



Black Dot
In A
White
World

WILLIAM HOSTON, pg. 8
Professor produces
documentary

BAM!, pg. 4
Symposium brings
comic pros to campus

VOLUME XLI, NUMBER 7

www.UHCLTheSignal.com

SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

Crossing the Thin Red Line

U.S. prepared to intervene in Syria if diplomacy fails

DAVID ROZYCKI
THE SIGNAL

Approximately 100 people showed up at a Houston rally Aug. 31 against U.S. intervention in Syria.

The rally took place at the corner of Post Oak Boulevard and Westheimer Road near the Galleria. Attendees carried signs, gave speeches and chanted to explain why they are opposed to President Obama's call for U.S. military action in Syria in response to alleged chemical weapon attacks on civilians by the Syrian government.

One of the organizers of the event, Shere Dore of Occupy Houston, remains skeptical of U.S. claims that the Syrian government was responsible for the chemical attacks. She believes rebels in Syria may have carried out the attacks.

"We know that mainstream media tends to be a little bit biased and I'm very skeptical to believe that it was Assad's group," Dore said. "Until the

proof actually comes out, and I would trust independent media more than mainstream at this point, it could be either or."

Across the street from where Dore and other protesters gathered, there was another group with a different viewpoint, calling for U.S. action in Syria. Omar Shishakly, an organizer with the group Texans For Free Syria believes the U.S. should strike Syria as soon as possible.

"We want peace, but to have peace in Syria we have to take the regime out," Shishakly said. "The best way is to actually disable the air force that has been attacking civilians."

On Houston street corners as well as in the World Court the debate about whether the U.S. should act against the Syrian government is ongoing.

President Obama has stated U.S. intervention in Syria is justified because of the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government, which violates international law under the 1925

Geneva Protocol. Last year, Obama said if the Assad regime started using chemical weapons, it would be a "red line." Critics have said he painted himself into a corner with this statement, and this is why he felt the pressure to act on Syria.

Obama has since said he did not set the red line, the world did.

Last week, Obama announced possible diplomatic developments that would lead to Assad relinquishing Syria's chemical weapons. He has asked Congress to postpone voting on the use of force in Syria while he pursues this new option and awaits results from the U.N. inspection.

Obama then stated his plans to keep the U.S. military ready to strike if diplomatic resolutions do not succeed.

The Assad government has repeatedly denied responsibility for the chemical attacks. U.S. Secretary of



DAVID ROZYCKI:THE SIGNAL

Shere Dore, one of the organizers of the No War With Syria Rally in Houston, holds up a sign reflecting her opposition to U.S. intervention in Syria.

SEE LINE, PAGE 6

Alumnus Prepares for Mission in Space



Mastracchio
Expedition 38

JASMINE GASCAR:THE SIGNAL

SEAN WESLEY
THE SIGNAL

NASA Expedition 38 is planned to liftoff in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan Nov. 6. The expedition will carry three astronauts to the International Space Station, including one UHCL alumnus.

Richard "Rick" Mastracchio began training as an astronaut candidate for NASA in 1996 after a long road of education and work.

Mastracchio was born in Waterbury, Conn., where he graduated from Crosby High School in 1978.

"While growing up, I was always interested in science, math, airplanes and space travel," Mastracchio recalled. "Though, I never dreamed of being an astronaut until I was 26 years old and saw an ad in a magazine."

After high school, Mastracchio earned his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical/computer science from the University of Connecticut in 1982.

After a five-year stint working as an engineer for Hamilton Sundstrand's Systems Design

SEE ALUMNUS, PAGE 6

The Dream Lives On 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

KIMBERLY WARREN
THE SIGNAL

On Aug. 28 we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington – when more than 200,000 people, both black and white, marched side by side from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial to protest racial discrimination in America **Life Prior to Aug. 28, 1963, the march on Washington**

For nearly a century, the Jim Crow laws in America mandated that black people held a separate but equal status. The status was separate, but hardly equal. Blacks were not allowed to attend school with whites, ride in the front of the bus, or enter into certain public establishments.

The buildings they were allowed in had separate entrances marked with the same "colored" label as the water fountains and restrooms available for use by blacks.

SEE MARCH, PAGE 6

ONLINE
this issue



WEBSITE
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LATEST NEWS
Campus Briefs

BLOGS
Looking Back on 9/11
Naming the Mascot

SLIDE SHOWS
March on Washington
Welcome Back Activities
comiCulture
Syria Protest Rally

VIDEO
Syria Protest Rally

LIBERTY
BELL

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by Victor
Araiza

STUDENT
ORG
EXPO

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read article
by Kelsey
Benoit



Obama's Speech Shows Strong Leadership

The photograph is haunting. A young girl lies on the floor with her face turned one way and her knee pointing the other.

It's a position only a child could sleep in comfortably. Her polka-dotted pants are well-worn, the Hello Kitty t-shirt less so, and the vacant space around her compared to the crowd of the room could indicate a restless sleeper.

For just a second, it's easy to believe a happier truth. It's simple to pretend she'll wake up in the morning.

The devastating truth is in black and white below the photograph. A chemical attack on a Syrian suburb in August led to nearly 1500 estimated casualties, including more than 400 children.

Response to the atrocity was loud and left the world waiting on a reaction.

Within days after the attack, the international community fell into a gridlock of pointed fingers. More than two weeks after the CIA verified the use of chemical weapons, the gridlock stands.

The United States government claims to hold proof Syrian president Bashar al-Assad authorized the attack. President Barack Obama called for swift action from the international community.

The group responsible for making a decision, the U.N. Security Council, was stuck. Two permanent members, Russia and China, considered President Obama's call to action an act of

EDITORIAL

aggression.

With the U.N. at a standstill, eyes are turned toward the U.S. to make a move. The American president cited our responsibility to do so, declaring a "red line" has been crossed.

There are, in fact, guidelines in place, agreed on by the international community, for foreign intervention in domestic affairs.

Two chapters of a report titled "Responsibility to Protect" were included in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. These chapters acknowledge the international responsibility to protect human life but state that the individual nation holds primary responsibility.

Only when a nation fails or refuses to protect its own should the international community intervene.

Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations explains the policy for intervening in domestic issues and states that diplomatic options will always be considered before military intervention, specifically between member nations. The U.S. and Syria are both member nations.

It is a clear reminder that the U.N. was established in an effort to promote peace between nations and peace remains its primary goal.

If it is proven that the Assad

government is responsible for the chemical attacks, the responsibility will fall on the international community to protect Syrian citizens.

A failure to wait on results from the U.N. investigation and a determination to sidestep the Security Council would make the U.S. look more like a vigilante nation than world police.

The anger and pain of the tragedy is understood. The heartache comes through clearly with each photograph. The loss of that many innocent lives hurts the world as a whole.

The desire to punish isn't being debated. The method of punishment is.

The responsibility to protect lies primarily at home.

What about this community, the small but busy one resting in the middle of NASA, Houston, and the oil refineries? What about the national community?

The U.S. has been warned by Syria and its supporters not to strike without U.N. support.

It's always a little bit easier



Daniel Durbin

in September to remember that threats against the U.S. aren't as vague and distant as we once thought.

The events of 9/11 taught us a painful lesson. We realized we weren't invincible.

As a nation, we mourned. We didn't hesitate to support retaliation.

In the 12 years since that day, we've learned the value of restraint.

The weapons of mass destruction debacle in Iraq should have taught us that.

The U.S. should react quickly to clear and immediate threats to national security. It should

intervene in foreign politics when necessary, with the support of the international community it helped build and according to the guidelines it helped write.

When President Obama addressed the nation last week, he showed humility, restraint and a willingness to listen. Some will call him weak. Not true. It takes a strong leader to put principle ahead of pride and seek diplomacy over war when lives are in the balance.

Serving Up Unhappy Meals

ADRIANA CAPILLA-GARCIA
THE SIGNAL



STAFF COLUMN

Frustrated fast food workers across the nation have been participating in strikes and walkouts, demanding their pay be raised from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour.

Call me crazy, or even the bad guy, but I think asking to start at \$15 an hour as an employee in a fast food company after having no higher education or prior experience is a tad much.

Some college graduates don't even start out making \$15 an hour, which translates to a little more than \$30,000 a year.

I understand these workers are frustrated and upset at the fact that they feel they are some of the hardest-working employees in these million-dollar chain restaurants and make the least amount of money.

It is also understandable that making about \$15,000 a year is not enough to live above the poverty line or without the help of government assistance.

My dad has always worked in the construction and insulation industry, by choice. My mom worked for the operations department of GCCISD, by choice, before her health took a toll on her and she was medically forced resign her position of head custodian.

She started out back in 2000 as a regular custodian, only making about \$6 an hour with four kids. She'd come home exhausted

every night and still try to keep up a beautiful home for our family.

It was a struggle, and I'm sure she wished she could make more because the job she had was very physically tough and unglamorous, to say the least.

Many Americans feel like they have no choice.

These Americans feel like they are stuck at the poverty line, enduring displeased customers who complain because the fries are cold or because there was not enough ketchup with their meal.

That feeling of having no choice can be very hard to overcome, especially in an environment without hope for advancement.

I believe in working hard to climb up the ladder. People who stand out and excel in what they do deserve a pay raise.

I saw my mother do it in her industry, and I saw my father not do it in his. He stayed stagnant in the same position for years because he was content with settling.

These strikers have a bigger goal than just getting their pay increased. Their goal is to raise awareness to the minimum wage situation and hope to get it increased federally.

Anyone familiar with economics or government knows that increasing the federal minimum wage can mean a loss of jobs and an increase in the prices of common goods people buy.

Companies can either take a hit on their profits, or pass on extra costs to the customers. Historically, companies tend to pass on the costs to consumers. Will it really make a difference to raise the minimum wage if the cost of living will increase as well?

The American economy is a brutal cycle that needs a balance between the minimum wage and the cost to live. It is irrational to realize that some people make more money unemployed and living off of government assistance than working and making the federal minimum wage.

A strike is meant to bring awareness to a situation and bring forth change. The efforts of the fast food strikers are rapidly gaining recognition.

Working for a living should make you more money than not working. I may be opposed to a \$15 an hour minimum wage hike, but I will never be opposed to positive change for those who challenge the situations they are dissatisfied with and are willing to work hard to revolutionize it.

THE SIGNAL

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- Letters must be no longer than 500 words.
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Constitution Day!

Tuesday, September 17th, 2013

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens.

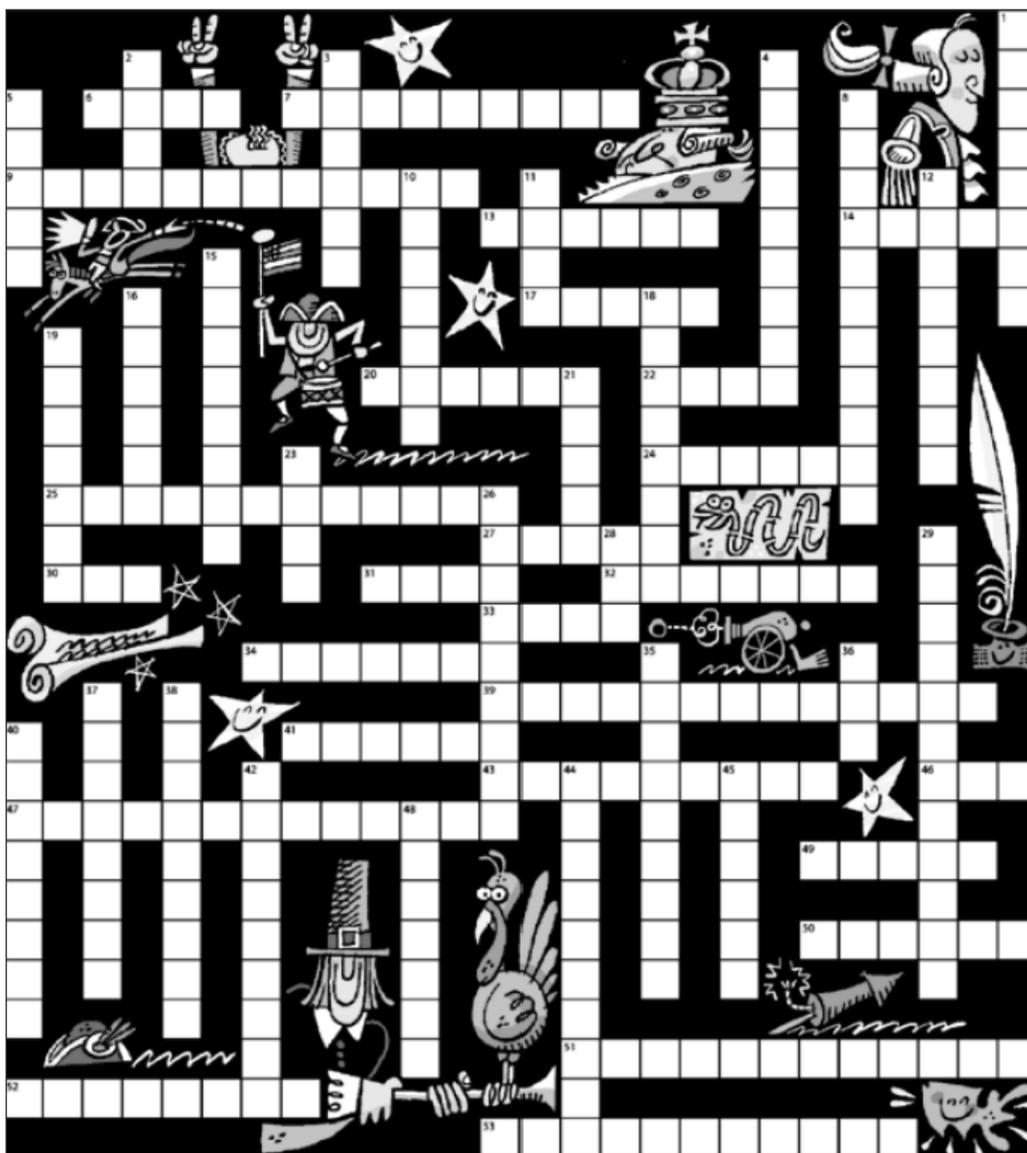
On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all Americans to observe this important day in our nation's history by attending local events in your area. Celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, parades and demonstrations of our Love for the United States of America and the Blessings of Freedom Our Founding Fathers secured for us.

Come and celebrate Constitutions Day with the Dean of Students Office in Atrium I:

- Constitution Day table 10:00am-1:00pm
- Cake and Coffee 12:00-1:00pm

And the Alfred R. Neumann Library:

- a LibGuide on the website with resources, links to other sites, and embedded videos about the Constitution <http://libguides.uhcl.edu/constitution>
- a DVD broadcast about the Constitution over the in-building TV system "The Constitution and Foundations of Government"
- Bill of Rights display in the Library

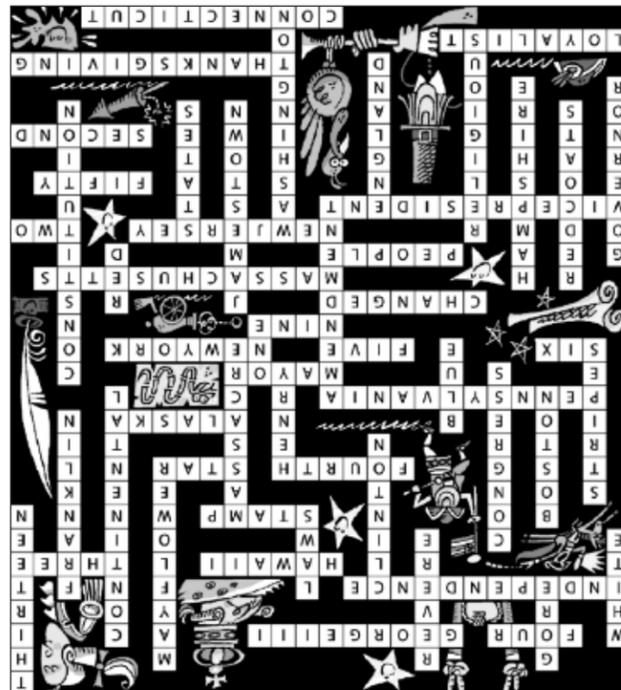


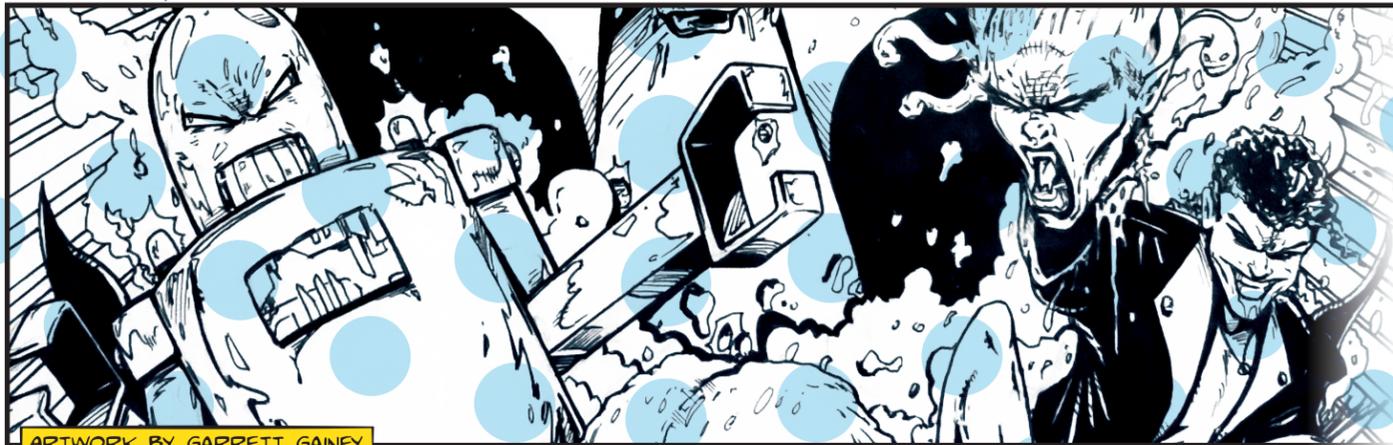
ACROSS

- The United States president is elected for ____ years.
- King of England during the American Revolution.
- The Declaration of ____ was a proclamation of the former American colonies that they were now and henceforth free states.
- The 50th state added to our Union was ____.
- How many branches are there in the government of the United States?
- This British act levied an internal tax on various documents and articles in the American colonies.
- The date of Independence Day is July ____.
- There is one ____ for each state in the Union on the United States flag.
- The 49th state added to our Union was ____.
- One of the 13 original colonies.
- What is the head executive of a city government called?
- Article ____ states that the Constitution shall be the supreme law of the land.
- Article ____ sets forth the ways to amend the Constitution.
- One of the 13 original colonies (two words).
- How many Supreme Court justices are there?
- The Constitution of the United States can be ____.
- One of the 13 original colonies.
- The ____ of the United States elect Congress.
- One of the 13 original colonies (two words).

- How many full terms can the president of the United States serve?
 - The ____ (2 words) becomes president of the United States if the president should die.
 - How many stars are there on the United States flag?
 - The ____ Continental Congress called for peace, made preparations for war, and declared independence.
 - What holiday was celebrated for the first time by the American colonists?
 - Colonist who remained loyal to the King of England during the American Revolution; a Tory.
 - One of the 13 original colonies.
- DOWN**
- How many stripes are there on the United States flag?
 - Al ____; President Bill Clinton's vice president.
 - A Boston patriot, Paul ____ rode to warn Lexington and Concord that the British were marching their way.
 - Pilgrim agreement (compact) before landing at Plymouth to pass and obey laws for the good of the colony.
 - The stars on the United States flag are ____.
 - George Washington was Commander-in-Chief of the ____ Army.
 - Bill ____; The president following George Bush.
 - It is the duty of Congress to make ____.
 - Benjamin ____ was a statesman who helped arrange a military alliance with France and headed the American peace talks.
 - The Senate and the House of Representatives is what we call ____.

- The destruction of a cargo of tea by colonists who were opposed to the tea tax is known as the ____ Tea Party.
- The name given to the clash between British soldiers and Bostonians was the "Boston ____" - several colonists were killed.
- The ____ on the United States flag represent the original 13 states.
- Patrick ____ was a Virginia patriot whose eloquent speeches helped to stir up resistance to Britain.
- The colors of the United States flag are red, white, and ____.
- A change to the United States Constitution is called an ____.
- Article ____ of the Constitution tells how the Legislative Branch of government should work.
- The ____ is the supreme law of the United States.
- Established in 1607, this colony became the first permanent English colony in America.
- The stripes on the United States flag are ____ and white.
- Name given to the British soldiers by the people of Boston.
- One of the 13 original colonies (New ____).
- What is the head executive of a state government called?
- The Pilgrims came to America for ____ freedom.
- The first president of the United States was George ____.
- There are 50 ____ in the Union.
- On Independence Day we celebrate independence from ____.





ARTWORK BY GARRETT GAINEY



COMIC CREATORS CONVENE ON CAMPUS

SAM SAVELL
THE SIGNAL

Leaping off the pages into real life, comic book professionals will assemble Sept. 21 to present “comiCulture: From Creation to Consumption.”

The free symposium will bring artists and writers from Houston-based comics such as Mental Diversions Studios and After Twilight to UHCL. Attendees will have the chance to catch a screening of James O’Barr’s “The Crow,” observe panels on art and writing, and even show their own artwork to the pros for critique.

Sandria Hu, professor of art, envisioned comiCulture. Hu is excited about comic books, having fond memories of herself and her siblings enjoying them when they were younger.

“Everyone reads comic books at some point,” Hu exclaimed.

In the spring of 2012, Garrett Gainey enrolled as a student in Hu’s drawing class. Hu was intrigued when Gainey explained that at the time he worked as a comic book illustrator for Terry Wagner, the owner of Mental Diversions Studio in League City, whom she needed to realize her vision of a comic arts event.

“All of a sudden, she started asking me for more, and Terry is big with a bunch of the artists in Austin and Dallas, and we got everyone together,” Gainey explained.

Hu’s confidence in starting comiCulture was solidified after a visit to Comicpalooza, a large annual comic convention in Houston. Hu was able to see how the convention operates, as well as Gainey’s work.

“After that I decided we could do a comic exhibition and panel discussion at UHCL,” Hu said.

Terry Wagner became the volunteer event coordinator for comiCulture. During the next

year, he worked with Hu, Gainey, Stuart Larson, associate professor of graphic design, Jeff Bowen, UHCL Art Gallery coordinator of audience development, and Karen Fiscus, gallery assistant. A network of students and faculty also helped form the comiCulture team, which Hu credits for the organization, grants, publicity and

Two panels will be held: one for art and one for writing. The panels will discuss how aspiring artists can improve themselves artistically and develop creative ideas.

The art panel will include speakers like James O’Barr, the creator of “The Crow.” The topic for discussion is finding what kind

Watson believes a well-built story helped “After Twilight” reach success across mediums and wishes to share this advice with future authors.

A portfolio review, led by Wagner and O’Barr, will let participants present their artwork for critique from the pros. This will provide attendees the opportunity to receive feedback if their illustrations, writings, paintings and related media have a place in today’s comic industry.

Vendor tables for local comic studios and artists, a reading room for comic books, a spot for gaming and a showcase of cosplayers will also be featured at comiCulture.

A screening of O’Barr’s film, “The Crow,” will take place and be followed by a Q&A session led by O’Barr as part of UHCL’s Film and Speaker Series. The film will officially kick off comiCulture on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.

The writing panel on Sept. 21 will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the art panel at 11:30 a.m. The portfolio review will close the day, starting at 2 p.m. and ending comiCulture at 4 p.m.

Be sure to check out the comiCulture exhibits on campus such as *The Art of Sequential Storytelling*, in the UHCL Art Gallery, and the *UHCL Student Illustration Exhibition* on the second floor of the Bayou Building in Atrium I. Both exhibits are currently on display through Oct. 17.

“MAN IN RAIN” BY JAMES O’BARR



SEPTEMBER 2012

functional details of the symposium.

Wagner hopes the event will expand attendees’ interest to go beyond just the comic books.

“There are creative people in comics who are overlooked,” Wagner said.

The comic industry has many roles in addition to graphic artists. It also includes storywriters, printers and others involved in the publication process.

of talent is needed to break into the comic industry.

“A graphic artist has to know how to draw everything,” Wagner stated regarding what an illustrator needs to be strong in the comic industry. “People, scenery, perspective. If something isn’t right, it could blow the entire picture out of the water.”

The writing panel will feature guests such as Gary Watson, author of “After Twilight.” Creating characters and story development will be the highlights of this panel.

“If you start with a good, solid story you’ll find success,” Watson said.

MORE ONLINE

Scan the QR code below to visit comiCulture’s website, www.comiCulture.org.



“AFTER TWILIGHT” BY DOUGLAS BROWN



PHOTO BY RACHAEL DEVINNEY

EVENT SCHEDULE

SPECIAL SCREENING OF “THE CROW”
Sept. 20, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$3.75 or FREE with Student ID

WRITING PANEL
Sept. 21, 10 – 11 a.m.
Garden Room

ART PANEL
Sept. 21, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Garden Room

PORTFOLIO REVIEW
Sept. 21, 2 – 4 p.m.
Garden Room

THE ART OF SEQUENTIAL STORYTELLING
Through Oct. 17, 2013
UHCL Art Gallery

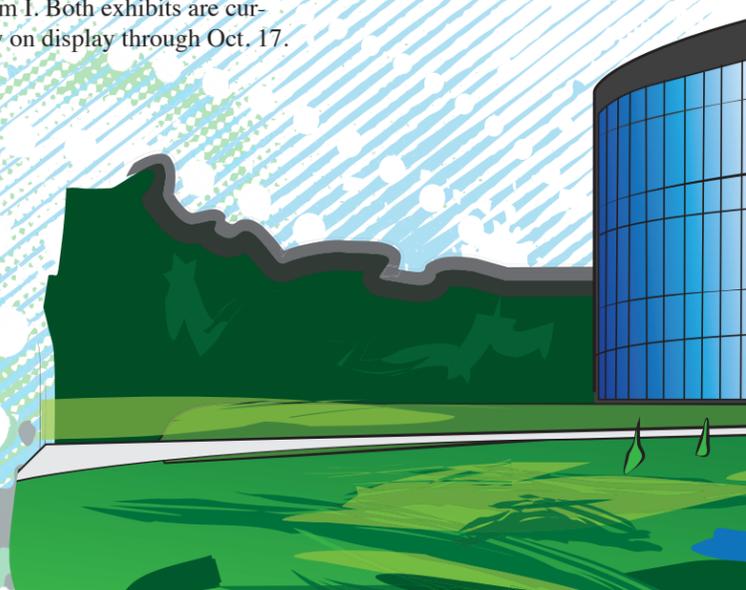
UHCL STUDENT ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION
Through Oct. 17, 2013
Bayou Building Atrium I, Level 2

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ARTWORK BY GARRETT GAINEY

TEXAS-BASED ARTISTS ILLUSTRATE TALENT ON CAMPUS

HEATHER ALFORD
THE SIGNAL

The first comiCulture symposium at University of Houston-Clear Lake will begin Sept. 21. To complement the event, UHCL is putting on not one, but, two art exhibits through Oct. 17 to show off the local talent at both student and professional levels.

The *Art of Sequential Storytelling* in the UHCL Art Gallery provides visitors a chance to see up-close the works of many professional comic book artists working in Texas.

Jeff Bowen, coordinator of audience development at the Art Gallery, was onboard for a comic book gallery from the start to complement comiCulture.

“By having the professional artists in the gallery, the exhibition becomes somewhat didactic, giving insight to the technical processes of the comics industry,” Bowen said.

To make the *The Art of Sequential Storytelling* exhibition possible, Bowen worked closely with Terry Wagner, comiCulture team leader and founder of Mental Diversion Studios, a comic book studio based in Houston. Wagner expressed excitement for curating the exhibit because he enjoys seeing the level of talent the school and local community has to offer.

“What I hope to gain is to see someone here down the road in 15 years be successful in this career,” Wagner said.

Among those being featured is Garrett Gainey, artist for Mental Diversion Studios and fine arts

major at UHCL. He is the only student being featured in the professional exhibit.

Gainey said “I am very excited about [the exhibit],” “Just coming to see local people...is cool.”

Gainey believes that the reason comic books are still so popular is due to the proactive stance many in the comic book industry take. By posting a couple of pages or issues online for free, it entices fans to go to stores to buy the printed copy or in some cases, to add to an existing collection.

However, *The Art of Sequential Storytelling* is not the only exhibit going on through Oct. 17. While one features only professionals in the comic book industry, the *UHCL Student Illustration Exhibition*, located on the second floor of the Bayou Building in front of the library, gives visitors a chance to see other works in illustration.

The chance to do both a professional exhibit and the student exhibit thrilled Bowen.

“I couldn’t ignore the extreme talent of UHCL graphic students,” he said. “By getting both students and the [professionals] involved...there will undoubtedly be opportunity for collaboration, sharing of creative ideas, and a wider reach of audience members.”

Bowen and Stuart Larson, associate professor of graphic design and curator of the student exhibit, wanted to show illustration in its various forms as both an homage to graphic novels and as a way to showcase

the diversity and creativity of the students on campus.

“The comic art form has become an innovative practice of communication,” said Larson in the curator’s statement of the student art exhibit. “The artworks in the *UHCL Student Illustration Exhibition* are from students who are dedicated to showing the world what comics are capable of.”

Recent graduate Kalan Lyra, Digital Media Studies major, is one participant in the student art exhibit. His art is a work on juxtaposition, he explained. The pages shown are part of his master’s project in the Digital Media Studies program.

“I haven’t seen [my work] in print yet,” he said.

Lyra was in his last semester when talks of comiCulture first started. He said he discussed his interest in the event with Larson, who allowed him to submit part of his work and was accepted.

“I’m excited to be a part of it,” Lyra said. “Being part of the creative collective is great.”

The exhibits have been garnering interest in graphic novels and

illustrations among visitors. Art enthusiast and accounting major Greg Gigout was happy to learn of the exhibits.

“I believe art is a valuable piece of anyone’s cultural experience,” Gigout said. “Everyone has some type of art they will appreciate, whether that is the highly enjoyable drawings of a comic book, or the set-in-motion pieces that make up an anime.”

Bowen shares that sentiment and believes starting the year off with more contemporary and mainstream art with an involved story will bring in a larger audience for the Art Gallery year-round.

“I am hopeful that by starting off with a graphics exhibition, people will be more comfortable coming into the gallery throughout the year and experience great art in all forms of media,” Bowen said.

Visit comiculture.org for more information on the symposium and uhcl.edu/artgallery for more information about exhibits throughout the year.

PANELISTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Y WATSON
Twilight
Writer & Publisher | DAVID DOUB
Dusk Comics
Writer |
| RY PARR
Buff Studio
Artist | MAURICE TERRY JR.
Bad Cog Studio
Illustrator |
| CE SMALL
Rhythm
Writer | LEROY BROWN
Icecubes
Creator & Artist |
| ES MARTIN
Literati Press
Writer | TERRY WAGNER
MENTAL DIVERSIONS
Publisher |
| JAMES O’BARR
The Crow
Writer | |

ARTIST GARRETT GAINEY SKETCHES!



PHOTO BY RACHAEL DEVINNEY

LINE: continued from page 1

State John Kerry says that hair and blood samples collected by first responders in East Damascus have reported positive for Sarin gas. President Bashar al-Assad of Syria has admitted that Syria possesses stockpiles of Sarin gas.

Critics of the U.S., including Russia and China, are asking how the evidence was collected. They want to know how the chain of custody of the evidence was handled and which laboratories tested the samples. For many, the false claims about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq have called U.S. credibility into question.

The U.N. Security Council will not approve U.S. military intervention in Syria while its independent investigation is ongoing. Russia and China oppose any U.S. military action in Syria, and China has used its veto power on the U.N. Security Council twice to support the Assad regime. Russia has also repeatedly blocked U.N. resolutions targeting the regime. Without Security Council approval, intervention in Syria would be unlawful under the U.N. Charter.

The U.S. has precedents for military action without U.N. approval. The U.S. invasion of Iraq was not approved by the U.N. The U.S. justified the invasion by claiming it needed to invade Iraq for self-defense against the weapons of mass destruction that Iraq possessed. The weapons were never found.

The U.S. is claiming self-defense again as partial justification for a strike against Syria because their stockpiles of chemical weapons could be used against the U.S. in the future. Around the world, eight nations have stockpiles of chemical weapons. The U.S. is one of them. The other countries that have stockpiles are India, Iraq, Japan, Russia, Libya, North Korea and Syria. In cases of crimes against humanity, which include chemical attacks against civilians, the U.S. could act under the Responsibility to Protect initiative, which has been approved by U.N. member states.

Responsibility to Protect is an international norm and not a law. It states that nations can intervene in the affairs of other nations in cases of crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and genocide. Obama has not cited the Responsibility to Protect initiative as justification for U.S. intervention in Syria.

Obama has asked for congressional approval to intervene in Syria, but has also stated publicly that he does not need it in order to order a military attack. Under the U.S. Constitution the president is the commander in chief, but only Congress can declare war. However, there are precedents for U.S. presidents to act without congressional approval.

In the past three decades, U.S. presi-

dents have ordered U.S. armed forces into action in cases where U.S. lives were in danger and on missions of rescue and goodwill. U.S. presidents have sent troops to Panama, Somalia, and Bosnia, among other countries, without congressional approval.

Initially the president called for limited punitive strikes against government targets in Syria. These targets do not include chemical weapon stockpiles. Obama has since said any attack would be part of a broader strategy to support rebel forces and encourage the Syrian people to free themselves from Assad's dictatorship.

Obama says the U.S. will send a message to the world that the use of chemical weapons is unacceptable by striking Syria. Critics counter that air strikes will have little effect on the course of the civil war in Syria, and could unintentionally kill more innocent civilians and garner public support for Assad's regime.

Currently more than two million Syrians have fled the country and are now refugees.

"I am not in a position to speculate about the impact of military strikes, just to say we are prepared in case there are even more people fleeing across borders as a result," said Melissa Fleming, Head of Communications with the U.N. Refugee Agency in Geneva.

In the past, U.S. attitudes about chemical weapons have not always been outrage. Articles published in the The Washington Post discuss how during the 1980s Iraq-Iran war, the U.S. sold materials to Iraq that they then used to produce chemical weapons launched against Iran, and Kurdish civilians in 1988. The U.S. did not intervene when its former ally used chemical weapons against its own people, but did use the chemical attacks as justification for the war in Iraq decades later.

During the Vietnam War, U.S. forces used the chemical weapon Agent Orange, a toxic chemical herbicide. Agent Orange not only killed plants, it also killed millions of people and animals. Approximately 400,000 children in Vietnam were born with birth defects due to exposure to Agent Orange. U.S. soldiers were exposed to Agent Orange as well. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs has received disability claims from approximately 40,000 soldiers exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

MORE ONLINE
Scan the QR code view the video and slideshow of the No War with Syria protest rally.



MARCH: continued from page 1



KIMBERLY WARREN:THE SIGNAL

Visitors to Washington D.C. gather in front of the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial.

They were not given the right to vote until 1965, when the Voting Rights Act was established.

Racial discrimination was more prevalent and dangerous in the southern states where Emmett Till, a 14-year-old black boy from Chicago, was brutally murdered after speaking to a married white woman.

That was 1955, the same year Rosa Parks' refusal to sit in back of the bus lead to an arrest that sparked anger among blacks in Alabama. The resulting bus boycott in Montgomery was only one of the many non-violent protests, including boycotts of segregated businesses and lunch counter sit-ins, leading up to the historical March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Ella Mitchell, 95, recalls what it was like as a black child growing up in 1920s Ohio, where discrimination was less intense.

"The schools that I was going to were always mixed," Mitchell said. "We had no such thing as segregation."

Although unsegregated, the black and white students did not interact socially.

"White is white; black is black; they tolerated us," Mitchell said.

Aug. 28, 1963 – March on Washington

The march not only stood for jobs and freedom, but for an end to police brutality and a movement toward integrated schools.

In his now famous "I have a dream" speech, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was meant to end slavery and be the beginning of a new life for blacks. The proclamation should have meant black people no longer had to live a life of bondage.

"But 100 years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free," King said. "The life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chain of discrimination."

King's dream included the end of segregation, where everyone would be treated

equally. His dream was to see the day when people would be judged by who they are instead of the color of their skin.

"We will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" King said.

Aug. 28, 2013, 50 years after the march on Washington

President Barack Obama is currently serving his second term as President of the United States. In his speech at the 50th anniversary celebration of the March on Washington, Obama talked about the changes that occurred due to the demonstration 50 years ago.

"Those who argued little has changed since the 1960s dishonored the courage and sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the civil rights struggle," Obama said. "Because they kept marching, America changed. And because they kept marching, eventually the White House changed."

Much of King's dream has been realized, but William Hoston, associate professor of Political Science, believes unemployment among blacks is a major setback on the economy.

"We still have a high level of unemployment among the black community, which ranges between 12 and 13 percent and, specifically, among black males; it ranges as high as 20 percent in some major metropolitan areas," Hoston said. "The mission was to uplift the black community economically and really propel us in a median where we understood that jobs, being employed and promoted would really speak volumes in a greater construct and we'll be able to be more progressive individuals. We have to restore the commitment of African Americans to be progressive as a whole."

ALUMNUS: continued from page 1

Group in Conn., Mastracchio came to Houston to work for Rockwell Shuttle Operations Company at NASA in 1987.

It was during this time that Mastracchio came to UHCL to continue his education by pursuing a Master of Science degree in physical science.

"I started at UHCL right after I moved to Houston and began an engineering job at JSC," Mastracchio said. "It was tough to go to school at night and work all day, but it was worth the effort."

In 1990, Mastracchio was hired to work directly for NASA as an engineer in the Flight Crew Operations Directorate.

Mastracchio graduated from UHCL in 1991.

In 1993, Mastracchio became an ascent/entry guidance and procedures officer for NASA. He performed this job until 1996 when he was accepted as an astronaut candidate.

After being accepted, Mastracchio still had two years of training before being recognized as an official astronaut.

Mastracchio is not the first UHCL alumnus to achieve great things at NASA and in the wider community.

"Because of UHCL's unique location in NASA Johnson Space Center's backyard, we have had the pleasure of several astronaut alumni who have traveled into space," said UHCL President William Staples.

UHCL has educated astronauts such as Guion Bluford, Gregory Chamitoff, Michael Fincke, Michael Fossum, Gregory Harbaugh, Bruce McCandless II and Story Musgrave.

"Rick is one of 10 astronaut alumni, and we take great pride in their accomplishments as well as the achievements of all of our 57,000 alumni," said Mindi Funderburg, senior coordinator

of outreach and communications of UHCL's Office of Alumni and Community Relations.

Since becoming an astronaut, Mastracchio has flown three missions for NASA aboard the space shuttle.

In 2000, Mastracchio served as mission specialist on the STS-106 mission. He performed tasks such as ascent/entry engineer and primary operator of the robotic arm.

Mastracchio returned to space in 2007 on the STS-118 mission where he again acted as ascent/entry engineer and mission specialist. It was this mission where Mastracchio performed his first spacewalk, participating in three out of four extravehicular activities (EVAs).

In 2010, Mastracchio flew on the STS-131 mission as mission specialist. Mastracchio participated in all three mission EVAs, putting him at a total time of 38.5

hours of EVA for his career.

In November, Mastracchio will once again visit the International Space Station; however, for Expedition 38, he will launch in the Soyuz spacecraft and serve as flight engineer. He will return to Earth on Expedition 39.

The work done on Expedition 38 will potentially prove to be beneficial for both NASA's future goals as well as human life on Earth.

"Mr. Mastracchio will be spending his time on ISS doing a broad range of research including research into how materials burn in microgravity which has application back on Earth for combustion processes and how to make them more efficient," said Marybeth Edeen, deputy manager of the Research Integration Office of NASA's International Space Station Program. "Research will be done on protein growth which is applicable to developing new

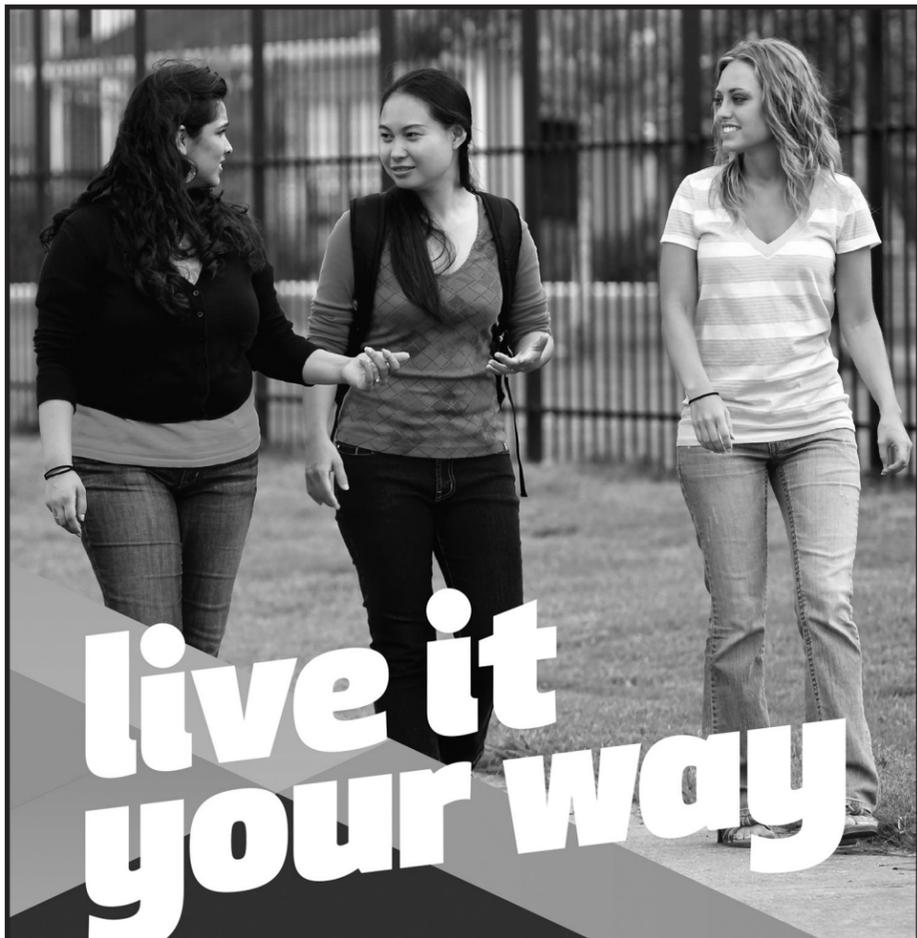
drugs. Rick will be a subject himself for the various human research investigations that are done to understand how the human body adapts to microgravity which is critical for exploration beyond low-Earth orbit."

Staples points out that many UHCL alumni have gone on to do many great things.

"I would say that, like astronaut Rick, our students should continue to soar and strive for success in all that they do," Staples said.

When asked what advice he could offer to current students beginning the new year at UHCL, Mastracchio offered his wisdom.

"The best advice I can give is to study something you enjoy and work hard at it," Mastracchio said. "The future benefits will be well worth it."



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Look Outside To Grow Inside And Position Yourself For Future Success

James Robert Lay
Tuesday, September 17
Time: 5pm – 7pm
Location: SSCB 3310

Leading Across and Through Diversity
When Cultural Competency is Not Enough

Dr. Stephen M. Cherry
Monday, September 23
Time: 5pm - 7pm
Location: SCB 3310

Leadership and Culture
When is a Leader a Leader?

Dr. Scott McIntyre
Friday, September 27
Time: 10am - 12pm
Location: SSCB 2311



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Any person needing an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this program should contact the Office of Student Life at 281-283-2560 at least one week prior to the event to arrange for accommodation.

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Professor Seeks Change Through Documentary

SUZETTE ORTIZ
THE SIGNAL

Being a good professor is not just about teaching the material, but the quality with which it is taught. It is about going that extra mile to support everything you expose your students to so that they understand the material better.

This is not as simple as it sounds; educators need to have a passion for what they do to make them strive to be the best at it. Having a passion for teaching is certainly true for William Hoston, associate professor of political science. Hoston is also this year's University of Houston-Clear Lake Piper Award nomination winner, which recognizes excellence in teaching.

Hoston started out as a research assistant at Florida State University and was later offered the opportunity to teach. He fell in love with teaching, and after being an educator at UHCL for the past five years, there is still nothing that brings him more joy

than to see his students learn and succeed.

"Hoston is extremely student centered," said Samuel Gladden, associate dean of the School of Human Sciences and Humanities. "He maintains strong connections among teaching, research and service."

Hoston is always on the lookout for new ways to reinvent his teaching philosophy. He has determined to make his lectures go above and beyond a class period; he is determined to see change in the world.

Hoston, more than wanting his students to understand the material, wants his students to be able to apply the things learned in the classroom to real-life situations. He believes the only way to be able to do this is by showing students real-life examples, not just by reading directly from a book.



PROFESSOR WILLIAM HOSTON

Hoston has always created visual aids to go along with his lectures. However, after writing his upcoming book "Black Dot in a White World," he decided to create something different, some-

thing that "...will change the paradigm of academic teaching," Hoston said.

He developed "Black Dot in a White World: Critical Discourse among Black Males in the Obama Era," a documentary "[where] I ultimately want to be able to define what it means to be a black male in the 21st century," Hoston said.

The documentary expands the discussion of the social, political and economic plight of black males in the Obama era and the way these will continue to change even after Obama's term is complete. The documentary lasts approximately 42 minutes, allowing for professors to show it to students during one class period.

Although Hoston has received both positive and negative feedback in regard to his creation, he

is not letting the negative feedback stop him. He is determined to make a change and has decided to market his documentary as much as possible.

The UHCL campus will showcase his documentary at a Film and Speaker Series event Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Hoston himself will be there to further explain the film and answer any questions the audience may have. The documentary is now available online for viewers who are not able to attend the screening at www.vimeo.com/williamhoston.

Hoston said he is proud to see his work be appreciated by the school and by his students, because "this allows [him] to see the impact [he has] had in the life of his students from all different backgrounds."

"Dr. Hoston's work shows the world the ground-breaking thinking that is happening on this campus, and it shows people this is a campus where great ideas are born," Gladden said.

A Semester of Cinema

The Film and Speaker Series Kicks off its Fall Season

RANDI NULL
THE SIGNAL

"Come closer," coaxes magician Jaime Salinas, mimicking the movie his audience finished moments before. "I want you all to be able to see."

Salinas's sleight-of-hand act was paired with the recent box office hit "Now You See Me" Saturday, Sept. 7, to kick off the fall semester for UHCL's Film and Speaker Series.

The series, which started more than a decade ago as a student organization, has been a university Cultural Arts program sponsored by the Student Life Office since 2007. While "Now You See Me" was shown purely for entertainment, most of the series' films are a bit more serious.

"Most of our films touch on relevant social issues that deal with what's going on today," said the Film and Speaker Series' film curator Sonia Hernandez. "Usually we have a speaker that is knowledgeable in the issues that were raised in the film and he or she will have a dialogue with the audience after [the film]."

The program's reputation for the quality of its speakers has kept audience members returning time and again for what they always find to be a unique experience.

"Before we had a director here for the movie 'The Girl,'" said Kevin Kolstad, computer engineering major. "He came here and gave us a private screening. It was neat to talk to the director who actually made the movie."

Many agree, however, the movie selection is the biggest draw.

"I used to watch a lot of foreign films from the video store," said sociology major Jessyka Reynoso. "I can't do that anymore, so I come here to watch movies."

Kolstad enjoys the fact that the film series often shows movies he had never heard of before.

"It turns out pretty good almost 99 percent of the time," Kolstad said.

The program is not just about the films or the speakers, though; it is about bringing the community together over a common interest, explained Hernandez.

"We partner with other groups and departments and the university to help them get their message out," Hernandez said. "We partner with student organizations that

want to find a way to draw people in."

One such partnership, with the upcoming comiCulture, helps to bring the series' next film, "The Crow," to campus.

"The Crow" is based off a graphic novel that follows the life of Eric Draven as he attempts to avenge the death of his fiancé. The feature, which is to be shown during the comiCulture event Sept. 20, will be followed by a question and answer session with the author of the comic series, James O'Barr.

Later in the semester the series will also feature the modern adaptation of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," the whistleblower film "Margin Call," and a special showing of "Black Dot in a White World: Critical Discourse among Black Males in the Obama Era," which was written and produced by university associate professor of political science William Hoston.

Some film screenings will be followed by a reception with food and drinks for the audience, often with a chance to mingle with the speakers while discussing the event with peers.

More information on the upcoming schedule can be found at www.uhcl.edu/movies. Admission is free for students with a UHCL ID and \$3.75 for the community. Season tickets are available for \$25 and are good for entry into 12 films.

At least once per semester the program features a family-oriented film; for these showings families are admitted for free with one student ID.

NEXT FILM IN SERIES:

SEPT. 20, 2013, 7 P.M.
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