

THE UHCLIDIAN

A STUDENT PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE

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Students bring home 27 awards



UHCLIDIAN STAFF: UHCLIDIAN

A PROPER CARRIAGE: Members of the UHCLIDIAN staff attended the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference and competition March 22-24, in San Antonio. At the conference the students competed against other college journalism students throughout the state of Texas in on-site contests ranging from headline writing to sports photography. The students also attended workshops and an awards ceremony for both on-site and prepublished entries. Student Publications, including the student newspaper and UHCL's literary art magazine, *Bayousphere*, won 27 awards at TIPA and four awards in national competition.

Pictured above, from left: Bret Newcomb, reporter; Judy Reustle, videographer; Danielle Singleton, videographer; Donna Cox, designer; Neesha Hosein, editor; and Emily Hawkins, assistant editor, take a ride on a horse drawn carriage outside of the Alamo after a long day of competition.

Gogue accepts president position at Auburn

By EMILY HAWKINS
THE UHCLIDIAN

Jay Gogue, president of the University of Houston and chancellor of the University of Houston System, accepted an offer to serve as president of Auburn University, a position for which he was the sole candidate.

Korn/Ferry International, a company that helps conduct senior-level executive searches worldwide, was hired to help Auburn's search committee select a new president. After a year-long search, Gogue was the sole candidate invited to visit the university and was later recommended by a Korn/Ferry International consultant as the next

president.

In an e-mail to the University of Houston System, Gogue said "the Auburn University Trustees have asked me to serve as the next president of Auburn University, and I have accepted their offer."

Gogue was named president of the University of Houston in September 2003, making him the seventh chancellor of the UH System and the twelfth president of the school. As chancellor, he has been responsible for overseeing the four universities and two multi-institution teaching centers that make



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON: COURTESY

CHANCELLOR JAY GOGUE

up the UH System, including the University of Houston Clear Lake.

"Chancellor Gogue has been very supportive of UHCL in a number of areas," said UHCL

See **CHANCELLOR**, page 10



Cultural Extravaganza
UHCL's diverse student body is celebrated in an evening of song, dance and poetry readings.

STORY ON PAGE 12

Upgrades planned for UHCL's Web site

By LONA CAIN
THE UHCLIDIAN

The University of Houston-Clear Lake Web site is under review for future upgrades. Some of the issues being addressed are: its limited search option, complex navigation and complicated URLs.

Most Web sites have a search bar on the home page allowing the user to navigate easily within the site. The UHCL Web site does have a search option, although not all users may be aware of it.

It is in the top right corner of the university home page. The location and tiny font make it difficult to see. When utilized, the search link does not take the user to a specific site. When keywords are typed into the search box, it pulls up a list of all the Web pages in which those words are included.

"We know it is not adequate and we are working on it," said Ed Puckett, director of the Business and Learning Applications for the University Computing and Telecommunications. "It works, we just need to fine-tune it more."

Puckett stated that the Web Oversight Committee is in the process of improving the search option for the site. It is top priority. He explained that the committee still has a ways to go on the change and is not sure when the service will be available, but it will happen.

Another issue being addressed with the Web site is its navigation system.

"It's like being a rat in a maze," said Jack Moore, Applied Design and Graphic Arts major. "I can't get out because I'm there for something very important, it's a nightmare to navigate."

"[I] can't navigate it easi-

ly," said Jessica Taylor, communication major. "You have to open five different things to accomplish one task."

Puckett said the best way for current students to navigate is to use the students' tab on the home page. There is also a site map, which is the last tab on the home page. The site map lists all of the links found on the entire Web site on one page, with the main categories listed in alphabetical order.

Stuart Larson, assistant professor of graphic design and a member of the Web Oversight Committee, said that he has the site map bookmarked and it is what he uses to navigate the site.

The University of Houston's Web site offers its students an onsite help desk in the form of "Ask Shasta." Students and potential students can ask a question and send it to "Shasta" for an answer. "Shasta" will respond via e-mail.

Puckett said that "Ask Shasta," is a service provided by a vendor. It has an annual subscription cost that UH pays in order to add the service to its Web site.

UHCL's Web site has a site support center that students can call. The support staff will assist students with technical issues. The support center can be reached at (281) 283-2828.

Also, at the bottom of any page on the Web site there is a link to respond to a Web master. It can be used for feedback, comments or complaints. It is closely monitored by Laura Reeves, Web services coordinator for the Office of University Computing and Telecommunications, and responded to by her, Puckett or others in UCT.

See **UPGRADES**, page 10



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

Editor

Neesha Hosein

Assistant Editor

Emily Hawkins

Designer

Donna Cox

Assistant Designer

Febe Menendez

**Reporters/Photographers/
Broadcast Reporters**

Lona Cain
Jessica Hennessy
Corey Mallory
Bret Newcomb
Chris Scarella

**Videographer/
Video Editor**

Judy Reustle

Web Master

Scott Turnbough

**Ad Manager/
Production Assistant**

Lindsay Humphrey

Faculty Adviser

Taleen Washington

LETTERS POLICY

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

Address letters to:

UHCLIDIAN,
UH-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 456
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: (281) 283-2570
Fax: (281) 283-2569
E-mail: uhclidian@uhcl.edu

UHCL Portal: A Digital Black Hole

The key to a successful Web site is ease of use. In today's modern world, it is imperative for organizations to have fully functioning sites if they desire to be viable options for consumers. This is not just true of the business world, but also in the field of higher education.

A Web site is the face of today's university. It is the front door that should welcome potential students and aid current students in easing the burdens of higher education. At the University of Houston-Clear Lake, that door is locked. It is dead-bolted by inefficiency.

Navigation of a Web site should be the digital equivalent of good customer service. You should be greeted with a warm welcome and then be brought directly to the requested destination.

If someone is trying to find the home page of a specific program offered at the university, that person should be able to get there without excessive clicking or scrolling. When using Portal, the Web design software UHCL currently uses, it can take five to eight clicks to get to a specific program, and that is if you know where you are going. Adding dropdown menus to the tabs on the home page could potentially alleviate frustrations users face when trying

to quickly access desired pages.

The likelihood is that most first-time visitors to the UHCL Web site will become discouraged by the myriad of options given on the home page. Some tenacious current students manage to figure it out, others give up and rely on face-to-face or telephone interaction with service-oriented offices such as the Student Assistant Center.

Opening the student page will result in a list of over 78 links. Clicking on anyone of those 78 options will result in even more options to confuse users. Adding dropdown menus to the tabs on the home page would help alleviate frustrations students have with the hyperlink overkill by drastically reducing the number of clicks it takes to get to desired pages.

Using a search option might be a good alternative to finding the desired information. In order to do this on the UHCL Web site, one must actually be able to find the search option. On the UHCL Web site it is small link hidden in the top right-hand corner of the page, sandwiched between even more links.

If a user is lucky enough to find the search option they will be disappointed to find out how ineffective the tool is.

Theoretically, doing a search for "the

School of Education" should result in users being directed to the home page for the School of Education. The top three results using the UHCL Web site are: Academic Affairs, Application being accepted for MY NASA DATA Summer Workshop 2007, and Bulletin Board. Surprisingly enough, none of these results have anything to do with the School of Education.

Another downfall of the Portal is the incredible length of each URL. If a user desired to read this editorial online, this is what he would have to type in:
http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page?_pageid=224,130819,224_130895&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTALP.

Simple and user-friendly, right?

These are just a handful of the frustrations that users of the UHCL Web site face. In order to truly be a legitimate player in the world of higher education, UHCL has to do something different with their Web site.

Considering all the demands and frustrations that fall on students' shoulders during their tenure at UHCL, the least they deserve is a proficient Web site to turn to when they need important information. After all, you cannot change futures by degrees of mediocrity.

speak out : What is your opinion of the UHCL Web site?

"I liked it better when it was Ease online because it was right there on the left side. Navigation wasn't as friendly at first, but I've been here so long I know how to find things. The class search is not friendly at all."

Chuck Spear, MS Biology

"It's easy to navigate because of the designated tabs for students, faculty, staff, library information and updates about the school. I like that there is information about the weather conditions too."

Michelle Aleman, BS Fitness and Human Performance

"It could stand to be reorganized. It was pretty hard to navigate. There are too many clicks and the organization doesn't make sense."

Logan Kelly, MA Humanities

"It's hard to navigate and the search engine sucks."

Laura Chaffin, BS Biology

"It's an easy site to navigate. I like the tabs because it's easy to use."

Regine Rabanal, MBA

"It's been pretty good. There are a lot of helpful links, especially on the student tab. Everything is listed."

Roel Saenz, BS CIS

"It is very difficult to find information about faculty, but the student tab is very helpful."

Narendranath Gogineni, MS Computer Science

"It took a while to get familiar with it."

Nguyen Nguyen, MBA

"For stuff we use often, it is hidden."

Ron Kennedy, MIS

"I don't have any problems navigating it. I wish it had more stuff on it, because it's kind of bland with the same old stuff."

David Bertsch, BS Accounting

"The search engine is just useless, honestly."

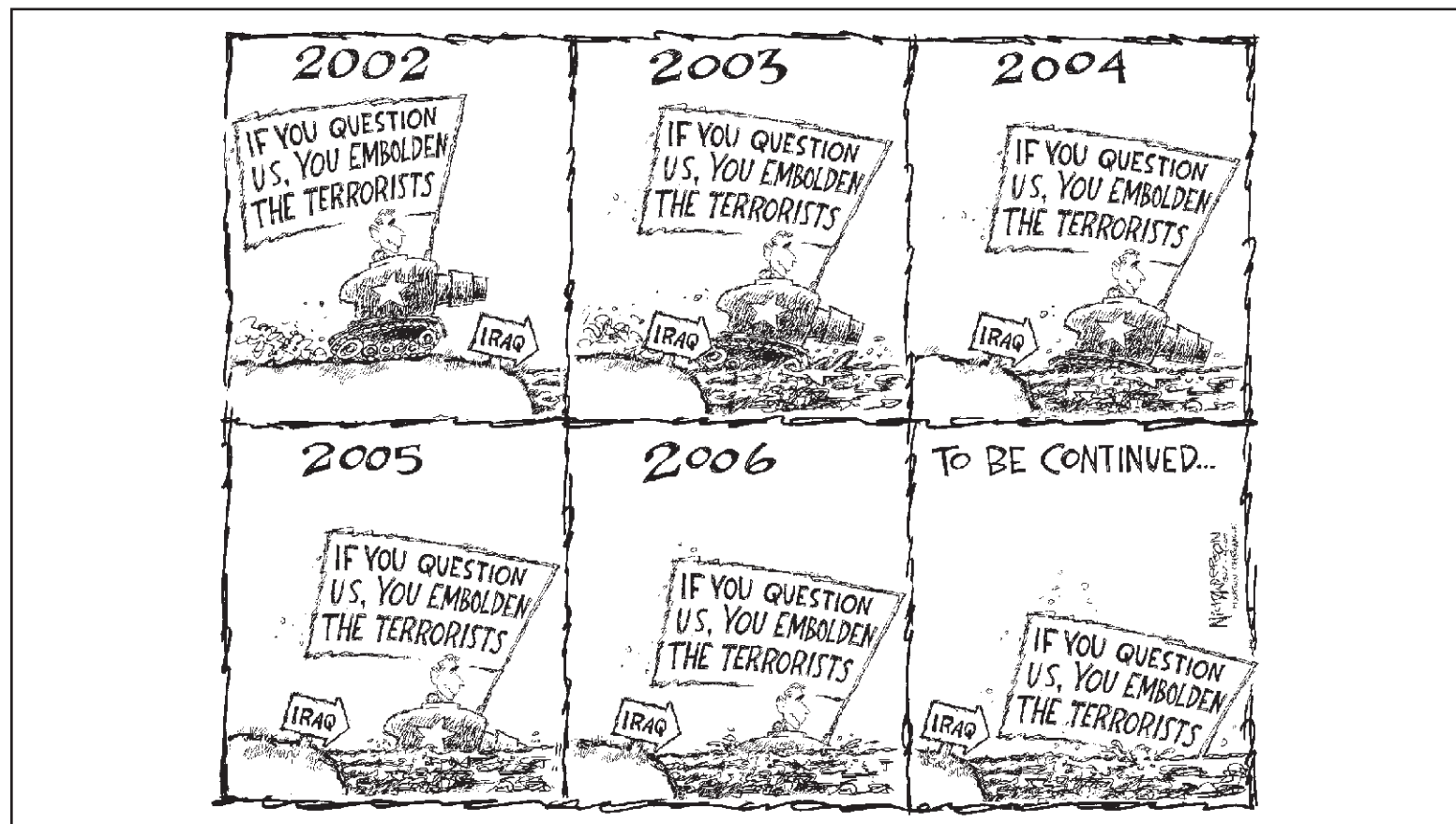
Syed Ahmed, BS Accounting

"The student page should be the main page."

Lindsay Skelton, BA Humanities

"I wish they would actually update the announcements."

Deborah Culp, BA History



CARTOON BY: NICK ANDERSON

So much to do and so little time



FEBE MENENDEZ

PUSHING FOR TIME

I wake up each morning at 7 a.m. My eyes are heavy and I hesitate to leave my soft, comfy bed. The morning news echoes in the background. I've heard more than I care to know about Anna Nicole's death, then a news anchor rescues me. He reports the weather, another hot, humid day. I manage to get dressed and make my way out the door by 8:20 a.m. with breakfast, cereal in a cup. I eat my mushy cornflakes as I fight through traffic and get caught at every red light. I arrive at work by 8:45 a.m., on time.

So, here I sit at work, watching cars drive by, this is one of my slow days. I appreciate this moment as I am still and given the opportunity to

reflect. It is sunny outside and a light breeze rustles the leaves on the tree in front of the building. I feel calm. Cars pull in and out of the parking lot, and I wonder where they are going. As I daydream, wishing I were at the beach, a customer enters the building and my thoughts vanish.

When the customer leaves I snap back to reality and try to remember all of the things I have to do today. I scan my color-coded planner for appointments, events, assignments and birthdays. I still need to finish a take-home test, balance my check-book, eat lunch and most importantly catch up on Grey's Anatomy.

In between work, school, my internship and the UHCLIDIAN I struggle to find time for me and my family. It's a challenge to balance everything and make everyone happy, including myself. Sometimes I feel like the demands I face are overwhelming, and at times I feel like throwing in the towel. I wonder how other students manage to cram their day into 24 hours, especially those with young children.

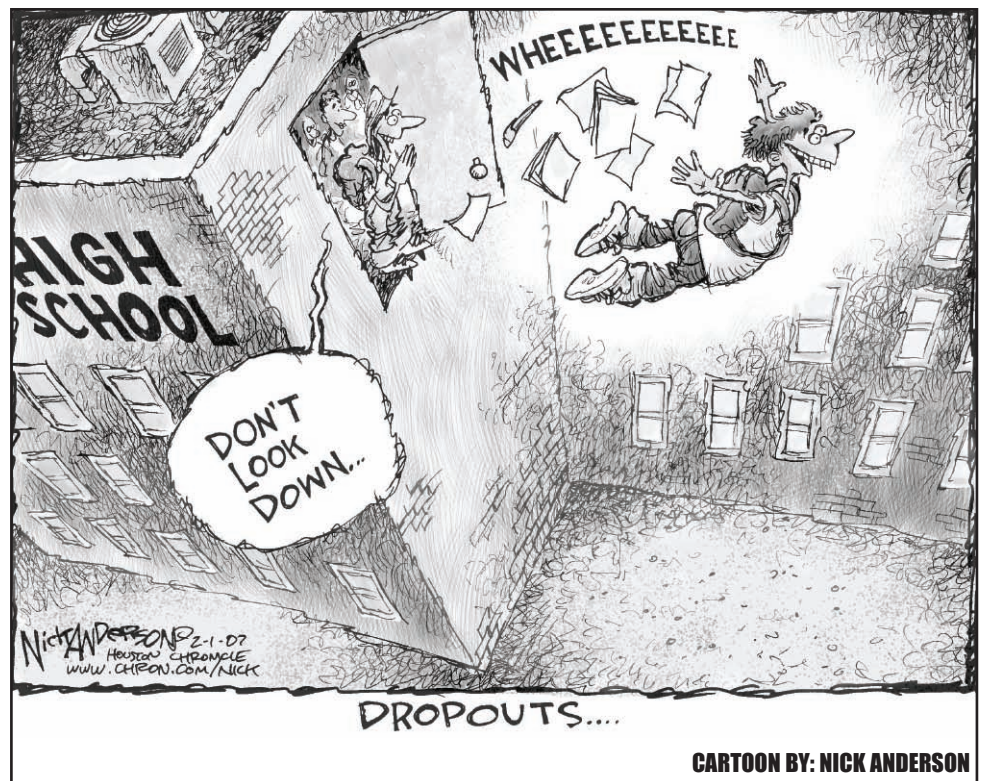
The hours pass as customers come and go. Before I know it, it is 2 p.m. and time to leave work and head to the university. By the time I reach my car, I am thinking about a

report that is due on Friday and wondering where I left my memory stick. My thoughts dissolve as "Over my Head," by the Fray plays on the radio. Again, I appreciate this moment and allow myself a moment to not think about anything.

By the time I get to school I have about an hour to grab a snack, finish my test, work on the newspaper, and get to class. Other days I rush from my internship to my job. Either way I am always running somewhere.

Today was an easy day; I make it home by 7 p.m.

Juggling work, an internship and school all in the same day can be exhausting at times, and squeezing in papers and reports on top of that is even worse. But somehow most of us always manage to get the job done one way or another, even if it means late nights, no sleep and endless coffee.



CARTOON BY: NICK ANDERSON

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Daniel Johnston: Finding the Balance

By **BRET NEWCOMB**
THE UHCLIDIAN

The opportunities to experience real genius are few and far between in life. Domy Books is offering one such opportunity through April 13. The progressive bookstore is currently exhibiting a collection of original art by Daniel Johnston entitled “Where are the ducks when you need them?”

Johnston, a singer, songwriter and artist who has spent the last two decades pouring his creativity into songs, short films and onto paper originally rose to fame in 1985. He was featured on the Austin edition of “The Cutting Edge,” an MTV show that covered the up-and-coming music scene of the early 1980s.

Like many brilliant artists before him, Johnston has not led the most common of lives. He has been institutionalized many times for bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder, previously referred to as manic-depressive illness, is characterized by the occurrence of mania, or euphoria, alternating with bouts of depression.

In 1990, Johnston’s father, who is a pilot and owns a private plane, was flying his family home to West Virginia after Johnston played a concert in Austin, TX. In the course of the flight Johnston became manic and wrestled the controls away from his father. He then removed the keys from the ignition and threw them out of the window.

His father was able to regain control of the plane and crash-land safely in some trees. The plane was a total loss, but no one was injured as a result of the crash. Immediately following the incident, Johnston was involuntarily hospitalized.

“Art, whether it is visual, written, or musical, can be a grounding force in a person’s life,” said Stuart Larson, assistant professor of graphic design. “This is why Art Therapy programs are becoming more popular. The act of creating can literally keep a delicate person from tipping over the edge.”

Despite his disorder, or maybe as a result of it, Johnston’s efficacy as a cre-

ative force has been validated by the countless amount of musicians who cover his songs and subscribe to his art. Some of the many artists who have been inspired by and have covered Johnston’s work include Beck, Death Cab for Cutie, Bright Eyes, the Eels, Tom Waits, Wilco, Sonic Youth, Nirvana and Pearl Jam.

“Daniel has an uncanny ability to write in lyrics what he thinking,” Larson said. “He has a beautiful stream of consciousness that comes out as if his brain were writing directly on the paper. His lyrics depict growing up in today’s world like no other writer has been able to capture. His work is honest, and very innocent.”

Johnston’s work also inspired the 2006 rock opera “Speeding Motorcycle,” which received critical praise both locally and nationally.

Jason Nodler, who directed and helped write “Speeding Motorcycle,” now feels an almost sense of obligation to get Johnston’s work in front of as many audiences as possible.

“Not for Daniel’s sake, but for the sake of the audience,” Nodler said. “These songs save souls. That’s important business. And I deeply feel that if I can help to facilitate it, it will be the most important work I will have done in my career.”

For those familiar with Johnston’s work, responses to it, though varied, always come back to one over-arching theme.

“Oh, he’s brilliant,” said Russell Etchen, manager of Domy Books.

“Daniel has had a profound impact on me, as an artist and as a person,” Nodler said. “I continue to listen to his music far more than that of any other artist. I don’t just do that because I love his music though; I do it because it is good for me, like vitamins.”

Nodler is not alone in supplementing his life with a healthy dose of Johnston’s art and music. Since the Domy show opened Feb. 16, there has been a steady stream of supporters and fans to check out

the work.

“Opening night was crazy,” Etchen said. “And a lot of people have dropped by to see the work.”

Johnston, who considers himself an “artist and a musician” has been drawing since he was a small child in West Virginia.

“I was drawing when I was a little kid,” Johnston said. “There were a lot of kids where I grew up, but when we moved there were no kids at all. So, I didn’t know what to do, so my mom bought me some paper and I just started drawing all the time.”

It was from those early drawings that Johnston developed his unique style that still characterizes his work today. He never expected what he started back in West Virginia to be appreciated and enjoyed by so many people today, and it is something that leaves him “surprised.”

“Where are the ducks when you need them?” features some of Johnston’s most classic characters including Joe the Boxer/Everyman, a multi-eyed demon, the Devil, Captain America, the “Hi, how are you” frog named Jeremiah the Innocent, his longtime muse “Laurie,” and, of course, ducks.

Currently, Johnston lives with his parents in Waller, TX, where he is working with a band called Danny and the Nightmares. The band is working on an album right now that they are recording in their own home-based studio.

“We’ll probably be done by the end of the year,” Johnston said.

Johnston is now in the midst of a tour that is scheduled to run through May 17. The tour included two performances at South by Southwest, the world-famous Austin music festival, and will come to a close at David Bowie’s Highline Festival in New York.

On April 13, Domy Books will have a closing party for the exhibition that will include a catalogue of Johnston’s work as well as an appearance by the artist him-



DANIEL JOHNSTON: COURTESY



DANIEL JOHNSTON: COURTESY

CLASSIC JOHNSTON: The world through the eyes of a visionary.

self. For more information on the exhibition, call (713)-523-3669 or visit www.domystore.com. For further information on Daniel Johnston, his art, and his music visit www.hihowareyou.com or check out the 2005 Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary “The Devil and Daniel Johnston.”

UHCL to get glimpse of Hispanic culture at Film Festival

By **COREY MALLORY**
THE UHCLIDIAN

Beginning March 28, University of Houston-Clear Lake will be hosting its first Hispanic Film Festival. The Film and History Club along with Hispanics Advancing Culture and Education will be partnering to present this show.

The Hispanic Film Festival will include such films as “Volver,” starring Penelope Cruz; “Children of Men” with Clive Owen, Julianne Moore and Michael Cain; “Pan’s Labyrinth” starring Roger Casamajor; and “Letters from the Other Side,” a documentary. On top of seeing these films, guests will be treated to some distinguished speakers.

“These films address some major issues of our times: distribution of wealth, legacies of imperialism, immigration and fluidity of borders, race and gender, the power of love and changing notions of honor,” said Theresa Van Hoy, associate professor of history. “By sharing some of the beauty of cultures shaped by Latino/Latina and Latin American sensibilities, these films can create in their audience a yearning to close the artificial gaps that separate us.”

This event will kick off March 28, with the showing of “Letters from the Other Side,” featuring guest

speakers Christine Kovic, associate professor of anthropology and Liliana Castillo. This film is a documentary that consists of video letters carried across the U.S./Mexican border. These videos interweave the lives of several women to tell the stories of those left behind in post North American Free Trade Agreement Mexico. The show will take place at 7 p.m. in the Lecture Hall SSCB and admission is free.

April 7, at 7 p.m. in SSCB, the film “Children of Men” will be shown, as well as a discussion of the film with guest speaker Craig White, associate professor of literature and humanities. This film is set in 2027 in a chaotic world in which humans can no longer procreate. A former activist agrees to help transport a miraculously pregnant woman to a sanctuary at sea, where her child’s birth may help scientists save the future of humankind. Admission for this show is \$3; tickets can be purchased at the door.

““Children of Men’ made a big splash when it hit art house theaters and this film gives UHCL students a chance to see a hip, edgy film about the near future,” White said.

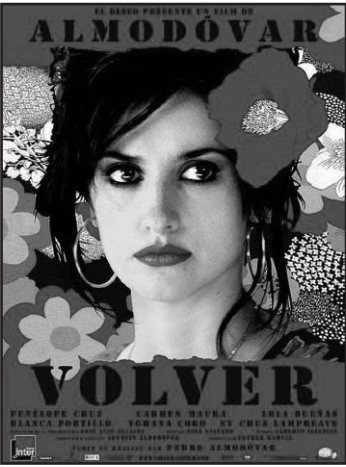
April 21, the film festival will be

showing “Volver” with a guest speaker to be named at a later time. This film is about a woman who after her death returns to her home town in order to fix the situations she could not resolve during her life. The show begins at 7 p.m. in SSCB with an admission of \$3, which will be taken at the door.

“Pan’s Labyrinth” will also be shown April 21 with guest speaker Theresa Van Hoy. This film takes place in fascist Spain of 1944, where the bookish young stepdaughter of a sadistic army general escapes into an eerie but captivating fantasy world. The time and date for this show has not yet been released.

“Some of the cutting-edge work in film has emerged from Latin American directors, especially Mexican,” Van Hoy said. “This film festival showcases some of these and brings them to the attention of a new audience.”

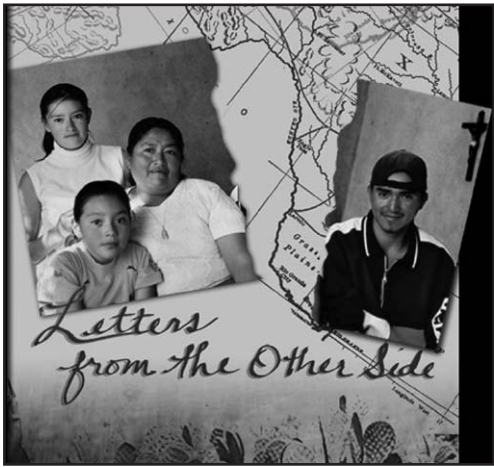
For more information on show times, visit <http://hsh.uhcl.edu/FHC>. If you have any other questions or would like to purchase your tickets in advance, please send your e-mails to historyandfilmclub@hotmail.com.



SONY PICTURE CLASSICS: COURTESY



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– SGA Activities for March –

March was a busy month for your SGA, hosting three major events that hopefully you had a chance to participate in.

FMC Luncheon

On Friday, March 9, SGA, with the monetary support of several student organizations and individuals, hosted a free luncheon for all Facilities, Maintenance and Construction (FMC) staff to thank them for all they do on campus.

SGA wishes to thank all who donated money and/or desserts, and all those that showed up to help setup and serve. Without your help and support this event would not have been possible.



SGA Day

SGA Day is held once a semester to publicize SGA and its meetings. During SGA Day the meetings are held in Atrium II so that anyone passing by can see how a SGA meeting operates. SGA Day for this semester was held March 6 and included a special presentation by our distinguished speaker, Provost James Hayes.

SGA would like to thank Provost Hayes, Dr. Darlene Biggers, associate vice president of Student Services, and Dr. Anthony Jenkins, our new dean of students who sponsored the refreshments and addressed the student body on leadership and how successfully UHCL's SGA and student representatives conducted their meetings.

President's Luncheon

Each semester UHCL President William Staples sponsors a luncheon for the SGA that all representatives and administration are welcome to attend. This semester's luncheon was March 27 and included a special presentation by President Staples. He encouraged the students to not only recognize the importance of academics in their college career, but also being involved in organizations and the SGA. A very special thank you to Dr. Staples for hosting this event again this semester.

SGA@uhcl.edu (281) 283-2556 www.uhcl.edu/sga
SGA Meetings are open to all UHCL students.
Meetings are **Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., SSCB 1.100**, unless otherwise announced.



Governance
Outreach
Advocacy
Leadership

I believe that talented people make all the difference in the world.

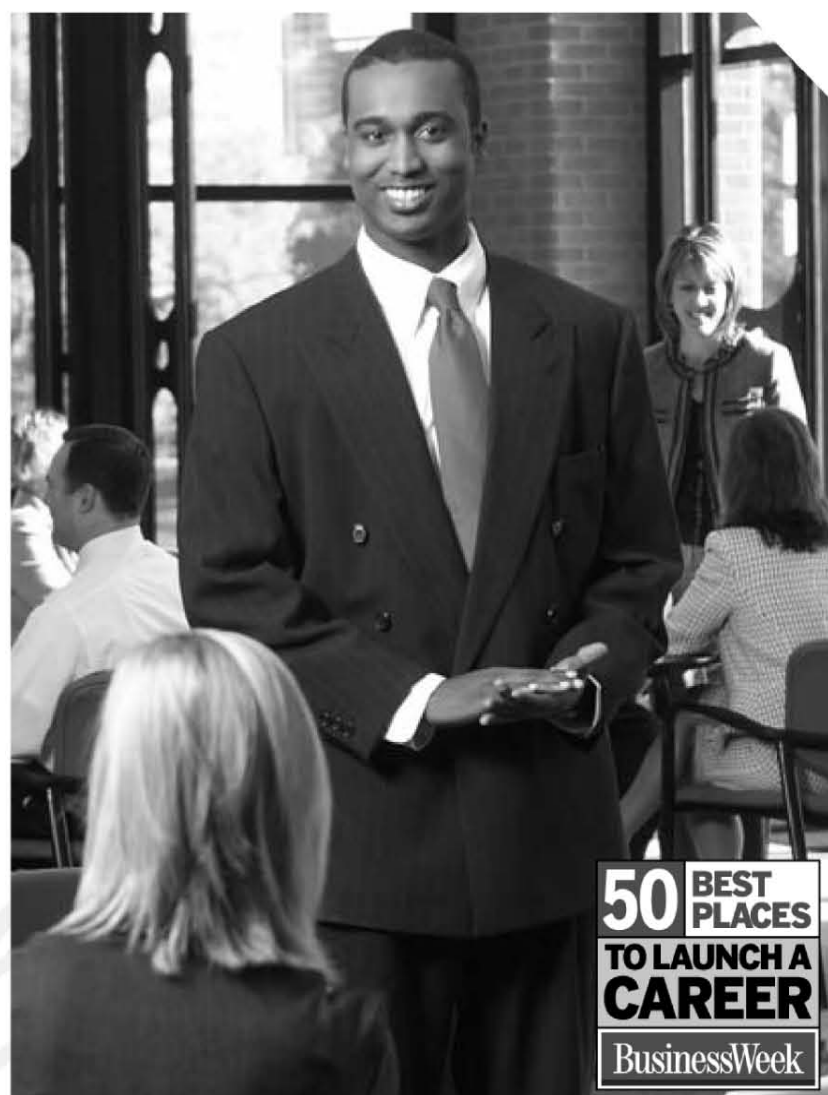
One of the best things I like about working at Enterprise is that there's so much focus on everyone's individual abilities and achievements. It all has to do with an overriding entrepreneurial philosophy that says that your success is truly up to you. This means that there's no one standard formula for doing things around here.

It also means that I'm working alongside and learning different things from a wide group of talented people every day. It's great to be at a company where everybody's differences – whether they be business philosophies or cultural ideals – are not only accepted, they're part of the very fabric of our success.

My personal enterprise



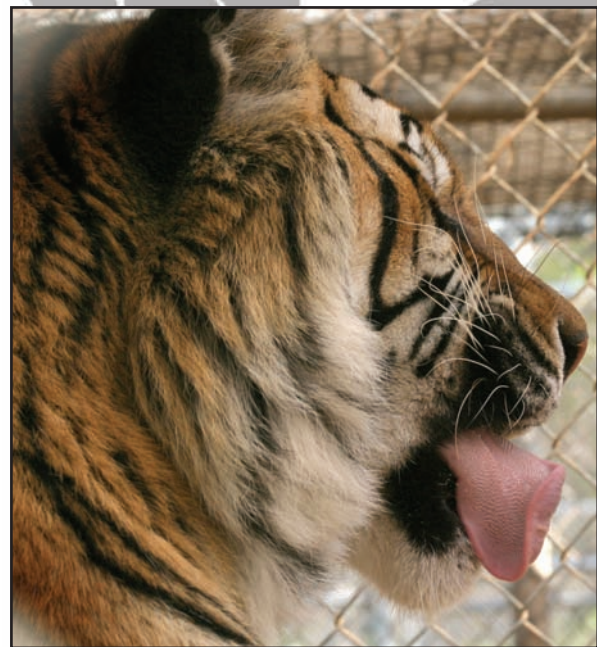
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Answering the Call of the Wild



GROOMING ACTION: The tiger's rasping tongue is an important part of hygiene and cleanliness.



CAUSE FOR PURRING: Shiloh loves to get a friendly rub behind the ears from Terri Werner whenever she is near.



CAT NAP: After a big meal the big cats like to take a long nap soaking up the sun's rays.



SEEING SPOTS: Typical of an Asian leopard, Cybil's fur is golden yellow and is covered in black rosettes.

Photos and Design
By: Donna Cox

Saving Tigers One By One

By **DONNA COX**
THE UHCLIDIAN

This is part one of a three part series.

Deep in the piney woods of East Texas is an exotic collection of tigers, lions, leopards and pumas. Brian and Terri Werner founded Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge in 1988 - the year of the tiger - with the specific mission "to provide rescue and rehabilitation of big cats that have been abused, neglected or displaced."

Tigers are endangered animals that are quickly becoming extinct. There were once eight subspecies of tigers, but now there are only five. As of 2006, there were only 2,500 to 3,000 individual tigers in the wild. On average, we are losing one tiger each day.

The dwindling numbers are caused by humans encroaching into the wildlife's habitat, illegal hunting and an expanded trade in tiger parts for use in traditional medicines.

"Rescue efforts are compassion and hope at work," said Executive Director Brian Werner.

It only takes minutes to realize how much compassion the Werners have for this magnificent animal. Their caring and concern for the species has led them to provide 37 big cats and one bobcat a safe, comfortable place to live out the rest of their lives.

Sammy, an Indochinese tiger, was the first to be rescued. He was rescued from a roadside zoo in Austin. Sammy likes to believe that the entire 25-acre property is his and that he is only allowing the others to live there. According to his keepers, Sammy is a self-proclaimed ladies man and believes that all of the females belong to him.

Sammy's younger brother, Piffer, was also rescued from the same roadside zoo. He came to Tiger Creek as a cub. Because of his sweet and gentle nature, he was taken to schools to teach children about the plight of endangered species.

Piffer surprised everyone when he fathered three cubs while sharing an enclosure with Lexie. Piffer had never shown any inclination that he was mature enough to breed and had never shown that kind of interest in Lexie.

Tiger Creek does not breed tigers, so after this little surprise Piffer was neutered. Their son, Gunther, who was named after the famous Ringling Brothers circus trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams, is the only cub born at Tiger Creek.

Lexie is a Siberian tiger that came to Tiger Creek after her owner decided he could no longer care for her and wanted a vet in Waco to euthanize her or find her a new home. Fortunately, the vet knew about Tiger Creek. Lexie now spends her time sharing space with Accolon.

Accolon and his sister Sierra, who was originally named "Thriller", are both Bengal tigers and came to Tiger Creek from Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch. They were not mistreated, but after their trainer was in a serious car accident, they needed to find a new home. Keepers joke that maybe Accolon spent too much time around Michael because he doesn't seem to know what he is supposed to do with Lexie.

Since Tiger Creek does not breed, one cat in each pairing has been fixed. That does not keep Lexie from spending most of her time flirting with her male neighbors.

Amir, which means prince in

Hebrew, came to Tiger Creek from private owners in Kansas. His parents were part of a National Geographic film about Siberian tigers. His parents' breeding was accidental and the owners donated him to Tiger Creek when he was just a cub. His name is really appropriate because he expects everyone to treat him like royalty.

"Here I am bringing out meat to this 650 pounds, Siberian tiger, and he's playing hide and seek with me behind the bamboo," said Sierra Suit, a former intern at the refuge.

Keepers say Amir does not like to be told "no" and he expects to get whatever he wants. Amir has been known to spray human females with a mixture of urine



EYE OF THE TIGER: If you are close enough, you can see your own reflection.

and scent gland secretions to mark them as his territory. At approximately 650 pounds, who is going to argue with him?

Tiger Creek's most famous tigers are Tiger Lily and Sergeant, who are Siberian tigers. Great Cats of Indiana rescued their mother, Kendra. At the time of her rescue, Kendra showed no signs of being pregnant, so she caught keepers off-guard when she gave birth to four cubs a short time later. Tiger Creek was contacted to take two of the cubs. The cubs' first year was documented as part of Animal Planet's "Growing Up" series.

Lily and Sarge are visitor favorites and have great personalities. Sarge has been adopted by East Texas Baptist University as part of Tiger Creek's adopt-a-tiger program and has become the university's mascot.

Although Tiger Creek focuses mainly on tigers, they have a small collection of other big cats.

Pepe and Scrunches are African lions that came to Tiger Creek in 2002 from Cancun, Mexico. Pepe and the other lions rescued were used for picture taking on the beach as a tourist attraction. They were then given to a lady who kept them in cages too small for such magnificent animals. They all suffered from malnutrition, hair loss and ringworm.

Pepe takes great pleasure in scaring anyone who comes near him when he is eating. When one visitor got too close, he stood up and roared his displeasure right in her face. Shortly after he roared, he

seemed to chuckle at her reaction before returning to his food.

Scrunches, a 5-year-old African lion, was also brought to Tiger Creek from Mexico and she suffered the most from the inhumane treatment. Due to her malnutrition, she will never reach full size and has many physical problems. She had some of her teeth removed because they were too big for her mouth and she was unable to close her mouth completely. She has to be hand fed each day. She also suffers from arthritis and has trouble walking.

Eightball, a black Asian leopard, was rescued in 2003 from a drive-thru safari park that was closed down. This was not Eightball's first home; he was originally

Bayou Wildlife Park: An Exotic Animal's Paradise

By **SCOTT TURNBOUGH**
THE UHCLIDIAN

On the outskirts of Alvin, just off FM 517, is an 86-acre exotic wildlife haven. Bayou Wildlife Park: Exotic Animal Paradise has around 450 animals within its gates. Many of these animals are on the endangered species list, and nearly all are foreign to the area.

The park's attractions include a wide variety of activities, ranging from something for the entire family to rides, specifically geared for kids.

The tram ride is the most popular attraction at the park. This ride takes visitors through all 86 acres and lasts about 40 minutes. The tram tour guide provides information on all the animals that are seen along the way. The tour also allows visitors to get up-close and personal as they pet and feed many of the animals from within the tram.

Dianne Clayton, on vacation from Michigan with her husband, visited the park with her family for the second time.

"We love watching our grandchildren close to these animals that, normally, you would never see," Clayton said.

A children's petting zoo is available to those of all ages. The petting zoo gives everyone access to goats, sheep

and a giant pig. The area also provides a close-up view of a young giraffe in the pin directly next door. Visitors are allowed to pet, hold and feed all the animals inside the petting zoo.

Barbara Dodds visited the petting zoo with her 1-year-old grandson.

"I don't know who had more fun in there, me or my grandson," Dodds said.

A short way down the trail rests an opportunity for young children to take a quick ride on a pony. A ride instructor guides the pony as the children sit back and enjoy the trip. This amusement is only for children 10 years old and younger.

Founder and owner Clint Wolston began the park in the early 1980s. Wolston decided to open a wildlife park because he loved animals and wanted to retire from the steel building industry.

When Wolston began the park, the land was undeveloped. Every pond had to be dug, every building had to be built, and every trail had to be laid. Wolston admits all the hard work was worth it. More than 60,000 people visited the park in 2006 alone. Wolston predicts that if the state would put a sign on the freeway informing passing cars of the park's existence, attendance

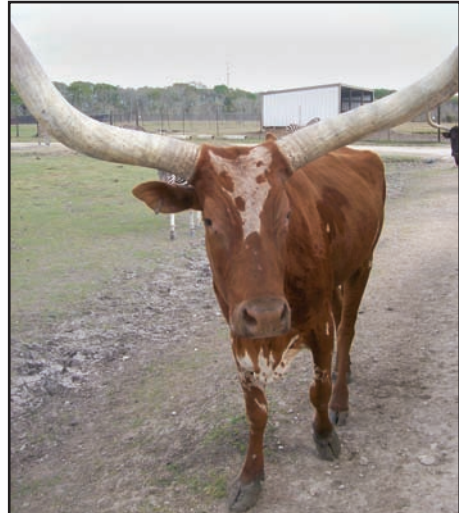
would get out of hand quickly.

Out of everything that Wolston loves about the park, the animals are his favorite. Both Wolston and ride instructor Daniel Aimone agree that each animal has its own personality and is very intelligent.

"I love to talk to the animals," Aimone said. "Some people think we are crazy but I think the animals understand what we say."

Aside from the animals, Wolston enjoys meeting the interesting people who visit the park each year. One visitor stands out the most for Wolston. A young boy visited the park after his dog passed away. When the child told Wolston about his dog, Wolston responded by telling the boy not to be sad because the dog was with God now. The child responded, "What does God want with a dead dog?"

The park is open year round, including every holiday with the exception of Christmas. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5.95 for children. Children 3 years old and younger are admitted free. For more information visit www.bay-ouwildlifepark.com or call (281) 337-6376.



AND THE THUNDER ROAMS: Thunder, a longhorn, makes himself known to tram riders.



CHOW TIME: A young water bison, from Asia, awaits food from the oncoming tram.



BLACK OR WHITE?: Zebras make up just one of the many species at the park.



WHAT ABOUT ME?: A goat patiently awaits food from the tram riders as they pass by.



COOL OFF: A capybara from South America cools off in the water on a warm spring day.



WELCOME TO THE PARK: As visitors arrive, they are greeted by a variety of animals, such as this young eland.



JOE COOL IS BACK: Camels are one of the more memorable animals within the park.



JUST KIDDING: Barbara Dodds' 1-year-old grandson, Dylon, plays with this "kid".

Photos By: Scott Turnbough

Design By: Donna Cox

Funding Priorities for FY 07-08

President William Staples met with faculty and staff March 27 to discuss the FY 2007-2008 funding priorities.

- Provide increase to salaries to recruit and retain well-qualified faculty and staff.
- Provide department level discretion to use funds for resolution of staffing or M&O issues.
- Increase instructional budgets towards achieving adjunct pay targets.
- Increase HSH instructional budget to increase SCHs taught by full-time faculty to meet 65/35.
- Increase funding in Building Maintenance to meet the needs of maintaining the facilities.
- Increase HSH and SOE instructional budgets to fund faculty positions that have been funded from New Initiatives for 3 years (New Initiatives roll off).
- Fully base fund 2 Functional Analyst positions approved in FY2007 priorities.
- To continue the ongoing support for the maintenance of campus wide security system.
- Support sustained growth in alumni base, additional fundraising initiatives, expansion of community relations programs, and operation of new office space.
- Provide a clean environment and meet the expectations of landscaping and lawn maintenance for the University community.
- Base fund current funded staff positions in SOE.
- Base fund Telecounseling Center
- Add secretary positions to support HSH faculty suites in SSCB and Bayou buildings.
- Provide additional faculty/staff training and professional development through the acquisition of a Work Life/ Training and Development Specialist position.
- Increase level of student advising and recruitment and assessment coordination.
- Focused efforts in the investigations of offenses and increases in crime prevention programs should greatly improve the clearances of crimes and should reduce the opportunity for future offenses.
- Increase M&O funding to offset decreases due to mandated cuts from previous bienniums.

Learning Innovators' 30th Anniversary



UHCLIDIAN STAFF : UHCLIDIAN


Left to right: William Staples, president of UHCL; Max Elden, professor of business; Margaret Snooks, retired lecturer of fitness and human performance; Robert Bartsch, associate professor of psychology; Lillian Benavente-McEnery, associate professor of reading and language; and Kim Case, assistant professor in women's studies.

The Learning Innovators/Teaching Learning Enhancement Center recently celebrated more than thirty years of teaching and learning at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. The celebration hosted March 1, 2007, in the Garden Room, included guests from all four schools. Honored for founding the center, Dr. Max Elden shared some of his memories concerning the journey involved in creating the center. The work of several other founders such as Margaret Snooks, Jib Fowles, Robert Bartsch, and Lillian McEnery were also highlighted.


The anniversary celebration also served to kick off the awarding of the Learning Innovation Award, an award geared at honoring innovative teaching techniques and innovations. Mike McMullen, associate professor of sociology (HSH) was the recipient of the first annual award with honorable mention going to Beth Hentges, assistant professor of psychology (HSH), and Daniel Silvermintz, assistant professor of humanities (HSH). The center seeks to provide a venue to help support and nurture process-based faculty development through a number of workshops highlighting special speakers and workshops.

Price and participation may vary.
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For info call Career Services,
(281) 283-2590.

April 3
Career Services Workshop:
“Successful Interviewing,”
5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.109
For info call Career Services,
(281) 283-2590.

April 4
Writing Center Workshop:
“Grammar Refresher:
What You Need to Know,”
5-6:30 p.m., SSCB 2.105
Registration advised.
For info call Writing Center,
(281) 283-2910.

April 7
UHCL Film & History Club
screening of “Children of Men”
with speaker Craig White,
UHCL professor,
7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall
Individual ticket \$3.

April 9
“Leadership for Social Change”
presented by Jennifer Clark &
David Rachita, Student Life,
11 a.m.-1 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required.
For info call Student Life,
(281) 283-2560.

April 10
Spring 2007 Teacher Job Fair,
12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Atrium I
For info call Career Services,
(281) 283-2590.

Writing Center Workshop:
“Overcoming Writer’s Block,”
4:30-5:30 p.m., SSCB 2.105
Registration advised.
For info call Writing Center,
(281) 283-2910.

Live Videoconference:
“Overcome Everything!”
presented by author Patrick Combs,
6-7:15 p.m., Bayou 2512
For info call Student Life,
(281) 283-2560.

April 11
“Religions of the World Part III:
Zen Buddhism” presented by
Venerable Zen Master Jian Liao,
noon-1 p.m., Bayou Atrium I
For info call IISS, (281) 283-2575.

April 12
“Discovering Your Strengths: The
Key to Becoming an Effective
Leader & Fulfilling Your Potential”
presented by Chuck Crocker,
UHCL Career Services,
5-7 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required & \$15 fee.
For info call Student Life,
(281) 283-2560.

April 13
Career Exploration Workshop,
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Location TBA
\$20 for UHCL students.
Intake appointment required.
For info call Counseling Services,
(281) 283-2590.

April 16
Career Services Workshop:
“Successful Interviewing,”
5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.109
For info call Career Services,
(281) 283-2590.

Organic: Is it hype or does it help?



Organic foods are not just for tree huggers anymore. Sales of organic foods, beverages and products tripled in just seven years from 1997 to 2004 and nearly two thirds of all consumers reported buying organic in 2005. People buy organic for reasons that include supporting earth-friendly environmental practices, reducing consumption of pesticides and chemicals and supporting humane farming practices.

We’ve heard about the contaminants that are supposedly in our foods but we’ve been eating them for years with no ill effect so why worry. . . right? Well, a growing body of research is showing that these chemicals are more prevalent in our foods and our environment than we thought. They are also being linked to health problems like allergies, cancer, birth defects and learning disorders.

According to the Environmental Working Group, (www.ewg.org), “eating the 12 most contaminated fruits and veggies each day, exposes you to about 20 different pesticides even with careful washing.” These include apples, bell peppers, celery, grapes, nectarines, strawberries, potatoes, pears, and spinach. Exposure to chemicals can be especially dangerous to certain populations like children and fetuses.

Both groups are developing systems, like nervous and hormonal, which can be negatively affected by certain pesticides and chemicals. Additionally, synthetic growth hormones, like those found in meat and dairy, are carcinogenic and linked to premature puberty in females which increases her risk of certain types of cancer later in life.

A study supported by the EPA in Washington State in 2005, showed that eating organic for just five consecutive days resulted in undetectable levels of pesticides in children who had high levels of pesticides in their urine while on a conventional diet.

So, we should all just start buying everything organic and we’ll be perfectly safe right? Unfortunately, it’s not a guarantee that the food manufacturer is telling the whole truth with the “organic” claim so there are a few things you should know before making a product selection. First, exactly what does “organic” mean? Are there rules or criteria for defining what is labeled organic? Yes and no.

There are organizations like EWG mentioned previously, as

well as the OTA, Organic Trade Association, the National Organic Standards Board that work to define and regulate the standards for the industry. The USDA awards a certified organic seal that tells you that the food or product is reliable and safe. The criteria for obtaining the organic seal are too long to recount here but include the “use of materials and practices that enhance the ecological balance of natural systems. . .no antibiotics, growth hormones or feed made from animal by products can be given to animals. . .no genetic modification or irradiation. . .animals must have access to the outdoors (but this could include being cooped up in a pen outside) to name a few.

Because sales of organic products are increasing so rapidly, manufacturers want to jump on the band wagon and cash in. Unfortunately, many are not willing to make the adjustments to produce certified organic products so they cheat or find ways to get the government to bend the rules a little. This leaves the consumer with a less than organic product but many are unaware that their product is not what’s being advertised.

Labeling deception occurs in the organic world too due to loopholes in the laws. Many times we must make decisions based on hearsay rather than fact and our health and our wallets will pay the price. To be sure the product you are buying is truly organic, it must say 100% organic and have the USDA organic seal. No synthetic ingredients are allowed and pro-

cessing standards must also be met. If it just says “organic” then 95% of the ingredients are organically produced. One exception is organic seafood because there are no standards for this industry. If the label says “made with organic ingredients” then at least 70% must be organic. The remaining 30% can be synthetic material or from mars. And they don’t have to tell you what’s synthetic either!

Terms like “all natural: and “free range” are meaningless as are eco-friendly or earth friendly. There are no criteria or standards for these terms so random use occurs. Some manufacturers will put organic on the label and the only “organic” ingredient is water: natural tap water!

Products for the body like moisturizers and shampoos may also state that they are organic and have natural sounding ingredients but check the label for harmful chemicals like parabens, sodium laurel and propylene glycol. Many chemicals in these products cause skin allergies and can be carcinogenic and you are putting them on your scalp and face every day!

Bottom line: try to buy organic when possible. My philosophy is pay now (for the better products) or pay the doctors later! Check out these sites and read the labels on your foods and products:

www.theorganicpages.com
www.eatwellguide.com
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Learn a New Language

Walk-in Registration: April 12, noon-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m., Bayou Atrium I
Online Registration available through April 16

UHCL’s Foreign Language Program starts another set of language courses beginning April 16. The program’s seven-week course sessions emphasize the development of conversational skills and grammar using a totally oral method that will have students speaking in the desired language from the first class meeting. Fees are \$125 with discounts for returning students. To register online visit www.uhcl.edu/fl. For more information call (281) 283-3407 or e-mail Program Director Christine Paul, paul@uhcl.edu.



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EOE

Chancellor: continued from page 1

President William Staples. “But especially with regard to supporting our efforts to offer new academic programs in biotechnology, digital media studies and engineering management.”

Although Gogue will not move to Auburn for a few more months, his exit comes amidst talks of a new medical school partnership with The Methodist Hospital and Cornell University,

and before the launch of a fundraising campaign.

“Fundraising at each of the UH System universities, including UHCL, is an ongoing activity,” Staples said. “My expectation is that a UH System-wide campaign will not occur until the next [president and chancellor] is in place.”

Gogue expressed his confidence in each university’s ability to “continue to flourish under their leadership.”

“I believe UH and the UH System are stronger today than they were in 2003, and I know they will be even stronger in the years to come,” Gogue said.

where my undergraduate and first graduate degrees were awarded, and help make it an even stronger institution,” Gogue said.

The University of Houston System Board of Regents will formulate a

“I believe UH and the UH System are stronger today than they were in 2003, and I know they will be even stronger in the years to come.”

- Jay Gogue

President of the University of Houston and Chancellor of the University of Houston System

plan for a national search to fill the president and chancellor positions during its April 3 meeting. Interim leadership for the system and university will be announced once Gogue’s transition timetable is established.

Board of Regents Chairman Leroy Hermes said in a news release that the board is “looking forward to finding an outstanding leader to take us even closer to our goals of being a leading metropolitan university system and for UH to be recognized as a major national research university.”

Effective July 16, Gogue will replace Auburn’s Ed Richardson, who took the job on an interim basis after the previous president resigned in 2003.

“We wish Dr. Gogue and his wife, Susie, the very best in their transition to

Auburn University, and thank him for his leadership of the University of Houston System and his support of [UHCL]” Staples said.

“I’ve been given the chance to come back to where my undergraduate and first graduate degrees were awarded.”

- Jay Gogue

President of the University of Houston and Chancellor of the University of Houston System

Gogue received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Auburn. He said he will miss the UH universities, but could not pass up the opportunity to return to his alma mater. “I’ve been given the chance to come back to

Student publication awards

State Competition:
Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA)

On-site Competition:
Second Place:
Emily Hawkins - Print News Writing
Third Place:
Emily Hawkins - Copy Editing
Honorable Mention:
Bret Newcomb - Headline Writing

Newspaper:
First Place:
Roger Robert and Feride Muezzinoglu - Picture Story
J. T. Garrett - Sports Column
Second Place:
Emily Murray and BreAnna Schwartz - Single Subject Presentation, UHCLIDIAN Staff - Headline
Third Place:
Roger Roberts - Illustration & General Column
BreAnna Schwartz - Opinion/Editorial Page Design & Photo Illustration
Leeanne Lambert - Sports Feature Story
UHCLIDIAN Staff - Special Section/Edition
Honorable Mention:
BreAnna Schwartz - Feature Page Design
Miracle Rodriuez - News Photo
Tiffany Rolland - Photo Illustration
UHCLIDIAN Staff - Overall Excellence

Magazine:
First Place:
Dennis Forrest - Poem
Second Place:
Stephen Blanchard - Short Story
Third Place:
Alisa Nicholson and Joe Huffman - Photo Essay
Honorable Mention:
Crystal Spies - Feature Photo
Jessica Sonntag and Dana Harms - Cover Design
Bayosphere Staff - Overall Excellence

National Competition:
Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA)

Newspaper:
Second Place:
Christopher Travis - Sports Column

Magazine:
Third Place:
Dana Harms and Jessica Sonntag - Spread Design
Allisa Nicholson - Illustration
Honorable Mention:
Allisa Nicholson - Illustration

Upgrades: continued from page 1

Puckett encourages students, faculty and staff to use this link if there are any technical difficulties, or to make comments or complaints.

Another issue under review is the complicated URL addresses. Larson said that he does not care for the way the URL routes the user to a site.

“You can’t just type in the department you are looking for,” Larson said.

Puckett explained that the URLs are all of the information that the technology needs for the request to receive the information.

One solution being considered is adding “crumbs” to the site to make it easier to navigate where the user has been and alleviate the need to use the complicated URLs.

Another improvement in the process is a customized home page. Students will be able to pull their home page up at home, or anywhere, and have it customized to meet their school needs such as:

checking UHCL e-mail, course schedules and financial aid. This is in the process, but will take a couple of years before it is available.

Larson explained that the current UHCL Web site was “implemented when UHCL was standardizing the look and feel of academic Web pages.”

The Web site is a data-based design that is very basic and used to create information, not a graphical layout.

The goal of the university was to create a unified look throughout the entire site such as a limited number of layouts, standard color and standard font.

“The idea was a unified look and feel, for all of the departments and programs to look the same,” Larson said.

The software used to build the Web site allows faculty and staff to quickly edit and update information without going through someone like a

tech person. Because of this software, there is no requirement for knowledge of HTML. It is a simple template program, with no design skills necessary.

Larson said if every department were allowed to design its own page using whatever program it wanted, the unity would be broken down. The site was implemented for future and current students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community. It is important the same look and feel is reciprocated amongst each of the groups.

“It achieves inner activity based upon the audience type,” Puckett said.

Puckett assured that change is underway, but still has a ways to go. It can take a while for it all to be complete. Even then, change is never really complete; it is always ongoing because our technology continues to advance.

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Culture takes center stage



MOVE TO THE BEAT:

Liz-Ann Howe performs a dance to represent the island of Dominica.

What is IISS?

A common misconception is that the staff of Intercultural and International Student Services would like to clear up is the belief that IISS is strictly for international and foreign students. The name of the department was modified from Multicultural to Intercultural approximately four years ago in an effort to include mainstream students as part of our diverse student body.

"We are here for all students," said Sameer Pande, assistant director in the office of Intercultural Student Services. "Because everyone has a culture."

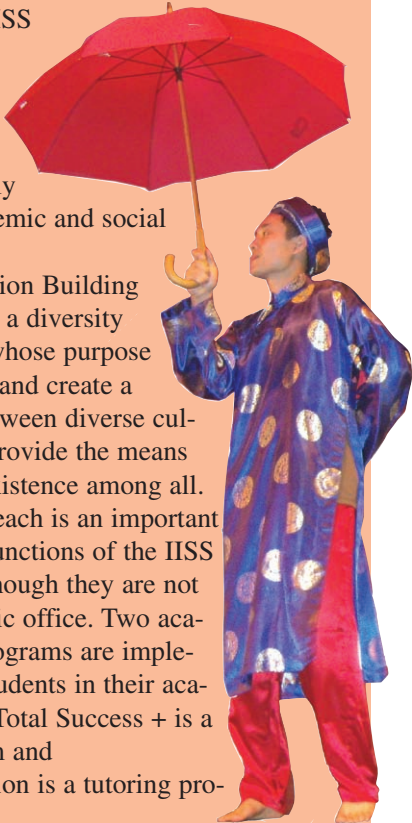
IISS sponsors several interactive programs for all UHCL students. Scholastic probation, for example, knows no racial bounds. Pande said the IISS department is there for students who are on probation and need extra help with decision-making and tutoring. IISS offers several programs to suit the needs of students as a way to help them steer smoothly through their academic and social ventures.

National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) is a diversity training program whose purpose is to build bridges and create a strong network between diverse cultures and help to provide the means for a pleasing coexistence among all.

Academic outreach is an important part of the many functions of the IISS department even though they are not an official academic office. Two academic outreach programs are implemented to assist students in their academic endeavors. Total Success + is a mentoring program and Make the Connection is a tutoring program.

Celebrating Our Elders, Women's Services, New International Student Orientation, Strictly Speaking, Friendship Family Program are a few more programs offered through IISS.

More information can be obtained inside the IISS office and on the Web at www.uhcl.edu/intercultural and www.uhcl.edu/international.



By **NEESHA HOSEIN**
THE UHCLIDIAN

The University of Houston-Clear Lake community of students, faculty, staff, volunteers and spectators enjoyed a night of entertainment and a showcase of diversity at the Cultural Extravaganza March 24. Performers displayed their cultural pride with acts that included comedy, song, dance and poetry.

Performers in bright costumes with exuberant dance routines graced the stage in each act. Even kids wooed the audience with adorable Mexican and East Indian dance routines wearing dazzling garments that were very representative of their countries.

A clown act by Jennifer Galvez gave kids in the audience some added excitement with balloon figures that she made while dancing and singing around the stage. Attendees also got to hear African poetry, and see a short version of an Indian/Pakistani and Vietnamese wedding enacted along with customary music. Emcees added comical skits into the mix of entertainment as they introduced each act.

Two years ago Cultural Extravaganza grew out of an event originally called Cultural Evening. Its founding organization disbanded and the Intercultural and International Student Services department assumed the role of "guiding hand" behind this student-driven event. The three planning committees

consisted of student volunteers who met weekly to make decisions about food and marketing strategies. Performances were tailored by the screening committee with the help of staff members.

The turnout was approximately 500, which is a full house in the Bayou theater. More than 50 performers in 18 acts consisted of student, staff and community members of all ages. Africa, Vietnam, India, Iran, Pakistan, Trinidad, Dominica, Mexico and North America were all represented in the

raise the awareness of the diversity that exists at UHCL, which is strategically positioned to be a global change agent. The IISS office has been a haven to many students and has assisted them in various aspects of life and has been a noteworthy contributor to the enhancement of student life. However, there is a need to focus more on the intercultural aspect as opposed to the international aspect."

The final performance of the show was the Cultural Walk, in which everyone who participated in the production got a chance

show.

"It was a great honor to represent Trinidad and Tobago and my

Christian

beliefs at the Cultural Extravaganza," said Michael Philips, MIS major and performer. "I would like to encourage other countries to participate and produce a more balanced show. In addition, more participants would

to represent their country by walking across the stage to the beat of music and facts about their country.

"It was a great and a unique experience

to see students from different cultures and countries coming together and performing on a common platform," said Faheem Azher, MHA major. "Such events will definitely help us understand different cultures and make UHCL a land of cultural diversity."

Following the show

was a reception with a variety of intercultural cuisine set up in Atrium II of the Bayou Building. A special table was also dedicated to anyone with a sweet tooth.

Tenesha Cobbs Villanueva, coordinator in the office of Intercultural and International Student Services said that after more than seven weeks of planning, Cultural Extravaganza was a great success.

"It's a learning experience for everyone involved and hopefully for the audience as well," Villanueva said. "Cultural

Extravaganza is an opportunity for students of different backgrounds to come together. The student planning committees learned how to organize such a large event."

"Students are the focus of these events," said Sameer Pande, assistant director in the office of Intercultural and International Student Services. "They take pride in their heritage and showcase it in this big event. It is also good experience for the students who help in the planning and at the same time they might have midterms among other things going on."

Pande said each year brings a completely new experience with Cultural Extravaganza, because each semester attracts new volunteers and a different variety of talent for the show, which makes this event so unique.

ABOVE: A member of the Ballet Folklorico Itsaes is dressed in customary Hispanic apparel as she performs a traditional dance.

BELOW: A theatrical replica of an Indian/Pakistani wedding ceremony takes place.

LEFT: A member of the Vietnamese Student Association takes part in a festive cultural dance.



PHOTOGRAPHER: NEESHA HOSEIN
DESIGNER: FEBE MENENDEZ