Employers look for resumes that show an individual who is well-rounded and dedicated. Involvement in student organizations reveals an array of abilities that would attract employers.

One student organization on campus, Students Alumni Relations Team, allows students to serve as liaisons between alumni, administrators and the student body.

Since current students understand the difficulty of paying for tuition, fees,

books, and living expense during the college years, they can appreciate how this struggle continues to be experienced by the next generation of students. By being an active alumna or alumnus, a new generation can obtain the education they deserve through the donations made to the university.

It is about becoming

something bigger than one's self and continuing to maintain a long-standing relationship with an institution that students have dedicated so much effort and time to improve.

Students can have a sense of pride knowing that the legacy of the university will live on through their participation and dedication.



Rami Schindler: The Signal

COLUMN

Don't believe the hype, in reality we love them

Reality shows have become such a phenomenon that it seems like most shows on television today are reality shows. On CBS, ABC, NBC and FOX, there are a combined total of 28 reality shows airing on television this year. That doesn't even include the 800 plus cable channels where some of the most popular reality shows are housed, such as "Project Runway" and "The Next Food Network Star."

Reality shows began in the late 1980s and early 1990s when network television needed unscripted programming during the 1988 Writers Guild of America strike. "COPS" and "The Real World" are two of the reality shows that started during that time and are still on the air 20 seasons later.

Reality TV began to take off in the 2000s because of, yet again, another writer's strike in 2001. "Survivor" and "American Idol" became the top-rated series on television. Reality shows have become such a part of our culture, that in 2008 they made a category for the Emmy Awards for Outstanding Host for a Reality Show or Reality Competition.

And yet, no one openly

owns up to following this fairly new genre because of the stigma attached questioning the intelligence level of its followers. If no one admits to watching reality TV, why is it reality shows keep multiplying like rabbits?

I will openly admit that yes... I do love the reality shows!

I think the reason why people watch reality shows, even though they may not admit to it, is because they tap into the human psyche in ways that we don't like to admit. You have to admit

that the tryouts for "American Idol" are the best part of the entire show. It's like watching a train wreck; you can't look away. There is just something about watching dozens of people humiliate themselves on national television that compels us.

Contestants think they have a good voice when, in actuality, they sound worse than a cat throwing up a hairball. Human

nature can't help it. There is something about seeing people humiliate themselves, that makes us feel better about ourselves.

We can't help but feel superior when we watch trashy shows such as "A Shot at Love with



Christine Crump  
The Signal Staff

Tila Tequila" and "Rock of Love." The tacky contestants drink so much during the duration of the show that we love to see how idiotic they act. Watching these contestants acting a fool makes us feel a cut above.

There is also a competitive nature in all of us. So watching competition reality shows intrigue us because we want our favorite person to win, even if they are not the best. Take Taylor Hicks, for example, the winner of "American Idol" season five. He was not the best singer on the show, but people liked him so he got the most votes to win. What's he doing today? On the other

hand, Jennifer Hudson on season three of "American Idol" placed sixth out of the final 12. Since being voted off "American Idol," she has won an Academy Award for "Dreamgirls" and a Grammy award for best R&B album.

There is a part of us that likes to be voyeuristic. We love to see how people act behind closed doors. If we stood on the street corner with binoculars looking in someone's window, we would be arrested. Reality shows helps us legitimize voyeurism. Shows such as "Big Brother" and "The Real World" let us be "Peeping Toms" without seeming creepy or getting arrested.

We also have a fascination with celebrities, so we love to watch shows such as "Celebrity Rehab," "I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!" and "Dancing With The Stars." We love to see celebrities taken out of their "perfect" world and thrown into the "normal" world.

The reality is, even though we may not admit it, reality shows are a part of our culture. In 2004, more people voted for the winner of American Idol than voted for President.





## Degree Progress Report – DPR

**Coming Oct. 12, 2009  
in E-Services**

**DPR** will be available to:

- All graduates & teacher certificate seekers admitted in Fall 2006 or later

### Open Lab Sessions

will be available to assist on running and reading your DPR on the following dates:

<b>Tuesday, Oct. 13</b>	<b>4-5 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday, Oct. 19</b>	<b>4-5 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday, Oct. 26</b>	<b>4-5 p.m.</b>

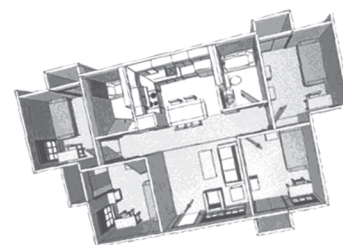
ALL sessions will be held in **B2132**

**"How To" guides available  
at [www.uhcl.edu/records](http://www.uhcl.edu/records)  
under Degree Progress Report section**



## UNIVERSITY FOREST APARTMENTS

*On-Campus Convenience with the benefits of Apartment-Style Living*



All three custom floor plans are designed exclusively for students' use:

- Efficiencies
- 2 bedroom/ 2 bath
- 4 bedroom/ 2 bath

Roommate Matching Program  
Individual Leases for Roommates  
Full-Service Kitchens

### TONS OF AMENITIES, INCLUDING:

- FREE INTERNET
- Poolside Wireless Internet
- Financial Aid Deferment
- Pool & Spa
- Clubhouse w/Big Screen TV
- 24 hr. On-call Staff & Maintenance
- Free Video, Movie & Board Game Checkout
- Free Photocopying & Faxing
- Social & Educational Programs
- Full-Service Laundry Facilities
- And Much, Much More...!

**Ask about our Free Rent Specials  
& Financial Aid Payment Plans!**

For more information, call (281) 286-5959  
or e-mail [uhcl@campushousing.com](mailto:uhcl@campushousing.com)

## JSC Federal Credit Union Wants



**University of Houston Clear Lake  
Students, Faculty and Staff**

**You are eligible for membership with**

9 Convenient Branch Locations

**JSC**  
Federal Credit Union  
[www.jscfcu.org](http://www.jscfcu.org)  
281.488.7070 800.940.0708

Clear Lake • League City • Ellington • Friendswood  
Galveston • Texas City • Mainland • Park Place • Bay Colony

Visit Our on-site ATM at UHCL

**Open A JSC FCU Checking Account Today & Get Free Checks!**

Get  
**FREE**  
Checks\*



Get  
**FREE**  
Checks\*

\*Coupon Good for 1 Free Box of Space Style Checks Only and is Redeemable at any JSC FCU Branch

**NATIONAL GUARD**  
**TEXAS STRONG! TEXAS PROUD!**  
[NATIONALGUARD.com](http://NATIONALGUARD.com)

# TURN LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL INTO LEADERSHIP SKILLS





# Grease paint: from car to canvas

**Justin Joseph**  
The Signal Staff

Artwork, Chevys, Fords, Dodges and vehicle makes of all kinds filled the boardwalk Oct. 3 at the Kemah Classic Car Show & Coastal Starving Artists Festival. The few clouds in the sky did not keep participants and patrons from missing out on beautiful cars and artistry.

Cars lined the boardwalk in symmetrical rows with their hoods opened to show off their chromed and polished engines. Some had their trunks opened as well to show off their engines, like Mickey Rose's 1973 Volkswagen Super Beetle, since the engines are located in the trunk area.

"The vehicle is made of about eight different vehicles including boat parts, motorcycle parts, but it's all safe," said David Karl, a graduate of University of Houston-Clear Lake regarding his 1929 Model A.

The participants at the car show spent countless hours getting their vehicles ready for the show. Some actually travel across the country to compete.

"We want everybody, all classes of cars. No car is too old or too new for our show," said Kim Woodard, president of the North Galveston County Chamber of Commerce who helped organize the event.

To participate in the event next year, contact Kim Woodard at 281-534-4380 or kwoodard@northgalvestoncountychamber.com. The event is open to everyone; participants can register in advance or just show up on the day of event to show off the work that was put into their vehicles or artwork.

RIGHT: 2007 Dodge Charger Daytona. Mark Scott, general manager of Mobil Steel, owns one of only 1,500 of the Chargers in this special edition sublime green. The wheels are aftermarket. Mark's brother, Mike, was also at the car show with his 1966 Pontiac Lemans.



Justin Joseph: The Signal

LEFT: Tony Cormier is the owner of a 1934 Ford Coupe. The vehicle is equipped with custom interior, custom leather seats with embroidery and custom wheels. This vehicle contains a Chevrolet Corvette engine.



Justin Joseph: The Signal

Michael Rodgers travels to competitions all over the United States to show his 2001 Chevrolet Corvette C5. The interior of the vehicle was completely redesigned by removing all leather and adding ostrich skin.



# Houston Streets paved with art

**Caroline Fry**  
The Signal Staff

With the Houston skyline as a backdrop, the 13th annual Bayou City Art Festival Downtown took place Oct. 10-11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., along the streets of Bagby, Walker and McKinney.

The outdoor art gallery is a family-friendly atmosphere that Art Colony Association, Inc. produces every year. The festival showcased more than 300 artists in 19 different media formats including photography, painting, furniture, glass and textiles.

“Bayou City Art Festival Downtown has earned national and international recognition,” said Susan Farb Morris, of Susan Farb Public Relations. “This year, the festival was ranked the number three art festival in the U.S. by AmericanStyle Magazine readers and ranked number 10 in the country by Sunshine Artist magazine. In addition, the festival has garnered gold, silver and bronze Pinnacle awards from the International Festivals & Events Association as well as top awards from the state-wide Texas Festivals & Events Association. This festival broke all records for artists’ applications with 850 artists from around the U.S. and Canada vying for 300 spots in the juried festival.”

The artists who showcase their work were chosen in a juried fine process. Out of the 300 artists chosen, 25 were from the Houston area. Many also came from out of state this year.

Local artist Amanda Jeffrey participated in the Bayou City Art Festival Downtown for the second time and was located at booth 211 this year. She is a textile designer and focuses her craft in hand-woven, hand-dyed fabrics including scarves

and other fashion accessories. Jeffrey is originally from Colombia but has resided in Friendswood since 1990.

“I apply to different shows around the country, but I love the Bayou City Art Festival,” Jeffrey said. “It is one of the best festivals I have participated in.”

Every year, an artist who displays unique and strong creative skills is selected by the panel of judges to be the featured artist; this year Kimber Fiebiger was selected. Fiebiger is a bronze sculptor from Minneapolis. She previously won first place at last year’s Bayou City Art Festival Downtown.

“I am so floored with being chosen as the featured artist,” Fiebiger said. “This is like, the high point of my career; I’m not used to it. I do bronze sculpting because I like to work really hard and with bronze, you couldn’t find a harder art medium; it’s challenging and fun.”

At this year’s festival, Fiebiger’s showcase featured her bronze-sculpted Humpty Dumptys and sculpted jesters. The Humpty Dumptys ranged in many different sizes and expressions.

“My inspiration for the humptys comes from my love of caricature; they’re silly,” Fiebiger said.

Fiebiger attends 10-15 shows and exhibitions throughout the year, but the Bayou City Art Festival Downtown remains to stand as one of her favorites.

“Bayou City Art Festival is one of the best,” Fiebiger said. “It is in the top 10 in the nation, but it is my best. I am well-received here.”

The festival encourages patrons to become involved in the experience and with this, events such as The Art Heist were available. The Art Heist was set up as a crime scene art grab presented by

Art Colony Association, Inc. and Texas Monthly. This event took place Oct. 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. and tickets, priced at \$35, had to be purchased separately from the main festival event.

“The Art Heist was limited to 200 tickets so that each person in attendance had a one-in-four chance of going home with a piece of art work,” Farb said. “Each person at The Art Heist was considered a ‘suspect.’ Fifty Bayou City Art Festival Downtown artists donated works for The Art Heist’s Art Grab.”

A creative zone, sponsored by Capital One Bank, was also available, free of charge, for children to explore their own creativity in art making. In the creative zone, local Non-Profit Partners sponsored separate art activities, and for every activity Art Colony Association, Inc. made a donation to each sponsor. Some of the sponsors and corresponding activities included the following: Art League of Houston, ECO-Wear, turning recycled materials into jewelry; Heritage Society, corn husk dolls; and MOCAH, mosaic frames.

Many other sponsors participated in the festival such as City of Houston and Houston Parks & Recreation Department, Budweiser, Houstonian Lite Health Club, Cadillac and KTRK-TV.

Vendors were also in attendance with samplings of free food and beverages. Cooking demonstrations were provided by Max’s Wine Dive, Arista, Le Mistral, Chez Roux, Essence and YO! Sushi. Other vendors, such as Sweet Leaf Tea, provided samplings of beverages.

“Sweet Leaf Tea is a Texas brand and we enjoy participating in local events that support our communities,” said Amanda Straudt, field marketing manager for Sweet Leaf Tea. “Our brand appeals to people

who are passionate about organic living and quality, healthy ingredients and we find many of these people are also passionate about arts and local culture. Bayou City Art Festival allows us to meet those people, give them a sample and tell them the Sweet Leaf story.”

Additionally, dance performances and multi-cultural musical entertainment from groups such as MECA mariachi were available for all patrons to enjoy.

More information for the Bayou City Art Festival Downtown can be found at [www.bayoucityartfestival.com](http://www.bayoucityartfestival.com). Information and details on the featured artist can be found at [www.joanofart.com](http://www.joanofart.com).



Caroline Fry:The Signal

“Big Guy” Humpty Dumpty, by featured artist Kimber Fiebiger.

# Prison turned museum unlocks the past

**Alison Schwamkrug**  
The Signal Staff

For the first time in her life, Annette Williams walked into the building her father worked in for 30 years. Tears filled Williams’ eyes as the sights and smell of the building filled her senses. Walking down the newly constructed hallways, Williams imagined she was walking alongside her father. At some point the stroll over-



Alison Schwamkrug:The Signal

Annette Williams, daughter of former warden James Paul, sits in what used to be the solitary confinement room.

whelmed Williams, making her dizzy and unable to catch her breath.

Constructed in 1939, the building that now houses the Houston Museum of Natural Science in Sugarland was used as a prison to many first-time felons. After several months of renovating, the city of Houston has brought the building back to life.

“I lived less than 200 yards away and never set foot in this place,” said Annette Williams, daughter of retired warden James Paul, who is now deceased. “I could watch the prisoners from my house hold boxing tournaments in the yard, but I was never allowed inside the prison since I was a girl. Walking inside here for the first time made me break down in tears. I had to sit down and catch my breath. I really feel honored to be here, but I have a few mixed emotions.”

The Houston Museum of Natural Science’s Sugarland branch opened its doors for the first time Oct. 3. The former prison that once confined men away from the world is now unleashing history for men and their families to come explore. Instead of housing inmates, the building now introduces a whole new world to all who enter.

“This building is being preserved and that is what I am thankful for,” Williams said. “I think my dad would be very proud.”

The main unit housed mostly African-American inmates distributed among nine wards called “tanks,” which were located on the first and second floors of the structure. From 1939 to 1968 the prison housed approximately 400 prisoners at a

time in these tanks. They were labor prisoners who worked in cotton fields around the city.

“All the architecture sort of speaks of its history,” said Carolyn Summers, vice president for astronomy and physical sciences of HMNS. “All the bricks, concrete and floors were poured by prisoners. It is a prisoner-constructed building.”

Even though the building would not be used as a prison any longer, the city did not want to tear it down.

“The city of Houston wanted a cultural facility,” Summers said. “Telfair community gave the building to Sugarland and Sugarland renovated it, then we moved in.”

The city of Sugarland has grown and developed drastically since the early 2000s.

“This is another indication of growth for the Sugarland area,” said Richard Bush, museum visitor. “If you were to come to Sugarland 20-30 years ago it would have been a bunch of fields and a rundown highway. I think it is a fantastic addition to the Sugarland area. For those who are museum buffs, if you are in to animals, meteorites or gems, this is the place to go.”

The museum’s location is nestled in the middle of Sugarland, making it a convenient location for area residents.

“We live very close; we can basically walk here,” said Ling Li, museum visitor and mother of two. “The convenience of the location makes it so much easier for the kids to come here and learn. They look around and they ask questions to learn all different stuff and we love it. Our favorite exhibit is the planetarium because we like to search for the tiny frogs.”

The museum holds many exhibits such

as the planetarium, dinosaur fossils and traveling exhibits. Currently a traveling exhibit called “Narnia” is on display. Based on the film series and C.S. Lewis fictional books, “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Exhibition” allows visitors to tour the scenes of the literary world of Narnia.

“We picked for this museum some of the most fun exhibits,” Summers said. “The frogs are very, very popular because they are hiding in all different places. The science on a sphere is unique to this building. The sphere changes from the blue marble of earth to the different conditions on earth to Jupiter and to Mars. The planetarium, even though it is a miniature, is still true to the experience of being immersed in the dome.”

Future plans for the museum include expanding the building size for upcoming exhibits. The planetarium will be expanded in February when the traveling exhibit “Narnia” leaves.

Even after exploring the exhibits, Williams confessed that although she was proud the prison had been converted to a museum, she was too overwhelmed by emotions to appreciate the current artifacts.

“I don’t think we care enough about the history of Sugarland so this I am proud of; I am extremely happy it is a museum. Although,” Williams said with a laugh, “I haven’t seen it yet.”

Revisiting the museum brings her closer to a past she was never able to explore as a girl. Although some people see dinosaurs and fossils when they visit, Williams still sees apparitions of her father and the prisoners that made the building historic.



Open House: continued from page 1

and they know what they are doing. I got to talk first hand to all the advisors out here. These are actual professors here and it sounds like they know exactly what I can do here to get my degree. I feel like I am already a student here and I am planning to come fall 2010.”

Open House, held in the fall and spring semesters, brings the most students to campus on a single day. Other recruitment efforts at UHCL include year-round campus tours and admission previews on campus.

“On a regular basis, we have a presence at the community college by sending enrollment counselors and transfer advisers to go out there on a regular basis,” Bendeck said. “We participate in all the TACRAO events [Texas Association of Collegiate Registrar and Admissions Office].”

The enrollment management of UHCL also makes personal contact and follows up on people who visit UHCL Web site.

“Even if the Web is a vehicle to do all your business, ultimately it is the personal relationship in how a prospective student feels that will make the difference on whether or not they feel that this is a good fit for them,” Bendeck said.

Some of the participants at Open House included TRiO groups and dual enrollment/early college students from local high schools and community colleges.

“TRiO is an outreach program at the community college for students who are in need of extra help, usually first-generation college students,” said Lori Lopez, special events coordinator in the Office of Admission. “We are trying to invite those prospective students to show that we also offer the same support services.”

UHCL has three students at UHCL from the dual enrollment/early college program this year. One of them is entering as young as 17 years old.

“We did actively peruse the early college high schools,” Bendeck said. “There are a segment of early college high schools’ prospective students that are coming to campus. We have admitted this fall our first early college high school student into our campus.”

The Open House had a big turnout the day before the event there were about 850 RSVPs; Lopez said it was “definitely the highest it has ever been.”

“Well, I thought that I got a good work out, thought I lost a couple pounds, you know, because the classes are so far apart,” said Jasmin Ferguson, a student from Victory Early College High School. “It was very educational, if you sit and listen. They are really talking about some deep stuff.”

UHCL enrollment is up 0.2 percent in headcount and up 2 percent in student credit hours for this fall.

“The headcount is relatively flat, but the hours went up,” Bendeck said. “Our mix is 56 percent undergraduate and 44 percent graduate students, which is not the norm in a lot of institutions. So, you get to experience the fact that you are connected more; you have the opportunity to interact with more graduate students outside the classroom.”

Because UHCL is an upper level university, undergraduates complete their junior and senior years here, which is about 60 hours as opposed to 120 hours at other institutions.

“When we recruit, we know that we are going to get our transfer students basically from the community colleges,” Bendeck said. “But with graduate students, it’s a little bit different because it requires a far more intensive reaching out.”



Jeffry Tupa: The Signal

Dominique Dawson, Brittany Burnett and Jasmin Ferguson attended UHCL's Open House from Victory Early College High School.

Breast Cancer: continued from page 1

are several warning signs and preventative actions women can take to protect themselves.

The first step in the fight against breast cancer is to have a general understanding of the factors that may increase the risk. Preventative actions include living a healthy lifestyle, visiting the doctor for regular screening and self-examination. A staggering 70 percent of all varieties of breast cancers are discovered through self-examinations.

Although one in eight women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer during a woman’s lifetime, new technology and modern screening tests can detect signs of breast cancer while it is still in the earliest stages and most treatable.

With communities across the nation reaching out, devoting and donating, the strong financial support provides more funds for research and is leading us closer to a cure every year. Many people reach out by purchasing pink products that benefit breast

cancer foundations or by joining the fight by walking in a breast cancer walk.

The Houston Affiliate of Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure foundation ranks number one in the entire U.S. This year alone, the Houston chapter has donated more than \$3 million for community education, screening and treatment grants in the community. Each year, the UHCL Sisterhood joins the fight by participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

“This year we had 27 team members from the Sisterhood participating in the Komen walk,” said Julie Smith, coordinator of women’s and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) services. “We have raised \$2,263 for breast cancer research so far this year, which is well past our \$1,000 goal.”

At UHCL there have been many staff and faculty members who have battled breast cancer. Every October the Career and Counseling Center at UHCL

features a booth in the Student Center to reach out and spread awareness. The booth has also developed an annual tradition to display hearts that signify fighters and survivors of breast cancer. Anyone whose life has been touched by breast cancer can write the name of a family member or loved one on a paper heart and post it on the display to signify their memory.

“Every year since 1995 we have done a breast cancer awareness display where people on campus can write names on hearts in memory of loved ones who have gone through breast cancer,” Brown said. “We have actually saved the hearts from previous years, we didn’t want to discard people’s precious memories of their loved ones.”

To honor breast cancer awareness on campus, Oct. 22 is Think Pink Day.

“We ask that everyone who comes to campus that day to wear pink in honor of breast cancer,” Smith said.

Mayor Forum: continued from page 1

District E, many of the issues that effect the area residents can have a profound impact on the school as well.

Issues that were addressed at the forum included recycling, pollution, street repair, flooding and traffic.

One issue that is constant in the Clear Lake area is that of flooding.

The UHCL campus sits on a major waterway that feeds directly into Clear Lake, just over half a mile to the northeast of the Student Services and Classroom building

All mayoral candidates were well aware of the flooding concerns swimming in residents’ and students’ heads.

“The only way to deal with drainage is to do a watershed by watershed analysis, create a prioritized list of projects to alleviate the problems and work our way through that project plan,” Parker said.

**“I am highly opposed to separating. Kingwood and Clear Lake need to be in one district.”**

**- Mike Sullivan**  
Houston City Council

Brown was in favor of multipurpose green space in golf courses and parks to serve as drainage and retention areas.

Another issue that was a topic of concern was that of redistricting.

UHCL sits within District E; an area that ranges from FM 528 along the Southern border, to as far north as Kingwood – an area ranging nearly 40 miles, north to south. When it comes to issues regarding the residents of these areas, priorities can be vastly different.

For example, flooding in the South Houston, South Belt and

Clear Lake areas is a much more prevalent issue than it is with the northern areas of district E. This difference can cause certain problems and priorities to be overlooked in order to benefit the district as a whole.

“Neither Kingwood nor Clear Lake can stand on their own,” Garrison said.

Garrison continued to explain that in order for the Clear Lake or Kingwood areas to stand on their own, there is a minimum required constituent population that must be reached. Both areas lack the sufficient population, and must be joined with surrounding districts during redistricting.

Any redistricting will take place after the 2010 census, and laws must be followed in order to prevent discrimination. All candidates acknowledged that redistricting and separation of Kingwood from the South Houston area will probably happen, and it will not be a friendly process.

Redistricting is important to all candidates, including Sullivan. “I am highly opposed to separating,” Sullivan said. “Kingwood and Clear Lake need to be in one district.”

Sullivan is concerned about the districts that Clear Lake, including UHCL, and surrounding areas will be connected with if ties to Kingwood are severed. If the areas along Clear Lake are connected with another district, Sullivan believes that the resources for Clear Lake projects will be at risk.

Students must register to vote within the precinct of residence. For more information on where and how to vote within the area, visit <http://www.votexas.com> or call the Texas Secretary of State’s office, elections division at 1-800-252-8683.

Green Team: continued from page 1

campus. We want to educate our UHCL family about what can be recycled and what cannot.”

“We are currently working on an agreement with Allied Waste Republic Services to provide UHCL with the recycle containers and pick up services,” said Derrell Means, facilities management and construction: director ground/custodial. “With the start up of this program, one will no longer be required to search for a specific recycle container such a plastic only, aluminum only or paper only. The three recyclables can be mixed in any one container without having to be sorted.”

The UHCL Green Team is hosting an event, Texas Recycles Day, which is normally celebrated Nov. 15. Because Nov. 15 falls on a Sunday, the Green Team is making plans to celebrate Nov. 16.

“We look forward to working with the university community in supporting our recycling cause,” Means said.

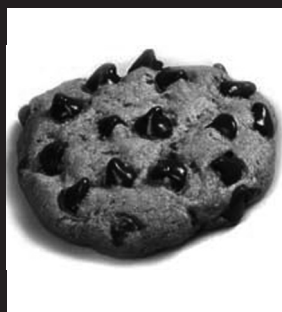
Halamicek summarized that among other activities and information, the Green Team hopes to make students aware of the possible change in recycling stations around the university. Recycling containers around campus will soon be altered to allow various types of recyclables, making it easier for students to do their part.

To find out more about the how to join the Green Team, what you can do to help, or simply more about recycling services at UHCL, contact Sue Halamicek at 281-283-3948 or [halamicek@UHCL.edu](mailto:halamicek@UHCL.edu).

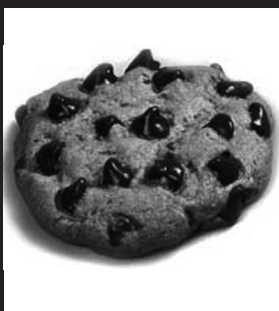


# Take A Break

**Take a mid-term break  
Oct. 13, 5-7 p.m.  
in the  
Bayou Building, Atrium I**



**Oct. 14, 5-7 p.m.  
in the  
Delta Building lobby**



**Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m.  
in the  
Student Services/  
Classroom Building lobby**

**Stop by on your way to or from class and meet  
Dr. Anthony Jenkins, Dean of Students.**

**Cookies, coffee and punch will be served.**

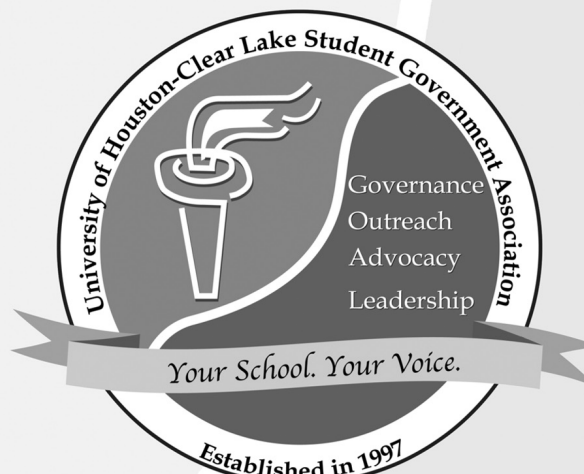
## \*\* Student Life \*\*

### Student Government Association

**Come see your Student Government  
in action on SGA Day!**

**All students and faculty welcome  
to attend this and all SGA meetings**

**Tuesday, October 20  
11:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Located in Atrium II**



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

For Details Contact The SGA Executive Council:

**Your School. Your Voice.  
Boldly Serving the Student Body.**

Patrick Cardenas – President  
Steven Steiner – VP Committee Coordinator  
Amanda Schoolcraft – VP Outreach & Communications  
Chris Greenfield – VP Administration

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

### The Tournées Festival

a program of FACE

New French  
Films  
on Campus

The program is made possible with the generous support of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Centre National de la Cinématographie, the Grand Marnier Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, highbrow entertainment and the Franco-American Cultural Fund (Directors Guild of America, Motion Picture Association, SACEM & Writers Guild of America).

Admission is \$3.75 unless noted.  
Festival pass is \$15.

More information is available at  
[www.uhcl.edu/movies/tourneesfestival](http://www.uhcl.edu/movies/tourneesfestival)  
or 281-283-2560.

#### ALL FILMS ARE IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**A Taste of French**  
Prior to each film, a mini French lesson will be sponsored by  
UHCL Foreign Language Program. [www.uhcl.edu/fl](http://www.uhcl.edu/fl)

University of Houston Clear Lake  
**Film & Speaker**  
SERIES  
[www.uhcl.edu/movies](http://www.uhcl.edu/movies)

University of Houston Clear Lake  
**CULTURALarts**  
[www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts](http://www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts)

additional sponsorship provided by:  
**TRAVEL LEADERS®**  
and their vendors



Music Box Films

Friday, Oct. 23/Bayou Theater/8 p.m.  
**NE LE DIS A PERSONNE/Tell No One**  
FREE w/UHCL ID  
Francois Cluzet stars in this French thriller from director Guillaume Canet. Eight years after the heinous murder of his wife, doctor Alex Beck receives an ominous email from an unknown source. The message contains a video image of Alex's thought-to-be dead wife in real time.



IDP Distribution

Sunday, Oct. 25/SSB Lecture Hall/3 p.m.  
**ROMAN DE GARE**



Strand Releasing

Sunday, Nov. 8/SSB Lecture Hall/3 p.m.  
**UN SECRET/A Secret**



Film Movement

Saturday, Nov. 14/SSB Lecture Hall/7 p.m.  
**LE FILS DE L'ÉPICIER/The Grocer's Son**



Sony Pictures Classics

Saturday, Nov. 21/SSB Lecture Hall/7 p.m.  
**ENTRE LES MURS/The Class**

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

University of Houston Clear Lake  
**CULTURALarts**  
[www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts](http://www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts)  
**SEASON 11**



### Micheal Harrison

**Friday, Nov. 6/7:30 p.m./Bayou Theater**  
Michael Harrison is an extraordinarily talented ventriloquist, puppeteer and comedian. He has worked alongside numerous acts from The Muppets to Boyz to Men. You may also recognize him from his appearance on the television show, "America's Got Talent." This is a show the whole family can enjoy! Complimentary reception will be held after the concert.

Presale \$10 General Admission \$6 with UHCL I.D.  
At the door \$12 General Admission \$8 with UHCL I.D.



## UHCL reaches 50,000 alumni mark

**Chris Curry**  
The Signal Staff

A milestone has been reached for the University of Houston-Clear Lake. This year UHCL will reach and exceed 50,000 alumni, which is nearly equal to the population of League City.

The main goal of the Alumni Association is to develop opportunities for graduating students to stay active and interested in campus activities.

As with any university, the number of scholarships and programs offered is dependant, in part, upon alumni and community donations. With the new theme of “50 Grand,” UHCL hopes to spark renewed interest in the campus that succeeds graduations.

A celebration event will be held at the South Shore Harbour Resort Saturday to recognize distinguished alumni as well as reflect upon the history of UHCL and the many students who have attended since the first classes opened in 1974.

Two distinguished alumni will be honored for their outstanding public achievements.

Richard H. Anderson, CEO of Delta Air Lines, graduated from UHCL in 1977 with a bachelor of science in American jurisprudence. He also holds a juris doctor degree from South Texas College of Law.

Anderson has worked in aviation for nearly 20 years and has held several high-level staff positions in the airline industry.

Christopher J. Culbert, manager for the Lunar Surface Systems



Richard H. Anderson (left), CEO of Delta Air Lines, and Christopher J. Culbert (right), Lunar Surface Systems project manager, NASA JSC, will be honored as the 2009 Distinguished UHCL Alumni.



Project Office, works with the Constellation Program at NASA’s Johnson Space Center and is responsible for development of all the systems that will enable humans to establish a habitable outpost on the Moon after 2020. Culbert received his master of science degree in physical sciences from UHCL in 1986.

“UHCL has a large number of notable graduates so this kind of honor is something I would never have anticipated,” Culbert said. “The best advice I can give new graduates is to never lose your passion for doing things better, doing things right or just plain doing things. If you want to change the world, you have to be involved.”

Other honors include the early achievement award recipient Corey J. Wilson, assistant professor of chemical engineering at Yale University, and two outstanding

professors: Caroline M. Crawford, associate professor of instructional technology, and Gretchen Mieszkowski, retired professor of literature.

Instead of recognizing only the newly graduated alumni, this celebration will be different. All 50,000 alumni will be honored for their achievements since graduating from UHCL.

“We hope that the faculty, staff, students and alumni will join us as we celebrate the paths and life journeys of all 50,000 UHCL alumni,” said Charity Ellis, director of alumni and community relations. “This event is about recognizing and celebrating everyone and all their different paths, the artists, astronauts, teachers, social workers and everyone who has graduated in our 35-year history.”

The deadline to get tickets for the Oct. 17 event has already passed;

however, other events have been planned throughout this semester to celebrate surpassing the 50,000 alumni mark including the Summer and Fall 2009 Commencement Kick-Off Dec. 18 and the New Year’s Star Party Jan. 14, 2010.

All graduates of UHCL are automatically members of the Alumni Association and are eligible to receive benefits such as a free subscription to university Egret magazine and alumni eConnections newsletter, free career counseling and career services, free computer training classes, 10 percent discounts on advanced management and foreign language programs and student discount rates for all UHCL performances and events.

Each year the Alumni Association holds a fund drive where alumni may donate funds to support any program or scholarship of their choice .

Alumni have an option to become lifetime members by donating \$500 to the UHCL Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment, which grants free parking on campus, full access to the Alfred R. Neumann Library and free use of computer labs in addition to basic alumni benefits.

### CampusCalendar

**Oct. 13**  
Midterm Madness  
3 - 7 p.m., Alumni Plaza

**Oct. 14**  
Voices of Colour speaker:  
Jenifer Rene Pool,  
transgender activist  
noon - 1 p.m., Bayou  
Garden Room

Midterm Madness  
3 - 7 p.m., Atrium 1

**Oct. 20**  
Writing Center : Rhet Fest  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**October is breast  
cancer awareness  
month.**



**Car extravaganza on campus.**

Check out the full story online at:  
**[www.uhclthesignal.com](http://www.uhclthesignal.com)**

## Reading poetry brings art to life

**Ruth Garay**  
The Signal Staff

How do I love rhythmic words, let me count the ways. Students, faculty and the surrounding community gather to recite and experience the living art that is poetry.

The school of Human Sciences and Humanities is hosting a poetry series at Cappuccino Bono, Oct. 13 and Nov. 18, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

The poetry reading is a joint venture of John Gorman, professor of literature, Arch Erich, associate professor of social work, and Shreerekha Subramanian, assistant professor of humanities.

The first readings, held in October 2008, were launched to provide a way for the UHCL campus and community to heal and celebrate the survival of Hurricane Ike.

“Poems light up the world in particular ways, and a barrage of poems is a sort of reality fireworks,” Gorman said. “Students, faculty and staff, people from the community too, meet each other as equals. Poetry is democratic, despite a false reputation for elitism. Verbal art is art. It’s always useful to be in the presence of well-made objects.”

The sessions give students, faculty and the community an opportunity to gather together and recite their own or other people’s poetry.

“People get hesitant, wary and very scared when they hear the word poetry, especially in class when



Shreerekha Subramanian, assistant professor of humanities.

you study in literature,” Subramanian said. “They have had a gruesome experience in school where analyzing a poem becomes a mathematical task. Tell me the meaning; well you didn’t get it, so you are failing, which is a very negative way to come to poetry. I think poetry is mystical, spiritual or a psychological kind of realm. So there’s a lot in it that is very inspiring and ambiguous. My idea is to celebrate all that

and let people to come into that without fear.”

Subramanian has received calls from nursing homes, high schools and community colleges expressing their interest in participating in the series.

“The last reading of the semester was very moving because I had a gentleman who said that he’s not a poet, but he’s become a poet because he fell in love and he serenaded this woman,” Subramanian said. “He read a poem and she was there and it was just a fine ending.”

As the word is spread, more people are coming to experience the art of poetry and four more sessions are planned in the spring semester; dates to be announced.

“If we have our wits about us, the series will run forever,” Gorman said.

Right now, community members without a UHCL parking permit must park in the public parking lot and pay a \$5 fee. Subramanian would like to provide the public with tokens for parking, but has not yet figured out the logistics on how to implement this.

For more information on participation in the poetry readings, contact Subramanian at 281-283-3430.

## WANTED PIPER AWARD NOMINEES

**The UHCL Piper Award Committee, composed of an equal number of students and faculty, is selecting one professor to be honored for Excellence in Teaching. This professor will then represent the university in competition for the 2009 Minnie Stevens Piper Award, a prestigious and valuable teaching prize.**

**If you would like to honor an outstanding professor, fill out a nomination form and share that information with us. 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 the Bayou Building, Delta Building, Arbor Building, and the Office of the Dean of Students in the Student Services and Classroom Building.**

**Nomination forms are due by:  
NOON, OCT. 14, 2009**