

THE SIGNAL

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February 23, 2009



Tuition Freeze Proposed



Courtesy

Hayley Shaw
The Signal Staff

Governor Rick Perry proposed a freeze on college tuition during his Jan. 27 State of the State Address.

The proposal, if passed, would allow college students to get their tuition frozen at the rate they paid when they entered as a freshmen.

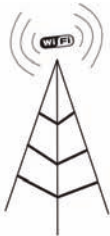
The tuition would be frozen for four years as an incentive to finish school on time.

“For many young Texans, the next step is college,” Perry said during his address. “Let’s work together to make college accessible and affordable for more qualified, motivated students than ever before.”

“His goal here, with freezing tuition, is to make higher education more affordable and

TUITION FREEZE: *continued on page 10*

Downtown Houston Is Getting Connected



Christi Minter: The Signal

Downtown Houston and the museum district will be the prime areas receiving free WiFi.

Luis Aceves
The Signal Staff

The city of Houston and the Downtown District are teaming up to initiate a free WiFi pilot program.

Houston WiFi is just one of the recently added amenities to downtown Houston. It will be accessible throughout the downtown and museum district areas for all residents, workers and visitors.

The WiFi was installed to facilitate electronic means of communication for the city’s new state-of-the-art wireless parking meter pay stations.

Many area residents agree that this is a step in the right direction. Not only does this new amenity bring convenience to workers, visitors and residents alike, but it effectively enforces downtown Houston to remain in synch with the latest in wireless Internet advancements.

This initiative is part of Mayor Bill White’s effort in making Houston’s City Hall one of the most advanced in the nation.

In addition to making parking regulation, management and enforcement run more effectively, but the high bandwidth capacity of this network allows the city to securely segment excess network bandwidth for the Houston WiFi service. As a result, local downtown area residents cash in on a super sweet deal; free WiFi!

Subscribing to Internet service for many local residents who are able to

pick up the WiFi signal may just be a thing of the past.

“Providing they have the adequate technical specifications on their personal computer, or in other words, a wireless-enabled computer and a WiFi account, it’s a no-brainer,” said Natalie Naza, service communicator and spokesperson for resident relations for the city of Houston. “This should be essentially a no-fuss connection and is easy to connect and go.”

With the increased need for internet access in our everyday life, it is becoming truly an attractive amenity for those who live within reach of the WiFi signal.

“Keep in mind that the WiFi program was designed as an outdoor network but, in fact, we have been hearing that many local residents have been able to establish a strong signal inside their homes,” said Robert Izaguirre, spokesperson for the city of Houston.

Program officials said that any local residents who wish to strengthen the signal inside their homes are advised to purchase a WiFi modem. One exception to the outdoor “in-mind network” is the Houston Public Library, where the city has accommodated the indoor perimeter’s reception so that a superb signal can be obtained in all locations both indoors and outdoors equally.

Many other large-scale metropolitan cities like Houston, such as Cleveland and San Francisco, have

WiFi: *continued on page 10*

Funding Priorities Announced



Shawnie Boudreaux :The Signal

In his Feb. 18 presentation, Carl Stockton, senior vice president of academic affairs and provost, listed Academic Affairs’ proposed top priorities for FY2010/11. Stockton said faculty and staff pay raises and resources for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmation were on the top of his list. Other funding priorities include: PeopleSoft Functional Lead, 4.75 staff positions for the schools, 4 new full-time faculty, 2 staff positions for Transfer Credit Analysis, and 2 staff positions for the Student Success Center. President William Staples will present his funding priorities March 4 at 3 p.m. in the SSCB Lecture Hall.

Scholarship Program Celebrates Minority Elders

Adolfo Gonzalez
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake offers many scholarships geared toward minorities who would like to continue their higher education. The Celebrating Our Elders Scholarship

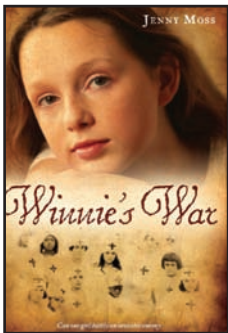
Program is open to any ethnic group so long as the elder they are honoring happens to be Hispanic or African-American.

“The scholarship program started about 15 years ago, in order to grant scholarships to students who have had a Hispanic or African-American elder influence them throughout their lives,” said Linda Contreras Bullock,

assistant dean of student diversity, “the students have to write their story describing how their particular elder influenced them personally.”

Although this scholarship is about recognition of Hispanic and African-American elders, it is not limited to only Hispanic

ELDER SCHOLARSHIPS:
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Jenny Moss
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High School Musical
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Tuition Freeze May Not Be A Solution

Short term gain may be a long term loss for students

College tuition may be overwhelming, but in all honesty, what you pay for is what you get.

At the University of Houston-Clear Lake, students are well equipped with the tools they need to complete their education, earn a degree and find a job in the work force. As undergraduates, this is our ultimate goal.

With this in mind, the opportunities granted to those who successfully obtain a diploma far outweighs the overall cost of receiving a higher education.

As students, we must take into account that the tuition we pay enables universities to create an environment for our success. From the countless number of computers located in the labs on campus, to the most up-to-date software programs and well-educated professors, the money we spend goes much further than you think.

Governor Rick Perry and the state Legislature are interested in implementing a tuition freeze. This particular proposal would freeze a student's college

tuition rate for four years at the rate they paid as entering freshmen.

However, if a student takes a leave of absence or drops below full-time status (12 hours), his/her tuition adjusts to the rate that is in effect at that time.

Perry was all for the deregulation bill in 2003, which allowed colleges and universities to set their own rates without legislative approval. Now he's a firm believer that higher education tuition should be re-regulated.

This creates grave concerns among public universities in Texas because they benefit from deregulation in the face of lost state funding.

In fact, deregulation allows universities the opportunity to craft tuition incentives that meet the needs of various students.

Furthermore, it enables colleges to raise funds to hire top professors in a highly competitive and expensive market for faculty.

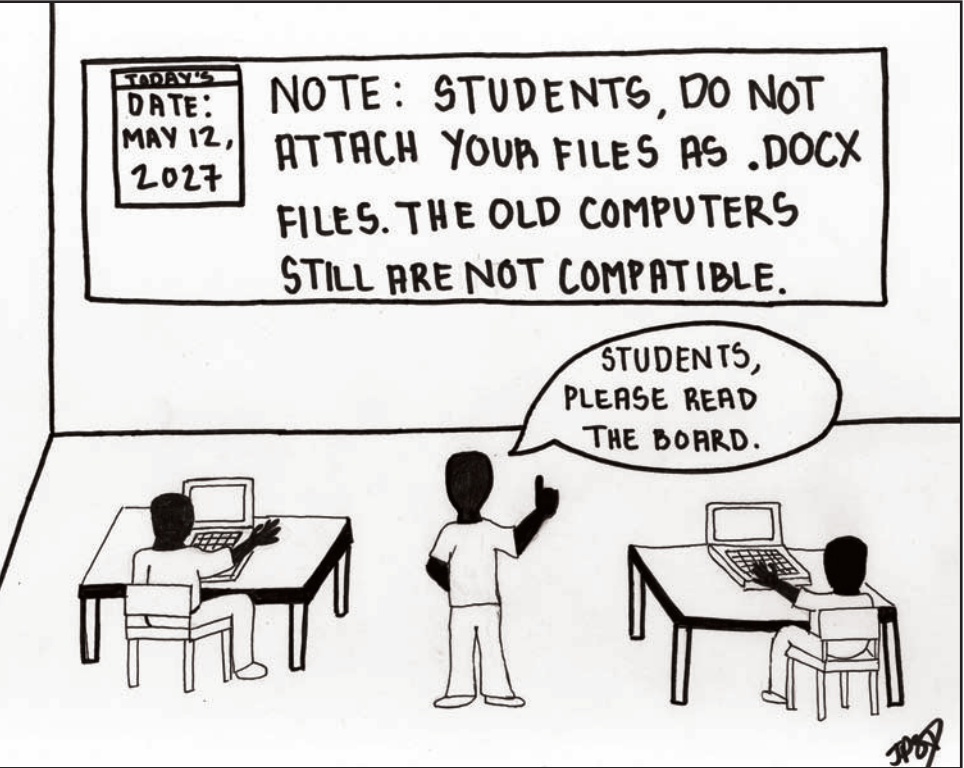
Ultimately, a tuition freeze could cause serious problems in the quality of education by creating cut backs in spending, which in turn, could reduce the value of a degree received from a public college in Texas.

Who wants this?

We have the essential tools we need to be successful students at UHCL because of deregulation. Returning control of university funding over to the Texas Legislature would absolutely undermine advances that a college could make and

it would put higher education in competition with other legislative priorities.

Universities must fight desperately to maintain control over tuition so that they can continue to offer students the best possible education.



Jenna Simsen: The Signal

Cross Signals

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

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

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

We are now on

twitter

To Do List

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

www.twitter.com/uhclthesignal

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The Signal is a public forum and will print letters to the editor subject to the following: letters must be no longer than 500 words. Where necessary, letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and style requirements. Letters must be signed and include the writer's full name, address and phone number. The editors reserve the right to refuse letters, announcements and contributed articles deemed libelous.

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There are other fish in the sea

It's Sunday, and I just woke up, but already it seems like something is missing. The bed seems colder, the room seems darker, the world itself seems to be lacking in one way or another.

In my heart I feel sadness, longing for something that I remember waking up to every Sunday.

I settle into the chair and begin to flip through the channels. I have passed the same set of talk shows, infomercials and syndicated shows four times now, but still nothing has caught my eye. I remember there used to be something or someone that used to stop me from this constant flipping, but, alas, I can't stop hitting the up button on the remote.



William Humbird
The Signal

It is Valentine's Day weekend, and I know that should be a time for someone to be with whom they love, but I am starting to realize that my love is gone again.

Valentine's Day...February 14...The weekend after the football season officially ended.

I turn off the TV and consider my various options. I could try looking for love online, and by that I mean playing Madden over the Internet. The Internet just lacks the intimacy that the real thing brings. Sure, you can get the right image

in your head and find yourself enjoying the moment, but in the end all you are really seeing is just electronic words and images dreamed up by some computer far away.

I am sure I could turn the TV back on and find some other sport on, like basketball or soccer, but they are just not the same. Soccer is a guilty pleasure where football is a true love, and basketball is just too quick.

How can you truly savor the moment if you are scoring every 28 seconds?

I know that technically a team can score with 3 seconds left in football, which the Steelers proved during the Super Bowl, but it happens so rarely that it is something special when a team scores that quick in football.

Hockey is a third option, but since Houston doesn't have an NHL team, hockey means a long-distance relationship. At this point in time, I just don't think I am ready to get into another long-distance relationship. It was hard enough when my team picked up and moved to Tennessee.

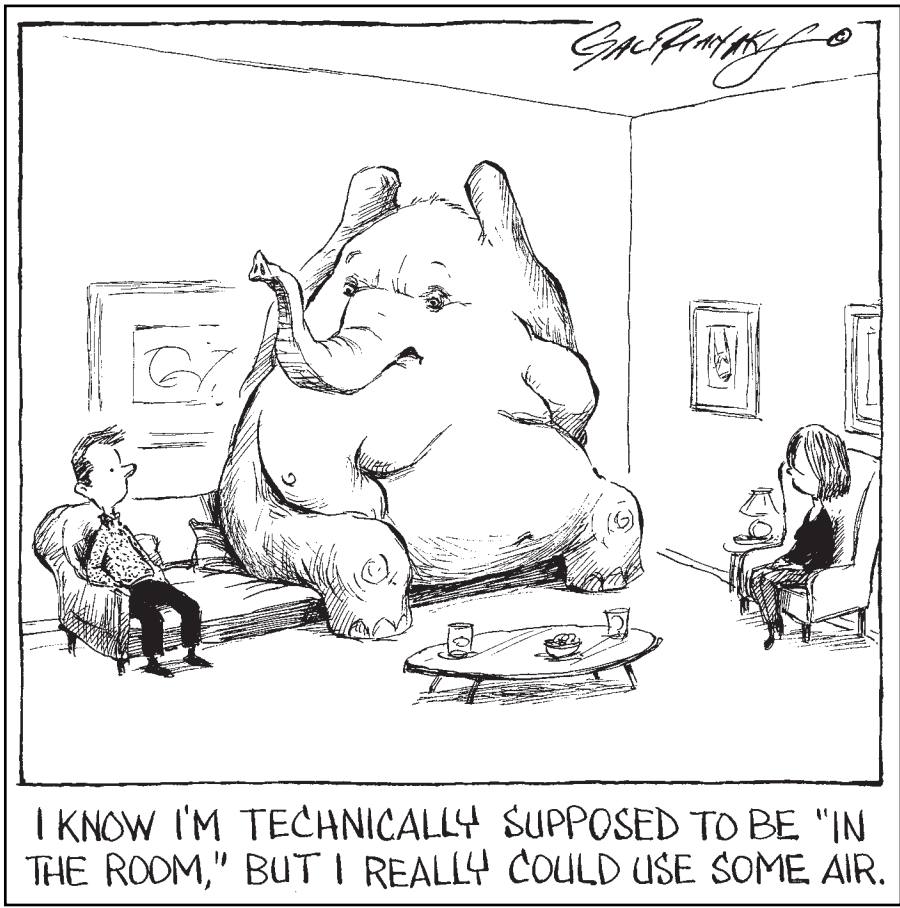
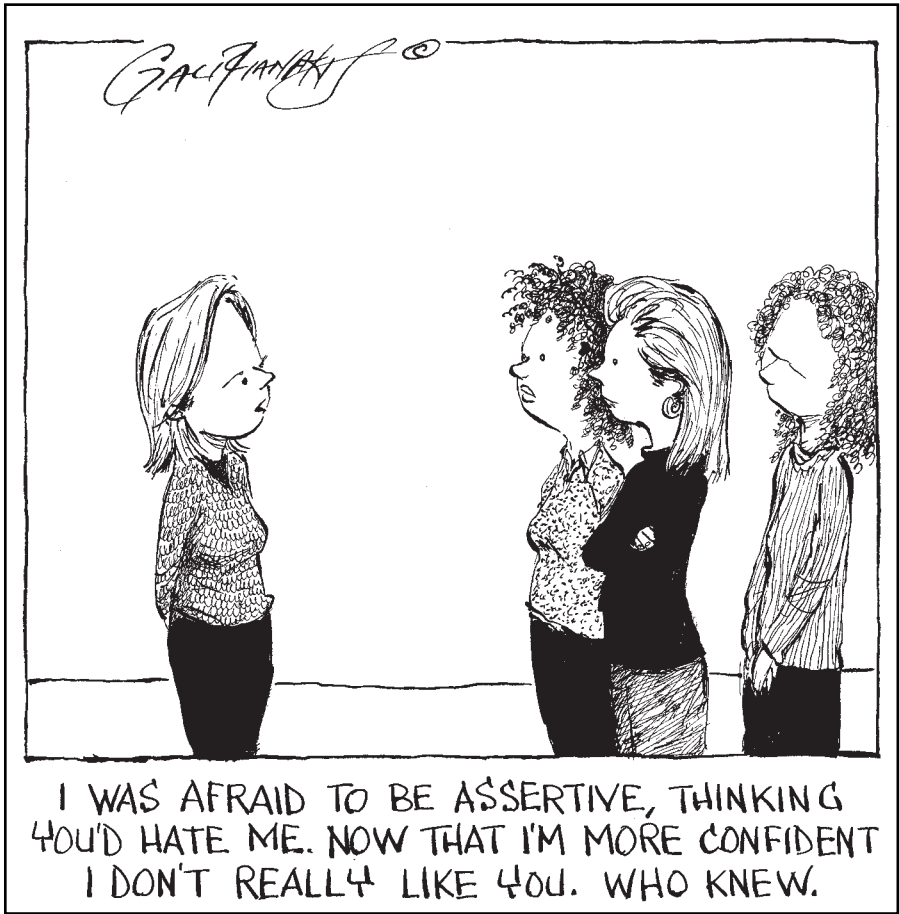
The football season still isn't complete-

ly over, since the NFL draft is coming up at the end of April. The NFL likes to pump the drama and the suspense of the draft, as you watch teams pick players off a board like they are picking things out at a Chinese buffet.

To me, the draft is like meeting your ex-girlfriend and her current beau at a bar. Sure, you are happy she moved on and that she is happy, but you still remember when she played for your team.

Hope is not lost though. Despite the loss of my first love, there is always the opportunity to move on to another.

Spring training has already begun for baseball, and the Astros start playing their first preseason games in the beginning of April. Six weeks left to prepare, six weeks of courtship, six weeks until the still of the night is interrupted by that loving pledge, "Play ball!"



Visit The Signal online at
www.uhcl.edu/thesignal

Guilty! by media standards

The start of a new year not only brings New Year's resolutions; it also brings Hollywood to many television sets around the nation. People of all ages sit in front of their Sony and Panasonic flat screen TVs awaiting the sight of the first celebrities to walk down the red carpet.

There is nothing quite like awards season, where from now until the end of April, the American public is destined to hear the most important question in Hollywood to date... a question with only four words, but its impact is heard around the world over and over again the days following each awards show. "What is this all important question?" you ask, as if you didn't know. "Who are you wearing?" of course.

So, imagine my surprise when I woke up Monday, Feb. 9, not to the sounds of "Oh, did you see so-and-so, she looked awful in that outfit?" or "So-and-so won Best Male Vocalist." Nope. Instead, I hear the local radio disc jockeys taking calls on the future of rhythm and blues teen sensation Chris Brown.

At a loss, I listened intently to the calls coming into the radio station from angry callers wanting nothing more to do with Brown and his music. One of the disc jockeys was so passionate about the incident that she could hardly get the words out of her mouth without shouting and condemning the 19-year-old music artist. So, what brought about this unfortunate turn of events against the rising star with the "boy next door" persona?

Evidently, Brown is accused of being involved in a domestic dispute that turned physical with his also famous girlfriend Rihanna. Some news sources are reporting the attack left the 20-year-old female singer with bruises and contusions on her face and body.

My issue with this news story is not whether Brown committed this crime; that issue is for the courts to decide after a thorough police investigation. (Now, don't get me wrong. If Brown is found guilty of this offense, I strongly believe he should be held accountable. Domestic abuse should never be tolerated under any circumstance.) However, until a conviction from a court of law has

been handed down, I take issue with the disc jockeys, entertainment reporters and news reporters who are using their access to the airwaves as a platform to try and convict Brown based on speculation and hearsay. As of the date of this article, the Los Angeles District Attorney's office has yet to charge Brown for any wrongdoing. Should this incident ever go to court, Brown's right to a fair trial, as granted under the Sixth Amendment, seems highly unlikely.

Disc jockeys, entertainment reporters, and news reporters have a responsibility to maintain an unbiased attitude while reporting issues such as the alleged Brown incident, because many people view them as legitimate information sources. I realize some of these on-air personalities bank on sharing their controversial opinions with the public and

being the center of scrutiny, but they are still considered part of the media.

Personally, I am not a fan of Brown's music or of Rihanna, but I am a person who believes everyone is innocent until proven guilty. All too often, we in the media get passionate about the stories we are covering and tend to forget the unspoken ethics vows taken when we first entered the field of reporting. The ultimate goal of all media should be to provide the facts without emotion or personal

opinion.

As individual citizens, we each have the right to speak our mind, prejudice, boycott, protest, etc... that right has been exercised many times, especially in times of war. Nevertheless, the media should not be an enabling force in handing out judgments on people accused of crimes.

To date, Brown has not been indicted, tried or convicted of a crime associated with this incident. His music should not be pulled from play lists of radio stations around the world. His album should not be pulled off store shelves. His concerts should not be boycotted. Until a verdict is handed down by a Los Angeles judge and jury, Brown should be given the benefit of the doubt. After all, the fact that Brown is a celebrity does not negate due process.



Brenda Cabaniss
The Signal

UPCOMING EVENTS

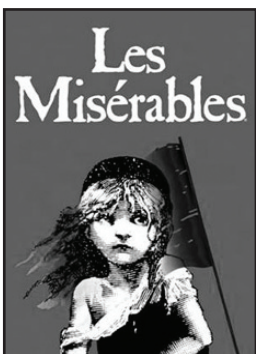


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Reliant Park

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HOUSTON WEDDING SHOWCASE

George R. Brown Convention Center

Feb. 28, 2009

Visit www.houston-weddingshowcase.com



Matt Griesmyer: The Signal

Actors and actresses rehearse an upbeat dance number in Disney's "High School Musical" at San Jacinto College-Central Campus' Slocomb Theater.

The Show must go on...

Matt Griesmyer
The Signal Staff

Hurricane Ike destroyed and delayed many things in the Gulf Coast area. Local area college students and teachers were scattered throughout the state and events were put on hold. For San Jacinto Community College-Central Campus, the show must go on.

Director of Theater and Film Jerry Ivins is putting on one of today's most popular productions – Disney's "High School Musical." This particular show has been in the planning stages since summer of 2008, with casting that began in August of the same year. The play was originally supposed to open in the fall, but Hurricane Ike put a dent in Ivins' plan.

"We had originally cast 110, and had only three music rehearsals before the hurricane hit," Ivins said. [The cast and crew] were spread out all over the state. When we finally came back together, we had lost two weeks of rehearsal, sat down, and decided we couldn't put the show on in the fall."

The decision to postpone the show until the springtime was made after returning cast members

"The energy and spark that you see in everyone's eyes as they're performing is just something you can't see through film."

- Ellen Thornberg, 15
Actress

– many who suffered tremendously from Hurricane Ike – showed overwhelming support and willingness to come back and commit to it. Even though many cast members did return, participation was cut in half.

The show, originally a Disney Channel Original Movie, follows the tale of a young basketball star named Troy caught up in the turmoil revolving around a new girl named Gabriella. Once Gabriella moves to Troy's hometown, the status quo of their high school gets turned upside down.

Will fans of the original Disney hit enjoy this production? Ivins thinks so.

"The music and story are the same and the music is what the music is," Ivins said. "It's contagious, it's catchy, and you can't get it out of your head."

Terry Jones, a film major at San Jacinto College, plays the male lead, Troy. Jones says the rehearsal schedule has been extremely rigorous.

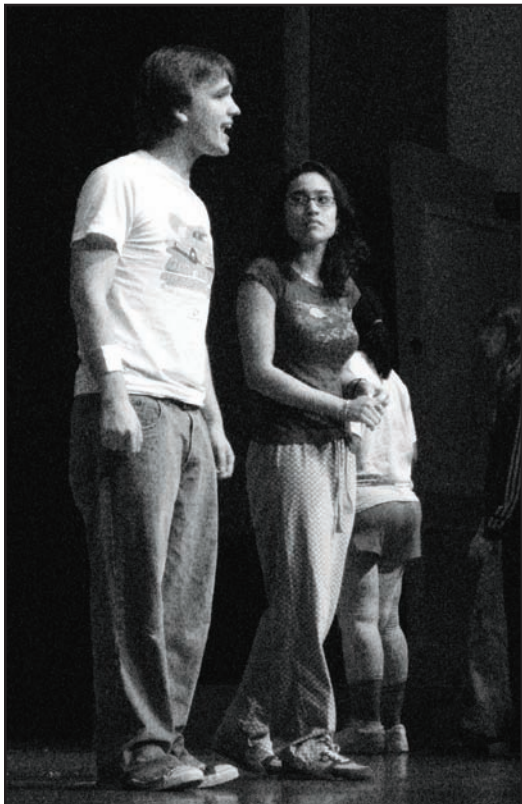
"Normally a show gets about five or six weeks preparation time, but this show has gotten about four," Jones said. "It's really intense."

The theater group reduced preparation time for the show due to other commitments.

Ellen Thornberg, 15, already a veteran of the San Jacinto College Theater troupe, expressed her love for the play and why fans of the original production should come to see the live theater version.

"It's contagious, it's catchy, and you can't get it out of your head."

- Jerry Ivins
Director of Theater and Film at San Jacinto College-Central Campus



Matt Griesmyer: The Signal

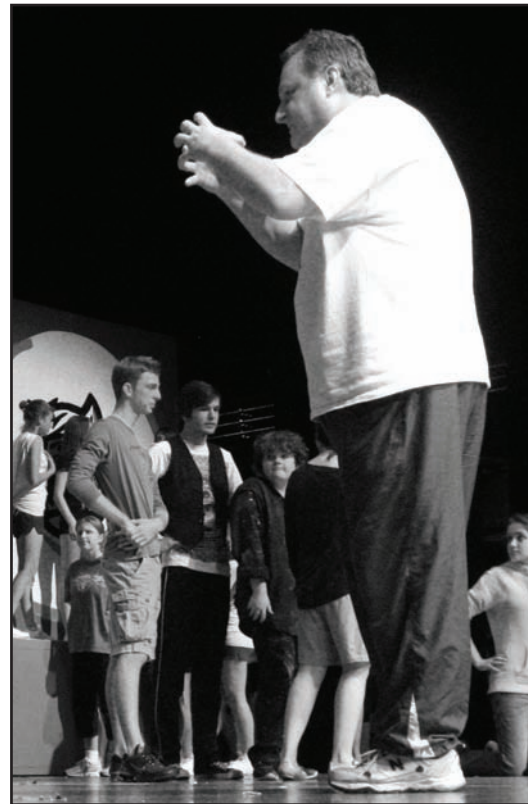
Terry Jones, left, who plays Troy in San Jacinto College-Central Campus' production of Disney's "High School Musical," rehearses an intimate singing moment with fellow actress Suzelle Pabrios, who plays Gabriella.

"I think [the show] is going to be even better than the original," Thornberg said. "The energy and spark that you see in everyone's eyes as they're performing is just something you can't see through film. It's something about being there person to person that really makes this show special."

Thornberg has performed in numerous other productions such as "The Rocky Horror Show," "Oliver" and "Santa's Christmas Magic."

"This is a very high-energy show and we have lots of talented kids and a lot of hard-working kids," Ivins said. "You'll have to have ridiculously high expectations of the film for you to not sit back and appreciate this show."

San Jacinto College-Central Campus will be performing Disney's "High School Musical" Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Slocomb Auditorium, located at 8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505. For more information, contact the box office at 281-476-1828. Ticket prices are \$15 the day of the performance, and \$13 if picked up at least two days in advance. Purchase tickets at the Powell Arena Box Office at central campus, open Monday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.



Matt Griesmyer: The Signal

Jerry Ivins directs the cast of San Jacinto College-Central Campus' production of Disney's "High School Musical" during a rehearsal.

{VDAY}
{2009}

‘Vagina Monologues’ bring violence awareness to UHCL

Benefit performance prelude to Women’s History Month

Tina Di Vora
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston–Clear Lake will host a benefit performance of the award-winning episodic play “The Vagina Monologues” Feb. 27.

For those who are not familiar with the show, it is a series of monologues that focus on the experiences with an emotional tie to a woman’s vagina. The stories range from humorous to informational to heart-breaking.

The monologue performance is a sponsored collaboration between The Women’s Studies Student Association, The Women’s Studies program, the Office of International Initiatives and participating faculty, students and staff. This year, the play will raise awareness of the violence and atrocities committed against the women and girls of The Democratic Republic of Congo.

Eve Ensler, the original author of the monologues, started the monologues from a downtown café shop in New York. Ten years later, she has given performances in Madison Square Garden, on cable networks such as HBO and is the founder of the V-Day Organization, which helps raise awareness of the violence against women and girls around the world.

Angela Howard, professor of U.S. and women’s history, has seen previous performances of the monologues and finds it a conscience-raising experience.

“It is a very provocative and thought-



Courtesy:V-Day

The spotlight for this year’s V-Day campaign is on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the atrocities being committed against the women and girls in that region. To find out more information about the Congo initiative or other local V-Day 2009 events, visit www.vday.org.

provoking play,” Howard said.

Howard commented that women of a more traditional upbringing were told never to talk about the subject in public, and the women who may attend might find the words said in the monologues shocking but true.

The original performance dates were set for Feb. 13-14, but due to a scheduling

conflict the date was pushed back to Feb. 27. Jennifer Clark, coordinator of student life, stated that this is the first year that this particular play is going to be held at UHCL.

When the date was changed, so was the location from the Bayou Theater to the Garden Room. The reason for the change in location is that since there is no set budget

for the event they want to test the feel of the play in a smaller venue to see what kind of audience response they will receive. Clark hopes that this event will be a great success so that next year they can set it up in a larger venue.

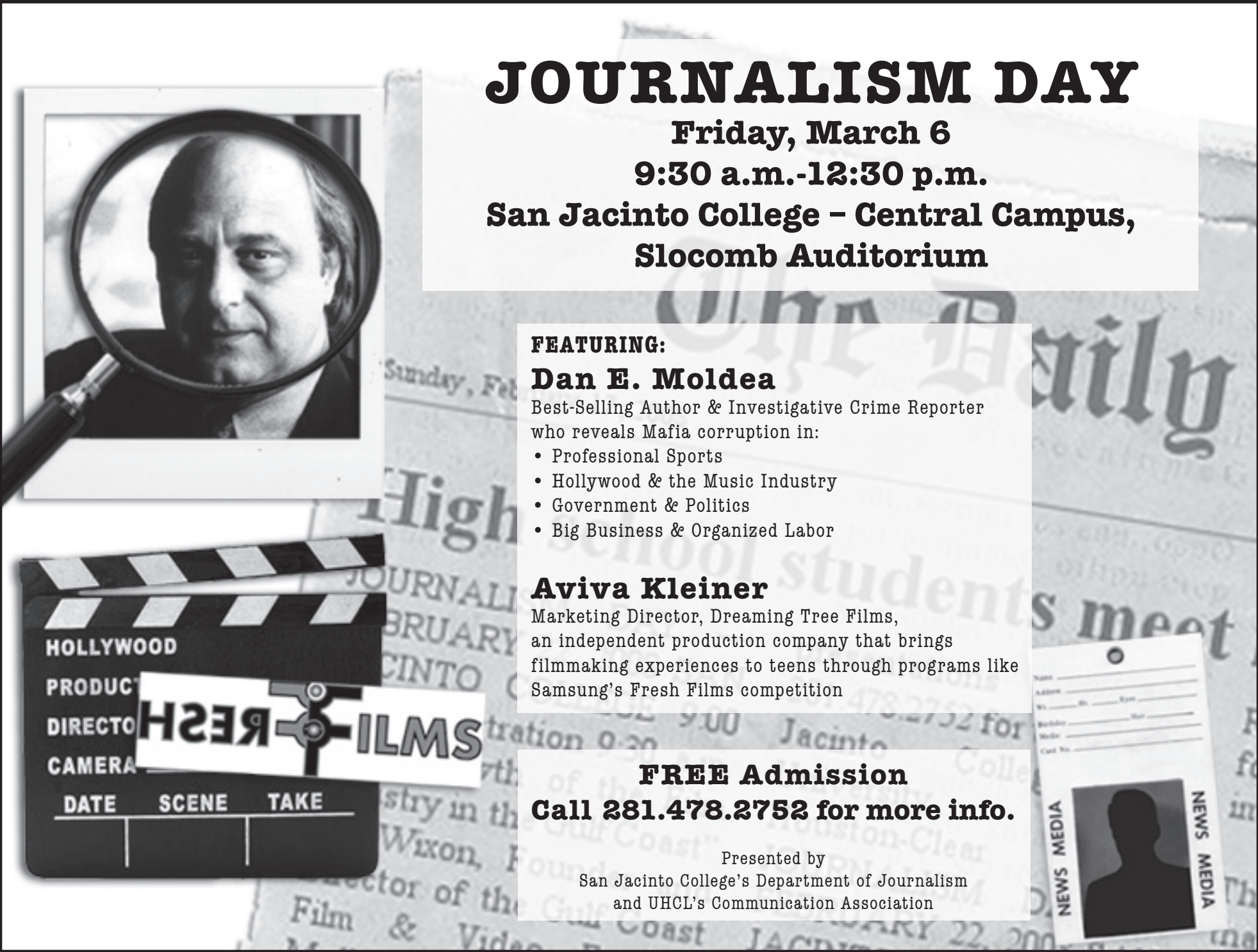
The cast performing the monologue is comprised of 18 women, representing a diverse mixture of students and faculty and staff.

Tonya Hammer, assistant professor of counseling in the School of Education, is one of the faculty chairwomen coordinating the event. She sees the play as a prelude to the upcoming Women’s History Month in March.

“We will utilize this event as a launching point to go into Women’s History Month,” Hammer said.

Out of 125 seats, 96 tickets have already been sold. Ticket cost is \$5 per person and tickets must be reserved via e-mail at hammer@uhcl.edu. It is strongly recommended that reservations are made early to ensure a seat. Money for the tickets will be collected at the door on the night of the performance. The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Ten percent of the proceeds from the benefit performance will go to the V-Day Organization. The rest will go to the Bay Area Turning Point, which is a local organization that assists women in domestic violence situations find ways to stop the violence and offers them recovery solutions and support.



JOURNALISM DAY

Friday, March 6
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
San Jacinto College – Central Campus,
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FEATURING:
Dan E. Moldea
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- Hollywood & the Music Industry
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San Jacinto College’s Department of Journalism
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MARDI GRAS



Mark Guillory :The Signal

Mardi Gras participants shop for beads and hats on Feb. 13, the first day of the festivities.



Mark Guillory :The Signal

Jeannine Davis and Matthew Gonzalez enjoy Mardi Gras festivities.

Mark Guillory
The Signal Staff

It is that time of year again. Time to wrestle over beads and dance in the streets; it's Mardi Gras time in Galveston. Galveston revived the tradition in 1985 and has been sponsoring the event ever since.

If you were in Galveston Friday, Feb. 13, you had to be amazed to see all the people on the Strand taking part in the festivities. Everyone seemed to have no worries; they were simply enjoying Mardi Gras in Galveston like they do every year.

However, this Mardi Gras was different, it is the first one since Hurricane Ike hit the island six months ago on Sept. 13, 2008. Hurricane Ike is considered to be the largest hurricane to hit Galveston since the Great Storm of 1900.

If you were to solely stay on the Strand where the Mardi Gras festivities were happening, you would probably believe that Galveston is almost back to normal. Several of the stores on the

Strand have managed to open up for business and the Mardi Gras crowd seems to be having a great time.

The city with no problems is, however, very deceiving; when you journey away from the central area of the celebration you get a better understanding of what has really happened to Galveston. Truth is, the city still has a lot of work to do to get back up and running as it was.

Walk through Galveston and you will notice that a lot of the stores have yet to reopen and are still trying to recover from Ike's wrath. Many business windows are still boarded up like they are waiting for another storm.

These businesses, unfortunately, will not be able to profit from the crowds of people that Mardi Gras brings in every year. The celebration is good for some local businesses that are located close to the Strand.

Despite Hurricane Ike, several businesses have reopened since the storm. The task of getting businesses back

up and running was not easy, especially for small business owners who did not have flood insurance. Amelda Del Mundo, owner of El Pinoy Restaurante, did her best to be up and running by Feb. 20, to catch some Mardi Gras business. She is only able to sell a few items out of her restaurant because her kitchen is still being repaired.

"The hurricane damage done to Del Mundo's restaurant is severe, she said. "I had to replace everything."

The water left in the restaurant after Ike was eight feet high.

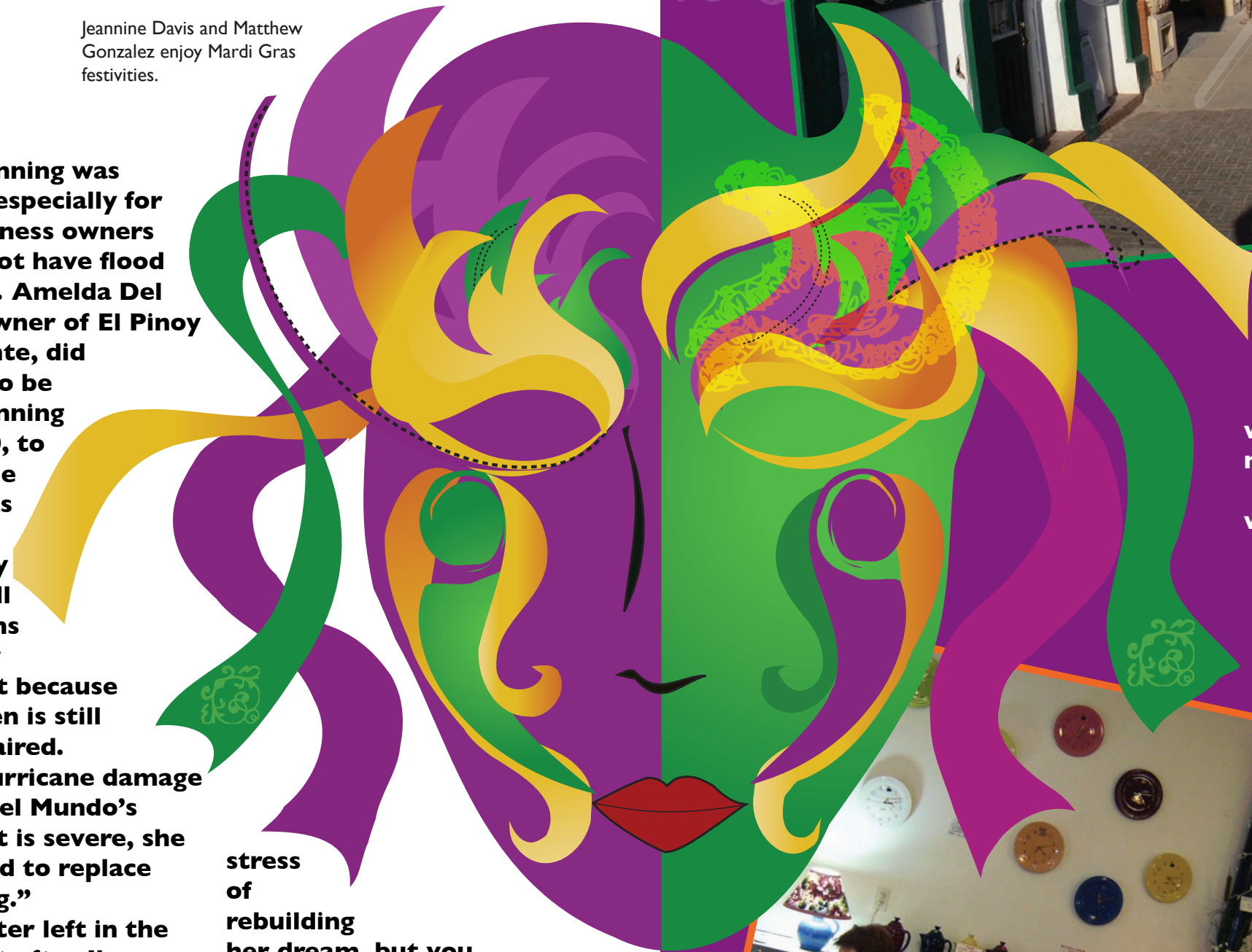
Getting the restaurant running has been a difficult process for Del Mundo. All the funding for repairs has come out of her pocket.

"I did not have any flood insurance at the time, only regular insurance, and they did not pay for anything," Del Mundo said.

When you look at Del Mundo you can see the

stress of rebuilding her dream, but you can also see the determination and the results. Her restaurant seems to be the first business opening back up in the shopping strip where it is located on 23rd Street.

Del Mundo has owned her restaurant for three years and is a proud business owner who wishes for nothing more than to be back in business.



GALVESTON



Michael Humphrey: Courtesy

O'Malley's Stage Door Pub, a popular hang-out for Galveston residents, is one of the few bars re-opened in time for Mardi Gras on Post Office Street. The scaffolding in the background is part of The Grand 1894 Opera House's rebuilding efforts after Ike.



Mark Guillory : The Signal

Jane Riddle shows off her beads on Feb. 13. "You just have to go out there and get them," Riddle said.

On 20th Street another store stood out because Lola Graham was conducting business as usual regardless of being surrounded by stores that have yet to reopen.

Graham, mother of the owner Gloria Graham, believed that Ike should not stop them from doing business like they always have done.

Yesterday's Best has been doing business for 17 years and felt no reason to let Ike stop them from doing what they needed to do. The work put into the business was remarkable; walk inside and you would never believe that water at one time filled this store up to seven feet.

Graham, like Del Mundo, admits the task was not easy and it took working day and night to get the business back up and running.

"We just worked day and night and, fortunately, we had a lot of family members help out," Graham said.

Thanks to family and hard work, Yesterday's Best is working on 18 years. You can see the relief on Graham's face as she keeps repeating "hard work, that's what it takes."

Walk further down on 20th Street and you will run into an interesting antique store called Somewhere In Time Antiques. Inside the store, owner Christine Solis tells vivid stories of Hurricane Ike and the struggle to get her business back on its feet afterward.

Solis was able to open her store back up for Thanksgiving weekend. Just like the other two business owners, Solis attributed the quick rebuilding to hard work.

"The lease does not stop coming and these bills don't stop either; you have to work hard to get back up and running," Solis said.

The hard work Solis put into her business was definitely worth it. Her business maintained a constant flow of customers who were drawn to antiques in the store.

"Galveston is going to need a lot of hard work to get it back like before," Solis said.

Solis, like Graham and Del Mundo, believe it is important

that people coming to the island for the Mardi Gras see that there is still work to do. They're hoping that public awareness will speed up insurance payments and maybe provide more government funding.



Mark Guillory :The Signal

Lola Graham, mother of owner and an employee at Yesterday's Best, credits hard work and family for being able to open after Hurricane Ike.

Laissez les bons temps rouler...



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Feb. 2 – Feb. 27
Apply online today!
Now awarding for fall 2009 and spring 2010

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*Scholarship awards may be based on merit, financial need, major, community service, etc.



National Survey of Student Engagement



ATTENTION SENIORS!

We want to know about your experience at UHCL so we can improve.

Please check your UHCL and personal e-mail to complete the National Survey of Student Engagement (It will only take a moment of your time.)

Thanks,


Dr. Darlene Biggers
281-283-3037

Dr. Simone Tiu
281-283-3008

**** Student Life ** Student Life ** Student Life ****

The Center for Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement (SLICE)

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY



Dr. Joe Martin:
video facilitator

Leadership Training Day is open to all students and is free to attend.
Pre-register online at www.uhcl.edu/studentleadershipinstitute by clicking on the "Workshop Series" link!

During this workshop, you will:

- Examine your existing beliefs and whether or not those beliefs are holding you back.
- Adopt more empowering beliefs for your limiting beliefs.
- Examine and discuss your fears among your peers
- Take responsibility for overcoming your fears
- Become aware of the impact your fears are having on your life.

Friday, February 27: 1:00pm - 4:00pm, SSCB 1.202.07
Friday, March 6: 9:00am - 12:00pm, SSCB 1.202.07

These are part of a series of presentations by The National Society of Leadership and Success. If you are a pending member of the Society, attendance at these programs counts towards your membership requirements. (For more information about how to become a member, email Coordinator of SLICE – Jenn Clark at clarkjen@uhcl.edu.)

SLICE is located in The Student Life Office, SSCB 1.204.

Student Government Association

All students and student organizations are called to participate in the

Designated Tuition Increase Town Hall Meetings.

The fee increase process shall be presented and explained. Suggestions are welcome to be discussed.



Presentation Dates

March 2, 2009
Bayou Atrium II - 12 noon

March 5, 2009
Bayou Atrium II - 12noon

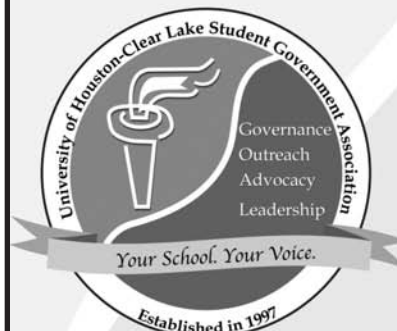
Be there & voice your opinion

For Details Contact :

The SGA Executive Council

Patrick Cardenas – President
Steve Steiner – VP Committee Coordinator
Jessica Williams – VP Outreach
Connie Lafayette – VP Administration

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



CAMPUS
CALENDAR

February 23
2009 Physics Seminar Series,
7 p.m., Bayou 1211

February 24
‘Discover Your Power Voice’
6 p.m. -7 p.m., SSCB 1100

February 25
‘Yes We Can’
5:30-6:30 p.m., SSCB 3302

February 28
2009 Spring Open House
9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Student Services
and Classroom Building

Alternative Certification
Program Informational Meeting,
10 a.m., Location TBA

Martha Kemper in the
one-woman show
‘Me, Miss Krause & Joan’
8 p.m., Bayou Theater

March 1
Last Day for Admissions
Eligibility (Summer/Fall Early
Registration)

International Students’
Application Deadline (Summer)

March 7
Film and Speaker Series presents:
‘Milk,’ 7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall

**Ongoing through
February 27**
The UHCL STARS scholarship
application available

Award-winning crime reporter headlines Journalism Day

Dianna Shaw
The Signal Staff

“Stay honest and use your sources, but do not let your sources use you, because they will try,” said best-selling author Dan Moldea, offering advice to new journalists.

Come and experience the life of this investigative journalist firsthand by attending Journalism Day at San Jacinto College-Central Campus March 6. As the keynote speaker, Moldea will be sharing his life’s work as a member of the press whose career took shape in the days following the disappearance of Teamster President Jimmy Hoffa.

Moldea says in the beginning of his career he was naive and did not believe the Mafia existed.

“Through a series of events and research I was led to write an eight-part series, ‘The Teamsters, Their Pension Fund and the Mafia,’” Moldea said.

This experience propelled Moldea to probe many other cases in which the evidence indicated or proved mob involvement.

Moldea has published eight books that have been noted for their controversial issues, including topics such as the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, the NFL & the Mafia, the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa and the O.J. Simpson trial, to mention a few.

Moldea promises to speak about professional football and its ties to the Mafia through gambling.

“I could explain how to exploit sports gambling and win a million dollars; the problem is you would be killed after you won,” Moldea said.

In addition to these topics Moldea has also chronicled in his book, “Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA & the Mob,” how the Music Corporation of America helped pave the way for Ronald Reagan to become president. He also links organized crime to Reagan and the MCA through Beverly Hills attorney Sidney Korshak, who is said to be the main connection between legitimate business and underworld business.

Moldea takes the risks that come with reporting dangerous and controversial truths as just a part of the business. Moldea has had no less than six attempts on his life.

“It is my job, I am just doing my job,” Moldea said.

Visit Moldea’s Web site, www.moldea.com, to read the first chapter of each of his books and many of his other writings.

“We are excited to have



Courtesy

Best-selling author and investigative crime reporter Dan E. Moldea.

in teen filmmaking competitions. They bring the art and science of filmmaking to all teens who demonstrate the drive, resolve and ambition to make their dreams come true.

“Filmmaking is such a hot topic with students and with advancement in technology everyone is their own filmmaker,” Walker said. “And with the convergence of the media, new journalists need to understand how to make films. Fresh Films offers students important oppor-

tunities.”
Annually, Fresh Films travel to nine U.S. cities to engage and train students ages 14-19 by giving them opportunities to work with professional equipment as well as seasoned veterans of film. These camps last a week and the participants craft a seven to 10 minute original film during this time. Their films are then submitted for competition against the other camps. Winning films are shown at the American Film Institute’s AFI Fest.

“I love to deliver when I am speaking and I invite questions or challenges from the audience,” Moldea said.

Also in attendance will be Aviva Kleiner with Fresh Films, a division of Dreaming Tree Films. This organization leads the nation

in teen filmmaking competitions. They bring the art and science of filmmaking to all teens who demonstrate the drive, resolve and ambition to make their dreams come true.

“Filmmaking is such a hot topic with students and with advancement in technology everyone is their own filmmaker,” Walker said. “And with the convergence of the media, new journalists need to understand how to make films. Fresh Films offers students important oppor-


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“We will be screening winning videos from the 2008 Fresh Films competition,” Kleiner said. “I will also be talking about upcoming opportunities to get involved in new competitions. I am always looking for fresh marketing talent. So I would encourage any of these budding individuals to come out; I would love to shake their hands and hear about what they are doing.”

The day will begin with a panel of local journalists discussing the difficulties of covering Hurricane Ike, thrashing out how they were able to cover evolving stories without electricity and with gas shortages hindering their abilities.

All sessions will include question and answer sessions. The event will be held March 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at SJC Central, 8060 Spencer Highway, in the Slocomb Auditorium. The event is open to the public; there is no charge for attendance.

All sessions will include question and answer sessions. The event will be held March 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at SJC Central, 8060 Spencer Highway, in the Slocomb Auditorium. The event is open to the public; there is no charge for attendance.



Attention! Road Closure

**NASA Parkway Closure
Beginning March 4, 2009**

Per the City of Webster, the general contractor for the current I-45 expansion project announced that starting Wednesday, March 4th, the NASA Parkway Bridge over I-45 will be closed in both directions.






On Thursday, March 5th, the contractor will begin demolition of the bridge. Demolition is scheduled for March 5th through March 9th. During that time period, I-45 will also be closed at NASA Parkway. The contractor stated that the interstate highway should be open by 5 a.m. on Monday, March 9th.

NASA Parkway will remain closed for up to 70 days after the demolition (Approximate date of May 14th). If you use the NASA Parkway to get to campus, please begin searching for alternate routes. Also expect delays on I-45 around the NASA Parkway interchange which could extend to Bay Area Blvd.

Alternate I-45 exits and routes include:


- *Exit FM 518 to Highway 3 to Bay Area Boulevard
- *Exit Bay Area Boulevard
- *Exit El Dorado Boulevard to Space Center to Bay Area Boulevard
- *Exit FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard to Space Center to Bay Area Boulevard

The traveling public should expect major delays in the Webster area for the next three to four months. Plan your travel time accordingly.



The Center for Student Leadership,
Involvement and Community Engagement
(SLICE)

Live Speaker PROGRAMS



Les Brown:
*Discover Your
Power Voice
To Unleash Your Success
and Leadership Ability*

Best-selling author of *Live Your Dreams* and *It's Not Over Until You Win*, morning radio dj, CEO, community activist teaches how to:

- ✓ Discover how to positively influence others
- ✓ Aim for the mind and capture the heart
- ✓ Find possibilities in the impossible

**Live Broadcast: Tuesday, Feb. 24
6pm – 7pm, SSCB Lecture Hall, 1100)**
**Encore DVD Presentation: Weds., March 11
(12pm – 1:30pm, SSCB 1.202.07)**

These are part of a series of presentations by **The National Society of Leadership and Success**. If you are a pending member of the Society, attendance at these programs counts towards your membership requirements. (For more information about how to become a member, email Coordinator of SLICE – Jenn Clark at clarkjen@uhcl.edu.)

These programs are FREE to attend and are open to EVERYONE.

Freezing Tuition: continued from page 1

accessible for students,” said Katherine Cesinger, deputy press secretary and spokesperson for the Governor’s office.

There used to be a cap on tuition increases until 2003; Perry and the Texas Legislature decided to deregulate tuition as a way to help with budget restraints.

As a trade off for decreasing state funding, the legislature allowed universities to set their own tuition rates. Tuition has risen in the state of Texas approximately 52 percent in the past five years.

“The leadership that the education systems do have can prioritize and, like we said with everyone, certainly with government, but everyone in Texas, really tightening our belts and prioritizing spending, especially with the economic times, is important,” Cesinger said.

The University of Texas-Dallas and The University of Texas-El Paso are already offering a four-year tuition lock. Right now they are the only universities in Texas to do so.

“In a guaranteed four-year tuition program, a student will pay the same amount in tuition for the four years he or she remains in good academic standing and then graduates; so, for instance, if you were to take a fifth year you would then pay whatever the incoming tuition rate is for that year,” said Anthony de Bruyn, director of public affairs with UT Systems.

UTEP’s tuition program guarantees that tuition and mandatory fees will not increase over a student’s four-year registration period as long as the student qualifies; meaning he or she is a Texas resident, enrolled in 15 credit hours a semester, completes 30 semester credit hours in an academic year and maintains a 2.0 GPA throughout his or her college career. The tuition freeze will not apply to out-of-state students, only in-state students.

How will the proposal affect community college students? Kate McGrath, adviser to the

governor, and Lauren Connett, legislative aide, both said the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, THECB, is giving the authority to develop rules for community college students that will transfer to a four-year institution.

What will the tuition freeze mean for funding and services offered at UHCL? As of now no one has finalized any details relating to this proposal. It is still in the beginning stages.

The governor’s 2010-11 budget does reprioritize higher education funding. Special item funding has increased from \$75.9 million in 1986-87 to \$1,197.8 million in 2008-09, a 1.479 percent increase. Once funded, the governor stated that many of these special items will continue indefinitely, “long after the projected termination date.”

The governor believes that “recommitting these funds to student financial aid would better address the priorities of the state and the needs of students and recommends reallocating \$645.7 million of special item and excellence funding to increase student financial aid and support other higher education priorities, including a fund, equal to one percent of each system’s funding, to support system priorities as determined by each system’s Chancellor and Board of Regents.”

He also recommends “transferring responsibilities for developmental education from four-year institutions to community colleges. This move would benefit students through lower tuition and would save the state \$3.6 million over the biennium.”

From the savings identified above, he further recommends increasing student financial aid by an additional \$110 million for the Texas Grant program.

“There are numerous tuition proposals being considered by legislators at this time,” said William Staples, president of UHCL. “It is too early to speculate as to which proposal will be approved, if any.”

WiFi: continued from page 1

previously adopted the free city WiFi program on a test basis with much success.

Several factors are taken into account to determine whether or not the program will be a fit for the city. Some of these are determining whether or not the prospective city has a genuine interest and need for this program. Is there any type of void within the City Hall parking regulation and management and can it benefit from a WiFi managed network?

“It’s not really a question of whether or not Houston downtown wants the program; the want and need are both there,” said Brian Anderson, information technology specialist for the city of Houston. “It becomes a question of whether or not the program can be operated in an efficient manner in terms of operation and usage.”

“Local downtown area residents cash in on a super sweet deal; free WiFi”

– Natalie Naza
Spokesperson for resident relations for the city of Houston

Currently the city of Houston is providing the free WiFi program on a trial basis and there is no long-term service commitment as of now. However, should the pilot program become a success in terms of usage then, at that point, the free WiFi service just may become a permanent staple for all downtown employees, residents and visitors alike.

Elder Scholarships: continued from page 1

and African-American students. And the elders do not necessarily have to be a relative. Elders come in many shapes or forms including teachers, neighbors or friends.

To be eligible for this scholarship, students must be either a high school senior intending to enroll in a Houston-area community college in the fall of 2009, a dual enrollment student, a student currently enrolled in a Houston-area community college or a community college student transferring to a Houston-area college/university that offers a bachelor’s degree.

Students must also submit an essay along with their application about the significant elder who has influenced and supported them throughout their lives and academic career.

Review of all applications and essays begin in June 2009, and will be accepted until April 30, 2009.

The Greater Texas Foundation is partnering up with the Celebrating Our Elders Scholarship Program to make new additional scholarship awards.

“Elders come in many shapes or forms including teachers, neighbors or friends.”

– Adolfo Gonzalez
The Signal Staff

“The Greater Texas Foundation came about with a \$25,000 grant,” Bullock said, “This foundation helps high school students who are transferring to a community college but mainly focuses on community college students transferring to UHCL.”

The Rising to the Challenge/ Celebrating Our Elders Award will be given to students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Students must be a first-generation college student and a new community college transfer student to UHCL. Students

must also demonstrate financial need by way of a FAFSA application and must have a minimum transfer GPA of 2.5.

Scholarship awards range from \$505 to \$2000. First priority applications were due November 30, 2008, although applications were still accepted through January 2009.

The Celebrating Our Elders program is sponsored by the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services. For more information, call 281-283-2564 or e-mail IISS@uhcl.edu.

PROFILE SHOWCASE

Journalism instructor Paul McGrath brings real-world experience to the classroom

Nancy Nguyen
The Signal Staff

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

Television anchors, legislative aides, national newspaper reporters and Pulitzer Prize winners are among the talented students who have sat in the chairs of adjunct Paul McGrath’s media writing and editing classes.

“Paul is very dedicated to his students,” said Deborah Griffin, division chair in HSH. “He brings a lot of real world experience to the classroom. Most students say he is approachable to work with. His standards are high but at the end students walk away with their head held up high, and they are pleased with what they learned.”

McGrath’s wealth of knowledge spawns from his college years at Texas A&M

University and 25 plus years of teaching experience. He first started teaching in 1990 and taught at the University of Houston and Texas A&M before his current tenure with UHCL.

After graduating with a degree in journalism, McGrath worked for several Texas newspapers before finding a home with the Houston Chronicle. He currently works for the Houston Chronicle as the Section A editor.

McGrath often draws from real life experiences at the Chronicle to use in his classroom. For example, he cites this anecdote when emphasizing to his students the necessity of proofreading their work:

“The Chronicle misspelled God’s name in the lead of a story for one edition. I told the editors who handled that story that they better be careful driving home,” McGrath said.

McGrath is known for his good sense of humor and his affection for anything “Aggie.”

“His jokes are attention grabbers,” said Ruth Garay, communication major. “I would have my mind on other things and when I’d hear one of his jokes it would help to



Paul McGrath: Courtesy

McGrath and author Kinky Friedman spoke at last year’s Journalism Day.

relieve my stress and refocus my attention back on class.”

McGrath believes that the most rewarding part about teaching is his ability to be exposed to so many students with different backgrounds and cultures.

“Being able to gather information from a diversity of sources and then thoughtfully weigh it is part of what makes a democracy work,” McGrath said “That’s what I try to do, make students think.”

“He is really good at his job and very well respected in the field and among the faculty,” said Deb Blakely, assistant professor of communication. “We are really fortunate to have him here.”

McGrath has many students who have gone on to pursue careers in communication.

“I’ve had one former student win a Pulitzer Prize in photography,” McGrath said. “I’m proud to say he’s a Facebook friend.”

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Save GAS!...Walk to CLASS!

Former UHCL professor brings history to life



Jenna Simsen:The Signal

Jenny Moss and her book, “Winnie’s War.”

Jenna Simsen
The Signal Staff

Set in the small town of Coward Creek, Texas, Jenny Moss’ recently released book, “Winnie’s War,” follows the life of a young girl who fights to save her loved ones from the outbreak of the Spanish influenza in the early 1900s.

What most people don’t know about her book is that the small town of Coward Creek is actually loosely based on the city of League City. Moss drew inspiration and ideas from her research about the Spanish influenza in order to create historic novel with great accuracy. Moss spent hours studying files and historical data such as birth and death records and non-fiction stories written in the early

1900s. Although the outbreak didn’t reach the Galveston County area, local residents were affected by it as the epidemic spread across the world in 1918.

For Moss, this has all been nothing short of a dream come true. Constantly writing short stories as a child, she claims she kept trying to quit, thinking it was frivolous, but could not manage to let go. After her mother died, Moss found several of her mother’s unfinished novels, which inspired her to continue what her mother started.

“I decided I was at least going to finish one,” said Moss. “So I wouldn’t look back and wonder ‘what if.’”

After working at NASA for 17 years, Moss says her career as an engineer made her a better author. She believes novelists need discipline and self-motivation, qualities which she says many engineers possess.

Moss spent a lot of time developing her stories. Her degree in literature taught her how to look at texts in an analytical way, which improved her writing.

She used several local resources in the Bay Area for research including the Helen Hall Library in League City, the West Bay Common School Museum, the Environmental Institute of Houston, and the League City Historical Society.

Moss, formerly Jenny Suffredini, is a former adjunct writing instructor, as well as a graduate from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

She taught for four years, until 2005, before deciding to pursue writing full time.

Her recreational interest in writing has always served her well, as her previous professor and later, fellow colleague John Gorman, professor of literature served as a guide and offered moss advice throughout her years of writing.

“Studying poetry with Dr. John Gorman helped me to not only look at theme and character development, but to slow down and delight in language too.” Moss said.

Gorman commented on how well she was able to tie her words together to create stories. He was even able to recall memories of Moss and her writings in her years as a student.

“She’s a very capable person,” said Gorman. “You always had a sense that she was fully in control. She was very bright; she took everything in. You can see the novel

writing talent in the way she weaves things together.”

Gorman went on to explain how it was interesting to see her later as a colleague. He mentioned that many professors at the university were once students on this campus, and it was always fun to see some of his own former students as professors.

The interesting thing about her novel is the fact that she chose to portray her hometown area, rather than a “far away land” as do some authors. This makes it enjoyable for local readers, because they are able to sense some similarities in her book that appear today in modern League City.

“I decided I wanted to write historical fiction with a setting a little closer to home,” said Moss. “What I didn’t expect, and has been absolutely wonderful, is that researching and creating Winnie’s story would bring me closer to this place. I’ve lived in the Clear Lake area for over 30 years, but it feels more like home than it ever did before.”

Moss’ book launch was held in early February at the Barnes and Noble bookstore on Bay Area Boulevard where her book is also available for sale. She has several other appearances, signings and school visits planned over the next few months in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Houston. For more information on this author or her books, visit www.jenny-moss.com.



Jenna Simsen:The Signal

Author Jenny Moss signs a copy of her book at her book launch on Saturday, Feb. 7, at Barnes and Noble on Bay Area Boulevard.

Galveston beaches undergo major rebuilding



Britney Godfrey:The Signal

In early February, workers began to dump 400,000 to 500,000 cubic feet of sand on the beaches of Galveston in an effort the renourish the beach and replace the sand washed away during hurricane Ike. The project is slated to be finished by the end of March 2009, just in time for the islands summer rush.