



Zombies invade  
The Signal, Pg. 4

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Use your smartphone to scan the QR code below to check out what's new on The Signal Online this week.



## UHCL student organizations striving to 'Save A Child'

Student organizations are joining together to provide aid for Somali refugees. Go online to read Jessica Casarez' article about the drought and famine crises in Somalia and what UHCL students are trying to do to help.



JADEWISE:THE SIGNAL

## Demanding a voice for the silent majority

**Ashley Smith**  
The Signal

For more than a month, people of different ages, genders and backgrounds have gathered at meeting points across the country to protest and rise against what they perceive as social and economic injustices. They call themselves the "99 percent."

The basis of this movement is to give a voice to the "99

percent" – those individuals who are not extremely wealthy – who they feel are being ignored, because the top 1 percent of the country are dictating policies and legislation through lobbying efforts.

What began in New York with Occupy Wall Street has spread to more than 1,500 cities, including Houston, Austin and Dallas.

Occupy Houston began in early October, with its first general assembly Oct. 6 in Hermann Square Plaza. Since then participants have occupied Eleanor Tinsley Park during the Bayou City Arts Festival and protested Energy Day.

"We wanted to educate the festival-goers that there are

SEE OCCUPY, PAGE 6

## New law requires meningitis vaccination

**Valerie Russell**  
The Signal

Texas college students who do not receive the meningococcal (bacterial meningitis) vaccine at least 10 days prior to the first day of the spring 2012 semester, Jan. 17, will not be able to attend class.

Meningococcal disease prevention among college students has been declared a law by Texas lawmakers.

Act S.B. No. 1107, also known as the Jamie Schanbaum and Nicolis Williams Act, was passed by the Texas Legislature May 6. Schanbaum is a survivor of meningococcal septicemia since 2008, and Williams fell victim to bacterial meningitis in 2011. Schanbaum and Williams were both attending Texas colleges at the time they contracted the disease.

The state law requires Texas college students to get the meningitis vaccine (MCV4). It applies to new students or returning students who have missed a long semester under the age of 30. The law will be implemented at UHCL for the spring 2012 semester.

"This law has the potential to save lives," said Texas State Representative Carol Alvarado, District 145. "The law as previously enacted only required students living in on-campus housing to be vaccinated; however, that left a gap of students who did not live in on-campus housing but could still be exposed to the disease.

"The law was extended to students living off campus because they were just as susceptible to the disease as students living in on-campus housing. It is unfortunate that students, such as Nicolis Williams from Texas A&M, could have been alive today if they would have received the vaccination. We wanted to make sure that students who were susceptible to the disease would now be covered, and another life would not be lost to

SEE MENINGITIS, PAGE 6

## National Coming Out Day celebrates diversity

**Rachel Miranda**  
The Signal

National Coming Out Day (NCOD), an internationally recognized civil awareness day, advocates government and public awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights and encourages people to "come out of the closet" and celebrate LGBT citizens.

For NCOD, Unity Club set up a rainbow balloon display on campus in Atrium I, in which

people could write messages of love and support on colored pieces of construction paper that could then be tied to the balloons. Unity Club also had a closet door, provided by Julie Smith, coordinator of women's and LGBT services for UHCL, where people could write messages as well as "come out of the closet" in pictures.

"Unity Club focuses on offering resources to LGBT individuals, as well as straight allies, to

promote awareness of LGBT families living honest and open lives," said Valerie Siman, Unity Club president. "We wanted to make the day about showing support for the students on campus who are part of the LGBT or straight ally communities, as well as making them aware there are people on campus who will support them and work hard to make our campus a safe and accepting

SEE NCOD, PAGE 6



PADMASHREE RAO:THE SIGNAL

Unity Club member Kendra Riney writes a message at NCOD.

## Make every day National Coming Out Day

We avoid the truth trapped inside ourselves, wondering if others know our secret. It's time to let go and come out of the darkness to recognize ourselves. We are the same, different as we are.

In the early 20th century, coming out meant entering into the subcultures created by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups and becoming a part of those communities, similar to a debutante's presentation to society.

Around the time of the Stonewall Riots in 1969, which took place in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City, coming out took on a new meaning, associated with not just identifying oneself to one specific community, but also identifying to those outside of that community so that they might gain awareness as well.

Coming out, in one sense, means identifying how you feel about your sexual orientation, who you are attracted to and what gender identity you have taken on, whether or not it is the one assigned to you at birth.

Coming out means exposing a true, deep part of yourself, a part which cannot be changed or ignored, a part which has not just developed all of a sudden, but has grown and matured over the years. It does not form the whole basis of a person's character, for

### EDITORIAL

a person has many different aspects and identities, and it is not just based on surroundings and what other people have to think, feel or say, but it is an important part.

The recognition of this identity or orientation can be a long, complex process, a gradual awareness of what makes someone unique, but it can also be a difficult process, even without the harassment one might receive from others.

Coming out has taken on even more significance in recent years. Though great strides have been made in LGBT rights with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the Matthew Shepherd Act providing federal assistance to prosecute physical hate crimes, and the legalization of same-sex marriages and civil unions in some states, this does not cover the wide range of social intolerance and injustices that LGBT people have suffered and continue to suffer.

In a 2009 survey published in the 2010 Annual Review of Public Health, of more than 7,000 LGBT students aged 13-21 – the time that most people gain awareness of who they are and what relationships they wish to form – 80 percent of the students stated they had been verbally

harassed, 40 percent had been physically harassed, 60 percent felt unsafe and 20 percent had been physically assaulted at school.

The lack of security at what should be a guaranteed safe place, where people should be met with empathy and comfort, can cause physical and psychological damage. A 2004 Minnesota Student Survey showed that out of 2,255 LGBT students, 37.4 percent had attempted suicide. Because of this, we have lost dozens of youths like Asher Brown, Billy Lucas, Seth Walsh, Justin Aaberg, Raymond Chase and Tyler Clementi. We have lost many more as the victims of violent hate crimes. Some have been tormented simply because they seem to be LGBT, even when they are not.

Because of the violence and deaths, organizations like The Trevor Project, It Gets Better Project, Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and Human Rights Campaign have created supportive networks for the LGBT community to receive help in dealing with their problems and words of advice. But is it enough?

It is time to be true to ourselves and to others. While LGBT persons are coming out, so should we all, LGBT and non-LGBT alike. Silence against discrimination communicates

### WANTNEEDDO

by KALAN LYRA



acceptance of it, and we all are diminished anytime someone is demeaned. It is time to stop the silence and start speaking out against those who perpetuate hate, violence and rigid roles. Separating persons into groups perpetuates stereotypes and discrimination, and when there are differences, we need to create bridges toward one another to understand those differences, regardless of what they are.

In the Ally Pledge for Ally Week created by GLSEN, which took place nationwide and on campus Oct. 17-21, one does not slur or use offensive language about LGBT people but intervene whenever possible to stop harassment and support anti-bullying endeavors. The rest of society

can learn a lot from LGBT-ally communities about self-pride, acceptance and support.

National Coming Out Day and Ally Week should be an inspiration for everyone to accept and offer support and encouragement to anyone, regardless of gender, race, social class, religious belief, etc. Everyone should embrace who they are and come out to the world as that person.

We need to stand up and support our friends, family and neighbors and show who we truly are by our words and our actions. Together, we can be far stronger than we ever were apart. Every day, come out as yourself and every week, be an ally to everyone.

## Rated-R for the revolution against remakes

Daniel Agee  
The Signal

It seems that the only thing you can see at a movie theater this year are remakes, reboots, sequels or prequels.

In fact, IMDB.com has just released an article that there are nearly 100 movies being released over the next two years consisting of either a franchise reboot, remake of a classic or just adding more sequels to an existing franchise.

Has Hollywood lost all creativity? Where is the originality? I want to see a movie where I can't predict what happens next. Hollywood directors have become flat out lazy and lack the ambition to create something new.

There is a reason why it is hard to remake a classic. It's called a classic because it has separated itself from all other films at that time. So, what does that leave the audience of 2011 with?

Let's go ahead and crash right into these examples of how bad this year's movies are with "Fast Five." "Fast Five" is the fifth installment of the "Fast and The Furious" franchise. How many times can they tell this story? With the combination of bad acting from Paul Walker and Vin Diesel, Hollywood juiced up the franchise by adding "The Rock" or excuse me, now known by his acting name, "Dwayne Johnson." "Fast Five" opened at more than \$86 million. Come on people, quit giving this franchise money.

Where do I begin with "Transformers 3?" Wait, I mean "Transformers: Dark of the Moon." Michael Bay, who apparently didn't want the movie to be known as "Transformers 3," needs to know



### STAFF COLUMN

changing the title does not improve the movie.

If you have seen the movie, it's basically "Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen," but with a five-minute clip of Neil Armstrong finding a buried Transformer on the moon.

How do you cast Patrick Dempsey as the villain? Dempsey has already stereotyped his image as Dr. McDreamy on ABC's hit show "Grey's Anatomy," to think he could even pull off a bad guy made the movie quite laughable. Bay has branded himself in Hollywood as the guy who uses lots of explosions and no plot development.

I have to give him credit, however, replacing Megan Fox with supermodel Rosie Huntington-Whiteley who quickly made me forget Fox was even in the first two films.

How could they possibly make a "Paranormal Activity 3?" By telling the story from a prequel point of view, from the beginning when the two sisters were young. Basically we will tell the same story for a third time, in a different house, at a different time, and no one will know

the difference. This is ridiculous. The sad part is it will probably open at around \$30 million. Chances are next year they will make "Paranormal Activity 4" in 3D. Because 3D is so cool. It's like the movie is right in your face.

How cool is 3D? There is nothing worse than watching a BAD movie in 3D. I walked out of the movie theater because "Pirates of the Caribbean 4" in 3D was so bad. I thought for sure after walking out that it would be last of the Pirate films. But sure enough, I read an article where Johnny Depp just signed on for Pirates 5 and 6.

It doesn't get any better, folks, with many more prequels, sequels, remakes and reboots to come. I feel sorry for the people who paid to watch "Footloose," "Scream 4," "Fright Night" and "The Hangover 2."

What can we do to change this? Well, first of all, we can stop endorsing these bad movies. If these franchises keep producing profit at the box office then they will never fade away. Second of all, Hollywood directors need to sit back and reexamine the future of films. When will be the next time we can consider a film a classic?

Hollywood needs to produce stories where the audience can get lost with something we have never seen before. Movies are supposed to help people escape from their own reality and forget they are even sitting in a movie theater to begin with. And STOP, please STOP, making SAWS. I've seen all the "SAWS" I can see.

### CORRECTION

SGA President Henry Hodde's full name and title was left out in the Oct. 10, 2011, issue of The Signal article "Budget cuts continue to plague UHCL as attendance rises."

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## ZOMBIE POPULARITY RAISES DEAD, AWARENESS

**Cody Hardin**

The Signal

A dark, dim night falls upon Westheimer Road.

On one of Houston's busiest and cultured strips of pavement, figures slowly creep, passing established hotspots such as Anvil Bar and Agora. Some figures mangled in blood with violent wounds and tattered clothing; some in business suits, lumbering no different than a burnt-out Monday morning warrior.

The figures make their way into the light and, for a moment, Houston becomes Evans City, PA, home of George A. Romero's "Night of the Living Dead." These zombies aren't out for blood or brains; they're out for charity.

The Houston Zombie Walk, held Oct. 22 is the latest to have the undead rise for the needy, with the walk benefitting the Friends For Life organization. Oddly enough, Friends For Life is an organization that founder Amy Lewis considers "a true no-kill animal shelter and rescue organization."

This "Alice in Wonderland" zombie was among one of the many young people in attendance at this year's Kemah Zombie Walk.



CHYNNA DEHOYOS:THE SIGNAL

Originating four years ago in 2007, the walk involves people dressing as zombies and then walking either for charities or for different causes, with some people making personal statements with their costumes.

It's also taken off in those four years.

"The first year I did very little promotion and 100 people showed up, then the second 300," Lewis said. "Last year, for our Third Annual Houston Zombie walk, we gained the support of 900 zombies."

The meteoric rise in popularity of the walks can perhaps be attributed to the renewed interest of zombies in pop culture.

AMC's popular television series "The Walking Dead" recently garnered a 7.3 million viewer rating in its season two premiere. Counting the show's repeat, the number shot up to 11 million viewers in one night. The show also set a basic cable series record of a 3.8 rating among the 18-49 adult demographic.

Spawned by classic films such as Romero's "Night Of The Living Dead" and the popular video game "Left 4 Dead," zombies are seeing a resurgence in popularity, even among the current vampire hype set in motion by the "Twilight" series.

It's even sparked a rejuvenation in musical influences.

Johnny Khaos, guitarist for Houston zombie band The Bus Stops, explained the band's influence by the culture.

"Zombies are kind of a metaphor for us as humans and society," Khaos said. "We started out 'whole' and we decompose over time and we all strive for whatever our

basic needs are."

Khaos cites popular zombie band The Misfits as his inspiration for the concept of his band, as well as Romero.

"Even if they didn't make anymore zombie flicks, we'd still be a zombie band," Khaos said. "We'd just use old Romero films instead of new ones."

The band not only draws on the films for influence on them – the movies also serve as the band's lighting.

"Basically what we do is project the creepos and dead guys over us as we play," Khaos said. "It's a really cool lighting effect."

The zombie walks aren't just reserved to the Houston area, as other zombie walks, though not associated with the Houston event, are popping up in the area, Kemah recently hosted one Oct. 8 when local zombies invaded the Kemah Boardwalk.

Zombies take to the island of Galveston Oct. 27 at 8:30 p.m. for a zombie pub crawl that covers such popular Strand bars as Molly's Old Cellar Bar, 21, Voodoo Lounge as well as others and finally converges back to Molly's for a final zombie party. More details on the event can be found on Molly's Facebook page, and make-up artists will be available before the event for attendee's that need to add a bit more rigor mortis to their corpses'.

Regardless if zombies are invading the traditional mall or marching through asphalt cemeteries for charity, the numbers don't lie, the undead are certainly far from uncool.

## TAKE A STROLL THROUGH HOUSTON'S MOST HORRIFYING HAUNTS



### BOO ON THE BOARDWALK



From Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, the Kemah Boardwalk will host ghosts, goblins, and games. Visitors can experience activities such as the Dungeon of Doom Haunted House, costume contests, pumpkin decorating, music, prizes and more.

Visit [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com) for more info.

### SCREAMWORLD



Voted one of the top 20 haunts in America by Haunted Attraction Magazine, this local terror venue has five frightening attractions, including Maze of Maniacs, Jake's Slaughterhouse and Zombie Graveyard.

Visit [www.screamworld.com](http://www.screamworld.com) for more info.

### MONTROSE CRAWL



Attendees pay no cover or ticket charge and receive drink specials from every bar between Dunlavy & Montrose on Westheimer. Prizes will be awarded for best costume at each stop. This spooky spectacular will take place Oct. 29.

Visit [www.montrosecrawl.com](http://www.montrosecrawl.com) for more info.

### ZOO BOO

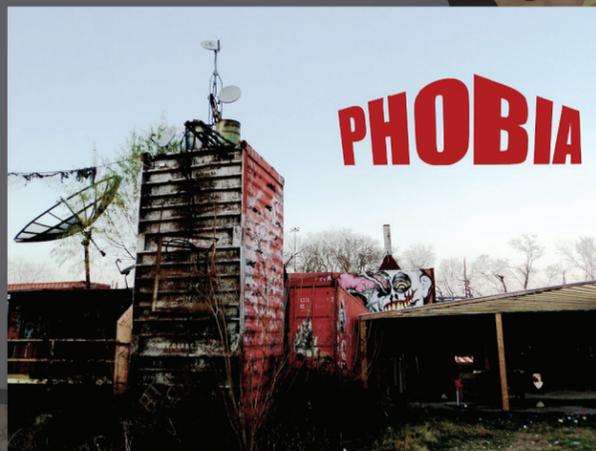


Celebrate Halloween this year with the entire family at the Houston Zoo. Kids are encouraged to attend in costume and can pick their own pumpkin from the Fiesta Mart Pumpkin Patch.

Visit [www.houstonzoo.org](http://www.houstonzoo.org) for more info.



### PHOBIA



Billed as the "most high-tech thrill in Houston," this shocking scene off Highway 290 is larger than 25 acres and promises to send shivers.

Visit [www.darke.com](http://www.darke.com) for more info.

**NCOD:** continued from page 1

place for LGBT individuals.”

Inspired by the 1987 National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Washington D.C., Robert H. Eichberg, a psychologist and founder of “The Advocate Experience,” a workshop to bring awareness to the LGBT community, and Jean O’Leary, a gay and lesbian rights activist, founded NCOD in 1988. Eichberg and O’Leary chose Oct. 11 to be the date of NCOD because it was the anniversary of the national march.

“I believe that people should celebrate National Coming Out Day because it is a day of pride and awareness,” Smith said. “In my opinion, this is a basic human right. We should be able to celebrate our selves and the diversity within our population. This day is designed to allow us all the opportunity to do just that.”

Intercultural & International Student Services (IISS) had also planned to celebrate NCOD by hosting speaker Bryan Hlavinka, an oil and gas engineer and LGBT activist, but he had to cancel because of unforeseen circumstances.

Shortly after Hlavinka graduated from Texas A&M University in 1997, he became active in the gay community and the fight against HIV/AIDS. In 2008 he joined the board for the Center for AIDS in Houston and currently serves as the chairman. He

also helped form the World AIDS Houston Committee and participated in the city of Houston’s Convention and Visitor’s Bureau “MyGayHouston” campaign. Hlavinka took on a new role this year; he was named “Grand Marshal” of the 2011 Houston Pride Parade.

**“THESE ISSUES AREN’T JUST AN LGBT THING, OR A GENDER THING, OR A RACE THING, OR ANY OTHER THING THAT SEPARATES US AS INDIVIDUALS. IT’S A HUMAN THING.”**

– Lindsay Humphrey  
Unity Club Adviser

“Younger members of our community are still susceptible to bullying and there are currently no legal protections in Texas from being fired for simply being gay,” Hlavinka said. “We need a coming out day for the simple reason that it is okay to be gay. It is who we are and hey, you should know this about us. As we come out, slowly these obstacles will diminish. Although these difficulties exist, I am optimistic for the future.”

Along with National Coming Out Day, UHCL celebrated Ally Week Oct. 17-21, a national

awareness week hosted by Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) as part of National Bullying Prevention Month. GLSEN member, Joe Montana, and other youth members created Ally Pledge for Ally Week to empower others to become allies against anti-LGBT language, bullying and harassment.

Unity Club also participated in Ally Week by hosting a film and discussion of “Bullied” – a documentary about LGBT bullying in schools, along with speaker Alex Barsdale, board member of GLSEN Houston and an intern with the Texas Gay-Straight Alliance Network. UHCL staff and faculty members were also encouraged to sign Ally Pledges during the week.

“Events like NCOD and those that take place during Ally Week are vitally important, because we can shine a spotlight on the huge injustices that still exist for members of the LGBTQQI community and the devastating consequences of bullying and prejudice,” said Lindsay Humphrey, publications specialist and one of the Unity Club advisers. “These events also provide the opportunity for us to show that these issues aren’t just an LGBT thing, or a gender thing, or a race thing, or any other thing that separates us as individuals. It’s a human thing.”

**OCCUPY:** continued from page 1

serious threats to our planet, local tax money wasted and a serious corruption chain behind big oil,” said Cassie B., an Occupy Houston participant.

The Occupy Houston movement is still in its beginning stages and states on its website that they are still working out agendas. Each day at 7 p.m. the group gathers in a general assembly at Tranquility Park to work on decision-making processes as well as decide on future events.

The movement known as Occupy Wall Street began in July when the Vancouver, BC-based website Adbusters released a call to occupy Wall Street.

Adbusters was inspired by the events in January 2011, when Egyptians revolted against their government, congregating at Tahrir Square for mostly non-violent civil resistance, resulting in the overthrow of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who eventually stepped down.

Adbuster’s blog post asked readers if they are ready for a Tahrir moment, before laying out a plan to flood into lower Manhattan Sept. 17.

When the date rolled around, a small group of individuals began to occupy what is now known as Liberty Square.

“At first they were ignored,” said Ed Needham, a member of the Occupy Wall Street organization. “Then they were laughed at. Then they were ridiculed. Now, their message of ‘no more’ that ‘the 99 percent is too big to fail’ has sparked a worldwide movement of equality, social and economic justice, and peace.”

The Occupy movements that

**“AT FIRST THEY WERE IGNORED. THEN THEY WERE LAUGHED AT. THEN THEY WERE RIDICULED. NOW THEIR MESSAGE OF ‘NO MORE’ THAT ‘THE 99 PERCENT IS TOO BIG TO FAIL’ HAS SPARKED A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT OF EQUALITY, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE, AND PEACE.”**

– Ed Needham  
Occupy Wall Street

have popped up in cities and towns across the country and world may not operate the same as the Occupy Wall Street movement, but Needham believes they are still one in the same.

“There are hundreds of occupy movement encampments from Butte, Montana to Bucharest, Hungary,” Needham said. “They don’t look like Occupy Wall Street, but they share the same frustrations with the top 1 percent of this country controlling 60 percent of the wealth and controlling the halls of Congress through billions in lobby monies.”

The Center for Responsive Politics, which keeps records of all government spending stated on its website that in 2010, companies, labor unions and other organizations spent \$3.51 billion to lobby Congress and federal agencies.

“On an individual basis, the wealthy may have more influence because they are in charge of large private institutions and have more resources available for political contributions and lobbying, but as a group, the bottom 99 percent have far more votes – and policies are ultimately created by democratically elected federal, state and local governments,” said Stephen Cotten, assistant professor of economics at UHCL.

The movement has also brought criticisms, even on the forum within Occupy Wall Street’s website. Some criticize that the Occupy Wall Street movement is being assisted by those they were once against.

In an article from Mother Jones, labor unions are endorsing the protests, offering manpower and resources and helping stage a major march in New York City’s financial district.

There has also been criticisms against protest methods used and the targets of the protesters, including instances in Boston and New York where individuals protested outside of private residences.

Adbusters is once again reaching out to the American public and the Occupy Wall Street movement, calling for a global march Oct. 29, the day before the G20 Leaders Summit begins in France. The goal is to demand the G20 leaders to immediately impose a 1 percent Robin Hood tax on all financial transactions and currency trades.

**MENINGITIS:** continued from page 1

something that could have been preventable.”

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. People sometimes refer to it as spinal meningitis. Meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Knowing whether meningitis is caused by a virus or bacterium is important because the severity of illness and the treatment differ depending on the cause.

Viral meningitis is generally less severe and clears up without specific treatment. But bacterial meningitis can be quite severe and may result in brain damage, hearing loss, learning disabilities or death.

“First signs or symptoms of meningitis are significant high fever, such as 103-104 degrees, severe headache and stiff neck,” said Susan Leitner Prihoda, R.N., M.S., family nurse practitioner and director of health and disability services. “Individuals experiencing these symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.”

During 2005-2010, 1,000 cases of meningitis were reported annually. Of the individuals infected, 10 to 14 percent died, even when treated early with antibiotics. Of the patients who recover from the bacterial disease, 11 to 19 percent have permanent hearing loss, mental retardation or loss of limbs, notes the Center for Disease Control on its website (<http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis>).

Anyone can contract viral or bacterial meningitis but persons with an increased risk are infants, people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen, military recruits, college freshman who live in dormitories, and teenagers 15-19 years old. The risk derives from individuals living in close quarters.

This is where prevention becomes important for those at higher risk of contracting the disease.

“Bacterial meningitis is contagious,” notes Kim, information representative with the CDC. “The bacteria are spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions (for example, through coughing or kissing). Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as things like the common cold or the flu. Also, the bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air

where a person with meningitis has been.”

“UHCL has not had a case of bacterial meningitis among its faculty, staff or students,” Prihoda said.

New students at UHCL will have to turn in proof of vaccination with their admissions package to the Student Assistance Center to be able to register for classes. Students need to be aware that if they have not provided proof of vaccination, they will not be able to register for spring classes.

The Office of Academic Records is accepting vaccine records of students. Early registration for spring 2012 begins Oct. 31. There is a 10-day waiting period after students turn in their vaccine verification to when they will be allowed to register for classes.

Although countries outside of the U.S may vaccinate for different strains of bacterial meningitis, UHCL will accept these vaccination records.

“UHCL will accept international vaccination records for international students as long as it is readable,” Prihoda said.

Students can get the meningitis vaccine on campus at Health and Disabilities Services SSB 1301, for \$135 (no appointment needed). Krogers grocery store offers the vaccine at \$150 and most family health care facilities are offering the vaccine for a fee.

“The vaccination is expensive,” Prihoda said. “I have not found any places that offer the vaccine at a subsidized cost. Some health insurance providers will pay for immunizations. If you receive the shot at UHCL students will have to pay the full amount directly to UHCL and then provide payment information to their health insurance company to be reimbursed.”

**For more information about the meningitis vaccination, contact the UHCL Health Center at 281-283-2626 or visit the center in SSCB 1.301.**

**‘OCCUPYING’ THE INTERNET**

Use your smartphone to scan the QR codes below to visit some of the Occupy movements’ websites.



Occupy Houston



Occupy Wall Street

# Faculty member fondly remembered by friends, colleagues

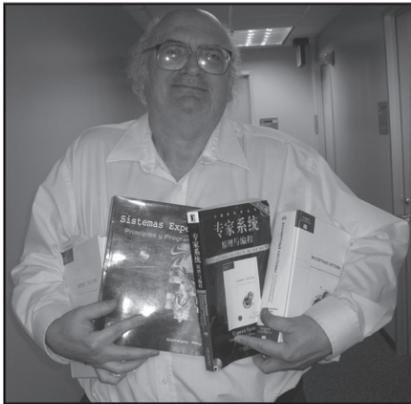
Joe Giarratano, associate professor of computer science and computer information systems until retiring in February, passed away Sept. 25 from congestive heart failure.

Giarratano joined UHCL in 1985 after receiving his Ph.D in physics from UT-Austin and working several years in the computer science industry.

President William Staples said in a statement to university employees, "Dr. Giarratano made many contributions to the university and to his academic program and will be missed by his colleagues."

Aside from teaching classes, Giarratano published several books including "Expert Systems, Principles and Programming," which has been internationally used since 1989. The book is a New York Times best seller.

Kwok-Bun Yue, professor of computer science, worked with Giarratano and remembers fondly his first experience with him.



JOE GIRRATANO

"When I first came to the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1988, I was fresh out of graduation and was unfamiliar with the academic system here," Yue said. "Many senior faculty members were helpful but Dr. Giarratano was the only one who invited me to lunch. I still remember clearly that at the end of the lunch, in his classical witty style, he said, 'There it is. Now you know everything about the programs here.'"

Flags at UHCL were lowered Sept. 30 to pay respect to Giarratano and funeral services were held Oct. 1 at the Community of Christ Church in Webster.

Turn this ad upside down to see the effect you can have on people's lives.

## The SMU Master of Science in Counseling

Pursue a career that's about helping others. The Master of Science in Counseling from SMU prepares individuals to become Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Counselors and School Counselors. Students develop basic therapy skills in the classroom, then apply them with hands-on experience in our state-of-the-art, on-site family counseling clinic. New terms begin every 10 weeks and offer the flexibility of day, evening or weekend classes.

Held at SMU's Plano Campus. Call 214-768-9009 or visit [smu.edu/mastercounseling](http://smu.edu/mastercounseling).



SMU | ANNETTE CALDWELL SIMMONS  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
& HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Southern Methodist University will not discriminate in any employment practice, education program or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status. SMU's commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

# • Student Life • Student Life • Student Life • Student Life •



## 15th Annual UHCL Student Leadership Conference

"Step Up and Be the One!"

**FREE REGISTRATION FOR UHCL STUDENTS (\$50 value!)**

### Featuring Keynote Speaker: Jonathan Sprinkles

Author, award-winning speaker

- Educational Breakout Sessions
- Service Project benefitting The Bridge Over Troubled Waters
- Breakfast & Lunch Provided
- All participants will receive a copy of Sprinkles' brand new book "Be the One"!

**Saturday, Nov. 5th**  
University of Houston - Clear Lake  
Bayou Building

Preregistration Required. For more information:  
[www.uhcl.edu/slice](http://www.uhcl.edu/slice). Click on "Leadership Conference."  
Register in the Student Life Office, SSCB 1.204.

Open to ALL college students around Texas.

## Student Government Association

All students and student organizations are called to participate in the

### Town Hall Meetings.

Topic of these meetings will be:

➤ **Designated Tuition**

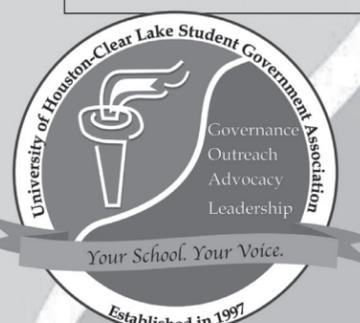


#### Presentation Dates

**November 2, 2011**  
In the Forest Room  
at 6pm

**November 3, 2011**  
In the Forest Room  
at Noon

**Your Money! Your School! Your Voice!**



For Details Contact :

The SGA Executive Council

Henry 'Hank' Hodde - President  
Sarah Hopson - VP Committee Coordinator  
Wardah Ajaz - VP Outreach  
Shilpa Chandra - VP Administration

281-283-2556  
SSCB Rm. 1.205  
[www.uhcl.edu/SGA](http://www.uhcl.edu/SGA)  
SGA@uhcl.edu

## National Day of Writing celebrated with Rhet Fest



DEBRA MACHEMAL:THE SIGNAL

The Writing Center hosted its third annual Rhet Fest celebrating National Day of Writing Oct. 20 in the SSCB Lobby. Writing Center Director Chloé Diepenbrock, staff and tutors dressed in their favorite author or literary character. UHCL students, staff and faculty played a variety of writing games like Scrabble, Boggle and sentence diagramming. Bonnie Gill-Hutto won Scrabble, Latosha H. Ford won Boggle, Jennifer Morrow won sentence diagramming and David Day won the magnetic poetry slam.

## Lots of love for I Heart UHCL Day



PATRICK CARDENAS:STUDENT LIFE

As part of I Heart UHCL Day, offices on campus showed off their UHCL spirit by decorating their offices, doors and windows. Students and faculty then voted on who showed the most UHCL pride. Best door went to the Pearland Office of Enrollment Management. Other winners were IISS for best office, Provost Office for best window, Texas State Teachers Association for most spirited school group, and Omar Syed for most school spirited individual.



PATRICK CARDENAS:STUDENT LIFE

I Heart UHCL Day is a campus tradition, which brings the UHCL community together to celebrate school spirit. The event, held Oct. 12, hosted activities, games, refreshments, giveaways, office decoration contests and a chance to pick up an "I heart UHCL" t-shirt.



WARDAH AJAZ:THE SIGNAL

## Stackin' em' up with SGA

Student Government Association hosted its Fall 2011 event Flipping Out with SGA, which was held Oct. 10. The students were given free pancakes for dinner during midterms. SGA invited administrators to flip pancakes and serve the students. UHCL President William Staples (left) and Associate Director of Student Life Andrew Reitberger (right) helped serve pancakes at the event.



WARDAH AJAZ:THE SIGNAL

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code above to see a more photos of Rhet Fest.



Use your smartphone to scan the QR code below to view more photos of "I heart UHCL" day.

## Zombie mania infects The Signal



Go online to [UHCLthesignal.com](http://UHCLthesignal.com) to see The Signal's own "Night of the Living Dead."