



Will work for... pg. 4-5
 Outrageous ways students
 make money

Campus Life, pg. 8
 NSLS gets 'trashy'
 for a cause



VOLUME XL, NUMBER 8

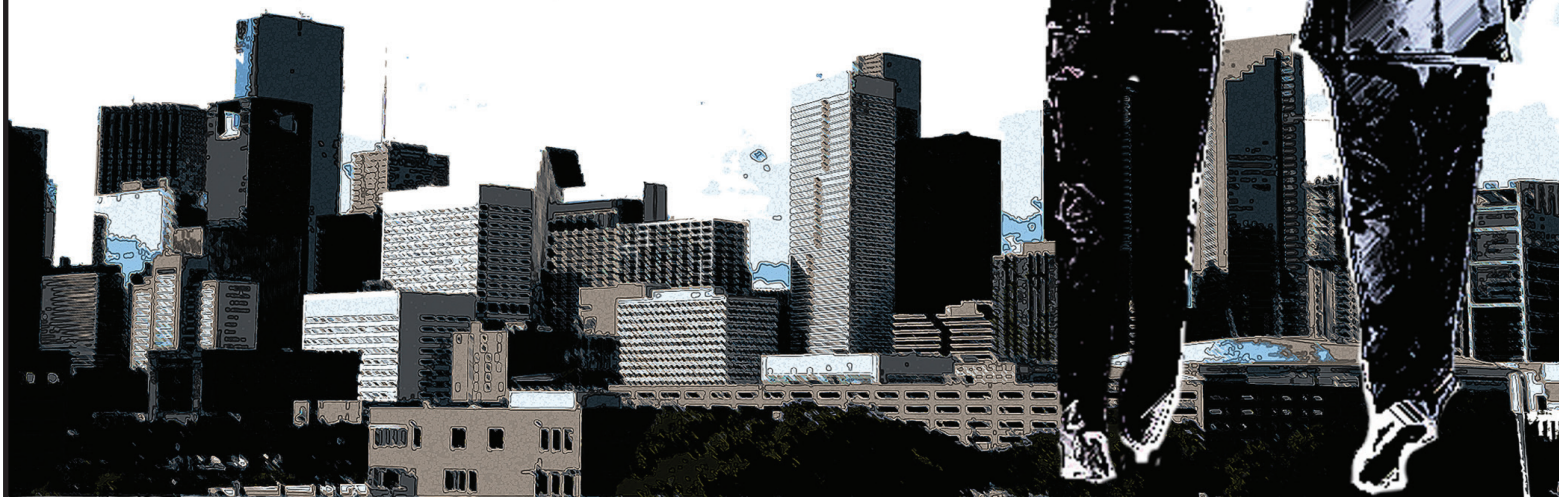
www.UHCLTheSignal.com

OCTOBER 1, 2012

THE SIGNAL

Destination Houston

*Career opportunities,
 diverse population, recreational
 attractions and low cost of living
 make Houston a hot spot for
 young professionals*



STEPHEN SCHUMACHER: THE SIGNAL

Houston listed in top 20 'happiest' cities

Cameron Palmer
 The Signal

Home to more than 2 million people, 628 square miles of living space and holding the nicknames "Space City" and "The Big Heart," Forbes magazine published an article ranking Houston number 20 on a list of the happiest cities for young professionals.

The survey was conducted by CareerBliss.com, an online career community dedicated to empowering people to find happier jobs and determine what factors come into play for young professionals' happiness.

"Through our research,

we have found that a positive company culture, which focuses on overall happiness and not just compensations, is key for young professionals," stated Heidi Gollodge on CareerBliss.com.

What is attracting all these young professionals to Houston? Is it the jobs? People? Diversity? Or perhaps the social opportunities it has to offer?

Turns out, it is all of the above.

A diverse population, cultural events, low living costs and a vast job market that continues to grow are few reasons why young professionals are relocating to Houston.

Houston has seen a job growth of 2.6 percent within the last year, which has attracted more people to relocate to Houston, especially young professionals.

Marketing, accounting, informational technology, engineering, energy, medical, project management, public relations, education, legal and paralegal are just a fraction of the job fields Houston has to offer.

Houston is the largest manufacturer of petrochemicals, home to NASA and has the world's largest medical centers in the country.

"We have more jobs than

most cities in the U.S.," said Chuck Crocker, associate director of Career Services at UHCL. "The growth in the energy business and our Medical Center is an attraction. Those industries tend to pay pretty well."

With more than 92 thousand employees, 52 institutions and 280 buildings, the Texas Medical Center is one of the largest employers in Houston.

NASA alone employs more than 18 thousand people and contracts hundreds of thousands more for research and labor. In 2011, NASA was ranked fifth as one of the federal government's

HOUSTON, PAGE 6

UHCL awarded national safe campus recognition

Timothy Lapointe
 The Signal

The world can be a dangerous place. News headlines fill with stories of bomb scares, shootings and muggings on college grounds.

In the past month, two attacks occurred on the UH main campus alone. Yet in these troubling times, the University of Houston Clear Lake has been ranked as one of the top 20 safest colleges in the nation by Stateuniversity.com, a website that analyzes and rates colleges and universities across the country.

The 2012 study lifted UHCL from its former ranking of number 21 to 17 nationally in regard to campus safety. UHCL ranks as the second safest campus statewide, preceded only to the Central Texas College in Killeen.

"It feels great knowing we're kept so safe," said Amir Shahri, graphic arts major. "I've had classes that don't get out until 11 at night, and I've never felt worried about leaving so late since there's usually police cars all over the place. Our police department is doing a great job."

As per the UHCL Police Department's 2012 Annual Review: Campus Safety & Crime Report, the total crimes reported in 2010 were 64. In 2011, the reported crimes dropped to 59. The majority of crimes, 20 of the 59, were theft. There were five reports each for disorderly conduct and driving without a license. Burglary of a motor vehicle, striking an unattended vehicle, and drug related

SAFETY, PAGE 6

May the 'oinker' with the biggest heart win

Stephanie Brown
 The Signal

Two events have been created to help promote UHCL school spirit and both will take place on I Heart UHCL Day, Oct. 17.

The I Heart UHCL decorating contest allows departments, student groups and individuals to compete for the best display of school spirit. The Biggest Oinker: Pack on the Pounds event is a fundraiser designed to raise money for the school.

The purpose of I Heart UHCL is to visually display school spirit and promote friendly competition. Departments have until Oct. 3 to decorate their offices. After the deadline, photos of the contestants' decorations are taken

and posted on the Internet so the campus community can vote.

"School spirit provides a sense of community and belonging; the student who attends the university will have more of a connection and more loyalty to the university through programs such as I Heart UHCL," said Patrick Cardenas, program assistant of Student Life and full coordinator of I Heart UHCL.

There are five separate decoration categories: Best Door, Best Office, Best Window, Best School Spirit Group and Best School Spirit Individual. All departments are invited to participate, including those at UHCL-Pearland, who won last year's Best Door award.

Last year, the Intercultural and

International Student Services Office won the category for Best Office. They dressed "Blockies," an unofficial mascot for UHCL based on its blue and green logo block, in different cultural outfits to represent various countries and decorated the office with "IISS Hearts UHCL."

"It really brought our office together because it showed that our hard work paid off," said Susana Hernandez, assistant director of IISS. "We have signed up to participate again this year, and we are already working on our new theme. We are looking forward to defending our win."

Andrew Reitberger, interim director of Student Life, noted that this event has been a great

way to promote school spirit in the past.

"There are a lot of things to love about UHCL and I Heart UHCL Day is a great time for everyone to show that love," Reitberger said.

Similarly, the Biggest Oinker: Pack on the Pounds campaign allows students raise money by donating spare change into small, blue piggy banks. This is a part of the Be the Change campaign, which raised \$416.17 last year.

"By putting your loose change in a piggy bank, even if there is only \$10, you are really making a difference," said Kim Herhold, assistant director of development-annual fund.

I HEART, PAGE 6



COURTESY: UHCL STUDENT LIFE

The Provost's Office won last year's Best Window Category for the I Heart UHCL contest.

Nothing Worth Having Comes Easy

The trials and tribulations of obtaining a college degree

Here it comes – graduation. Was all the struggle worth obtaining that degree? Were the sleepless nights and the repetitive bowls of Ramen noodles worth all the hassle?

Even taking into account the intrinsic value of education, with the current rate of unemployment, many college students wonder if their degree will be worth all the trouble and sacrifice they endured throughout the years to obtain their degree.

People tend to think they are “special” or the exception to the rule. Unfortunately, we’re not all like Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg – college dropouts who made it big. The reality is that we are going to need degrees to have, at the least, a comfortable life.

In 2012, U.S. News and World Report reported the average annual tuition for a public institution is roughly \$20,000, while the annual tuition for a private institution is approximately \$30,000. After graduation, many students have acquired \$80,000 to \$120,000 worth of debt without the guarantee of a job.

Traditionally, when thinking about what a college student is, people tend to think of young adults between the ages of 18 and 23 on track to attend college for four years. Times have changed.

These days, college students are all ages, some have children and many have a full-time job.

EDITORIAL

Some students even juggle both the family and a career while going to college full-time.

While the traditional “college student” stereotype has changed, the stresses of college life have not. There comes a time in every college student’s life when he or she wants to throw in the towel.

Some motivations to go or stay in college include: college students have higher employment rates than high school graduates; college provides internships and industry connections; college graduates have a salary that is significantly higher than high school graduates; and, if statistics are not enough encouragement, the fact that someone has the endurance to push through years of struggle and not give up says a lot to an employer.

The Economic Policy Institute reported that the unemployment rate for college students in 2012 was 9.4 percent, while high school graduates had an unemployment rate in 2012 of 31.1 percent. While college students are not guaranteed a job upon graduation, they are a step ahead of those who hold a high school diploma.

Another reason to attend college is to obtain an internship in the industry you wish to enter. When applying for internships,

many companies require a letter from an academic institution stating the internship will be for course credit. Post graduation, it is very difficult to find a job without some previous work experience, which a college internship provides.

The hiring manager of a local radio station said he didn’t care if prospective employees graduated from Harvard, their resumes automatically get thrown in the trash if they do not have an internship or some sort of experience.

This month, The New York Times did a study of salary ranges for those with and without college degrees. They found that 82 percent of people who were earning \$150,000 or more had a bachelor’s degree. Though entry-level jobs have a median salary of \$30,000, over time college graduates have better earning potential, and better benefits than those who have not obtained a degree.

In the United States, 87 percent of the population hold a high school diploma. Thirty percent hold a bachelor’s degree. Approximately 8 percent hold a master’s degree. Three percent hold a doctorate degree. In this day and age, people have to be one step ahead. A high school diploma accompanied with 20 years of experience still may not get you the job you want.

For example, a legal secretary who had 20 years of experience at

WANTNEEDO



Kalan Lyra

a Houston law firm said she was recommended for an upper-level secretarial position at the same law firm but was rejected, not because she didn’t have the right experience, but because she didn’t have at least a bachelor’s degree.

It is a never-ending cycle. If people do not attend college, they will not be eligible for an internship. If they do not get an internship or have some sort of work experience accompanied with a degree, they often do not

get their ideal job.

When students start to feel the burden of obtaining an education – the old adage that, in life, “nothing worth having is going to be easy” is worth remembering.

The process of obtaining a college degree isn’t supposed to be easy; if it were, anyone could do it. Determination and perseverance is what gets students to graduation and likewise is going to be the key to having a successful future.

A WORD FROM THE SAGE ON THE STAGE

“Don’t be a sage on the stage. Be a guide from the side.” That is the slogan for up-to-date college instructors. In other words, old-fashioned “chalk and talk” professors like me are passé. Professors should not be standing up in front of classes imparting their hard-earned knowledge. They should step aside and let students find out for themselves. Professors should be happy to coach from the sidelines and let the students take the field. The new model disdains “passive” learning, where the professor talks and students take notes. “Active” learning is the new ideal, and it is supposed to beat the old “passive”

LETTERS

learning all to pieces. After all, studies show...

What studies show best are the biases and preconceptions of the ones conducting the studies. Has there ever been an educational fad, even the ones that flopped the biggest, that was not floated on a raft of studies? I, for one, have never advocated passive learning (there is no such thing). When I talk, I expect students to listen, and critical listening is an active skill, and one that takes effort and practice (plus you have

to give a damn). If students are not getting much from lectures, maybe it is because they have not learned how to listen. Critical listening is not passive reception but active engagement. A good listener is like a good interviewer. You don’t just absorb, you question, you seek clarification, you evaluate, and you challenge. All good professors love students who question and challenge. The greatest joy of teaching is finding students who are willing to think for themselves.

But am I not hopelessly behind the times? How can I expect students who grew up with tweeting, texting, social media,

and video games to sit for an hour or more listening to an elderly academic go on about some esoteric subject that you actually have to think about? Where is the instant gratification in that? Boring. Instead, we must accommodate, ingratiate, indeed, bow-and-scrape. Students are customers, remember, and the customer must be made happy. So, for God’s sake, don’t lecture to them; give them something to do. Give them games, projects, and activities. Above all, keep it fun.

Suppose the U.S. Marines adopted this approach: “Hi! Welcome to Paris Island! My name is Frank and I will be your

drill sergeant for basic training. My job is to help you reach your full potential and build your self-image. We want you to feel good about yourself! We have a variety of fun activities that will help you develop both mentally and physically. Sure, some of these challenges are tough, but I will be there beside you every step of the way to encourage you and help in any way that I can. If you have any complaints, my door is always open. Have a nice day!”

Would this work for the Marines? Will it work in higher education? God help us.

Keith M. Parsons,
UHCL Professor of Philosophy

THE SIGNAL

CO-EDITORS/DESIGNERS
Cameron Palmer
Stephen Schumacher

STAFF
Vonda Atchley
Stephanie Brown
Gary Cecil III
Laura Figueroa
Charles Landriault
Timothy Lapointe
Meaghan Marquez

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Taleen Washington

PUBLICATION SPECIALIST/AD MANAGER
Lindsay Humphrey

REACH THE STAFF:
Phone: 281-283-2570
Fax: 281-283-2569
Email: thesignal@uhcl.edu
thesignalnews@gmail.com
Website: www.uhclthesignal.com

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.
- Letters to the editor are reprinted unedited.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer’s full name and contact information.
- The editors reserve the right to refuse letters, announcements, advertisements and contributed articles deemed libelous.

Address all letters to the editor to:
The Signal
Student Publications Office
University of Houston-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 456
Houston, TX 77058

We buried Paul, but not the rumors

Stephanie Brown
The Signal

I was having a delicious meal with my amazing boyfriend and his family at the Hard Rock Hotel in Orlando, and given the environment we were eating in, we were discussing music.

The conversation was quite pleasant when suddenly, out of nowhere, the subject of Paul McCartney’s alleged death arose. Apparently, he died in a crazy car accident in 1969 and a look-a-like took his place in the Beatles.

I nearly choked on my garden burger...this was the most ridiculous rumor I had ever heard! Surely there is no way anyone would actually believe such a monstrosity!

My dad is a Beatle’s fanatic, so when I returned home I brought up this horrifying topic. He laughed and provided me with a song the Beatles wrote as a sarcastic song in dispute. One lyric reads:

*“I read the news today oh boy
About a lucky man who made the grave
And though the news was rather sad
Well I just had to laugh
I saw the photograph.
He blew his mind out in a car
He didn’t notice that the lights had changed
A crowd of people stood and stared
They’d seen his face before”*

Apparently, The Beatles found this rumor quite amusing! However, the rumors continued to circulate throughout the media for a little more than two years. No matter how hard spokespeople



STAFF COLUMN

for the Beatles attempted to assure fans that Paul was alive and well, letters from distraught and outraged fans continued to overflow the Beatles’ mailroom. Apparently, Mr. McCartney’s look-a-like fooled the Queen of England herself; after all, she did knight him as Sir Paul McCartney!

Using Google, I did find some interesting clues hinting towards Paul’s death. The album cover of Abbey Road has been rumored to symbolize a funeral procession; John Lennon leads the group in a white suit, representing a priest. Ringo Starr is dressed in all black, symbolizing a mourner. George Harrison wears all denim, resembling a gravedigger. Paul McCartney is barefoot and is out of step with the other three, symbolizing a corpse. If the ending of the song “Strawberry Fields Forever” is played backwards, it sounds like John Lennon is saying, “I buried Paul.” However, Lennon later revealed that he is actually saying “cranberry juice.”

Keep in mind, however, that rumors took much longer to bloom into the media back then, and therefore, people were much more likely to believe the craziest of celebrity rumors. Today, we can’t walk into a grocery store without seeing celebrity scandals all over the covers of magazines. We can’t flip through channels on the television without hearing some form of celebrity gossip.

The media feeds on celebrity death hoaxes like candy; this month, Morgan Freeman died due to an artery rupture. Just last month, Eddie Murphy died in a tragic skiing accident. Late last year, Jon Bon Jovi was found in a coma in a New Jersey hotel. In July 2010, Lindsay Lohan overdosed on drugs and passed away. Harry Potter’s Emma Watson died in a fatal car accident in 2009.

All of these deathly incidents were immediately proven untrue, but they are merely a tiny fraction of hoaxes regarding the deaths of famous people that circulate regularly in the media. In fact, I’ve heard of so many false celebrity deaths that I refused to believe that Michael Jackson passed away for at least a month after the fact.

Along with the expansion of social media, bogus claims of celebrity deaths continue to grow. However, as these claims circulate, it becomes easier for the celebrities in question to quickly disprove these rumors. Or, maybe all of these celebrities are truly dead? Maybe everyone has a celebrity look-a-like standing by just in case, just like Sir Paul McCartney?

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE



REGISTER TO VOTE
TODAY

WWW.NATIONALVOTERREGISTRATIONDAY.ORG

Cultural ARTS

SEASON NO. 14
PRESENTS

MOZART’S JUPITER SYMPHONY

MERCURY combines the forces of Haydn and Mozart for a memorable concert event, highlighted by Mozart’s iconic *Jupiter Symphony*. A wonderful way to kick off the season!

PROGRAM

Haydn Symphony #88
Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4 (*Jonathan Godfrey*, violin)
Mozart Symphony No. 41 (*“Jupiter”*)

PRESALE / \$10 General Admission / \$6 with UHCL ID
AT THE DOOR / \$12 General Admission / \$8 with UHCL ID

**THURSDAY, OCT. 4, 2012
8 P.M. / BAYOU THEATER**



THE THINGS WE DO FOR MONEY



Gary Cecil III
The Signal

Have you ever seen one of those oddly dressed guys dancing on the street with a sign promoting “gold for sale” or some other sort of advertisement? Has it occurred to you that people actually choose to do this?

I personally have thought to myself, “I would like to do this.” But I get the feeling that this puts me in the minority. One source, wishing to remain anonymous, claimed that he or she (not even going to give away gender here) had quite a bit of fun dancing and twirling his or her sign, and he or she said that if he or she could, he or she would do it again. Which certainly brings a bit of irony to his or her request for anonymity.

Although we may not twirl signs, most of us are still in no position to judge. As college students, we need money, and we need to work to get it. Surely, most of us have done something a little “out there” during hard times. Bearing in mind that we all live in a glass house; let us refrain from throwing stones as we take a look at a select few embarrassing moments for our kind.

Allow me to start tame with dog walking. Mariska Pope, Marketing and Management major, reports having walked dogs for some extra gas money. There is nothing particularly inexcusable here.

“It was walking dogs here or there or giving baths,” Pope said.

No one likes that undignified moment when a dog suddenly decides to do his business on someone else’s lawn or shakes unexpectedly in the middle of a bath. Embarrassment factor: not high.

Dog walking’s equivalent is selling old clothes, shoes and accessories that you no longer wear. While selling back used textbooks is an age-old college tradition, today we can “hawk” almost anything. For some of us, it can get a bit embarrassing when you take a moment to look at just what you used to wear. And that only increases when you realize that whomever you are selling to is probably judging you and your ridiculous taste.

A very nice young woman working at a resale shop, who would like to be listed only as Kathryn, cited having seen someone try to sell some shoes that were incredibly flashy and “bedazzled” like “Lady Gaga.” It only goes to prove there’s something for everyone.

“In addition to selling back textbooks, I pawned my DVD player, CD’s, and DVD’s; but it didn’t get me too far,” said Ashley Smith, UHCL alumna and copy editor/page designer for the Daily Sentinel in Nacogdoches.

Still, every little bit helps, and she did ultimately earn her degree. Keep trucking there, all you students who follow in Ashley’s footsteps. “Journey of 1,000

miles,” and all that.

Stepping into the silly here: one female student reported having made a deal with her parents’ housecleaner to do her job for a day in exchange for her day’s earnings. This one is not exactly embarrassing, per se, it earns an honorable mention simply for its originality. The concept that a person can get paid indirectly by her own parents demonstrates some degree of critical thinking. Oddity factor: medium.

Higher on the oddity scale is selling your special little swimmers for science. Though it’s something people do anyway, getting paid for it somehow makes it significantly more embarrassing, especially in a less private than usual setting.

Even without an audience, what was private is now a performance. On the plus side, the closer you get to a college degree, the more you get paid. Apparently college-educated swimmers are more special than non-degree seeking swimmers.

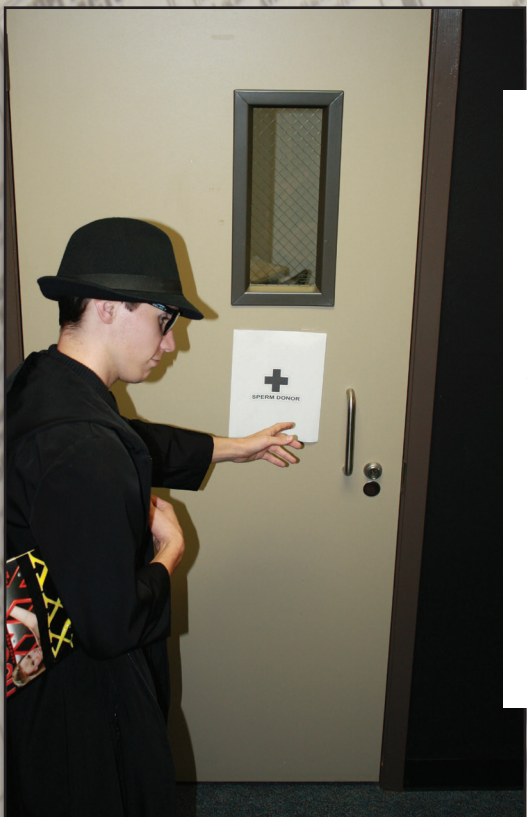
Speaking of genetics, time to take a few steps back down the evolutionary ladder into ape-man territory. We have a testimonial someone gave for getting paid to sit in a tree dressed like a monkey. I have no further details on this, but it might just be better that way. I am not so much curious as to why someone would agree to do this as I am about why anyone would need someone else to do it badly enough to pay for it. “What-the-heck?” factor: way up there.

As far as I’m concerned, at this point you might as well make some real money stripping. All of us are familiar with the tale of young women stripping their way through college. Fortunately, today, males are given the same opportunities. As a stripper, you would be significantly less covered, but immensely better paid.

In the end, you have just as many eyes on you. The big difference is that in one case, you bring joy to the hearts of the people around you and will have made their day all the more joyous for your actions. In the other case, you are dressed like a monkey.

Jobs that offer hours flexible enough to accommodate class schedules are fewer than those who need them. This mathematical misfortune at least allows some of us to land “respectable” work but, even so, sometimes just one non-embarrassing job might not be enough. So we end up following up on those ridiculous jobs advertised in the school newspaper that masterfully target we who need them.

Illustrated here are just a select few examples of the work wanted ads targeting college students. There’s plenty more. There is even a website called seekingarrangement.com that pairs “sugar daddies” with “sugar babies” for “mutually beneficial relationships.” It is apparently legal for someone else to pay your college tuition in exchange for “unmentionable services,” as long as cash itself is never offered. That would be different somehow. But no judging.



Sperm banks, such as the California Cryobank, will reimburse donors up to \$100 per donation and \$1200 per month by donating three times a week ... if donors pass the application process. Prior to donating any bodily fluids, consult your physician and inquire about benefits and risks (physical and psychological).



Plasma donation is an altruistic way to help others and earn extra cash. Each plasma donation center has its own compensation plan with payments ranging from \$20 to \$45 for a the first weekly visit, and \$30 to \$45 for the second. Prior to donating any bodily fluids, consult your physician and inquire about benefits and risks.



As most college students know, selling text books back is an easy way to earn money on old books ... if you get them sold before a new issue comes out. Some stores, such as Half Price Books will pay you cash for books, music, movies, game consoles, e-readers and audiobooks.



Resale or consignment shops like Plato's Closet provide college students with a way to exchange gently used clothing, shoes and accessories for cash. Not all items are accepted. It's a good idea to visit the company's website for details on its buying policy prior to showing up with an armload full of goods.



Human sign holding has become a popular way for college students to earn cash. It pays more than minimum wage and there's no supervisor looking over your shoulder



Move over ladies, "Magic Mike" is in the house. Stripping is no longer reserved for female college students. Popular clubs such as Chippendales and La Bare have made stripping a way for the men to make the cash to get through college.

HOUSTON: continued from page 1

“YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ARE NOT RELOCATING HERE BECAUSE OF THE LOW LIVING COSTS; THEY ARE MOVING HERE BECAUSE OF THE JOBS, AND LOW LIVING COSTS ARE JUST A BYPRODUCT.”

— Chad Burke
President and CEO, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region

top places to work.

Total Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc. is one of the largest integrated international oil and gas companies in Houston with operations in more than 130 countries worldwide and more than 96 thousand employees.

“I can speak to what I see here at UHCL, and it’s a broad range of wanting to work in energy and healthcare, which are Houston’s two top industries,” Crocker said. “Many want to go into education, information technology and nonprofit work.”

In addition to job opportunities, diversity is another factor that contributes to young professionals’ happiness.

“Houston’s diversity is one of its main attractions,” said Eva Newsom, marketing director at Burnett Specialists, Texas’ largest employee-owned staffing and placement firm. “Houston has whatever you’re looking for.”

Houston offers both cultural and social diversity with events such as the Houston International Festival, which celebrates international art, music and cuisine in Houston, to the world’s largest art car parade held every May.

Houston also hosts several conventions throughout the year that caters to a wide range of interests from guns to cars, tattoos, comics, boats, home and gardening.

“We have diversity in our sporting events, educational opportunities and recreational attractions,” Newsom said. “We

have the world’s biggest rodeo and a world-class symphony orchestra.”

Besides available jobs and a diverse economy, living costs also play a part in young professionals’ happiness.

With the average house costing \$118,200, Houston’s cost of living is 19.6 percent lower than the national average. The Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), one of the nation’s most influential business organizations, represents the interests of the Houston region’s enterprises – from the local entrepreneur to the global Fortune 500.

GHP states on its website that Houston’s home appreciation last year was 0.64 percent less than the rest of the U.S.

Houston has the lowest overall cost of living among the 29 metropolitan areas with more than two million people.

“Texas still has land available and isn’t as densely populated as the rest of the country,” said Chad Burke, president and CEO of the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region. “Young professionals are not relocating here because of the low living costs, they are moving here because of the jobs, and low living costs are just a byproduct.”

The U.S. Census Bureau reports the population of Houston grew by 50,000 from 2010-2011. The Perryman Group, an economic and financial analysis firm, reports nearly one million people are projected to relocate to Houston between 2011 and 2015.

I HEART: continued from page 1

School organizations are invited to compete in this fundraiser to see who can raise the most amount of change. Students are encouraged to empty their blue piggy banks into one of the organization “Pork Barrels” at designated events throughout the semester. So far, the American Marketing Association, the World Organization for Early Childhood Education, and the Vietnamese Studies Association have registered to compete.

On I Heart UHCL Day, team members will have their change weighed, and money raised from this event will fund new trees to replace the dying trees outside of the Alumni Plaza.

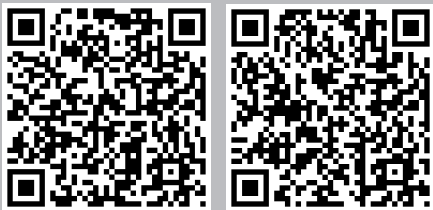
“Whether you belong to five student organizations, participate in research with a professor, or contribute money to the ‘Biggest Oinker’ contest, chances are you feel a part of the community; you feel as though belong,” said David Rachita, interim dean of

students. “And when you feel as though you belong, chances are you stay more engaged in your academic success. That’s school spirit.”

The deadline to register for the I Heart UHCL decorating contest has passed, but online voting for the best decorations will take place from Oct. 5 to noon, Oct. 16. The winners will receive a certificate and a commemorative mum. For more information regarding this event, visit the Office of Student Life, located at SSCB 1.204, or call 281-283-2560.

The competition date for Biggest Oinker: Pack on the Pounds will be held on I Heart UHCL Day, and the registration deadline is Oct. 12 by noon. In order to register, visit www.uhcl.edu/BeTheChange. For more information, contact Kim Herhold at herhold@uhcl.edu or call 281-283-2036.

MORE ONLINE
Scan the QR codes to find out more about the I Heart UHCL (near right) and Biggest Oinker (far right) campaigns.



SAFETY: continued from page 1



COURTESY: UHCL POLICE

The 2012 UHCL Police Department.

crimes received four reports each. Criminal mischief, driving while intoxicated, and public intoxication received three reports each. There were two reports of assault and two reports of weapon possession. The remaining categories received one report each: Evading arrest; Harassment; Stalking; Unauthorized use of vehicle.

What exactly is it that makes our campus so safe? UHCL has numerous methods that are used to keep students and faculty safe. One such method is the PIER system, or Public Information and Emergency Response System. This system is a powerful tool that allows the university to send out mass messages related to any emergencies.

“However, PIER is only as good as the contact information you have entered into your E-Services account,” said David Rachita, interim dean of students. “It is imperative that students check and update their contact information so that PIER can work effectively.”

There are a number of other factors that attribute to the campus’ safety, such as the age group and maturity levels of UHCL students.

“UHCL is a unique community of learning geared to upper-level and graduate students,” said Paul Willingham, chief of police.

“IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STUDENTS CHECK AND UPDATE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION SO THAT PIER CAN WORK EFFECTIVELY.”

— David Rachita
Interim Dean of Students

“That in and of itself [the maturity of UHCL students] is a big factor. Yet another is our lack of some of the common university items, such as sports, Greek life and on-campus housing. These things inevitably attract and create crime calls.”

Willingham warns that with the four-year initiative on the horizon, some of these safety factors will change.

“We will soon see younger students, on-campus housing and perhaps eventually athletics and Greek life, plus a myriad of other activities at night and on weekends that will challenge the campus’ previous paradigms,” Willingham said.

The UHCL campus is positioned in a scenic and rather calm environment thanks to its proximity to a nature reserve, which has led some to believe that the

campus’ location is one of the deciding factors regarding the safety of a school.

“Location, location, location,” Rachita said. “Most universities and colleges have police departments that are top-notch. But sometimes the locations of those campuses are just in difficult areas.”

Additional services offered by the UHCL Police Department include:

- 1) Escorting students/faculty to their cars—the campus police force are willing to offer escorts at any time, if a student or faculty member feels threatened or unsafe.
- 2) An emergency hotline that connects to a recorded message related to any emergency events that could be occurring.
- 3) Call boxes stationed about the campus that, with a single press of a button, will contact a police dispatcher who will send assistance.
- 4) A Lost and Found station, which retains lost items for 90 days for possible retrieval.
- 5) Vehicle assistance – should anyone on campus also experience vehicle issues, such as locking keys inside of a vehicle, flat tires, and so forth, officers are willing to provide assistance at any given time.

UHCL’s E-Services system provides a secure place for you to submit your updated contact information for phone numbers and email addresses. Listed below are instructions for accessing and updating your personal contact information through E-Services.

Go online to E-Services at www.uhcl.edu/eservices.

Use your Student ID number to log in to the site - this is the 7-digit number you used to register for classes. If you don’t know your Student ID number, click “Request My User ID” link on the login page. Please contact the Student Assistance Center by calling 281-283-2722, or visiting SSCB 1.102.

If you don’t have a password or have forgotten it, click “Request A New Password” link on the login page and enter your Student ID number. A new password will be sent to your UHCL email. For instructions on accessing your UHCL email, go to <https://web-mail.uhcl.edu/>, or contact the Support Center by calling 281-283-2828 or visiting Bayou Building B2300.

After retrieving your new password, log in to E-Services at www.uhcl.edu/eservices.

Once you have successfully logged in to E-Services, click the UHCL E-Services icon link. Next, click the “Campus Personal Information” link located on the left menu, or you may select “Campus Personal Information” from the links in the bottom right window panel.

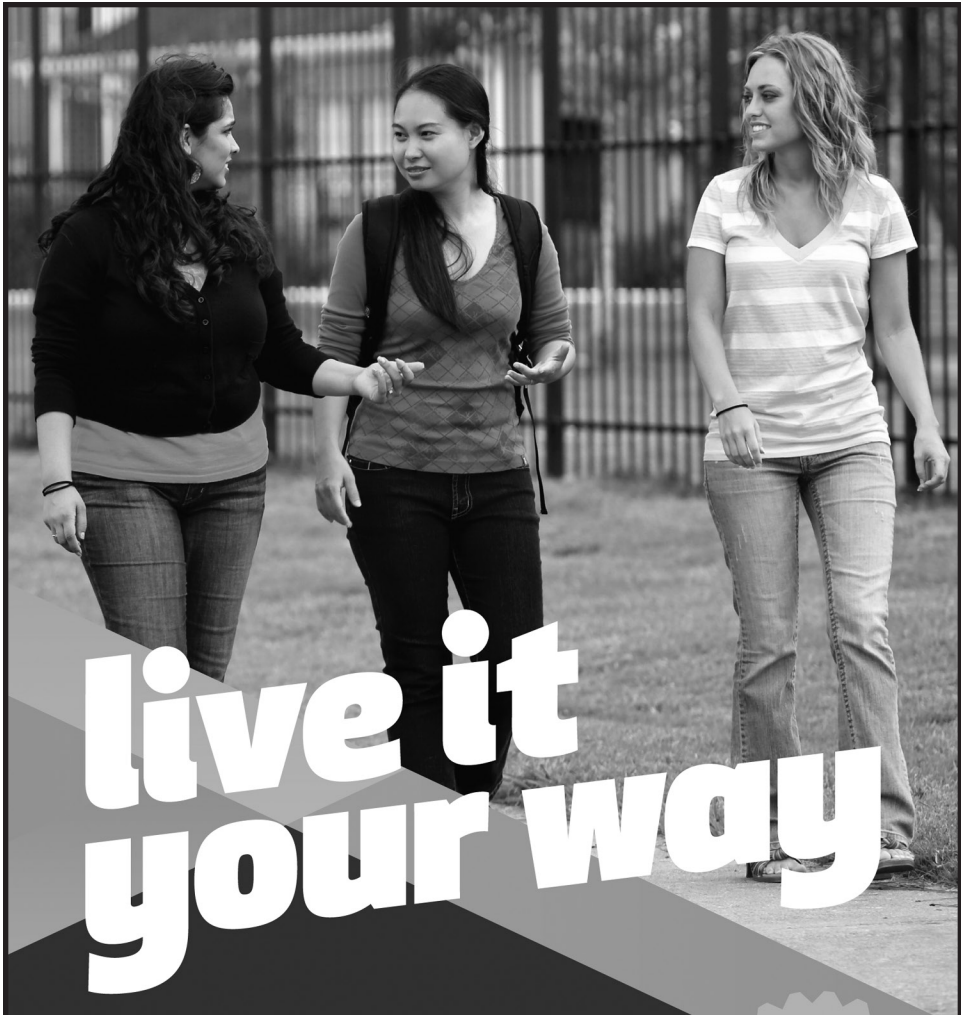
Update phone numbers and email addresses by clicking the appropriate links. Be sure to make the necessary changes and additions for home phones, cell phones, and home email addresses.

Be sure to click the “Save” button after each update and addition to your personal contact information.

Once you log out, your information will be available for use in case of an emergency.


For assistance and questions about updating your personal information through E-Services, please contact the Student Assistance Center, SSCB 1.102, 281-283-2722.

Source: UHCL, www.uhclemergency.info



live it your way

Tired of the Commute?
Live on campus & be just a short walk
to classes. Limited spaces available.
Sign your lease online today!



university forest
student village

2600 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston TX 77058
visit us at: universityforestUHCL.com telephone: 281.286.5959 

text
UFA
to
47464

standard rates apply

bayosphere magazine

*is accepting submissions
in the categories of:*

- art
- poetry
- literature
- photography
- digital media


submission deadline:
october 15

visit
www.uhcl.edu/bayosphere
for info or email submissions to
stephenson@uhcl.edu

• • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • STUDENT LIFE • •


Don't Hide Your Pride, show your love!

Student Life Presents...




October 17
12 noon - 7pm
Bayou Atrium II

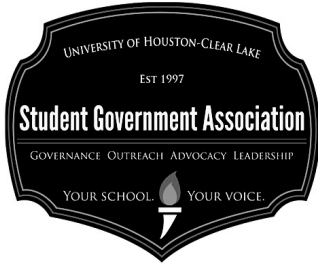
Why do you love UHCL?



@UHClearLake
#IHEARTUHCL




www.uhcl.edu/studentlife



UHCL SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR VOICE.



Sarah Says

*A brighter future, America's dream,
Don't let politics prevail.
Complicated as it may seem,
a single vote can tip the scale.
VOTE!*

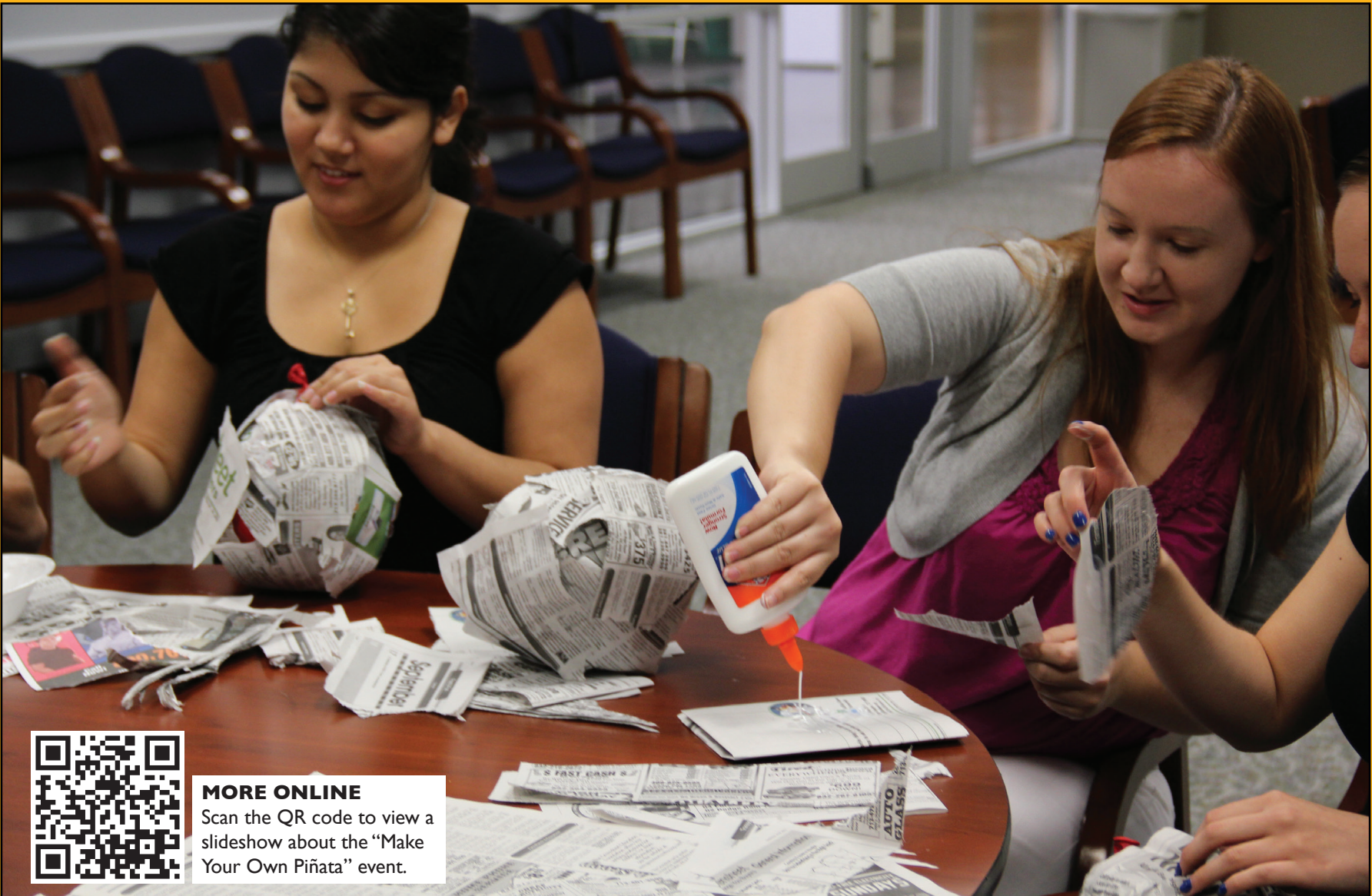
- **Congrats UNITY & Alan Mansfield! Thanks to all orgs!**
SGA raised over \$650 for the Hugh Lea Leadership Scholarship
- **Vote for October's Student Leader of the Month.**
Deadline: October 24, 2012 at 10 a.m. in SSCB 1.205
- **Get involved! Join a committee**
Applications available in the SSCB 1.205 or Student Lounge

Talk to us

facebook
facebook.com/SGA.UHCL

e-mail
sga@uhcl.edu

twitter
twitter.com/UHCLSGA



LAURA FIGUEROA : THE SIGNAL

Monique Martinez, business major, and Cassandra Jones, biology major, learn to build their own piñata at the “Make Your Own Piñata” event held Sept. 20 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.



VONDA ATCHLEY: THE SIGNAL

Shilpa Chandra, pending member for The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), dressed in recyclable bags to demonstrate the annual usage of plastic bags for one person. NSLS held its first fundraiser while promoting environmental awareness by selling recyclable bags Tuesday, Sept. 24 in Atrium I. The student organization plans to continue to promote environmental issues with future fundraisers.



COURTESY IMELDA ESTRADA-WICKS: INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES

Visitors accompanied their four-legged friends for a stroll during last year's UHCL 3K Dog Walk for Education, which raises money for the Celebrating Our Elders scholarship program. This year's 3K dog walk will be held Sunday, Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m. in UHCL parking lot D.



CAMERON PALMER: THE SIGNAL

Look for the “Be the Change” logo around campus to see how your pocket change is “making” a change for student programming with sponsorships at various events throughout the year. Visit www.uhcl.edu/BeTheChange for more information.