

R the signal ELAY

Analyzing social media:
Can what you say
online affect what
job you get?

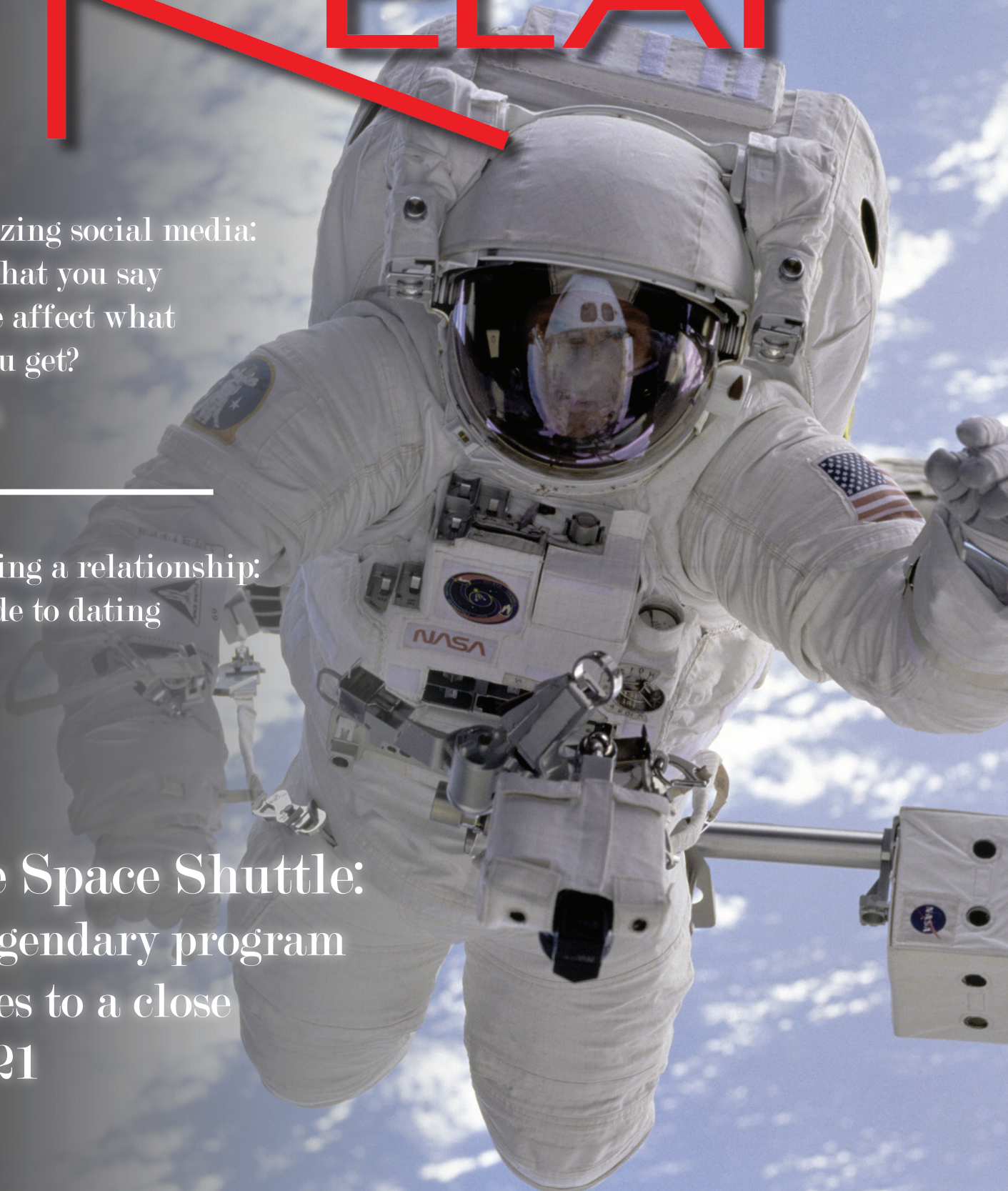
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A guide to dating

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We ARE IISS: We make a global



Diversity
Impact
Family
Friendship
Education
Respect
Empowerment
Network
Culture
Ethical Leadership



Intercultural & International Student Services

Fall events

Warm-Up Activities
G.P.S. Workshops
International Orientation
Welcome Back Dance
Salsa y Salud
Hispanic Heritage Month
Love Your Body Day
Dia de Muertos
Global Expo
National Coming Out Day
Native American Heritage Month

G.P.S. Peer Mentoring
G.P.S. Workshops
International Orientation
Stalking Awareness Month
Black History Month
Vagina Monologues/VDAY
Women's History Month
Cultural Extravaganza
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
National Day of Silence
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
LGBT Pride

Spring events



Editor's Note

Dear readers,

It has truly been an honor to serve as editor of this particular issue of The Signal Relay. The staff devoted a generous amount of time to the production of the magazine. Like previous issues, we focused on topics that the students of University of Houston – Clear Lake could find relatable.

This semester, two very important things are happening within close proximity to us. First, NASA - Johnson Space Center celebrated its golden anniversary; with 50 years of human space flight. Simultaneously, the 30-year-era of the space shuttle came to an end. Secondly, students sat back and awaited news that our very own university had been approved for downward expansion; making UHCL a four-year college at some point in the not-so-distant future.

It is my hope that you will read and enjoy this magazine. Also, please know that your feedback is invaluable. Let your voice be heard by contacting the newsroom if you have suggestions on how we can approve the magazine made for students, by students.

Here's to a great issue and wonderful semester,

Lakeisha Moore
Editor-in-Chief



OUR COVER



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

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The Signal Relay 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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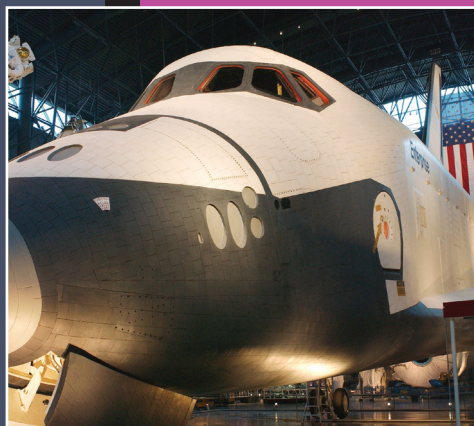
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Scan the QR code to visit The Signal Relay online and read past issues.



Online

Special Section

Everything is BIGGER in Texas

By Lakeisha Moore

It is often said that everything is BIGGER in Texas, one of the nation's largest states second only to Alaska. Texans are known for their larger-than-life attitude. In the Lone Star State, one can find big homes, big cars, big trucks, big hair and big food. That's right, big Texas-sized food.

Imagine feasting your eyes on a 42-inch pizza, or sinking your teeth into a 3-pound cinnamon roll. If doughnuts are your preferred choice for breakfast, picture a doughnut large enough to feed a family of four. These beautifully crafted, rare finds can be found in no place other than the Lone Star State. Of course, what also are big are the calories.

LuLu's Bakery

918 North Main

San Antonio, TX 78212

These "big" Texas culinary trademarks are what brought Adam Richman, host of the Food Channel's "Man v. Food," to San Antonio and LuLu's Bakery. Not one to fear a challenge, Richman took on Lulu's famous 3-pound cinnamon roll and its 48-ounce chicken fried steak. Neither is for the faint of heart.

Although the name conjures up images of sweets and pastries, Lulu's Bakery has turned into a world famous café. Tourists to the popular southeast San Antonio establishment swarm upon the cinnamon roll and chicken fried steak much like the Mexican Army surrounded the iconic Alamo.



LuLu's Bakery

Like the Mexicans in 1836, the cinnamon roll and chicken fried steak usually win.

Lulu's Bakery, which has been serving up Texas grub for more than 10 years, is not known for its décor or prime location. Sitting on the corner of N. Main Ave and E. Elucid Ave, the café could easily be bypassed by wanderers unfamiliar with its location. However, when customers walk through the double glass doors, it immediately becomes evident that the bakery invests its revenue in creating delectable dishes instead of aiming for esthetic glitz and glamour. Lulu's Bakery is a popular hangout for locals and tourists alike. With a cozy at-home setting, the café is sure to make you feel like you are sitting at mama's dinner table.

The tables at Lulu's are ample sized. They have to be to accommodate the extra plate needed for any side dishes. The chicken fried steak – a tenderized cube steak covered in seasoned flour and fried – is smothered in gravy. Needless to say, the steak takes up an entire plate and usually drapes over the side. The plate doesn't fit the steak and by the end of the meal, the waistline and pants don't fit either. Traditional side dishes to go with the chicken fried steak, as if any sides are needed, include mashed potatoes drenched in the same gravy that covers the steak.

Adam Richman isn't the only "celebrity" to take a stab at the chicken fried steak and cinnamon roll.

"Many celebrities have come to dine at LuLu's," said General Manager Viviano Ballino. One of the most recent celebrity victims to the chicken fried steak was former NBA star Shaquille O'Neal. The retired 7-foot-1, 325-pound center ate the whole thing.

Although the likes of heavy weights like O'Neal, who grew up in San Antonio, are lured to Lulu's by the chicken fried steak, the baked fresh daily, melt-in-your mouth cinnamon roll is the true gem of the establishment.

"When customers see our cinnamon rolls they are amazed by the size," Bellino says. "However, most are even more surprised after biting into the warm, gooey and fresh pastry. Everyone leaves happy."

The size of the cinnamon roll and chicken fried steak is not intimidating when you know you can share it with someone or others. Many who order the chicken fried steak do so knowing they are going to split the savory meal.

For Florida native Prince Gammage, finishing the chicken fried steak by himself was challenging – but not

impossible.

"I struggled with finishing the massive steak on my own, however, I was determined to do so," Gammage, an engineer said after devouring the steak. "After watching Adam from Man v. Food tear into the steak, I knew that I had to finish it. Adam is not a native Texan; I thought that if he could do it, then I could, too."

Finishing the steak at Lulu's wasn't his only mission. Gammage made plans to return a second day to take on the challenge of finishing the mouth-watering cinnamon roll.

"Given the size of the cinnamon roll, I thought for sure that it would aim for magnitude and lack quality in taste," Gammage said. "Boy was I mistaken. That thing was HUGE! It also was the BEST cinnamon roll I've ever tasted."

Not only is the food at Lulu's Bakery Texas-sized, it is equally delicious. The next time you are road-tripping it to south-central Texas with friends or stuck in the car for hours on end with family, make a pit stop in San Antonio to check it out for yourself.

Big Lou's Pizza

2048 South WW White Road
San Antonio, TX 78222

Less than ten miles away from Lulu's Bakery, you will find a thriving family-owned and operated pizzeria established in 2000. Big Lou's Pizza puts the BIG in the saying 'Everything is bigger in Texas.' Known worldwide for their 42-inch pizza, the Lujan family proved to Adam Richman, and the rest of the world, that large food is a science; the family has the perfect equation for BIG, BOLD, and DELICIOUS pizza.

The colossal 42-inch pie weighs about 30-pounds. Its

height and weight is equivalent to that of a four-year-old child. No single person has been able to eat the entire pizza in one sitting to date.

Big Lou's Pizza opens for business at 11 a.m., Monday through Saturday and noon on Sunday. However, employees begin formulating the perfect equation for the work-famous pizza at 1 a.m., daily. Pizzas are made from scratch using homemade ingredients. Each pie is hand crafted; no two pizzas are the same.

A vinyl banner displayed on the restaurant's exterior cautions customers of the wait, an estimated one to two hours on normal business days. Wait times on Saturday and Sunday may be even longer. OK, so let's step back for a moment of honesty here – in a society where most expect instantaneous results, is the gargantuan pie really worth the wait?

University of Houston-Clear Lake student, Whitney Randall, said, "The wait was CRAZY because Big Lou's is so popular. We waited two hours for the pizza."

After waiting two whole hours on a Saturday, mid-day, Randall and four other friends sat down in anticipation of what was on its way. Forty-five minutes later in the 42-inch Texas-sized pizza was placed in front of them. It covered the entire table.

Each of them reached in for a 24-inch slice of the pizza.

"The pizza was seriously massive! A single slice covered two plates," Randall said. Her eyes rolled to the back of her head when asked about the taste. "It was definitely not like other commercial pizzas. The pizza dough literally melted in my mouth and the cheese was O-M-G (oh my gosh) delicious."

Five college girls took the Big Lou's Challenge. The final score was 5-0. The pizza won by a landslide. ■



Three-pound cinnamon roll



42-inch pizza



Big Lou's Pizza

Like Spanish explorer and cartographer Alonso Alvarez de Pineda, you too can make your own map of Texas, highlighting super Texas-sized culinary creations. Unique over-sized eats can be found all across the Lone Star state.

If culinary crusades spark your interest, consider adding the following places to your list of restaurants with enormous eats:

Round Rock Donuts

106 W. Liberty
Round Rock, TX
512.255.3629
Texas-sized dish: The world famous 2 pound, yeast-risen donut.

Mel's Country Café

24814 Stanolind Road
Tomball, TX
281.255.6357
Texas-sized dish: The Mega Mel Burger - 1.5 pounds of fresh ground beef, 1 pound of bacon, and a .25 pound slice of American cheese piled high with toppings.

Kenny & Ziggy's Deli

2372 Post Oak Blvd
Houston, TX
713.871.8883
Texas-sized dish: The Zellagabetsky – eight-decker sandwich on special cut rye, corned beef, pastrami, turkey, roast beef, salami, tongue & Swiss cheese with cole slaw, Russian dressing and sweet red pepper.

Big Texan

7701 W Interstate 40
Amarillo, TX
806.372.6000
Texas-sized dish: A 72 oz. steak served with bread roll and butter, potatoes, ranch beans, shrimp cocktail and a salad.

Cowtown Diner

305 Main Street
Fort Worth, TX
817.332.9555
Texas-sized dish: A 64 oz. chicken fried steak served with mashed potatoes and Texas toast.
*Reservations are required.

Kelley's Country Cooking

4604 Gulf Freeway
La Marque, Texas
409.935.3131
Texas-sized dish: The Kelley Texas-sized baked potato – a 7-pound spud loaded with cheese, butter, sour cream, chives, bacon and your meat of choice.



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The Signal Relay
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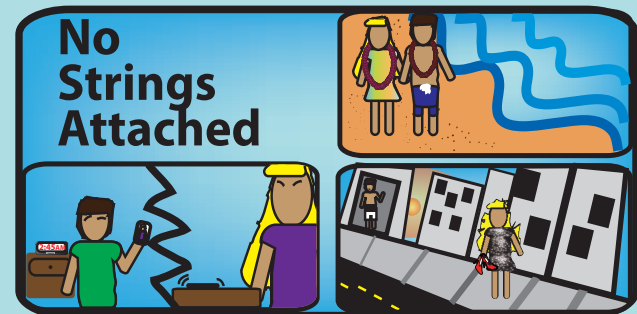
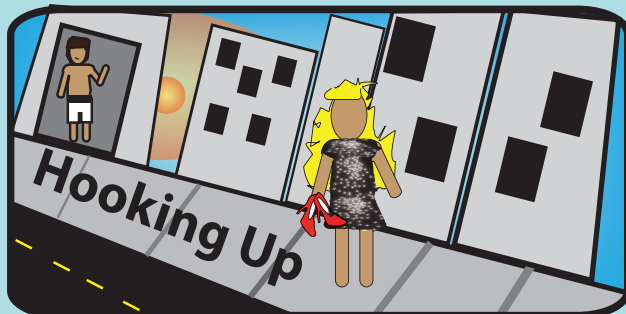
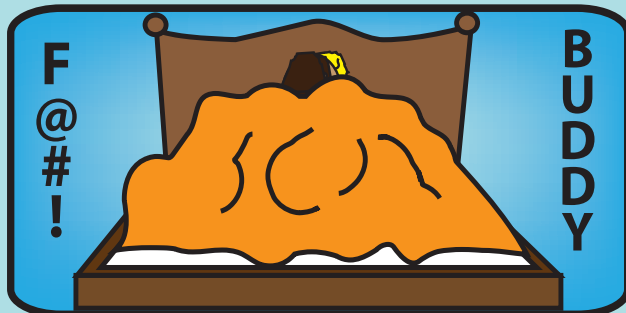
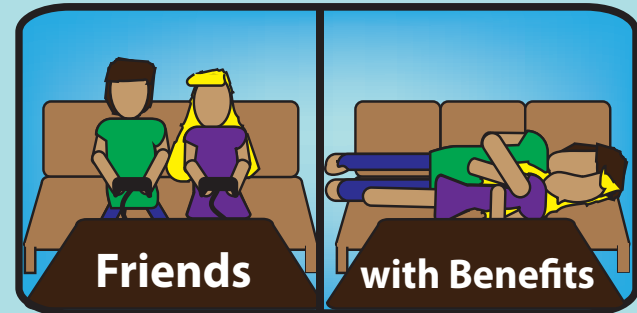
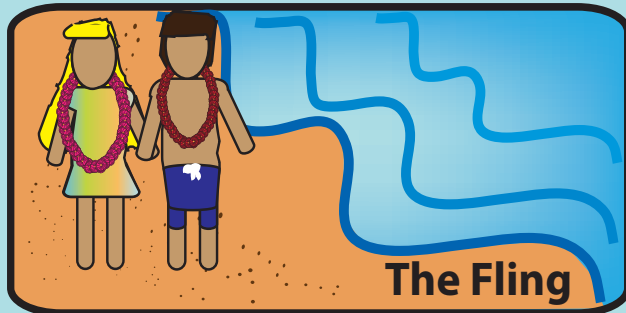
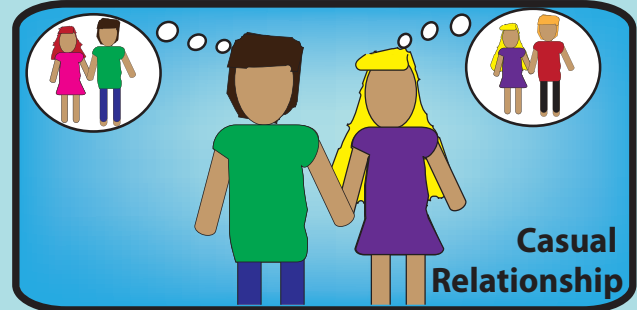
Summer and Semester Break

Mon - Thu: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Fri: 8:00 am - noon



A guide to dating in the 21st century



Cut along dotted line for a handy on-the-go guide

A Brief Encyclopedia of Modern Relationships

By Darby Staup

There seems to be a strange trend occurring in chick flicks these days: “No Strings Attached,” “Love & Other Drugs,” “500 Days of Summer” and “Friends with Benefits” all have to do with “modern” relationships, but what is a modern relationship really? We have so many different terms to describe exactly what we are or aren’t doing with a certain someone, and keeping up with all of it is exhausting. But never fear... the code has been cracked.

Listed in alphabetical order below are the 10 most commonly used relationship terms, a definition guide explaining what exactly each term really means, and tips on how to navigate through some of the less-favorable terms. Consider this your new neutral third-party BFF.

The Booty Call

You know that guy who only calls or texts asking to see you after midnight? You’re his booty call.

A booty call is when a guy (or girl) calls, texts or IMs a hookup partner with the intention of having sex. Booty calls do not usually hang out with each other outside of the late night interaction. In other words, there’s no dating involved because you actually never go out on a date. Usually guys make a booty call if they were not able to find someone to hook up with, which is why the call occurs at a late hour.

In reality, the term booty call should be changed to Plan B.

The Casual Relationship

The casual relationship is sometimes more commonly known as “limbo” and is famous for its unspoken rules. Essentially, you feel that the two of you are a couple. You hang out, text, call, IM each other and hook up. There is one issue: no one brings up the “are we exclusive?” talk.

Is he seeing other people? Most likely.

Are you expected to see other people? Only if you want.

When should you bring up “the talk?” It’s important to get on the same page, and “the talk” needs to happen. It is best to wait it out for several months in order to avoid being labeled “clingy” or “psycho” – the kiss of death in the dating world.

With that said, casual relationships are only horrible if you let them be. Patti Feinstein, one of the country’s top dating coaches, explains that dating in your college years shouldn’t be a serious affair.

“Have as much fun as you can [during college] and don’t take dating seriously,” says Feinstein. “Stay in the moment, don’t look back at what people have told you as to why you’re a failure. But don’t look ahead either thinking is this the ‘one’.”

The Exclusive Relationship

Welcome to the Holy Grail of relationships!

Both parties agree to date only each other, usually during “the talk.” Generally the title of girlfriend comes with the exclusivity, but labels have slowly given way to just the term “couple.”

Facebook Official

Otherwise known as FBO. Becoming FBO means that not only is your relationship exclusive but announced to the public via the Internet. All of your Facebook friends, all of his Facebook friends, and friends of your friends now know that the two of you are a couple. In most cases becoming FBO is the official sign of commitment in a relationship. However, before you jump the gun and change your relationship status, either consult your guy or wait for

him to change his first.

Once you have become FBO you soar on cloud nine, but the road to FBO status can be treacherous. Justin R. Garcia, evolutionary biologist at Binghamton University and Scientific Advisor to Match.com, explains that you shouldn't freak out if you or your guy doesn't want to go FBO.

"It's important to remember, that just because someone doesn't change their Facebook account or make other public displays of commitment, does not mean they aren't wildly in love," says Garcia. "There can be a variety of reasons why one does or does not want to alert the world to their relationship status, and we shouldn't put too much emphasis on this as meaning anything – what's more important is to care for each other and respect each other, everything else is just accessory to the main show."

The Fling

A fling is an easy, light-hearted relationship where exclusivity is a non-issue, frankly because there is no intention of making it a long-term relationship. The approximate length of a fling is two and a half months.

There also seems to be a correlation between flings and warm weather. The majority of flings occur while either on vacation or during the late spring and summer months.

Friends With Benefits

The old FWB occurs when two good friends decide that they are attracted to each other enough to have sex, but not enough to form a relationship except the already established friendship. Usually FWB's have mutual friends and can come in handy as a last minute plus-one to a wedding or formal party.

Friends with benefits is the equivalent of walking on a tightrope: one wrong step and it will end in disaster.

F@#! Buddy

A strange hybrid between the booty call and friends with benefits, the f-buddy relationship is built on a mutual love for great sex.

F-buddies usually frequent the same nightlife scene, which is how the original hook up occurred. No planning is involved in this relationship, and if you two bump into each other then you decide to hook up that night. Planning to hang out rarely occurs unless sex is the final outcome.

Essentially, f-buddies are strangers, personal information and lives are not shared, except for maybe a phone number to plan the rare meeting, and staying over is a serious no-no. If one buddy is no longer single, you simply stop hooking up with your f-buddy until both of you are single again.

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Hanging Out

While hanging out is not a relationship, it can be the start of one. The majority of times, hanging out takes place in a group setting. A group of friends, guys and girls of course, will go out to restaurants, clubs or chill at someone's place.

Unfortunately, hanging out has almost completely replaced the dating stage, or at least become a weird pre-dating stage. The majority of people, especially college students, will hang out until a hook up occurs and just keep hanging out with the group.

A word of warning about this term: when a guy calls or texts, asking you to "hang out" at his place or your place, just one-on-one, the term is usually really code for "hook up."

The Hook Up

Hooking up has always been a mystery wrapped in an enigma, until now. This may seem like a cop-out, but the term intentionally leaves a lot to a person's imagination.

Hooking up can range from a little light making out to going all the way and anything in between. The vagueness is sort of beneficial to both parties. When a guy tells his buds that he "hooked up" with a girl last night, he hopes that his friends assume more than what actually happened. For girls we usually hope that our friends assume less happened.

Stanford University professor Paula England says that the majority of relationships in college begin with a hook up.

"Often a date comes after a hook up to signal relational interest," says England. "70 percent of kids have been in a relationship of at least six months by their senior year."

Now it might sound a little cliché, but the best way to turn a potential hook up into an actual relationship is to do less what you would normally do with a guy, so it is best to keep things PG.

No Strings Attached

No, I am not talking about the movie.

No Strings Attached, or NSA, is a general term to cover booty calls, flings, and hook ups. The term speaks for itself – no strings attached – as in don't expect anything to come out of this (this usually meaning sex).

"No strings attached relationships are profoundly unstable," says Mark Regnerus, associate professor of sociology at University of Texas-Austin and co-author of *Premarital Sex in America*. "Sex without commitment seldom lasts long-term, which is kind of the point. It involves more negotiations than an actual relationship, and those are hard enough already." ■

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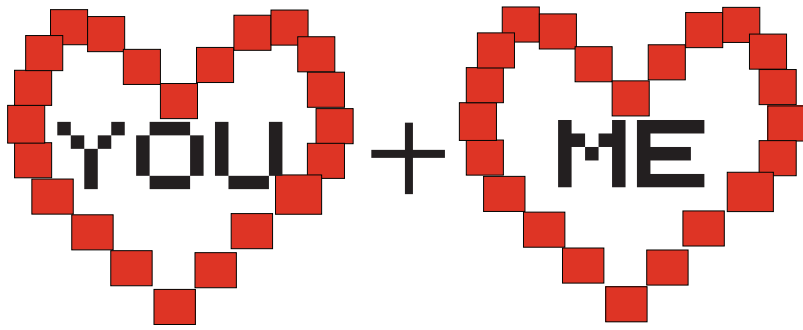


THE IDES OF MARCH
Saturday, January 14

J. EDGAR
Saturday, March 3

THE DESCENDANTS
Saturday, March 10

MADE IN DAGENHAM
Saturday, March 23



AND OUR COMPUTER SCREENS

AN EXAMINATION OF ONLINE INFIDELITY

By Lakeisha Moore

Jax: *Hello Beautiful.*

Roxy: *Hi, have we met before?*

Jax: *No, but I would love nothing more than to get to know you. I came across your profile and I happen to find you very attractive.*

Roxy: *Why thank you ;)*

After meeting on a popular social networking site, “Jax” and “Roxy,” both married, engage in seemingly harmless conversations. Three months later, their Internet-based relationship continues – offline.

Roxy: *No one knows me the way that you do. Every day it seems as if I grow closer and closer to you.*

Jax: *I feel the same. My relationship with you is one that I have never experienced before. You get me. I yearn for our daily conversations.*

Jax: *I am in your area. Can we meet?*

Jax and Roxy are characters developed to express a possible scenario of online infidelity. The conversation is not based on actual people or events. Certain names in the following fact-based article have been fictionalized as well to protect people’s identities.

Jax and Roxy represent a growing trend: Internet infidelity. With the advancement of modern technology, meeting people online and developing Internet-based relationships has become more and more habitual. “Hooking-up” by way of

social media sites, sexting, instant messaging and exchanging provocative emails appears to be on the rise.

The Internet’s reach extends far beyond imaginations. There is a website for just about every interest. Food, sex, fashion; no matter the subject, there is a place to cultivate one’s fetish. The Internet, via World Wide Web, is responsible for connecting more than two billion people across the globe. Ways to connect with others are limitless. Surveys conducted by the Pew Internet &



American Life Project from March 2000 to May 2011 reveal that 46 percent of Americans use the Internet to send instant messages, 65 percent use online social networking sites like Myspace, Facebook or Twitter and 8 percent use online dating websites such as Match.com or eHarmony.

One could speculate that some relationships developed on the Internet are “no strings attached” based on the notion that users can meet others on websites of common interest and keep their true lives hidden. Creative control is given to its operator behind their respective computer screens. Much like the fictional characters Jax and Roxy, many Americans live vicariously through the Internet.

The Pewit Internet & American Life Project also revealed that as of September 2009, four percent of Americans visit virtual worlds such as Second Life.

Second Life allows users to interact through avatars; its inhabitants are literally given a second life. Dwellers can build a dream world by creating their own prototypes, purchasing land wherever they please, building homes to their satisfaction, starting their own businesses and meeting new people. To some, the most fasci-

nating element of the Second Life experience is the ability to simulate sex scenes. Virtual marriage licenses may even be obtained.

But what happens when seemingly harmless conversations and computer generated interactions grow into something much more?

While websites like Second Life might seem appealing, diving into virtual worlds can create real-life issues. As reported on CNN, a British couple who married in an extravagant ceremony in Second Life later met and married in real life. After three years of marriage the couple divorced. The husband committed simulated infidelity in the virtual game world where they originally met. Amy Taylor, 28, said she caught her 40-year-old husband David Pollard’s avatar having sex with an animated woman.

Attorney Marcia Zimmerman has practiced family law in the Bay Area for more than 30 years. Nearly 50 percent of Zimmerman’s cases are divorce.

“I can tell you that in the family law bar, we have been tracking the impact of social media on divorce cases for about seven years,” Zimmerman said. “Internet and Internet dating has been an issue in my office for about 15 years.”

Zimmerman said, social media sites are often used to fare out cheating. Offenders are easily caught by not erasing their histories and even if they are deceptive enough to do so, there are ways to get around that. Law offices are turning to social media sites to provide insight into a person’s lifestyle. For her office, social media profiles are most helpful in child custody cases.

The demise of a relationship is just one facet of infidelity; emotional damage is another powerful contender. Physical pain can be healed over time, but the emotional pain that one endures can last indefinitely. In therapist Angela Sarrafin’s office, Internet-based infidelity comes up on occasion in relationship sessions.

“Most of the Internet infidelity cases I’ve seen have been those who are rekindling a past romance through a social networking site” Sarrafin said. I also have seen instances where someone who has decided that their marriage is



Ashley Smith: The Signal Relay

over will join a dating site like Match.com under a false identity."

Victims of infidelity may experience emotional damage to the extent that the overall impact may exceed the initial hurt felt by knowing their significant other has been intimate with someone else.

"A lot of people feel more betrayed by being lied to than whatever it is that actually occurred," Sarrafin said. "In a lot of cases, it's more about the emotional affect it has on a person than what actually occurred."

Giselle (not her real name) experienced the pain of Internet infidelity firsthand. In 2007, she had her fairytale wedding. The orchid, doves and ice sculptures were so

b e a u t i -
ful that the
day almost
seemed un-
imaginable.
What also
was un-
imaginable
was the un-
fortunate
deck of
cards dealt
to Giselle

and her husband, Mark (not his real name), one week after their wedding.

Mark was terminated from his job, Giselle became the breadwinner. Despite the adverse circumstances the couple continued to move forward in pursuit of marital bliss. In addition to facing the hardship of his unemployment, they also had to face another life-altering circumstance. After receiving confirmation of an unplanned pregnancy, parenthood was on the horizon.

Giselle believed Mark was doing everything he could to find work in order to support their family. However, as time progressed it became evident that her beloved husband was doing just the opposite.

"Every day, I went to work and my husband stayed home," Giselle said. "I noticed that he was spending more time on the computer and less time searching for a new job."

As her suspicions grew rapidly, she decided to pay Mark a surprise visit over lunch and sure enough, instead of looking for a job, she found him looking at Internet porn. Fighting through the tears, Giselle explained how she felt that day.

"I was so hurt and frustrated," Giselle recalled. "I could not believe that he chose to spend his time doing such a disgusting thing when we were on the verge of losing everything."

As time progressed, the couple tried to mend the rip in their marriage. Mark promised that he would get

serious about his search for employment and also seek the necessary guidance for his other addictions. However, as months went by, there was little to no progress.

Mark's time spent on the computer increased as did Giselle's suspicions. Frantically searching for a single shred of evidence, she checked the history on their computer. The exact proof she was searching for, she found.

"I found out that he was using Myspace and Facebook to meet other women," Giselle said. "It quickly became evident that he also was connecting with them in real-life. I read a number of messages from various women. Some I knew, others I did not."

As more information began to unfold, Giselle realized

that Mark's Internet obsession extended far beyond online porn. She learned that her husband had been unfaithful in their marriage multiple times.

"In that instance, I felt my

heart drop down to the pit of my stomach. I distinctly remember falling to the floor, thinking that my marriage was over. I'd never felt so alone," Giselle said. "Infidelity is infidelity; be it over the phone, Internet or in person. Marriage is a private institution between two soul mates – no one should ever intrude upon that special bond."

After counseling and trying to patch things up for more than a year, she filed for a divorce. Much like the emotional impact described by Angela Sarrafin, Giselle experienced feelings of disloyalty caused by her husband's adulterous acts. For her, the emotional impact of Mark's Internet affairs was just as severe as any possible real-life occurrences.

"I felt betrayed; he hid things from me and lied to me. I would have preferred that he come to me and express his desires to have extramarital relations although the outcome would have been the same."

Sarrafin cautions that committing infidelity is not always an irreparable offense if both parties are willing to take the necessary course of action in order to resolve the issue. Her advice to couples who struggle with Internet infidelity is clear-cut:

"It is important for people that want to repair marriages after infidelity to know that there has to be openness and transparency," Sarrafin said. "Even if that means making social networking and email accounts accessible to their partners. It is not about them checking it; it is more about knowing that nothing is hidden." ■

"A lot of people feel more betrayed by being lied to than whatever it is that actually occurred. In a lot of cases, it's more about the emotional affect it has on a person than what actually occurred."

– Angela Sarrafin
Marriage and Family Therapist

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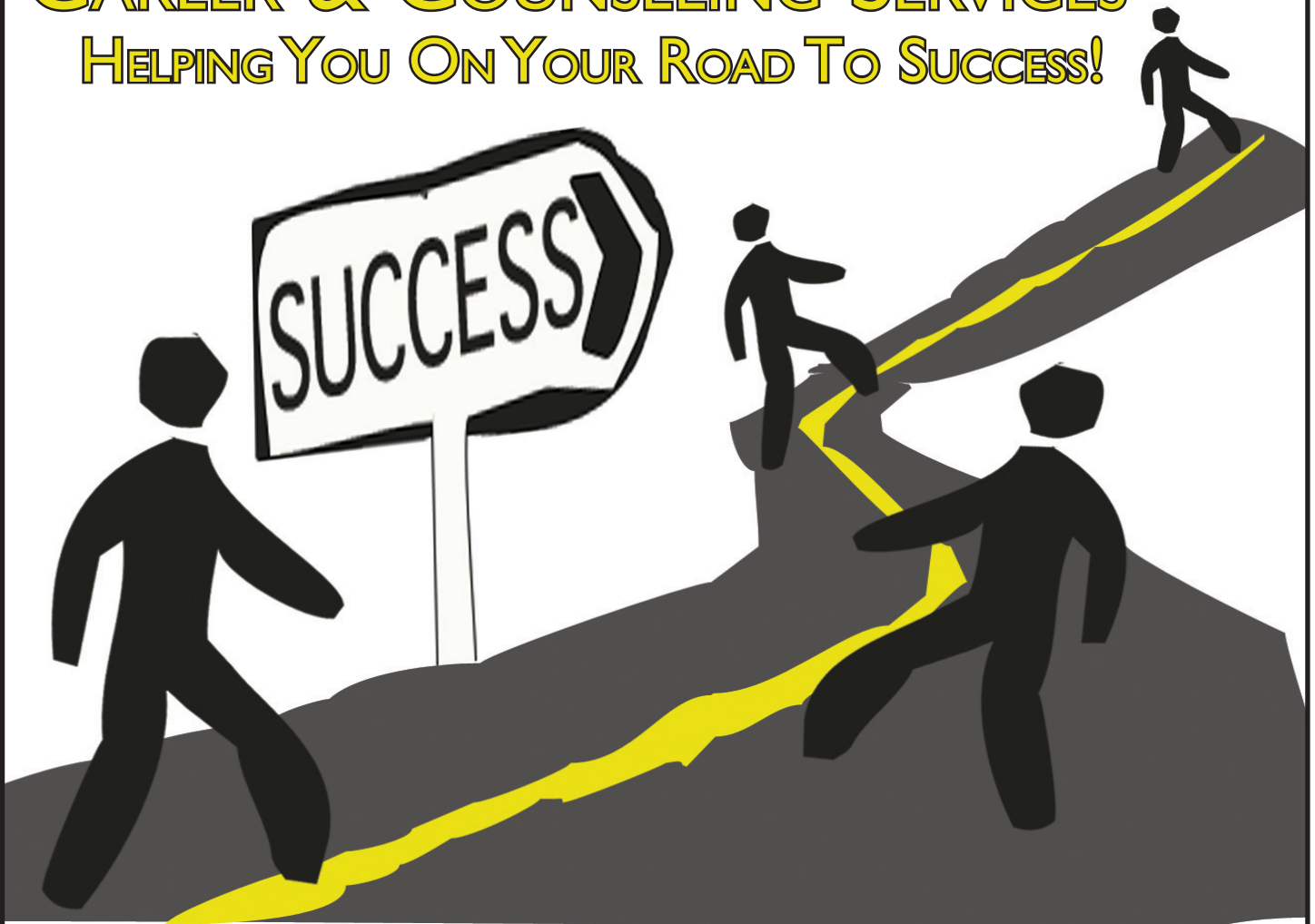


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Rose Pulido: The Signal Relay

The haunting of a social network past

Employers delve seven years into a candidate's social media use

By Rose Pulido

The job market postgrad for college students can sometimes be challenging due to lack of experience, and students are faced with the harsh realities of breaking through that corporate barrier. Now, students are faced with an additional hurdle since some companies recently began requiring a social media background check of all applicants to investigate for risqué online behavior.

Some employers are now looking for a candidate who will not only meet their expectations in job skills, but they are also looking for an appropriate representative of their company who has not littered the Internet with offensive material. A candidate's online history can be pried into as far back as seven years, so job seekers now have to reconsider the types of posts and pictures they have shared on all social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and any blogging sites.

Tandem Select is a company that conducts employee criminal background checks and screenings. The

company has recently partnered with Social Intelligence Corporation, a social media sleuth company that conducts social media background checks and now offers social media screening to their clients.

"We added the social media background checks to our suite of products because we realized a number of people who are employed spend a large portion of their day online," said Doug Hay, marketing director of Tandem Select. "Whether it's work related or not, it's part of a verification."

This type of verification can lead to employers finding out more about a candidate than they may have intended. Information that is protected under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission laws include but are not limited to race, national origin, sex, religion, disability and age.

Carol Maskoff, assistant legal counsel for the EEOC said their laws require that covered employers not use the information they discover through a social media



background check to deny employment or otherwise discriminate on any particular cases.

“It is a legal requirement that they not reject someone on any of the protected grounds,” Maskoff said. “These people who are doing the selection are going to get that information and sometimes they may get it in a way that can trigger, for all of us, our preconceptions. It kind of plugs into the emotional side of the brain, which is just human nature, but to counteract that going into unlawful territory, the employer should have pretty clear rules of the road as to how they make those decisions.”

Hay said they block or redact any prohibited information such as gender, race and religion.

“For example, if you run a social media search on someone and see posts about hate groups, we’ll block the person’s face so they can’t tell what race they are, but we will show they are holding a gun or something like that if it’s relevant,” Hay said.

However, social media background checks are not intended for criminal history investigations. Criminal history background checks are included in a traditional background check required by most employers. The difference between a traditional employee background check and a social media background check is that the Federal Credit Reporting Act of 1970 dictates that “companies or organizations that use consumer reporting agencies for employment background checks are required to notify and obtain the applicant’s consent before accessing his or her report.”

Ashley Packard, University of Houston-Clear Lake professor in communication and digital media studies and author of several publications on the subject includ-

ing Digital Media Law, said social media backgrounds checks do not require permission from a potential candidate as long as the privacy settings are open to the public.

When creating an account with Facebook, there is fine print under





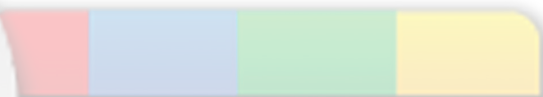
the Sign Up button that reads, “By clicking Sign Up, you are indicating that you have read and agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.” Facebook users, if interested, has to then click on two separate links to view the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy to

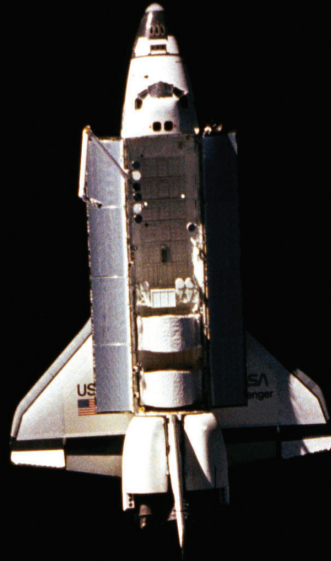
learn about how Facebook distributes the information and how they can protect their information. Should Facebook users decide against viewing those terms and privacy, they will find their profile can be viewed not only by their friends but friends of their friends. Also, their profile will be defaulted to a setting that enables their profile to populate in a general online search. Once the Sign Up button is clicked, Facebook users have entered into a virtual legal contract consenting to these terms whether they have viewed them or not.

“One of the things a contract does is essentially kind of allow you to make your own legal circumstances,” Packard said. “Sometimes people can contract away rights that they wouldn’t have to give up under normal legal circumstances, but they’ve signed those rights away in a contract, so a court would enforce those because they’ve signed it away. When you click on “OK” you’re signing away certain rights, so your rights related to a site like Facebook would depend very much on what that agreement is that you clicked on initially.”

Social media background checks can go as far back as seven years into a person’s online posting history. The best defense against the social media background check is to read the privacy agreements before clicking “Ok” on any social networking site or go back and review privacy settings.

“To my knowledge there is no way to go back and un-ring that bell,” Hay said. “You’ve already put it out there and it’s out there. My advice would be, moving forward, only post those things publicly that will enhance your ability to find work or to get hired.” ■





EXPLORING SPACE

The Signal Relay takes an in-depth look at NASA, what it has meant to UHCL and what the future holds.

NASA's hand in the opening of UHCL

By Theresa Greenshields

This year, NASA celebrated a 53-year anniversary, which may have been bittersweet as it ended its 30-year history with the Space Shuttle Program with the final launch of space shuttle Atlantis this past July.

In total, there were five space-worthy shuttles and one that never left the Earth's atmosphere. The five orbiters were Discovery, Endeavor, Atlantis, Columbia, which was destroyed during reentry, and Challenger, which was destroyed during lift-off as the nation watched in horror. The Enterprise was the sixth shuttle. It was used for testing and never had the opportunity for orbital space flight. The shuttles are the only reusable winged, manned vehicle to reach orbit and land.

The space race began when The Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit in October 1957. The following year the U.S. responded with the formation of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

In 1961, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson announced plans for a Manned Spacecraft Center to be located outside Houston just off the shores of Clear Lake. Even from the beginning, what became known as the Johnson Space Center and University of Houston began collaborating to building an education facility in the Clear Lake area for the NASA employees and their families. Neighborhoods were built, groceries stores were put in, and strip malls began popping up, all for the engineers, astronauts and other employees of this highly populated company.

"Back during the those days there were over 30,000 employees and their families who had no place close enough to make getting a higher education convenient," said Anson Brantley operations manager.

It was at this time when Manned Spacecraft Center Director Robert R. Gilruth formally requested that the University of Houston began to consider establishing a Clear Lake location for graduates and possibly undergraduates so it would make it more convenient for NASA employees and their family members who wanted to further their education. Space Center leaders were concerned about the lengthy commute to the nearest higher education center, the University of Houston, and decided there needed to be a facility that catered to the Bay Area. In the fall of 1964, the University of Houston offered courses at the new Graduate Center in NASA and opened its doors to an enrollment of more than 500

students in both graduate and undergraduate programs.

Philip Hoffman, UH president at the time, said that it would be hard for him to ignore the request of Gilruth to establish a bigger location but also worried that it would be hard to find the proper land for this facility.

After hearing about the proposed project, Humble Oil offered 50 acres of land in the Clear Lake City development that it had acquired from oil mogul Jim West years before. Another 487 acres was donated by Friendswood Development Company. The Coordinating Board for the Texas College and University System, authorized the University of Houston to build the Clear Lake Graduate Center in 1968.

Construction for Bayou Building began in 1974 with it opening as an upper-level university in September under leadership of the institutions founding President Alfred R. Newman.

Today, UHCL has expanded and recently opened a new Pearland location.

UHCL also holds the majority of NASA's archives and throughout the years, many astronauts and NASA engineers have become part of UHCL's distinct alumni. The President of UHCL, William Staples, said UHCL will continue to build on already established relationships like the NASA/UHCL Space Act Agreement, which promotes coordination between the two organizations to build awareness about space exploration and the range of opportunities for students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

"In addition, UHCL's Alfred R. Neumann Library, through a partnership with NASA and the National Archives, will continue to house the JSC History Collection," Staples said. "The collection includes records covering more than 40-years of NASA manned spaceflight, including Apollo, Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, Shuttle and Space Station Freedom as well as the JSC Oral History Project."

Although NASA has officially retired the shuttle program, the relationship between NASA and UHCL will continue to thrive.

"UHCL looks forward to continuing to provide educational support to the NASA Johnson Space Center community," Staples said. "We will also provide any research support necessary as they move forward to building future programs for space exploration." ■

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ENGINEERING MEMORIES

THE SPACE SHUTTLE LEGACY...

By Padmashree Rao

They stood in the glowing shadows of 135 missions and 30 years of a Space Transportation System (STS) era, simply known as the Shuttle Era (1981 – 2011). They deployed 180 satellites and other payloads, and assembled the International Space Station.

They gave wings on the shuttles to 306 men and 49 women hailing from 16 different countries. And they put into orbit 3,513,638 pounds of cargo, which is more than half the payload weight of every single space launch in history since 1957 combined.



One of the Vanguard satellites checked out at Cape Canaveral, Florida in 1958. It was the second U.S. satellite in orbit, following Explorer 1 by a month.
photo courtesy of NASA

These were the men and women of math and physics, engineers, who painstakingly built the engineering phenomenon that the world will remember as the Space Shuttle. They asked for no glory even as the world marvels at the collective genius behind the magnificent space birds and clamors to glorify them in museums across the United States.

Each of these engineers came from different places, had different skills, but what they said about their association with space exploration had a resounding harmony. Theirs was a kind of work that made a nation reach the skies. They count themselves among thousands of engineers standing within a quiet zone of summary acknowledgement. As the shuttle era comes to an end, it is time to reflect on the unconscious excellence of these forgotten soldiers of the space army.

It was at Houston, the self-proclaimed Space City, where human exploration of space became a mission. Johnson Space Center became the engineering hub where more than 2000 civil servants and 15,000 contractors from 50 supporting companies (2006 figures from NASA's Human Capital Plan report) designed, developed and tested the operation and safety criteria of every major Space Shuttle

system. When NASA spread its wings across the country and built an intricate network of engineers working in 18 main centers and test facilities, JSC, and Houston by extension, became the human face and guiding voice of all space travelers. It was the place of Mission Control and space-crew training, where man and machine enhanced each other's journey in the Space Age. Naturally, it made a perfect backdrop to listen to the reminiscences of a few committed professionals who participated in this epic journey with the shuttle program with their feet always on the ground.

George Zupp, who retired from NASA in 1998 as Assistant Chief, Structures & Mechanics Division, gave one the feeling of looking at history. He entered the world of space business in 1959, joining the Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA. NASA enlisted him in 1962 as part of a young pioneer team called the Space Task Group, a group of engineers that included people like Robert Gilruth and Maxime Faget, among many other dedicated scientists.

Engineers like Zupp worked at a time when computers were not as sophisticated as they are today. Still, there was a thrill in Zupp's voice as he recalled "the fantastic

correlation.”

“Things analyzed did not have an equivalent answer in the back of any textbook,” Zupp said. “It was a process of testing, challenging yourself to predict the outcome of the test; correlating the math, and simulating the physics.”

Among the innumerable memories he had of the shuttle program, Zupp recalled the emotions of the very first shuttle launch in 1981. He was at a receiving station 5 or 6 miles away from the launch site and when the shuttle lifted off, it did a little “roll maneuver,” something that scared Zupp as he hurried to check his calculations. He was relieved that all went well; pioneers like him had to shoulder great responsibility.

“When one owned the frontier, life was not always peaches and cream,” admitted Zupp, recalling the painful setbacks when Challenger and Columbia were lost.

At every instant, engineers like Zupp did the best they could, not even acknowledging how many hours of their lives they gave to the shuttle project. Zupp cherished the many launches he witnessed, the long waits for the several countdowns, and his battles with the baking Florida sun and hundreds of mosquitoes during his vigils. After 40 years of service with NASA and his involvement in all the 30 years of the shuttle legacy, Zupp said that his work was still intoxicating, but he pointed out that engineers like him stood behind “a language barrier;” one that prevented the world from making sense of the emotion behind their complex equations.

The same thought was echoed by another engineer, Carl

Lauritzen, who works in the Loads and Dynamics section of the Engineering and Science Contract Group at Jacobs. Lauritzen’s first association with the shuttle program was in the Guidance Navigation Control area during 1978.

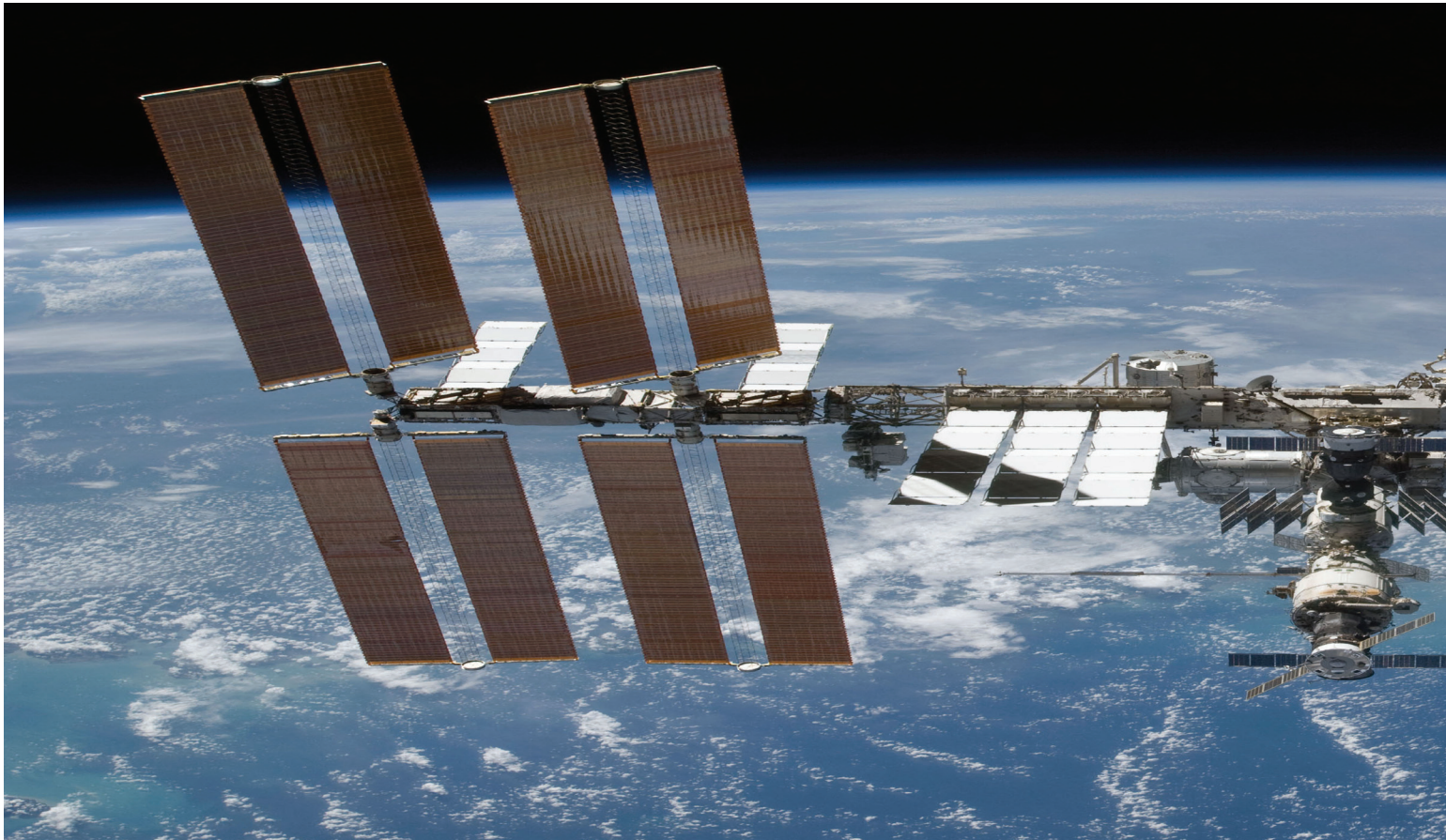
“It was an exciting time to participate in the re-entry guidance of the first shuttle flight in 1981; I came to understand how you were always a part of a team working with engineers, technicians and other professionals across the land,” Lauritzen recalled. “There was always a lot of time to dedicate to the payload mission support. The odd shifts or extended hours never felt like a sacrifice.”

He called the scientific payload, the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer that went up on STS-134, the best project of his career.

The AMS project, led by Nobel Laureate Samuel Ting, was a particle-based physics experiment exploring space for matter and antimatter. Lauritzen had visited several countries as part of the AMS-02 team including Switzerland, Italy, Germany and France, where he saw the magnitude of the shuttle collaboration, which spanned 60 scientific institutes across 16 countries. Like so many who will look back at all that the shuttle program achieved in space, Lauritzen marveled at how the shuttles exceeded expectations in being faithful, reusable workhorses in space.

On another front, Ralph Ed Hite, who worked on flight software projects of the space shuttle program for the Boeing Company (another major NASA contractor), highlighted the remarkable systems integration that made

International Space Station



the shuttle program a huge undertaking. He too worked in the space industry since 1978 and he remembered the “exciting but tense” time of the first re-entry of the shuttle.

“The tensest moment was during the communication blackout that happened when the shuttle touched down,” Hite said. “So, when we reconnected, everyone in the monitoring room stood up and cheered.”

Hite conveyed the wonder of each shuttle flight as being different in its accomplishments and said that the program was perhaps “the largest-scale integrated project that was tackled, one of the most complex.” He said that the space shuttle would always remain “an emblem of pride for our nation,” due to its versatile achievements from placing the famous Hubble telescope to the communication satellites taken for granted today.

The assembly of the International Space Station would have been impossible without the multiple decades of space shuttle missions. Hite sounded philosophical when he said his association with the shuttle and space station project, like many other engineers’, was so personal that “outside recognition was almost not required.” What lingered in his recollection about the shuttle saga was deep conviction, the same feeling echoed by Lauritzen and Zupp.

While there were many engineers working on different aspects of the shuttle program, the most scrutinizing were the safety engineers who had to certify that each shuttle orbiter was flight-ready. Tushar Mehta, who worked as an associate chief engineer in the Mission Assurance wing of United Space Alliance, a main contractor workforce

of NASA, was one of those systems safety engineers who had to examine carefully how payloads affected the orbiter flight safety. He explained how stringent the safety perspective of NASA became after the losses of Challenger and Columbia. His association with NASA began in 1989 and he recounted his horror when he watched Columbia burn up during reentry in 2003.

“I was totally shocked,” Mehta said. “In my head, I kept going over the assessment of what could have gone wrong.”

After the Columbia tragedy, Mehta toured the country with a NASA safety review panel, looking in depth into all safety procedures. When the Shuttle Discovery resumed flight in 2005 and all went well, he said that he was “really relieved.” Like the other engineers, Mehta reminisced that working on an amazing program as the Space Shuttle has paid off in an inexplicable sense of satisfaction. To Mehta, the shuttle will always be an amazing, complicated machine that gave repeated insights into the universe.

As the shuttle program becomes a part of a glorious history, the engineers who contributed to the shuttle era still cherish their memories with unfazed enthusiasm. In each conversation, what was heard was a universal chorus above the specific notes of personal association. It had a technical, scientific theme, set in a language of physics and mathematics. However, the melody that emerged had the unpolluted beauty of a dedicated human spirit—the collective spirit from Houston that engineered a phenomenon called the Space Shuttle. ■

photo courtesy of NASA



By Courtney Bowen

By Courtney Bowen

What if there isn't anything?
What if there is no more space?
What if all of the space is taken?

Of course there has to be more space. Space is infinite; it stretches beyond our imagination.

There has got to be more space, somewhere, where we can be sheltered from the elements.

Space is shrinking.

We don't know that for a fact.

The universe is shrinking; that's what they say. It **e x p a n d e d**, and now it's shrinking.

But it'll e x p a n d again!

Of course, that will be ages from now; long after we're gone. Space devours us; it consumes us. Space lives; it breathes. It gives us what we need, and we give it what it needs.

Sometimes we eat away at space, bit by bit, making it smaller or **larger**, depending on what we need. And space is fed. Space shelters us, nestles us in our shell and keeps us warm, out of the elements.

Space makes us feel whole, special; it defines us, and we define ourselves by space.

Without space, we would be **nothing** but helpless beings without control of our own fates.

Space makes us feel welcome. Masters of our own domain, we call ourselves. **Masters** of what we control, of what we like; this is our home, our fortress, our castle. We hold fast against the harsh outside forces of the world that would dare to come in and tear down these walls.

We won't let them. We will **fight** to the last man, woman and child to keep what we claim as our own! We don't ever want to lose it; we don't ever want to let go of it. We can dominate space, cherish it, and remake it to fit us.

Everything that we have, everything that we own, fits there to suit us. We claim what we want and make it whole; we make it work. We make it happen.

Space drives us to pursue our passions. We act to make space work for us, and we **act** to make space change. Without work, there would be no space for us, and without space, there would be no work for us.

Space permeates everything we do. Space is what we do; everything we do, we do it for the sake of space. We tolerate space, care for it. But space can also be what we don't like, what we can't stand and what we want to change.

Space makes us people; **unique** individuals with taste and style, as well as passion. Space always belongs to us; eternal, it lasts longer than we do.

Do we define space or does space define us? Are we in control of space or do we have to make room for ourselves?

Are we tolerant of **flaws** within space or do we strive for perfection within ourselves and with space? Are we obsessed with remaking things better than they were before?

Does space stretch and grow, change dimensions and time? It does change, **yes**, but we make it change, don't we?

Or does it change on its own? ■



Stuck in Limbo

Unveiling Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

by Araina Edwards

“It was difficult, but I wanted my independence.”

- Juan Sanchez

Former unaccompanied immigrant from Honduras

On a clear, sunny day in Galveston, Texas, children huddle in a large backyard as they eagerly watch their coach demonstrate the proper way to throw a shot put. After the demonstration, the boys and girls retire to a shaded bench to await their turns. Sounds of “woo!,” claps and laughter fill the air as each one attempts to master the new sport.

After impressive throws by several teenage boys, a much younger boy, age 7, staggers as he squints his eyes in an effort to avoid the sun. He gets a running start, right foot...left foot...right foot, before hurling the ball with all his strength. The metal ball does not even make it close to half the distance of his teenage predecessors, yet his olive face bears a toothy smile as he manages a few high-fives to celebrate his accomplishment.

To the average bystander peering

through the black wrought iron gates, these children seem no different from the others who are out playing in the cool spring break weather; however, the children are among the 7,000 unaccompanied immigrant children who enter the United States each year, a staggering statistic reported by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

These children are a part of the Galveston Multicultural Institute, a program sponsored by The Children's Center, Inc. Tino Gonzalez, executive president of The Children Center, Inc., explains that Houston is the largest hub for human trafficking. Texas' convenient location makes it an easy target for immigrants from Central America, South America, and Mexico. Unaccompanied immigrant children, many from these regions, are typically sent over by family, and some even make the dangerous

journey on their own either in pursuit of the “American dream” or to escape persecution in their home countries.

Once in the U.S., these children lead various lifestyles until picked up by authorities and placed into homes, like the Galveston Multicultural Institute, while their citizenship fate is decided by the court system.

Honduras native Juan Sanchez, age 20, and Guatemala native Josue Hernandez age 20, know all too well about the long journey to the United States and the lengthy process that occurs once an illegal immigrant child is picked up by authorities. Both young men started in a program similar to that of the Galveston Multicultural Institute in their mid-teenage years. Since aging out of previous programs, they are now roommates at the Galveston Family and working toward obtaining U.S. citizenship.

Juan came to the United States alone. He sat nervously on a bed as he talked about the countless number of days he spent taking the train, walking and hitchhiking to the U.S. in search of a

better life.

"It was difficult," he says, "but I wanted my independence."

Shortly after arriving in the United States, he was picked up by authorities. Juan's smile fades and he looks timidly as he explains how he felt moments after being picked up by the authorities.

"I was very sad and nervous about the unknown," he says.

For Juan, making friends helped him cope with being without his own family and friends.

"I left my mother, father, three brothers and one sister," Juan said. "Maybe I can help them later."

His half-smile reappears at the idea of helping out his family. After the long process that started when he left his native Honduras, Juan is now a permanent United States resident who can dream about the next chapter of his life.

"I dream to study healthcare and medicine, and to visit Spain," says Juan as his half smile grows fuller.

Josue left his native country when he was 16 years old to search for a better life far from his crime-ridden neighborhood in Guatemala. He worked until he saved up enough to afford the train ride, leaving behind his four siblings.

Josue perks up as he recalled how he felt once he reached the U.S.

"When I got to the United States, I was excited and impressed," Josue remembers "I felt brave."

His brown eyes became larger when speaking about boxing, his favorite sport.

"My idol is Manny Pacquiao and I want to be like him. I want to be the best boxer in the world," he says.

When Gonzalez translates the question "what is your favorite memory of living in the United States," the normally energetic and poised Josue relaxes and looks away for a second. He looks up again and says through a trembling voice, "how people here want to help you"

As Juan Sanchez's story proves, the kids who arrive in the U.S. are typically frightened and afraid of the unknown. Galveston Multicultural Institute nurse Veronica Stannford says it is common for kids to arrive at the agency with numerous health issues such as headaches, stomach aches, common

colds, intestinal worms and dental hygiene problems.

In addition to physical ailments, many kids also suffer from mental problems. Although therapists, peer groups and staff consolation can help to ease the transition, the children are typically scared and it can take a while to gain their trust.

Gonzalez takes a deep breath as he shares a story about a young girl who thought she owed a staff member a sexual favor after receiving a toy doll. Upon receiving the doll, he explains that the young girl asked the staff member, "What do I have to do to you for this?"

"It nearly brought the staff member to tears," Gonzalez says. "The kids each all have a story and when you think you have heard it all, there is something else."

Once settled into the program, the children become more open and start to enjoy the program so much that many do not want to leave. One walk through the Galveston Multicultural Institute's school is all it takes to understand why they would not want to leave.

The school is rich in culture, as flags from Spain, Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador, and other countries drape the walls. The recreation room is accessorized with a large television and plenty of video games. The art lab is adorned with paintings of the United States and Texas flags along with wood burning projects.

The smell of chicken fettuccine alfredo, courtesy of the kitchen, fills the entire school. Gonzalez pauses for a minute in the kitchen.

"They're cooking chicken fettuccine alfredo courtesy of the kitchen, but for these kids even a burger is a good meal... it's like they hit the lottery," Gonzalez says.

At the main GMI building, it is the job of Nicholas Gomez, activities director, to ensure the children enjoy

"It nearly brought the staff members to tears. The kids each all have a story, and when you think you have heard it all, there is something else."

- Tino Gonzales
Executive President
The Children's Center, Inc.

their experience. He explains that he enjoys exposing the children to all sports but, soccer is a program favorite. In addition to playing sports, the children also enjoy outings to the beach, Moody Gardens, the Toyota Center to watch the Rockets, and Reliant Arena to catch a Texans game.

Gomez lights up as he speaks about how excited the children are when participating in their many activities.

"You don't have any price for the kids' expression," he says; a statement that is reflected in the smiles of 7-year-old Juan Sanchez and Josue Hernandez, and many other children, teenagers and young adults who dream of a better future while stuck in immigration limbo. ■



Downward Expansion

UHCL prepares for possible freshmen by fall 2014

By Ashley Smith

With the approval of downward expansion from the Texas legislature over the summer, the University of Houston-Clear Lake is moving forward and could see freshmen students taking classes here by fall 2014.

The university plans to start small, admitting 540 freshmen the first year of downward expansion, with a projection of 1,350 freshmen and sophomores within five years.

Before UHCL admits any freshman, many plans still need to be worked out, especially the expansion of the faculty as well as building space and student services.

"We have completed a prospective business plan for downward expansion including the need for additional faculty and staff based on projected levels of enrollment and core curriculum requirements," said William Staples, president of UHCL.

Another college from the UH System, the University of Houston-Victoria, started accepting freshmen and sophomores in the fall of 2010. Staples has appointed a committee to work with UHV administrators and to research what went well during the expansion and what areas can be improved.

To accommodate the incoming freshmen, student

services will have to add new services as well as adapt current services to accommodate incoming freshmen experience.

"Student services is going to have to grow tremendously," said Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for student services. "We are going to have to expand

some services as well as completely add some new services."

The growth of services starts from the beginning of the college experience – admissions. Biggers said that with the admission of freshmen, the university will have to implement testing and placement programs to make sure students are placed in classes within their skill level.

The Student Success Center is already preparing for the lower-class level. Director of the Student Success Center Tim Richardson has worked with freshmen before and has an idea of what's in store.

"They bring a whole new set of challenges, a whole new level of development," Richardson said.

Richardson points out the center will have to take

"Student services is going to have to grow tremendously. We are going to have to expand some services as well as completely add some new services."

Darlene Biggers

Associate Vice President for Student Services

all of what they do and programs they offer for upper-level classes and adjust them to include freshman classes. Some programs will transition smoother, like the supplemental instruction Richardson has set up now.

"We are going to have to assess learning in a new way," Richardson said. "They're not coming from San Jac, or other higher education; some of them will come from across the street."

Freshmen will come to UHCL not knowing what field they want to study, so academic services, like career exploration programs, will also need to be included.

As entering freshmen and sophomores grow in numbers, more services and facilities will need to be added, including housing, comprehensive dining services as well as recreational activities.

Biggers sees student life as well as international and intercultural services growing, offering more activities on campus for students.

Growth has already begun for recreational activities, starting slowly with more recreational events like ping pong, basketball and volleyball tournaments. Biggers said that eventually the university will begin offering club sports, then intramurals and eventually more organized sports.

"We need to start small and grow from there," Biggers said.

As of right now, administrators are still in the planning phase with many decisions left to be made – like what freshman classes will be offered and whether the university should start with offering freshman classes in one school before expanding to others.

The economy and recent budget cuts will have an impact on changes as well as time frame.

"Financial resources are among the many factors that will determine the actual date for implementation of downward expansion," Staples said.

Though the fall of 2014 is the tentative start, Staples reiterates that it is just an estimation of when the university hopes to be able to accommodate the incoming freshmen.

UHCL is already preparing for the upcoming downward expansion with the hunt for a mascot.

The choices have already been narrowed to four finalists: blue heron, buck, egret and hawk. Faculty, staff and student members who make up the mascot search teams are in the process of reviewing the illustrations members of the UHCL community submitted for each potential mascot. ■

UHCL: Then and Now

Then:

- Opened Fall 1974
- 1,069 students enrolled
- 60 faculty members
- President – Alfred R. Neumann

Now:

- 8,099 students enrolled
- 744 faculty members
- 86 programs offered
- President – William Staples

"Financial resources are among the many factors that will determine the actual date for implementation of downward expansion."

– William Staples
President of UHCL

ci•vil•i•ty (sĭ-vĭl'ĭ-tē) *n., pl. -ties* 1. Courteous behavior; politeness. 2. A courteous act or utterance.

from The American Heritage College Dictionary

There is a difference between a scholarly debate and causing disruption by being argumentative and disrespectful.

You are a scholar and you paid for the privilege to be educated. *Act like a scholar and succeed like a scholar.*

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