



CAMERON PALMER:THE SIGNAL
This is not the official mascot image.

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? It's the UHCL Hawks!

Laura Figueroa
The Signal

After 38 years in existence, the University of Houston-Clear Lake has finally selected its first official mascot: the UHCL Hawks.

Although a visual of the official mascot image is still in the works, the decision to become the Hawks is final.

"It's great to know we now have a mascot to represent us," said Karina Garza, education major.

With the approval of UHCL President Williams Staples, the Mascot Leadership Team took on the task of establishing an official mascot.

"The Mascot Leadership Team, as well as the Mascot Advisory Team, and many students, faculty and community friends who participated in several surveys worked hard to narrow the selections to make the process a little easier for me," Staples said. "However, making the final decision was an arduous one. Ultimately, like the Mascot Leadership Team, I felt the hawk reflected the natural beauty of the campus as well as the historical relationship to the Alumni Association's hawk logo from the 1980s. It also represented characteristics

that are desirable of a mascot for UHCL: courageous, dynamic and adventurous."

The mascot selection was a five-phase process that began in the fall of 2010. During phase I, the UHCL community was invited to submit their mascot ideas to the Mascot Leadership Team. During phase II, the UHCL community was asked to submit graphic images of the mascot options. In phase III, the Mascot Leadership Team refined the mascot image that was selected. During phase IV, the UHCL community was invited to cast their vote on the refined image and lastly, phase V, the official mascot is revealed to the UHCL community. The Mascot Leadership Team was facilitated by Theresa Presswood, executive director of communications.

UHCL community members submitted votes to select a mascot and image through an online survey form.

"Out of thousands of submissions and a vetting process, the UHCL community (students, employees, alumni and community) voted and the top four were

SEE HAWKS, PAGE 6

Domestic workers expose workplace injustices

Stephanie Brown
The Signal

The "Domestic Workers Tell Their Stories" event, sponsored by the office of Intercultural and International Student Services, helped reveal injustices faced by female domestic workers such as nannies and house cleaners. The bilingual event, which took place Monday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room, kicked off Hispanic Culture Month at UHCL.

Christine Kovic, professor of anthropology and cross-cultural studies, and Susana Hernandez, assistant director of IISS, helped organize the event. Supporters of this event included the Anthropology and Cross Cultural Studies Program, Houston Interfaith Workers Justice Center, and the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue.

"[We are] trying to educate the campus community about issues and concerns facing the Hispanic Latino community, but we're also celebrating our culture," Hernandez said.

"Domestic work is one of the most vulnerable industries because there are no regulations."

— **Laura Perez**
Director, Houston Interfaith
Worker Justice Center

The purpose of the event was to create awareness regarding the mistreatment of domestic workers, many of whom are from the Hispanic community.

"We should be aware of some of the difficulties that are faced by domestic workers... and to learn a little bit about the struggles in the U.S. as well as here in Houston to try to grant protections to domestic workers," Kovic said.

Domestic workers do not have many of the rights that are

provided by other jobs. Kovic points out that domestic workers are excluded from the 1935 Fair Labor Standards Act, meaning their employers are not required to pay them overtime, and several workplace protections are unavailable to the workers.

"Domestic work is one of the most vulnerable industries because there are no regulations," said Laura Perez-Boston, director of the Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Center. "You are typically the only employee for your employer, so there is no one to negotiate with or strategize with [if an issue arises]."

If a worker is undocumented, it may cause further mistreatment by an employer.

"It is common for undocumented workers to receive worse treatment because the employer can use their undocumented status against them," Hernandez said.

SEE DOMESTIC, PAGE 6

AHEAD OF THE CURVE: Freshmen arrive with college credit

Vonda Atchley
The Signal

September has crept its way into our life. The weather is turning cooler, the leaves changing colors and students are heading off to school. They have their back packs, iPads, flash drives and even writing pens and paper, but are they truly ready for the classes awaiting them?

Beginning in Fall 2014, University of Houston-Clear Lake campus will begin accepting freshman and sophomore students. This will be the first time students will be arriving at the campus straight out of high school and they must be ready for

college-level classes.

"Currently, the college does not plan on offering any type of remedial courses for incoming students," said Tim Richardson, director of the Student Success Center.

Many local high schools are already working to ensure their students are prepared for college. Schools such as those located in Galena Park, Channelview and Sheldon ISD's, "encourage all eligible students to participate in programs such as Advanced Placement Classes, Dual-Credit, and even Modified Early College

SEE FRESHMAN, PAGE 6

ONLINE in this issue

VIDEOS.....
Domestic worker's video

FACEBOOK.....
UHCLTheSignal

WEBSITE.....
UHCLTheSignal.com/word-press

TWITTER.....
@UHCLTheSignal

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



EDITORIAL

Students proud to be UHCL Hawks

Many know the majesty of the hawk; it is an aggressive bird of prey with powerful claws used to swoop in and capture its target. We, the students, faculty and staff of the University of Houston-Clear Lake, are now the Hawks.

With the revelation that the hawk is our mascot, we must truly consider the implications: What does it mean to be a UHCL Hawk? Is being a hawk something that should bring us pride? Is it something that should inspire fear?

A hawk is a frightening bird to some; it is a fierce, strong and deadly predator that will hunt to its last breath. However, there can be no mistaking the hawk's beauty and elegance even as it flies to claim its prey. It is an image that truly represents the strength and wonder that our campus possesses.

We at UHCL are not slackers. We are not students who sit idly by and wait for others to do our work for us. We are not teachers who ignore our jobs and shirk our duties because we are not lazy. We are aggressive, ferocious, passionate in our ideals and devoted to whatever our goals may be. Whether it be finishing a homework assignment, teaching multiple courses in a single day or achieving some grand honor amidst our campus, we at UHCL will charge through with determination, and we will achieve our goals.

Yet even with this devout ferocity, there is a quiet beauty within our campus – in addition to the natural beauty that exists due to our proximity to a nature reserve – that exemplifies our strength and nobility. Our campus, faculty and students alike, are always willing to help one another, even if the situation can be inconvenient. When a student needs help with material, there is

Change Is Coming



WANTNEEDO

By Kalan Lyra

always someone extending a helping hand. No one who needs help – and puts out the effort – will ever be turned away.

What is it then that this hawk represents to us? The hawk stands as a beacon to all that we are a strong and determined campus. We will stand against those who threaten us, and we will crush any obstacles that stand in the ways of our goals. Much like the hawk, we will never look away from our objectives, nor will we shirk from any duties we are assigned.

We should all be proud to be represented by this glorious creature. The hawk stands as a symbol of our dedication and our courage. The hawk shows others that we will not simply back down when something seems daunting. It is the new symbol of our school pride proclaiming to the world that through all things we will persevere with strength and dignity.

Soon we will see the visage of our new mascot across our campus. Before too long we will witness future traditions formed behind this mascot, such as rallying cries or amusing hand gesture while we, as a campus, unite behind this symbol of our collective strength.

Just as the hawk flies with its head held high, we too will march on with pride. We now join the ranks of other prestigious campuses, rallying behind a corporeal symbol and proclaiming who we are to the world: We are the Hawks, and we will spread our wings and soar.

UHCL STUDENT LIFE

IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON!



THE FITNESS ZONE IS HOSTING A FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH @ 1PM**
- **NORTH RECREATIONAL SOCCER FIELDS**
- **SIGN UP A TEAM OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE OR THE FITNESS ZONE**



Any person needing an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this program should contact the Student Life Office at StudentLife@uhcl.edu or 281-283-2560 at least one week prior to the event to arrange for the accommodation.

THE SIGNAL

CO-EDITORS/DESIGNERS

Cameron Palmer | Stephen Schumacher

STAFF

Vonda Atchley | Stephanie Brown | Gary Cecil III | Laura Figueroa
Charles Landriault | Timothy Lapointe | Meaghan Marquez

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Taleen Washington

PUBLICATION SPECIALIST/AD MANAGER

Lindsay Humphrey

The Signal is a public forum and will print letters to the editor subject to the following:

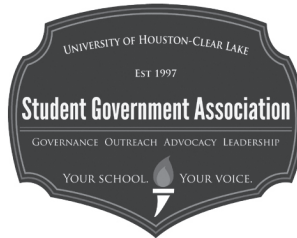
- Letters must be no longer than 500 words.
- Letters to the editor are reprinted unedited.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's full name and contact information.
- The editors reserve the right to refuse letters, announcements, advertisements and contributed articles deemed libelous.

Address letters to:

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

Reach the staff:

Phone: 281-283-2570
Fax: 281-283-2569
Email: thesignal@uhcl.edu
Visit the website:
www.uhclthesignal.com



UHCL SGA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR VOICE.



*A humble request from the Prez
That while you're stalking your friends,
Just "like" our page
It's all the rage!
Find out who, what, where, why and when*

- **Buy a raffle ticket, get reserved parking.**
Extended deadline: September 25, 2012 at 10 a.m. in SSCB 1.205
- **Vote for September's Student Leader of the Month.**
Deadline: September 26, 2012 at 10 a.m. in SSCB 1.205
- **Get involved! Join a committee**
Applications available in the SSCB 1.205 or Student Lounge

Talk to us

facebook.
facebook.com/SGA.UHCL

e-mail
sga@uhcl.edu

twitter
twitter.com/UHCLSGA

THE TOURNÉES FESTIVAL

New French Films on Campus
presented by UHCL Film & Speaker Series

SEPTEMBER 21 – OCTOBER 13

FREE admission for students, \$3.75 general public
Screenings start at 7 p.m. in the SSCB Lecture Hall
All films are French with English subtitles. Complimentary French lesson prior to each screening.

LES ÉMOTIFS ANONYMES ROMANTICS ANONYMOUS



FRIDAY, SEPT. 21
Opening night reception (*Fête Chocolat*)
to follow screening sponsored by Texas French Alliance for the Arts

LES HOMMES LIBRES FREE MEN



SUNDAY, SEPT. 27
Screened with support from the UHCL History Club

TOMBOY TOMBOY



SATURDAY, SEPT. 29
Screened with support from the UHCL Unity Club

LES FEMMES DU 6ÈME ÉTAGE THE WOMEN ON THE 6TH FLOOR



SATURDAY, OCT. 6

LE HÉRISSON THE HEDGEHOG



SATURDAY, OCT. 13

The Tournées Festival is presented in collaboration with UHCL Cultural Arts, the Foreign Language Program, and University Advancement. FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 281-283-2560, visit www.uhcl.edu/tourneesfeativall or use your smartphone to scan the QR code.





Mercury - The Orchestra Redefined

COURTESY: UHCL CULTURAL ARTS

Discovering culture through music and film

Charles Landriault
The Signal

Each fall kicks off a new season of cultural art events at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, which brings film, music, speakers and art to the campus.

With performances by musical ensemble Mercury, recent U.S. releases for the Film & Speaker Series, and French foreign-language films with the Tournées Festival, there is sure to be an event for even the pickiest of viewers.

Mercury – The Orchestra Redefined

Mercury celebrates music, Baroque and beyond. Mercury has chosen Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony for this season's opener. The ensemble enjoys sharing the passion and intimacy of Mozart's music with audiences.

"We want to start off our season with a bang, but to celebrate perhaps one of the most loved pieces in all of classical music," said Antoine Plante, artistic director of Mercury. "And, of course, we had to play 'Jupiter' for all of the NASA fans in Clear Lake."

Mercury will also play "Schubert's Death and the Maiden." Originally written for a string quartet, the ensemble will transform this piece for a full string orchestra.

Additional performances by Mercury will be Mozart's "A Little Night Music" and Beethoven's "4th and 5th Symphonies."

Film & Speaker Series

The Film & Speaker Series presents recently released films that lend themselves open to topics for discussion. The series not only presents box office hits but, in addition, tries to provide a range of films from documentaries to independent films.

"Our hope is to create dialogue and engage people in critical thinking," said Andrew Reitberger, associate director of student life.

Because the age range at UHCL runs from young adults just out of high school to adults returning to further their education, the Film & Speaker Series intentionally adds in some family-friendly films that allow viewers of all ages to be entertained and, hopefully, gain a positive college experience.

A few of the films being presented this season during the Film & Speaker Series include:

"Clash of the Titans:" Perseus, born of a god but raised as a man, must save his family from Hades, the vengeful god of the Underworld.

Perseus leads a daring band

of warriors on a perilous journey deep into forbidden worlds. Hosted in conjunction with The Art Gallery's KrakenFest, David Day, lecturer in writing, will speak about the mythology of the Kraken.

"The Whistleblower:" This ripped-from-the-headlines thriller is inspired by actual events. Kathy Bolkovac (played by Rachel Weisz) takes a position working as a peacekeeper in post-war Bosnia. Her hopes of helping to rebuild a devastated country are soon ruined when the reality of corruption, cover-up and intrigue amid a world of private contractors and multinational diplomatic double-talk is uncovered.

Katherine Bolkovac, the subject of this film, is expected to speak about her experiences, but this event is still being finalized.

The Film & Speaker Series has also teamed up with HoustonPBS and Community Cinema to present films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens. Upcoming films are "As Goes Janesville," Oct. 5. and "Solar Mamas," Nov. 2.

For more information about Community Cinema events at UHCL, visit www.uhcl.edu/movies, e-mail movies@uhcl.edu or call 281-283-2560.

The Tournées Festival

As part of the Film & Speaker Series, the Tournées Festival will feature five foreign-language films on the weekends between Sept. 21 and Oct. 12.

The Tournées Festival, made possible with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Centre National de la Cinématographie, the Grand Marnier Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation and Highbrow Entertainment, presents films that are relatively new in French Cinema and that provide some insight into French cultural views.

"Each film being presented presents a different question and allows the viewer to ask different questions," said Christine Paul, director of the UHCL Foreign Language Program and Non-Credit Programs.

"This is the best festival held so far because the films are not the same, cookie-cutter type films," Paul said.

Some of the upcoming films being presented during the Tournées Festival include:

"Les Hommes Libres" (Free Men): This film focuses primarily on the political awakening of Younes, an illiterate Algerian immigrant who makes his living

selling items on the black market, yet when caught, begins serving as a spy for the police to avoid jail. This film is sponsored by UHCL's History Club.

"Tomboy:" Portraying childhood just before pubescence, this film is about a young, fourth-grade girl named Laure. Laure and her family have moved into a suburban complex prior to the start of the school year. Laure, with the support of her family, decides this is her opportunity for re-invention and to step outside of the rule-bound world of gender codes. This film is sponsored by UHCL's Unity Club.

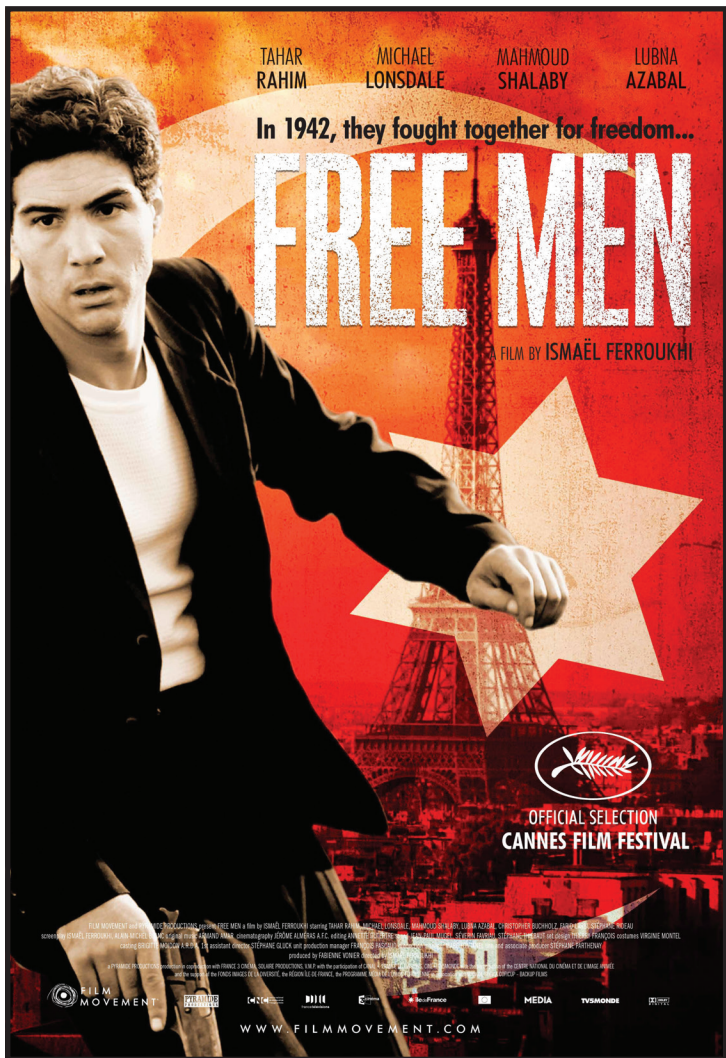
Additional Events:

The UHCL Art Gallery is hosting KrakenFest, which will tie into the Film & Speaker Series' showing of "Clash of the Titans." KrakenFest is based around Lecturer in Art Jason Makepeace's art car, a Ford Mustang wrapped in tentacles so that it appears as if it is being ripped apart by the Kraken.

The event will be held in the Alumni Plaza Oct. 27 between 6 and 7 p.m. Admission and parking for KrakenFest are free. For more information visit krakenfest.eventbrite.com.

For prices and showtimes go to www.uhcl.edu/cultural.arts.



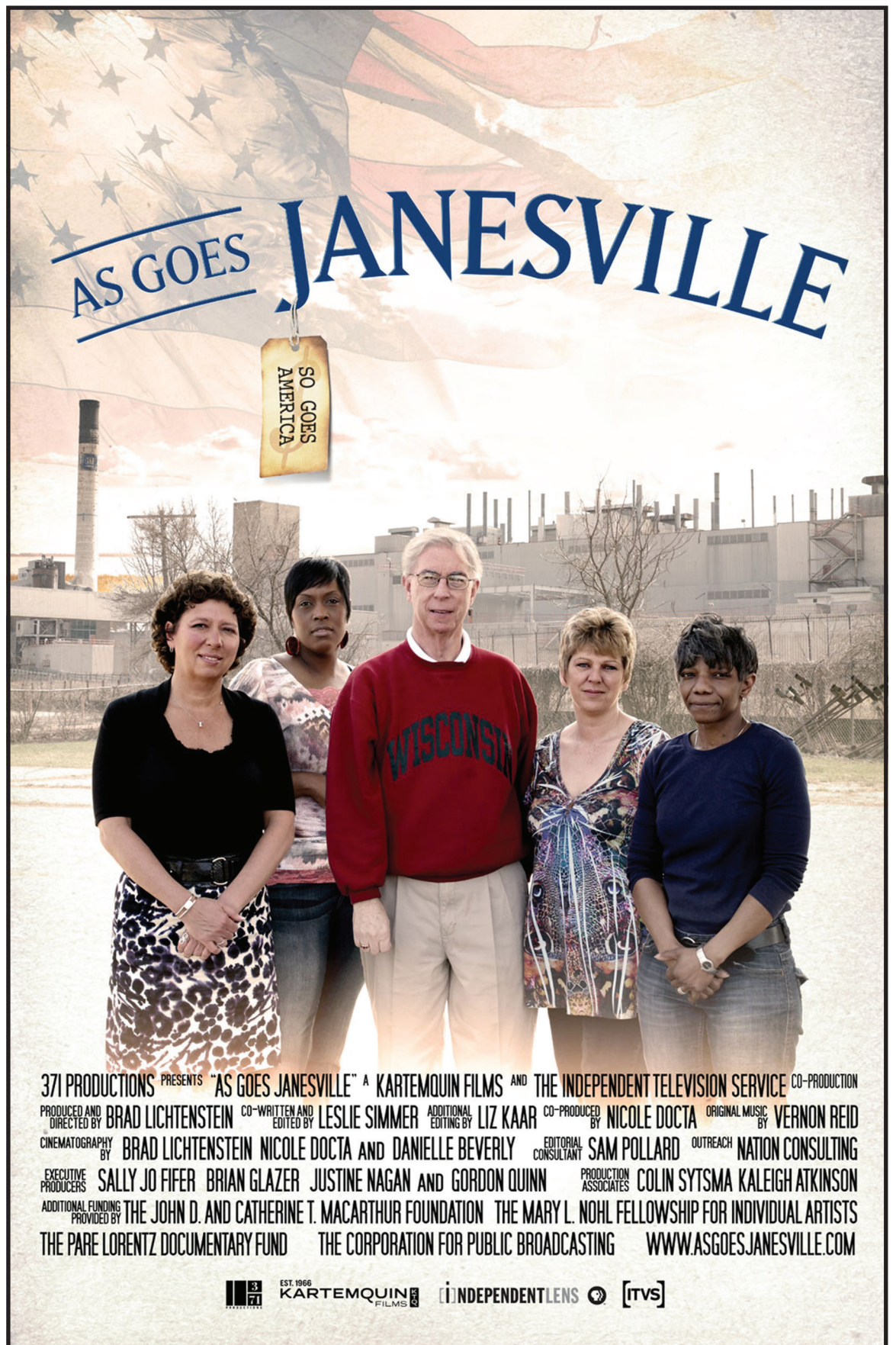


Cultural

Upcoming Events
Fall 2012

ARTS

Bringing together history, culture and social relevance, the Film & Speaker Series at UHCL sheds light on films by pairing them with speakers to highlight the significance of the issues raised by the movies' content. The Film & Speaker Series combines foreign-language films through the Tournées Festival with popular films released in the U.S., and teams up with Houston PBS and Community Cinema to present Emmy Award-winning PBS films.



HAWKS: continued from page 1

identified,” said David Rachita, interim dean of students. “The hawk, buck, blue heron and egret were the results, and a call for images went out.”

Once the mascot selection was finalized, the UHCL community was asked to vote on a mascot image to represent The Hawks. A winner was selected and the image was sent to a professional marketing firm for final touches. This process is still pending completion.

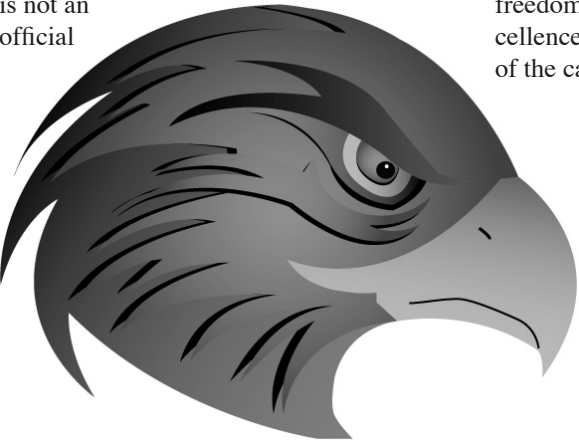
The mascot image is expected to be revealed to the UHCL community in fall 2012.

Without an official image of the mascot, the university is unable to begin marketing it on school merchandise, but soon the UHCL Hawks will be displayed and seen throughout campus on school items such as shirts, souvenirs and other merchandise sold at the UHCL Bookstore.

There is already one image that is displayed on campus that is recognizable and memorable, its name is Blockie.

“When I went to UHCL, the image I remember was Blockie; I knew it wasn’t official but I always wanted the campus to have an official mascot to represent us,” said Miguel Montes, UHCL alumnus.

Although Blockie is not an official



CAMERON PALMER:THE SIGNAL
This is not the official mascot image.

mascot, the image has been used by the Office of Student Life to promote campus activities and campus events since summer 1999.

“Blockie was never intended to be nor was he ever passed off as a mascot for the university,” Rachita said. “He was a character that was created by students in 1999 to help market the then Back to School Bash. Over the years the character developed a life of its own and soon became a special branding of the Student Life Office. I’m sure Blockie will live on as a brand for the Student Life Office and will become best of buddies with his new friend the hawk. Blockie will be the mascot’s biggest fan!”

For many students, faculty and staff, having an official mascot signifies the school’s spirit.

The University of Houston-Clear Lake sits on 524-acres surrounded by nature and wildlife.

“Hawks are located on our campus, making it a choice that also connected the mascot choice to our campus environment and setting,” said Ron Klinger, associate director of organizational development and a member of the mascot leadership team. “In the selection process several adjectives were identified that aided in how the mascot choice would represent UHCL... freedom, soaring spirit, sense of vision, excellence, grace, power and natural beauty of the campus.”

MORE ONLINE

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the UHCL mascot search process.



Freshman: continued from page 1

Academy (MECA) through local junior college San Jacinto College District.

“Local districts have worked hard to develop programs to help students prepare for college,” said Darryl McWhorter, coordinator for academic support and educational research for Galena Park ISD.

The Advance Placement Classes are offered on the high school campus. Students take the classes throughout the school year and prepare for a test. If they pass the test at the end of the year, depending on their score, they may receive college credit, but this route is not guaranteed for credit. Some colleges accept the scores and some do not.

“It does help them with being prepared for college, it just doesn’t guarantee the credit,” said Laurie Patterson, curriculum specialist for Galena Park ISD.

The Dual-Credit program is designed for students to take college-level classes either on the high school campus with peers or on the college campus with other college students. These students sign up for college courses such as English 1301. They are expected to attend class, participate in coursework and complete all assignments as other college classmates are doing. At the end of the semester, those who pass receive both high school and college credit.

Another program the districts are offering, specifically in coordination with San Jacinto College District, is called the MECA program. This has been available for qualifying students since the 2007-2008 school year and is designed for top students on these high school campuses. The students are actually pulled off the regular campus for the entire day except one class. They attend all of their major

“Local districts have worked hard to develop programs to help students prepare for college.”

– Darryl McWhorter,
Coordinator for Academic Support
and Educational Research
for Galena Park ISD

classes on the college campus. All classes count for high school and college credit. Once these students have completed and passed all the classes, they have earned their High School Diploma and their Associates Degree simultaneously.

“District Coordinators continue to monitor the programs offered watching for additional growth and readiness opportunities for all students in our districts,” McWhorter said.

While there are plenty of opportunities for advanced students to prepare for college, not every student planning to attend college is ready for college level courses while in high school. Some prefer the old-fashioned way of completing high school first, and then moving on to college. Some students need remedial courses to get prepared.

San Jacinto College is the largest feeder college for UHCL campus. Even with the four-year initiative in place, UHCL will continue to work with local community colleges to cultivate the well-established 2+2 transfer plans on which the university was built.

Domestic: continued from page 1

Martha Garcia and Julia DeLeon were chosen to speak about their lives as domestic workers for American families. The organizers chose women to speak at this event because the majority of nannies and housecleaners are female and the voice of a domestic worker woman is often underappreciated.

“It’s wonderful to have the women themselves who are domestics here to tell us their own stories,” Kovic said. “Women’s stories in particular carry great power and are often ignored or overlooked.”

Martha Garcia is originally from Mexico and has been working as a nanny in the U.S. for 27 years. She said she is very proud of the work she does, but said she has faced mistreatment and injustices during her time as a domestic worker.

Julia DeLeon has been working as a domestic worker in the U.S. since 1985. She has taken care of four pairs of twins, and said she has also faced mistreatment at the hands of her employers.

Both of these women said they feel extremely close to the children they watch, and treat them as if they are their own flesh and blood.

“It is kind of hard because I have two children of my own, but I treat the children I watch as my own as well, [and] this is very intense,” DeLeon said. “It’s hard to be away from them.”

DeLeon explained that she receives no paid days off, no matter how sick she

may be and no paid vacation days. There have been instances where she said her health was so poor that she could not make it to work and was fired the very next day.

Garcia shared a story of an act of abuse she experienced on the job: while cooking a stew in the kitchen of the home she was working in, the boiling contents of the stew suddenly splashed all over her body. Although she screamed in agony as the steaming broth burnt her flesh, her employer ignored her cries for help.

The intensity of the burn was realized when her skin peeled off as she tried to take off her clothes. It was only when Garcia threatened to call the police that she was taken to the hospital four hours later.

“One thing I have noticed is that [employers] don’t value the work of a woman,” Garcia said. “It’s very painful because one is short on money, one gets hungry, one gets sick. The work that we do is extremely valuable to the development of the whole country. I can only imagine how much work these families would lose if we were not there [to take care of them].”

To find out more about domestic workers in the U.S. or for more information regarding upcoming Hispanic Heritage events, visit the IISS office, SSCB 1.203, or call them at 281-283-2575.

live it your way

Tired of the Commute?
Live on campus & be just a short walk to classes. Limited spaces available. Sign your lease online today!

university forest
student village

2600 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston TX 77058
visit us at: universityforestUHCL.com telephone: 281.286.5959

text UFA to 47464
standard rates apply

Constitution Day! September 17, 2012



Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who, are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens.

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all Americans to observe this important day in our nation’s history by attending local events in your area. Celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, parades and demonstrations of our Love for the United States of America and the Blessings of Freedom Our Founding Fathers secured for us.

Come celebrate Constitution Day in the Bayou Bldg. Atrium I!

4:00pm–7:00pm:

All day events:

Library:

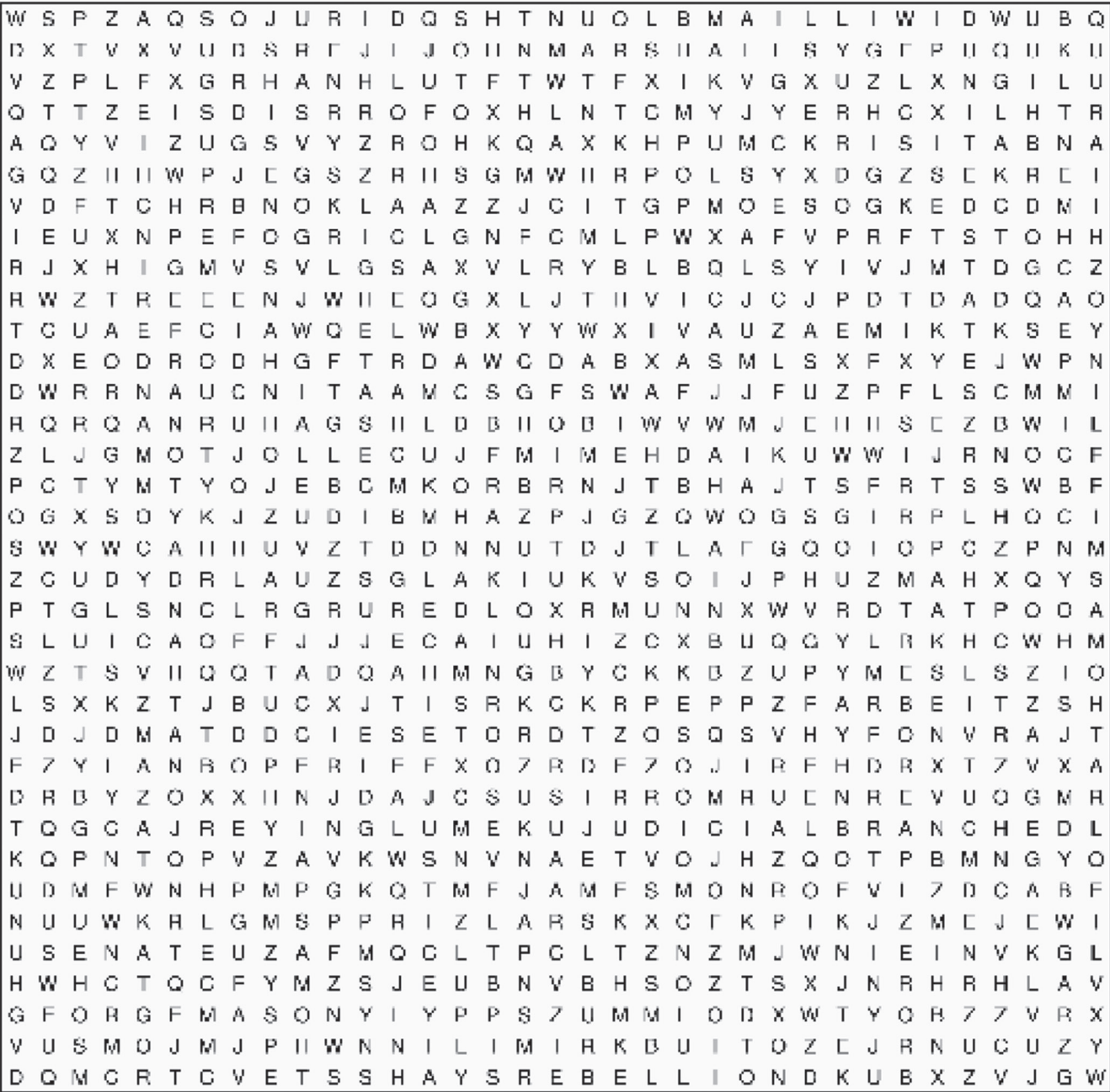
Spin the Wheel Trivia Game with chance to enter a Raffle for a Gringo’s Gift Basket Cake!

-a Libguide on the website with resources, links to other sites, and embedded videos about the Constitution

Voter Registration Table 3:00–7:00pm

<http://libguides.uhcl.edu/constitution>

-a DVD broadcast about the Constitution over the in-building TV system “The Constitution and Foundations of Government”



-Display in the Library

Constitution Video Atrium I

<u>Word List:</u>	Gouverneur Morris
Shays Rebellion	John Hanson
Senate	John Jay
Robert Morris	John Marshall
John Adams	Jonathan Dayton
James Monroe	Judicial Branch
Impeachment	Justices
Franklin Roosevelt	Supreme Court
Great Seal	Thomas Jefferson
Amendment	Thomas Mifflin
Charles Carroll	Thomas Paine
Chief Justice	United States
Commander in Chief	William Blount
George Mason	William Few
George Washington	

College Traditions



IMAGES COURTESY OF: NADIA EWING, NANCY NGUYEN, TAYLOR ATCHLEY, JAMES COREAS, THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS, AND CUSHING MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT TEXAS A&M.

TOP: One of the oldest Texas college traditions is the rivalry between A&M and UT Austin, especially on the football field.

BOTTOM: Other Texas college traditions include: The lighting of the McConnell tower at UNT, Frontier Fiesta at UofH and the infamous bonfire at Texas A&M

Establishing college traditions

Meaghan Marquez
The Signal

What will you remember 20 years from now about your college days? Will it be the football games, your professors, your sorority or fraternity? Whatever college you went to, there will be certain experiences, memories and traditions you will never forget.

There are more than 200 colleges and universities in the state of Texas, each of them holding their own traditions specific to that particular college or university. The largest universities by enrollment in Texas are Texas A&M, University of Texas at Austin, University of North Texas and University of Houston.

Most traditions are harmless with a healthy dose of team rivalry. For example, the Longhorns versus the Aggies is the oldest rivalry between Texas colleges. It seems as though, even if you are not a UT or A&M student, if you are a resident of Texas, you must pick a side – Hook ‘em or Gig ‘em?

Texas A&M was established in 1871, making it the first and oldest public institution in Texas. Because this university is so old, it has many traditions, stories and symbols. One of the more famous Aggie traditions is the Aggie Bonfire. The Bonfire symbolizes the Aggies’ burning desire to beat “T.U.” – the backwards abbreviation for UT.

“Kissing after touchdowns was my favorite. Silver Taps and Aggie Muster were very dear to me as well; and, of course, the Bonfire,” said Paul McGrath, adjunct instructor in communication and assistant news editor for the Houston Chronicle.

“One of my favorite traditions is Midnight Yell, all the students get together at midnight on game day and do all of our cheers together,” said Nadia Ewing, a university studies major at Texas A&M.

The University of Texas at Austin was established in 1883, making it the second oldest public institution in Texas. There are many Longhorn traditions important to its students, such as the official school song, “The Eyes of Texas are Upon You,” the lighting of the tower, and the official mascot – Bevo.

Bevo, which is a Texas Longhorn, has been the official mascot for UT Austin since 1916. Some theories suggest the ongoing rivalry

between UT and A&M is the reason for his name. Supposedly, a few Aggie students branded Bevo with the final score of the 1915 football game in which the Aggies beat the Longhorns. The final score was 13 - 0. This theory suggests the Longhorn students fixed the brand to look like the word, “Bevo.”

“My favorite tradition is when they light the tower to orange,” said Chris Schillaci, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

The university will light the tower to that recognizable Longhorn burnt orange on certain special occasions, but especially any football victory against Texas A&M.

The University of North Texas was established in 1890. With all of its years, it has accumulated many different traditions. They have a distinct school color – green. However, their green is not just any green, but it’s called “The Mean Green.” Its

school mascot is a bald eagle that goes by the name “Scrap-py” and wears a “Mean Green” shirt.

“My favorite tradition is when they light the tower to our Mean Green color after a football game,” said Ryan Cecil, a kinesiology major at UNT.

Finally, the University of Houston was established in 1927, making it one of the

younger of the largest institutions. Some of its main traditions are the Frontier Fiesta and Red Cougar Friday.

“My favorite tradition would have to be Red Cougar Friday, I love to see all the students wearing our school color - it’s like a sea of red walking around campus,” said Anna Izat, a graduate of the University of Houston.

Now that the University of Houston–Clear Lake has a mascot, the Hawks, there is no doubt it will mean the beginning of our own new traditions to compliment those already in existence. We already have the annual Chili Cookoff, but now with the Hawk in the forefront of our minds we as a student body, need to think of traditions that students in years to come will be proud to observe and hold.

“KISSING AFTER TOUCH-
DOWNS WAS MY FAVORITE.
SILVER TAPS AND AGGIE
MUSTER WERE DEAR TO ME
AS WELL.; AND, OF COURSE,
THE BONFIRE.”

— Paul McGrath
Adjunct instructor in communications

