



E G R E T

inside:

- uhcl mascot takes flight
- a place for writers
- the voice for veterans

Making the grade

UHCL Police Rack Up Accomplishments





Dear friends of University of Houston-Clear Lake,

The 2012-13 academic year has begun with strong enrollment, growing popularity of campus events and the announcement of our new mascot — GO HAWKS!

Egret magazine is for all who epitomize the UHCL community, whether you're a neighbor, a student, a faculty member, an alumnus or just someone passing through. On this occasion though, I'd like to take an opportunity to reach out to our more than 54,000 alumni.

As the university makes plans to celebrate its 40th anniversary and to welcome our first-ever freshman class in fall 2014, we want to reach out to those of you who have graduated from our programs but not from our memories. Are you working somewhere nearby or halfway around the world? Have you pursued an additional degree, received a promotion or changed careers?

UHCL celebrates its alumni, each of you. We enjoy hearing and sharing the stories of how you are impacting our local community and our world. We aim to help you keep growing and learning (long after graduation), and we work to keep you connected to fellow alumni, as well as engaged in the life of your alma mater. We want to get back in touch and reconnect with you. To share your story, submit your class note online at www.uhcl.edu/classnotes, contact your UHCL Alumni Association at alumni@uhcl.edu or www.uhcl.edu/alumni or send me a message directly at president@uhcl.edu.

Make sure to peruse Datebook on page 20 of this edition to see what's happening on campus and catch up with your classmates in the Class Notes section on pages 18-19.

I wish you well and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

President
University of Houston-Clear Lake

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William A. Staples



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ON THE COVER: UHCL Police Officer Christina Hux was on track to study nursing when an introductory criminology course changed her plans, leading her to become one of the newest officers on campus.

Photo by Beryl Striewski

{ c o n t e n t s }

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MAKING THE GRADE 6

Christina Hux is one of the newest officers with the UHCL Police Department and knows that balancing work, life and the classroom takes more than just determination.

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A new mascot soars at UHCL.

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UHCL was named to the 2012 president's higher education community service **HONOR ROLL** by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This is the third time UHCL has received this honor, which recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities.

*The UHCL School of Education announced a **NEW WEEKEND COHORT** for its Master of Science in Education Management with Principal Certification program that will be offered at San Jacinto College North beginning fall 2012. The program has also been streamlined, reducing the required course load by six credit hours.*

The Office of Student Life honored several student organizations at the 34th annual student **LEADERSHIP BANQUET**. Student Veterans of America was awarded Best New Organization of the Year; The Unity Club was given Social Awareness Event of the Year and Student Organization of the Year; and the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers was recognized for Professional Development Event of the Year and Most Improved Organization of the Year. Graduate student, former Student Government Association President and founder of the Sustainability Club Hank Hodde won the Distinguished Leadership Award.

Bayosphere and The Signal, both UHCL **STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**, received awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's state competition. The Signal newspaper won 25 awards, three of which were first-place awards, for its print and online editions. Bayosphere, a literary art magazine, received three awards including an honorable mention for story package.

The university's Student Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 1148 received the Texas Council for Exceptional Children's Chapter **EXCELLENCE AWARD** at its annual convention. Chapter 1148 was recognized for its leadership in coordinating events such as its annual Take-a-Buddy-to-the Fair, a carnival-like event for students with special needs that promotes

WORKING TOGETHER IN WEIGHTLESSNESS

Three UHCL and two San Jacinto College North students got the chance of a lifetime this past April when they received the opportunity to test their research on a microgravity aircraft.

The UHCL/SJCN team was one of approximately a dozen student teams from universities throughout the country to participate in NASA's Microgravity University - Systems Engineering Educational Discovery program. UHCL students in the program included team leader **Chris Burns**, **Henry Ascencio**, **Paul Cusco** and **Elizabeth Hewer**. Hewer served as ground crew/school outreach director for the project. SJCN students included Ryan Page, Jarrett Lockridge and Michael Norman, with much assistance from SJCN Professor of Mathematics and Engineering Nathaniel Wiggins, Burns' former professor and mentor.

SEED engages selected college and university teams in scientific research, and allows projects to be conducted during a series of parabolic reduced-gravity flights in a modified 727-200 airplane that flies a series of parabolic maneuvers over the Gulf of Mexico. Each parabola provides about 30 seconds of hypergravity as it climbs and about 15-20 seconds of microgravity as it descends.

Burns worked closely with Wiggins while enrolled at SJCN and continued this working relationship at UHCL when he contacted his former professor to build a combined team. His original interest in the program developed while still at SJCN after hearing a dean talk about microgravity. At that time, Burns got his first opportunity to fly in the microgravity aircraft while serving on a SJCN team.

The UHCL/SJCN project "Robotic Control Using Gesture and Voice: Use of Voice Commands and Body Motion to Control Robotic Components in a Microgravity Environment" allowed the students to use Xbox 360 Kinect to experiment with a gesture- and voice-controlled robotics application. Their experiment included three components, which Burns and his team hope will eventually be helpful to astronauts in space.

Burns was thrilled to have a second opportunity in the plane, and definitely felt a little more prepared to focus on his experiment in the second flight, simply because he knew what to expect. He's modest about the term "leader" though because, as he emphatically states, "We depend on each other, whether we are in the air or part of the ground crew. We have to step up and help each other out."

"It's hard to describe the experience and the opportunity to test an experiment while weightless," says Burns. "I definitely urge everyone who has an interest in science, engineering or math to apply to one of the microgravity programs."



Pictured inside a specially modified 727-200 turbojet operated by NASA's Reduced-Gravity Program are UHCL students (l to r) Chris Burns, Henry Ascencio and Paul Cusco. Other university teams on the aircraft are in the background.

Image courtesy of NASA.

UNIVERSITY GEOGRAPHER EXPLORES POST-DISASTER HOUSING RECOVERY

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded Assistant Professor of Geography **Deanna Schmidt** a summer 2012 Research Fellowship through the Science and Technology Directorate Office of University Programs Summer Research Team Program for Minority Serving Institutions Program.

Schmidt and her team will be conducting research titled "Housing Recovery and Resilience: Assessing the Constraints and Facilitators of Post-Disaster Housing Recovery in Vulnerable Coastal Communities." The research will identify the resources and knowledge that small coastal communities – with relatively limited internal resources – need to more successfully and equitably achieve post-disaster housing recovery. Through a comparative study of soundside coastal communities in North Carolina and Galveston Bay communities in Texas, the research will identify the federal, state and local policies, resources and capabilities that facilitate housing recovery efficiently and justly. Outcomes of the research will provide community leaders, public officials, planners and emergency managers practical suggestions to improve resilience to coastal storms.

This award provides more than \$14,000 to Schmidt to conduct research in North Carolina in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security Coastal Hazards Center of Excellence, affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The award also provides funding for two UHCL students to join the research team in North Carolina. Henry "Hank" Hodde, graduate student in environmental management, will work with Schmidt in North Carolina and Carlton Porter, an undergraduate student in environmental management, will gather Galveston Bay community data. This award provides the UHCL research team with nearly \$30,000 in funding.

The fellowship establishes a long-term coastal hazards collaboration between UHCL and the UNC Coastal Hazards Center of Excellence. The UHCL/UNC team will apply for additional funding up to \$50,000 for follow-up collaborative research during the 2012-13 academic

year. The research program also will build collaborations with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Texas Sea Grant, Texas A&M University and several organizations in North Carolina.

\$1.5 MILLION IN DOE SUPPORT

The **School of Education** has received a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide professional development activities focusing on improving classroom instruction for English learners with an emphasis in the areas of mathematics and science. The Collaborating in the Academic Success for All grant partners with five area independent school districts including Alvin, Clear Creek, Deer Park, Galena Park and Pasadena to recruit eligible teachers and administrators to participate in the program.

The grant is the work of Professors of Bilingual and Multicultural Education **Laurie Weaver** and **Judith Marquez**.

"There's a shortage of bilingual education, English-as-a-second-language, mathematics and science teachers in Texas," says Weaver. "This shortage comes at a time when the number of English learners has increased dramatically — 51 percent nationally in the last decade. Today, more than 10 percent of the PK-12 populations in Texas schools are English learners," she notes.

Clear Creek ISD experienced a 30 percent increase during the last five years, and Pasadena ISD has seen an increase of 300-500 English learners each year. Currently there are more than 26,500 English learners in the five participating school districts.

The CASA grant will provide 30 teachers from within the five collaborating school districts full scholarships to complete a master's degree in multicultural studies with certification in bilingual education or ESL and with an emphasis in either mathematics or science. Thirty school administrators will receive professional development so they can support bilingual and ESL-certified teachers. UHCL faculty members will also use the grant on integrating instruction in their teacher preparation courses to provide all teacher education candidates with the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of English learners.

{noteworthy}

social skill development as well as assists in the development of motor skills. This year's fair served approximately 300 students and teachers, and included the support of 60 volunteers.

Graduate student **Cindy Stefens**, who is pursuing a Master of Arts in Sociology and has a Bachelor of Science in Public Service Leadership from UHCL, earned an **HONORABLE MENTION** for her work on the Council for Political Affairs at the 2012 National University Model Arab League in Washington, D.C.



The Texas State Teacher Association recognized UHCL's student chapter for having the largest membership increase in the state as well as being named the state's largest **TSTA STUDENT PROGRAM**. The UHCL chapter also received an award for Community Service Event of the Year, for the creation and hosting of Big Great Harvest BASH, which benefited the Boys and Girls Harbor in La Porte, Texas.

UHCL's 14-member **CRICKET TEAM**, the Blue Herons, won Best New Team Award at the American College Cricket Spring Break Championship held in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Professor of History Angela Howard was awarded **ADVISOR OF THE YEAR** by the UHCL Office of Student Life. Howard serves as the adviser for the Women's Studies Student Association and has been a reliable presence at campus-wide events such as The Vagina Monologues and Feminist Boot Camp.

Three faculty members have been selected to receive University **FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS** for the 2012-13 academic year. Kim Case, associate professor of women's studies and psychology; Everette Penn, associate professor of criminology; and Cheryl Sawyer, associate professor of counseling, will each receive a \$5,000 stipend toward educational materials, research seed money, conference travel, workshops and seminars.

{noteworthy}

NASA awarded four UHCL School of Science and Computer Engineering professors with an \$86,185 grant for their proposal, "Collaboration of Graduate and High School Students for International Space Station Hardware Development Projects." Principal investigator for the project is Mary Randolph-Gips, assistant professor of computer systems engineering, and co-principal investigators are Ipek Bozkurt, assistant professor of engineering management; James Helm, associate professor of software engineering; and Ki-Young Jeong, assistant professor and program chair of engineering management. The proposal provides engineering project management support for high schools and unites the students with mentors at NASA. It also helps university and high school instructors to develop mentorships with researchers, graduate students, high school students and NASA.

TWO UHCL professors were recognized for their contribution to STELLAR (Science, Technology, Engineering and Life Science Lessons for Assembly and Reasoning) by the NASA Human Health and Performance Center at Johnson Space Center for providing an educational assessment of school lesson plans that focused on space life sciences and human space exploration. School of Education Assistant Professor of Science Education Vanessa Dodo Seriki and School of Science and Computer Engineering Professor of Computer Engineering Liwen Shih were recognized as essential to the substantiation of the lessons' value. Pictured (l to r) are NASA Director of University Research, Collaborations and Partnership Kamesh Lulla, UHCL Dean of Science and Computer Engineering Zbigniew Czajkiewicz, NASA Human Systems Academy Deputy Pamela Denkins, Dodo Seriki, Shih, UHCL Provost Carl A. Stockton and Wyle Education and Strategy Coordinator Kevin Rosenquist.



UHCL School of Education Secretary Pat Yarzy was honored as Employee of the Quarter by the UHCL SUPPORT STAFF Association.

GRAD STUDENT GOES GLOBAL

Earlier this year, graduate student **Brittany King** was selected to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative in Washington D.C., after submitting her Commitment to Action that addresses campus, community or world challenges.

King, who will receive her Master of Business Administration degree this fall, joined students from every state in the U.S. and more than 80 other countries for the event held at George Washington University, where nonprofit leaders, entrepreneurs, celebrities and about 1,000 students gathered. Her goal is to empower women in leadership to be agents of social change by launching sustainable social enterprises.

Her plan, called "Project Passionista," outlines her vision to take young women from fashion-focused knowledge to being passionately focused on making a difference. She earned a full travel scholarship to the event.

While in Washington, she was chosen to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative University Exchange, which afforded her the opportunity to showcase her social change ideas to other attendees. She was also one of approximately six students chosen by co-host Jon Stewart to ask

President Bill Clinton a question, which was then aired on C-SPAN.

"It was especially inspiring for me as President Clinton encouraged me as a single mom, and domestic abuse survivor, to continue to be the voice of those whose voices may be silenced by their own struggles," says King.

King also participated in a service project where she and fellow students visited two inner-city homes to paint doors and windows and remove yard trash for elderly and single parent residents.

Professor of Management Roger Durand championed King's nonprofit efforts while she was a student in his graduate class, "The Global Environment of Business."

"She was an exceptional student – talented, studious, thoughtful and intelligent, and she works easily with others," says Durand. "On a personal level, she is highly motivated and I have complete confidence in her. It's unusual to see someone so motivated toward nonprofit work."

Now a motivational speaker, King recently founded the nonprofit organization Foundation for the Future, which offers information and a network for young women seeking social entrepreneurship and personal success.



Contributed photo

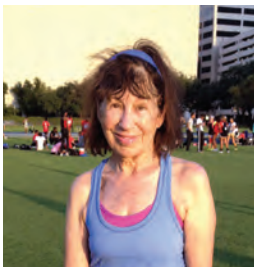


what's online?

University news highlights, for on the go, anywhere.

NEW RUNNER FINDS PASSION LATE IN LIFE

UHCL Associate Professor Emerita Ellin Grossman shifted her focus from art to sprinting — at an age when most people are slowing their pace. Several years after retiring, Grossman realized she was out of shape and began training on her own and with a personal trainer. A year later her trainer suggested that she give running a try.



Contributed photo



Jeffrey Bowen

UHCL ART GALLERY HITS THE ROAD

The UHCL Art Gallery is hitting the road, encouraging creative expression by offering interactive art projects for community members at events like the Bay Area Art Walk. Check out their many upcoming events and art exhibits in the Datebook section of this edition of page 20.

CELEBRATE THE BEST In October, UHCL recognized alumni and faculty for their contributions to the university, the UHCL Alumni Association and the community. Pictured, l to r, at the annual UHCL Alumni Celebration, are UHCL Associate Vice President for University Advancement Dion McInnis; Honorees Douglas Hiser, Juan Traslaviña, Kim Case, Cris Daskevich, James Benson and Mitali Paul; and UHCL President William A. Staples.



Mark Kinonen

- **CAMPUS FILM AND SPEAKER SERIES TEAMS UP WITH COMMUNITY CINEMA**
- **PASSION FOR COASTAL SUSTAINABILITY SENDS STUDENT TO D.C.**
- **LONGTIME UNIVERSITY FRIENDS SHOW SUPPORT OF EDUCATION**



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{noteworthy}

Professor Emeritus of Human Sciences and Studies of the Future **OLIVER MARKLEY** won the inaugural Jan Lee Martin prize in 2011 for his essay, "Research and Action toward the Upside of Down," presented by The Journal of Future Studies. The award is given to someone who effectively communicates futures studies theories, methods and approaches.

Jane Claes, associate professor of school library and information science, received a \$463,857 award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' 2012 Laura Bush 21st Century **LIBRARIAN PROGRAM** for her proposal, "School Librarian: Early Link to Literacy and Learning."

IN MEMORY The UHCL community mourns the passing of a distinguished scholar and a valued friend. **ROBERT C. HOPKINS**, who joined the UHCL faculty in 1976 as associate professor of chemistry and biophysics and was promoted to professor in 1981, passed away in August 2012. Hopkins served as acting dean of the School of Natural and Applied Science, now the School of Science and Computer Engineering, 1978-79, and as interim dean 1994-95. He was awarded the President's Distinguished Research Award in 1985 and retired from the university in 2002. Along with his wife Star, he established The Robert and Star Hopkins Endowed Scholarship for science degree candidates. Known for his "work hard, play hard" philosophy, Hopkins balanced pursuing original research and experiencing destinations across the globe. **BEN MIESZKUC**, who established the Marilyn Mieszkuc Memorial Professorship Endowment in memory of his wife and the Eve Mieszkuc Memorial Scholarship in memory of his daughter, passed away in August 2012. He followed opera all of his life, and travelled to the great opera centers of the world simply to hear performances. An art devotee, he also supported art programming at UHCL and shared his art collection with the UHCL Office of University Advancement.

Making the Grade

UHCL Police Rack Up Accomplishments

By Karen Barbier

The recently accredited UHCL Police Department has five UHCL alumni in its ranks, including Police Officer Christina Hux and Chief of Police Paul Willingham. Several other members of the force are currently pursuing degrees.



Christina Hux always wanted to be a nurse. An elective course in criminology during her freshman year at San Jacinto College changed all that. Although switching majors is common for many during their first two years in college, Hux's drastic move from nursing to criminology caused a little bit of a controversy in her home.

"When I told my mom I thought I would change my degree plans, she looked at me and said, 'Are you nuts?'," says the now 25-year-old Hux, a police officer in UHCL's Police Department. "But I knew it was the right change for me, and my parents have been very supportive."

The introductory class in criminology just "scratched the surface" says Hux, but it was enough to make her ask questions; so many questions, in fact, that her professor suggested that she change her degree plan. She did and has not looked back. Her transfer to UHCL resulted in a 2009 Bachelor of Science and a 2010 Master of Arts in Criminology, and her first opportunity to become a member of the UHCL Police Department.

Hux is one of 17 police officers on the force, and one of three UHCL alumni including Chief of Police Paul Willingham, who completed his Master of Arts in Criminology in May 2011. In addition to officers, 10 civilian employees complement the force, with three of them holding degrees from UHCL, bringing the



total to five alumni in the department. The department also has four student employees, all attending UHCL, and two full-time employees who are current UHCL students.

"It's not mandatory for the officers to have degrees," says Willingham. "But we certainly encourage all in the department to take advantage of the opportunities at UH-Clear Lake including the college-release time."

Currently, police officers in Texas are only required to have at least a GED, but gaining an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree can help in the promotion process. In addition to those holding degrees, Willingham proudly speaks about those who are continuing to take classes while working, including one of the dispatchers taking core courses at a community college, one who is taking online classes at another university and another who is completing coursework at UHCL. The police department also has two part-time student customer service employees, and is in the process of hiring additional student employees to provide parking lot security and night-time safety escorts.

"I was here; I was working at a university that offered a grad degree in my area," says Willingham discussing his decision to work on a master's degree. "I enjoy the educational process, and I want to offer a good example to the others in my department."

Hux's decision to attend UHCL's criminology classes came after talking to a fellow student at the community college who told her about the outstanding criminology program at UHCL. With a little research of her own, Hux found out about nationally known faculty members such as Associate Professors of Criminology Steven Egger and Everette Penn. She made her decision. Next, Hux's goal was to get a job, so she applied at the UHCL Police Department.

"I began working as a dispatcher my first semester — August 2007," says Hux proudly. "I worked in dispatch until December 2009 when I transferred to tech services within the department."

While working full-time, Hux completed her undergraduate degree and immediately enrolled for her master's degree — a program she finished in just a year by taking full class loads. Just when one might think Hux might have had enough with classwork, in July 2011 she went to the Alvin Community College Law Enforcement Academy. Between work and the academy, Hux put in 20-hour days by taking night classes, enrolled in a part-time schedule at the academy while working full-time as a technician in the police department.

With her two degrees in criminology, Hux believes she might have had a slight advantage over others in the academy without degrees.

continued on page 8



“The Police Department is very community-oriented, and I like to think our presence is noticed.”

Beryl Striewski

continued from page 7

Says Hux, “Many of the things we addressed in the academy, I was able to explain with theories I had learned in my college courses.”

In May 2012 after completing her police academy courses, Hux was sworn in as one of the newest additions to the UHCL Police Department, and the chief was glad to have her on board.

Willingham has spent 22 years as a police officer, something he says was “accidental.”

“At the time I started, I needed the money for school,” explains Willingham. “Once on the force, everything just clicked and I forgot about finishing my degree. Then about six or seven years later I thought I should finish college to help with promotional advancement.”

Willingham received his undergraduate degree online from Mountain State University in West Virginia and then, once at UHCL, his master’s degree. He moved through the ranks at his previous department, eventually becoming a lieutenant, but it was his arrival at UHCL that gave him his first opportunity as chief. It also gave him a chance to explore his dream of being a teacher. Willingham believes that in his current role, one of his jobs as chief is to teach.

Not only has he led the UHCL officers since 2007, but he has also worked to get the department accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, an honor held by less than 4 percent of law enforcement agencies and 1.3 percent of campus police agencies in the U.S. To maintain the accreditation, agencies must not only submit reports on an annual basis, but also be prepared for site visits from the accreditation group every three years. The vote by the commission to grant accreditation to the UHCL department was unanimous.

“The accreditation process is a long one that we began in 2008,” says Willingham. “We developed policies, procedures and practices to meet the industry best standards created by the commission.

“With the CALEA-based blueprint in place, we now have a means to continually develop, review and adjust our efforts to meet the best practices and standards in the industry.”

Meeting the best practices and standards shouldn’t be hard, especially with dedicated officers like Hux on the force. When asked what she most enjoys about her job, she is quick with her response: “I like giving back to the area and community that has given me so much.”

On the flipside of that question, she pauses. What is it she likes least? Paperwork.

“We have a lot of reports to write,” she explains. “But, it is necessary paperwork to maintain the guidelines set forth by the state.”

She also wants to set the record straight when it comes to a common misperception people have about the police force and UHCL.

“Unfortunately, people often hear and read about one bad apple in a police force somewhere else and then all of law enforcement gets a bad rap,” says Hux. “Fortunately at UHCL, we don’t have those issues.”

Hux says a typical day can range from investigating a suspicious character or escorting custodial staff to their cars late at night. But, just like city police officers, they are licensed police officers and are ready for anything.

In 2011, StateUniversity.com named UHCL number two in the state for campus safety on a scale that accounts for severity of crime as well as frequency of crime. Nationally, UHCL has been in the top 25 of all public schools for four consecutive years. As Willingham points out, the rankings include junior colleges and community colleges. Excluding those, UHCL has been in the top 5 nationally for degree-granting institutions since 2008.

“We believe that providing a secure atmosphere conducive to the education, employment and daily community lifestyles of UHCL is an important mission,” says Willingham.

And it’s certainly a mission the force supports.

“The students who come to school here are trying to further their education and their careers; they are here because they want to be and are focused on the task at hand — their education,” says Hux. “The Police Department is very community-oriented, and I like to think our presence is noticed.”

And, although the world may be one nurse short, the UHCL community benefits by adding an educated and dedicated officer.

UHCL MASCOT TAKES FLIGHT



by Karen Barbier

A new mascot soared into UHCL history with the presentation of the official mascot logo art.

The mascot search began in fall 2010 and included a five-phase process with input from students, alumni, faculty, staff and the community that resulted in selecting the hawk as the official UH-Clear Lake mascot.

“Our Mascot Leadership Team worked diligently to see this process completed with input from the Mascot Advisory Team,” says UHCL President William A. Staples. “Our hawk logo not only reflects the attributes that we desire in a mascot, such as courage, spirit and adventure, but it also reflects the natural beauty of our campus and the historical relationship to the alumni association’s hawk logo from the 1980s.”

UHCL, led by the Mascot Leadership Team, received more than 1,400 submissions from faculty, staff, students, alumni and community friends when the call for mascot suggestions was made. The five-phase selection process has concluded with the

presentation of the UHCL Hawk mascot art.

Representatives from key constituent groups including faculty, staff, students and alumni served as part of the Mascot Advisory Team and provided critical feedback throughout the process.

“I am both pleased and excited to have been a part of the Mascot Leadership Team and to have played a role in this important part of UH-Clear Lake’s history” says Associate Vice President of Student Services Darlene Biggers. “I look forward to the future of the UH-Clear Lake Hawks and how this new mascot will invigorate current and future students.”

**“COURAGE,
SPIRIT AND
ADVENTURE”**

To find out more about the development of the UH-Clear Lake mascot and its history, visit www.uhcl.edu/mascot.

Class is in Session

By Diana North

New Mock Trial Courtroom Adds Realness to Legal Studies

It may have taken 10 years to take UHCL's new mock trial courtroom from idea to reality, but Associate Professor of Legal Studies Jim Benson is too busy focusing on the future of the university's legal program to dwell on it. Not content to settle for the judge's bench and witness stand he built in his driveway and then reassembled for occasional use on campus, Benson took a chance that paid off – for his colleagues as well as future students.

"Last fall I sent letters to county judges in Galveston, Harris and Fort Bend Counties; I took a wild shot asking for the donation of old courtroom furniture," says Benson, who also serves as faculty adviser to Legal Studies Student Association.

The lone response from Fort Bend County, which relocated its judicial functions to a new building the previous year, was an offer to sell the furniture from four district courtrooms being phased out.

"They said they couldn't donate it, so I asked them to give me a price," says Benson.

Making the drive to Fort Bend with his wife, Susan, Benson measured and photographed the furniture from all four courtrooms. He selected the contents of the last and smallest courtroom, Fort Bend County 400th District Court, since it best suited the size of a typical classroom.

Next, he drafted a proposal with the help of local attorney, UHCL legal studies alumnus and adjunct professor Bryan Wilcox, who helped create floor plans with Benson's measurements. School of Business

Dean Ted Cummings approved the submission of the proposal to Provost Carl A. Stockton. Stockton agreed to fund the purchase and allow the project to move forward.

The next surprise was the price — \$1,000. New courtroom furniture usually costs between \$20,000 and \$30,000, says Benson.

Classroom space in the Bayou Building was chosen to house the mock courtroom.

Crafted from oak, the furniture includes a curved judge's bench topped with marble, a witness stand, clerk stand, a jury box that seats six, a court-reporter desk and seating for the bailiff, and pew-style benches for public seating. Counsel tables and a lectern were added along with upgraded microphones and speakers.

"It elevates learning; it improves the environment for learning," says Benson. "It teaches mechanics of the courtroom and makes the experience more realistic."

Known for putting his students on the spot with hypothetical legal problems, Benson says he observed a marked change in behavior when previous students used his homemade courtroom.

"When they actually walked in and saw the bench and tables sitting there, it ratcheted up their anxiety," says Benson, who develops the hypothetical criminal and civil cases for his classes, "American System of Trial by Jury" and "Mock Trial."

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies M. Alix Valenti teaches two legal studies courses and is enthusiastic about the new mock courtroom.

"The new classroom will be perfect for the course that I teach each spring," says Valenti. "In addition to writing a legal brief in a criminal matter, students will now have the opportunity to argue their case in a courtroom setting."

Such hands-on learning provides a unique opportunity for students.

Current legal studies student Jimi Cebulla participated in a mock trial exercise in the UHCL Garden Room for a research conference.

"The learning experience was beyond what I expected," says Cebulla, who will graduate next year. "Reading and researching the concepts is very different from putting them in motion in front of a judge, our peers, and faculty. I came away from the experience with a wealth of knowledge and confidence."

Benson's long-term vision includes inviting schools to use the room for debates or renting it to law firms to prepare for trial while helping fund scholarships for legal studies.

"It's taken a long time and hard work to get here," says Benson. "But all of it is a win-win situation."

Associate Professor Jim Benson wanted students to have an added realness to their legal studies, so he reached out to the community to help him build a mock courtroom.

Learn more
about the
creation
of UHCL's
mock trial
courtroom.



Beryl Sirreuski

Barrios Technology

share & support

Barrios Technology Leader Helps Fund Education at UHCL



UHCL Distinguished Alumna
Sandy Johnson purchased
Barrios Technology in 1993
and has spent the last
two decades serving as a
supportive member of the Bay
Area community.

Ask local business owner and well-known community leader Sandy Johnson about receiving the UHCL Presidential Medal and her voice fills with pride.

"I was incredibly humbled and speechless when Dr. Staples let me know I would receive the award," says Johnson, who received her MBA from UHCL in 1982 and was named a university Distinguished Alumna in 1996. "In my opinion, it's the highest honor I have ever received."

"Only two other Presidential Medals have been awarded in UHCL's 38-year history, in 1989 and 1990," says UHCL President William A. Staples about the prestigious award. "Sandy Johnson leads by example in support of her company, UHCL and numerous community organizations."

Johnson's Barrios Technology, which she purchased in 1993, is an established leader in the aerospace industry, providing support to such organizations as NASA Johnson Space Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, and most large aerospace contractors. Barrios recently entered the oil and gas field, providing support to BP and Oceaneering. Even though the success of the company reflects Johnson's innovative thoughts and actions, she does not see herself as a role model.

"Personally, I don't think of myself that way," says Johnson. "People tell me I'm a role model, but it never really crossed my mind."

"I will say that I feel strongly that it is my duty to share lessons I've learned with others and to make the path a little easier for them to take."

It is this same sense of duty that convinced her to establish two UHCL endowments, helping make it possible for faculty members to continue their educational pursuits. The Barrios Technology Faculty Fellowship Endowment is for the university's School of Science and Computer Engineering and began with financial support from Johnson, and then was completed by the company. The Sandy Johnson/Barrios Technology Ltd. Endowed Professorship in Educational Leadership supports the School of Education. When asked specifically about the second endowment geared for school administrators, Johnson reveals one of her fundamental messages.

"Education is the key to any career path. If you don't reach kids in K-12, then their future is limited. I think every community should take on education as a focus to ensure children are getting what they need. Every child should have the opportunity to be successful."

If asked what her biggest challenge has been as a female business owner, Johnson says that the most significant challenge she faced had to do with funding at the time she was purchasing her company. She didn't realize it at the time that she was rejected by the first bank because being 35 and female meant she was too great of a risk. Fortunately, times have changed and success has been sweet, but it's definitely not Johnson's style to brag about it. She's more likely to brag about those who work for her and her family that includes a husband and two daughters in their 20s.

"Seeing what our employees are able to achieve motivates me" says Johnson. "When employees are successful in their personal and work lives, it is a great thing to experience."

"Both of my daughters also motivate me — just seeing them excel in their chosen career paths is rewarding."

Johnson pauses and one can almost hear pride in her voice. It's as if she has won another award.

By Karen Barbier

**"Every child
 should have the
 opportunity to
 be successful."**

University Program Celebrates 10 Years of Teaching Leaders

By Diana North



*Usha Mathew, Associate Vice President for Finance
UHCL Administration and Finance*

Inspiring people to work toward a common goal is the essence of good leadership and the inspiration behind UHCL's Leaders in Action program, which just marked 10 years of fostering the skills for effective leadership.

Created in 2001, the program grew from discussions between Katherine Justice, executive director of human resources, and former Training and Development Specialist Mindy Stallings. The program's goal was to support and enhance professional growth as well as personal growth for faculty, administrators and staff.

"I am a tour guide," says Ron Klinger, associate director of organizational development, who has conducted the program since 2004. "This is their leadership journey. It's my job to provide the tools so that their journey is a successful one."

To date, 127 participants have completed the course that uses teamwork in small groups to build trust, share experiences and gain a deeper understanding of each person's leadership strengths.

Participants are nominated, primarily by their supervisor, and then accept that nomination, which enrolls them in the intensive one-year program requiring a commitment to attend all monthly meetings as well as complete additional assignments and readings.

But the rewards are numerous. Ranging from individual strengths assessment, career-building skills, and workplace connections to improve communication and job satisfaction, those rewards also help create more dynamic, collaborative relationships with colleagues who benefit from an experience that reaches beyond the workplace.

"It makes us a better university at every level," says Klinger.

Built around Insights Discovery, a Jungian-based personality assessment tool widely used and adopted by UHCL, the program promotes individual and organizational effectiveness. Self awareness, awareness of others, ability to adapt and connect to others, and development of usable interpersonal strategies enable participants to communicate more effectively.

The program offers monthly instructive modules starting with Insights Discovery assessment followed by modules that cover leadership strengths, team building, talent and performance management, planning and setting priorities, mentoring and coaching, and managing and leading change.

"The Leaders in Action program was a transformative experience for me," says Lillian McEnery, associate professor of reading and language arts and a graduate of the program in 2011. "The tools and knowledge I gained have permeated almost every aspect of my life — things like strengths training have helped me more accurately facilitate configurations for our team that create win-win situations. The



*Ron Klinger, Associate Director of Organizational Development
UHCL Human Resources*



*Kathy Dupree, Director of Campus Operations
UHCL Pearland Campus*

Photos Beryl Striewski

information about preparing the student of the future has helped me be a better professor and adviser.”

UHCL Pearland Campus Director of Campus Operations Kathy Dupree completed the program in 2006, and says it enhanced not only her career but her personal life.

“The most important concept that I took away from the program was the ability to communicate with individuals based on their personality traits,” says Dupree. “Everyone has a unique way of processing information.”

Instrumental in educating the group on each person’s strengths, Marcus Buckingham’s book “Discover Your Strengths” was “quite an eye opener” for Dupree when she discovered her two top strengths coincide with her extroverted personality.

“I enjoy working with people, helping people, as well as thinking big picture, globally and long term,” says Dupree.

Currently enrolled in the program, Associate Vice President for Finance Usha Mathew shares her lessons in leadership with her employees.

“I am a firm believer in the ‘walk the talk,’ and ‘set an example’ style of management,” says Mathew, who updates her team of six employees on what she’s learned so that they can benefit as well. She incorporates her understanding of talent and performance management in her hiring practices and does evaluations on a regular basis rather than once a year.

“I meet individually with every employee to relate, connect and understand what I can do for them to help them learn and grow,” says Mathew. “If you get to know them personally and professionally, you can learn how each employee likes to be appreciated.”

Now Mathew acknowledges employees with lunch out, a personal note or email and public or private praise. She holds monthly staff meetings to focus on what they’ve accomplished as a team. As a result, Mathew says her employees want to hone their own leadership skills through programs like the university’s Stepping Up To Supervisor, which enhances skills of emerging supervisors.

One employee has completed the program and another will participate in the next session.

In her own career, Mathew used her skills when applying for her new position as associate vice president for finance.

“Leaders in Action really helped me boost my self confidence level and communication skills. It taught me to prepare for questions like ‘what can you bring to add value to the institution?’,” says Mathew. “In this new position I will be utilizing everything I learned in Leaders in Action, and I hope to pass on the baton.”

Opportunities for leadership are available for employees as well as students at UHCL.

In addition to the Leaders in Action program for faculty and staff, Stepping Up To Supervisor enhances skills of emerging or new supervisors and managers. It is currently offered each fall and is limited to 10–12 participants.

For students, Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement, which is sponsored by the Office of Student Life, provides students with leadership seminars and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Through SLICE students can also attend an annual leadership retreat. SLICE also hosts an annual leadership conference.

• **Student Leadership Opportunities**
www.uhcl.edu/SLI.

• **Faculty and Staff Leadership Training**
www.uhcl.edu/hr and select Training and Development.

a *place* for writers

Campus Writing Center Offers Tutoring In Person and Online



Lifelong reader and writer Chloe Diepenbrock had no idea that a two-word response to a request to start a writing center would change her life.

"I said, 'of course,'" says Diepenbrock, now director of the UHCL Writing Center and associate professor of writing and literature.

Diepenbrock's response to former Associate Dean of Human Sciences and Humanities Carol Snyder in 1991 started the journey that has allowed her to help others change their world through words.

"Founding and managing the UHCL Writing Center through two moves and many changes over the past 19 years has been the highlight of my career," says Diepenbrock.

Created to provide assistance for all stages of the writing process, the center offers students, faculty, staff and alumni guidance on idea generation, organization, style, grammar and editing strategies by trained tutors.

Diepenbrock opened the first center in a 400-square-foot Bayou Building classroom furnished with recycled tables and old computers — a space sometimes mistaken for a lab. Later it moved to a 685-square-foot classroom with two computers and several tables.

But when the new Student Services and Classroom Building was completed in 2004, she moved the center to its current location on the second floor, Suite 2105.

Open and light-filled, the center offers 2,000 square feet designed to suit Diepenbrock's vision of a welcoming environment created to enhance the collaborative atmosphere.

"It was a dream come true," says Diepenbrock.

Six computer stations, each with space for a student and a tutor, line one wall. Above the workstations, dark wood shelves display books and items that Diepenbrock calls a "museum to the history of writing." Seating is plentiful and half walls let in natural light yet enclose more private spaces for reading and discussion.

Yet while the inviting space offers an enjoyable place for learning, Diepenbrock says tutor training is the secret behind the center's success.

Writing Center use increased 250 percent from 1995 to 2010; most from repeat clients. Last year, 53.7 percent of first-time clients returned for additional sessions, giving tutors a 98 percent extremely effective or very effective rating.

But it's not only the clients who learn there.

"In training peer tutors, I see their work and how it shapes them," says Diepenbrock. "Sometimes I think my job is almost more about the students who work for me."

One of those charter tutors was Dagmar Scharold, who joined the UHCL Writing Center in 1993. Scharold is now the director of the

By Diana North



UHCL Writing Center Director Chloe Diepenbrock, center, is shown surrounded by current and former Writing Center staff and tutors.

University of Houston-Downtown's Writing & Reading Center and a lecturer at UH-D.

"Everything was so new, it was eye opening," says Scharold. "Learning to be a tutor and helping her open the writing center helped me to find my passion. I knew after that one semester that this is what I wanted to do."

Scharold says peer group sharing and feedback is important to the writing process, and something she now provides her students.

Jo Lynn Sallee became a tutor while pursuing her graduate degree in 2007, which included a graduate course in writing center administration with Diepenbrock that detailed the job of a writing center director, a job she felt was her career calling.

"I found myself completely enamored with the one-on-one teaching style of writing centers," says Sallee. With director jobs in scarce supply, she took a job as adjunct English instructor and writing center tutor at Lee College. When the director position opened, "she took it on an interim basis. Months later, she was offered the job."

"I truly believe that a writing center tutor can be one of the most cost-efficient and productive teaching tools offered in colleges today," says Sallee. "A writing tutor acts as a coach who assists the student with understanding the assignment, brainstorming or just as a second set of eyes checking for errors on the finished essay. It

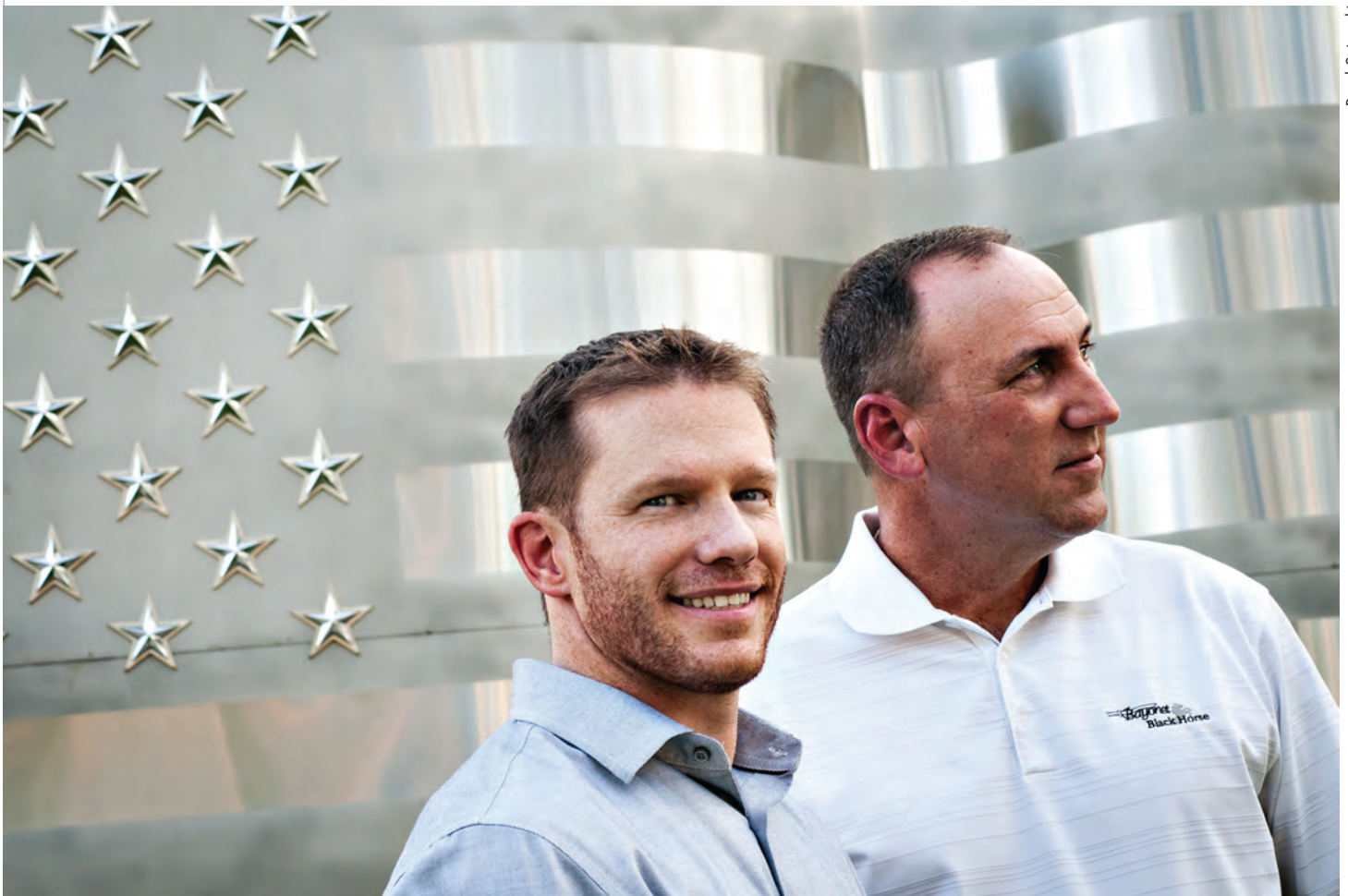
is always gratifying to have a student visit the writing center and announce, 'I made a better grade on my essay, thanks to you guys!'"

Adjunct Professor of Special Education Bernardo Pohl came to the center for help with his book, "The Moral Debates in Special Education." After revisions suggested by his tutor Michele Harrold, Pohl found a publisher.

"Without their help, I believe that I would continue to talk about 'the book that I was working on,'" says Pohl. "They helped me to make this book a reality. There are simply not enough words to describe the excellent work that they do."

Diepenbrock continues her journey to grow the center through programs like COLT, a Center for Online Tutoring, that meets the increasing demand for online services. The software is currently being revised to offer a white board screen where sections of a pre-submitted paper can be worked on while a chat window is open, allowing real-time instruction.

"The most significant challenge we will face in coming years will be expanding our services to incoming first-year students while still providing our customary personal attention for all of the writers who work with us," says Diepenbrock. "At the same time, we look forward to serving this new group of students, and we are already preparing for their arrival."



Beryl Striewski

VOICES FOR VETERANS

BY TARYN BURNETT

Randy Seawright is a force to reckon with. And teamed up with William "Bill" Shock, they are a pair of former U.S. Marine Corps sergeants who are changing the presence of veterans and veteran resources at UHCL.

When Seawright arrived at UHCL in 2011 he saw an opportunity to help support veterans at the university and has made it his mission ever since. Seawright got in touch with Coordinator of Student Life - Student Organizations Patrick Cardenas and began taking the steps toward creating a UHCL chapter of the Student Veterans Association.

With every step Seawright made toward creating a veteran's presence at the university, it seemed like someone else had the same piece of advice: you have to meet Bill Shock. For weeks Seawright heard about "this Bill Shock guy" and wondered about the man whose reputation seemed to precede him.

When Seawright and Shock finally were introduced weeks later at a university alumni event, neither of them could've predicted the friendship that would soon form. Both are former Marines; both their wives Aimone and Camille, respectively, are from South America; they each

Accounting undergraduate student Randy Seawright (l) and alumnus Bill Shock, '03 BS, '06 MBA (r), are changing the UHCL experience for veterans. They are pictured at the Friendswood Veterans Memorial.

began their degrees at San Jacinto College; they both love golf — Seawright brags about how awful he is — and they both believe in creating a stronger relationship between UHCL and veterans.

Currently a senior tax agent for Occidental Petroleum Corp., Shock is the outgoing chair for the UHCL Alumni Association Executive Council and has been part of the AAEC since 2009. In 2005, between completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees, he created the William E. Shock Scholarship for School of Business

undergraduate students.

“I hope the scholarship can help someone at UHCL the way the university helped me,” says Shock. After meeting Seawright and hearing about his degree plan, Shock mentioned Seawright to his boss. “My boss volunteered to talk to Randy about what he could do with the career path he’s moving toward.”

While Shock doesn’t consider himself a mentor, Seawright definitely sees him as a mentor and a friend, and hopes to create similar relationships between current students and alumni across the campus.

“Not everybody is going to follow in the footsteps of their veteran mentor,” says Seawright. “But there may be one or two, and Bill has really motivated me to get this veterans office and to stay active and stay in there. He’s there for alumni coffee nights and he wants to be involved. If I can do that, if I can help one or two people that are in my shoes ... it has to start somewhere.”

Shock and Seawright are using that mentality to help establish a stronger veteran resource presence at UHCL.

Seawright leaned on his classmates at San Jacinto College that were transferring to UHCL to help develop the SVA. Even if a student could only dedicate a few weeks or months to help collect or distribute information, he was grateful for their help. UHCL students Heather Kulhanek and Nicholas Darling have also been instrumental in establishing the SVA and keeping it running.

“If I saw someone in a camouflaged shirt or shorts, I pulled them out and talked to them,” says Seawright, who admits that he stayed in the Office of Financial Aid more than he should have, pulling students aside and educating them on veteran’s benefits and just making himself available if students or staff had any questions.

The SVA started hosting a weekly fundraiser called Taco Tuesdays, not only to raise funds for the organization but also to get their name out and to increase the number of veterans registering to get involved. During summer break last year they hosted a luncheon for local veteran groups to gain input from them and to tailor the plan for veteran resources on campus.

“Though the students at UHCL have worked hard to help create the Student Veterans Association, I really want an actual salaried individual in charge of veteran information on campus,” says Seawright. “A child, a job, a car wreck — those things could stop a student’s involvement at any time. We need the support of a salaried individual so that we are an actual force on campus.”

This past spring, Seawright helped write the job description for the university’s first veterans office staff member and early in the fall 2012 semester, that position description was approved. A Veterans Service Office, staffed by a full-time staff member, will be established at UHCL during the spring 2013 semester.

Originally proposed as an office that assisted students in resolving issues and connecting them to other offices that would provide the services, the VSO’s responsibilities evolved to make it more of a one-stop shop for veterans on campus. The VSO will offer information on financial aid and military service credit for current military and veterans, and even helping students address university affairs before deploying. It will also serve as a central point for uniting veterans with student and university services to support student success.

Getting Shock involved in his two-year plan was critical, synergizing the relationship for alumni and current students who are veterans or are interested in supporting veteran resources.

“It was a good fit to bring me in because they already have some students and faculty involved, and now they have some alumni involved so we can work on this from three different directions,” says Shock in regard to the creation of the SVA and the planning stages for a full-time staff position geared toward helping veterans at UHCL. But Shock is humble in regard to his part. “Those students are the ones who really got this thing off the ground.”

Seawright gave himself a two-year deadline to change things for veterans at UHCL and as the second year begins, things are moving according to plan.

“If I can help one or two people who are in my shoes ... it has to start somewhere.”

If you’re interested in becoming involved in the Student Veterans Association or if you’re a veteran with questions about your resources at UHCL, contact sva@uhcl.edu.

**1970s**

Carl Johnson, '77 MA, is the CEO and president of The Venture Catalyst Group Inc.

Danny Kaiser, '78 BA, and his wife, **Clare**, '79 BS, celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary in May. They met while attending classes at UHCL 35 years ago.

**1980s**

Louis Ashworth, '81 MA, was recognized as 2012 Upper School Teacher of the Year. He teaches at The John Cooper School in The Woodlands.

Helen Marguerite Baxter, '84 MS, is employed by the Harris County Department of Education with an ESL teaching assignment in adult education.

Connie Edwards, '85 BS, works for Saudi Aramco as an elementary school teacher in Dharan, Saudi Arabia.

B.J. Herz, '81 MA, received the Galveston Historical Society's 19th annual "Steel Oleander" Award.

Vernon King, '81 MA, was selected for inclusion in the Who's Who in America 2012 publication.

Peggy Machol-Bassett, '82 MA, has been teaching for 10 years at ASSETS Academy.

Terry Miller, '85 MBA, is a senior sales associate for RICOH Corp.

Phyllis Saathoff, '85 BS, was named Managing Director of Corporate Projects for the Port of Houston Authority.

**1990s**

Alison Brown, '90 MS, works for NASA Johnson Space Center as an aerospace engineer.

Cris C. Daskevich, '97 MHA/MBA, was selected as one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women by Houston Woman Magazine.

Sean Forrester, '99 MBA, is a maintenance superintendent at American Crystal Sugar Co. in Minnesota.



Anna Gomez, '93 MS, was appointed to the Hesston College Board of Overseers. She is a psychotherapist and mediator at Ebony Center in Brownsville.

Shu-chen Liu, '93 MA, is the human resources vice director for Merry Electronics in Taiwan.

Lisa Lyles, '94 MS, was named assistant principal at Fisher Elementary, Pasadena ISD.

Joe Orsi, '90 BBA, took over command as Lt. Colonel of Houston-based 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment.

Anne Payne, '93 MS, is a docent at the Stark Museum of Art in Orange.

David Payne, '95 MS, works at Westlake Petro Chem in Louisiana.

Linda Rawlings, '97 MS, retired as principal from Westlake High School, Eanes ISD.

Travis Roderick, '93 MHA, was appointed as CEO of North Texas Hospital, Denton.

C.D. Williams, '92 BS, is a member of the Dayton ISD Board of Trustees.

Tess Gimenez Williams, '91 BA, married Mark Williams in January 2012. She is the chief marketing strategist for CapitolComms.

2000s

Amy Acreman, '05 BA works for Barrios Technology as a configuration management analyst and is working on her master's degree at UHCL.

Paul Acreman, '09 PB BS, '06 BBA, accepted a position with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Linda Butcher, '03 MA, is the owner of Therapy Solutions 4 U in Wharton.

Leslie Cooper, '04 BS, is owner of A & A Bookkeeping Services.

Daniel Davis, '05 BA, is the pastor of Covenant Community Church, Pearland.

Donnie Elliott, '02 BA, was named assistant baseball coach for Deer Park High School, Deer Park ISD.

Michelle LaGrone Ferguson, '05 MA, '03 BA, is teaching at the Awty International School, Houston.

Shannon Garner, '01 BA, is the new head volleyball coach at Clear Springs High School, Clear Creek ISD.

Julie Gawel, '08 MS, teaches grades 9-12 art at Lakeview Centennial High School, Garland ISD.

Matt Griesmyer, '09 BA, joined the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce as director of communications.

Laurel Hale, '03 BS, works for the State of Texas Attorney General's Office as an Officer II, Child Support Enforcement.

Julia Hall, '01 MS, was named one of Pearland ISD Principals of the Year. She is principal at PACE Center.

Dana Harms, '06 BA, is the manager of marketing and graphics for Midway, serves as the editorial and creative director for the biannual district magazine and is marketing chair for Brookwood Young Professionals.

Felicia Hernandez, '01 BS, is a financial analyst II for The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Abdulla Kudrath, '07 BS, is completing her residency as a doctor of emergency medicine at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

Shawn Landrith, '09 BS, is a project coordinator for Dehumidification Technologies.

Patrick LeBlanc, '01 MA, received the Lea Krell Weems Fellowship at the Holocaust Museum Houston.

Yuvaraj Mani, '06 MS, married Madhu Priya Ramu in June 2012.

Cissy Matthews, '00 MBA, was appointed as vice president of instruction for Galveston College.

Sandra Paulson, '04 MA, is semi-retired and living in Sun City, Ariz. She plans to pursue a career in clinical psychology.

Shalonvia Ramirez, '09 MA, is a clinical therapist for Youth & Family Counseling Services.

Amber Rivera, '03 MS, '03 BS, is an internal accounting manager for The Boeing Co.

Russell Sassin, '03 MS, is assistant principal at Bastrop Middle School, Bastrop ISD.

Jared Sloan, '03 BA, teaches for Lamar Consolidated ISD.

Jeremy Stuart, '07 MS, is a systems engineer for COLSA Corp. in Alabama.

Jordan R. Sutton, '09 BS, passed the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board exam and works for The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Wilbur Williams, '00 BS, works for Harmony House Inc. as a resident care associate and recently received his Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor status.



2010s

Doug Arvin, '12 MBA, is the vice president-hospital financial operations for University of Cincinnati Health System.

Derek Bird, '12 BS, is a staff accountant for Camden Property Trust in Houston.

Sonja Blinka, '10 BS, is director of purchasing for College of the Mainland.

Alicia Blum, '12 MA, '06 BS, works for Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County as rehabilitation clinician.

Melissa Bryan, '11 MBA, '06 BS, is a plant controller with the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group in Houston.

Veronica Collins, '12 MA, '09 BS, is a code enforcement officer for the Alvin Police Department.

Claiborne Fant, '11 MA, wrote a book titled "Galveston's Historic Landmarks."

Joel Hill, '12 MBA, is a senior broker with Henry S. Miller Realty Services.

Ashley Lewis-Cook, '11 MS, published an early childhood book, "Beautiful Me."

Colleen Martin Merritt, '11 MA, married Gabe Merritt in March 2012. She is the senior communications specialist at CBRE Group Inc. and owns and operates Martin Merritt Media.

Tanya Stanley, '11 MA, '08 BA, is a professor at San Jacinto College.

Rohit Sude, '11 MS, works for JP Morgan Chase as a database management analyst in Ohio.

Vanitha Venkateshaiah, '11 MS, is a research assistant for SeqWright Inc.

In Memory

Barbara Brehmer, '03 MA, '89 BBA, passed away in March 2012.

Alfred W. (Butch) Rowell, '95 BS, passed away in May 2012.

Yolanda Williams, '04 MHA/MBA, passed away in July 2011.

Submit your items to Class Notes by sending an e-mail with "Class Notes" in the subject line to alumni@uhcl.edu or by completing the online form at www.uhcl.edu/alumni. Be sure to note your full name, class year and contact information with your update. You also may mail your submission to Class Notes, UH-Clear Lake, Office of Alumni and Community Relations, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., UHCL Box 318, Houston, TX 77058.

{ get involved }



CONNECT WITH US

Your UHCL Alumni Association is here for you! Use your free association membership to receive discounts around town and to get involved with other alumni and the future of UHCL. Is your membership I.D. missing? Let us know and we'll send you a new one.

Are you interested in doing more? You can become a Lifetime Alumni Member by making a one-time contribution of \$500 or more to the UHCL Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment. With your donation, you are helping to support the future of UHCL students while building a stronger connection to your alma mater. Becoming a Lifetime Alumni Member also grants you free parking in any open student lot, Neumann Library privileges, special invitations to select events and more. *

Do you have news to share? Update your information or submit a Class Note at www.uhcl.edu/alumni to let us know what you've been up to since commencement, and make sure to read UHCL President William A. Staples' letter just for alumni on the inside front cover of this edition.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

We are always planning new alumni events, so make sure to keep up with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation.

School of Human Sciences and Humanities AlumNight

Tuesday, November 6, 2012, 5-7 p.m. | Bayou Building, Forest Room

Accounting AlumNight

Thursday, November 8, 2012, 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Bayou Building, Atrium I

Alumni Association Executive Council Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2012, 5-7 p.m. | Bayou Building, Room 2508
Open to all alumni. Come learn how you can get involved.

Alumni Coffee Table (multiple events)

Monday, November 19, 2012, 6 p.m. | Bayou Building, Atrium II

Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 6 p.m. | Bayou Building, Atrium II

To volunteer to help serve coffee and connect with students, email alumni@uhcl.edu.

Commencement Kick-Off

Friday, December 14, 2012, 5:30-7 p.m. | Bayou Building, Atrium II

To volunteer to help welcome new graduates into the alumni association, email alumni@uhcl.edu.

Small Talk, Big Ideas Breakfast

Thursday, April 4, 2013, 7:30-9 a.m. | Bayou Building, Garden Room

OUR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

In October, we recognized several of our alumni in addition to two faculty members at Alumni Celebration. Learn about the recipients of this year's Distinguished Alumni, Early Achievement and Outstanding Professor awards in this edition's What's Online section, page 5.

WE WANT YOU!

Visit www.uhcl.edu/alumni or email alumni@uhcl.edu to get involved in your alumni association.



www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation



www.youtube.com/UHCLAlumni



University of Houston-Clear Lake Alumni on LinkedIn

* See Lifetime Alumni Membership site at www.uhcl.edu/alumni "Membership and Benefits" for more details.

**Through November 8**

Works from the Children's Art School at Kherson Educational-Artistic Complex in Kherson, Ukraine and UHCL's Art School for Children and Young Adults. Bayou Building, Atrium I, second level. 281-283-3311.

"Slobodan Radojković," Bayou Building, UHCL Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

October 27

KrakenFest, 6 p.m., Alumni Plaza. Art Car celebration and costume party. 281-283-3311.

November 1

Fall 2012 Teacher Job Fair, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium II. Registration recommended. 281-283-2590.

"Improving Iraqi Infrastructure," by Christopher Frabotta. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Forest Room. 281-283-2021.

November 3

16th Annual Student Leadership Conference, "SPARK: Igniting Leadership through Service, Purpose, Action, Risk and Knowledge." Bayou Building. 281-283-2611.

November 6

School of Human Sciences and Humanities AlumNight, 5-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Forest Room. 281-283-2021.

November 7

IISS Global Expo, 12-5 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium II. 281-283-2565.

November 8

Printmaking Demonstration with Slobodan Radojković and Biljana Vuković, 5-7 p.m., Arbor Building, Printmaking Studio. 281-283-3311.

Accounting AlumNight, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I. 281-283-2021.

November 9 -**January 11, 2013**

Spring 2013 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

November 11

Annual Veterans Day Celebration, 3 p.m., UHCL Liberty Park. www.uhcl.edu/veteransday.

November 19 - February 1, 2013

Geraldine Ondrizek - Works from 2008 through 2012," Bayou Building, UHCL Art Gallery. Opening reception and panel discussion, Nov. 19, 5-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Forest Room. 281-283-3311.

December 1

Spring 2013 application deadline for new graduate students. 281-283-2500.

December 6

"Stem Cell Research and Its Use at the UTMB Pepper Center for Geriatrics to Improve Lives," by Ping Wu. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

December 14

Commencement Kick-Off, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium II. 281-283-2041.

January 7

Spring 2013 priority application deadline for new undergraduate students. 281-283-2500.

January 10

"The Current and Present Status of Harris County Pct. 2," by Jack Morman. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

January 11

"Schubert's Death and the Maiden," by Mercury, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

January 16-24

"2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Exhibition," Bayou Building, Atriums I and II, second and third levels. Opening reception, Jan. 17, 5-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I, second level. 281-283-3311.

January 23

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater Performance, 6 p.m., UHCL Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

February 7

"NASA Life Sciences Research and Development: Benefits for Earth and Space," by Jeff Davis. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

February 7 - March 22

"Vojtěch Aubrecht and Miro Švolík," Bayou Building, Atrium I, second level. Opening reception, Feb. 7, 5-7 p.m. 281-283-3311.

February 21 - April 4

"Houston - A Geological Dynamic Wedge," UHCL Art Gallery. Closing reception and lecture with Don Van Nieuwenhuise, March 21, 5-7 p.m., Garden Room, Bayou Building. 281-283-3311.

March 1

Summer 2013 application deadline for international students. 281-283-2500.

March 7

"Reflections on 50 Years in the Bay Area," by Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, Sandra Johnson and Rebecca Wright. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

March 23

Cultural Extravaganza, 7 p.m., Bayou Building. 281-283-2565.

April 1

Fall 2013 application deadline for international students. 281-283-2500.

April 4

Small Talk, Big Ideas Breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

April 4

"Ecosystem Services: How Open Spaces Improve Our Quality of Life," by Tom Kartrude. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

April 18 - May 16

"UHCL Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition," UHCL Art Gallery. Opening reception, April 18, 5-7 p.m., UHCL Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

April 19

"Mozart's A Little Night Music," by Mercury, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

April 19 - May 31

Summer 2013 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

April 19 - August 23

Fall 2013 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

May 2

"Climate Change Impacts on the Texas Coast," by John B. Anderson. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

May 9

"Beethoven's 4th and 5th," by Mercury, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

Find more UHCL events at www.uhcl.edu/events.

Dates and times are subject to change; please confirm event details by calling the telephone number listed or visiting UHCL's website at www.uhcl.edu. Individuals who wish to participate in any of the events listed and who need special accommodation to do so, should contact the university's American Disabilities Act coordinator at 281-283-2626 at least two weeks before the date of the event.

Accepting a Memory

7-year old Accepts
Uncle's Posthumous Degree

By Taryn Burnett

When Master of Counseling graduate student John Lawrence died unexpectedly during spring break, his seven-year old nephew Ryan Rouineb told family members that he wanted to speak at the funeral. Rouineb's mother Jackie, who is Lawrence's sister, was apprehensive at first about her son's request but relented because he was so adamant about speaking.

"Ryan got up there and spoke from the heart," says Jackie Rouineb. When a university member contacted the family after the funeral and suggested that the younger Rouineb accept his uncle's degree, she thought it was a perfect way to honor Lawrence. During the May 2012 afternoon commencement ceremony, Ryan Rouineb crossed the stage to receive his uncle's diploma, shaking hands with School of Education Dean Dennis Spuck.

"The university made Ryan feel so special that day. They gave Ryan a rose with John's tassel attached to it, so one day when Ryan and John's other nephews graduate college, they can wear their uncle's tassel," says J. Rouineb.

She described Lawrence as a big kid himself, who had a love of reading history and of showing his three nephews magic tricks.



Pictured are Kyle Kohlhafer, Ryan Rouineb and Adam Rouineb with their uncle John Lawrence on his last birthday.



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