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THE SIGNAL

VOLUME XL, NUMBER 1

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FEBRUARY 6, 2012

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Meningitis vaccination complicates student enrollment

Rebecca Scherrer

The Signal

Jamie Schanbaum entered the University of Texas in 2007. Just a few months into her sophomore year, she contracted meningococcal septicemia.

This disease is defined by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention as being a disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord known as the meninges.

Her life changed overnight; she went from being a normal college student to fighting for her life. Her fight against meningitis changed the way the state of Texas operates when it comes to vaccinating college students.

As of January 2012, all public and private Texas universities now require new students or returning students who have missed a long semester and are under 30 to receive the meningitis vaccination in order to enroll. This new bill, S.B. No. 1107, is an expansion of the House Bill 418, which was introduced in 2009. House Bill 418, also known as the Jamie Schanbaum Act, required all students living in college dorms to receive the vaccination.

Jamie contracted the disease in November 2008 while living off campus. Jamie was rushed to the hospital as her health took a turn for the worse. After Jamie was treated for meningitis, she spent the majority of her sophomore year at St. Joseph's hospital in

SEE SHOTS, PAGE 6

The Power of Social Media

What's SOPA With That?



ANA GABRIELA AVENDANO:THE SIGNAL

Social media derails SOPA/PIPA bills

David Hensley

The Signal

In 2011 the dictatorship of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak fell as a result of a rebellion fueled by social media. The past year has seen the political landscape of the Middle East change dramatically since the Arab Spring began.

The power of social media flexed its muscles again Jan. 18 when more than 7,000 websites, such as Mozilla, Google and Reddit participated in a protest against two proposed bills: the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act (PIPA). Wikipedia went dark for 24 hours, blocking users from accessing its information and only allowing access to a website with information on the SOPA and PIPA bills.

The websites shutting down sparked millions of Americans to become aware for the first time about the SOPA and PIPA bills; as social media sites were bom-

barded with public opinion. The activist site Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a nonprofit organization that deals with issues like defending free speech, privacy and consumer rights in cyberspace, provides litigation services to help establish and defend the rights of the digital world.

"I think the day of action was huge," said Rebecca Jeschke, media relation's director and digital rights analyst for EFF. "It was the culmination

of months and months of work by activism organizations like ours. We thought that the tide was turning before the blackouts, and

we felt like we could get the bills derailed. But the blackouts sealed the deal."

As a result of the public's overwhelming negative response, legislators chose to table the

SOPA and PIPA bills until they could be re-examined.

"Communication and free expression are powerful tools for social change; they spread new ideas and can help coordinate activism of all sorts," Jeschke said. "Technology that facilitates this is a great thing. Right now, social media is a tool that many people are using.

Next year, five years from now, or ten years from now, it may be another tool. One of the reasons that we feel so strongly

SEE MEDIA, PAGE 6

**"IT WAS THE
CULMINATION OF
MONTHS AND
MONTHS OF WORK
BY ACTIVISM
ORGANIZATIONS
LIKE OURS."**

**— Rebecca Jeschke
Media Relations Director
& Digital Rights Analyst**

Networking sites react to anti-piracy legislation

Sara Haghipour

The Signal

For one day the world turned black, the world of Wikipedia that is. For 24 hours, the online collaborative encyclopedia that most students turn to as their first step in research shut down its site in protest of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act (PIPA).

The public outpour in protest of the two bills that were written with the intent of protecting intellectual property was so great that both bills have been tabled, at least temporarily.

Wikipedia's blackout was just one online protest that took place Jan. 18. More than 7,000 sites in all publicly denounced SOPA and PIPA, including Google who managed to get more than 3 million people to sign a petition in objection. Opponents of these bills used social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to share information on how to protest and sign petitions.

"Social media really helped spread the word about the issues and why they were important," stated Rebecca Jeschke, media relations director and digital rights analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation. "Since social media users are a tech savvy bunch already, they immediately understand what's at stake."

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-CA, is the chief sponsor of SOPA, which was introduced in October 2011. Smith has since agreed to review the wording of the bill because of the public outcry.

"I have heard from the critics and I take seriously their concerns regarding proposed legislation to address the problem of online piracy," Smith said in a press release from the House Judiciary Committee. "It is clear that we need to revisit the approach on how best to address the problem of foreign thieves that steal and sell American inventions and products."

Congress plans to revisit the SOPA bill in February for review and modification.

The Senate was scheduled to vote on the PIPA bill Jan. 24, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NV, postponed the vote.

"There's no reason that legitimate issues raised about PROTECT IP can't be resolved," Reid tweeted.

There has not been an official new date set for the vote.

The goal of these bills is to stop online piracy from costing the U.S. economy more than \$100 billion annually.

SEE SOPA, PAGE 6

Public voice heard loud and clear via social media

EDITORIAL

“Stop SOPA! Down with PIPA!” That’s all the fury right now. We can’t turn on the news or go to a favorite search engine without hearing about the SOPA/ PIPA legislation or seeing a stance being taken on a web page.

What are SOPA and PIPA? SOPA, Stop Online Piracy Act, was sponsored and written by legislators in the House of Representatives, and PIPA, Protect IP Act, is the corresponding bill in the Senate. Both were written to try to curb online theft, and the copying and sale of copyrighted works. They are defined as laws that will fight online trafficking of copyrighted intellectual property and counterfeit goods.

These bills are supported primarily by the entertainment industry. It has been with their backing that these bills were almost passed with no resistance. However, the Internet giants quickly learned of the legislation and were vehemently opposed to it.

Ultimately, backing for SOPA was temporarily halted after tremendous outcry poured forth due to overwhelming dissuasion spear-headed by such power-houses as Google, Wikipedia and WordPress. PIPA has been put on the back-burner indefinitely.

What does that mean? It

means that we—the people—spoke and our representatives actually listened. We spoke through social media sites such as Google, Facebook and Twitter, and declared our outrage at these bills.

Does this mean that the public advocates online piracy? Of course not. Does this mean that the bills and the intentions behind them were wrong, and that we should not support attempts to keep online intellectual properties safe? No.

It simply means that as a whole, the majority of the American public believed SOPA and PIPA were the wrong way to go about affecting the change. There is already a very good system in place called the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) which has different subtitles for each media.

Title II of this act is the Online Copyright Infringement Act and is defined as copyrighted material caught being posted on the web by the owner of said material. It can be removed once the owner of the material sends a message to the host of the website with proof that they are the correct owner of the material. The ‘stolen’ material is then removed or if not then the owner of the material has the right to go to court.

Granted, all systems have flaws and nothing works perfectly. But why did the entertainment

industry feel the need to change the current system? What did they think the new bills were going to accomplish that the existing one did not.

What had the online community so upset was the shifty way the entertainment industry attempted to sneak these bills through legislation. As stated in the Jan. 18, 2012, issue of the NY Times, “Heavy-weights like the Walt Disney Company secured the support of senators and representatives before the web companies were even aware the legislation existed.”

In response, the public saw such drastic actions as the Jan. 18 Blackout Day of protest. And while many accuse the sites of over-reacting and pulling a ‘Chicken Little’ routine, the extreme actions did force our representative to pull back and re-think their positions and the bill, at least for now.

So, what is the next best course of action? Let things lie? Introduce the bills again although slightly re-worked? Vint Cerf,

one of the founding fathers of the Internet, and Google spokesperson Samantha Smith both suggest a “follow the money approach.” This approach is exactly what it sounds like—find where the money is coming from that funds the illegal piracy, follow it back to the source and stop it there.

Will the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Associa-

tion of America (MPAA) be satisfied with that approach? Or will they continue to push for these bills to come back?

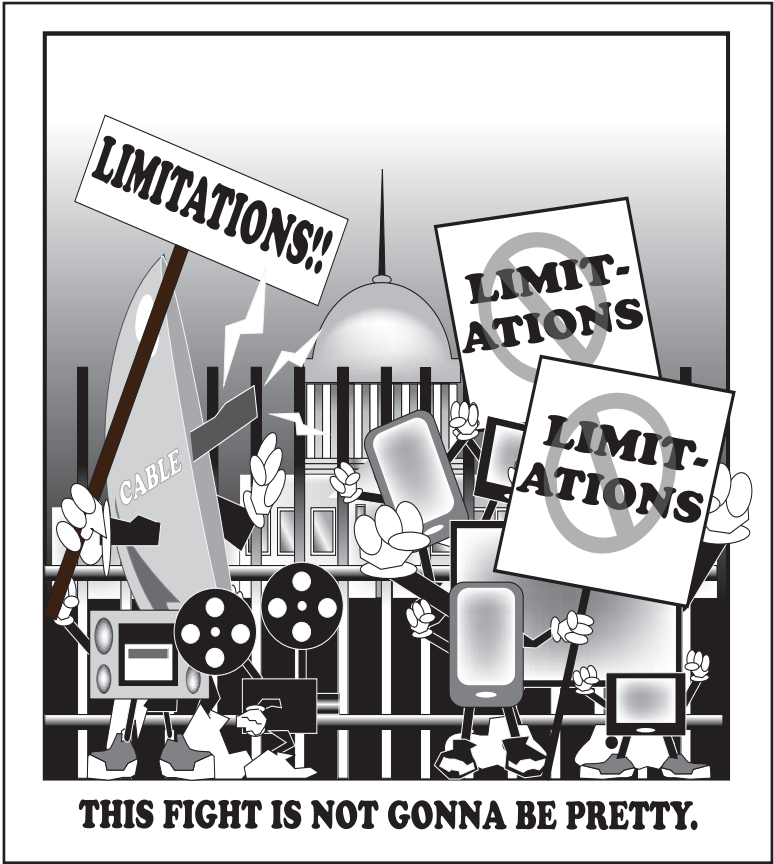
As a public, we made our voices heard in a way that in this day and time is quite rare. What happens next is entirely in our hands, as our generation continues to make our social medias work for us to affect change and make our voices heard in our own way.



Tracie Momie

COMMENTARY: A NIGHT WITHOUT NETWORKING

WANTNEEDO



Kalan Lyra

John Scoggin

The Signal
Twas the night before SOPA, when all through the world,
Not a Wiki was stirring: a panic unfurled.
The masses formed riots with no time to burn,
In hopes that the needed sites soon would return.

The children were crying, all sad and upset,
While visions of blank Googles rushed in their heads.
And mamma in her fury, and I in my rage,
Had just rattled our brains and kept refreshing the page.

When out on Facebook there arose such a clatter,
I rushed to the Walls to see what was the matter.
An act of Congress was threatening the sites,
The masses were clamoring at how much that bites.

The frowns on the faces of the enraged public.
Showed fear of the power of our democratic republic.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a protest marking the end of a politician’s career.

With a sudden black out, so gloomy and sick,
I knew in a moment the activism would be quick.
More rapid than eagles the protests they came,
And they shouted and called out the victims by name!

“On Google, On Wiki, On Flickr and Craigslist.
On BoingBoing, On Raw Story, On Gawker and 4chan.
Go to the petitions! Go veto the act!
Some politely objected. Some lacked such tact.


As fearing extinction of the act of downloading,
When they meet with an obstacle, quic start the hoarding.
So up to the hard drive the downloads they flew,
With the .rar full of ROMs, and audio files too.

And then, in a instant, I heard on the Net
The gasping and shouting that I won’t soon forget.
As I read in my head, and was skimming around,
Returning to us, our sites came with a bound.

The outcry was so fierce that the politicians could see,
That they must rethink the act, quick as can be.
A rabble of “nays” they had said at the poll,
And it looked like the bad wording had taken its toll.

I’ve only written poetry a handful of times.
I’d rather write fan fics since I’m out of rhymes.
Naming the unknown author seems like a chore.
Was it Henry Livingston, Jr. or Clement Clarke Moore?

| THE SIGNAL | | | |
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| DESIGNERS Michelle Kaldenberg Bryan Waites | | Address letters to: The Signal Student Publications Office UH-Clear Lake 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 456 Houston, TX 77058 | |
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Urban Souls Dance Company

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8 P.M.
BAYOU THEATER

Presale:
\$12 General Admission
\$8 with UHCL ID

At the door:
\$15 General Admission
\$10 with UHCL ID

For more information
or to purchase
tickets, call
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University of Houston  Clear Lake


CULTURAL arts SEASON 13

www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts

Houston-based Urban Souls Dance Company will present selections from their annual February concert for the UH-Clear Lake audience. Urban Souls is committed to presenting a wide spectrum of works that are multicultural, socially and visually appealing to all audiences. Join us for an evening of exceptional artistry and a profound sense of spirituality. Call 281-283-2560 or visit www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts for more information.

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Linda Papadopoulos:
"Learning To Project the Person You Really Are"

- Look in the mirror and like what you see;
- Challenge the beauty myth;
- Write your own script;
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Live Broadcast: Tuesday, February 7, 2012,
6pm – 7:30pm, Bayou Forest Room 1418, and
UHCL Pearland Campus Room 111

Encore Presentation: Wednesday, February 15, 2012
12pm – 1:30pm, SSCB 3311

As one of the most well-known and respected psychologists working in the UK today, Dr. Linda Papadopoulos has spent 14 years as a research scientist and practicing psychologist. She has been published widely in peer reviewed academic journals in the fields of Psychodermatology, Body Image, Counseling and Medical Psychology. Her most recent book is *What Men Say, What Women Hear*.

Open to Everyone. FREE. Pre-register at www.uhcl.edu/slice and click on "Leadership Workshop Series."



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Meetings will generally be held in the SSCB Lecture Hall
1.100.03 unless stated otherwise

Spring 2012 Meeting Schedule

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| January 17 | March 06 |
| January 24 | March 13 – Spring Break |
| January 31 | March 20 |
| February 07 | March 27 |
| February 14 | April 03 |
| February 21 | April 10 |
| February 28 | April 17 |

General Reminders:
Please be present at 11:20 to sign in and gather important information.
We will begin promptly at 11:30.

To schedule agenda time for your organization, please submit a request by 12 noon Wednesday in order to be placed on the following SGA meeting.



...AND THE REEL WINNER IS...

Joshua Ojeda

The Signal
Award season is here. On Feb. 26, the 84th Academy Awards will announce this year’s big winners in film. With “The Artist,” “The Descendants” and “Hugo” taking the lead in nominations this year, viewers should expect a close race.

Due to the lack of free time and copious amounts of studying, many college students, like undergraduate science in mathematics major Taylor Rowan, find themselves uneducated on the awards.

“I spend most of my time at work,” Rowan said. “If I am not at work, I am in class. If I am not in class, I am studying.”

There are more than 30 different movies nominated for this year’s Academy Awards. That is approximately 60 hours of film in competition. Since many of UHCL’s students do not have such free time to watch the nominated films, I have taken on the burden of watching nearly all of them.

To the right is a list of the nominees, the possible winners, and who I think should win.

There is still plenty of time to view these movies before the Academy Awards. River Oaks Theater (located in Houston off West Gray) has stated Oscar-nominated movies will be shown “weeks after the awards.” Lead Assistant Manager Louis Deleon said that award season is the theater’s busiest time of the year.

“Last night, every seat was sold out in our theater,” Deleon said.

Golden Globe winner and Oscar-nominated “The Descendants” will be screened on campus as part of UHCL’s Film and Speaker Series this May for free with a student ID. Sonia Hernandez, who is responsible for choosing the majority of films for the Film and Speaker Series, seems to have an eye for selecting movies that become Oscar nominations.

“Historically, most of the films we show are nominated for Oscars,” Hernandez said. “I choose the films before they are nominated.”

Scan the QR code to download your own ballot and follow along with our predictions when the Academy Awards air Feb. 26.



Best Picture

The Nominees:
The Artist
The Descendants
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
The Help
Hugo
Midnight in Paris
Moneyball
The Tree of Life
War Horse
Predicted Winner: The Artist
Possible Upset: The Descendants
Personal Favorite: The Tree of Life

Best Director

The Nominees:
Woody Allen, Midnight in Paris
Michel Hazanavicius, The Artist
Terrence Malick, The Tree of Life
Alexander Payne, The Descendants
Martin Scorsese, Hugo
Predicted Winner: Michel Hazanavicius, The Artist
Possible Upset: Alexander Payne, The Descendants
Personal Favorite: Terrence Malick, The Tree of Life

Best Actor

The Nominees:
Demian Bichir, A Better Life
George Clooney, The Descendants
Jean Dujardin, The Artist
Gary Oldman, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
Brad Pitt, Moneyball
Predicted Winner: George Clooney, The Descendants
Possible Upset: Jean Dujardin, The Artist
Personal Favorite: Demian Bichir, A Better Life

Best Actress

The Nominees:
Glenn Close, Albert Nobbs
Viola Davis, The Help
Rooney Mara, The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo
Meryl Streep, The Iron Lady
Michelle Williams, My Week With Marilyn
Predicted Winner: Michelle Williams, My Week with Marilyn
Possible Upset: Viola Davis, The Help
Personal Favorite: Michelle Williams, My Week with Marilyn

Best Supporting Actor

The Nominees:
Kenneth Branagh, My Week With Marilyn
Jonah Hill, Moneyball
Nick Nolte, Warrior
Christopher Plummer, Beginners
Max Von Sydow, Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Predicted Winner: Christopher Plummer, Beginners
Possible Upset: Kenneth Branagh, My Week With Marilyn
Personal Favorite: Kenneth Branagh, My Week With Marilyn

Best Supporting Actress

The Nominees:
Berenice Bejo, The Artist
Jessica Chastain, The Help
Melissa McCarthy, Bridesmaids
Janet McTeer, Albert Nobbs
Octavia Spencer, The Help
Predicted Winner: Berenice Bejo, The Artist
Possible Upset: Octavia Spencer, The Help
Personal Favorite: Berenice Bejo, The Artist

Best Original Screenplay

The Nominees:
Woody Allen, Midnight in Paris
JC Chandor, Margin Call
Asghar Farhadi, A Separation
Michel Hazanavicius, The Artist
Kristen Wiig & Annie Mumolo, Bridesmaids
Predicted Winner: Woody Allen, Midnight in Paris
Possible Upset: Michel Hazanavicius, The Artist
Personal Favorite: Woody Allen, Midnight in Paris

Best Adapted Screenplay

The Nominees:
George Clooney & Grant Heslov, The Ides of March
Nat Faxon, Alexander Payne & Jim Rash, The Descendants
John Logan, Hugo
Bridget O’Connor & Peter Straughan, Tinker, Tailor Soldier Spy
Aaron Sorkin & Steven Zaillian, Moneyball
Predicted Winner: Nat Faxon, Alexander Payne & Jim Rash, The Descendants
Possible Upset: Bridget O’Connor & Peter Straughan, Tinker, Tailor Soldier Spy
Personal Favorite: Nat Faxon, Alexander Payne & Jim Rash, The Descendants

Best Foreign Language Film

The Nominees:
Bullhead
Footnote
In Darkness
Monsieur Lazhar
A Separation
Predicted Winner: Footnote
Possible Upset: A Separation
Personal Favorite: A Separation

REDFORD'S SUNDANCE CINEMAS OPENS IN HOUSTON

Truett Manning

The Signal

Movie theaters can be such an exciting, rare experience for college students who find themselves broke 99 percent of the time.

Whenever shaking the couch cushions relinquishes enough cold, hard cash, going to the movies can be a fun pastime. Theaters like Cinemark can get the job done, but for those looking for a refreshing movie experience, the newly opened Sundance Cinemas definitely has something unique to offer.

The first Sundance Cinemas was opened by Robert Redford in 2006. Sundance Cinemas opened in Houston on Nov. 23, 2011 and became the third Sundance Cinemas to open in the United States, making it an exclusive, new attraction in the Houston area.

"Houstonians love great film and are extremely interested in all kinds of cultural endeavors, so we knew we'd fit right in," said Nancy Gribler, vice president of marketing for Sundance Cinemas.

The idea behind Sundance Cinemas was to revamp the movie-going experience

by pleasing customers with top-of-the-line presentation and focusing on comfort.

This new theater offers films from Hollywood, foreign, independent and documentary film programming on Sundance's eight different screens. Sundance renovated the old Angelika Film Center, which abruptly closed in 2010 after 13 years of business.

"When the old Angelika space became available we were immediately interested as the theatre had great potential," Gribler said.

Sundance offers a variety of amenities to its customers to focus on quality cinema rather than quantity. One aspect of the theater that makes it unique is that all seats in the theater are reserved, which eliminates the hassle of having to show up early and save seats for friends and family. Seats can be reserved online or chosen by touch-screen when purchasing tickets at the theater.

Sundance Cinemas offers a bar in the lobby for those who like to unwind with a beer or cocktail before, after or while watching their movie. Most food and beverages are served on or in recycled materials to be more eco-friendly.

"The wood that's used in our box office and our tables in the Sundance Bar are made from a tree that fell during Hurricane Ike on one of our employee's

property," Gribler said.

Part of what sets Sundance Cinemas apart from other theaters in Houston is the idea and design of the theater itself. Sundance employed local architects to create the theater, making it a one-of-a-kind design.

"When we design our theaters, we like to meld the Sundance aesthetic with the local look and feel," Gribler said.

Royce Walker, an adjunct professor in communication at UHCL, has attended the theater several times.

"It is a great meeting place," Walker said. "The decor is very Robert Redford with his focus on nature and the outdoors. There is expanded food offerings, including specialty coffees and alcohol beverages."

Sundance strives to capture the culture of Houston by displaying local artists' paintings in the theater, which are switched out on occasion.

"We have art galleries in all of our locations – it's all part of our philosophy of supporting local artists," Gribler said.

Sundance offers a special \$7.50 pricing to students every Tuesday.

Sundance Cinemas is located at 510 Texas Ave. in the Theater District near downtown Houston.

For more information about Sundance Cinemas, visit SundanceCinemas.com.



Sundance Cinemas in downtown Houston.



Snack bar/Concessions, Sundance Cinemas.



Bar/Spirits at Sundance Cinemas.

THE MOVIE EXPERIENCE HITS UHCL

Rosita Gomez

The Signal

The Oscars is set to air Feb. 26 and people are anxious to hear what films will win the honors. Instead of fighting over movie rentals to view the latest award-winning films, the Film and Speaker Series is the perfect ticket.

The series is a part of UHCL's Cultural Arts program that operates out of the Student Life Office.

Andrew Reitberger, assistant director of student life, says the objective of the Film and Speaker Series is to "extend the movie experience and get students to engage in critical thinking." The distinguished speakers present their knowledge of issues or subject matter addressed in each film. They will allow questions for intellectual conversation.

The 2012 series kicked off with "Ides of March" on Jan. 14, a film starring popular Hollywood stars Ryan Gosling and George Clooney. It follows Gosling's character, as he becomes enveloped in the controversies leading to an Ohio presidential primary.

The film served as the perfect introduction to the Film and Speaker Series given the current presidential primaries and the fact that it is also nominated for an Oscar for

Best Adapted Screenplay.

The second film in the series, shown Jan. 21, was the humorous animated film "Puss in Boots." Families were welcome to attend the show for free with at least one UHCL I.D. present, allowing for a night of laughter and enjoyment.

A 1980 documentary, "The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter," discusses the necessity of women to enter the workforce despite that many before the World War II were not allowed employment due to their gender. It will be screened on March 1.

It is the first in the series to present distinguished speakers following the film; Angela Howard and Frances Kavenik are both experts of American women's history.

Howard, also a professor of history at UHCL, said she plans to speak about "feminism and women in work from a historical perspective."

"J. Edgar" will be next in line to be shown March 3. It is a biographical account of the infamous FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. The film examines Hoover's career beginning with the historical Palmer Raids, and surveys his personal life in regard to his alleged homosexuality.

The speaker following "J. Edgar" is UHCL Assistant Professor of Criminology Tiffney Barfield-Cottledge.

The next film, "The Descendants," will be screened March 10. The film is creating Oscar buzz and is nominated for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director, Best Editing and Best Adapted Screenplay. It stars actor George Clooney, who plays a father who must deal with the grief that follows his wife's passing, the secrets of the past, and the challenges of the future as a single parent to his two children.

"The Descendants" will be followed by speaker Anjali Pinjala, a licensed professional counselor and executive director of the Child and Family Institute in Baytown; she specializes in adult depression, anxiety, grief and loss.

"Made in Dagenham" will be screened March 23. It pertains to the 1968 push toward women's rights in the workplace and sheds light on the protest at the Ford Dagenham automobile plant. It is being shown in conjunction with Women's Studies Week.

Elizabeth Klett, assistant professor of literature at UHCL, is the distinguished speaker for this film. Klett will focus on gender issues and the impact the protest in Dagenham had on the auto plant

industry and women's rights.

The final two films will be shown in April; exact dates are to be determined. They include "Coralianis," a Shakespeare play adaptation, and "The Iron Lady," a biographical film about Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of the United Kingdom.

"Coralianis" will be shown courtesy of the UHCL literary society Sigma Tau Delta in conjunction with the Cultural Arts program.

"If a student group has a message they want to get out, they can get in contact with us," said Sonia Hernandez, cultural arts assistant in charge of the Film and Speaker Series. "All films must have good production values and must address issues of social, cultural or historical significance."

For more information on the Film and Speaker Series, visit www.uhcl.edu/movies. Show times are at 7 p.m. in the SSB Lecture Hall with the exception of "Rosie the Riveter," which will be shown in the Forest Room, B1418.

Hernandez can be reached at movies@uhcl.edu.

Admission is \$3.75 or free with a UHCL Student I.D.

SOPA: continued from page 1



THIS WAS THE PAGE USERS WERE GREETED WITH JAN. 18, 2012, AT WWW.WIKIPEDIA.COM

H.R. 3261 – Stop Online Piracy Act states “A service provider shall take technically feasible and reasonable measures designed to prevent access by its subscribers located within the United States to the foreign infringing site (or portion thereof) that is subject to the order, including measures designed to prevent the domain name of the foreign infringing site (or portion thereof) from resolving to that domain name’s Internet Protocol address.”

Senator Patrick Leahy, D-VT, introduced PIPA May 12, 2011. PIPA is geared more toward taking down rogue websites in foreign countries that are stealing American intellectual property and copyright material.

S.B. No. 968 Protect IP Act states, “The Attorney General may commence an in personam action against a registrant of non-domestic domain name used by an Internet site dedicated to infringing activities.”

Supporters of the bills include the Recording Industry Association of America, Motion Picture Association of America, and the Copyright Alliance.

Opposers of the bills include Wikipedia, Google, Facebook, Mozilla, Yahoo, Twitter, AOL, LinkedIn, and EBay. Also included in this group is Vint Cerf, one of the founding fathers of the Internet.

In an open letter to Smith, Cerf wrote, “This collateral damage of SOPA would be particularly regrettable because site blocking or redirection mechanisms are

unlikely to make a significant dent in the availability of infringing material and counterfeits online.”

In a follow-up interview with The Signal, Cerf offered another solution regarding ways to attack online piracy.

“The more serious problem is that there are many ways to defeat a unilateral attempt to filter discovery of and access to infringing websites,” Cerf said. “This does not mean that nothing should be done. There may be better technical tools, improved forensic capabilities and, in particular, the ‘follow the money’ approach to deny financial benefits to infringers.”

Cerf is not alone in suggesting the “follow the money” approach. Google spokeswoman Samantha Smith said Google also supported the “follow the money” approach.

“We support ‘follow the money’ legislation that would require ad networks, like ours, to cut off ads to sites dedicated to piracy or counterfeiting,” Smith said.

This approach goes after those who make money on these sites that allow piracy rather than the domain that holds the site. Rep. Darrell Issa, R-CA, has been working on the Open Act which is a bill following this approach.

Ashley Packard, professor of communication and digital media studies, and author of “The Borders of Free Expression,” said she is also in opposition of SOPA, although she points out that many have had a ‘sky-is-falling’ reaction because people are commenting on it without reading it.

“It was a poorly written bill that had the potential to interfere with protected speech and unfairly extend U.S. jurisdiction over foreign sites,” Packard said. “I’m glad that it has been tabled.”

In addition to SOPA and PIPA, there is another anti-piracy agreement making its way through the international community including America, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

It’s an international agreement that has already been signed by Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Morocco, Singapore, Canada and Australia. President Obama, representing the U.S., signed the agreement Oct. 11. The European Union, Mexico and Switzerland are still in negotiations regarding ACTA.

“The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement is a groundbreaking initiative by key trading partners to strengthen the international legal framework for effectively combating global proliferation of commercial-scale counterfeiting and piracy,” the Office of the United States Trade Representatives posted on its website.

Although the American public has been slow to learn about the treaty’s existence, ACTA already has many protesters, including the EFF.

“Both civil society and developing countries are intentionally being excluded from these negotiations,” EFF states on its website.

Texas requiring its students to receive this vaccination has made it difficult for some students to enroll. As of Jan. 1,

2012, the spring 2012 headcount for students at UHCL was down 6.9 percent from the year before.

Concerned that the bacterial meningitis shot requirement was the cause for low enrollment, the administration decided to extend registration in order to allow more students time to meet the requirement. As of Jan. 22, 2012, the spring 2012 headcount was down 1 percent from the spring 2011 semester.

“Approximately 60 students received the vaccination

MEDIA: continued from page 1

about SOPA and PIPA is their potential to nip new innovation in the bud. If overreaching copyright claims squash new platforms before they grow and develop, we’ll never know what we’ve missed.”

Social media specialists speculate about the effectiveness of using social media as a tool for social change.

“Yes, it is currently being used to co-create new economies, new government, new ways of thinking about society, education, activism, disaster relief, etc” said Juliette Powell, author of the book 33 Million People in the Room and an Integrated Media Specialist.

Mike McMullen, associate professor of sociology, also sees social media as a future tool for social change.

“I definitely think it’s, you know, possible,” McMullen said, “It’s probably the way social change will happen in the future to get people organized and to keep people informed about the issues. So, yeah, I think it’s going to be real important.”

In 2010 the Egyptian police beat and killed Khaled Saeed, and photos of his disfigured corpse were released to the public. After seeing the photos, the Egyptian community

went on social networking sites, including Facebook, to voice their opinions and organize a protest in honor of Saeed.

Wael Ghonim, a Google executive from Egypt, is the Internet activist credited by many for sparking the revolution on a social media page. Ghonim, who started a Facebook page entitled “We Are All Khaled Said,” posted the photo of Saeed and news updates on the protesting. “I want to meet Mark Zuckerberg one day and thank him actually,” Ghonim said in an interview on CNN. “The revolution started online, it started on Facebook.”

While social media was not the cause of the revolution, social media played a pivotal role in the protest. Many people were able to view photos of injustice, organize meetings to plan protests

and connect with protest leaders through social networks.

“Most young Egyptians have phones and are connected through their phones, Facebook accounts and Twitter accounts,” said McMullen, who spent time in Egypt teaching six months prior to the revolution. “Even if they’re poor and don’t

have a phone, there are Internet cafés everywhere so people can still get connected and stay connected through Facebook.”

“IF OVERREACHING COPYRIGHT CLAIMS SQUASH NEW PLATFORMS BEFORE THEY GROW AND DEVELOP, WE’LL NEVER KNOW WHAT WE’VE MISSED.”

– Rebecca Jeschke
Media Relations Director
& Digital Rights Analyst



TWEETS TAKEN FROM HTTP://TWITTER.COM/SENATORREID

SHOTS: continued from page 1

Houston, Texas. Jamie underwent surgery in February 2009, where her lower legs were amputated as well as some of her fingers.

“I had no idea that universities put out any information about meningitis,” said Jamie’s mother, Patsy Schanbaum. “I only heard about it from other people. Jamie is the youngest of four children, all of who went to college. I did not realize that this peaked in college.”

In February 2011, Nico Williams, a 20-year-old living off campus at Texas A&M University, died from bacterial meningitis. Williams’ father felt that his son’s disease could have been prevented and that the 2009 bill should be revisited by the legislature. Governor Rick Perry signed S.B. No. 1107, also known as the Jamie Schanbaum and Nicolis Williams Act, on May 27, 2011, which requires all students in the state of Texas under the age of 30

to receive the vaccination against bacterial meningitis.

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services states on its website that in 2009 there were 34 reported cases of meningitis among adults 15-29, compared to the 26 cases in 2006. Texas leads the nation as the only state to require all college students to be vaccinated against bacterial meningitis.

The National Conference of State Legislatures lists 11 states with no meningococcal disease prevention laws. Connecticut, New Jersey and Vermont require students living in dormitories or on-campus housing to receive the vaccination. Fifteen states, including the District of Columbia, require students to receive the vaccination or sign a waiver, as well as receive information on the disease. Twenty-one states require the distribution of meningitis information among students.

at UHCL,” said Susan Prihoda, director of the Health Center at UHCL. “The usual cost is \$135. However, UHCL underwrote

shots during two clinics at \$65 per shot in January 2012.”

The vaccination is also required for international students. Some international students who received the vaccination in their home country were at risk for receiving the shot a second time, due to the difference in strength and strain of the bacteria.

“Most [international students] were vaccinated in their home country so they were not required


to be vaccinated again here as long as they provided the appropriate documentation,” said Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for student services.

Meningitis affects everyone, not just students in the United States. Symptoms for bacterial meningitis include nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light and even seizures or coma. These symptoms usually appear within 3-7 days after exposure.

“Meningitis is often misdiagnosed,” said Patsy Schanbaum. “People look at Jamie and say ‘Oh my gosh, I didn’t know meningitis could do that to people.’ [Meningitis] is very overlooked. I want people to realize that this vaccine could save their life. Get the vaccine and prevent what’s preventable. It’s a no-brainer.”

“I WANT PEOPLE TO REALIZE THAT THIS VACCINE COULD SAVE THEIR LIFE. GET THE VACCINE AND PREVENT WHAT’S PREVENTABLE.”


– Patsy Schanbaum
Mother of Jamie



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Stuart Larson wins UHCL Piper nomination

Ashley Toman
The Signal

The UHCL Piper Award Committee named Stuart Larson, associate director of art and design, as the 2011-2012 Piper Award nominee for the university.

Larson will compete for this year's Minnie Stevens Piper Award, a prestigious award honoring professors for excellence in teaching in the state of Texas.

"When I found out I was the nominee, I was definitely giddy," Larson said. "Last year, I was thrilled to be one of the finalists, but I'm so honored to be the nominee this year. The Piper Award is one of the few truly great awards that a faculty can receive, and one of the most important elements of that is the fact that the students are the ones that nominated you. Having the students support me really is a fantastic, overwhelming experience."

The Piper Professors Program is operated by The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, which was organized in 1950 and is a non profit, charitable corporation. The Piper Professors Program began in 1958 and includes outstanding professors from two- and four-year colleges, public



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL HUNT

Piper Award nominee Stuart Larson.

and private.

"We congratulate Professor Larson on being selected as this year's Piper Award nominee from UHCL," said President William Staples. "His dedication to teaching, passion for his field and continued investigation of news and innovative ways to strengthen his art and his teaching of art, make him a most deserving candidate for this prestigious award."

Students who have taken classes from Larson praise his unique teaching methods that

prepare them for life after college.

"Stuart brings real-world experiences into the classroom," said Matt Griesmyer, director of communication at the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and former student of Larson's. "He gets design challenges from around the area, contacts advertising agencies to critique assignments and more. It's the thing I benefitted most from his class."

Larson received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Kansas

City Art Institute and went on to receive his Master of Fine Arts at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, N.Y.

He currently teaches Digital Photography, Graphic Design and Advertising Design and has been a UHCL faculty member since 2001.

"In 16 weeks, he somehow gets you to trust yourself, to go into every creative situation equipped with a confidence in what you already know," said Cryss Godoy, UHCL digital media studies graduate student.

The UHCL Piper Award Committee is composed of an equal number of students and faculty. The committee reviews students' nominations then reviews each finalist's number of nominations, class load and accomplishments, and names one nominee to represent UHCL.

"I truly admire Professor Larson's style of teaching," said Kathryn Creek, graphic design major. "He approaches his students as 'people' first. He has been a source of encouragement and a great help with both class assignments as well as a sounding board and mentor when I approached him for feedback on my

resume. I have not ever had a professor who actually cares about his students as much as Professor Larson."

Larson explained that the two things he believes are important for being an effective teacher are the ability to adapt to the students' needs and learning styles and being completely enthusiastic about the subject being taught.

"My philosophy is that it is the teacher's job to make sure that the students are learning the material, and the thing that I do is that I alter my teaching style depending on the students' needs," Larson said. "If you go to a wedding and no one is dancing, it is the DJ's fault."

Each Piper Award recipient will receive \$5,000 as well as a certificate of merit and a gold pin. The Minnie Stevens Award Committee will announce the Piper Award recipients later this year.

"I believe the Minnie Stevens Piper Award is a recognition of teaching excellence," said Joyce Ellis, executive director at Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

Campus Happenings

• **Feb. 1 – 29**

Black History Month Panel
All day, Bayou Building,
Atrium I

• **Feb. 11**

Autism Speaker Series
lecture on working with staff
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,
Student Services and
Classroom Building,
Room 1100

• **Feb. 14**

V-Day flower and baked
goods fundraiser
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.,
Bayou Building,
Atrium I

• **Feb. 15**

Spring 2012 Career Week
résumé workshop
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Student Services and Classroom
Building, Room 3109

• **Feb. 16**

Mercury Baroque
Ensemble performs
"A French Valentine"
8 p.m., Bayou Building,
Bayou Theater

• **Feb. 17**

UHCL 4th
annual production of
"The Vagina Monologues"
8 - 9 p.m., Bayou
Building, Bayou
Theatre

• **Feb. 21**

HSH Speed Networking
Connect with real
employers in the
Houston area.
5- 6:30 p.m.,
Bayou Building,
Garden Room
(Professional attire
is required.)

Student Organization Expo



CHELSEA DENNARD:THE SIGNAL

FROM LEFT: Megan Hall program assistant for student organizations; Patrick Cardenas program assistant for student activities & events; and Jessica Diese Sutton, S.L.I.C.E. Interns worked the Student Life table at the Student Organization Expo Wednesday, Jan. 25, in Atrium II of the Bayou Building to promote knowledge of the various student organizations at UHCL.

Gamers Guild: Conjour 2012



JENNIFER FERGUSON:THE SIGNAL

Conjour participant Phi Remi bravely volunteers to hold an apple in her mouth as Professor Epsilon of Carnival Epsilon carves the letter "D" into the fruit with a chain-saw. The two daredevils along with Professor Epsilon's wife, Ivy, put on a show for everyone in attendance Saturday, Jan. 28, at Conjour 2012.

Scan the QR code below
to see a slideshow of the
Student Organization Expo.



Scan the QR code below to
see a slideshow of the
Gamers Guild's Conjour.



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