

**TEAMING UP
AGAINST BULLYING**
PG. 4**SNAPSHOT
OF SERBIAN ART**
PG.8

FEBRUARY 3, 2014

VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 1

New group striving to make Hawk spirit soar

KRIS STIVERS

THE SIGNAL

The Hawk Spirit and Traditions Council (HSTC) came together to encourage and support the creation, promotion and preservation of pride in UHCL through educational and social programming including school spirit and campus traditions.

More than 20 individuals representing students, staff, faculty and alumni began meeting last summer to come up with ideas.

"The group formed [last June] and was given three goals," said Patrick Cardenas, coordinator of Student Life. "To work on existing spirit events and campus traditions, brainstorm and research other universities and use the information to help create new spirit events and traditions that fit the UHCL mission and goals, and develop an organizational structure for the new council, so that it can continue with its mission in the future."

New school spirit initiatives have been discussed, including a proposed spirit day encouraging students to wear school colors (blue and green) on Wednesdays.

The initial idea for a spirit day began as a joke from members of the First Year Initiative-New Traditions Sub-Committee within HSTC. The idea mimics a familiar movie line, "On Wednesdays, we wear pink," from the 2004 film "Mean Girls."

"The more we thought about it, the more sense it made because UHCL does not have an active student life on Fridays like University of Houston," said Carla Bradley, president of the Student Government Association (SGA) and member of HSTC. "If you were to look at how busy the campus is on a typical week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays seem to bring in the most students onto campus and those are days we would want to show off the most

school spirit."

Universities traditionally foster school spirit to create a sense of unity and pride amongst a student body.

Joyce Delores Taylor, chair of the UHCL Alumni Association and member of the HTSC, believes new initiatives, like the proposed spirit day, will benefit the university as whole.

"In order to promote a spirit of camaraderie and love for UHCL, I think it is important for those who are a part of the university to recognize and support school spirit," Taylor said. "These school initiatives will show our support for UHCL, help the current and new freshmen students to feel a part of the university and give an avenue for celebration, fun and pride in being a UHCL Hawk for not only the students, but faculty, staff, alumni and administration as well."

Bradley is very passionate about the impact these initiatives can have.

"I have always told students never to just come and leave campus," Bradley said. "Being active doesn't always mean [you have to] join a student organization. With initiatives like this, I hope that it will encourage students to stop and see what's offered to them and take advantage of all the resources available to them."

SEE SPIRIT, PAGE 6

ANDREA THOMAS: THE SIGNAL

Research and Creative Arts Conference seeks student submissions

LIZ DAVIS

THE SIGNAL

The Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts (SCRCA) will celebrate its 20th anniversary April 14-17 in the Bayou Building. The conference is accepting submissions until March 9.

The SCRCA will cover student presentations from all disciplines from any university, not just UHCL. Academic work in any subject is accepted as long as the student has a faculty sponsor.

The conference is co-directed by Michael Hunt and Pilar Goyaizu with faculty members attending as sponsors and audience members.

Hunt said that many presenters attend as audience members first because they do not think their work is professional enough to present to an audience and evaluators. He encourages students to show

their work to a potential faculty sponsor before automatically disqualifying themselves from presenting at the conference.

"This is a co-curricular event to help prepare students for a professional career," Hunt said. "They also may include their presentations on their curriculum vitae as conference presentations and as a publication."

At the conference, there will be a large selection of events and exhibits for presenters and audience members to attend.

Stuart Larson, associate professor of graphic design, said that the Graphic Design Symposium, held for the first time at last year's SCRCA, was very insightful.

"I even learned things from that presentation," Larson said.

A graduate and undergraduate art exhibit will be displayed

SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE 6

Cherry picked as Piper Award nominee

ERIKA THOMAS

THE SIGNAL

Stephen Cherry, professor of sociology, is being honored as UHCL's 2013-2014 Minnie Stevens Piper Excellence in Teaching Award nominee. Cherry will represent UHCL in a competition on the state level for the Piper Award, which honors college and university professors.

The Piper Award began in 1958 and is awarded annually to 10 teachers from across the state of Texas. The Piper Award recognizes professors for their excellence in teaching at the collegiate level, in and out of the classroom; whether they teach at a public or private, two- or four-year school. The professors who are awarded the Piper Award at the state level will receive a certificate of merit, a gold pin and a \$5,000 honorarium. In February/early March the 10 finalist winners for the state of Texas will be announced.

Nominations for the Piper Award come from both students and faculty. Every fall, nomination forms and ballot boxes are placed at the entrance of each building on campus, and email notifications are sent out to students and faculty. In late September, a selection committee is formed, which consists of four students and four faculties each representing one of UHCL's four schools: School of Business, School of Education, School of Human Sciences and Humanities, and School of Science and Computer Engineering.

The UHCL Piper Award committee reviews the nominations received from September through October. After the committee reviews the nominations, the top five finalists are selected based on the

**STEPHEN CHERRY**

number of nominations received and their ratio of credit hours taught. The committee also looks at the professors' service on and off campus, as well as their dimensions of leadership.

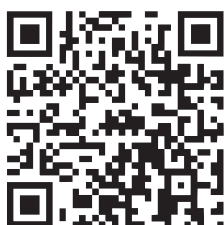
"We were looking for excellence in teaching strategies and innovations," said David Rachita, interim dean of students. "Cherry pushes his students to not only think about the academics of it, but real-world solutions."

In addition to teaching, Cherry is also an author; his first book, titled "Faith, Family, and Filipino American Community Life," was published by Rutgers University Press in 2013. His second book, titled "Global Religious Movements Across Borders:

SEE CHERRY, PAGE 6

online this issue

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**MARFA ART EXHIBIT** PG.7

Students travel west to gain a new perspective from the town of Marfa, Texas.



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BLOG

The other V-Day

COMMENTARY

The real cost of cannabis

SLIDESHOWSMarfa student art exhibit
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WE’VE GOT SPIRIT, YES WE... WAIT, WHAT?

The phrase “school spirit” tends to evoke a specific kind of image. We see big university athletics and packed stadiums overflowing with bright red, burnt orange or maroon.

We remember high school pep rallies, halls lined with glittery poster boards, and the change in the air as game day approached. It doesn’t matter if we were the ones in the uniforms or the ones rolling our eyes at the elitism of it all. We each have our own images, our own memories, but the essential elements of it remain the same: tradition, authenticity and community all wrapped up in a competitive package.

So when we hear people talking about school spirit as it applies to UHCL, a conversation that has been noticeably loud this year, it’s easy to be a skeptic. This university doesn’t have competitive athletics or a thundering stadium full of fans. We never wonder if there’s a bar fight on the other side of the state over whether the guy sitting next to us in class will be drafted next year. It’s easy to feel like we have nothing to rally behind. We know this isn’t a traditional university. We don’t feel like traditional students.

Our average student age is not the standard 18 to 22 years. We have more students living in the real world than we have anticipating it as they pursue a higher education. Many of us have to find our balance over and over again every day because we’ve taken on more

EDITORIAL
roles than any sane person would. We have families, jobs, internships and responsibilities that reach far beyond campus.

Now there’s talk of dedicating a specific day of the week to wearing our school colors – just as if we had game days. Hearing about this during the semester before our doors open to freshmen and sophomores can make it feel less like authenticity and more like a marketing ploy. It’s easy to find a reason not to bother with it, to say there’s no time or motive.

Except a large part of what makes us so non-traditional is that we are exceptionally talented at avoiding what is easy. We Hawks like challenges. We have the elements upon which school spirit is built. Our tradition is in our differences. We find our authenticity in our peers. We know the person next to us didn’t come here because he was following his high school friends or because she was under pressure from her parents.

What unites us is that each of us made a conscious choice to be here. We aren’t trying college out. We know we want it. None of us started out here and, in a way, it feels like we’ve all paid our dues. We’re a community because of that. Even if we weren’t before, all of this talk about downward expansion has bonded this student body more than any organized

attempt ever could. As soon as the words come out there’s an almost audible groan from anyone within earshot. There are students worried the guy in class sharing NASA water-cooler talk is going to be replaced by an 18-year-old with Bieber Fever. There are students excited but also very bored with the conversation – those who wish it would just happen already. Whether we were annoyed or excited in the beginning of the process, we’re all ready to quit discussing it now. That could be where skepticism about a new spirit day will evolve, though. Is this something we will do because we want to, or is it something we’re supposed to do to sell the university to incoming freshmen?

The incoming freshmen haven’t paid their dues. Right now, this one common thread connects us all. Next year we lose it – there will never be another first freshman class at UHCL. Yes, we’re worried that next year will rearrange our entire campus culture. We like our non-traditional school and our non-traditional peers. We like things the way they are. Maybe that’s why we should do it. We should embrace this spirit day idea. Our desire to hold onto the environment we have won’t stop changes from happening. Next year could change the



LARISSA BARNES

entire culture of this school, but if we make an effort to pass down what we have now, maybe it won’t. What we have now is a community and all of the quirks, complaints and inside jokes that come along with it. What we have now is an environment where any student can be involved, no matter how non-traditional he or she is. We need to pass down that inclusiveness. We don’t need to do it for the new kids. We need to do it for us – to preserve what we’ve found here.

We need to make sure the first freshman class knows to welcome everyone. We can only do that by showing them that we think our current culture is a source of pride. Wednesday morning, when you get dressed, reach for something blue or green. It doesn’t have to be a UHCL shirt from the bookstore. Grab the blue button-up or the green scarf. The beauty of making this a student effort is that you can make it as big or as little as you want to make it.

Dude, where the heck is my flying car?

FRANCISCO
VAZQUEZ-DIAZ
THE SIGNAL

Is anyone else frustrated with technology? Surely I can’t be the only one growing impatient. I’m not the kind of person who gets frustrated with the complexity and usage of technology. Rather, I find it embarrassing that decades ago we created a cartoon about the Jetson family who lived during 2000 in space with flying cars, but here in 2014 we are still rolling around on Earth with rubber tires. I believe technology moves at an unbelievably molasses pace in this world. Mankind developed the technology required to travel in space 53 years ago, yet today we are using vehicles based on a concept developed 140 years ago. Don’t you think that by now we should have the ability to send people to space for decades at a time or even colonize the moon? How is it possible that we can dream these concepts to life for movies, but just recently we figured out how to build self-driving cars? I saw that in “Minority Report” eight years ago! Clearly the focus of our technological endeavors managed to shift. The biggest technology companies focus all of their energy on what I keep hearing about over and over again – things like Face-



STAFF COLUMN
book, Twitter, social apps, and outrageous hype about the latest smartphone. They seem to be focused on how to connect human beings to each other.

For some reason the leading technology companies and entrepreneurs decided to make communication and social media a priority. We are helping people who have lost touch with reality connect back to their friends and family. It’s as if our souls have found a way to use technology to satisfy what they truly desire. If that weren’t the case, if we as humans did not have that need, we would probably have a flying car by now. We wouldn’t have wasted so much time on Mark Zuckerberg and Steve Jobs. We would have said, “Who cares if I can Face-

Time my mom from the other side the planet? I want a car that flies!” Instead, we seem to have a desperate need to connect with other human beings and to be part of a community. Technology can be a great tool for social communication, but I believe it promotes a disheartening trend that I’ve noticed recently: social skills diminishing in exchange for technological convenience. Why call your friend if you can send him a text? Why engage in real-world activities with friends if you can embark on a quest of epic stature and slay dragons via an online game? When we as human beings decide to trade natural social interaction in for a modern technological substitute we are, in fact, only partially satisfying our need for each other. We need to put down the technology and dust off our social skills so we can feed the starved part of our soul that is longing for genuine humanity. Perhaps, when we start to take care of our need for natural human interaction, we will have that flying car. I hope it resembles a Delorean.

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UHCL professor and NFL star tackle bullying

DANIEL DURBIN
THE SIGNAL

UHCL Associate Professor of Political Science William Hoston and star NFL Pro Bowl receiver DeSean Jackson of the Philadelphia Eagles have co-written a children's book, released in December 2013, entitled "No Bullies in the Huddle."

Schoolyards and local playgrounds are supposed to be a place where children learn to socialize with their peers, boost positive interactions and quite simply, have fun.

However, all too often there are those peers who choose to not contribute to the quality social aspects at all but, instead, choose to undermine them.

"No Bullies in the Huddle" centers around a young boy named Cameron whose father is a Wounded Warrior recently out of the Marines. The two of them move from Los Angeles to Philadelphia, where a student on the football team named Ronny, who plays receiver, bullies Cameron. Cameron may be smaller than Ronny, but he is faster on the football field. Cameron's friend recommends he speak with an adult about the situation to resolve the issue, which can be hard for younger people for fear of retaliation of being labeled a whimp by their peers.

"We're just trying to break that stereotype," Hoston said. "You can reach out to adult figures, get good sound advice and you don't have to be stigmatized in order to do it."

The book's message encourages young people to speak out against bullying rather than succumbing to the pressures of harassment.

While the book focuses on children, it has recently been publicized that adults



"This book is not only for young boys who are athletes, but for the general population."

— WILLIAM HOSTON

face similar scenarios, even in professional sports.

During the 2013 NFL season, the Miami Dolphins made national headlines when player Richie Incognito was accused of verbally abusing and bullying his teammate Jonathan Martin with threatening and racist voicemails and texts. Martin left the team citing emotional distress, and Incognito was suspended for the remainder of the season.

Bullying has long been attributed as a problem for children and teens, but the unveiling of this harassment at a professional level opened up the discussion regarding the affects bullying can have on adults in their daily lives as well.

"This book is not only for young boys who are athletes, but for the general population," Hoston said. "We can see a lot of people buying this book for their kids because it has a lot of embedded messages in it."

Charles Neerman drew the book's illustrations using vibrant colors to vividly

grasp the full details of the story in a way that is appealing to readers of all ages and backgrounds.

"I had a great deal of freedom to draw the characters as I saw them and pictured them from the story," Neerman said. "Dr. Hoston expressed his idea that he wanted the book to be multicultural. We worked together to represent different ethnic groups of various ages."

This is the first published book Neerman has illustrated.

"Illustrating children's books allows me the freedom to draw the old-fashioned way," he continued. "Plus, I have wanted to be a part of children's books for quite some time."

Neerman and Hoston did not know each other prior to working on this book.

"My friend from elementary and high school... contacted me through a small investigation," Neerman said. "[My friend] works at Kendall Hunt Publishing and has worked with Hoston on several other

projects. [Hoston] had an illustrator in mind, but the other person was unable to work on the project at the time."

"[Neerman] did an amazing job," said Hoston.

Hoston did know DesSean Jackson before collaborating on the book.

"I am very good friends with his family, particularly his cousin... we set out over a year ago to put this book together because we just wanted to do something to help his foundation and kind of enhance his image," Hoston said.

Hoston says people naturally like Jackson.

"He's that guy you just root for, because he's little and he's just that guy, you know, 5'10" and 165 pounds, you just root for him because it's very difficult for someone like that to be in the NFL."

"No Bullies in the Huddle" is the first book in a series Hoston, Jackson and Neerman plan to produce. In the future, Hoston hopes to garner more athletes to be involved in the project.

"Once you get one [athlete], it's easy to get two, but it has to be a certain type of athlete... one who has a lot of charisma, that people just latch onto [and] they naturally like," Hoston said.

Currently, the book is gaining national media attention. Jackson's national appearances include: Good Morning America, ESPN, The View and 106 and Park.

The profits will be donated to the DeSean Jackson Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer and other various charities.

The book is now available for purchase at www.nobulliesinthehuddle.com as well as local bookstores.

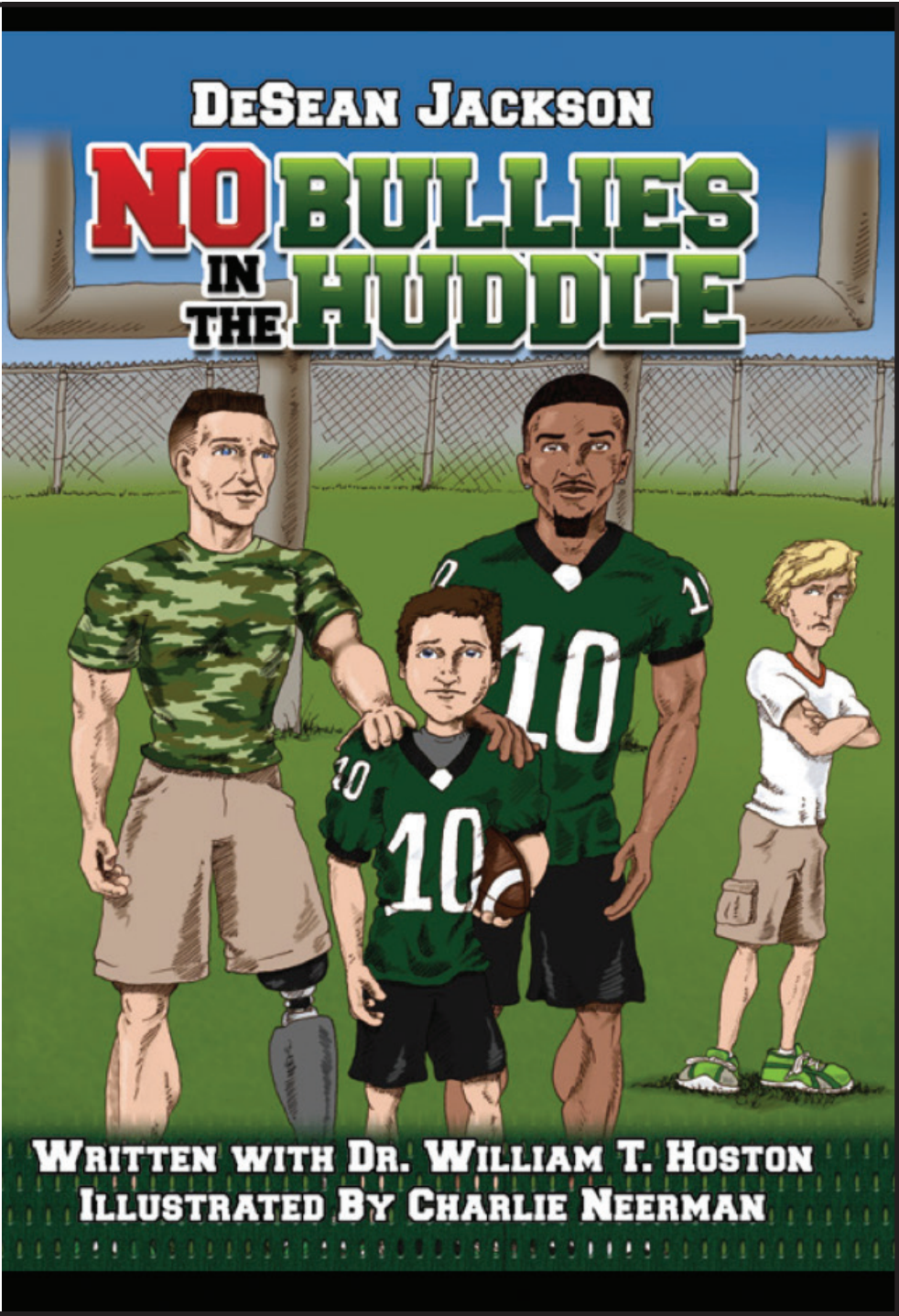
About the Authors



DeSean Jackson is a wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles. Besides being a professional athlete, Mr. Jackson has many interests that include: acting, modeling, and song writing. He actively supports the fight against Pancreatic Cancer, Wounded Warriors and Anti-Bullying campaigns. This book, "No Bullies in the Huddle" is the first of a series of children's books that Mr. Jackson intends to write to use his celebrity to bring awareness to various issues facing today's youth. To learn more about DeSean Jackson and upcoming projects, please visit www.DeseanJackson10.com.



Dr. William T. Hoston, Ph.D. is an author, scholar, public intellectual, motivational speaker, poet, and leader for the 21st Century. He is associate professor of political science at the University of Houston - Clear Lake. To learn more about Dr. Hoston and upcoming projects, please visit www.wthoston.com.



UHCL honors former professor with diversity award

TIFFANY SEXTON
THE SIGNAL

Ethnicity, race and gender all contribute to the meaning of diversity. Twenty years ago Edward “Jim” Hayes acted to change the face of diversity at UHCL when he arrived as its first, and to date only, black senior-level administrator.

Hayes worked at UHCL from 1994 to 2013 in a variety of roles during his tenure. He served as vice president and provost from 1994 to 2007. When he retired as provost, he worked as a professor of counseling in the School of Education from 2007 to 2013.

Hayes will receive “The Dr. Edward James Hayes Award” honoring his accomplishments in increasing diversity and cultural awareness throughout UHCL as part of the university’s Black History Month celebration. The ceremony will be held Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. in the Garden Room. It is free for everyone to attend.

Hayes is the first person to receive this award created in his honor. His accomplishments to build a foundation for diversity are being recognized by this award.

“When I first started working at UHCL in 1994, the faculty consisted of at least 96 to 97 percent Caucasian employees, coupled with less than 10 full-time employees [of a different race],” Hayes said. “I was the only African-American faculty member.”

The student body at that time was slightly more diverse than the faculty.

“The student body in 1994 consisted of at least 75 to 80 percent Caucasian, 5 to 7 percent Latina and Asian, and less than 5 percent African-American,” Hayes said. “Although the campus always had a strong international population, and the administration was satisfied this was making up for the diversity on campus, I was concerned with the people of color.”

Hayes wanted to make a difference in the UHCL community, not just with the students, but with the faculty and administration as well. Hayes’ accomplishments through the years can be seen through the university’s changing demographics.

Our current stats in our student body stand at 47 percent white, 23 percent Hispanic, 10 percent black, 7 percent Asian, and 13 percent other.

Our current stats among our faculty stand at 62.4 percent white, 16.8 percent international, 8 percent Asian, 6.4 percent Hispanic and 4.8 percent black. Statistics provided by UHCL’s Office of Institutional Research.

“When I left UHCL we were the most diverse school in the UH system,” Hayes said.

Hayes made a difference in both the UHCL student body and faculty throughout his time at UHCL, but he struggled with the senior-level administration.

“When I first started working

at UHCL there was little or no diversification among the senior-level administration, now since I left, there’s none,” Hayes said.

Hayes worked with a group of people he said were very participatory in helping him with the agenda he had for the campus.

“We all make up the community at UHCL,” Hayes said. “The administration, faculty and custodial staff make that place comfortable.”

Hayes never wanted to make the changes toward diversity on his own, he knew he couldn’t. He needed people at the university to be behind him in making decisions.

“He was a driving force that the university was comfortable with,” said Linda Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity. “We all understood his advocacy, his need and desire for diversity.”

Growing up in both pre- and post-civil war America taught Hayes how to survive.

“You either do nothing about your circumstances and complain about them or you try to change them,” Hayes said.

Hayes said he fought many battles at UHCL, but the one battle he was the most proud of ‘winning’ was the change of the attitude on campus toward diversity. People no longer believe diversity to be a burden, Hayes said; people are now starting to believe more diversity in the pool is good thing for our society.

Hayes’ passion for diversity was recognized by the committee



EDWARD “JIM” HAYES

and others that worked closely with him.

“He is truly a wonderful man that had such passion for the students,” Bullock said. “When the committee sat down to decide who should be the first one to receive an award about increasing cultural diversity, it was a unanimous decision that it would be Hayes.”

Hayes said it was never about self-recognition. He was happy being the man behind the scenes anticipating what needed to be accomplished and then actually seeing it get accomplished. Hayes said he does not just stand for the people of color; he also stands for gender and all ethnicities and races.

“My main concern is if UHCL is going to continue to make progress now that I am gone,” Hayes continued, “Where are we

going from here?” Although Hayes is concerned about where the university is going, he is very moved by the award he is going to receive.

“When I found out about the award I was, and still am, surprised because things were so hard to accomplish during that time period,” Hayes said. “I am extremely honored to be remembered, but it is not an award for me, it is an award for perpetuity. It is an award for people down the road that will share my passion for diversity, and it is wonderful.

“I am never satisfied with what I think we can do in the area of diversity, but I am very proud that the university approved of this award,” Hayes continued. “It is a commitment to increase diversity amongst this campus, and for that I am very proud.”

In the coming years the award will be titled the “Hayes Commitment to Diversity Award.” It will honor anyone who is an advocate for increasing cultural diversity within the UHCL community.

The guidelines for the award are still being decided upon, but we do know it will be an annual award, with a committee to establish nominees, and UHCL students, faculty and staff will be able to vote on who they believe should receive the award for increasing their diversity.

For more information about the award ceremony, contact the Office of Intercultural Student Services.

Black History Month Events

Tues. February 4 BSA Speaker Series: Colorism 7PM–Garden Room	Tues. February 18 Social Justice Leadership Training 4PM–Bayou 1437	Thurs. February 20 Free HIV/AIDS Testing 6PM–Forest Room
Wed. February 5 Black History Trivia 2PM–Garden Room	Wed. February 19 Black Dot in a White World 6PM–Garden Room	Thurs. February 20 Africana Farmers Market 11AM–Bayou, Atrium I
Mon. February 10 Honoring a UHCL Legend 3PM–Garden Room	<div>February 7-29 Women of Jubilee Panel Display Bayou Atrium I, Level I</div>	Sat. February 22 12 Years a Slave 7PM–SSCB Lecture Hall
Tues. February 11 My HAIRitage 5PM–Garden Room		Wed. February 26 NIARA 5PM–SSCB 1.203

SPIRIT:
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Although UHCL is a non-traditional university, Bradley anticipates the four-year initiative that will make the university a full, four-year university in fall 2014 could change the expectations of the student body.

“Freshmen and transferring sophomores will want to experience a university life like the ones portrayed in the movies and media,” Bradley said. By starting something like this, they can help us keep it going after we are long-time alumni.”

Bradley also noted that any students who have ideas or suggestions to further the spirit initiative should bring them to the SGA office located in SSCB 1.205.

“Sometimes, students do not realize that they have immense power to influence the way things

are done at UHCL,” Bradley said. “The support or lack thereof from students can either make or break this grassroots initiative.”

Colden Snow, HSTC member and anthropology major, echoed Bradley’s thoughts on being part of the spirit movement.

“It has been exciting being a charter member,” Snow said. “The council is extremely important for the future of UHCL with our first freshmen and sophomores coming in the fall. We are working hard to bolster our current traditions and create new traditions for current and future students. It is important to create a sense of community outside the classroom, so students want to stay at UHCL.

I feel HSTC has an important role in the future of UHCL.”

CONFERENCE:
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in the Bayou Building for creative art presenters. The Animation Symposium and Festival will take place during the week for students specializing in digital media to screen their animations and will be followed by a group forum.

A poetry session with a coffee house set-up will be scheduled for students to read their own poems to audience members. John Gorman, professor of literature and UHCL’s unofficial poet laureate, will be the moderator.

“As Professor John Gorman is retiring this year, the poetry reading should be especially sentimental,” Larson said.

Another session will be a mock trial presented by legal studies students enrolled in courses taught by Jim Benson, associate professor of legal stud-

ies.

Former students who have presented at the conference have gone on to serve on UHCL faculty, including Pilar Goyaizu and Camille Peres.

Camille Peres, now an assistant professor of environmental and occupational health at Texas A&M, presented at the first SCRCA held in 1995. Peres graduated from UHCL with a technical theatre degree in 1990. After she attended the conference, she decided to pursue her doctorate in psychology.

“Conducting the study that I presented at that conference was when I discovered that I loved, and I mean loved, research, statistics and the entire scientific method,” Peres said.

Peres said she sponsored more students than she could

count in her eight years as faculty at UHCL.

“Attending these presentations is one of the most rewarding experiences I have had at UHCL,” Larson said. “The level of professionalism and insight is truly impressive. This is what learning is truly about; being exposed to new ideas and ways of thinking.”

The deadline for student submissions is March 9. The application fee is \$12 per author and \$12 for each co-author. To fill out an application, visit <http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/SCR/Home/Application>.

CHERRY:
continued from page 1

Sacred Service,” will be published later this month.

Cherry has served as a volunteer for the Center for the Healing of Racism in Houston on various projects dealing with American race relations since 1999.

In 2006 Cherry received the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Distinguished Article, and in 2010 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Key Award at UHCL.

“Dr. Cherry makes us think in ways we never thought before, and challenged us in ways we were not expecting,” said one student in his/her nomination of Cherry. “Many of us lost track of class time and were captivated each time. Dr. Cherry has

been the most influential professor I have ever had.”

Cherry has been nominated for the Piper Award four times in his five years of teaching at UHCL, this is Cherry’s first time to win the UHCL nomination.

“To be honest, I do not need to be nominated for the Piper Award to know that my students appreciate me and all that I do for them; this is just the “cherry” on the cake – pun intended,” Cherry joked then went on to add, “It is a tremendous honor, especially here at UHCL where we have so many great professors in the classroom it feels good to know that they appreciate all the hard work that goes into making a course dynamic or all the behind-the-scenes

work that goes into mentoring them while juggling my own active research agenda.”

Cherry, a native from New Orleans, completed his bachelor’s degree in history at the University of Houston. After teaching public school for seven years while completing a master’s degree in sociology at the UHCL, he went on to receive his Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Austin in 2008. He took his first tenured-track position at the University of Southern Mississippi before returning to Texas to join UHCL.

“I was inspired to become a professor by my own mentors and wanted to be able to shape lives and careers the way I saw them doing for others,” Cherry said. “I am

fortunate to have such great students and hope that I can continue to inspire them and shape their lives and careers the way so many mentors have done for me along the way.”

In April, UHCL President William Staples will host a luncheon honoring Cherry and the other five Piper Award nominees. The other five distinguished finalists are: Gary Boetticher, Lei Wu and Pradeep Budharaju all associate professors of computer science, software engineering and computer information systems; Amy Lucas, associate professor of sociology and women’s studies; and Hakduran Koc, associate professor of computer engineering.

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Inspired by Marfa, students create their own campus art haven

KAILIE HYDE
THE SIGNAL

There is a small city surrounded by desert sands in West Texas called Marfa.

Marfa is a well-established artist community featuring tours, galleries, museums and festivals – all dedicated to art.

Art majors Amber Kaiser, Calia Labarco Linaweaver, Kevin Cromwell, Sarah Melville and Rachel Wiley Janota traveled to Marfa last fall to explore the Chinati Festival on open-house weekend.

The Chinati Foundation, a contemporary art museum showcasing large-scale installations, hosts an open-house once a year, free of charge.

Other museums, as well as the nearby Davis and Chinati Mountains, contributed to the artists’ inspiration for their own artwork. The artists hope to share their experiences in Marfa through sculptures, paintings and photography in a new art exhibit titled “Where They Roll Up the Sidewalks.”

Marfa’s reputation for well-known artists, lecturers and galleries drew the five artists to the small West Texas town, as well as the belief that Marfa “encompasses the landscape of Texas, but brings an artist’s touch,” said Amber Kaiser, studio art major.

Motivated by the journey, the artists agree that there is always something more to learn, something more to gain and always something more to explore.

“When They Roll Up the Sidewalks” is the first art exhibit

to take place in the Arbor North Building. The building houses a new art exhibit space devoted to student art led by student initiative.

This art exhibit is special to these students, not only because it’s their first, personal art space, but also because together, their artwork tells a story.

The pieces on display represent Marfa through individual interpretations, yet show connections and tie to one another.

Many of the paintings and photographs show Marfa’s unusual landscape, including the desert sands, mountains, trees, as well as an interpretation of the town’s inhabitants.

Traveling and exploring Marfa’s surroundings, as well as other cultures, has contributed to the artists’ growth and learning. However, getting their work noticed was not an easy task for these students.

The students were required to gain approval from the Art and Design program’s faculty to use the art space. After the students assembled a detailed proposal of their ideas, art descriptions, and resumes, along with many other guidelines, the Art and Design program’s faculty accepted their work.

The students were also in charge of the funding for the artwork and are responsible for the art space. This included any equipment needed to hang their paintings and photographs, business cards or flyers promoting their work in the Arbor Building,

and fixing any holes or damages made to the building after installation.

Jason Makepeace, senior lecturer in sculpture, contributed to the new art exhibit by encouraging and supporting his students to go the extra mile needed.

He helped create what is now known as SAPS, The Student Art Project Space. Makepeace believes that a new art space serves as a voice to art students.

Through hard work, initiative and a driving passion for art, these five artists were able to push their limits and achieve a new art space for themselves, as well as future art students.

“Don’t settle – do more,” Cromwell said.

The artists feel that all other students can achieve the same with determination and love for what they do.

“It is us doing something because we love it,” Janota said.

“When They Roll Up the Sidewalks,” will be on display through Feb. 14. Visitation hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. There will be a closing reception Thursday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. The reception is free and open to students, faculty and the public.



KAILIE HYDE: THE SIGNAL
Studio art major Rachel Wiley Janota with two of her photographs, “Windows on Navarro” and “Wayward,” on display as part of the “When They Roll Up the Sidewalks” exhibit currently on display in the Arbor North Building.



KAILIE HYDE: THE SIGNAL
“Sunrise Body Suit” and “Mrs. Marfa,” both oil paintings on wood, are two of studio art major Sarah Melville’s contributions to the exhibit.

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Looking through the lens: ‘A Snapshot of Serbia’

JESSICA ALCOCER
THE SIGNAL

Taking a picture is capturing a moment in time, locking into place a scene that has just been experienced. Pictures serve as a reminder of an event, display history and let people see something they never got to experience. Even more, photographs can tell a story.

That is precisely what the “A Snapshot of Serbia” exhibit, currently on display in the UHCL Art Gallery, has done with its breathtaking portrayal of the vibrant southeastern European city of Belgrade, Serbia.

The exhibition of works features photos by professors and students of the Faculty of Applied Arts and the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Arts in Belgrade.

Looking along the gallery’s main wall, different themes emerge with each photograph. The color tones flow through the array of strategically placed pictures. Turning to the next arrangement of pictures, a vivacious pop of red jumps from the wall, drawing viewers back into the artwork.

The assortment of works varies from landscapes and portraiture to photographic installations. The exhibit presents a glance into the modern ways of life for these artists living in Serbia. The University of Arts in Belgrade is a member of UHCL’s International Arts consortium, coordinated by UHCL Professor of Art, Sandria Hu, since 2003.

“The purpose of the consortium is for the international exchange of art and dialogue between all of the participating institutions in which arts faculty and students collaborate and study abroad through exchange workshops, lectures and exhibitions,” Hu said.

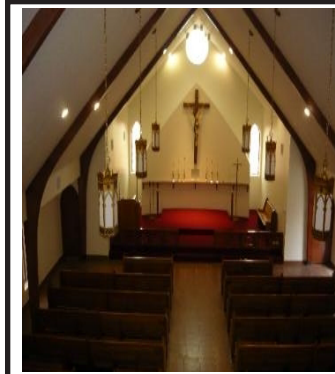
The goal is to cultivate cultural learning for UHCL students. Artists from across the world come to UHCL to share their artistic procedure and things that are important to their culture. Members from UHCL are sent to other nations as well to learn about other countries’ art and cultures.

As a winter storm approached Houston Jan. 23 — coincidentally the same day as the exhibit’s opening reception — temperatures dropped due to a polar vortex pushing its way through Texas. The cold weather didn’t stop art enthusiasts such as Thanh Nguyen, art and design major, from coming to check out the exhibit’s opening night.

“It’s very creative; each picture has its own element, and I like it so far,” Nguyen said.



JAUMARRO CUFFEE: THE SIGNAL
“Vestal Virgin” (2009) by Vladimir Tatarević, student, Faculty of Applied Arts, University of Arts in Belgrade, is on display in “A Snapshot of Serbia,” an exhibit at the UHCL Art Gallery.



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REVIEW

More than 30 photographs hang along the walls of the gallery, as well as on a removable wall to the right of the space. Coordinator of Audience Development Jeffrey Bowen said there are more pictures in the gallery than usual; they double hung photographs in some areas on account of the volume of pictures curated by Galveston Arts Center curator Clint Willour.

Bowen traveled to Belgrade last summer to personally pick up the photos and bring them to UHCL.

“I picked the photos up and used a reinforced suitcase that’s protective of the artwork,” Bowen said. “That was a wonderful experience personally, not only to transport the artworks, but see the facilities and the culture.”

Gallery Assistant Karen Fiscus was part of the layout process of the exhibit pieces.

“It was a good show to install, and I’m really pleased how it turned out,” Fiscus said.

Two of the photographers featured in the exhibit, Mileta Prodanovic and Vladimir Tatarevic, professors from the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, will visit UHCL March 13 to speak in the UHCL Art Gallery at 6 p.m.

“Well as a professor I must be happy that there are a lot of my student works,” Prodanovic said. “I imagine that my work is just a small part of a big photo event, and it is very good to be part of the event, but I am really eager to feel the atmosphere of Texas.”

Art means something different to each individual. This exhibit is a platform that showcases a culture many may have not yet experienced. The sheer authenticity and simplistic beauty of Belgrade that is captured in all of the pictures is stunning. “A Snapshot of Serbia” is a must-see exhibit for everyone.

The UHCL Art Gallery is located on the first level of the Bayou Building. Its hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. The gallery is closed on the weekends. Admission is always free. To find out about upcoming events and more information about the UHCL Art Gallery visit www.uhcl.edu/artgallery.

MORE ONLINE

Scan the QR code to view a slideshow about the “A Snapshot of Serbia” exhibit by Jaumarro Cuffee.



JAUMARRO CUFFEE: THE SIGNAL

“AA-02” (from the series Kunstspotting 2009) by Mileta Prodanović, professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Arts in Belgrade, is on display in “A Snapshot of Serbia,” an exhibit at the UHCL Art Gallery.



JAUMARRO CUFFEE: THE SIGNAL

Ioana Bodiu, healthcare administration major, observes images she describes as “close to home.” Bodiu was born in Romania.

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