A STUDENT PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE

THE SIGNAL

Volume XXXV, Number 9 www.uhcl.edu/signal September 24, 2007

Ken Black helps establish a better healthcare system in Dubai.

- Read more on page 12

Trying to make 'cents' of it

Bret Newcomb
The Signal Staff

The widening gap between America's rich and America's poor has been increasing incrementally over the last 30 years. That same trend exists within the UHCL community.

In order for UHCL to be competitive academically and to draw talented professors and lecturers, the university must be able to compensate them accordingly. In the same vein, the university must adequately care for the needs of the administrators. The questions, however, remain: How are our faculty and administrators being compensated; is it adequate; and is it fair?

Craig Oettinger, associate professor of sociology, was interested in these questions himself when he conducted a study of faculty and administrative pay rates and increases at UHCL during a thirty-year time span. What he found mirrors the trend sweeping the rest of America.

"Essentially, what you have is the top administrators being paid dramatically more than the faculty," Oettinger said.

Oettinger's study takes into account salaries of all administrators and faculty since the inception of the university in 1974. He then compares the raises of those represented and breaks them into percentages, showing a 30-year trend that illustrates the growing disparity.

Oettinger was motivated to conduct this study due to the low increases in salary that he and his fellow faculty members have been getting in recent years.

"Raises are always talked about in percentage terms," Oettinger said. "When raises are based on the same percentage rates large inequalities increase exponentially over time."

Ultimately, the study compares salaries of all the faculty and administration from 1974 to 2006 against the highest paid employee of the university, President William Staples. The study shows what other employees make for every dollar Staples earns.

Staples is quick to point out that the information in the survey is accurate, but that it could also be misleading.

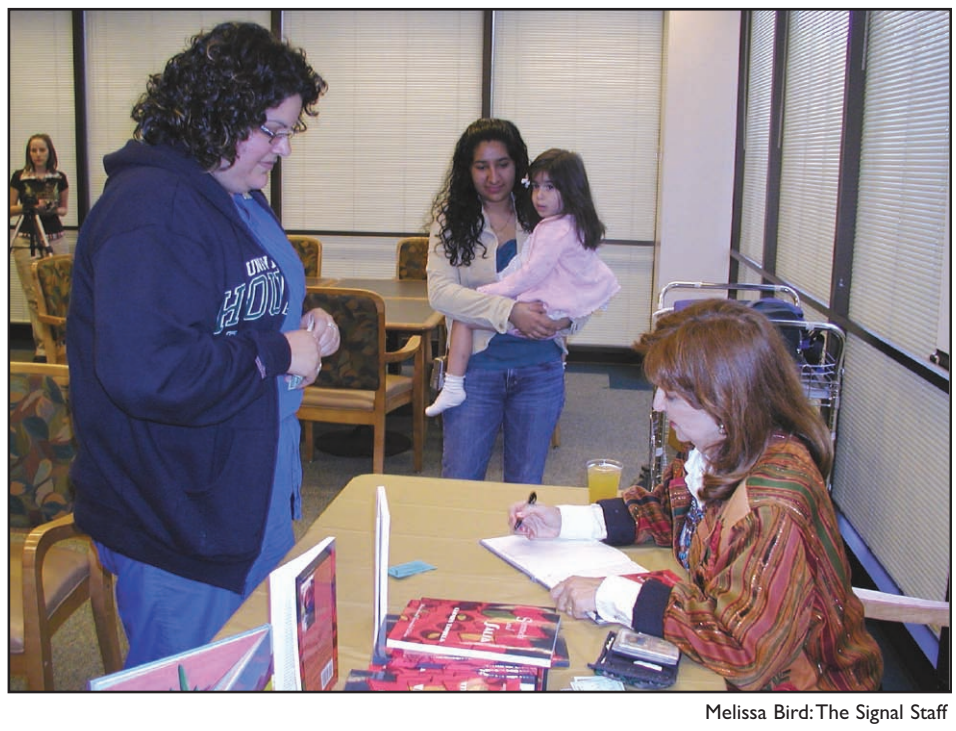
"I have briefly reviewed Dr. Oettinger's study and, it appears that some of the data may be misleading," Staples said. "For example, the salary table for administrators reflects salary lines for individuals who joined UHCL in different years and, in some cases, in non-administrative roles. Comparable data among the various positions would reflect the base salary lines for a specific position and not the individuals currently holding that title."

While the study does not necessarily consider all of the factors involved in formulating exact comparisons, it does illustrate a growing inequality at UHCL.

"I feel he has done an excellent job of crunching a set of data, which is quite formi-

PAY RATES *continues on page 10*

Speaker, performer believes there is beauty in every culture



Melissa Bird: The Signal Staff

Author Carmen Tafolla signs a copy of her book "Baby Coyote and the Old Woman," for Vanessa Perez, biological science major, after her one-woman show.

Melissa Bird
The Signal Staff

September is Hispanic Heritage Month and the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services hosted an event Sept. 19 to celebrate Latino culture.

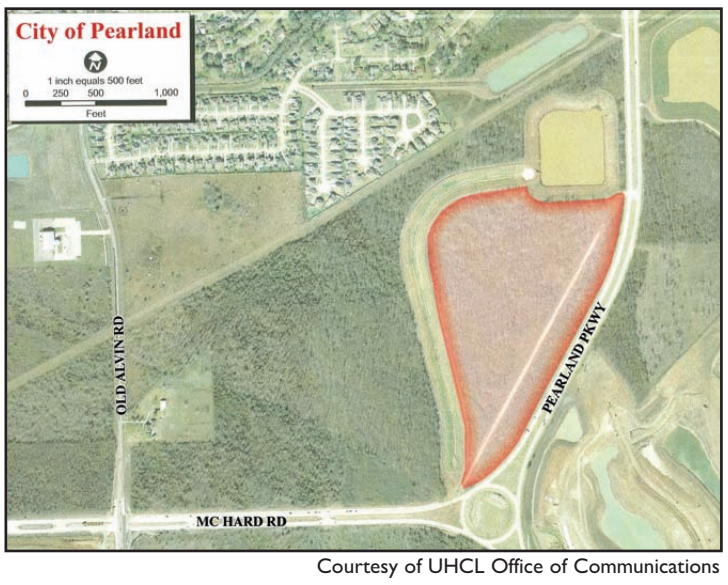
IISS invited Carmen Tafolla to perform her one woman show, "My Heart Speaks a Different Language." Tafolla, an author, poet, educator, screenwriter and performer, known worldwide has a clear message to spread to whoever is in her earshot.

"Whether we are from Latino culture or not from Latino culture, we must have the ability to appreciate ourselves and our own variations and norms," Tafolla said. "If we can do that, we can celebrate other people."

A celebration of people is just what Hispanic Heritage Month is about. Learning that being "Hispanic" doesn't mean one thing with one definition, but can mean a number of things and represents a group of people who are from a number of places. This is especially relevant to the University of Houston-Clear Lake, with the variety of different faces and cultures in each and every classroom.

SPEAKER *continues on page 10*

Preparations underway for Pearland campus



Courtesy of UHCL Office of Communications

City of Pearland plans to build new UHCL satellite campus.

Kimber Roque
The Signal Staff

University of Houston-Clear Lake will open a new satellite campus in Pearland as early as December 2008 with classes beginning the following semester, spring of 2009. The campus will be located on approximately 40 city-owned acres off Pearland Parkway, about one mile south of Beltway 8.

The Pearland campus will offer junior and senior level courses and master's programs at the site. A total of nine programs will be offered to prospective students. The School of Business will offer a BBA in General Business. The School of Human Sciences and Humanities will offer BS and MA degrees in Psychology, BS and MA degrees in Behavioral Sciences-General, and a BS in Criminology. The School of Education will offer a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies with EC-4 Generalist Certification, an MS in Counseling, and an MS in Educational Management. These programs will be offered face-to-face, online and through a combination of the two.

"This is a great opportunity for the city to be associated with a great university," said Pearland Mayor Tom Reid, who has been working for the past several years to attract the university to his city.

"We are delighted and excited about bringing higher education, at both the bachelor's and master's level, to the City of Pearland," said UHCL President William Staples. "Mayor Reid, the Pearland City Council, as well as City Manager Bill Eisen and Pearland Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Fred Welch, have been committed to seeing this project come to fruition."

"An important part of the University of Houston's System's mission is to deliver academic programs to high-growth parts of our region the eight-county Houston metropolitan area," said Karen Barbier, assistant director of media relations. "For the past 20 years, the high-growth areas in Houston have been in the South, Southwest, West, and Northwest parts of the region. To date, the UH System has established two successful university

PEARLAND *continues on page 10*

"Thanks for the add!"

- Read more on page 9

Faculty Art Exhibit on display

- Read more on page 4

TheatreUnderTheStars

TUTS holds 40 year anniversary

- Read more on pages 6 & 7

Salary gap widens between faculty and administrators

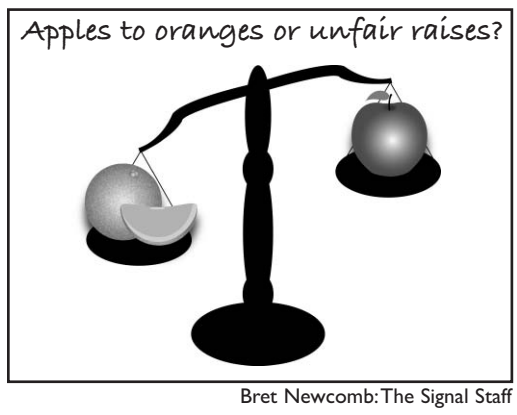
Aside from being passionate about a career or motivated by a business idea, at the end of the day, salary is the primary reason why people work. The University of Houston-Clear Lake is no different than any other business with employees on different levels of the playing field and their usual concerns regarding wage and salary increases.

Employees are certainly entitled to ask about their next pay increase and how it will be determined. An employee's job performance is one thing, but an employee should be aware that other significant factors are involved in a company's decisions about salary. The apprehension ultimately has to do with wondering what other factors influence salary. Who makes the decisions and how are the percentages decided? From where exactly did that figure come?

A study conducted by Craig Oettinger, associate professor of sociology at UHCL, illustrated that a huge salary gap exists between faculty and administrators, and has been growing steadily over the years. From the university's inception in 1974 to the present day, Oettinger's study paints an interesting picture and has raised eyebrows as to whether or not the disparity over the salary gap is justifiable. How balanced are studies such as Oettinger's and what factors come into play when these numbers get crunched?

Before becoming dependent on these types of studies, no matter how credible the source, the information needs to be verified and checked against other available resources.

The bottom line is that the majority of university presidents and upper-level administrators across the country, aside from an impressive pay check, get to enjoy a delightful salary salad with a touch of car allowance, a dash of cell phone credit, a pinch of country club membership and a healthy serving of deferred bonuses. This perky package of extras tends to lead the rest to feel a little underprivileged, but let the truth be told. UHCL is not much different from its peer institutions, two of which are Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Indiana University-South Bend.



Bret Newcomb: The Signal Staff

Michelle Dotter, vice president of finance at UHCL, explained that available funds, market surveys and other university priorities influence funds available for pay increases. Dotter said that based on annual guidelines, supervisors are the ones who decide on the pay increases for individuals. Each school at UHCL is given a specific budget to abide by, then deans conduct the evaluation for each faculty member and the provost has the final decision.

Enrollment and state appropriations are also factors that play a role in salary and raise determinations. Although faculty were told raises were tied to enrollment, Dotter said, enrollment is not the only factor; it is in corroboration with other important factors. Dotter also clarified that each school has their own set standards for giving pay increases dependant upon the specific market in which they belong; it is not decided for the university as a whole. Human Resources rely partially on market surveys to get an idea of what other institutions are doing so that UHCL can stay up to par.

The National Center for Education Statistics data feedback report for 2006 contains the most current information on how UHCL compares to its peer institutions on topics such as, student enrollment and graduation rates, student charges, program completions, and faculty, staff and school finances. The data comes together as institutional level benchmarking and peer analysis.

UHCL falls right on track with its ten peer institutions. For example, the graphical data indicates that UHCL pays, its full-time instructional staff that are on nine-month contracts above average by approximately $4,000 per academic year. The professors' salary is a hair below the peer institutions by less than $1,000 per academic year. Yes. It is true that professors in some schools get paid significantly more than those in other schools, but each school is unique in how it fits into its specific market and budget limitations. Ultimately, the tiny differences in UHCL's statistical ranking compared to that of its peer institutions do not depict a major discrepancy.

Oettinger's study did bring forth a rush of awareness and sparked a desire for clarification on certain aspects of salary determination between faculty and administrators within UHCL. The study covers a span of roughly 30 years of UHCL salary comparisons. It does not include factors about industry standards and departmental differences in the various markets. The study also does not explain that some employees who once were faculty became staff, but his collective data does illustrate a definite salary gap between faculty and staff.

Oettinger conducted his study under opposition and hopes that it serves to rationalize the salary gaps. Whether or not Oettinger's study stumbled upon something significant in the world of faculty and administrative wages remains an open forum.

COMMENTARY

The Shifting Paradigm:
A new era of technology-driven communication

Stephanie Wilcox
The Signal Staff

How to misuse online social networks:

•Post every intimate aspect of your life for all others to view; moreover, for your future employer to reference.

•Be skeptical of social networks like MySpace and Facebook to the point that you never explore the opportunities to connect with other people.

•Post all your credit card information, address, birth date and, for the fun of it, your social security card number, so someone else can create a pseudo identity with your information.

•Be naïve. The less you think the better, so when random people want to meet for coffee your first response is yes.

•Download anything and everything you can; I mean everything. Then viruses can attack your computer and you can purchase a new computer when yours no longer works.

•Spend every waking moment on social networks; don't bother reading books, newspapers, or personally speaking with anyone. This way you can remain oblivious to everything outside of your virtual social network.

•Don't make any real, meaningful relationships. The superficial ones are the best.

This may sound extreme, but ignorance is one of the underlying problems with online social networks. Of course, concerns arise with identity theft, online predators, viruses and hackers.

However, just like anything, moderation is the key. We have only begun to see the potentials for online social networks. The key is to learn about the safety issues concerned with using online social networks. Most importantly, remember that technology and media will continue to play an integral role in our society.

The web of questions and concerns that arise from the use of social networks are dynamic and complex and simply too many to explore in this article. For example, are we creating a cut-n-paste society with more efficient piracy?

As social networks continue to emerge, questions are being raised on what the social implications are. What effect does technology have on society? Is it changing the way we think, perceive, visualize or even interact? Are social networks changing the paradigm for communication?

"Social network systems are still primitive; it is too early in their development to observe clear evidence that they have transformed society," said Danah Boyd, a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Information at the University of California-Berkley and a Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at the Harvard Law School.

Boyd's research on online social networks has been featured in "NPR," "Wired," "MSNBC," "USA Today," "Newsweek" and "The New York Times."

Social networks like MySpace and Facebook are appealing to mass and diverse audiences ranging from Greenpeace, presidential campaigns, to yours truly - The Signal.

As new technology continues to emerge the "senders of the message" are constantly looking for new ways to connect to "the receivers."

It is estimated that MySpace attracts 230,000 new registers per day with a total membership of more than 200 million; Facebook is estimated to have 34 million.

Social networks do have a positive side; they are an interactive platform for expression and communication. They are uniting people globally with shared and different opinions.

For some, social networks can act as support mechanism in times of tragedy.

Most importantly, social networks have the ability to add to social capital and encourage innovation.

Swift Kick is an education company whose mission is to increase student engagement. Swift Kick is hosting a seminar at the university this month that focuses on how to get the most out of online social networks and more value out of college.

"Social networking is here to stay," said Tom Krieglstein, co-founder of Swift Kick, co-creator of Red Rover. "It is not a fad. We've only just begun to see it's potential. If you aren't using it already, you are missing out on developing the skills that will be demanded of successful employees."

THE SIGNAL STAFF

Co-Editors Neesha Hosein, Bret Newcomb

Designer Richard Willis

Assistant Designer Kimber Roque

Videographers/ Video Editors Alicia Gutierrez, Alana Pennington

Web Master David Kiss

Broadcast Reporters Kevin Kettle, Emily Jaschke

Reporters/ Photographers Melissa Bird, Angela Bolton, Kim Boswell, Monica Buchanan, Josh Conwell, Heather Frame, Jamie Griffiths, Emily Jaschke, Kevin Kettle, Ashley R. Marie, Cassondra Spencer, Lauren Taylor, Nicole Wheatley, Stephanie Wilcox

Ad Manager/ Production Asst. Lindsay Humphrey

Faculty Adviser Taleen Washington

LETTERS POLICY

The Signal 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:
The Signal
UH-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 456
Houston, TX 77058

Reach the staff:
Phone: (281) 283-2570
Fax: (281) 283-2569
E-mail: signal@uhcl.edu

America's obsession with Hollywood

So they choose to embarrass themselves on national television. So they only spend 82 minutes in jail. So they go to rehab for the third time in one year. So what is America's obsession with celebrities like Britney Spears, Nicole Richie and Lindsay Lohan? I can't even open a Web browser without one of them popping up on the front page.

Ashley R. Marie
Hollywood's Obsession

It has been two weeks since Spears performed on MTV's 2007 Video Music Awards. Americans sat in front of their televisions waiting for the moment when Spears came out in a black-sequin bikini to lip sync her new single, *Gimmie More*.

Today, people are still talking about how she humiliated herself and are logging onto YouTube.com to re-watch the video.

As I stand in line at Wal-Mart and I look to my left I see People and US Magazine with who on the cover? Why of course, Nicole Richie. The headline reads, *"Singer, Lionel Richie's daughter, Nicole, pregnant."*

I open up the magazine to see pictures of Richie with fiancé Joel Madden and a story of how Madden's ex-girlfriend, Hillary Duff, gave dirty looks to Richie as they had lunch at the same Hollywood restaurant.

The next issue of People and US Magazine I see has Richie's mug shot on the front cover. The headline reads *"Richie, 82 Minutes in Jail."* And again, the magazines fly off the shelves.

If it wasn't enough for America to see pictures of Lindsey Lohan passed out in the front seat of a friend's car, America just had to know where Lohan was going to check into rehab next, for the third time.

Not only is Lohan on every television station, newspaper and Web site, America is obsessed with what terrible parents the girl has. Before you know it, her parents are also plastered all over media sources across the country.

And most recently, O.J. Simpson was charged with two counts of kidnapping and one count of conspiracy to commit kidnapping, assault and robbery with a deadly weapon. Police believe he barged into a hotel room at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino and stole sports memorabilia from two collectors.

As I watch the 10 p.m. local news broadcast, I am not at all surprised the story of Simpson is much longer than a story of a local soldier who was killed in Iraq. The reporter who reported on Simpson had obviously done more research than the reporter who was assigned the story on the soldier.

After watching the news, it came to me America is more interested in celebrities and Hollywood than what is actually going on in our country.

We are so obsessed with Hollywood that there are television shows focused on what is going on in Hollywood.

Why is it that many Americans are so obsessed with Hollywood? A few months ago I read a book titled "Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News." The author, David Mindich, expressed concerns that while doing research for his book, he realized most young people in America recognized the names of Hollywood celebrities, but could not name the attorney general of the United States.

Celebrities are normal people, just like you and me. They wake up in the morning, roll out of bed, and put their pants on one foot at a time just as we were taught. So, is it really necessary to display their whole lives on the front cover of magazines and Web sites?

Sure I'll admit it, these people need mental help, but I don't think America being so involved in their lives is the way to help them.

Life's embarrassing moments: they happen to everyone

This is supposed to be the time in our lives that we will look back on and long for; however, college life is full of embarrassments and humiliation, and who would want to go back to that?

I'm sure most college students have been in a rather odd predicament more than just once. I'm also willing to bet that the predicament has occurred on campus and in front of some other students.

Jamie Griffiths
Word to the Wise

Of course there are good days and bad days, but it seems as though the bad ones come to mind more easily. At least they come to your friends' minds more easily.

I have had the pleasure of listening to others' horror stories, and I have also had the embarrassment of living through a few of them myself. Most of these situations are easy to relate to, unless it actually happens to you.

One obvious embarrassment is entering the wrong bathroom during break from class. Unfortunately, that's not the worst part. Your day just went from bad to worse because someone from your class of the opposite sex was in the bathroom at the time. Now you have to return from the break and face him back in class. (Yes, this actually happened to someone on campus.)

There is one bathroom in the Bayou Building that is different than all of the rest. Usually the ladies' room is on the left and gentlemen's room is on the right, but there is one bathroom that is completely opposite from the others; and if you are not paying attention, this could happen to you as well.

If you have any classes in the Bayou Building, this is for you. You know the classrooms where you walk up a few steps to get to the back of the class? Basically, it's a stadium-seating lecture room. Well, now picture yourself, backpack and all, taking a nice fall down from the top step. Talk about embarrassing.

Another embarrassing moment I love to bring up is the parking situation. The University of Houston-Clear Lake parking lot is huge, and after a certain hour, it tends to fill up quickly. Most cars are equipped with alarms so when you push a button the car honks at you, making it very easy to find your car after a long day of school. Unfortunately, not all cars are equipped with that particular feature, making it very comical for others watching you try to remember where you parked. If others do not find it funny, it is probably because they want your spot so bad they will follow you until you find it.

I had the privilege of hearing another story from a fellow student who had entered a classroom, dropped off her backpack and made a trip to the bathroom prior to class. While in the bathroom, her shorts ripped to the point of no return. Luckily, there was a nice faculty member in the bathroom willing to help. The instructor went to the student's classroom, picked up the backpack and returned it to the student. By using her backpack as a shield, she was able to make it to her car without attracting too much attention.

I must say, the four years I have been in school have been some of the most memorable, including the embarrassments and humiliation, we, as students, have shared. Just remember, next time something unfortunate happens to you, everyone has some kind of story to tell.

Do your part: help your local server

The service industry is the largest work force in America. Everyday we come in contact with various members of often overlooked professions: the cashier at the corner gas station, the waiter at the local Mexican food restaurant, the drive-thru attendant at McDonald's.

These are the people who make everyday life easier, and yet they are often the most ignored or mistreated. This abuse has got to come to an end.

Monica Buchanan
Quiet Observer

We've all been guilty of it. Our day has already been bad enough and then the waitress brings us Diet Coke when we specifically asked for regular Coke, so we gently let her know of her incompetence. Or we ignore the salesman who greets us upon entering a store because we're too busy talking on our cell phones. These are small infractions, sure, but realize that these small infractions, building over time, can affect how you are treated in the future. So let's consider just four small things you can do to make someone else's life easier.

Consideration #1

Always answer when you are greeted and with the same enthusiasm with which you were first greeted. Sounds simple enough, sure, but think of how many times you've ignored a gas station attendee because he was blocking your way to the Red Bull. Looking at this logically, will responding to the man's "How are you today?" make that Red Bull any less sweeter? On that same note, we've all had a waiter/cashier/salesperson greet us with the same eagerness that is usually reserved for a root canal. So why is it we give the same indifferent response to someone who is being genuinely friendly? Next time you are greeted, pay attention to the tone of the greeting, and if you are greeted sincerely, act as if you appreciate it.

Consideration #2

Keep your area neat! This was one of the most basic principals taught to us in kindergarten, and yet when we enter a public forum, we expect others to clean up after us. Think about how many times you've seen someone drop a paper cup below their seat at a baseball game because it's someone else's job to pick it up or left a movie theater without taking their trash to the garbage can outside. Now think about all those professors who purposely ask trick questions on exams. Of course it makes giving the correct answer a little harder, but isn't it still your job to know the answer? So please, stack your plates in restaurants, throw your trash away, and keep your dressing room clean. Maybe it's a little extra work for you, but you're making someone else's job a lot easier.

Consideration #3

Try to forgive human error. We all know how frustrating it is to leave the drive-thru only to realize someone messed up the order. We also know yelling and screaming about the uselessness of Wendy's employees does not get the correct order in our hand any quicker. How did our society come to the point where we're more likely to forgive a computer that deletes a 12-page paper than the salesperson who brings us the wrong pant size? As long as conflict is resolved in an appropriate and timely manner, realize harsh words only prolong any solution.

Consideration #4

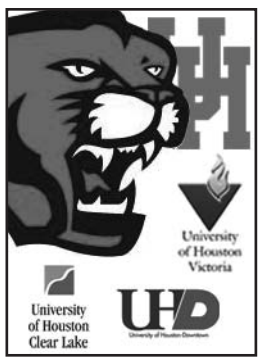
Never, ever enter a place of business 15 minutes before they close and expect good service. Do not sit down and reassure your waiter that you'll eat quickly because you won't eat quick enough to compensate for the additional 30 minutes he has to stay after you finish. Do not walk aimlessly around a store, sifting through racks of clothes and ignore the sales woman who is having to walk behind you to straighten everything you touch. If you've ever had a professor start on a completely different subject five minutes before you were supposed to leave, then you know how frustrating this behavior can be. So respect the fact that businesses have closing times for a reason: so everyone can go home!

While these suggestions will not bring world peace or feed a hungry child in Africa, they will help create a better working environment for someone else. So next time you walk into Randall's or Casa 'Ole, think about the different ways you could brighten someone else's day.

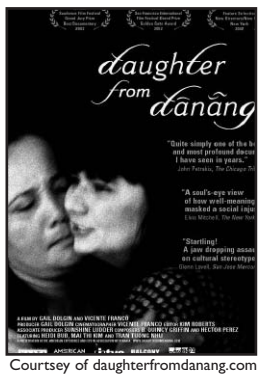
Up Coming Events

Courtsey of susanatango.com

Performance: Crisalis Music Project's "Luna Argentina"
Sept. 28,
8 p.m.
Bayou Theater
Admission: $5 - $10

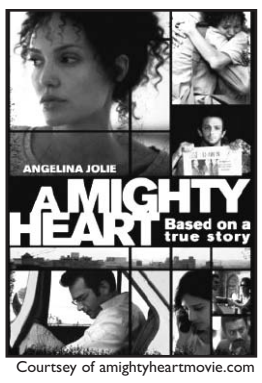


UH System Day:
UH vs. East Carolina
Sept. 29,
4 p.m. tailgate party,
6 p.m. game-time
Free admission with student ID



Courtsey of daughterfromdanang.com

Film & Speaker Series:
"Daughter from Danang"
Sept. 29, 7 p.m.
SSCB Lecture Hall
Free Admission with student ID



Courtsey of amightyheartmovie.com

Film & Speaker Series:
"A Mighty Heart"
Oct. 5, 7 p.m.
SSCB Lecture Hall
$3 Admission
Speakers: Debra Blakely, asst. professor of communication and Lt. Gary Scheibe of the Houston Mayor's office of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Cultural arts spices up the evening with dancers from Argentina

Cassondra Spencer
The Signal Staff

Spice up the senses of the body with sensual, cultural and exotic singing and dancing from the depths of Argentina.

During the month of September, the University of Houston-Clear Lake is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of performances and speakers.

UHCL is hosting a cultural arts series that allows expression through performance. This series will be launched with "Luna Argentina," a concert performance by cultural dancers.

"We scheduled 'Luna Argentina' keeping in mind that it is Hispanic Heritage Month," said Andrew Reitberger, assistant director of student life. "This is to offer exposure to another culture and it is entertaining."

Susana Collins, star and director of "Luna Argentina," was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She was trained in Classical Ballet, Flamenco and Argentine Folk from the age of 5, and has been performing the Tango for 20 years. Collins has performed alongside celebrities such as Libertad Lamarque and Robert Duvall.

"This is very strong, exciting, sensual and beautiful dancing," Collins said. "It's like two different worlds."

Susana Tango Productions and Crisalis Music Project are producing "Luna Argentina," which will be held Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Bayou Theater. The performance is a complete musical experience with 10 dancers, two singers and a partial live band. There is a story line and a variety of different dances. Following the performance, there will be a special reception featuring salsa music and dance instruction, along with light refreshments.

> ***"This is very strong, exciting, sensual and beautiful dancing."***
>
> **- Susana Collins**
> Performer

The concert is open to anybody; however, students can receive a discounted ticket price with their student ID. Students may also buy up to 10 tickets. For more information on this event, as well as others hosted by the Office of Student Life, visit www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts.

Courtesy of www.susanatango.com

Susana Collins (shown with Boris Filev) will perform in "Luna Argentina" Sept. 28.

Collaborative art exhibit showcases local faculty

Lauren Taylor
The Signal Staff

REVIEW

The University of Houston-Clear Lake is hosting The Bay Area Houston Community College Art Exhibition I through Oct. 19.

The gallery features many pieces from local community college faculty members. I had the pleasure of visiting the gallery and speaking with some of the artists about the art.

"The main qualification was to be an active artist," said Nick J. de Vries, professor of fine arts and the gallery director. "We requested that the work to be considered be made within the last two years. Full-time faculty, as well as part-time faculty were invited. We (Karen Fiscus, assistant gallery director and myself) chose one work from each individual. I place great importance on this kind of activity with the community colleges. Not only do we get to see the talent located next door, we also establish a collegiality with our counterparts."

When I visited the gallery, I went after a busy day of classes and was very surprised to walk in and become so completely calmed by the serene atmosphere of the gallery. The art is beautiful. An arrangement of string music plays over speakers generating a feeling of warmth in the room.

I started on the wall by the door. The first piece called "In Memory of My Mother" was one of my favorites. It is an old photograph with a short story written about the artist's mother. Included in the frame is a bracelet that belonged to the artist's mother. It is very touching, the photo is very artistic. This piece is by Carol Vuchetick, a photography adjunct from Galveston College.

The next piece that I really enjoyed was a screen print on Burlap. This piece is titled "Suzanne." It's amazing. The woman is in three poses and the print is very old fashioned and vintage. The art is by Stephen Neihaus, visual arts instructor from Lee College.

I made the corner and came upon a painting that looked so real it could have been a photograph. The painting is of a little girl named Sarah. The artist is Eddie Filer, an adjunct from Galveston College. The meticulous detail is incredible.

As I gazed at all of the art, I came upon a rather different piece. This piece caught my eye more than once. The piece is by George Bowes, assistant professor of ceramics and sculpture from College of the Mainland and is titled "Red Stirrup Vase on Pedestal."

"People have seen many things in this piece, the most funny is someone diving into a barrel," Bowes said. "I had no intentions of the form making an image other than a two-necked vase!" This goes to show that everyone sees art differently.

The middle of the room is where the sculptures are displayed. The first piece I came across was a handmade sake set by Jennifer Herzberg, studio arts teacher from Lee College.

"If one considers how many years it takes someone to learn the skills, it could be said that it took me 20 years (or a lifetime actually) or so of my personal experiences and of learning the skills to make art," Herzberg said. "Actually, this particular sake set probably took me 24 hours total to make in counted hours over the course of three weeks."

There is an amazing clay pot sculpted by Dennis LaValley, the art department chairman at Alvin Community College.

"The pot is a Raku firing technique using horse hair and ferric chloride," LaValley said.

I was very impressed with the overall exhibit. It was a great way to end a busy day of school.

When this exhibition concludes Oct. 19, another community college faculty exhibition will follow Nov. 5, which will run until Jan 2. For more information, visit the UHCL Web site at www.uhcl.edu and check out the link on the home page.

Emily Jaschke: The Signal Staff

Above: Faculty from community colleges display various forms of art in new exhibit.
Below: Paintings, sculptures and silk screens highlight the talent of local art faculty.

Emily Jaschke: The Signal Staff

University of Houston Clear Lake

FALL OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NO APPLICATION FEE!

- On-the-Spot Admissions Decisions*
- Admissions Counseling
- Financing Your Education
- Dynamic Workshops
- Student Life
- Student Services
- International Admissions & Student Services
- Faculty & Academic Advising

No application fee will be assessed for students submitting an application during the Open House event.

Reserve Your Spot Today!

www.uhcl.com/openhouse

281-283-2515

Special Accommodations: Any individual who requires a special accommodation for a specific disability should contact 281-283-2515 at least one week prior to the event.
** With transcripts (which will not be returned) and required test scores; does not apply to international applicants or the following programs: MHA/MBA, MHA, Professional Psychology, Counseling, and Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership.*

Est. 2001

The National Society of Leadership and Success

in partnership with the UHCL Student Leadership Institute

www.societyofsuccess.com

Tom Krieglestein

(Cofounder of Swift Kick, Co-creator of Red Rover, Internet guru)

"The Secrets Behind Facebook and MySpace to Multiply the Power to Your Success"

Highlights Include:
- Discover the Power of Your Social Network
- Find Out Where CEOs Hang Out Online
- Using the Internet to Positively Influence Your Future

Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2007
Time: 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Bayou 2512

OPEN TO EVERYONE!
NO CHARGE!
www.uhcl.edu/studentleadershipinstitute

*Student Life * Student Life * Student Life*

Leadership Tip of the Week

FUNDRAISING

Here are some simple tips that could help you raise funds!

DO "Friendraise" as well as fundraise
DO double work – sell T-shirts at a bake sale
DO donate supplies/services as much as you can
DO have a goal
DO your homework; research and know your request
DO get groups together before and after the event to applaud successes
DO spend as little time as possible on fundraisers; they can bog down a group
DO give donors something tangible for their donation
DO make successful fundraisers traditional
DO keep track of those that have supported you in the past
DO fill out the Gift in Kind Form located in the Student Life Office
DO find out food safety regulations and policies

DON'T rely totally on membership dues
DON'T allow fundraising to disrupt the regular business of the organization
DON'T ask for a fixed price when a donation will do
DON'T focus on cash donations only
DON'T have a fundraiser on impulse; plan carefully

Source: SODC/U of M

Student Life Office – SSCB 1.204 – 281.283.2560

SGA Invites You to Weekly Meetings & Fall SGA Day

The new and energized Student Government Association Executive Council is calling you to join them every Tuesday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Lecture Hall in the Student Services/Classroom Building. SGA is a great source to provide you information about campus and community happenings. It is a wonderful way to find out about our diverse student body and to have a part in the decisions that are made affecting students…new degree plans, tuition increases, parking fees, advisory boards, shared governance committees and much, much more.

The Council is proud to host SGA Day this Fall! SGA Day will be October 2nd in Atrium II of the Bayou Building from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm! SGA Day is a day full of fun and excitement for the whole student body and allows an opportunity for students to interact with the council. It is also a source of information about SGA and what we do and how we represent you, the students. We will have food, prizes, laughter, two great speakers, and a host of representatives from all the student organizations at your service! This is an amazing way to get involved on campus and to get to know the roles of SGA including governance, outreach, advocacy and leadership. If you want to make a difference and become a leader on campus, and at the same time, have fun and get that competitive edge over others at a job interview…SGA is your stop.

Since this is the start of a fresh new Fall, the new and enthusiastic council is busy. Just to start off setting the bar, the first event sponsored by SGA, the Hugh Lea Leadership Scholarship parking raffle was a record breaker. The parking raffle raised funds for this scholarship and many students and organizations sold raffle tickets to win one of the most treasured SGA Reserved parking spots in the parking lot. Under the auspices of Nida Ajaz, VP-Student Outreach & Communications, along with fellow Executive Council members and some really dedicated organizations sold $1066 in parking raffle tickets. And according to Kim Herhold of the University Advancement Office, the tickets sold raised the most amount of money, in one semester, of any previous council to date! Hats off to all the students and organizations who purchased tickets and to the winners: **Melissa Montemayor** for the single student reserved spot and **Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association** for the most tickets sold by an organization, and to **The Management Association** who ran a really close second of 502 tickets to PTKAA s 600. We hope that in the Spring, the Kombat will continue…!

Still not convinced about how awesome SGA really is?...Well, you are just going to have to come to the meetings and see for yourself!

For more information, contact the SGA Executive Council:
Joyce Delores Taylor, *President*
Michael Phillips, *VP – Committee Coordinator*
Nida Ajaz, *VP – Student Outreach & Communications*
Patrick Cardenas, *VP – Administration*

SGA Governance Outreach Advocacy Leadership

SGA@uhcl.edu | 281.283.2556 | www.uhcl/sga

Inspiration for the Generation

Emily Jaschke: The Signal Staff

Polly Palomino, winner of the Best Short Film award for "The Rug."

Angela Bolton
The Signal Staff

Lights, Camera, Action! The annual 2007 Gulf Coast Film and Video Festival rolled out the red carpet for the Independent Filmmakers of Texas and abroad. These artistic talents are an inspiration for a new generation of filmmakers.

Hal Wixon, executive director and founder of the Gulf Coast Film and Video Festival, awarded special guest, actress Jasmine Guy and several emerging filmmakers with awards of accomplishment during this year's festival, held Sept.14-16. As declared in their mission statement, "The Gulf Coast Film Awards serve as a means of educational outreach and expanded awareness of independent film."

Among the long list of finalists, six categories were awarded, including one Lifetime Achievement Award for Guy.

"No one can take your experience away from you," Guy said. She also noted that filmmakers have been our storytellers and these are the "new age" filmmakers.

This year's independent filmmakers' circle of winners included: Best Student Project – "Not Even Jesus Christ Himself," directed by John Lanser of Beach City, Texas; Best Documentary – "Surviving Rita, Looking Forward," directed by Gordon S. Williams of Cleveland, Texas; Best Music Film – "Still Tipping on Hobos," directed by Paul Beckman of Houston; Best Short Film – "The Rug," directed by Chris Dollard of Los Angeles; and Best Comedy – "A Piece of Pie," directed by Janet Davidson of Albuquerque, NM; Best of Festival – "Razor Sharp," directed by Marcus Perry of Los Angeles.

The hard work and determination put forth by these filmmakers does not end here. Wixon points out that it sets the path for larger dreams for themselves and others who are interested in breaking into the film industry.

"This serves as an inspiration for more people with an interest to get involved and take classes," Wixon said.

He further expressed that more students are becoming involved now that computers and equipment are more affordable, therefore, making films easier to produce. Wixon also encourages students to develop a thick skin because there will be several no's before one yes.

During the three-day event, advice was given freely from those who have achieved success in the industry.

"Just don't listen to anyone around you, go forward with it and don't change it," said Polly Palomino. "You have to have the love of what you do and have a vision of what you want it to be."

Palomino and her sister Nikki Palomino are a prime example of just how far a strong vision can take you toward helping inspiring filmmakers break into the business. Their award-winning short film "The Rug," is being considered for a running series on Fox Television.

"Networking is the most important thing," Palomino said. She further explained to take one step at a time with the determination to keep going.

For more information on entering or attending next year's festival, visit www.gulfcoastfilmfest.com.

Emily Jaschke: The Signal Staff

Left: As Giuseppe Camera plays beautiful salsa melodies, Jasmine Guy dances to the rhythm.

Above: Founding Director Hal Wixon and Life Time Achievement Award winner Jasmine Guy share a hug during Friday's mixer at Villa Capri.

Theatre Under the Stars: A Houston Legacy

Nicole Wheatley
The Signal Staff

When people hear Houston, Texas, mentioned in conversation they automatically think oil. It is a cliché. Theatre Under The Stars, since Frank Young, producing artistic director, founded it in 1968, has been giving Houstonians a different perspective on life with its extravagant musical performances.

TUTS is an acclaimed non-profit musical theatre company under the direction of President and CEO John C. Breckenridge, and currently has kicked off its 40th season at the Hobby Center for Performing Arts this September with Andrew Lloyd Webber's, "Whistle Down The Wind."

"We are very excited about our 40th season," Young stated. "We have come a long way from our first performance, 'Bells Are Ringing,' where we raised $4,400 for one performance to be played at the Miller Outdoor Theater in Hermann Park."

"Whistle Down the Wind" has several native Houstonians performing in it. One in particular is McKenna Marmolejo, 10, daughter of Cathy and Zoe Marmolejo, and is the granddaughter of Sharon Rich, who works at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is a business office supervisor for the Health Care Administration.

"This is my first major performance; I have been attending TUTS academy since I was four," Marmolejo said. "When I tried out for the part, I was shaking all over, but I now know this is exactly what I want to do, what I should be doing – acting."

Young initially had the idea of forming TUTS in the mid-1960s when he was working as an intern at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, and was doing theatre on the side at a place called Theatre, Inc. in the Montrose area.

"I was working with people like Tommy Tune and Farrah Fawcett and we were doing six to eight shows a week," Young said. "I thought to myself, 'why not combine theatre, opera and the Houston symphony together to do musical productions,' so I started working on it. Everyone I knew and spoke to agreed it would definitely be a lot of fun."

"People ask me which performance is the one that put TUTS on the map?" Young said. "I always respond, 'South Pacific,' put us on the map."

When TUTS did the production of "South Pacific" they built a 21-foot long plexi-glass swimming pool in the "pit," with a rock wall 18 feet high. So the orchestra shared the "pit" with a swimming pool for the production.

"It was a lavish show which ran 12 nights and had an average of 20,000 people attending each night," Young stated.

"After this production, our performances begin to get bigger and bigger. One year we did 'Gone With The Wind' as a musical in Hermann Park. The scene of Atlanta being attacked was over the top; we had 30 extras dressed in uniforms walking over the bridge at Hermann Park and through the crowd with make-up blood on. The extras were traveling to the stage on horses and in wagons," Young said.

TUTS continued doing great productions, which went on to show around the world and on Broadway.

Disney came to TUTS in the 1990s, because "we did such a good job with 'Beauty & The Beast,'" Young said. "They wanted us to do 'The Lion King.' The Music Hall, where the Hobby Center is now located, was an old building that had solid cement under the stage. There were no trap doors under the stage and Disney needed the 'traps' for the mountain in 'The Lion King.'"

"I said, 'let me try to make it work;' but we consistently kept running into road blocks. When the city of Houston agreed to remove the cement under the music hall they found asbestos," Young said. "Finally, I had to make a call to Michael Eisner explaining to him I just did not think I could make it happen, but would he please write a letter to the mayor of Houston explaining why Disney could not come here to produce a first class production."

After the letter got out to the public, TUTS received several offers from private contributors willing to help build an upscale performance center.

"The City of Houston stepped up and passed a vote to build a first class theater," Young said. "We raised every penny used to build the theater, and we now have a $100 million theatre with all the bells and whistles, which is very comparable to anything on Broadway."

The Hobby Center accommodates productions of all kinds and sizes.

"Continuing the tradition, TUTS Humphreys School of Musical Theater provides instruction and stage experience for more than 1,700 students annually through both The Academy and The Studio, which allow students to expand their horizons in the direction they want in theatre," Young said.

Subscriptions or tickets to the TUTS 2007-08 season are available to the public by phone at (713) 558-TUTS, outside the Houston area at (888) 558-3882 or in person at the TUTS Box Office (800 Bagby at Walker). For a fall brochure, call TUTS at (713) 558-TUTS or go online to www.tuts.com.

Courtesy of Joan Marcus

Theatre Under the Stars is set to present the first national tour of the five-time Tony Award-winning musical "The Drowsy Chaperone," May 20-June 1, 2008, at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets to "The Drowsy Chaperone," call (713) 558-TUTS or visit www.tuts.com. Pictured (left to right) Joey Sorge, Linda Griffin, Angela Pupello, Sutton Foster, Patrick Wetzel, Jennifer Smith, Lenny Wolpe, Beth Leavel, (seated) Jason Kravits, Garth Kravits.

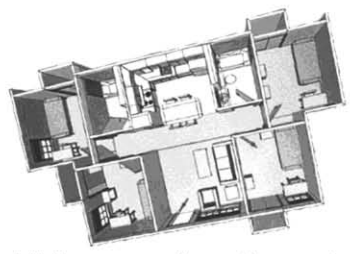
Courtesy of Theatre Under the Stars

Frank Young, founder/producing artistic director of the Theatre Under the Stars, (in clown outfit far left) is featured as Tony in the 1964 production of "The Boy Friend."

UNIVERSITY FOREST APARTMENTS

EXPLORE THE WORLD AT UFA!

On-Campus Convenience with the benefits of Apartment-Style Living



All three custom floor plans are designed exclusively for students' use:

- Efficiencies
- 2 bedroom/ 2 bath
- 4 bedroom/ 2 bath

Roommate Matching Program
Individual Leases for Roommates
Full-Service Kitchens

TONS OF AMENITIES, INCLUDING:

- FREE INTERNET
- Poolside Wireless Internet
- Financial Aid Deferment
- Pool & Spa
- Clubhouse w/Big Screen TV
- 24 hr. On-call Staff & Maintenance
- Free Video, Movie & Board Game Checkout
- Free Photocopying & Faxing
- Social & Educational Programs
- Full-Service Laundry Facilities
- *And Much, Much More...!*

Ask about our Free Rent Specials & Financial Aid Payment Plans!

For more information, call (281) 286-5959 or e-mail uhcl@campushousing.com

Join Our Winning Team!

PAPPAS RESTAURANTS WAITSTAFF

If you're motivated and enthusiastic, we want to talk to you!

Stop by for an interview!

Check out our website for applications and to find the location nearest you!

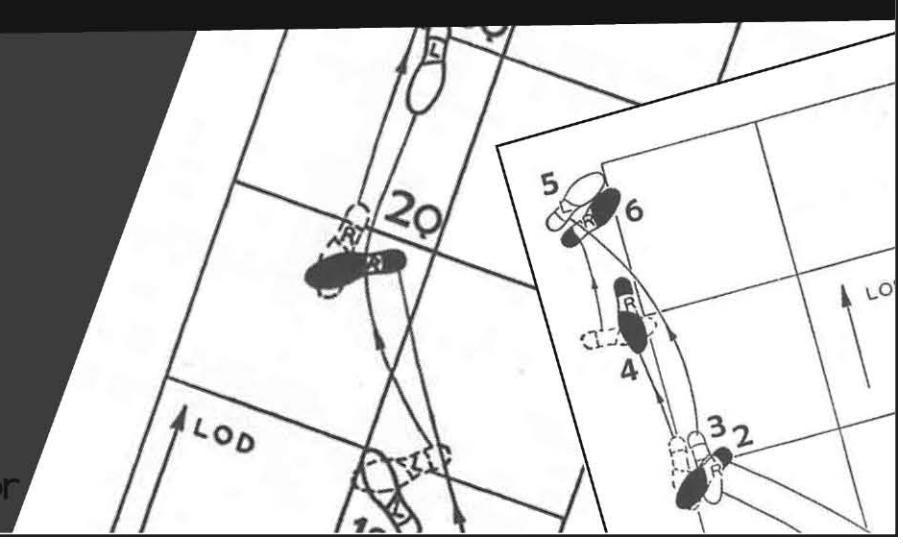
www.pappas.com

EOE

Luna Argentina

Friday, September 28
8 p.m., Bayou Theater

FOLLOWING THE CONCERT THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL RECEPTION FEATURING SALSA MUSIC AND DANCE INSTRUCTION.



Susana Tango Productions will join the Crisalis Music Project to present an evening of Argentine song and dance with Luna Argentina. A story that begins in the Argentine outback and follows to the streets of Buenos Aires, displaying the passions stirred by the rythmic sounds of the malambo and the elegant and seductive dance that is the soul of Argentina, the Tango.

GENERAL ADMISSION: $8 presale/$10 at the door
ADMISSION WITH UHCL I.D.: $5 presale/$7 at the door

CAMPUS CALENDAR

September 24-25
TSTA-SP Bake Sale, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Bayou Atrium I, 1st floor

September 25
National Society of Leadership Success Speaker: Tom Krieglstein, 6-7:30 p.m., Bayou 2512

September 28
Workshop: You Want Me to Do What? A Guide to Overcoming Your Fear of Public Speaking, 1-3 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07

Performance: Crisalis Music Project's Luna Argentina, 8 p.m., Bayou Theater

September 29
Film & Speaker Series: Daughter from Danang, 7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall 1.100.03

October 3
Workshop: The Art of Effective Communication, 5-7 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07

October 5
Workshop: Team & Organizational Effectiveness: Being a 'Cut' Above the Rest, 1-3 p.m., Location TBA

Fall Leadership Retreat: Application Deadline, 5 p.m., SSCB 1.204
* Retreat will be October 13-14 at YMCA Camp Pine Tree

CLASSIFIED ADS

3/2.5/2 BEAUTIFUL HOME FSBO
2 STORY 2010 SQFT
WOOD FLOORS
3 MI TO UHCL $170K
281-841-7053

You're not anybody unless you're on MySpace

Josh Conwell
The Signal Staff

For any student who has a Myspace/Facebook account, this upcoming event is a must-see. For those who do not, but want to take advantage of the social networking phenomenon that is taking over society, the Student Leadership Institute is holding a live video conference about the benefits that students can gain through Myspace and Facebook called "The Secrets Behind Facebook and Myspace to Multiply the Power to Your Success."

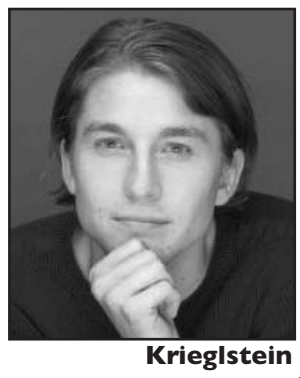
The speaker of this event is 26-year-old Tom Krieglstein, who is just one of many speakers scheduled for broadcast by The National Society of Leadership and Success. Krieglstein will teach students how to use online social networking tools to improve their careers.

Jumana Zayed, a student in the School of Business at UHCL, only uses Myspace for communicating with "friends and family overseas and this is a good means to keep in touch with them." Zayed is not concerned with the business side of Myspace and Facebook.

The broadcast of Krieglstein will take place Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Bayou Building, Room 2512. The video conference is free and open to everybody, student or non-student. Also, in the last 15 minutes of the conference, people have the chance to ask Krieglstein questions using their cell phones and e-mail.

Krieglstein believes it's important for students to learn these abilities because these "skills that they're doing right now online are the skills that are going to make them successful in the future, they just need to know which ones are the most important."

Krieglstein graduated from Aurora University with a degree in business management. Before he even graduated from college he started an online retail business that grew to $1.5 million in annual sales.


Krieglstein

Krieglstein is the co-founder of Swift Kick, a company that teaches schools how to get more students involved in college; he is co-creator of Red Rover, a Facebook application that helps schools connect students with groups and organizations on campus. He was also named the number one speaker by the College Market last year.

Krieglstein will teach students how Myspace and Facebook can be used as more than just a social network among friends; it can also be used to help sharpen their skills for potential employers.

It is important for students to be aware of what they post online, warns Krieglstein, because "63 percent of employers research the Web before they decide to hire you and it's really important for students to be aware of what that means to them."

> ***"63 percent of employers research the Web before they decide to hire..."***
>
> **- Tom Krieglstein**
> Co-founder of Swift Kick

Ashley Packard, associate professor of communication, emphasizes the importance of students learning about social networking.

"If people are engaged in learning and self-improvement and then do social networking on top of that, great," Packard said. "If social networking is all they're doing, I'm not sure it is really going to benefit them."

The National Society of Leadership and Success offers a once-a-month video conference series that was founded in 2001 by Gary Tuerack and is available to all students. The organization was designed to help create personal development in students' lives and to help them become more successful.

Advantages to becoming a member of The Society of Leadership and Success include: being mentored by fellow students, leadership training, your own personal coach, retreats, workshops and many other exciting benefits. The Society's goal is to empower students to fulfill their real potential and to strive for their goals.

"What I love so much about the society is that they embrace the same values that we embrace with the Student Leadership Institute in that leadership is serving others," said Jennifer Clark, coordinator of student life. "It's not about position, it's not about getting glory for yourself; it's about giving back to society, and that's exactly what these students are doing."

Students interested in becoming a member can pick up an application in the Student Life Office, SSCB 1.204. Completed application forms should be returned to Clark.

For more information on Krieglstein, visit his Web site: www.swiftkickonline.com/myspace/myspace.html. For questions about The National Society of Leadership and Success and the video conferences scheduled at UHCL, call (281) 283-2611.

University of Houston Clear Lake

Emergency Notification Personal Contact Information

Dear Student:

This communication comes from the Office of the Dean of Students to inform you of a new mass communication system we are implementing at the university. The Public Information Emergency Response System (P.I.E.R.) is designed to help increase our efforts of communicating with you during emergency situations.

In case of any future emergency, you will receive information through the P.I.E.R. system. Currently, we can reach you by e-mail at your "uhcl.edu" address. However, by using the P.I.E.R. system, we have the capability to alert you of school closings or other emergencies (whether you are on or off campus) through your home phone, by cell phone, text message, and at any additional e-mail addresses.

We hope you recognize the importance of updating your contact information in a timely manner. The E-Services online system provides a secure place for you to include your updated contact information for phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Listed below are instructions for accessing and updating your information through E-Services.

To update and add phone numbers and e-mail addresses to your personal contact file, log into E-Services at www.uhcl.edu.

- Use your Student ID number to log into the site - this is the 7-digit number you used to register for fall 2007 classes. If you don't know your Student ID number, please contact the Student Assistance Center by calling 281-283-2722, or visiting SSCB 1.102.
- If you don't have a password or have forgotten it, click "Forgot Your Password" link on the login page and enter your ID number and date of birth. A new password will be sent to your UHCL e-mail. For instructions on accessing your UHCL e-mail, go to https://webmail.uhcl.edu/exchange, or contact the Student Assistance Center.
- After retrieving your new password, log into E-Services at www.uhcl.edu.
- Once you have successfully logged in to E-Services, click the UHCL E-Services icon link. Next, click the "Campus Personal Information" link located on the left menu, or you may select "Campus Personal Information" from the links in the bottom right window panel.
- Update phone numbers and e-mail addresses by clicking the appropriate links. Be sure to make the necessary changes and additions for home phones, cell phones, and home e-mail addresses.
- Be sure to click the "Save" button after each update and addition to your personal contact information.
- Once you log out, your information will be available for use in case of emergency.

For assistance and questions about updating your personal information through E-Services, please contact the Student Assistance Center, SSCB 1.102, 281-283-2722.

PAY RATES: *continued from page 1*

dable," said Terry Dupler, associate professor of fitness and human performance, former faculty senate president and current faculty senate member. "I have no problem with his methods, and I find his results quite expected, sad to say!"

Knowing and discussing other's salaries isn't the most popular activity to engage in, but one that needs to be done. Oettinger humorously compares it to the unspoken rule that states no one is to look below the shoulders in a locker room.

> ***"It was made known that this probably wasn't the best move for my career."***
>
> **- Craig Oettinger**
> Associate Professor of Sociology

"It was made known that this probably wasn't the best move for my career," Oettinger said.

Salary increases are determined by different factors depending on the position one holds in the university. For faculty, it is determined through annual evaluations conducted by the dean of each school. The evaluations take into account three main criteria: teaching, service and research. Based on the faculty member's performance in these three categories, merit raises are proposed to the provost, who has final say on pay increases.

"My role as provost is to work with the different schools in terms of faculty and based on their annual evaluation process based on teaching, service and scholarship," said Robert Stockton, senior vice president of academic affairs and provost.

It is up to the four different schools within UHCL to allocate those dollars according to each faculty member's annual evaluation. Because it is divided this way, there are also vast differences in what comparable faculty members make in each of the schools.

> ***"I've actually had conversations with fellow faculty members who are considering a second job just so they can make it."***
>
> **- Terry Dupler**
> Associate Professor of Fitness and Human Performance

Another factor in determining salary increases is the obvious need for funds to allow these raises. The two major sources for funding come from the state and from tuition, both of which are directly related to enrollment numbers.

Since the deregulation of tuition in 2003, a strain has been placed on most Texas universities to fill the void left by decreasing state funds. In order to make up for the lost revenue, universities have increased tuition. In turn, higher tuition often leads to lower enrollment. This trend creates a vicious cycle that restarts every two years as the Texas Legislature meets again to reconfigure its funding of state schools. With so much demand for funds, not much is left in the pool for pay increases.

"Obviously, if your enrollment increases, you get dollars not only from tuition and fees, but you get something called formula funding from the state," Stockton said. "If enrollment increases, we have more money. If enrollment starts to drop, then we have less money [to give merit raises]."

In determining salaries, the university compares salaries with what is called peer universities. These are other schools nationwide that are comparable with UHCL in enrollment, budget, staff, etc. The UHCL's peer institutions include: Arizona State University at the West Campus, Fitchburg State College in Fitchburg, Mass., Governors State University in University Park, Ill., Indiana University-South Bend in South Bend, Ind., Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, The University of West Florida in Pensacola, Fla., University of Baltimore in Baltimore, Md., University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in Colorado Springs, Colo., University of Illinois at Springfield in Springfield, Ill. and University of Michigan-Dearborn in Dearborn, Mich.

"At UHCL, our average salaries for full-time faculty members are above the national average for Master's Institutions," Staples said. "Also, relative to some of UHCL's peer institutions, UHCL, on average, ranked higher than Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Indiana University-South Bend and ranked about the same as University of Illinois-Springfield and University of West Florida."

Information from these peer universities is used in comparing both faculty and administrative salaries. Not only is UHCL on par with its peer universities, it is also competitive with the national average of other public universities as illustrated in studies conducted by the National Center for Educational Studies.

"We are on par with other institutions with what we are paying our professors and administrators," said Michelle Dotter, vice president of administration and finance.

While UHCL is on par with other similar institutions, many faculty are left wondering if being on par is good enough; is inadequate adequate?

"One of UHCL's primary goals is to recruit, develop and retain high-quality faculty and staff, and achieving that goal entails offering salary and compensation comparable to other institutions, particularly other master's institutions," Staples said. "In many ways, one of the greatest challenges, not only in higher education, but for all industries, is trying to keep up with the rate of inflation and cost of living."

The challenge of keeping up is one that UHCL is failing.

"UHCL is not unique in not being able to keep up," Dotter said.

The study also showed that when depreciation and cost of living are factored in, several of the most recent employees of the university have actually lost money.

"I think any institution should have such a concern," said Everette Penn, associate professor of criminology and a member of the faculty senate. "There are fine faculty here at UHCL, although research shows compensation is not the most persuasive motivator for an employee, certainly the cost of working at UHCL should not penalize a person from making a decent wage when compared to persons with similar credentials, universities with the same missions and practices as well as the cost of living expenses for an area."

When Oettinger conducted his study, information for 2007 was not yet available and, thus not included. In making across-the-board raises this year, it was decided that the faculty receiving a raise would be given 3.5 percent, whereas the administrators would only receive 2 percent.

While this does exhibit the administrators' desire to be fair, 2 percent of a lot of administrators' salaries is still substantially more than 3.5 percent of most faculties'.

"I've actually had conversations with fellow faculty members who are considering a second job just so they can make it," Dupler said. "Granted, some (most) of us did not get into this field to get rich, but it would be nice to be able to afford a new car and a house payment. What some of our upper administrators make is just plain ridiculous considering what they do for UHCL (e.g. lack of bringing in funds)."

The results of Oettinger's study show that even the highest paid professor at UHCL in 2006 still only made 41 cents for every dollar the president earned. Some feel that insult is added to injury when in addition to a much larger salary, several administrators also receive other compensation including: auto allowances, additional retirement plans and longevity payment. The president also enjoys "perks" like a country club membership, additional insurance allowance and domestic services.

> ***"The salary gap between administration and faculty is not justifiable."***
>
> **- Terry Dupler**
> Associate Professor of Fitness and Human Performance

"The salary gap between administration and faculty is not justifiable," Dupler said. "There is no reason the president of UHCL should make six times the average faculty salary for the School of HSH."

For more information on faculty and administrative salaries, log on to www.nces.ed.gov, or check the Alfred R. Neumann Library on the campus of UHCL.

SPEAKER: *continued from page 1*

"I would like for the entire university, not only students but faculty and staff as well to have a little bit better understanding of who this group is," said Linda Contreras Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity. "It is so varied and so confused, and there is so much anti-Latino sentiment right now that I just think that through education, people can become more aware of who we really are."

> ***"I would like for the entire university, not only students but faculty and staff as well, to have a little better understanding of who this group is."***
>
> **- Linda Contreras Bullock**
> Assistant Dean of Student Diversity

Awareness is just what Tafolla delivers with her unique performance. The audience is first introduced to her as a disruptive elderly lady who interrupts her own formal introduction. Later on, the audience learns that this elderly lady is an interpretation of Tafolla's own tia Sofia. In the span of about an hour and a half, she transforms before the audience from a feisty elderly lady, to a first grader, to an elderly man, a strong black woman, a high school student, a college student, a woman with six names, all the way back to herself with each one sharing his or her own perspectives and experiences of cultural diversity, or the lack thereof.

Each voice speaks to everyone in a unique way and the story of bubbly first-grader Tere, short for Teresa, who is punished for speaking Spanish and told she doesn't know how to pronounce her own name is a character that touches many audience members.

"The one story that stuck in my head was the little first-grader; it is such a true story that all of us face not only Latinos, but a lot of groups," Bullock said. "As a sociologist, I know that this happens in the classroom, in high school, in the university, at every age."

Educating oneself about other cultures can be as simple as reading a book, advises Tafolla.

"I encourage people to read because when you are reading you apply that book and that experience to you, and you aren't having the details filled in for you," Tafolla said. "You're given two points of the triangle and you provide the third."

Not only does she "encourage people to explore their own cultures and the cultures of their friends," but just to appreciate the beauty of everyday.

"There is so much beauty all around us and there is beauty in every culture and we have so much to learn from each other," Tafolla said.

Tafolla's performance is just one way to get involved with Hispanic Heritage Month. The student organization, Hispanics Advancing Culture and Education, are also celebrating and would be glad to have more participants and can be reached at www.uhcl.edu/studentorgs/hace.

PEARLAND: *continued from page 1*

systems centers in the southwest (UH System at Sugar Land) and the West (UH System at Cinco Ranch), leaving the southern part of the metropolitan area to be developed."

The new campus will operate as an upper-level and master's institution, in cooperation with the area two-year institutions like Alvin Community College and San Jacinto College South. The UHCL campus in Pearland will be used solely for UHCL classes and degree programs. However, if in the future there are programs/classes that Pearland residents want and that UHCL does not offer, then other UH system universities may be invited to offer those programs/classes at the UHCL branch campus in Pearland.

For the Pearland campus to be successful, it is essential that the students at this campus have access to comparable resources and quality of services as the students at the UHCL campus. With programs planned to start in spring 2009, services available to students are: Admissions/Enrollment Services, Financial Aid and Student Services, Academic Advising, Library and Information Resources, and Information Technology.

"I am excited to know that UH is making it easier for people to get their degrees," said Ashley Hardage, an education major. "Having a branch in Pearland will help students continue their education and fulfill their dreams."

JSC Federal Credit Union Wants YOU

VISA Check Cards • Loans and Credit Cards • FREE Checking Accouts • FREE Online Banking & Bill Pay • 32,000 Surcharge Free ATMs • 24/7 Account Access

University of Houston Clear Lake Students, Faculty and Staff

You are eligible for membership with

JSC Federal Credit Union

www.jscfcu.org

281.488.7070 800.940.0708

9 Convenient Branch Locations

Visit Our On-site ATM at UHCL

UHCL

Clear Lake • League City • Ellington • Friendswood

Galveston • Texas City • Mainland • Park Place • Bay Colony

Open A JSC FCU Checking Account Today & Get Free Checks!

Get FREE Checks*

JSC Federal Credit Union www.jscfcu.org

Get FREE Checks*

*Coupon Good for 1 Free Box of Space Style Checks Only and is Redeemable at any JSC FCU Branch

A Quality Full-Service Automotive Center

just around the corner

Space Center TIRE AUTO

Giving Auto Service a Good Name

AAA Approved Auto Repair

- Courtesy shuttle to/from UHCL
- Expert in all makes and models
- Free towing in Clear Lake with mechanical service
- State Inspections
- 2 year/24,000 mile local warranty
- 1 year/12,000 mile nationwide warranty

Monday-Friday: 7am to 7pm
Saturday: 7am to 5pm
Sunday: Closed for family time

BBB

(281)286-8473

Located behind Sonic, off Bay Area Blvd, at 16439 Moonrock
www.spacecentertireauto.com

Egg Donors Needed

If you are a young woman between the ages of 20 and 32, and are interested in helping infertile couples through anonymous egg donation, we are looking for you. If accepted into our program, you will be provided $3,500 compensation for your time and effort. It will require a thorough evaluation, daily injections of medications, frequent visits to the medical clinic, and a procedure for retrieval of eggs.

If you would like more information please call:

(713) 512-7694

Obstetrical & Gynecological Associates, P.A.
7550 Fannin Houston, TX 77054

Amonette finds his ultimate 'work out'

Kim Boswell
The Signal Staff

The best "workout" in Bill Amonette's life thus far is his career choice. Things have worked out beyond expectation for this University of Houston-Clear Lake lecturer in the Fitness and Human Performance program.

"The best advice I ever got was to get your degree in something you love," Amonette said. "There's a quote I try to live my life by, 'Find something you love to do, find somebody to pay you to do it and you'll never work a day in your life.'"

Amonette dabbled with other career choices in the past, once considering psychology and the ministry. But his love of training the human body brought him back to his earliest interest. With a twinkle in his eye and a subtle smile, he leans over to his file drawer and pulls out a markedly-old piece of notebook paper. It is a workout plan he designed years ago.

"This is from seventh grade," Amonette said. "This is the first workout program I ever made. I was sitting in class one day, not listening to a word the teacher said, and did this."

After deciding how to best channel these interests into a career, Amonette got his B.S and M.A. in Fitness and Human Performance from UHCL. He recalls fondly the camaraderie among a tight-knit group of students who worked together on their studies and the deep friendships they formed. The sister of one of those good friends became Amonette's wife last December.

He makes it clear, however, that the most significant impact on his education came from his faculty mentors here at UHCL: Terry Dupler, associate professor of fitness and human performance; and Eugene Coleman, professor of fitness and human performance. Coleman, in particular, had a clever way of making him strive to achieve just a little bit more.

"No matter how well I did on a paper, he would always give me an A-," Amonette recalls, laughing. "I don't know if he was doing it on purpose, but every single time it would make me work harder."

Coleman doesn't seem to recall anything lacking in Amonette, not then as a student or now as a fellow faculty member.

"Bill is one of the two brightest students that I have had at UHCL," Coleman said. "If you ask him to do 30 minutes of work, he will do 90."

Amonette has worked with astronauts at NASA, helping them physically prepare for and recover from space flight. He has also worked for the Houston Rockets as an assistant strength and conditioning coach. Through his work with the Rockets, Amonette has come to know Yao Ming. He has deep respect for the basketball player's decent and honorable character.

"He's one of the nice guys," Amonette said. "You can really be glad he's a Rocket, a player you can latch onto and cheer for. You're not going to see him get arrested in a bar fight like some of these other athletes. Most people don't realize the enormous amount of pressure on Yao Ming. Beyond the pressure to perform well as a Rocket for the city of Houston, he has 1.3 billion people back in China that want to see him succeed as well."

Courtesy of Bill Amonette

Bill Amonette, working with the Chinese National Basketball Team

The summer of 2006 brought Amonette the opportunity to travel to Beijing, China. He assisted another UHCL graduate, Anthony Falsone, in training the Chinese National Basketball Team for the World Championship games and, ultimately, the 2008 Olympics.

"The Chinese culture is very, very different," Amonette said. "The language is very difficult to pick up and the food is very different, so it was interesting. The Chinese public was great. When they found out we were traveling with the CNBT, they wanted to have their pictures taken with us. It was our three months of fame."

Beyond the courses he teaches and his research responsibilities for UHCL, Amonette keeps busy with his work as a sports scientist at the Roger Clemens Institute for Sports Medicine & Human Performance. He has also worked as a personal coach for Houston-area collegiate, professional and world-class athletes in many different sports. For Amonette, the interest is not so much about a particular sport, but training the body to play the sport.

"When I was young I played sports," Amonette recalls. "But for me it was never about the sport. I always liked preparing my body for the sport. I've always been passionate about training."

Amonette is equally enthusiastic about the quality of graduates the university's program of Fitness and Human Performance is producing, as well as the stellar reputation they are building for UHCL.

"We have two former students who are working for minor league baseball teams and many over at Velocity working with athletes," Amonette said. "The high quality of work they are doing is opening doors for other students."

He is also excited about the new fitness and lab facilities now available to students, recalling in the past they had a lab half its present size and no resistance equipment.

"It made it difficult for us," Amonette remarked. "We were trying to teach resistance training without resistance training equipment."

Next semester there will be a class within the program called "Resistance Training – Theory and Practice" that he hopes all students will take. He also encourages them to take advantage of the new fitness facility.

"It makes me sad to go by there and not see many students using it," Amonette said. "People in there are ready and willing to show them how to use the equipment."

His best fitness tip is also the same one that seems to guide his personal and professional life.

"Be consistent with exercise," Amonette advises. "That's the problem. Everybody will do something for a while. Those who are successful will consistently do something."

Dubai: the experience of a lifetime

Heather Frame
The Signal Staff

Ken Black is a man of many roles: a father, husband, athlete, professor, active researcher, award winner and writer.

He is also a world traveler who recently taught overseas in Dubai, at Zayed University, helping students to create an efficient and quality healthcare system.

In the course of Black's studies, he has obtained his B.A. in mathematics from Graceland College, an M.A. in math education from the University of Texas at El Paso, and two Ph.D.s in educational research and in management science from the University of North Texas.

Black began teaching at the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1979. Since then, he has distinguished himself with his many talents as a researcher by the many awards he received as a professor including the Minnie Stevens Piper Award from UHCL (1994), the Outstanding Educator Award for the Southwest Region (2001), the Edgar C. Hayhow Award (2004) and the President's Distinguished Teaching Award for UHCL (2005).

Black recently published his first book, which is used internationally by numerous universities, "Business Statistics for Contemporary Decision Making." Currently it has sold more than 100,000 copies worldwide. Black's book also includes 17, 10-minute videos and has been translated into other languages, such as Chinese.

Paula Cook, editorial assistant in the School of Business, is proud of Black's achievements.

"Dr. Black has done many things in his lifetime," Cook said. "He has taught overseas and won many awards for his efforts and he is one of the nicest guys I have met and very genuine."

Courtesy of Ken Black

Ken Black with students of Zayed University.

Recently Black traveled 9,300 miles overseas to Dubai to teach a class of 25 students – 20 women and five men. He co-taught the class quality and productivity in healthcare at Zayed University with his colleague Lee Revere. Some of the classes included teaching students the importance of efficiency, such as: faster service with less waste, how to reduce the amount of errors in medication and surgical procedures and improving patient throughput, so that more people are able to get a higher quality of healthcare.

"Dubai is a healthcare city; they are very gracious and sensitive to others' needs. They are very anxious to help, and because of that, this has been a once-in-a-lifetime gift and a real growth experience, and I was given a great opportunity to visit and teach in Dubai," Black said.

Dubai, which is part of the United Arab Emirate, is trying to educate its people to take over the healthcare system. Black has educated many soon-to-be high officials, some of which are beginning to introduce health care insurance into their country. This will allow more patients to be satisfied and confident in the healthcare systems. Dubai has state-of-the-art healthcare facilities and provides modern high technology to its students.

"Dubai is very similar to the United States in the fact that they all have the same concerns as we care about having a good healthcare system, and because of this Dubai will become the hub of healthcare," Black said.

Joan Bruno, associate dean of the School of Business, is honored to have Black teach here at UHCL.

"Dr. Black has extended the reputation of the university and his excellent teaching reputation of teaching statistics in Dubai. He is fully committed to his students by making sure they understand both the theoretical and practical applications of statistics to solving business problems," said Bruno.

Black is currently teaching three classes at UHCL in the School of Business: Statistics I and Business Statistics for Decision Making on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Black also keeps in touch with his former students from Dubai and how they are progressing in the field of healthcare. A former student of Black's has received two promotions since his class finished.

"With this great experience I have made lifelong friends and the satisfaction that some of my former students are making a significant difference in Dubai," Black said.

Courtesy of Ken Black

Zayed University in the city of Dubai where Black visited and taught classes.

Along with everything Black has accomplished and achieved he also has several hobbies he stays involved in. He is a member of the National Masters Track & Field Association where he competes in the long jump, triple jump and runs the 100-meter dash. Black also loves to play his electric guitar in his band Carter-Black, which plays county-rock music.