



Courtesy: NASA

## NASA FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

## E-textbooks to replace traditional textbooks in classroom

**Ben Nance**  
The Signal Staff

Gov. Rick Perry proposed a new idea that could revolutionize the Texas education system April 8. What kind of proposal could be that impactful? Electronic textbooks.

"I don't see any reason in the world why we need to have textbooks in Texas in the next four years. Do you agree?" Perry posed to an Austin electronics conference.

The conceptual ideology behind Perry's plan is transitioning all Texas students from traditional paper textbooks to all-digital versions. The proponents of the digital implementation argue that textbooks are costly and become rapidly outdated.

"An iPad for example, could automatically update daily with the most recent edition of every textbook," said Gary Mayfield, 12-year member of the Alvin Independent School District School Board. "Also, it could deliver national, local and school news directly to each student's personal computer."

The detractors view the change as unnecessary government expenditure. While Perry does not completely disparage the claim, he says that if the switch could be done in a cost-effective manner, it would be beneficial to students from all walks of life.

"I support the concept without question," said Bob Craig, member on the State Board of Education. "I think it's good, but as we transition we need to make sure we do it right. We need to make sure all of our students have access so that we leave nobody behind."

Craig continued that he was concerned with the efficiency and cost that the transition would bring.

"It will cost money to gear up," Craig said. "Internet service and online training certainly will cost to begin with, but once you get it going, you have an opportunity to provide it at a cheaper cost and make it current to all students. I think the governor mentioned four years [to implement the digital textbook transition] but I don't think it can be accomplished in four years. If you're talking about transitioning all subject matter online, it may be ongoing process for this decade. Hopefully we can get it done this decade but there

## UHCL, Clear Lake community tied to NASA's fate

**Corey Benson**  
The Signal Staff

Forty-seven years ago the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center opened its doors as the Manned Spacecraft Center. JSC serves as the center for human spaceflight for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. One of 10 major NASA field centers, JSC was renamed in honor of 36th president of the U.S. in February 1973.

The 2011 federal budget, presented to Congress in February, reflects cuts that would virtually end NASA's human spaceflight program. The plan President Barack Obama presented drastically cuts funding for the Constellation program, the purpose of which is to give scientists experience operating outside Earth's environment

and develop technologies needed for opening the space frontier for future research. The new budget plan will force NASA to rely heavily on the commercial aerospace industry for transportation to and from the International Space Station. However, Obama's plan does grant NASA \$6 billion in the next five years to provide for Mars exploration.

"We are keeping a positive outlook on the president's FY 2011 budget to include funding for human space exploration programs at Johnson Space Center," said Shari Sweeney, director of marketing for the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. "We support the efforts of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership in their endeavors to work with our legislators and other elected officials to ensure

that the United States remains the leader in space exploration."

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, a community organization whose members include 13 cities, Galveston and Harris Counties, and the Port of Houston Authority, is working to insure the Constellation program does not end.

"The Augustine Panel to review America's Space Flight Program found nothing wrong with the Constellation program, other than that it needed more money to keep it on track," said David Braun, BAHEP aerospace marketing manager. "More money than what was needed to fix Constellation's path was spent on the government's 'Cash for Clunkers' program last year. The president's program does nothing to close the gap between shuttles'

ending and a new vehicle taking our astronauts to space. In the meantime we rely 100 percent on the Russians for that task. It kills work currently being done on our next space vehicle to go beyond low-Earth orbit. It gives responsibility for launching our men and women into space to a commercial industry who has no proven method to accomplish that job."

UHCL offers bachelor's and master's degrees in physics, as well as a cooperative physics Ph.D. program with University of Houston. The UHCL Physics program website boasts of close connections with NASA, in both faculty relationships and geographic proximity to JSC.

"It hurts students who are studying science, technology, engineering, and math subjects with

**NASA:** continued on page 6

## New law requires faculty to post syllabi

**David Sager**  
The Signal Staff

House Bill No. 2504 was brought about to address a potential lack of information available to students at institutes of higher learning in the state of Texas. The bill is scheduled to be implemented across the state, including at UHCL in fall 2010. It requires instructors to post their syllabi as well as a curriculum vitae online. If available, departments must also post a budget report from the most recent semester or other

academic term during which the institution offered the course.

The bill was passed by the House on May 8, 2009, and by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2009. In both branches, all submitted votes supported the bill with no votes against it.

The amendments added by the senate are for all institutions of higher education to post an accurate assessment of the cost to attend the school, as well as have a public listing of all work-study employment opportunities.

"The bill is more expensive

than I would like to see," said Representative Jimmie Aycok of District 54, co-author of the bill. "However, I feel that it gives more transparency to the students as far as total cost of attending the school, as well as giving a more accurate depiction of the course and the professors. Unfortunately, the added cost has to come from somewhere, in this case the students, but I feel that it is a justified cost."

Concerns about the public posting of syllabi include the potential for outsiders viewing them

and possibly using the information for their own personal gain, such as to copy and use as their own.

"We are not really being asked to post our full curriculum," said Beth Hentges, associate professor of psychology and vice-president of UH Accountability and Transparency Task Force.

"The bill requires faculty to post for undergraduate courses: required readings, supplemental readings, assignments worth more than 10 percent of the grade, and

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EDITORIAL  
UHCL must respond to demographic shifts

University of Houston-Clear Lake is in the process of achieving status as a Hispanic Serving Institution designation and to receive the funding associated with such status. To be eligible to apply for HSI designation, higher education institutions must have an undergraduate full-time enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students. Federal grants are awarded to institutions who achieve such designation to expand educational opportunities for Hispanic students.

In the past five years, enrollment of Hispanic students at UHCL has increased by 32.8 percent, accounting for 19.5 percent of all UHCL students. Hispanic students make up 24.7 percent of the undergraduate student population and 12.4 percent of graduate students.

For first-generation students, a group into which many Hispanic students can be categorized, attending college is often the first time they are away from home. American Enterprise Institute's study "Rising to the Challenge: Hispanic College Graduation Rates as a National Priority,"

shows Hispanic students graduate at much lower rates than their white peers at schools across the nation.

Students need more than academic instruction. Students need out-of-classroom experiences and services to augment the instruction they receive in the classroom. They need opportunities to put theory into practice. Students need a sense of belonging – something that cannot solely be achieved by any amount of programming or instruction.

In addition to services, students benefit from seeing others on campus who look like them, both as classmates and instructors. A huge disparity exists between the number of Hispanic students and the number of Hispanic faculty members in UHCL classrooms. Five percent of UHCL faculty members are Hispanic, compared to nearly a quarter of its students.

Forty-six colleges and universities across the state have achieved and currently maintain membership as a Hispanic Serving Institution through Hispanic Association of Colleges

and Universities, including UHCL. Others in the Houston area who are designated HSI are UH-Downtown, University of St. Thomas, San Jacinto Community College District and Houston Community College District. UHCL will become eligible to apply for HSI designation through the Department of Education and received federal funding when its undergraduate population consists of 25 percent Hispanic students – a goal that UHCL is close to achieving.

Hispanics make up 37.4 percent of the population in the city of Houston, 39.3 percent of the population of Harris County, and 36.5 percent of the state population. UHCL must strive to insure diversity. It must actively and intentionally recruit first-generation students and Hispanic students. It must also market to these students. Doing so brings with it the possibility of millions of dollars a year in additional federal funding and a multiculturally competent and affirming university.

As state agencies are being asked to reduce their budgets by 5 percent over each of the next

two fiscal years, this money could provide much-needed relief to our budgets.

Increasing Hispanic enrollment is a win-win situation. Not only could the money received from federal grants be used to alleviate the strain on student services caused by the state budget deficit, it would increase the diversity of our student body – preparing our students for an increasingly global workforce.

Recruiting Hispanic students, however, cannot be the ultimate goal. To serve our mission, we must also graduate them. Therefore, we must use the federal funding to insure success of first-generation and underrepresented students.

The money should be used to increase funding of programs already in place at the university and create new programs designed to ease the transition into the university setting and provide support to students once enrolled.

We cannot simply pump up our numbers and provide nothing to support students' success. To do so would only set students up to fail.

COMMENTARY  
NASA budget cuts spell trouble for Clear Lake

**Brian Bohannon**  
The Signal Staff

Residents of Clear Lake have no doubt heard about President Barack Obama's new plan for NASA. In his newly proposed budget, he revealed that the Constellation program, which included plans to travel to the moon and eventually Mars, would be cut from the budget altogether. Obama based his decisions on the findings of the Augustine committee, run by aerospace executive Norman Augustine. This program was found to be under funded and behind schedule. Cutting funding altogether seemed the only reasonable solution.

Ed Crowley, co-chair of the Augustine committee, spoke in order to clarify the president's decision. He outlined the basic principles that guided the committee's decision- making process. At the top of the list was the notion that NASA should inspire the youth of America and according to their research, less than 50 percent of the country's youth are inspired by the idea of landing on the moon. (Remember, 20 percent can't find the US on a map either). "We've already been there," Crowley said, echoing the polls sentiments.

The idea behind Constellation was not just going back to the moon in order to plant another flag or to undue the damage done by the infamous Fox moon landing special. It was to be a means to developing sustainable living spaces on the surface in preparation for eventual travel to Mars. On a more local level, for Clear Lake area residents it could mean big trouble.

NASA is preparing to cut 12 thousand jobs nationally, about 7 thousand of which reside at the Johnson Space Center. The space shuttle program is being closed as well, leaving the U.S. without a working platform to take up astronauts. We would also have to rely on the Russians, at \$58 million dollars a head.

While it would cost a little more per person to continue sending up space shuttles, about \$500 million per round trip with seven crew members, that does not take into account

that those numbers include a full payload of supplies. Not to mention the fact all of that money would be going to American workers and companies.

Obama's plan is to have the private sector manufacture vehicles and contract them to NASA in order to get our astronauts to the International Space Station. While this is certainly an interesting and doable plan, there are currently no commercial companies with a working rocket capable of carrying people to and from space. In fact, they may be several years from being ready.

More importantly for Clear Lake residents, these jobs will be elsewhere. United Launch Alliance, one of the main contenders in the industry, does have a facility in Harlingen, TX, but this would hardly provide shelter for all of the ousted employees of the JSC in Clear Lake.

Furthermore, the simple fact is that commercial companies will be in the field for profit. NASA's top priorities have always been safety and the pursuit of science. Will companies be able to resist the urge to rush and cut corners in the face of massive government contracts? That is all without taking into account the need to catch up on NASA's 40 years of experience in order to create a good alternative to our current fleet.

The interesting thing about the situation is that the proposed plans actually mean a big funding increase for NASA, with the focus instead being robotics. Obama even made a vague call to land on Mars "within his lifetime." A loosely expressed desire to continue space work sometime in the



Brad Denison:The Signal

next 20 years provides no solace to the NASA employees immediately effected by Constellation's early termination. Following the lay-offs, the president allocated \$40 million dollars to retain the employees lost from the Florida center, but indicated no such light at the end of the tunnel for Houston.

There may be some hope for Constellation. Midterm elections will be occurring this November, and, should the Republicans get a solid footing in Congress, some of the current plans for NASA could be changed. This has been somewhat of a regular occurrence for NASA throughout the years as conflicting politics act to shift NASA's priorities. However, by this time the damage may already be done.

In short, while the new plan will not spell the end of NASA or manned space exploration as some have claimed, it is a dramatic hasty shift of focus for the agency, one which may render the United States grounded for the next decade and amount to a big loss for their Houston employees.



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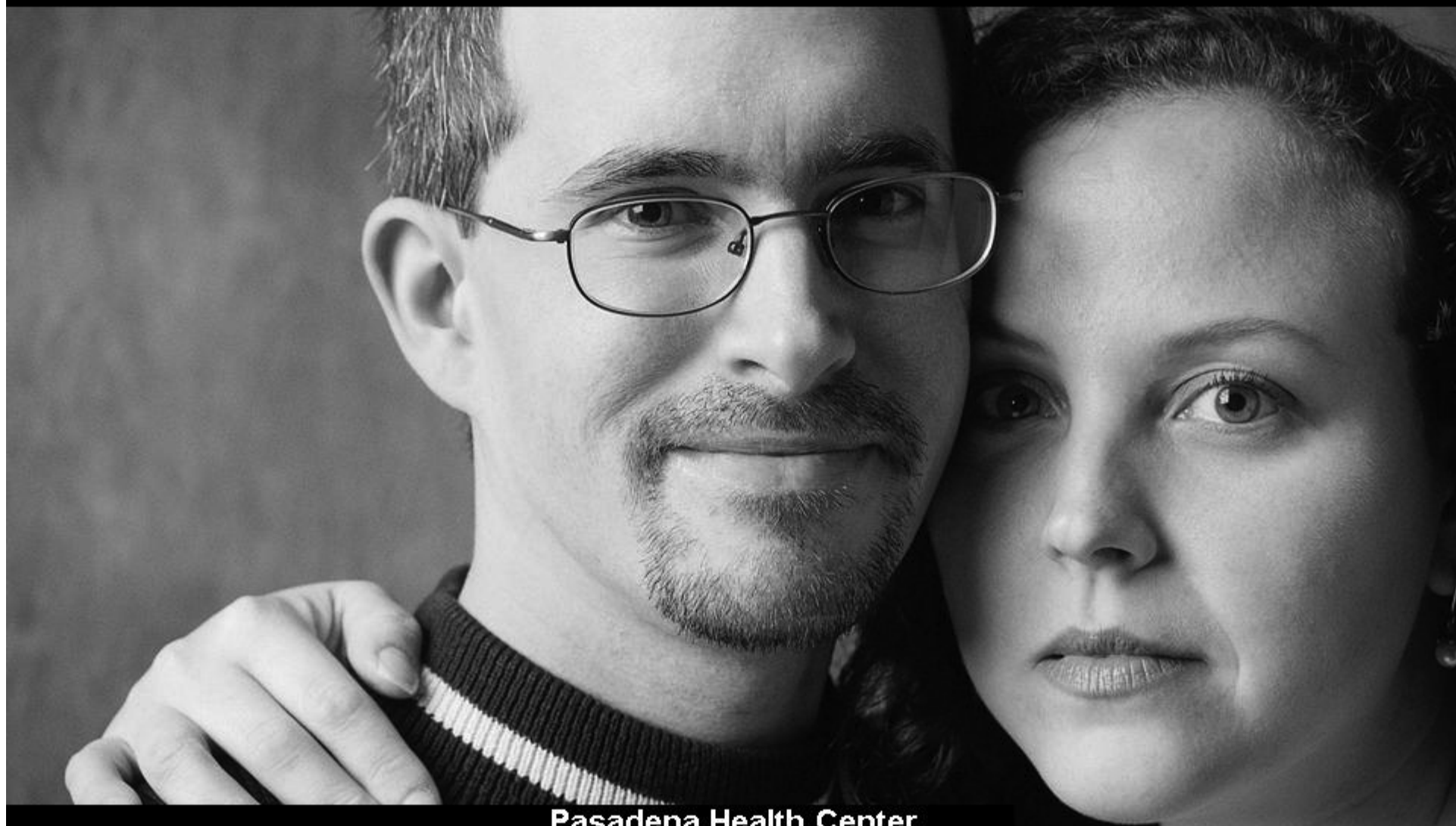


On behalf of the University of Houston-Clear Lake family, I salute the academic achievements of the spring 2010 graduating class and celebrate the promise of their future accomplishments.

*William A. Staples*

William A. Staples  
President

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## Bay Area celebrates Sylvan Beach festival

**Sonya Lynch**  
The Signal Staff

Residents of LaPorte and surrounding areas celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Sylvan Beach Festival and Crawfish Jam Saturday, April 24.

The 10 a.m. parade was free. Immediately following, the parade, the park was open to residents and visitors alike for a minimal charge. Park visitors had a choice of live entertainment, a carnival for all ages, games of chance, and the opportunity to shop for arts and crafts under staked-down tents leading to Harris County's only public beach. The platform that welcomed live entertainment also introduced the pageant contestants eager to be crowned Miss Sylvan Beach.

Sylvan Beach Park recently experienced what LaPorte calls the "Sylvan Beach Shoreline Protection and Beach Nourishment Project," which began in May 2009. This project not only included Harris County and the Port of Houston Authority, but the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Texas General Land Office as well.

The project called for an improvement in shoreline protection by removing the old wooden bulkhead and concrete rubble along the 1,700 feet of shoreline. The shore face has now been armored with stone rubble that helps to slow and trap water, deflecting the impact of waves. A durable sand, chosen specifically for this project, was imported and placed on the 500-foot pockets of beaches and stone groins, which are structures built from the shore, constructed around each pier. Sidewalks, lighting and pedestrian walkovers made of articulated concrete mattresses that allow for natural vegetation were included in the design.

The sandy beaches that attracted crowds from all over the country in the early 1900s, had begun to erode primarily because of waves from large vessels in the Houston Ship Channel and winds. In 2007 when \$18 million was appropriated by the 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature for a program implemented specifically to respond to erosion projects, La Porte went to the Texas GLO to apply for funding for this

project, the cost of which was estimated at \$3.5 million, with Texas GLO covering only 60 percent.

"The re-nourishment of Sylvan Beach is a great asset for the city of La Porte," said Stacey F. Osborne, economic development coordinator of the city of La Porte. "It provides a lovely space for people to gather, instills a sense of pride and history in the consciousness of our citizens, and gives us the opportunity to show off our greatest asset: our proximity to Galveston Bay."

Osborne said people are spreading the word and the weekends at Sylvan Beach Park are beginning to "draw new visitors to our city, and we hope that the increased visitors traffic will also help spur additional retail and tourism development, two things that were identified as priorities in our recent Economic Development Strategic Plan."

Festival visitors made the crawfish stand their first stop. A refrigerated truck held bags of live crawfish ready to meet the demands of the festival's attendees. Other than the regular carnival items such as cotton candy and funnel cakes, food vendors also offered fajita nachos, fried twinkies, fried pickles and large shrimp just to name a few. La Porte High School was also out raising funds for their Project Graduation.

"We have raised over \$25,000 this year toward Project Graduation and the superintendent and districts have all pitched in to support us even to providing a venue to hold our celebration where we will give out items such as laptops to our students that are going to college," said Mary Noble, who is chairing Project Graduation.

The La Porte Chamber of Commerce supports this annual festival. "It takes scores of volunteers to put on the festival and some of our volunteers have given their time and resources to make its programs successful," said Colleen Hicks, president of the La Porte Chamber Commerce in La Porte. "The annual event serves two purposes: it is the largest community event held in the La Porte-Bayshore area for our citizens, and it brings tourists into the area from all over Texas."

**Left:** One of the carnival rides featured at the festival.

**Middle Bottom:** Seasoned crawfish was served by the pound.

**Right:** Festival attendees watched the OGRE, Old Guys Rocking Excessively concert.



Sonya Lynch: The Signal



Sonya Lynch: The Signal



Sonya Lynch: The Signal

## It's all happenin' at the zoo

**Stephanie Lee**  
The Signal Staff

With summer quickly approaching, planning for fun summer activities becomes a subject on many people's minds. For individuals not wanting to stray far from home, the Houston Zoo, located at 6200 Hermann Park Dr., is the place to be. Not only is the zoo a place to entertain children but it also offers a great educational experience for all ages.

The Houston Zoo has many exciting upcoming events for people of all ages to enjoy. One of the first events that will soon take place is the birth of 19-year-old Asian elephant Shanti's calf.

Shanti was scheduled to give birth on Sat. April 10, but she still has not gone into labor.

"As the excitement grows about the birth, the work load for the staff increases also," said Martina Stevens, elephant supervisor. "Shanti is getting regular ultrasounds. At this point in the pregnancy it can be difficult to see the calf but we do see a lot of movement of the calf. We also take daily blood draws to check her progesterone levels. As the level drops we get a good indicator of how close she is to delivering the calf. The blood is drawn from a vein in her ear and she gets a big piece of fruit as a reward for putting up with it all."

Another great event taking place at the Houston Zoo is Summer Camp Zoofari. The camp begins June 1 and goes through Aug. 13 for kids between the ages of four and 12.

"Taught by certified educators, campers get to interact with zoo keepers and have a hands-on experience learning about the natural world and wildlife conservation," said Brian Hill, director of public affairs. "Camps last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for one week each, but there are also half-day camps for younger kids. We have been hosting this camp for more than 15 years and it has been extremely successful. Registration for this event is still ongoing but is selling out very fast."

Beginning Memorial Day weekend and lasting until Sept. 7, the Houston Zoo will be hosting a brand new event called the Dinosaur Exhibit. It will consist of animatronic dinosaurs presented in a wooded area near the zebra exhibit.

"We'll plant cycads, ferns, ginkos and

monkey puzzle trees through the Dinosaur Exhibit," said Joe Williams, horticulture manager. "Cycads were extremely common during the Jurassic period. Ginkos are found in the fossil record as far back as 49.5 million years ago. Plants that were also found more recently getting closer to the end of the time of the dinosaur are: camellias, baubinsias, pines, cypress, magnolias, laurels, palms, hibiscus and gardenias. We'll have a number of these planted along with a number of elephant ears and bamboos."

The exhibit will feature 10 primeval lost creatures in a natural setting. From the fierce – and the armor-plated Stegosaurus to the massive Brachiosaurus and the horned Triceratops. To add to this, the exhibit will also reveal a nest full of baby dinosaurs.

"This summer don't miss your opportunity to 'Doze with the Dinosaurs,'" Hill said. "Those with nerves of steel can explore dinosaurs at the Houston Zoo in the dark during an after-hours flashlight tour of the zoo. Tours include hands-on activities, animal ambassadors and more."

The largest project that the Houston Zoo is taking on this summer is the opening of the African Forest. This is a \$40 million project that is 6.5 acres large and will include 10 chimps and three rhinos. It will also create a new exhibit for giraffes that will feature a feeding platform that will allow viewers to see them up close and personal.

"Less than one-tenth of one percent of the entire United States population will ever experience the thrill of seeing Africa," said Rick Barongi, Houston Zoo director. "The African Forest at the Houston Zoo is designed to bring that exciting experience to Houston. We will accomplish that with what is known as 'immersion exhibits' in which the barriers between the guests and the animals are virtually invisible. The result is an extraordinary adventure for zoo guests."

"This summer is going to be the beginning of a great year at the Houston Zoo with lots of exciting opportunities for the public," Hill said. "You can register for any event and keep up with the birth of Shanti's delivery at [www.houstonzoo.org](http://www.houstonzoo.org)."



Stephanie Lee: The Signal

A lion at the Houston Zoo sunbathing with her eyes closed, trying to ignore the viewers.



Stephanie Lee: The Signal

The giraffes show off their long necks.



Stephanie Lee: The Signal

A bald eagle is perched on a tree branch in the open with clipped wings.

# Dean Palmer retires after 36 years

**Jennifer Travis**  
The Signal Staff

Bruce Palmer, dean of Human Science and Humanities, is retiring after 36 years at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Palmer has taught classes in history, humanities, literature, and sociology at UHCL since it opened in 1974. He was appointed as dean of HSH in the fall of 2002.

“Dr. Palmer has influenced me in many ways,” said William Staples, president of UHCL. “As both an administrator and faculty member he has led by example. He is thoughtful and deliberative and seeks what is best for our students, faculty, staff and our entire UHCL community. He has influenced me to think about issues from a variety of perspectives and to encourage others to share their views.”

In the more than more than four and a half decades that Palmer has been at UHCL, he has not only shaped the university policy, but the institution itself.

“Bruce Palmer has brought stability and growth to HSH during his tenure,” said Robert Bartsch, interim associate dean of HSH. “He is fair, is able to make tough choices when needed, and has the respect of the school. He truly cares about all faculty and tried to make sure everybody was treated equitably in these tough economic times. He was a champion for faculty and students. Most people do not realize the number of hours he worked or the time he spent trying to do what was best.”

During his tenure, Palmer has made numerous advancements to the school of HSH, serving to change UHCL in numerous ways.

“[He has been involved with] hiring many outstanding faculty and staff, facilitating the development of new academic programs, including behavior analysis, criminology, digital media studies, public service leadership and social work, expanding the school’s outreach and service to the community and securing and maintaining nation-

ally accredited programs,” Staples said.

As one of the few remaining charter members, Palmer has seen the university grow.

“We came to the university in the fall of 1974, when the school was new,” said John Gorman, professor of literature. “Bruce was from the Civil Rights era and was involved with the Gulf Area Humanities Symposium. I believe it was that early experience that made him a successful dean.”

“It has been a good time,” Palmer said. “I watched the institution grow; I worked with a lot of great people. I had a satisfying professional life for the most part.”

Those who have been on campus long enough noticed a change of appearance in Palmer when he took on the position of dean.

“He went from wearing cut-off jeans and flip-flops to jackets and freshly cut hair when he wanted to become dean,” Gorman said.

Palmer attended Grinnell College in Iowa, graduating with a bachelor of arts with honors in 1964. He then attended Yale University and earned his Ph.D. in history, specializing in 19th Century Southern History in 1972. Before coming to UHCL, Palmer taught at Rutgers, Camden and the University of Rochester.

He has worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Atlanta, Ga. and Jackson, Mo. He was also an organizer for Rochester Action for Welfare Rights in Rochester, N.Y.

“I’ll miss his constant dedication to the faculty, the school and the university,” Bartsch said. “I’ll miss his insight into the history of the university and how it shaped where we are today.”

Now, at the end of his career at UHCL, Palmer plans to keep busy.

“[After retirement] I will expand my other interests, take some courses down here, keep in touch with friends, exercise in the morning rather than the evening, do some volunteer work (probably), enjoy myself and not do SACS [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools],” Palmer said.



Courtesy: UHCL

**ABOVE:** Bruce Palmer in earlier years as a history professor.



**RIGHT:** Bruce Palmer, dean of the School of Human Sciences and Humanities.

## NASA: continued from page 1

the hope of working in the space industry some day,” Braun said. “Would you want to work toward a degree in a field that is so vulnerable to the political whims of a new president every four years?”

UHCL and JSC share many collaborations, including the NASA Johnson Space Center History Collection Archives and the Institute for Space Systems Operations. UHCL entered into a 10-year agreement with NASA and JSC and the National Archives and Records Administration to house and maintain the JSC History Collection in 2001.

“Today the UHCL archives include more than 1.5 million archival documents and oral histories dating from the early 1950s that chronicle early space flight during the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Apollo Soyuz Test Project, Shuttle and the International Space Station programs, as well as the personal papers of those whose efforts chart the lives and labors of those times,” said Theresa Presswood, UHCL director of communications. “The collection makes the rich history of our country’s space program available to the public.”

UHCL signed a Space Act Agreement with JSC and NASA in 2009 to provide new opportunities for collaborative events,

programs and activities that build awareness of space exploration.

“JSC’s scientists, administrators and other personnel step to the head of the class as lecturers at UHCL, particularly in the School of Business and School of Science and Computer Engineering,” Presswood said.

These experts share their real-world experiences to provide current and new knowledge to our students in the ever-evolving field of aerospace.

“At this time, it is difficult to tell the extent and timing of a workforce reduction in the Clear Lake aerospace industry due to the proposed new budget priorities for NASA,” said UHCL President William Staples. “For 2010-2011, we have taken into consideration possible enrollment declines for UHCL and their impact on next year’s budget.”

NASA spent \$2,458,171,270 of its total budget in Texas for the 2010 fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2009 through April 29, 2010. By far the majority was spent in Congressional District 22, home to both JSC and UHCL, totalling \$2,386,639,303.

“This decision brings about the demise of American Human Space Exploration,” BAHEP President Bob Mitchell said.

“America will be solely dependent on Russia to ferry our astronauts to and from our International Space Station. The administration’s proposed budget leaves America vulnerable; we lose our leadership as a world power and put our national security in jeopardy.”

The 1,650-acre JSC facility is home to the U.S. astronaut corps and 3,200 civil servants, including 110 astronauts. Also employed at JSC are more than 15,000 contractors from more than 15 contracting firms.

Among the largest of these firms is United Space Alliance, whose employees have been asked by upper management not to comment on the uncertainties surrounding any potential changes at JSC. One employee, however, suggested going to any area grocery store and asking a few customers their opinions because they are probably in some way tied to NASA.

“Johnson Space Center is right across the street from our city; it’s just a stone’s throw,” said Chris Reed, city manager of Nassau Bay. “Any negative impact at NASA would negatively affect our city. Our city’s primary source of revenue is based off our office commercial buildings, most of which are occupied by NASA con-

tractors. A large percentage of our residents are NASA employees or NASA contractors so, again, any impact will affect our housing market.”

The proposed budget cuts will also impact locally owned businesses.

“It could cut our sales by almost a third – hopefully it won’t,” said Christie Goodman, store manager of Space Center Souvenirs. “I’m fighting it all the way. We’ve got elections coming up. If you’re against NASA, you won’t get my vote.”

Space Center Souvenirs, located at 710 W NASA Rd. 1 in Webster, sells the Go Boldly t-shirts in protest of the end of the Constellation program and in support of BAHEP’s Go Boldly campaign. For more information, visit [www.goboldlynasa.org](http://www.goboldlynasa.org).

“Approximately 40 years ago, NASA Johnson Space Center Director Bob Gilruth requested that University of Houston bring higher education to the Clear Lake City area to serve the employees and families of Johnson Space Center and its aerospace contractors,” Presswood said. “In 1974, UHCL opened its doors. Our commitment to each other has been steady ever since.”

“Our working relationship with NASA will continue,” Staples said. “It may be in different areas, but it will continue.”

## E-text: continued from page 1

are several hurdles you have to clear first.”

Rob Reynolds, editor-in-chief for “The Xplanation” (a technology blog) argues that “digital textbook sales will boost revenues for digital textbooks to more than \$1 billion” and that this boost will beneficially impact the economy of Texas as a whole.

“I think it is a great way to make the university seem more environmentally friendly, but

most students would print out the pages if they needed them,” said Ashley Powell, president of The Management Association and public leadership Student.

“Plus, there are many more ways that the university could save money or be greener. Cut back on staff or stop building offices and cutting down the number of classrooms would be my suggestion. All in all, I do not think it is a good idea. I still want the physical textbook.”

Robert Jones, professor of education at the University of Houston-Clear Lake has a different opinion on the looming textbook transition.

“It’s already here” Jones said, “Texas is just catching up to the revolution that’s been in the works for 10-15 years now. Your average textbook costs \$85 and leasing a computer only costs \$75. What makes sense to you?”

## Syllabi: continued from page 1

an outline of major topics to be discussed. Faculty members do not need to post a complete description of the assignments, grading criteria, lecture notes, in-class activities, etc. What is being posted is not really enough for anyone to copy.”

Another possible concern is invasion of privacy because instructors will be forced to provide their credentials in a public, open-access format.

“Faculty members are being

asked to post information relevant to their jobs,” Hentges said. “Posting academic credentials, scholarly activities and other related information is not really a violation of privacy. Faculty members are also allowed to select what scholarly activities they post, so if they have a concern about the general public accessing some of their work, they do not need to post that on the university website.”

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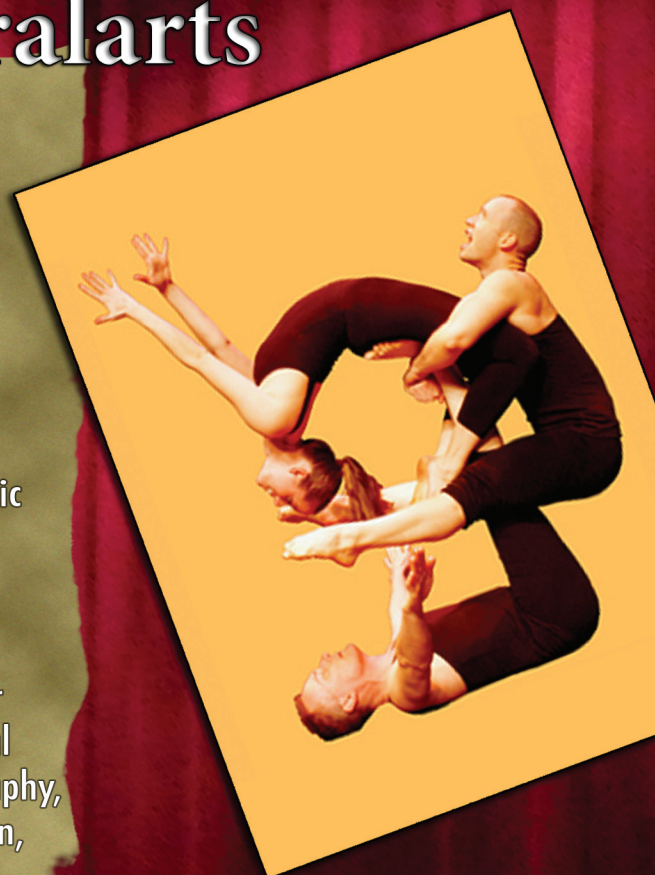
# UHCL Cultural Arts Season 12

[www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts](http://www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts)



Mercury Baroque Ensemble -  
Bach's Brandenburg Concertos  
Fri, Sept. 3, 2010, 8 p.m., Bayou Theater  
Bach's most famous music, performed on  
period instruments.  
FREE concert!

Mercury Baroque Ensemble - Exotique!  
Fri., Oct. 8, 2010, 8 p.m., Bayou Theater  
French orchestral music meant to portray exotic  
foreign lands for the stage.  
Ticket prices TBA



Galumph  
Fri., Nov. 19, 2010, 7:30 p.m., Bayou Theater  
Combining stunning acrobatics, striking visual  
effects, physical comedy and inventive choreography,  
Galumph brings to life a world of imagination,  
beauty, muscle and merriment.  
Ticket prices TBA



Mercury Baroque Ensemble - 8 Seasons  
Thurs., Feb. 10, 2011, 8 p.m., Bayou Theater  
Join Mercury Baroque for an exciting performance of  
Vivaldi's famed Four Seasons and the Four Seasons  
by Argentinean Tango composer Astor Piazzolla.  
Ticket prices TBA



Mercury Baroque Ensemble -  
Mozart's Requiem  
Fri., May 13, 2011, 8 p.m., Bayou Theater  
One of music's greatest masterpieces!  
Ticket prices TBA

Wyndwyrre  
Fri., March 3, 2011 8 p.m., Bayou Theater  
Houston's favorite Celtic ensemble, Wyndwyrre  
returns to the Bayou Theater!  
Ticket prices TBA

Solero Flamenco  
Fri., April 1, 2011, time & location TBA  
Guitarist Jeremías García, vocalist Irma Aloma and  
the dancers of Solero Flamenco will present  
performances inspired by the Feria de Sevilla.  
Ticket prices TBA

To purchase tickets by phone, call 281-283-2560.

Dates, artist and programs are subject to change.



University of Houston Clear Lake

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