



Cool off on Blastenhoff
Schlitterbahn opens a new
section of its Galveston park.

STORY ON PAGE 4

Provost Hayes: Lifelong educator

By **NEESHA HOSEIN**
THE UHCLIDIAN

Edward J. Hayes, senior vice president and provost of the University of Houston-Clear Lake is a man who has seen decades of change in the education system, who once lived within the walls of segregation, and who has since become an educator and an agent of change.

Experience is one thing that has characterized the man known to many as Provost Hayes. His lifelong passion for learning has taken him to the highest levels of education. He received his Ph.B and M.A. degrees from the University of Detroit and a Ph.D from Wayne State University in 1972, with a major in Counselor Education and Cognates in Psychology and Higher Education. Hayes' road to success was one of many challenges.

"You have to understand that I came up through an educational system in the South that was a segregated school system," Hayes said. "We did not have a desegregated school system in North Carolina during the years that I was there. I went to school with all African-American kids and we had a little school house."

Hayes grew up in the small town of Boone, NC. In a little schoolhouse on top of a hill, he spent his elementary school days. The schoolhouse catered to the children of nearly 20 African-American families. Grade levels were distinguished by rows, and grades above sixth were separated by a partition.

Hayes said the school had no library and no interactive labs, but despite limited resources, the air of confidence was still high.

"Looking back on those years, it wasn't easy going to the school that I went to [especially] when I went downtown and saw what the majority of the population had at school," Hayes said. "The majority population had everything then that they have now. Back in those days they called it 'separate but equal'. But it was really separate and very unequal."

After the eighth grade, Hayes moved with his family to Detroit, Mich. for his last year, ninth grade, in Junior High School.

"Man, I couldn't believe it," Hayes said. "I went from having eight classmates to hav-

See **EDUCATOR**, page 10



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CANDLELIGHT VIGIL: A candlelight vigil was held April 17 for the victims of the Virginia Tech University shootings.

UHCL seeks to improve emergency communication system

By **CHRIS SCARCELLA**
THE UHCLIDIAN

Recent tragedies such as the Virginia Tech University and NASA Johnson Space Center shootings raise serious questions about the preparedness of institutions across the nation in crisis situations.

Although it is nearly impossible to predict or stop the horror that transpired at those two institutions, administrators at the University of Houston-Clear Lake have had preliminary discussions aimed at enhancing communication to students, faculty and staff during a crisis to ensure the safety

of the UHCL community.

"Our current methods of communicating with the university community in emergency situations are similar to most of our sister institutions," said Anthony Jenkins, dean of students. "In order to communicate a delay or cancellation of classes due to weather or any other type of emergency situation, we do the following: update the university's Web site, update our on-campus hotline, contact our campus police department switchboard operators, contact media outlets (television and radio stations), and send e-mails."

Jenkins believes e-mail notification would help communicate situations to students, on and off campus, in the event of an emergency, but he cites problems with e-mail accounts such as Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL, etc., when communicating with university personnel.

"I am of the opinion that students should be required to use their UHCL e-mail when communicating with university personnel," Jenkins said. "The communication problems we encountered last year during hurricane season and the recent events at Virginia Tech only support the argument that there

is a need for this shift. In addition, many off-campus e-mail accounts fail to recognize e-mail messages from UHCL; thus, messages from the university are automatically dumped into Spam folders; hence, increasing the likelihood students miss important messages from the university."

Safety of UHCL students, faculty and staff on campus during a terrorist situation, such as at Virginia Tech or JSC, is initiated by university police.

"UHCL maintains its own police department, which is

See **SAFETY**, page 10

Hayes out, search for new provost underway

By **EMILY HAWKINS**
THE UHCLIDIAN

Edward J. Hayes has been released from his position after serving 13 years as senior vice president and provost of the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Hayes first accepted the post in 1994, making him the longest-serving academic officer at the university. As provost, Hayes reports directly to the president and is responsible for all academic administration including student affairs, university planning, faculty development, enrollment management, academic programs, computing and the library.

In an e-mail sent to UHCL employees Jan. 12, UHCL President William Staples announced Hayes' impending departure and praised his achievements.

"Dr. Hayes has performed his duties as chief academic officer in an exemplary manner," Staples said.

In the e-mail, there was no mention of the reason or circumstances surrounding

Hayes' leaving, although it was implied that it was a personal decision made by the provost. Hayes said that is not the case.

"A decision was made about taking me out of the provost position," Hayes said. "I am not happy with that decision, but I will live with it."

Staples personally informed Hayes of his release from the administrative position, but told him the choice was not based on his performance. Hayes said he would like to move on and put the situation behind him.

"The contributions I have made to this institution will certainly speak for themselves," Hayes said. "Any extent to which I can be of further assistance to the university, I will do that."

On behalf of Staples, and in response to questions regarding the reason for the provost's termination, Assistant Director of Media Relations Karen Barbier said the president "does not discuss personnel



PHOTOGRAPHER: COURTESY

EDWARD J. HAYES

issues in public forums, including newspapers, primarily out of respect for the individual's privacy, but also because it is inappropriate and unprofessional to dis-

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

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LETTERS POLICY

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

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And the winner is...

After months of serious consideration, research and planning regarding the name change for the student newspaper, the editors and staff have come to a decision. The survey results for a new name for the paper are in, based on the three finalist choices: The Advocate, The Scribe and Signals. The university community has spoken – and it was a three-way split – leaving the decision in the hands of the editors.

The final name choice was contingent upon input from the UHCL community who participated in the survey. Those who voted for The Advocate liked it because the name was strong and active. Others deemed it too political sounding and overdone. The Scribe, although it means writer or journalist, suggests the distant past. It was for that same reason that some voters liked it while others did not. Signals brought forth several different viewpoints. People said they were reminded of things like traffic signals, smoke signals, comput-

er technology, school crossing guards and some felt that is sounded more like a magazine name, while others liked it for its innovative, forward-thinking interpretation of news media.

The editors were unanimous on Signals, but debated on whether it should be Signals or The Signal. “The” was added because it seemed to more clearly emphasize the name of a newspaper publication. The “s” was removed because the word “signal” can be interpreted more easily to mean one strong news publication than its plural form. Therefore, editors agreed on the compromise name, The Signal.

This name will never be misspelled or misspelled and clearly characterizes the paper as a multimedia publication. The Signal is a name that sparks creative thought and represents the idea of quick and accurate news coverage.

In today’s world, news comes in many shapes and sizes beyond the paper trail. TV stations give broadcasts and also have

Web sites. People can get news on their cell phones and Blackberries. Newspapers and magazines also have Web sites that offer interactive services and information that goes beyond the pages on the newsstands.

The Signal is a name that represents all of those things and more. Media has become global. The UHCL student newspaper is also available on the Web, is globally accessible, and includes broadcasts and news videos. The new name welcomes a larger audience.

A warning sign is a signal, which is what news coverage offers. An indication is a signal, and journalism gives the general public an indication of what is going on in the world. The Signal is a name built to stand the test of time and conform to the new age of technology in which we live and perform. The new name is representative of an age of change and advancement, and that is what the name change was all about.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Students:

I read the front page UHCLidian article about the move of some of the University Advancement offices. In the article, Provost Jim Hayes is quoted as saying “It is a total mystery to me and others in the academic component as to why such a large and premium space is being given to the development area.” In response to this, I believe it is important that you have a better understanding of University Advancement’s role in your present and future.

UA’s purpose and mission is to enhance the university and the educational opportunities here by securing scholarships, garnering program support, improving the value of your degree because of university reputation, and enhancing career activities because of alumni networks. These activities, and more, do indeed pertain to your desire to come to University of Houston-Clear Lake, to graduate from UHCL and to support it after you have left and become successful alumni. Rest assured, every breath taken in the Offices of University Advancement (Alumni and Community Relations, Communications and Development) is spent to enhance your educational experience, and that of students who follow you.

The current \$11 million (140 endowments today, 40 ten years ago) endowment supports scholarships, faculty excellence, student projects, and more, all of which enhance your experiences here as students.

The alumni association’s inclusion of all graduates and teacher certificate recipients as members (40,000) at no charge enables your university to communicate and connect with alumni through events and communiqués to enhance the social and career network that alumni can bring, all of which impacts your

role as students and as alumni.

The value of your degree is largely influenced by your alma mater’s reputation and the buzz it creates in the community, which are strategically influenced by the various media releases, publications and other informational content distributed on behalf of the university, which helps the university raise more funds and improves your position during job-hunting time.

Strong ties between the university and the community enhance community attitudes about UHCL which affect enrollment, financial support, hiring of students and alumni and much more. The stronger the bond between the community and the university, the better your education will be.

I could go on.

I’m sure that the diverse group of distinguished alumni who are pictured on the walls of Atrium I, and who support this university and serve as ambassadors for the university would find it appalling to think that their experiences and accomplishments do not serve their alma mater and are of no value. I’m sure that the donors who are recognized with the students’ portraits in Atrium I would likewise be disappointed to know that their generosity has no value to the academic purpose of the institution, nor does their support help attract or retain students. Many of our endowment donors are UHCL faculty and staff; I think it is important that you understand that. Of course, the roles of alumni, faculty, staff and students are CRITICAL to the long-term health and welfare of YOUR university. We are fortunate to have the wonderful students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and community friends that we do, and the Office of University Advancement is honored to work with them on a daily basis to enhance



the quality of your UHCL education.

Please feel free to visit us after we have moved to our new offices in Atrium I to learn more about how university advancement advances your university. We can tell you about the recent \$190,000 gift from Houston Endowment Inc that will support education and research by allowing us to purchase ozone and particulate monitoring equipment. Or about the nearly \$200,000 raised from Greater Texas Foundation to endow scholarships that are specifically for students with financial need. Or how the first privately funded endowed professorship honored a special woman in this community, and how it will serve the women’s studies program at UHCL. You may be interested in events that bring in excess of 5,000 potential donors, students and friends to campus annually. Perhaps we could tell you about the scores of thousands of dollars that have been given to student and faculty projects through the alumni association or the hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded by the association. You might want to hear about the establishment of Liberty Park thanks to a professor’s generosity and how all veterans are honored at your campus annually on Veterans Day. There are so many wonderful stories, of which you are truly a part. We will have a pot of coffee on for you

Dion McInnis
Associate Vice President - University Advancement

Dear Students,

I am pleased that the University Advancement office is able to make such scholarships available for our students, and I also applaud their efforts to get an endowed chair established for our Womens Studies Program. All such efforts are indeed important to the university and our students, the question still remains does such efforts justify the investment costs that is inherent in the

premium space that is being renovated for UA. I also would ask the writer of the rejoinder to my comments, if he/she could provide the university community a break out of the total number of students who are recipients of the scholarships and relate those dollars to the projected renovation costs and potential increase in garnering new scholarships. I would argue that since the writer has indicated how well they are doing in the raising

scholarship funds for our students, could they not continue to do the same or even improve their performance from the current space which they occupy? I will look forward to joining all of you for that cup of coffee that is waiting for us in UA.

Jim Hayes
Senior Vice President and Provost

What am I going to do with my life?

What am I going to do with my life? That is the question. As a 22-year-old college student, I feel like I should have the answer by now. But I don't.

Oh, how I miss the younger years when I had my future all mapped out. I was going to be a garbage "man." Yes, a garbage man. It was back when I thought being a garbage "woman" was something totally different, and I just wasn't having any part of that.

While most kids were dreaming of becoming doctors, lawyers and veterinarians, I was sitting by the window on trash day. I wanted to ride on the back of that truck so bad. Don't you know my parents, who are both teachers, were so proud of me on career day?

Well, I have obviously moved past the whole garbage man idea. Once I learned they only get to stand on the back of the truck in neighborhoods, and never got to go more than 5 m.p.h. I dropped that plan real quick. I went on to bigger and better things—career ideas that are way too embarrassing and would take too long to explain.

So, here I am wishing I was 8 years old

again and I must say that it is not getting me anywhere. All I want is to figure out what I want to do once I graduate, or at least make up something to tell people.

I came up with that idea last semester after having to tell the nosey people of my small town what I was doing with my life. To make a long story short, I did the typical college kid thing.

I went to Texas A&M University for three years, spent a lot of money, changed my major four times, hung out at the Dixie Chicken, and slept. When I moved back home, I just told everyone something different simply for my own amusement.

I'm sure almost everyone at some point has questioned him or herself about what to do with his or her life. I think I question it just about every day. As cliché as it may sound, I feel like destiny will take its course. At least, I hope so.

Whether I end up at Sea World as a dolphin trainer or the CEO of a major corporation, at least it will be an answer to that dreadful question. Who knows? Maybe one day I'll fulfill that lifelong dream of becoming a garbage man.



JESSICA HENNESSY
'TRASH TALKIN'



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Save GAS!...Walk to CLASS!

Slide into summer at Schlitterbahn

By LONA CAIN
THE UHCLIDIAN

As spring breezes fade away and the summer heat moves in, it gets harder and harder to find a way to cool off.

One place to escape the heat and enjoy a day of adventure is Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark.

A new expansion called “Blastenhoff” opened April 21 with seven new attractions. Galveston’s Schlitterbahn now has 30 rides, more than any of its sister parks.

“This year’s addition increased the park by 30 percent,” said Jeffrey Siebert, director of communication at the Galveston Schlitterbahn.

One of the new rides is the F-5. The entire ride is a complete twist, and the speed increases toward the end of the slide.

“It’s like riding inside of a storm,” Siebert said as he explained the water slide.

If you are a thrill-seeker, the Cliffhanger, another new exciting ride, is an 81-foot, straight vertical water slide that reaches speeds of up to 40 mph.

“It is like [jumping] eight stories,” Siebert said.

The Whitewater River, the newest of the three rivers, is full of rapids and falls. This new river connects to the other two rivers, Kristal River and Torrent River. If a tube ride down a river is what you want, you can float on the three rivers all day without ever getting out of your tube.

Connecting two of the three rivers is the Aquaveyer, a conveyer belt that lifts up the tubes and the tube riders, slowly conveying them into the adjacent river. This is a Schlitterbahn original idea.

“What a great idea, you don’t have to get out of your tube,” Siebert said.

Galveston Schlitterbahn is the first indoor water park in Texas, and the first convertible water park in the United

States. The retractable roof can be opened or closed within eight minutes, handy for rainy days. “Wasserfest” is a section of the park that is open all year with a climate-controlled atmosphere.

“[It is the] next generation of water parks,” Siebert said. “[We] use different technologies to do different things that you don’t see in a typical water park.”

The 15-acre park is thrill rated by colored shapes. The red diamond represents high thrill and/or deep water. An orange triangle means aggressive ride action. A blue circle is a moderate ride. And a green square represents a low speed and/or shallow water rides.

The color-coded shapes help families “gauge their experience,” Siebert said. It assists them in determining what rides their children are able to enjoy.

More than 600 lifeguards have been hired for the water park. Lifeguards must go through extensive training specifically tailored for working in water parks.

With two other Texas locations in New Braunfels and South Padre Island, Schlitterbahn was brought to Galveston to create a greater entertainment destination and to attract more tourists.

The family-owned and operated water park was created in 1979; the company manufactures its own rides and attractions.

Schlitterbahn offers services other water parks may not, such as free parking, free inner tubes and allowing guests to bring in their own food and drinks.

The Galveston water park is currently opened weekends only, until Memorial Day. Go to www.schlitterbahn.com to find out more information about ticket prices and the park’s schedule of hours and operation. Also available on the Web site is online ticket purchasing and printing for a quicker way into the park.



SLIP AND SLIDE: (above) Riders take a trip down the Thunder Tub in a tube built for three.

NEED FOR SPEED: (below) Schlitterbahn staff member Courtney Boring helps a guest prepare for the Cliffhanger’s 81-foot drop. Riders can reach speeds close to 40 mph.



SCHLITTERBAHN LANDSCAPE: (above) A 15-acre, thrill-seeking paradise of more than 30 attractions. There is something for everyone.

Photography By: Lona Cain

Design By: Donna Cox

Larry Rohde wins UHCL nomination for Piper Award

By COREY MALLORY
THE UHCLIDIAN

Each year the University of Houston-Clear Lake Piper Award Committee, which consists of an equal number of students and faculty, selects one professor to be recognized for his or her excellence in teaching. “Something must set the nominee apart to be a good representative; they must be more than a professor, they need to really impact their students and colleagues,” said David Rachita, assistant dean of student services.

This professor then gets the opportunity to represent UHCL in state competition for the Minnie Stevens Piper Award, as well receive \$5,000. Every college and university in the state of Texas is allowed one nominee for the award. The nominees are then discussed and 15 professors are chosen to win the Piper Award.

“The Piper Award recognizes outstanding teaching, research and service with a special emphasis on teaching,” said Darlene Biggers, associate vice president of student affairs.

This year’s nominee for the Piper Award from UHCL is Larry Rohde, associate professor of Biology.

“This is a great honor to receive, it means a lot to know that the students nominated me,” Rohde said.

Rohde teaches in the subjects of Genetics, Developmental Biology, Tissue Culture, Molecular Biology Laboratory and several independent studies. He also developed the proposal for the Master of Science in Biotechnology, which began in the summer of 2006.

“I am very proud of his accomplishments; I know how hard he has worked,” said Rohde’s wife Cheryl, an administrative secretary at UHCL.

“In the spring of 2006, he collaborated with Dr. Honglu Wu at NASA on a proposal to the Institute for Space Systems Operations and was awarded \$80,000 to cover a two year Postdoctoral fellowship,” said Sadegh Davari, interim dean of Science and Computer Engineering. “Through his leadership, ULC modified the non-discrimination policy at UHCL.”

This year’s other candidates for the UHCL Piper Award nomination included: Taleen Washington, faculty adviser for student publications, Barbara Hales, assistant professor of history, Sharon Hall, associate professor of psychology, Kenneth Black, professor of decision science, Wei Ding, lecturer in computer science and Vivian Atwater, associate professor of art history.

“I’m very excited to be nominated along with the other candidates; they are extraordinary teachers, so this is definitely an honor,” Rohde said.

These candidates, as well as Rohde, were then asked to submit a notebook that included a three to five page statement of their philosophy and approach to teaching, a current vitae, summaries of their teaching evaluations, evidence of exceptional teaching, research and service, as well as their honors/awards and leadership in community and professional organizations. The UHCL Piper Award Committee then reviewed the notebooks and came up with their nomination.

“Though UHCL has not had many winners of the Piper Award, our professors are just as deserving as any other in the state. We send them our very best and we have some very talented and well-rounded teachers,” Rachita said.



KAREN BARBIER: UHCL

AND THE NOMINEE IS...: (above) Piper Award winner Larry Rohde, center, with UHCL President William Staples and Sadegh Davari, interim dean of SCE.

UHCL PIPER AWARDS FINALIST: (clockwise below) William Staples, Taleen Washington, Vivian Atwater, Sharon Hall, Barbara Hales, Kenneth Black, Wei Ding and Piper Award winner Larry Rohde.



*Student Life * Student Life * Student Life*

LEADERSHIP TIP

Transition Your Organization

As you begin to close the year for your organization and prepare for the new, keep these few tips in mind:

- * Require outgoing and incoming officers to meet.
- * Clean-up and close out financial matters.
- * List successes, areas for improvement, and special dates.
- * Require new officers to attend leadership workshops sponsored by the Student Life Office.
- * Update all organizational paperwork in the Student Life Office. Meet with Student Life staff person to be sure all bases are covered. Introduce new officers to the staff.
- * Tell your adviser "Thank You!"

Student Life Office - SS/CB 1.204 - 281*283*2560

THANK YOU TO ALL SPRING 2007 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES!



The members of the SGA Executive Council, along with its Adviser and Student Coordinator of Leadership Development, would like to express their sincere thank you to all of the student organization representatives for the Spring 2007 semester. We appreciate your attendance and your commitment to your positions in representing the more than 60 organizations on the campus.

To those of you who are graduating, we wish you much success in your future endeavors and to those returning/new student representatives, we look forward to seeing you in the Summer and Fall semesters.

The first meeting of the Summer 2007 semester will be Tuesday, June 12, in the Student Services and Classroom Building beginning at 11:30 a.m. The meeting location will be posted at a later date.

Once again, we encourage ALL students to get involved in the SGA and help to make a difference with issues and concerns on UHCL’s campus. Contact any member of the Executive Council for additional information.

For more information, contact the SGA Executive Council:

SGA@uhcl.edu | 281.283.2556 | www.uhcl/sga



Governance
Outreach
Advocacy
Leadership

walk around the clock

By JESSICA HENNESSY
THE UHCLIDIAN

April showers bring May flowers – or at least it should. Many outside events have been canceled or shut down early the past couple months because of bad weather, including the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay for Life held April 13-14.

The Relay for Life is much more than an all-night walk, it gives the community a chance to honor cancer survivors, remember those who have lost their battle, and raise money to help fight the disease.

For several months before the event, teams with an unlimited number of participants had to raise at least \$100 per participant. Most teams exceeded this amount. At the event, teams could sell items such as food and T-shirts to put towards their team total that would then go to the American Cancer Society.

Throughout the event, one person from each team had to be walking on the track at all times. The teams had batons, or “spirit sticks,” that the walkers had to carry around the track; participants could walk as many laps as they

wanted. People of all ages attended; even dogs were there to walk with their owners.

Teams gathered on the track at San Jacinto College-Central April 13 to set up and decorate their tents. The colorful décor on the tents radiated a sense of optimism and excitement, despite the clouds and misting rain that refused to disappear.

Most teams cooked food to sell as part of their fundraising efforts. The aroma of items such as sausage-on-a-stick, homemade cinnamon rolls and nachos filled the air throughout the day and night.

The event began with cancer survivors taking the first walk around the track while everyone else cheered.

“I love this event,” said Cindy Locke, a relay participant on the Curves team. “It’s for such a great cause; I just wish the weather was better.”

Locke was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago. She had a mastectomy and is now cancer-free. This was her second time to participate in the

Relay for Life, and she says she wants to continue to do it every year.

Mary Moore, Teresa Pope and Mary Alexander are all cancer survivors who put together a team called “Paws for a Cause” for the Relay for Life. Pope brought her chihuahua, Pink, to walk with them.

“This gives us a chance to gather as a community in the fight against cancer,” Alexander said. “Without events like these, cancer could continue to take so many precious lives.”

A special luminarias lighting ceremony took place during the walk. The names of people who lost their battle against cancer were read over a speaker as participants lit the luminarias lined up in front of their tents.

An area called “Garden of Hope” was filled with lanterns and plants as part of the fundraising efforts. Whoever donated \$100 could have a lantern dedicated to someone.

Tara Loftin visited a lantern that was dedicated to her friend who passed away in October 2006 from colon cancer.

“She was only 22 years old,” Loftin said. “So my team and I are here to celebrate her life and raise money to find a cure for this horrible disease.”

Even though the Garden of Hope brought tears to the eyes of many people, it reminded them that there is hope for a cure in the future, a participant said.

The Relay for Life carried on late into the night, providing music, games and contests including: bingo, “Name That Song,” washers, and the limbo. As a matter of fact, the winner of bingo won a trip to Mexico.

The fierce sound of a thunderstorm moving in fast forced the event to shut down around 2 a.m. Some participants did not give up easy though. They continued to walk through the rain until lightening struck nearby.

Despite the bad weather conditions, participants managed to raise a total of \$131,177. Since the closing ceremony failed to take place, the directors are holding a wrap-up celebration at San Jacinto Elementary May 1.



SURVIVORS: (left) Cancer survivors take the first walk around the track to start the Relay for Life.



FOUR LEGGED SUPPORT: (above) Teresa Pope, with her chihuahua “Pink,” Mary Alexander and Mary Moore get ready for the Relay for Life opening ceremony.

IN MEMORY: (below) Ian Sanders light a luminaria in honor of his fiancé, who lost her battle with colon cancer in October 2006.



Tiger Missing Link Foundation



By DONNA COX
THE UHCLIDIAN

Part three of a three part series on the Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge in Tyler, Texas.

The Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge is operated by the Tiger Missing Link Foundation. The foundation was founded by Brian Werner to prevent this majestic animal from vanishing.

While visiting the Cincinnati Zoo when he was three, Werner fell in love with the white Bengal tigers. Ever since then, he has continued to champion their fight against extinction.

Tiger Missing Link Foundation was set up to save the different breeds of tigers from extinction.

DNA testing of captive tigers may find the “missing link” that eventually saves the species.

Tiger Creek has developed a four-stage plan of action to expand their facility. The improvements come at a cost that reaches more than \$8.3 million.

There are a few easy ways to help from home. Tiger Creek is participating in an ink jet cartridge and cell phone recycling program. Prepaid envelopes are available at no cost. If interested, contact Tiger Creek at (903) 858-1008 or admin@tigercreek.org.

Another way to help involves using Goodsearch.com to search the Internet. Visit Goodsearch and choose Tiger Missing Link as your favorite non-profit agency. As searches are performed, 50 percent of all money generated from advertisers goes to the selected charity. Not only does this raise money, it also provides more exposure for Tiger Missing Link Foundation and the Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge.

For more information about Tiger Creek, visit <http://www.tigercreek.com> or Tiger Missing Link Foundation at <http://www.tigerlink.com>.

Photo and Design By: Donna Cox

Congratulations & Best Wishes

to the spring 2007 graduating class of
University of Houston-Clear Lake

We salute your academic achievements
and celebrate the promise of your
future accomplishments.



William A. Staples
President

University of Houston  Clear Lake

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April 30

Last Class Day of
Spring 2007 Semester

May 1-7

Spring 2007 Final
Exam Period

May 11

Spring 2007
Commencement,
7 p.m., Reliant Stadium
For info call Academic
Records, (281) 283-2525.

May 18

Grades Available

May 19

UHCL Film & History
Club screening of “The
Queen,” speaker TBA,
7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall
General Admission: \$3
For info e-mail historyand-
filmclub@hotmail.com.

May 24

Quick THEA,
8 a.m., SSCB 2.310
Registration required
by 5 p.m., May 21.
Required for admission to
some graduate programs in
the School of Education.
For info call Testing
Services, (281) 283-2580.

May 25

Fee Payment Deadline for
Summer 2007 Early &
Open Registration, noon

May 26-31

Summer 2007
Late Registration

May 29

First Class Day
for Summer 2007 semester

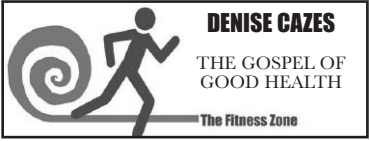
May 31

Fee Payment Deadline
for Summer 2007 Late
Registration, 6 p.m.

June 9

UHCL Film & History
Club screening of
“Zodiac,” with speaker
Steven Egger, UHCL
associate professor,
7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall
General Admission: \$3
For info e-mail historyand-
filmclub@hotmail.com.

Slow, sweet death: Americans drowning in corn syrup



As overweight Americans continue to obsess about the number on the scale or the number of carbs they are consuming, they fail to realize that the spotlight should be on corn syrup. High fructose corn syrup (HFCS) is the real culprit behind our growing waist and health problems and we are drowning in it. I was reminded of the perils of this substance as I served up snow cones at our recent Cinco de Mayo celebration!

The process for making sweetener out of corn was developed in the 1970s. It's cheaper to make and easier to use and transport. Use of HFCS tripled from 1980 to 1995 and today we consume more HFCS than sugar. Unfortunately, it is a way to pack more calories into our foods and our bodies.

HFCS is used in many foods from breads to pasta sauce to bacon to beer. It is even used in natural or “healthy” foods like yogurt and power bars. The main reason it deserves a bad rap because it is the sweetener used in soft drinks. Adults consume about 56 gallons of soda per year. Each soda has from 10-13 teaspoons of sugar in the form of HFCS which equates to about 63 pounds of it according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The soft drink industry targets teens and children and in the past 10 years, consumption among children has doubled in the US. The average amount consumed by teen boys is 3 cans of soda per day and 10% of this population consumes at least SEVEN sodas per day! That's 500-1000 calories just in soda! Add in the burgers, fries and sedentary lifestyle and no wonder we are seeing an increase in obesity in children and adolescents!

Fructose converts more easily to fat than any other sugar which is contributing to our growing waistlines. There are studies that show that the brain does not register these liquid sugar kcals in many ways. Physical fullness or satiety after consuming liquid kcals does not occur. Subjects were given a snack prior to a meal in either soft drink or food form. When the meal was made available, self selecting portions, the subjects who consumed the liquid kcals consumed more kcals

than the solid food group.

Another thing that occurs with consumption of HFCS is the lack of production of two hormones, leptin and insulin which help to regulate food intake and energy expenditure. Essentially, consuming this type of sugar tricks you into eating more hence, the health and weight problems.

The enzymes used to make HFCS are genetically modified and the corn used to make HFCS is usually modified as well. There is much controversy these days over genetically modified foods. In his book Fat Land, Greg Critser argues that in the 1970s, federal policies were enacted in an attempt to stabilize food prices and support corn production and this has contributed to over production and over usage of HFCS.

In addition to those worries, fructose causes other problems in the body.

The body metabolizes fructose differently than glucose. It must be broken down in the liver which eventually causes the liver to become plugged with fat and cirrhotic. It then turns more fat out into the blood stream. Furthermore, in lab studies, rats given diets high in HFCS developed anemia, high cholesterol, heart hypertrophy and developed the inability to reproduce.

There is also some misconception that fructose is healthier for diabetics because it was thought to produce a more mod-

est rise in blood sugar. Studies show that it actually increases disease by decreasing protein quality in the body and reducing the affinity of insulin for its receptor. Fructose also has been shown to interact with oral contraceptives and elevate insulin levels of females on birth control pills.

Consumption of fructose has also been shown to increase uric acid production which can be an indicator of heart disease. Finally, those with bowel disease showed increase gastrointestinal distress caused by malabsorption of fructose.

Aside from soft drinks, many food products have HFCS in them unbeknownst to consumers so consumption of large amounts is so easy these days which is contributing to our health problems.

So, whether it's actually something about the HFCS that's interfering with normal bodily functions and causing our weight gain and health problems or just over consumption of it (could it be a little of both?), we need to look at the ingredients in our foods and choose more carefully! One Body: One Choice

Have a Great, Safe Summer!
cazez@uhcl.edu

NOTE: Many of the statistical references in this article were not officially cited due to space constraints.

AFFORDABLE
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The Psychological Services clinic at UHCL has appointments available for counseling and assessment. Advanced graduate students in psychology provide supervised services to children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. Convenient, late-afternoon and evening appointments are available.

The clinic charges fees based on family income that are among the most affordable in the Clear Lake area. Qualified clinical faculty supervise all services in the clinic. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (281) 283-3330.

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KID'S U

Classes begin in June,
Arbor Building

Kid's U offers a variety of summer learning courses to local elementary through high school students. Courses will be held throughout the summer, with sessions usually running for one week beginning in June.

Registration for Summer 2007 courses can be made during regular Center for Educational Program hours, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Enrollment will continue until classes are filled.

For session fees or to find out more, contact the following:

(281) 283-3530
youngj@uhcl.edu
http://kidsu.uhcl.edu

UHCL Art School

Ongoing Registration: Arbor Building, Room 159
Classes will be held June 1-28

UHCL's Art School for Children and Young Adults examines the work of Alexander Calder, Mary Cassatt, Henri Matisse and Winslow Homer. Art courses for students age 3 1/2 through 12th grade begin June 1 and run through June 28. Tuition ranges \$80-115, depending on selected class, location and child's age. Registration can be submitted in the Arbor Building, Room 159, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. For more information, call the Art School, (281) 283-3344.

SAFETY: continued from page 1

staffed 24 hours a day, year-round,” UHCL President William Staples said. “They offer a number of services including disseminating weather advisories or other key notifications of situations being monitored on behalf of the university.”

University of Houston main campus police have added a new section to their Web site entitled, Active Shooter Checklist, which gives information on what to do, who to contact, how to help police, and what the police will be doing. The Web site address is www.uh.edu/police/information/active_shooter.html.

Logistics are in place in at least two of the campus’ buildings, the Bayou and Students Services Buildings to initiate emergency warnings via a public address system.

Procedures are being established on

how this system will work into the overall communication plan.

Jenkins has also initiated talks to expand the dissemination of information using text messaging as a form of mass communication to students, faculty and staff.

The company Mobile Campus offers this free text messaging service to all students, faculty and staff at universities in which it operates. Mobile Campus is currently partnered with universities such as the University of Florida, University of Texas and Texas Tech University, with many other universities looking into acquiring their services.

In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, Mobile Campus has started offering free emergency service to universities nationwide. The service requires students

to “opt-in” to receive text alerts and have the option to receive special offers from advertisers, as well. The Mobile Campus Web site states the company has a “Spam-free guarantee” and personal information is kept confidential.

“Mobile Campus allows administrators and other qualified and approved groups on campus to send group SMS (short message service) messages via the one device that students, faculty and employees carry with them at all times, their cell phones,” a recent Mobile Campus news release said. “The rapidly deployable system, which is provided at no cost or IT burden to universities, is already being successfully used as an emergency alert system.”

Jenkins assures students will have a voice in the decision to enhance the communication plan.

“Because the decision on how we communicate with the university community in emergency situations is so important, those involved in the discussion would represent a wide segment of the campus population—including students,” Jenkins said.

The university administration accepts the task of providing safety and security for all in the UHCL community seriously, but acknowledges it must be a group effort.

“The university is committed to ensuring the safety of all those within the UHCL community,” Jenkins said. “However, this will require us to work as a team. As individuals at UHCL we enjoy basic rights; as members of the community we accept certain responsibilities.”

HAYES: continued from page 1

cuss these matters with anyone except the individual(s) directly involved.”

Hayes will remain the senior vice president and provost until August, the end of the academic year. A search committee has been established to look for a replacement.

Originally, a non-faculty member was chosen as sole chair of the committee: Associate Vice President of Finance Michelle Dotter, who works in the president’s office. This caused apprehension among faculty about whether academic interests would be sufficiently considered in the appointment of a new provost.

In a Feb. 14 letter to Staples, faculty of the School of Human Sciences and Humanities expressed a unanimous resolution disagreeing with the appointment of a non-academic chair to the search committee. Subsequently, Faculty Senate Vice President Chloe Diepenbrock was named co-chair.

Diepenbrock said Dotter was appointed to chair the committee because Staples wanted the chair to have equal rank to the incoming provost.

“However, because the provost is the chief academic officer of the university and its representative body, the faculty senate felt very strongly that the chair of the search committee should represent the academic members of the university community,” Diepenbrock said. “Dr. Staples responded to faculty concerns about who would chair the committee by appointing me co-chair.”

The committee includes faculty representatives from each school of the university, student services and key non-faculty. Staples said committee members were chosen “by virtue of their positions or nominated by the groups they represent.”

There are 13 committee members in addition to Diepenbrock and Dotter. Other members include HSH Dean Bruce Palmer, Associate Vice President for Student Services Darlene Biggers, PASA President David Rachita, SSA President Nina Perez, SGA President Joyce Delores Taylor and Faculty Senate President Martha Dillner.

Faculty representatives from each of the schools include professors Ken Black, Cynthia Heagy, Laurie Weaver, Lisa Jones, Leslye Mize, Tom Harman and Cynthia Howard.

“The search committee is an excellent one, with strong representatives from all campus constituen-

cies,” Diepenbrock said. “We have been working very hard to identify highly qualified candidates who will capably lead the university.”

Another concern raised about the search for a new provost is the haste with which the search is taking place. With no interim to fill the position, a final decision on a candidate must be made in just four months.

“Typically, searches take longer,” Hayes said. “When I undergo a search for a dean, it takes me a year.”

Staples said that the time frame for the provost search reflects common practice in institutions of higher education and that “administrative searches are normally completed in about four months.”

So far, the search committee has completed telephone interviews with 11 candidates and will choose five or six for campus interviews. The campus visits will be scheduled beginning the week of April 30, which is finals week.

“We will be bringing candidates to campus in the next three weeks, and while we understand that this is a very busy time for students, we encourage [them] to make the time to attend campus presentations for as many candidates as possible,” Diepenbrock said.

Hayes has high expectations for the future provost and hopes the committee will choose “someone who can provide them with solid leadership, take the university forward and continue to help the institution grow and maintain quality faculty along with staff and students.”

Some of Hayes’ accomplishments at UHCL include a strong commitment to campus diversity and steadily increasing the number of African-American, Latino and Asian faculty, the development of a new structure for shared governance and post-tenure review, and his initiation of the Distinguished Faculty Research Lecture Series.

Although he will no longer hold an administrative position, Hayes is not leaving UHCL for good. He plans to return in the fall of 2008 as tenured faculty to teach full-time in the School of Education. During his one-year leave of absence, he said he plans to travel and retool to prepare for his return as an educator.

“I look forward to getting back to my discipline and providing as much assistance to the School of Education, students and the counseling program as I possibly can,” Hayes said.

EDUCATOR: continued from page 1

ing 30. There was about 1,800 kids at the [junior high] school. We changed classes every 50 minutes, and the halls were a madhouse.”

In Detroit, Hayes was surrounded by diversity, and in high school he “went to school with a lot of Lithuanian kids, Jewish kids, a lot of Italian kids and, of course, African-American kids.”

At Central High School in Detroit, Hayes was amazed again. He now went from a junior high school with 1,800 kids to a school of 3,000.

Hayes said that in high

school, finding a way to survive was a tough challenge because “there were guys there that did a little bit of everything. You had to stay clear of the guys who were doing those things or you could get locked up for a long time. You had to watch your P’s and Q’s.” That was the point when Hayes knew he was college-bound.

Hayes was greatly inspired by the teachers from the little schoolhouse in Boone. He said his teachers were the “coolest guys” he ever knew and he admired them because “they dressed nice and seemed to know everything and told all kinds of stories.”

“I wanted to be like them,” Hayes said. “And I think that really helped me decide that I wanted to be in education.”

Hayes has come a long way from the days of segregated school systems. Many facets of his life led him into the career he is in today. He said he always knew he wanted to help people improve their lives through education.

“I knew I wanted to teach,” Hayes said. “I always wanted to teach because I just liked to be with people. I didn’t know this at the time, but I needed the intellectual stimulation you get from working with students because you know they always ask you questions that you’re

not ready for. So you always have to be ready to think on your feet and help them see the connections. And one of the nicest things for me as an educator is to be able to see the lights go on. And you can tell right away when the lights go on. It’s really nice.”

Since he came to UHCL in 1994, Hayes’ commitment to diversity has helped him make great strides within the school’s community of students, faculty and staff. He works to create an “environment of trust, respect, integrity and an inclusive attitude.” Hayes recognizes the

Not only has he been proficient in promoting diversity, but he has also made significant improvements to many of the schools’ departments. He helped reorganize the Office of Admission, and provided leadership to the Student Assistant Center’s reaffirmation. He developed a new structure for shared governance and initiated the Distinguished Faculty Research Lecture Series.

“Leaders in business, government and institutions of higher education agree diversity is good for the United States,” said Everett Penn, assistant professor of criminology. “Provost Hayes is a champion of diversity for the University of Houston-Clear Lake and the students, faculty and staff will always be grateful for his forethought, wisdom and guidance.”

“Dr. Hayes has been an exemplary leader who has advanced the quality of academic programs, support of research and service to students,”

said Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for student services. “He has shown courage in taking a stand on difficult issues and making tough decisions. I admire him most for his ethics, inclusiveness and compassion. He cares for everyone on this campus and their families. I think he is on a first-name basis with most. He will be greatly missed by all of us.”

Besides being a teacher, author and advocator, Hayes is also a devout family man, avid fisherman and hunter, and loves to travel around the world. He still lives by ethics his mother taught him and keeps a strong hold on the values he was taught as a child.

“I am a man who lives by principles,” Hayes said. “I live my life everyday by truth, honesty and integrity. I have very strong beliefs in someone that is greater than I, and I value humanity.”



JIM HAYES: COURTESY

A FATHER AND SON MOMENT: Provost Edward Hayes on a fishing trip with his father, James.

importance of high standards of excellence in teaching, research and service.

“Provost Hayes is an example of a true transformational leader,” said Melissa Najera, associate professor of management in the School of Business. “He recognized the importance of changing the demographics of not only the university’s student body, but of faculty and staff. He instituted change at UHCL that we all wish we could see in society -- the genuine embracing of diversity. Dr. Hayes is an agent of change and a true inspiration to all.”

Hayes is proud of his achievements at UHCL. When he first came here he felt “like a fly in a bowl of rice.” Hayes made efforts to steadily increase the number of African-American, Latino and Asian faculty at UHCL, and today he sits among a more diverse group. He believes that “diversity includes everyone” and supports the internationalization of the campus.

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From the ashes...

one man's sorrow leads to recovery of peace

By BRET NEWCOMB
THE UHCLIDIAN

A hero can be defined in many ways. To some, a hero is someone who sacrifices oneself for the sake of those in need. To others, a hero is someone on a mission birthed out of some kind of personal tragedy. And then there are those who define a hero as someone who lives for a higher calling. Tim Miller is all of those things.

Ask just about any parent what their worst fear is and they will tell you without hesitation that it is to lose a child. On September 9, 1984, Miller experienced that fear first-hand and it changed him forever.

Miller and his family had just moved into a house in League City. The day started like any other. Miller's wife left for work and his daughter, Laura, was making plans for her boyfriend to come over that evening for dinner. At noon, Laura went to finalize plans for the evening on a pay phone at a nearby gas station because the home phone hadn't been connected yet. She never returned.

That evening, when Laura's boyfriend showed up for dinner and no one had heard

from Laura, a search for answers began that continues to this day. After a night of calling friends and acquaintances and waiting by the phone turned up nothing, Miller went to the police.

While Miller filed a missing persons report, he recalled a body being found on Calder Road and asked a detective about the incident.

He was told that it was an isolated incident and to go home and wait for Laura's call. Miller waited 17 months for a call. When it finally came, it was not from Laura.

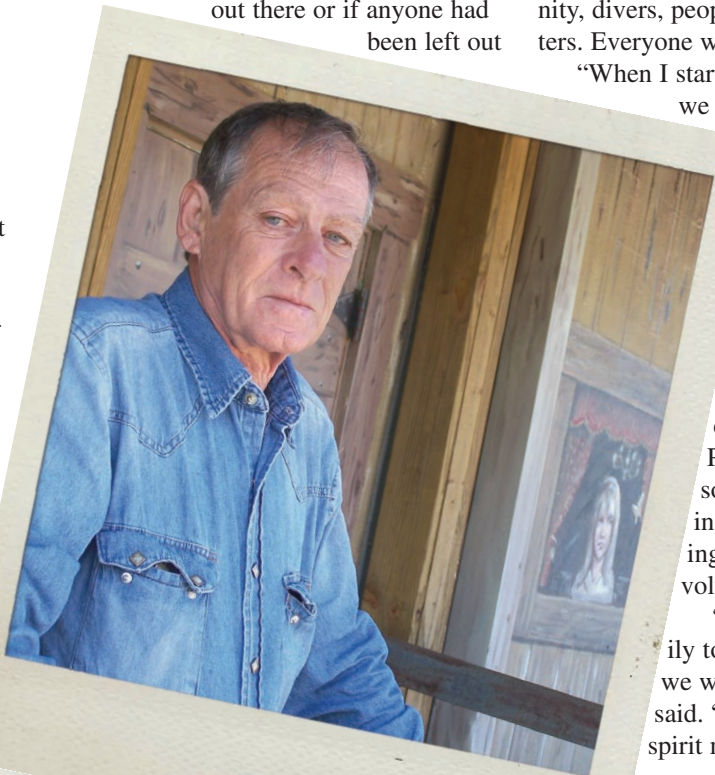
On Feb. 2, 1986, Miller received a call from the League City Police Department. Two more bodies had been found off of Calder Road. One of those bodies was Laura's.

"I think that when they confirmed it was Laura I actually took a sigh of relief. At least, now I knew," Miller said.

The relief was short-lived for Miller. The stress of losing Laura took its toll on his life. Six months after learning of their daughter's death, Miller and his wife divorced. He became "obsessed" with finding the person who murdered his

daughter and with the land off of Calder Road that many locals called "the killing fields."

Miller would drive out to the property in the mornings to see if anyone had been out there or if anyone had been left out



In August of 2000, Miller began holding meetings with a group of volunteers that would become Texas Equusearch. Before he knew it, Miller had support coming in from all over: the horse community, divers, people with boats and helicopters. Everyone wanted to be a part.

"When I started Equusearch, I thought we would be doing two or three searches a year," Miller said. "We are now on search, I think, number 680."

One of the first volunteers was Darrell Phillips, who got involved after a co-worker went missing. In 1986, Phillips' sister disappeared, so he knew the pain of losing a loved one and not having any closure. Phillips still volunteers with TES.

"I don't want another family to have to go through what we went through," Phillips said. "And it keeps my sister's spirit moving."

Miller has watched in amazement

as Texas Equusearch has grown from a local grassroots volunteer group to a globally utilized resource in bringing closure and hope to people all over the world. Texas Equusearch has been involved in many high-profile cases, including the search for Natalee Holloway in Aruba, recovery efforts after the tsunami in Sri Lanka, and the search for Texas A&M student Tynesha Stewart, who was murdered in March of this year.

Miller attributes all of the success and service of Equusearch to God and the memory of Laura. This belief was made all the more poignant for Miller in October of 2002, when Magnolia Creek Baptist Church bought the property where Laura's body was found.

"It still chokes me up," Miller stated when thinking about the church's decision to build on what was once known as "the killing fields." "That's why Laura ended up out there."

Brett Dutton,

pastor of Magnolia Creek, recalls finding what he thought was a great piece of property, in a great location, and for a great price. Then the realtor added something else to the pitch that Dutton didn't expect, saying, "There is one other thing I'm required by law to tell you."

After discussing the issue with the church's deacons and elders, and then ultimately the entire church body, it was decided that the property's history didn't eliminate it as a possibility for the young church—it qualified it.

"We decided we were going to overcome evil by doing good," Dutton said. "We want to turn 'the killing fields' into a place of healing and restoration as opposed to death and destruction."

"God blessed me and allowed me to go through that grieving process," Miller said. "I can look back at it now and know that Laura's death wasn't in vain."

The greatest struggle for TES is that they "just can't say no." The financial burden of running such a large operation is an ever-present reality for Miller. During Thanksgiving of 2006, Miller recalls TES being "so broke it was crazy," and thinking that they were going to have to "shut the

doors." Later that day he received a call from a family in need. Miller's immediate response was "Where do you live? I'll be right there."

Ultimately, Miller continues to do what he does because of the promise he made and for the sake of the families. He knows first-hand the value of closure and the importance of being able to say

goodbye to loved ones. Though many of the endings are not happy, Miller considers them invaluable to those who experience such tragedy.

"They aren't good endings, but they are endings and the family has closure," Miller said.

For more information on Texas Equusearch or for opportunities to help, visit their Web site at www.texasequusearch.org.



there. He would question property owners and he would follow other cases. All of this was part of his attempt to make sense of Laura's death.

In 1996, Miller received a call from a woman whose daughter was missing.

She had heard about Laura's murder and Miller's desperate search for answers, and she was desperate for some answers of her own. Without really knowing what he could do to help, Miller went to see the family.

"Seeing that look of fear and hopelessness, that's how I looked for 17 months," Miller said. "I made a promise to God and Laura at that time to never leave another family alone if there was anything I could do, but I still didn't really know what to do."

The next year another family called hoping to find help in searching for their missing daughter. During the course of the search, someone suggested that Miller put together a mounted rescue team. It sounded like a good idea to Miller, and the idea just grew from there.

"God blessed me and allowed me to go through that grieving process," Miller said. "I can look back at it now and know that Laura's death wasn't in vain."



Snapshots of a hero

Tim Miller reflects on using his own personal tragedy to help others in need.

PHOTOGRAPHER: BRET NEWCOMB
DESIGNER: FEBE MENENDEZ