

# THE UHCLIDIAN

A STUDENT PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE

Volume XXXV, Number 4

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MARCH 19, 2007



Got a bone to pick?

“Bones: An exhibit inside you” now at Space Center Houston

**STORY ON PAGE 4**

Paradise found!

Paradise touches Galveston with the rainforest exhibit at Moody Gardens

**STORY ON PAGE 6**

Two new degrees offered in the fall

**By COREY MALLORY**  
THE UHCLIDIAN

Starting Fall 2007, the University of Houston-Clear Lake will offer two new graduate programs including a master's degree in Digital Media Studies and a master's degree in Science and Biotechnology.

The Digital Media Studies program is the first of its kind in the state of Texas.

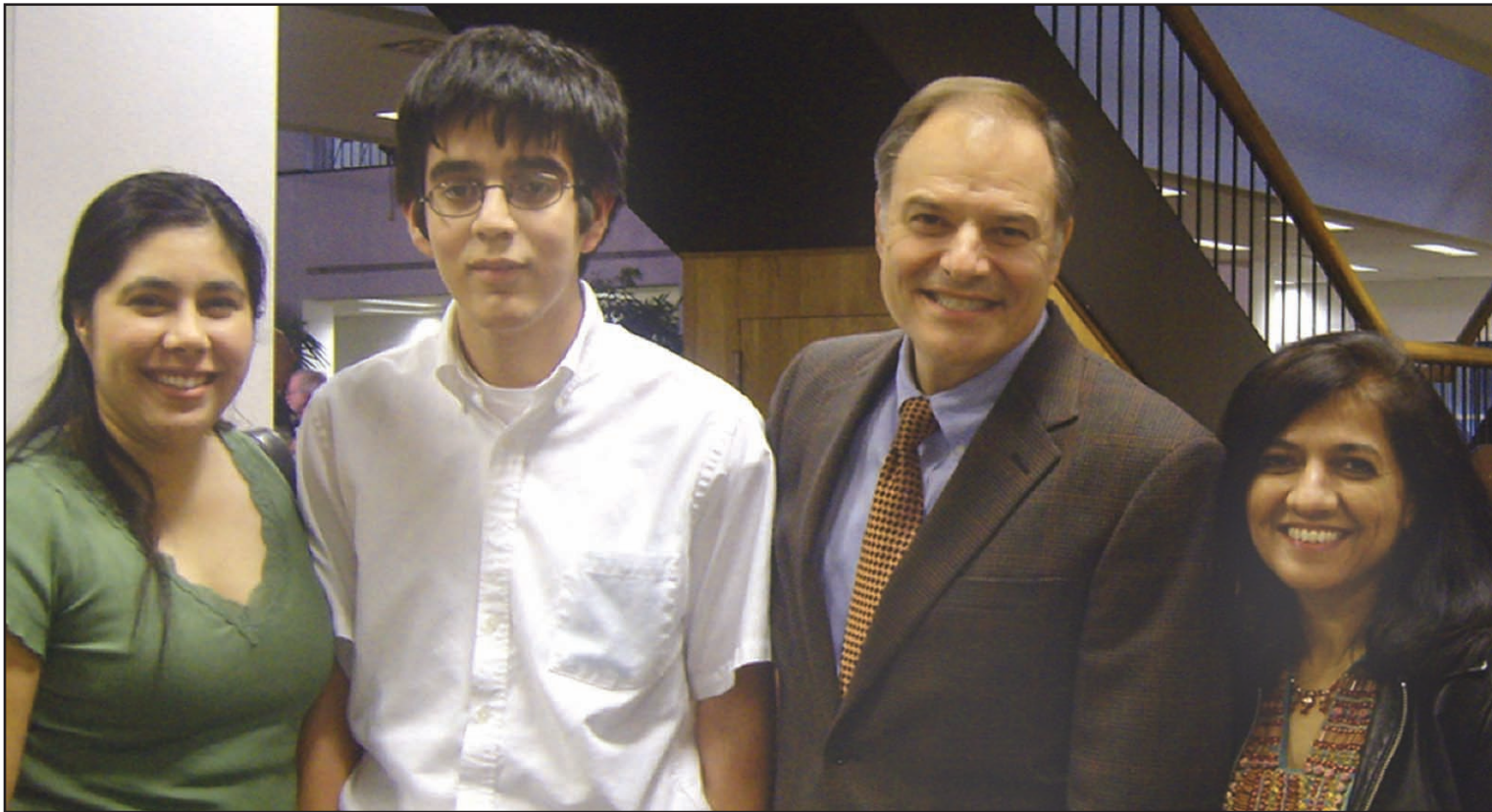
“This program will offer students here at UHCL and individuals in the Houston-Galveston area a unique opportunity to pursue their interests in digital media in a flexible, interdisciplinary program,” said Ashley Packard, associate professor of communication. “The degree will also attract positive attention to the university.”

This new program will pull from the talents of professors from all four UHCL schools. Packard said that students who achieve their master's in Digital Media Studies are well-positioned to become communication directors, Web content managers, electronic publishers, multimedia designers and project managers.

“Their interdisciplinary training will prepare them to serve as the critical link among the chain of specialists in writing, design, programming and marketing now required to produce effective multimedia products,” Packard said.

She also pointed out that it is a very marketable and flexible degree, which will give students a wide variety of opportunities. Prerequisites for this program are a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of

See **MASTER'S PROGRAM**, page 10



NEESHA HOSEIN : UHCLIDIAN

**TRIBUTE TO BOBBY:** Congressman Nick Lampson poses for photographs with attendees at the Film and History Club's showing of “Bobby,” a film about the late senator Robert Kennedy.

## Congressman Lampson speaks at UHCL

**By NEESHA HOSEIN**  
THE UHCLIDIAN

Congressman Nick Lampson of Texas' 22nd Congressional District made a guest appearance at the University of Houston Clear Lake Film and History Club's Film and Speaker Series at March 3 to honor the memory of Robert F. Kennedy at the showing of the film “Bobby.”

The film is a fictional depiction of matters events involving several groups of people at the Ambassador Hotel in Los

Angeles leading up to the June 6, 1968, assassination of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Racial tensions, infidelity, concerns about war, the line between wealth and poverty, and oppression are all issues addressed by the all-star cast of characters in the film. The troubling issues of society illustrated in the film are all reflective of what was important to Kennedy at that time.

“To me, Robert F. Kennedy epitomized an era in our nation's

history unlike any other, an era of hope, an era of change, an era of courage, an era in which every American served as a mechanism of democracy both at home and abroad,” Lampson said.

He talked about the significance and lasting effects of the Civil Rights Movement, The Vietnam War, and legendary leaders like Robert F. Kennedy, John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. Lampson believes that these events and the leaders who guided us through

them instilled hope in us and epitomized the call for action.

“They were the leaders we needed and we would have followed them to the ends of the earth, because they spoke of courage, but fought and acted in peace,” Lampson said. “They led with their words and with their actions. Bobby Kennedy was a paradigm of this foundation of hope. He was an embodiment of true public service, and fought for those who could not fight

See **CONGRESSMAN**, page 10

## Higher education gets lower end of the stick

**By BRET NEWCOMB**  
THE UHCLIDIAN

If you are looking for a way to earn a little money for next semester's tuition, then place a bet on it costing more.

On March 1, William Staples hosted the last of two town meetings with the student body of the University of Houston-Clear Lake to discuss a proposed increase in designated tuition, which will cost full-time resident undergraduate students an additional \$128 per semester.

There are two primary sources of income for state schools. The first is state provided revenue. The second is student provided tuition. Once the state has made its investment in a school, the remainder of the budgetary needs must be met by the student tuition.

For example, UHCL's 2007 estimated operating budget totals almost \$78 million. The state provides the university with approximately \$33.5 million of those funds. The university must obtain the majority of the rest of the \$78 million through tuition.

Currently, the Texas House of Representatives and Senate are in the midst of the 80th legislature, a five-month process that

happens every two years. They have been officially meeting since Jan. 9, 2007, making and debating decisions that will regulate the state for at least the next two years. As always, one of the issues on the table is funding for all of the public universities in Texas. What they decide will determine what happens to student tuition.

In 2003, tuition in the state of Texas was deregulated, which means the power to set tuition transferred from the Texas Legislature into the hands of the individual universities' boards of regents. Prior to deregulation, tuition increases were capped. Since deregulation, universities can now charge as much as they think the market will bear. Many do not see that decision ever being reversed.

“Do I see things changing?” Staples asked. “I doubt it. The state now sees it as a revenue service.”

The effects of deregulation were immediate at UHCL. In a study conducted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, undergraduate residents taking 15 semester hours saw an almost 24 percent increase in designated tuition from the fall of 2003 to the spring of 2004, and the main campus saw

more than a 41 percent increase.

The University of Houston Board of Regents is the governing body for the entire University of Houston System, including UHCL. The board consists of nine individuals who are not elected, but appointed by the governor of the state of Texas. They approve tuitions for each institution under the umbrella of the University of Houston System.

“Our regents understand the different missions of our campuses,” said Michelle Dotter, vice president of administration and finance at UHCL. “They give us latitude for our different financial situations.”

In February, Staples and Dotter addressed the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee along with representatives from other state-funded institutions of higher education. The meeting was at the request of the legislators in order to see what difference a change in formula funding would have on the tuition rates.

Formula funding is the system by which the state determines how much revenue they will appropriate to the different universities. The amount is based on 2 main criteria:

See **TUITION**, page 10





The UHCLIDIAN is a homonym for Euclidian – a word play using the name of the famous Greek mathematician Euclid and the university’s acronym, UHCL.

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The UHCLIDIAN 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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Rising tuition fees due to state deregulation

Tuition at the University of Houston-Clear Lake will increase once again. Not a big surprise, right? Ever since Governor Rick Perry approved a bill to have college tuition deregulated, the price to attend college has made a dramatic climb over the past four years.

The state now requires the universities to decide on their own tuition costs. This past year UHCL’s tuition increased 9 percent. Tuition increased 5 percent the year before.

Since the deregulation, the total academic cost for a full-time, undergraduate student at UHCL went from \$1,858 for the fall semester of 2003 to \$2,442 in the fall of 2006, which is a 31 percent increase. Stephen F. Austin University went up 51 percent and the University of Houston went up 49 percent in that same time period.

The average rise in tuition for states across the nation during the past year plays out like this: California’s tuition increased only 1 percent from the 2005-2006 school year to the 2006-2007 school year; Texas’ tuition went up 8 percent; Nebraska’s increased 6 percent; Vermont’s increased 5 percent; New York’s increased 1 percent; and Florida’s increased 4 percent.

With the state providing less and less money to state universities, it is no wonder universities are is forced to continually

increase tuition. Will it ever stop? The answer is probably not. As the cost of living goes up, so will tuition.

The state legislature has not given one major problem the care and attention it deserves: What about those students who come from middle class families and do not qualify for financial aid? Will they be left in the dust as tuition climbs to unimaginable costs?

The dramatic rise in tuition throughout Texas has also forced lower income students, who already struggle to pay for college even with financial aid, to withdraw and work full-time. It has made getting a higher education less affordable and, therefore, less accessible.

State officials need to take a closer look at these problems. If the universities are forced to raise tuition, then financial aid should be re-evaluated to include those members of our community who currently fall through the cracks.

Even though financial aid has increased since the deregulation of tuition, there fails to be a significant enough change in eligibility requirements.

When the bill passed that would deregulate tuition fees, students feared a college education would be out of reach. That fear continues as the state legislature discusses how much, or how little, money to give

schools. Texas universities have gone from being state funded to state assisted.

The amount available to universities will not be enough to keep up with inflation, and universities, including UHCL, will be forced to make up for that by raising tuition. Therefore, the state is causing the damage to students’ wallets, not the university.

There have been several failed attempts by lawmakers to go back to regulating college tuition. In 2005, Texas senator Tommy Williams came up with a plan to do just that. His proposal would have placed a \$94 per-credit-hour cap on tuition fees. Several other lawmakers were in agreement with his proposal, but unfortunately not enough for the bill to pass.

Texas lawmakers, or at least those who still agree with the deregulation on tuition, blame mounting budget shortfalls as the culprit for forcing universities to raise tuition. UHCL’s expected increase for the 2008-2009 school year will be about \$130 above the current costs for 12 credit hours and two semesters.

If tuition ever goes back to being regulated, the state legislature may see the anticipated increase in enrollment at colleges and universities. Until then, state officials need to place higher value on higher education.

COMMENTARY : Whose truth is it?

By NEESHA HOSEIN  
THE UHCLIDIAN

Who is “Bob Truth” and why is he saying all those mean things about me? He is an unknown individual hiding behind a pretend name so that he can anonymously spread hateful misinformation about a group of people he does not understand. I happen to belong to that group of people.

On March 5, a person who calls himself Bob Truth sent out a mass e-mail to all UHCL employees denouncing an upcoming event at which the keynote speaker was scheduled to discuss the Islamic religion.

The concept behind the Religions of the World Speaker series is to provide basic information about different religions. The goal is to bring about a better understanding of the different religions, not to promote one religion over the other.

The truth is, ever since 9/11 Muslims have been given a bad rap. No one seems to notice the millions of Muslims inside and outside the Middle East who live peacefully. Their existence is probably disregarded because they provide nothing for the drama-hungry media.

A man killed five children in an Amish schoolhouse shooting. A federal building was blown up in Oklahoma killing 168 people. Two teenagers murdered 13 of their fellow classmates at Columbine High School in Colorado. It becomes top news, then fades away quickly. Does anyone blame the culprits’ religion? Never.

All Muslims are under scrutiny because of the actions of the small minority who choose to act barbarically. Terrorists hide behind Islam and use it as a scapegoat for their misdeeds, just as “Bob Truth” hid behind a fake name and identity to vilify Islam.

This mysterious e-mailer tried to negatively influence university employees with a list of manipulated verses taken out of context from the Quran. Minutes after the e-mail was discovered, employees launched a series of replies refuting his claims. The incident compelled people to seek the truth,

which gave the event the extra attention it deserved.

“Bob Truth” is a perfect example of ignorance and a lead not to follow. His e-mail was meant to cause an uproar of opposition toward Islam, but instead students, faculty and employees came together and turned a negative into a positive.

Only a Muslim scholar can pull quotes from the Quran and explain its true meaning. The Quran is the constitution by which Muslims live. Many of the Book’s metaphors are often snatched out of context and, therefore, highly misunderstood.

Sheikh Zoubir Bouchikhi explained Islamic concepts and attempted to dispel common misconceptions while at UHCL. Misconceptions about Islam began to run rampant following 9/11, as Bouchikhi pointed out. Prior to that date, Islam did not seem to bother anyone much.

In 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammad Ali and refused induction into the armed forces based on his religious convictions. At the time, many doubted Ali’s sincerity in joining the Islamic faith, which has since weathered the test of time. But no one questioned the sincerity of the Islamic faith to be one of peace.

Since 9/11, I have experienced several occurrences of religious discrimination. I have been called “one of those people” and my children are frequently ostracized at school because of their name. Bouchikhi discussed how Sikhs were murdered in New York City after the terror attacks because they resemble people of Middle Eastern decent and were mistaken for Muslims because of their beard and turban.

I understand why people feel apprehensive, but I fault those who choose to remain frozen in a state of fearful aggression without searching for facts from credible sources.

Bouchikhi made a valid point that there is good and evil in every culture. It is up to

the individual to choose between right and wrong no matter what the religion.

Bouchikhi addressed the most common misconceptions:

- “Allah” is simply the Arabic word for God.
- The moon and star symbol does not refer to a “moon god;” Islamic practices are based on a lunar calendar.
- There are strict stipulations behind polygamy. It should not be based on the pleasure principle. Each wife is to be treated and provided for equally. The world population is 60 percent female to 40 percent male. The concept is also meant to be a saving grace for widows or women living in poverty.
- Muslims are to live in peace with all acquaintances and respect the law of the land in which they reside.
- As for women’s rights, no one questions why a nun has her head covered, or why a woman would choose to strip for money. But the hijab of a Muslim woman labels her as oppressed. Abuse and inferiority of women is, by no means, promoted in Islam, although it happens in every society. Ingrid Mattson, an American woman who converted to Islam, is the president of the Islamic Society of North America, the largest Islamic organization in the country.

Even as a born Muslim, I still have much to learn. I am not qualified to teach Islam, but I will defend it. I am fed up with misconceptions and hatred. Do not judge based on the actions of terrorists claiming to act in the name of Islam. Believing that middle-eastern terrorists represent all Muslims is like believing that the KKK represents all Christians. If you want to know about Islam, just ask.

# Classroom etiquette: is it a thing of the past?

I remember when life was much simpler, and the only bill I had to pay was attention. The old yellow school bus, the dusty blackboard and the teacher who always kept the class in check are my most distinct recollections. Days always began with the Pledge of Allegiance and morning announcements.

Who could forget recess? This was the fun part of the day usually following lunch. I recall burning off those calories, and the stress I didn't know I had, by playing games like red rover, boys chase girls, wall ball, hop scotch, jump rope and I also munched on snacks I snuck in my pocket from lunch.

When playtime was over we knew, without a doubt, that it was back to business! Walk in a straight line in the halls. No talking while the teacher is talking. No chewing gum in the school. A silent, air-borne hand signified I had something to say. Breaks were taken at designated times, unless urgent.

These were our guidelines from age 5 to 18. What happens to all these simple bylaws we lived by, for roughly 13 years of our lives, after we enter adulthood?

I have taken so many college classes and I am always amazed at how many people apparently fall

through the cracks of the etiquette sidewalk, and forget to show consideration to fellow students and instructors.

Continually, I witness a professor having to address students who are being disruptive by talking during a lecture. Cell phones blare out, sometimes in the most bizarre and obnoxious tones, justified by an "oh, I'm sorry" from the guilty party. Laptop users do not rock the popularity list either with their incessant key-clicking. Suppose the teacher were to let out a long belch during a lecture and then say "oh, I'm sorry." It's the same thing, in my opinion, and equally as offensive.

It is sad to see the concentration of a great professor broken by students walking in late. Situations do arise that warrant a tardy here and there, but come on. We all know about those lazy days when we are guilty of snooze button abuse. We unnecessarily change attire at the last minute, pour one last cup of coffee, or watch that loathsome, yet

interesting talk show guest before we head out.

Is this justified by the notion that instructors get paid to be here and students pay to be here?

Regardless of any mediocre justification, teachers still deserve a little more consideration. Keep in mind, they are the ones who might give you that extra day to turn in a paper, offer extra credit or help when you are as lost as a deer in Times Square.

My favorite display of broken classroom etiquette is when I am sitting in my seat, desperately trying to pay attention, and someone is eating an annoyingly loud bag of chips! People crunch as if the chip needs to be killed before eating it. I've coined the term kill crunching!

Would it actually be fatal if you waited 30 more minutes to eat those chips during break or after class? Just for the record, there is no such thing as quiet bag-opening or crunching! Trying to keep your mouth closed and gently chomp

actually makes the sound more annoying. It's like trying to tiptoe on gravel.

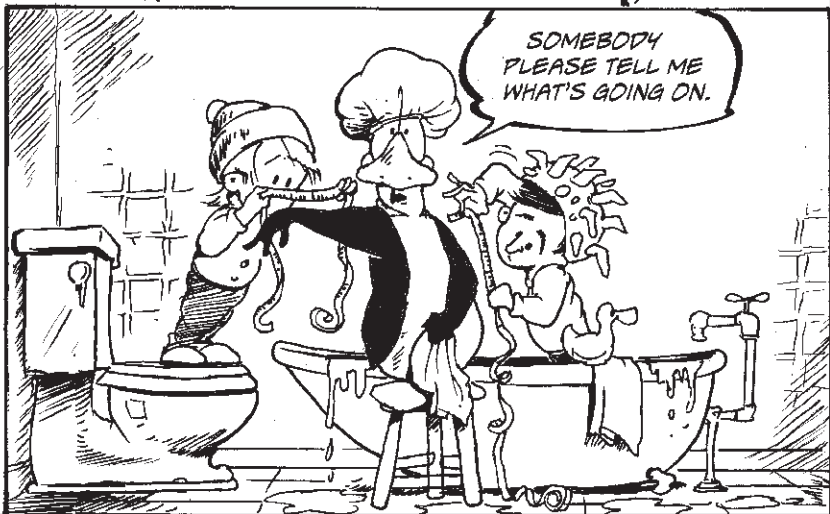
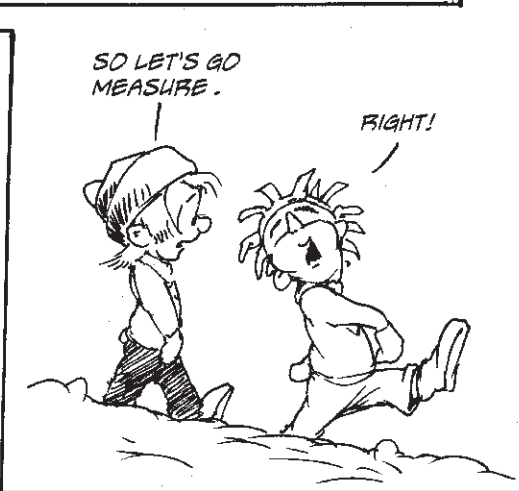
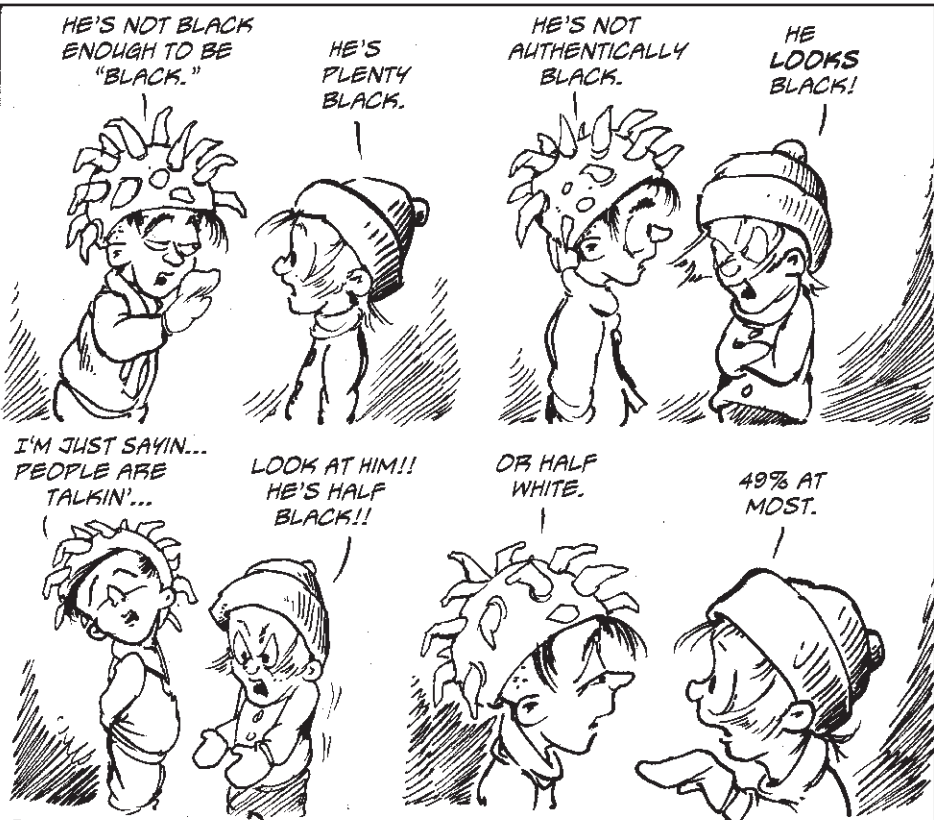
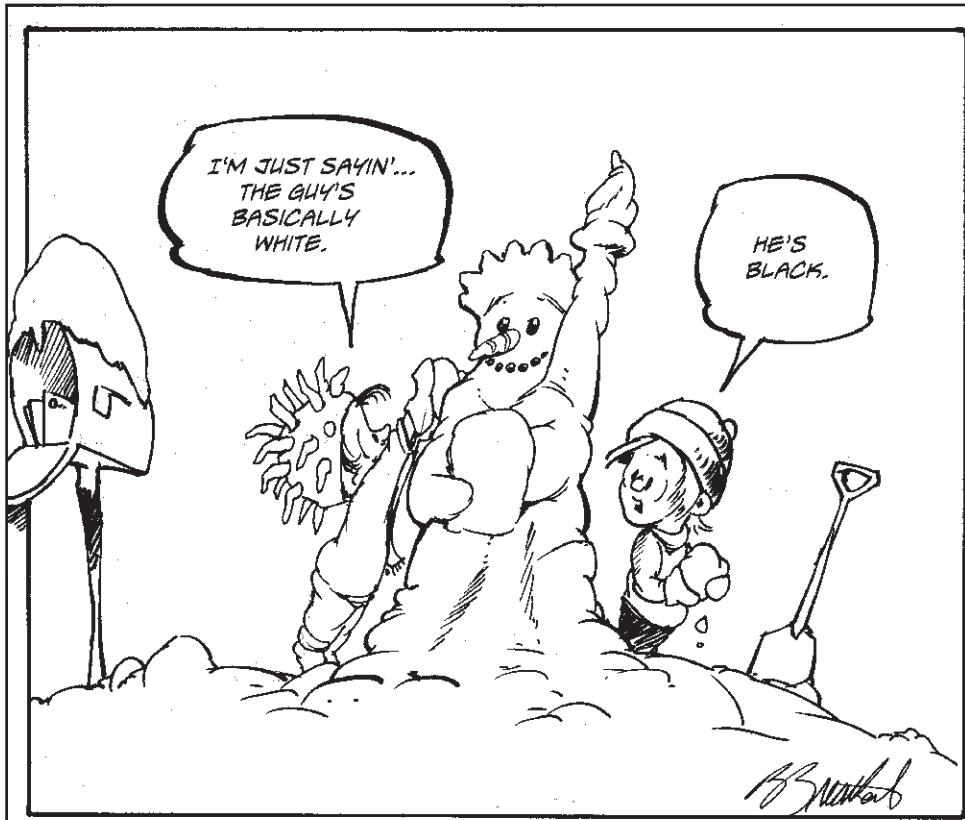
Yes, I could politely tell Susie Crunch-A-Lot that she is disturbing me, but shouldn't she know this is rude? Why should I have to put myself in an awkward position and feel guilty the next time I see that person?

Back in elementary school, weren't we taught not to chew gum or eat during class? As kids, we survived that class period without food or drink, we got to school before the bell rang, we withstood the wrath of bullies, rules, and that awful cafeteria food to make it into adulthood, so why is it so difficult now?

In all fairness, this does not describe the vast majority, but it only takes one bad seed to grow a tree of sour oranges. If you must munch during class time, choose something quiet like soft crackers, donuts or gummy bears, depending on dietary restrictions of course. It does not take much effort to respect the good old rules of classroom etiquette. If a second grader can do it, so can we. After all, we used to be that second grader and we lived.



NEESHA HOSIEN  
CLASS TIME MUNCHIES







# BONES: An Exhibit Inside You



By JUDY REUSTLE  
THE UHCLIDIAN

"Bones: an exhibit inside you" is now open at Space Center Houston. With its 6,000 square foot interactive exhibit. Bones teaches family members of all ages something new about themselves.

Bala Balakumar and his daughter Jayashree, 7, came from Dallas to see the exhibit.

"There is so much to see," exclaimed Balakumar, who proudly displayed that he is a season ticket holder. "This will require more than one visit."

The traveling exhibit is separated into different sections: the medical center, bones at the house, and the fitness center. All have interactive displays packed full of interesting information.

Hayley Leavell, 8, from Plano, Texas, and her brother Cameron, 7, were trying on helmets in the fitness center.

"This helps you learn more about your body," Hayley Leavell explained, while pointing to the interactive TV display, "and that helps keep you in shape and healthy."

The other exhibits, the Zoo and the Superstore, have many different kinds of bones to view. The Zoo includes real bones from a zebra, bobcat and rattlesnake, and models of bones from a polar bear and a vampire bat.

Charlotte Wisdom, a Space Center Houston crew member, has seen a lot of exhibits in her more than 14 years at the Space Center.

"I love this exhibit," Wisdom said. "It is quite interesting. It has something special for everyone in the family from the very young ones to the more mature."

Paul Spana, exhibits manager, said that the

exhibit comes from The Children's Museum of Indianapolis and is being shipped to different locations for display. The exhibit will be here in Houston until May 6.

Spana explains that Space Center Houston is family-oriented and that he always looks for exhibits that are fun and educational for the whole family.

"We make sure the exhibits that we put together each have a variation for different age groups and learning levels," Spana says.

Spana explained that one of the commitments Space Center Houston has with NASA is to tie all the exhibits that come to Space Center Houston back to the Space program. This is accomplished with "tie-on" exhibits.

The first of six of these tie-on exhibits for "Bones" deals with the zero gravity crouch. When astronauts are in space, their skeletons take on a relaxed posture.

The tie-on exhibit also deals with the bone loss issue that happens in zero gravity. The bones that are affected are painted red in the zero gravity crouch display.

Space Center Houston just added the second tie-on display Saturday, March 10. It shows what the astronauts do to combat the bone loss problem. According to Spana, they have borrowed a NASA treadmill and other exercise equipment for use in that display.

More information can be found at the Space Center Houston's Web site: <http://www.spacecenter.org> and at the Children's Museum Web site: <http://www.childrensmuseum.org>



**ALPHA MALE:** This gorilla is still impressive even without skin.



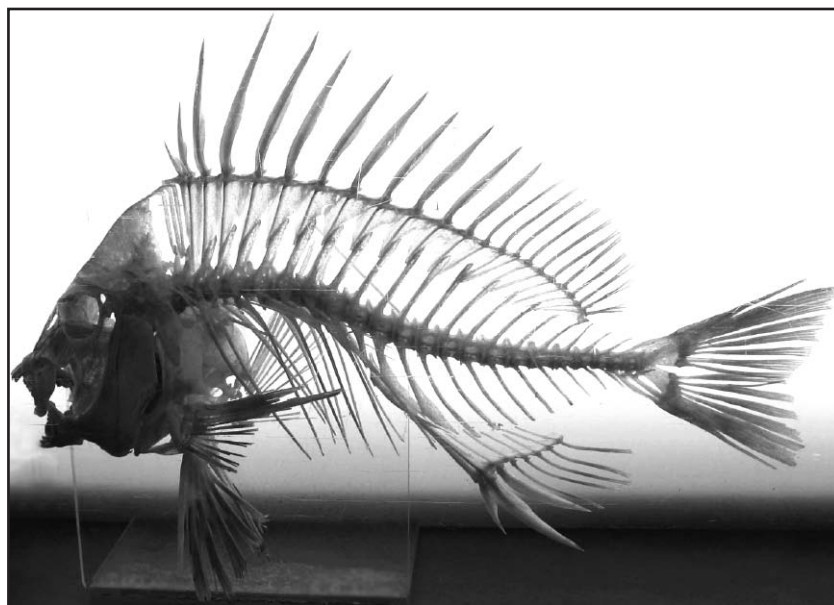
**SUSPENDED IN SPACE:** Skeleton in a zero gravity crouch.



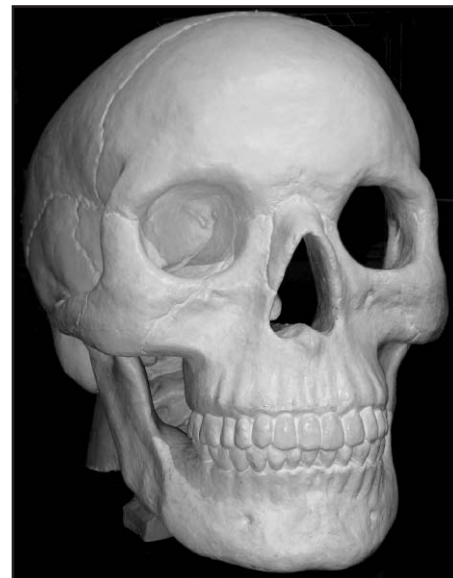
**DISCOVER THE BRAIN:** A child learns about the brain.



**A LOOK INSIDE:** The king of the jungle.



**ALL CLEANED UP:** Now this is the part of the fish you don't eat.



**LARGER THAN LIFE:** Take a walk inside a giant skull.



PHOTOS BY: JUDY REUSTLE  
DESIGNED BY: DONNA COX



**LEARNING ABOUT HELMET SAFETY:** Kids try on different helmets.



Cultural Arts presents  
MERCURY BAROQUE ENSEMBLE'S



# Bach ON COFFEE

Sunday, March 25  
2 P.M. IN THE BAYOU THEATER

PRICE WITH UHCL I.D.:  
\$6 Advance/\$8 at the door

GENERAL ADMISSION:  
\$10 Advance/\$12 at the door

For more info call 281.283.2560. TICKETS AVAILABLE IN THE Student Life Office, SSCB 1.202.

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

LEADERSHIP SUCCESS TIPS:

(Excerpts from Jack Canfield's "The Success Principles" audio file, courtesy of the National Society of Leadership and Success)

**"ACT AS IF"**  
Create the image of what you want to achieve in life and think about it as if it has already happened. Have a "Come As You'll Be" party, where everyone must as if it is 5 years in the future and they have already achieved their goal (whether it be career, education, relationship, what have you). You must speak as if everything you want to have happen has already happened. Bring photos where you've photo-shopped yourself into a picture standing in front of the Eiffel Tower, whatever it takes to help you feel as if what you want to achieve is achievable! By doing this, so much positive energy will flow out of you and will motivate and energize you to achieve your vision.

**"PRACTICE THE RULE OF FIVE"**  
Identify one goal that is the over-riding goal in your life, whether it be in athletics, in your career, your health – and do five things every day, five specific action steps that are related to achieving your goal. Jack Canfield's goal was to sell over a million copies of "Chicken Soup for the Soul," so every day he took five steps toward making that dream a reality. The "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book series is now one of the best-selling series in the world.

**FOR MORE SUCCESS TIPS, JOIN THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR LIVE VIDEOCONFERENCES FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS!**

Tuesday, March 27:	"The Art of Possibility"	Ben & Rosamund Vander Bayou 2512
	6-7:15 p.m.	
Tuesday, April 7:	"Major in Success"	Patrick Combs Bayou 2512
	6-7:15 p.m.	

Student Life Office – SSCB 1.204 – 281\*283\*2560  
www.uhcl.edu/studentlife

What Do UHCL Students Love About SGA?

- "I really like the fact that the SGA offers an opportunity for any and all students to come and be informed about what is happening on campus."  
– Quincy J. Fisher
- "It gives me a chance to represent students' viewpoint to the administration, and it gives me an opportunity to mentor emerging leaders and see them develop into powerful, outstanding leaders on the campus."  
– Ash Gupta
- "I like SGA because I can be part of something higher where I can voice my opinions as a student."  
– Sabiha Mahmood
- "SGA affords you a distinguished opportunity to effectively represent students that attend this academic institution. It also gives an opportunity to pursue extracurricular activities, which so many students fail to realize is a noteworthy aspect of their academic achievement."  
– Michael Phillips
- "The SGA is the one avenue where I get to work with other student leaders and share my leadership knowledge and learn new and creative ideas from them. It is also an opportunity for me to watch young leaders, as 'caterpillars' blossom into experienced leaders...'butterflies'...leading others!"  
– Joyce Delores Taylor
- "SGA has always aimed to voice the students' opinions and it provides a platform where SGA representatives from other organizations participate and update their fellow members about the ongoing issues."  
– Varun Vedi

CONTACT THE SGA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:  
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Madhu Mukherjee, VP-Student Outreach & Communications  
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SGA Meetings are open to all UHCL students.  
Meetings are Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30, SSCB 1.100, unless otherwise announced.







**INSIDE THE PYRAMID:** Throughout the rainforest exhibit there are cascading waterfalls and lushful plants.



**LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH:** This vibrant dart frog is beautiful to look at, but can be deadly to touch.

Photos By: Lona Cain  
Designed By: Donna Cox



## A Galveston Rainforest

By LONA CAIN  
THE UHCLIDIAN

Cascades of waterfalls, sunlight piercing through every angle of glass in the 10-story pyramid, an instant rise in temperature, and animals roaming freely tell visitors they are in one of eight exhibits and attractions at Moody Gardens known as the Rainforest.

New additions to the exhibit called Living Jewels of the Rainforest includes a 16-foot anaconda, geckos, tortoises, other species of snakes, and other reptiles. Also new to the facility are orchids, bromeliads, palms and other plants.

A bromeliad, one of the new plant additions to the Rainforest exhibit, is an exotic plant with important distinctions. The plant anchors in trees and other places throughout the rainforest. Water collects in its leaves. Small reptiles such as frogs live amongst the plant, drink the collected water, and also reproduce in the water. It is an all-inclusive resort for the reptiles.

Orchids are a more adaptable plant species that can grow almost anywhere. They thrive here in the Rainforest. Their vibrant colors light up as the sun shines through their petals.

Birds fly from tree to tree. Almost at the top of the pyramid, there is a two-toed sloth. Bright colored parrots sit perched on a branch, while ducks swim below them. One of two cotton-top tamarin monkeys climbs low to observe its visitors.

Mary Beth Bassett, public relations coordinator for Moody Gardens, said that the monkeys' nicknames are the "hall monitors" because they are always right there in the middle of the action.

These are only a few of the many birds and animals living here in the Rainforest.

"It's so diverse, look up, look down, you never know what you're going to see, there's so much," Bassett said as she spun around looking in every direction of the exhibit.

The exhibit is divided into different rainforests from Africa, South America and Asia with more than 175 animal species and 2,000 plant species native to the areas. The environment stays at a constant 84 to 85 degrees, with 85 percent humidity.

Kat Fowler, lead biologist of the Rainforest, has worked in the Rainforest for nine years and said she loves her job.

"You always develop a relationship when working with animals, but it is a working relationship," Fowler said. "It is different than a personal pet relationship."

A sail fin lizard sits like a statue in a tree before scurrying away from its observers.

Fred Rauch, a naturalist with the education department at Moody Gardens, stands close to the Ocelot display educating visitors about the Rainforest cat breed. He also keeps guard so that no one gets too close to the cage. The ocelot taking a nap up on a rock is too tired to visit.

The Moody family had a vision of an attraction designed to educate people. The rainforest exhibit, built in 1993, was the first phase of the entire concept. Since then, many other exhibits have been added, including the Aquarium Pyramid, The Colonel Paddlewheel Boat, Rideflim Theater and more.

The Rainforest is full of features for all ages and is open all year. Go to [www.moodygardens.com](http://www.moodygardens.com) for prices and times.



**ABOVE:** Colorful bromeliads are scattered throughout the exhibit.

**LEFT:** A sail fin lizard sits like a statue to avoid being seen by visitors.



**RIGHT:** A cotton-top tamarin monkey gets closer to its visitors.



**BELOW:** Exotic orchids are dispersed throughout the pyramid.



**TIME FOR LUNCH:** A vampire bat enjoys its all liquid diet.





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EVENTS  
ON CAMPUS

March 20

“The Wizard of Oz: Lessons in Teamwork & Group Dynamics” presented by Jennifer Clark, UHCL Student Leadership Institute, 5-7 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07 Registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

March 24

Cultural Extravaganza, 7-10 p.m., Bayou Theater For info call IISS, (281) 283-2575.

March 25

Mercury Baroque Ensemble presents “Bach on Coffee” as part of the UHCL Cultural Arts series, 2 p.m., Bayou Theater General Admission: \$12 \$8 with UHCL I.D. Complimentary reception after. For tickets or info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

March 27

Texas Job Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., UH Main Campus For more info, visit www.hacc.org/TexasJobFair or call UHCL Career Services, (281) 283-2590.

“The Art of Possibility” presented by Ben & Rosamund Zander, 6-8 p.m., Location TBA Registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560. A taped version of this program will be available for viewing April 16 through May.

March 28

“What is Your Leadership Style? (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator)” presented by Betty Brown, UHCL Counseling Services, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07 Pre-requisite & registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

UHCL Film & History Club screening of “Letters from the Other Side” with speakers Christine Kovic, UHCL professor, & Liliana Castillo, Jovenes Inmigrantes por un Futuro Mejor, 7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall Free admission with UHCL I.D.

March 30

MAT (Miller Analogies Test) Testing, 9 a.m., SSCB 3310 Registration required. For info call Testing Services, (281) 283-2580.

April 6

UHCL Film & History Club screening of “Children of Men” with speaker Craig White, UHCL professor, 7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall Individual ticket \$3.

April 9

“Leadership for Social Change” presented by Jennifer Clark & David Rachita, UHCL Student Life Office, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07 Registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

April 10

Spring 2007 Teacher Job Fair, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Atrium I For info call Career Services, (281) 283-2590.

Preventing workout pains and injuries



After learning that exercise reduces the risk of disease and helps with weight loss, many will begin an exercise routine only to experience pain or injury. Their efforts are thwarted by the injury and frustration and disappointment set in along with the pain. It is frustrating when you are committed to doing what it takes but pain hampers your efforts and your progress. What is a body to do? Well, there are a few things that can reduce the risk of pain and injury that may occur with exercise. Warming up prior to the activity will help reduce the risk of injury by sending more blood to the working muscles, tendons and ligaments which preps them for the work ahead. The warm up

allows the target area to become more flexible - to give more easily with work or movement. This gives you greater range of motion and reduces your risk of tearing or irritating the tissues involved. Proper warm up should include 5-10 minutes of any activity that elevates the heart rate and gets the blood pumping. You can always do your intended activity at a lower intensity as a warm up. For example, if you are going to run, warm up by jogging slowly for 5-10 minutes. You can warm up for lifting weights by doing each exercise at 50% less weight for one set before you begin your real set and do this after you’ve done 5-10 minutes of cardio to warm-up the whole body! Stretching is another way to reduce your risk of injury. Stretching is any activity that gradually applies tension to a muscle to lengthen it and to increase the range of motion within a joint. Stretching also helps prevent injury to tendons and ligaments by improving muscular elasticity and reducing the stretch reflex in greater ranges of motion which might cause injury to tissue. Stretching is also believed to reduce the muscle soreness that often occurs after exercising. It is more effective to your stretching after you do your pre-activity warm up. Again, the warm up

increases blood flow and warmth to the area, allowing more flexibility. Even more benefit will be gained from lengthier stretching after your workout when you are really warmed up. Greater increases in flexibility can occur which will reduce you risk of injury and pain. Proper mechanics during exercise are yet another way to reduce injury. Performing movements when joints are not aligned properly or muscles are not stabilized can cause stress to the area resulting in an acute injury or cause the area could break down gradually. Pain will keep you from working out and this is never a good thing especially when you are committed to exercising. If pain is occurring, obviously something is going on but you probably don’t need to rush off to the orthopedist. You should get things checked if the pain is severe and accompanied by swelling, discoloration or if usage of the affected area is severely limited. Try putting ice packs (with cloth between the ice and your skin) on the area once or twice a day and lay off that particular movement for a few days. Note that I said lay off that movement and I did not say quit working out until it heals. If possible, you should continue as much of your routine as you can

and only limit the movements which are causing the pain. You don’t want to lose your fitness gains and have to start all over again once the injury heals and the pain subsides. Starting over again is always painful, mentally and physically! When pain occurs and keeps you from an activity you enjoy, you might consider massage therapy. I like to run but the pain I experience after a run is a serious detriment. I use a sports massage therapist bi-weekly to keep things in working order and reduce the pain I get from running. I know, I know, why do it if it hurts? Well, I’ve cut back on my running in my advancing old age and found other things I enjoy almost as much like walking on the treadmill at an incline and using the elliptical for my cardio workouts, but I still want to run every now and then so the sports massage provides me with that opportunity. If you exercise correctly, and incorporate proper warm up and stretching techniques, you should be relatively free of injury and pain and be able to work that body as needed! One Body: One Choice cazes@uhcl.edu

19th Annual  
**Chili Cook-Off Plus!**

**March 31, noon-4 p.m.**  
**Behind the Delta Building**

Chili Cook-Off is one of UHCL's oldest traditions. This year the cook-off has some new additions, including:

- Cook's Choice favorite recipe contest
- Karaoke with DJ 33 1/3
- Moonwalk, bungee trampoline, obstacle course and rock wall
- Additional food & beverages by Aramark
- Kite-flying lessons, face painting, dungeon pictures, horse-shoe toss, and much more.

**Admission is free!**  
**Tasting kits: \$3 with UHCL I.D./\$4 without.**  
For more info call the Student Life Office, (281) 283-2560.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Biotech Launch**  
March 22, 4:30-7 p.m., Bayou Garden Room and Atrium I  
Come join the launch of UHCL's Master of Science in Biotechnology program! This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the program and meet some of the people involved in the biotechnology field. In addition to various informational booths, keynote speaker Neal Pellis, associate director of Human Research Program at JSC, will present “Biotechnology: Novel Opportunities in Microgravity.” For more information about the launch, call the Office of Alumni & Community Relations, (281) 283-2019.

**English Enhancement for Foreign Professionals**  
Registration through March 25  
Classes held once weekly March 26-May 10, Bayou Building  
Classes are designed for those who have studied English previously but continue to have difficulties with the language. The seven-week classes help strengthen English communication skills, pronunciation and vocabulary. Fees for the session are \$135 for new students and \$115 for returning students. For registration information, call UHCL Foreign Languages Program, (281) 283-3033. For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/fl.

**Affordable Fitness**



**UHCL: COURTESY**

**BEAT THE TRADITIONAL GYM CROWD:** Looking for a convenient place to work out? The Fitness Zone at University of Houston-Clear Lake offers a variety of weight training and cardio equipment for all levels of fitness. The best part is that it is already included in your semester’s tuition when you take one or more hours. Current students simply fill out an application form and use their current student identification with this semester’s sticker to enter the Fitness Zone. Faculty and staff, family members of faculty and staff, and alumni are also welcome to purchase a membership for a nominal fee. The Fitness Zone offers members an opportunity to get in a great workout without the hassle of the traditional gym crowd. “I had a membership at 24 Hour Fitness before I began working out here,” said current UHCL student Sean Heaney. “It was nearly impossible to work out in the morning or in the evening because of the crowd. Sometimes it took almost two hours to get a workout in. This is much better and much more convenient.” One of the goals of the Fitness Zone is to help students live a healthier lifestyle. “Our philosophy is to educate people on why they need to [live a healthier lifestyle] and how to do it correctly,” said Denise Cazes, coordinator of the Fitness Zone. For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/fitnesszone.



Tuition: continued from page 1

education level and type of class.

For instance, an upper level undergraduate course in liberal arts carries the rate of 1.77 per semester hour. That rate is then multiplied by the base rate of \$58.88. Thus, if the course is 3 semester hours, then the state will give the university \$312.65 in revenue.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would like to see the base rate rise from \$58.88 to \$61.55. That increase in state funds would help schools keep tuition increases lower, and many believe that the state is sympathetic to that cause.

“I am somewhat confident that we would not be having the dialogue if they weren’t interested,” Staples said.

The legislature will be in session until May 28; meaning, official revenues and rates will not be known until then. For registration purposes, UHCL must set tuition rates before then.

On April 3, Dotter will present a budget with the proposed tuition increases to the UH board of regents. Without knowing the states actual numbers, the university must play a guessing game with how much they will actually need to increase the tuition.

“I don’t want to charge [students] anymore tuition than we have to,” Staples said.

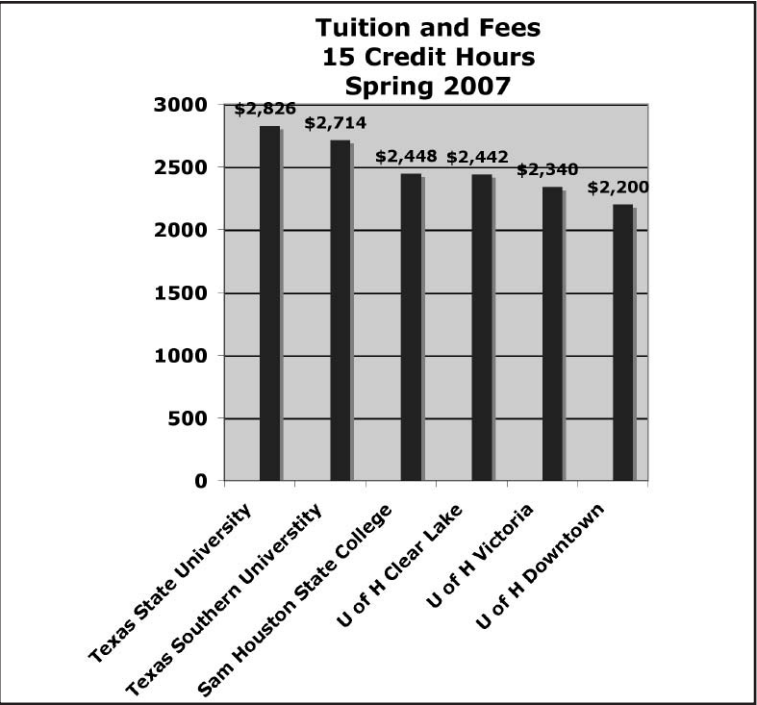
Without knowing what the state is going to do, UHCL administrators have to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst. The budget proposal will include a 6.21 percent increase in designated tuition, which represents as high as it could possibly go. Dotter would like to see that figure go from \$128 per semester to just \$68.

This is what we will advertise until the deadline,” Dotter said. “If we can reduce it, we will.”

The effects of tuition increases over the last six years are being seen in other areas as well. For instance, the total amount of financial aid utilized by students at UHCL six years ago was \$10 million. This year it is more than \$40 million and Staples fears that this is not the only adverse effect of higher tuition.

“You either invest in education in the front end, or society pays for it in the back end,” Staples said.

For more information on Texas higher education, visit <http://www.txhighereddata.org/>.



Congressman: continued from page 1

for themselves.”

Lampson said he was inspired into public service by the involvement of the Kennedy clan and the men and women of that era who “played major roles and helped change America.”

One hundred years ago, Lampson’s paternal and maternal grandparents arrived in America from Italy. They settled in Stafford, Texas, where they became farmers. They were also the founders of their local church, which still exists today. While growing up, Lampson spent a great deal of time on his grandparents’ farms.

James Lane, a friend of Lampson’s, said that “anyone can find out what kind of congressman [Lampson] has been,” but he has known Lampson since the fourth grade. Lane described Lampson as someone with strong will and said that he has always fought for his principles both as a young boy and as an adult.

Lampson and his wife, Susan, have been married for about 35 years. Together they have two daughters and three grandchildren.

For nearly 20 years, Lampson served as voter registrar and tax assessor-collector in Jefferson County. Lampson was elected to Congress in 1996 for the first of four terms.

Like Kennedy, Lampson is a democrat. He also comes from a fairly large family. The two also share similar concerns about community involvement and societal issues.

As one out of six children, Lampson learned the importance of community and hard work early in life. After his father’s death when he was 12 years old, he got a job sweeping floors to help his mother stabilize the family finances.

Although his mother was only able to reach a fifth-grade education level, she made certain that all six of her children received a college education. She earned her GED at the age of 80.

Lampson was once a high school science teacher. His wife teaches special education, and both of his daughters are also board-certified teachers.

Lampson is passionate about education. He fights to keep early childhood education programs alive. He supports efforts to make college tuition entirely tax deductible and believes in lowering the extra costs of student loans.

Child safety is another area of concern for Lampson. He founded the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children. This group helped form the national Amber Alert system. Lampson’s efforts in protecting children have even been recognized by John Walsh of “America’s Most Wanted.”

“Fear and hope were used throughout this movie,” Lampson said. Although slightly redirected, the issues of oppression and war still exist today.

Lampson said the film made him think of “how many times we worked so diligently in elections



NEESHA HOSEIN : UHCLIDIAN

**LAMPSON STAYS TO SIGN PICTURES:** Supporters gather around the congressman for autographs.. back in the 1970s, and memories from those ugly kinds of [oppression].”

Lampson would like to see leadership and dedication resembling that of Bobby Kennedy’s in today’s America. He wants to see people become more involved and engaged in changing communities “to make this Earth a better place in which to live.”

“With the loss of such a leader as Bobby Kennedy, our country has gone from a country once motivated by hope, to a country now motivated, too often, by fear,” Lampson said. “It is incumbent upon all of us to preserve this fabric of our nation in the bedrock of our democracy. We’re not a nation built on fear, but a nation built on the ideals of freedom and justice and a better tomorrow. We are a nation that strives to be a better people. A nation that knows that our best days still lie ahead of us.”

Lampson has a firm belief in unity over division among different peoples of the world. He is often a guest speaker at local cultural events, socializing and learning about ethnicity and religions.

Manisha Mehta, an Allstate agency owner in Pasadena, Texas, met Lampson during his campaign and has since been a friend because he has been so involved and helpful to the Indian and Pakistani community.

“Mr. Lampson is truly out to make sure all are included in the community,” Mehta said. “He wants the best for community as a whole, not just one sector. His willingness to meet and listen is impressive!”

Lampson’s admiration for the education system and for past leaders was evident in his words of praise for those who contributed much in America’s history.

A reception followed the film and Lampson stayed to visit with attendees. He answered questions, posed for photographs, and signed autographs and pictures. He chatted with students about their majors and future plans, and spoke about his own children’s experiences with education and politics.

Master’s Program: continued from page 1

Science degree, as well as adequate computer skills.

“Dr. Packard is primarily responsible for this new degree program; she took it from idea to reality,” said Bruce Palmer, dean of the Human Sciences and Humanities. “She organized the discussion of the degree, met with faculty from other schools and obtained their cooperation, developed curriculum, determined the potential demand, and organized and wrote the Texas Coordinating Board degree proposal, a huge and complicated document. Without her work, Digital Media Studies would be a forgotten idea; it is because of her work that UHCL has the first Digital Media Studies graduate program in the state of Texas.”

The master’s degree in Biotechnology at UHCL will offer students who are fundamentally educated in various scientific disciplines the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills required to comprehend and commercialize these emerging technologies and their products.

Biotechnology is a multidisciplinary endeavor. It increasingly requires employees fluent in both science and business to enable the development of new technologies and products based on the unique

applications of the cellular and molecular life sciences.

There is a high demand for students with this master’s degree in the community, and for experts in this field.

“Our main goal is to provide graduates with support from area companies,” said Sadegh Davari, interim dean of the School of Science and Computer Engineering. “Dr. Rohde is a very crucial part of the new program; he is responsible for the program budget that came from four departments.”

Increasing numbers of graduates in this field could affect our local economy in a positive way. It could lead to new companies building in the Clear Lake area which would, in turn, offer more jobs to graduate students.

UHCL will be hosting “Biotech Launch” on March 22, 2007, which will promote the new program. Neal Pellis, associate director of the human research program for NASA, will be the keynote speaker.

UHCL also started its first Doctoral Degree Program this semester. UHCL now offers a Doctorate in Education Leadership.

Second only to the impending teacher shortage in America is the developing shortage of educational leadership in

schools. UHCL’s new Doctorate in Education Leadership program provides a much-needed new model for advanced study in the field of educational leadership.

“While three universities in the greater Houston area offer a doctoral program in educational leadership, UHCL will be the only one located in Southeastern Houston,” said Lawrence Kajs, associate professor. “This is especially significant considering the continued population growth of the Bay region and the Houston metropolitan area, as a whole.”

A highly flexible, student-centered curriculum is designed to create local, regional and state educational leaders who can relate to diverse, multi-cultural, K-12 and community-based school populations.

Career professionals in education who work, or wish to work, in leadership and policy development at the building, district, regional or state level will find the specialization particularly suited to their needs for advanced study, certification and licensure.

This program is for educators who are interested in exploring issues related to leadership in schools, curriculum and instruction, reflective practice, and methods of inquiry related to school settings.

“The doctoral program in educational

leadership at UHCL provides the opportunity to pursue an advanced degree with a reasonable commute in the Bay Area, while continuing one’s job responsibilities,” Kajs said.

“As program area chair for the Educational Leadership program, Dr. Kajs was instrumental in building the largest graduate program in the university, the master’s degree program in educational management, currently enrolling 500 students,” said Dennis Spuck, dean of the School of Education. “Dr. Kajs was instrumental in proposal development, program approval through the numerous required steps, and now program implication, with the admission of the first cohort of students who started classes this spring semester.”

Spuck believes the new graduate program will open the door for the future involvement of university courses.

“It is an exciting time for UHCL, as we take our first steps in a major structural change, probably the most significant change in our academic structure since the university opened in 1974,” Spuck said.



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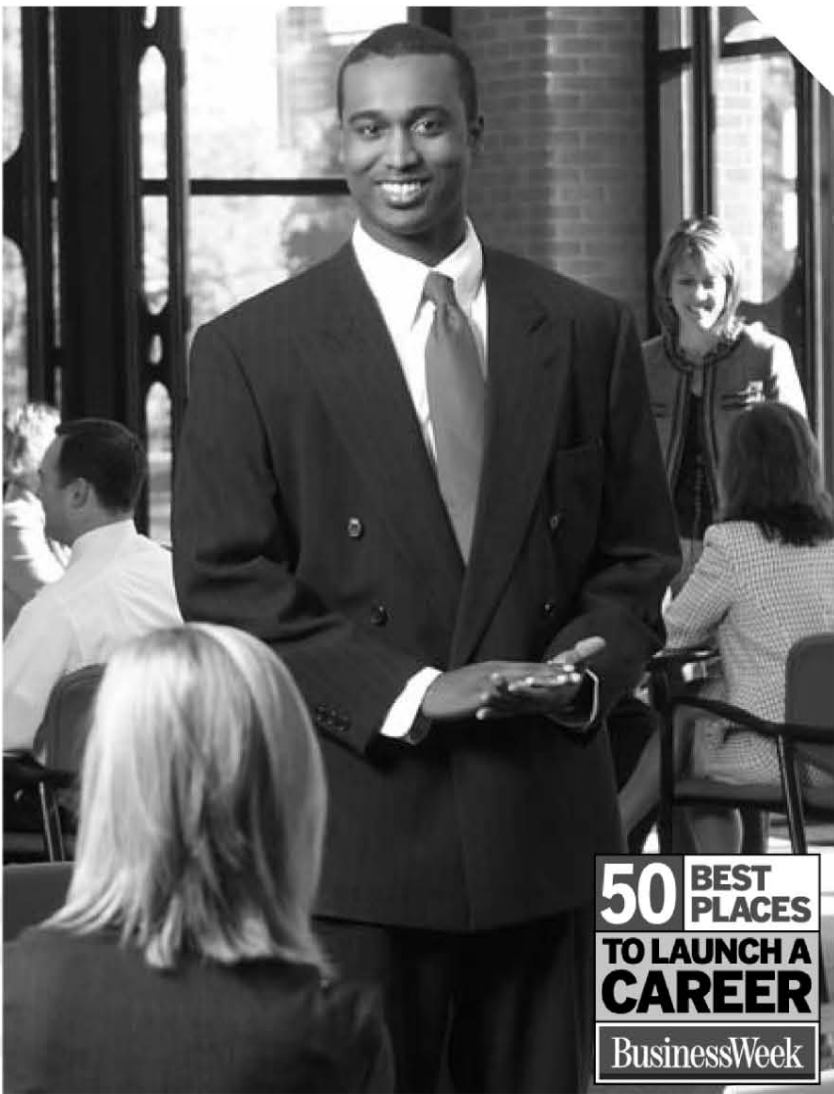
One of the best things I like about working at Enterprise is that there's so much focus on everyone's individual abilities and achievements. It all has to do with an overriding entrepreneurial philosophy that says that your success is truly up to you. This means that there's no one standard formula for doing things around here.

It also means that I'm working alongside and learning different things from a wide group of talented people every day. It's great to be at a company where everybody's differences – whether they be business philosophies or cultural ideals – are not only accepted, they're part of the very fabric of our success.

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# Farmer's Market offers outlet for organic shopping and social gathering

“People that shop with us become friends and family,” Ellen Milstead said. “We know our customers and we care about them.”



**PICKING PERFECT PRODUCE:** Mykayla Strahan, left, shops for fruits and vegetables with her mom, Pam.

**By EMILY HAWKINS**  
THE UHCLIDIAN

Every Saturday, patrons are invited to shop organic while enjoying the smiling faces and friendly atmosphere that are all part of the Nassau Bay Farmer's Market.

For the past two years, Erma's Nutrition Center has played host to the weekly farmer's market that boasts all organic and natural products. Each vendor has something different to offer, from homemade soaps, to fresh produce and baked goods, to clothing, and jewelry.

Ellen Milstead, owner of Erma's, said the market started with one local grower who asked if he could sell his produce outside the store. From there, more people began asking about selling their organic goods, and the market has been growing ever since.

“Our farmer's market is different in that just about everything is organic, which is unique even among other farmer's markets,” said Sarah Milstead, office manager and buyer for Erma's.

“Organic” refers to the way in which a crop is grown. Organic farmers follow a strict set of guidelines that include natural farming practices,

feeding organic products to livestock, and not using synthetic pesticides.

Erma's employees and vendors are not just well-versed on the health benefits of organic and natural products; many have personal stories to share about their own organic experiences.

Lisa Hommel started buying organic, earth-friendly clothing for her children because of their sensitive skin and allergies.

“When I switched my kids over to organic clothing, I couldn't believe the difference. [My daughter's] rash that she'd had since birth was gone,” Hommel said.

Once a regular shopper at the market, Hommel now has her own booth and sells organic clothing at the farmer's market. The clothing is made from organic cotton, hemp, soy and bamboo fibers and is colored with non-toxic, low-impact dyes.

Although prospective vendors go through an application process before being able to sell goods at the farmer's market, Erma's does not collect on any of their profits.

“We ask that our vendors come with a positive attitude,” Sarah Milstead said. “We've been lucky that the people who shop at Erma's and frequent the farmer's market, [as well as] those who want to be vendors, have really great personalities.”

Every weekend, rain or shine, anywhere from five to 13 vendors set up booths and offer earth-friendly shopping

and cheerful conversation to regular customers and new ones alike. Both vendors and customers agree that the pleasant social atmosphere of the market is what makes it special.

“It's like a family out here,” said Ann Rogers, who sells natural soaps made in her own kitchen. “The customers are friendly, and even if they don't buy anything, they come to see how I'm doing and what's new.”

“People that shop with us become friends and family,” Ellen Milstead said. “We know our customers and we care about them.”

Although Pam Strahan, a regular market customer, comes every week to buy produce and pastries, she said she also comes so her daughter Mckayla, 4, can socialize and have fun.

“I come every Saturday,” Mckayla said. “I like the lady who sells the clothes; I like her very much.”

Sarah Milstead said there is “always a festival feel” to the farmer's market, but even more so on March 24 when there will be a Spring Kickoff Festival. Customers can expect live music and extra vendors at the special event.

Erma's Nutrition Center is located on Upper Bay Road in the Nassau Bay Shopping Village. The farmer's market takes place each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information or to sign up for a weekly newsletter, visit <http://www.ermasnutritioncenter.com>.



**FEELING THE DIFFERENCE:** Lisa Hommel explains the benefits of organic clothing to a customer visiting her booth.

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** EMILY HAWKINS  
**DESIGNER:** FEBE MENENDEZ