

THE SIGNAL



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Laurie Vaesa-Perez: The Signal

Boats from the Houston Yacht Club still appeared like scattered toys strewn about on Sept. 24 as a result of Hurricane Ike. The staff and clean-up teams have made significant progress in restoring the property, located at 3620 Miramar Dr. in Shoreacres, following the arrival of Ike on Sept. 13. The club expects an organized and speedy recovery following the restoration of power to the area. For more information on the Houston Yacht Club, visit www.houstonyachtclub.com.

IKE CONTINUES TO TORMENT STUDENTS

Amy Parsons
The Signal Staff

University of Houston-Clear Lake was closed from Sept. 11 - 20 as a result of the arrival and destruction left by Hurricane Ike. During the closing, students missed classes and are now required to make up those hours. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board require accredited universities to provide a minimum of 45 contact hours per semester. Not adhering to the requirement could result in the loss of the university's accreditation that, among other things, would result in losing eligibility for giving financial aid to students.

In an Academic Affairs meeting held Sept. 18, school officials met to discuss possible ways to meet the 45-contact-hour rule.

Following the meeting, Carl Stockton, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, sent an e-mail to UHCL faculty stating, "The

associate vice presidents, deans, associate deans and department chairs agreed to have face-to-face classes made up on a Friday/Saturday schedule."

The decision to hold Friday/Saturday classes was made because of the difficulty in accommodating more than 1,000 courses scheduled back-to-back Monday through Thursday.

Stockton said they are really only asking for most classes to make up one 3-hour block.

The makeup schedule for face-to-face classes begins Oct. 10. Students should receive updated syllabi that reflect the makeup time by Oct. 1.

Online and Web-enhanced classes will adjust the course assignments and schedules to ensure that all course content is covered.

"We provided some structure and created a grid," said Yvette Bendeck, associate vice president for enrollment management, regarding the makeup schedule. "It is a framework in

Makeup Hours: continued on page 8

UHCL recovers from Ike

Katherine Antes
The Signal Staff

Students, staff and visitors can still see the bright yellow barricades left at entrances to University of Houston-Clear Lake's campus almost two weeks post Ike, and as one navigates through winding drives to various destinations, expanses of greenery are dotted with yellow caution tape left draped over trees and stumps shred by Hurricane Ike.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, Sept. 13, UHCL Police Chief Paul Willingham, along with a dozen other members of a

"ride out" crew consisting of dispatchers, sworn officers and maintenance personnel, assembled and waited as the fierce storm swept through campus – snapping trees and flooding the roads – even as some of their own families evacuated and took shelter elsewhere.

In fact, Chief Willingham specifically noted that Sgt. Paul Jones and officer Ira Leigh should be commended for honoring their oath to duty. They are both residents of Galveston Island who lost their homes to Ike.

Ike: continued on page 8

Ike has no boundaries



Doyle Rodriguez: Courtesy

International students evacuate to Sam Houston State University on Sept. 11 in preparation for Hurricane Ike.

Jessica Williams
The Signal Staff

"We don't have hurricanes in India," said Doyle Rodriguez, an international student majoring in computer science. "For a lot of us it was a new experience. None of us knew how destructible a hurricane would be, we've only seen it on television."

Rodriguez lives in Armand Place Apartments and walks to campus everyday. When he received word that UHCL was evacuating students who needed transportation, he knew he needed to take advantage of the service.

"If they didn't have a service like this, it would have been really stressful because we would have had to try to make arrangements on our own," Rodriguez said.

Ritesh Ruparel, a student from India majoring in computer science, also evacuated with the university. He explained how it felt more like a vacation than an evacuation.

"The shelter [Sam Houston State University] was good, food was good and people were nice," Ruparel said. "We learned Swing, Salsa, the *Cupid Shuffle* and the *Soulja Boy*. We also got to watch movies in the theater. It was a lot of fun."

Many international students had never experienced a hurricane, so they had no idea what to expect.

No Boundaries: continued on page 8

Students still feeling the effects of Ike:

Faculty work with students on required makeup hours

Some have lost their homes; some are displaced at a shelter or staying with family or friends; many still live in homes with no electricity. Commuting to school takes even longer because traffic lights are out.

Not only students, but faculty and staff as well were affected and everyone arrived at school to find out the week missed in the wake of Hurricane Ike must be made up.

While we understand the reason students are required to make up the hours missed, faculty should understand the anxiety this may add to this already stressful recovery time. Students should also understand that Hurricane Ike equally affected faculty and staff. This is a time to work together to find a solution.

Students may feel reassured with the fact that Carl Stockton, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, is encouraging faculty and staff to work with students in the struggle to find time for the makeup hours.

While the idea of going to class on a Friday or Saturday is unappealing to everybody, it is much better than the alternative. If the university added the additional week at the end of the semester, students would be attending classes after graduation and through the week before the winter holidays. The way classes are stacked also prevents the university from adding half hour blocks to make up the time.

While students already deal with practical everyday problems, this disaster added an additional burden causing stress that can lead to disrupted sleeping and eating habits. In a university filled with nontraditional

students who work to support a family, those problems make working and attending school even more difficult.

The aftermath of Ike was also financially devastating to many students. These academic makeup hours may be impossible to meet for those planning on working extra shifts.

For students in this difficult situation, rest assured that the makeup classes count as a regular class and there will be no additional penalization for those who are unable to attend. If you cannot attend the makeup session, it will be counted as a regular absence.

Students who are thinking about dropping out of school and feel they are unable to catch up or continue should visit the Student Assistance Center in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1.102. For more information, call 281-283-2722. The goal is to keep students in school if at all possible and they will work with students for a solution.

The makeup hours schedule provided to faculty was a framework from which they could work. The times are not set in stone and if the teacher and class come up with a better solution, they have the flexibility to pursue it. As long as they get approval from their associate dean, they have the freedom to decide how to meet the 45 contact hours required. For classes that were previously approved as Web-enhanced or online classes, the extra class can be online.

If students are feeling overwhelmed while dealing with this news and personal stress, the Office of Career and Counseling



Jeffrey Meier:The Signal

Services is offering support groups to help students work through the personal transition back to academic life. Groups meet twice a day, Monday through Thursday in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 3.103 through Oct 2. For more information, call 281-283-2580.

Faculty and staff are working with student's schedules for the makeup hours and counselors in the Office of Career and Counseling Services cleared their schedules to be available for any students who need help with this difficult time. The counselors assure students, faculty and staff that different feelings of being upset,

fearfulness, crying, sadness and obsessive worrying is normal during this high stress time, but if you feel the need to speak to someone or get your feelings out, they are here to listen.

Faculty and staff work hard to ensure student's success. The university has programs in place to help students through this rough time. Do not drop your classes. Work with your instructor to see what you can do. If the issue is more complicated, go to the Student Assistance Center. The university is doing everything possible to work with students and keep them in school.

CrossSignals

The Signal staff members want you to share your Hurricane Ike experience and your thoughts on the university's makeup hours. Join the discussion by logging on to The Signal blog at: www.myspace.com/signal_UHCL

What was your Hurricane Ike experience like?

How do you feel about the school's makeup hours?

Calender Updates

	Old Date	New Date
Last day to drop classes for the 1st 8 weeks	9/23/2008	9/30/2008
Last day to apply for Fall 08 graduation	9/26/2008	10/3/2008
Application deadline for International Students	10/1/2008	10/31/2008
Early Registration	11/3-11/13	11/10-11/20
Open Registration	11/14-1/16	11/21-1/16

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Ike's furious winds ripped in half an airplane that once sat outside La Porte Municipal Airport on Spencer Highway.

Amy Parsons:The Signal

Hurricane IKE

In the passing of Hurricane Ike, local and surrounding area residents are seeing the effects of the category 2 storm. Loss of homes, belongings and power are all familiar setbacks for many Southeast Texans. Thousands were affected by wind and rain damage during the 12-hour sweep of Hurricane Ike. Trees everywhere were uprooted, roofs suffered water penetration and rising water flooded the insides of the homes and businesses that were left standing. The reconstruction of Texas coastal areas is expected to take weeks, if not months to complete. Disaster relief continues the attempt to bring residents to some degree of normalcy, however, many still remain without power, water or sufficient resources.



Amy Parsons:The Signal

A tree crushes a home in Forest Vista Mobile Home Park on McCabe Road in La Porte.



Amy Parsons:The Signal

Alexander Hankins, 8, fishes in his disease-infested swimming pool on Sept. 19 after Ike flooded Shoreacres, leaving fish and bay water behind.



Erik Ostos:The Signal

After returning from Austin, Jeff Courtright of Alvin spends his weekend cleaning up damage from Hurricane Ike.



Laurie Vaesa-Perez:The Signal

Residents of Clear Lake are forced to discard valuable possessions after Hurricane Ike floods their homes.



Laurie Vaesa-Perez:The Signal

Fearful residents take creative measures to prevent any further loss to their personal property.

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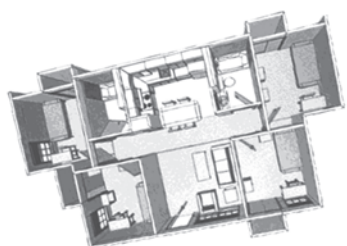
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in partnership with the
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Presents:

Tami Coleman

Regional Director, Al Gore's Climate Project

"Climate Change: Your Choices Matter"

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 8
Time: Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Location: SSCB 1.202.07



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Looking for Ways to Help Ike victims?

The Center for Student Leadership and Community Engagement is collecting information about volunteer opportunities and community needs and has made the information available on our website at:

www.uhcl.edu/studentleadershipinstitute.

Click on the "Community Service Links and Volunteer Opportunities" link!

For information about weekend service projects throughout the month of October, please contact Jenn Clark at 281-283-2611.



!KE !!! Y!KES !!!

The Student Government Association is glad to have to all of you back on campus. Welcome Back!!!

Though classes have resumed, and all the organizations, associations and events are back on track, there are still some of us who are confronting power outage, damaged homes and other challenges.

If you or your dear ones are one of them, or if you know anybody who is in need of assistance and support, please do let us know. Step into our office, shoot an e-mail or just call. It is our privilege to reach out, hold hands, defy the crisis together and make you happy.

We are here for YOU !!!

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
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SGA@uhcl.edu www.uhcl.edu/SGA



Governance
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Makeup Hours: continued from page 1

which faculty, in an organized way, can work with the student.” Bendeck stressed that there is flexibility in the structure and stated the only things not flexible are cutting material from classes and skipping the makeup time. UHCL understands there will be conflicts with the schedule and has requested for teachers to work with their associate deans to resolve them, but to “adhere to the proposed schedule as much as possible.”

These makeup classes are the same as a regular class. For students who are unable to attend the makeup, it will be counted as a regular absence. “We are trying as much as possible to support students as we go along,” Bendeck said.

Stockton encouraged students who are worried about catching up to talk with faculty before dropping, and try to work it out. The drop deadline is Oct. 27.

“Students are people, first and foremost,” said Raymond Pledger, director of masters program in clinical psychology.

In addition to dealing with the stress of Hurricane Ike, students are dealing with practical problems, which build bigger effects as they accumulate.

“Expect that you are going to have signs of stress,” Pledger said. “It is a stressful situation.”

Psychological Services is offering free individual, couple and family counseling to community members affected by Ike. Non-UHCL students should contact UHCL Psychological Services at 281-283-3330.

Pledger urges students to talk to their professors and to take advantage of UHCL’s student counseling services, particularly if their stress is developing into more serious problems.

“A lot of our students have experienced a great deal of trauma,” said Betty Brown, coordinator of outreach services. “It is helpful to talk about what is going on and exchange stories.”

The Office of Career and Counseling Services offers daily support groups at noon and 4 p.m. through Oct. 2 in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 3.103, for UHCL students in need. Individual and group counseling services are also available for free. More information and handouts are available at www.uhcl.edu/counseling services.

Students who have academic questions should work with their professors and advising office. Stockton stressed that faculty should work with the students as much as possible.

Students with questions related to non-academic issues or who are experiencing difficulty staying in school are advised to contact the Student Assistance Center in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1.102.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 9/29 The Indian Student Association and the Vietnamese Student Association in collaboration with International and Intercultural Student Services will hold a **clothing drive**. IISS office – SSCB, Room 1203.
- 9/29 – 10/3 **Donations drive** – Food, toiletries, gift cards and other miscellaneous items will be accepted. Office of Human Resources – B2537.
- 10/18 Hispanic and African American Elders Reception. Atrium II – 7p.m.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

- 9/19 Baptist Student Ministry
Organized a donation drop-off to aid Bacliff
- 10/27 Student Leadership and Community Engagement
Volunteered at the Houston Food Bank

No Boundaries: continued from page 1

“I was not sure what to expect,” said Priya Bakhanavar, a student from India majoring in management information systems. “I knew I needed to evacuate, but I had no idea how severe it [the storm] would be.”

Ruparel explained that he expected rain, but the wind damage to all the trees and buildings was definitely unexpected.

“What I saw in the news was saddening, the devastation in Crystal Beach and those areas,” said Abigail Fabien, a student from Dominica majoring in management information systems. Fabien has experienced hurricanes before but was still disheartened by the result of Hurricane Ike.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, Darlene Biggers, associate vice president of student services, appointed a team to develop a hurricane protocol and evacuation manual. Anthony Jenkins, dean of students, explained that the manual covers what the university does 96, 72 and 36 hours out, as well as recovery.

Biggers contracted with a bus company to evacuate at a moments notice and arranged for temporary housing at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

“With Rita there was an evacuation horror,” Jenkins said. “We wanted to make sure we had a comprehensive evacuation plan for students who lacked transportation.”

Jenkins received the notice of university closure Sept. 11. An e-mail was immediately sent to students explaining that anyone who needed transportation should go to the Student

Assistance Center and fill out necessary paperwork. UHCL evacuated 50 students and five chaperones. Jenkins was impressed with how well our students were received at SHSU. “I could not have been more pleased with how they extended their hospitality toward us,” Jenkins said.

Different UHCL offices and organizations assisted with the check-in and bus loading of evacuees, including: University Police Department, Student Services, Dean of Students, Student Life, International and Intercultural Student Services, and the Student Government Association.

“During times of crisis you truly find out what leadership is like,” said Samir Pande, assistant director of intercultural and international student services.

UHCL uses the PIER system, which gathers students’ contact information from E-Services, to help ensure students receive vital information during emergency situations and inclement weather.

E-mails were sent to 700 students and 300 were returned undeliverable. Biggers stressed the importance of keeping contact information up to date.

Students should visit the E-Services Web site at www.uhcl.edu/records/eservices to ensure their emergency contact information is correct. For assistance and questions regarding E-Services, contact the SAC in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1.102.

Ike: continued from page 1



University Police Department: Courtesy

A tree near the back of student parking lot D1 fell victim to the wrath of Hurricane Ike.

“Neither officer has been home yet,” stated Willingham, as of Tuesday, Sept. 23, “and both have been without their families who remain in shelters in San Antonio and Victoria.”

Hurricane Ike, a strong category two storm pounded the gulf coast with sustained winds in excess of 100 miles per hour, resulting in the closure of many facilities, including UHCL.

The three main issues considered in the decision to close campus, as explained by UHCL’s President William Staples, was the condition of the roads, the lack of power, and the condition of Clear Lake’s municipal water supply.

“This storm was so big, and covered such a large area,” stated Staples, “this could have been a lot worse. In fact, we have minimal building damage and we don’t have any structural damage other than a few panels on the back, but that’s minor.”

The initial decision to close the campus in anticipation of the storm was made late on Wednesday, when it was clear the path of the storm was aimed at Galveston. University officials collaborated and within minutes, a message was sent out via the

Public Information Emergency Response System that notified faculty and students via telephone and e-mail.

“How I look at it is that if you’re a student or faculty or staff, you want to know what’s going on,” Staples said. “You have to have some mechanism, whether it’s the Web site or the PIER system, where you really give people information they can count on that’s not speculative.”

The PIER system is the tool used by UHCL to keep people informed, and in the days since Hurricane Ike, the system has been updated frequently by university officials and has been effective in keeping individuals aware of the conditions on campus, the status of the closure, and the recommencement of classes on Monday, Sept. 22.

Willingham says the system had been tested before, but not used to the extent that it has been used for Ike, and thus far, has proven to be a valuable and effective means of communicating emergency issues to individuals. To update your emergency contact information, go online to www.uhclemergency.info.

As the university continues to recover, one synonymous message reiterated by officials is thanks and appreciation toward maintenance and utility personnel working hard to get the campus back to normal.

Associate Vice President for Student Services Darlene Biggers is concerned about stress levels.

“One of my major concerns is that everyone including administrators, faculty, staff and students are dealing with the stress caused by the impact of the storm,” Biggers said. “We are trying to get the university back to normal but we realize it will be a long time before people FEEL back to normal.”