

This little piggy went to college, pg. 8



THE SIGNAL

Check out the Dominican Republic Mask slideshow online



VOLUME XL, NUMBER 4

www.UHCLTheSignal.com

MARCH 26, 2012

MAJOR MISTAKE

Students weigh the costs of changing degrees



Samantha Samuel
The Signal

Students no longer have the luxury of experimenting with their college education because of the excessive hours ruling. Since UHCL is a public university, it receives assisted funding from the state. Student paid tuition and fees only cover a portion of the cost of instruction with the state supplementing the rest. In 2006, the state ruled that students may not exceed

their degree plan by more than 30 hours. Anything more than 30 hours is considered excessive and the state will no longer supplement the costs of that student's education. At UHCL this means a tuition recovery rate of \$130 per semester credit hour in excess of the credit hour limit. Students who exceed this limit will be placed under mandatory advising. So what happens to a college student in the wrong degree

program? The majority of undergraduate students struggle when it comes to choosing the career path that is right for them. The American College Testing (ACT) states 65-85 percent of students will change their major at least once. The decision of switching majors or getting a degree in a major that no longer holds an interest is even more difficult for students who have the majority of their degree program completed.

Welcome to the new swipe and go world

Rosita Gomez
The Signal

Aside from the waiter who carries around change in his wallet from last night's dinner rush tips, it is usually plastic that weighs down America's pockets and purses. It is rare that people ever go to a place where they are not able to use a credit or debit card to make a quick, convenient transaction. The sudden spurt of credit card vending is making convenience prominent in schools and businesses. Companies are exploring a new vending market with products that range from gourmet coffee and cupcakes to digital cameras and GPS navigation systems. "The population has moved to plastic, making the customer basis much larger," said Jeffery Forbus, instructor of genetics at UHCL and owner of Promo Vending in League City. "Our society is molded to have everything convenient; novelty attracts people." The convenience of swipe and go is transparent, but the costs might be translucent. Fees of 2.5 to 5 percent are charged by credit card companies and banks to businesses using credit card machines that allow customers to make transactions, not including the cost of equipment and usage. "Many of the biggest successes with credit/debit payment

systems are on glass-front beverage vending machines that are typically only placed in high-end accounts with higher vend prices and higher sales," states reports by USA Technologies, which provide ePort credit card readers to vending machines seen around the UHCL campus. Additionally, USA Technologies reports state businesses that see the most success are those that can afford to raise the prices of their vending machine products. The high costs of products inside credit card vending machines help to raise the profit for vending machine suppliers, countering some of the fees charged by credit card companies and banks. Some of the places people are most likely to see these higher costs are amusement parks, sports venues, schools and airports. The common link between these places is that once a person is inside, it might be more inconvenient to leave than to pay an extra dollar or two for a needed or desired product in a vending machine. This brings to question the definition of convenience. Is convenience the ability of a person to use a credit card to purchase a higher-priced vending machine item, or is convenience connected to a location, or is convenience the ability to make purchases anonymously. Shippensburg University

SEE SWIPE, PAGE 6

These students have invested a lot of time and money before realizing they are on the wrong path. Students in this situation have an important decision to make: stay on the path they are on and get the no-longer-desired degree, or travel down the path that is better suited for them, which can mean starting practically from scratch. The correct answer is not the same for everyone since each student is as unique as his or her reason(s) for choosing and

switching majors. "A student in this situation should certainly look at all angles," said Ann Hinojosa, advising coordinator in the School of Human Sciences and Humanities at UHCL. If a student is far along in his or her degree program, then Hinojosa recommends that he or she go to the Career and Counseling Center for advice and meet with an academic advisor. **SEE MISTAKE, PAGE 6**

Generation "G" for Google

Ana Gabriela Avendano
The Signal

Students nowadays rely on the Internet for research. Most are part of Generation Y, or Net Generation, one that has been shaped by the developments and trends of its time. The rise of instant communication technologies such as smartphones and tablets was made possible through the use of the Internet, especially email, texting and IM, and new media used through websites like YouTube and Google.

Royce Walker, adjunct instructor in communication who teaches a Gathering Information course in which students learn research strategies, explains students depend on the Internet "entirely too much" for their research. "The Internet has so much information available," Walker said. "It does provide an ease of gathering information, but many times it is the only source used for an assignment." Students have become familiar with online research, especially

when trying to meet an impending deadline and even more so when there is a convenient app for it. They are more likely to "Google" for information than browse through reports, magazines, encyclopedias and almanacs, all materials that are available to them through their school's library. Google is a search engine created by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, two computer science students, working from a Stanford University dorm room in 1998. **SEE GOOGLE, PAGE 6**

ONLINE in this issue

STAFF BLOGS.
Campus Briefs
Signal Frequency
Mixed SIGNALS

VIDEOS
Dubstep

SLIDESHOWS.
Pub Paint
Dominican Republic Masks

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



To change or not to change...that is the question

Students face tough decisions when considering whether or not to change majors

EDITORIAL

Picture this: you are a political science and psychology double major. Yet, you start working jobs in event promotions, public relations and marketing. Eventually you realize you are much more passionate about the fields you are gaining work experience in than the two fields you are studying.

So, what do you do? Do you throw all of your political science and psychology credits away and change majors? Or do you suck it up and get your political science and psychology degrees while knowing you have no interest in pursuing a career in either of those fields because you have fallen in love with a completely different line of work? Many students, including Lisa Vavricka, face that very situation.

A senior at the University of Notre Dame, Vavricka is a political science and psychology double major who has absolutely no passion for the two areas of study for which she will earn degrees in when she graduates in May.

Having been interested in people, she chose to major in psychology to learn more about her fascination. She even had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a summer in China to study global economics and international relations. Vavricka earned college credit

for her studies in China, which was ultimately why she chose to deepen her knowledge by studying psychology in college. However, Notre Dame does not offer international relations as a major, so she decided political science was the next best thing, thus her decision of being a double major.

Considering her newfound interest in event promotions, public relations and marketing, why would Vavricka not change her majors to an area or areas of study more related to those three fields? Well, Notre Dame students have a pretty strenuous list of requirements to meet in order to graduate. By the time she realized she was on her way to the wrong career path, she had already completed four full semesters of classes as well as some summer classes. It would not be possible for her to graduate on time if she chose to start over and change majors.

For some, like Vavricka, changing majors simply is not an option. Whether you are trying to graduate within a specific time frame or you are trying to avoid interfering with the intimidating checklist of requirements for graduation, sometimes it does more harm than good to uproot yourself from the degree plan you have been working toward.

Aside from time focused on a particular field of study being completely wasted, so is the money footed along the way.

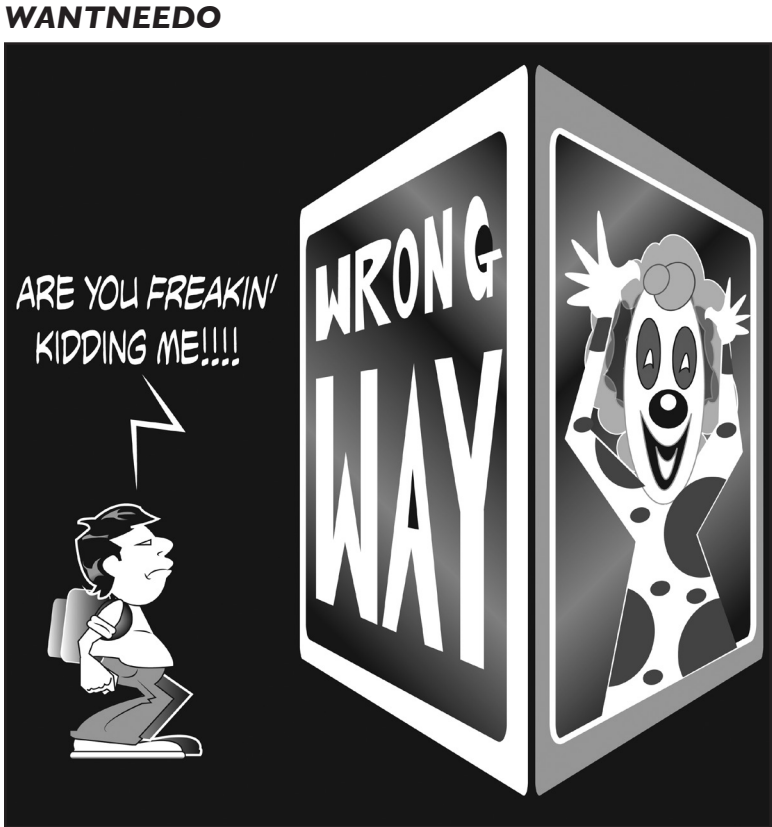
Discovering yourself in the form of hopping from major to major can get very costly.

Undergraduate students who enrolled in public universities Fall 2006 or later have an enrollment cap in which they cannot exceed 30 credit hours beyond their degree requirement. Once a student exceeds the 30 additional credit hours beyond his or her degree plan, the state no longer supplements the cost of his or her tuition. UHCL students have to pay \$130 per semester credit hour for “excess” classes.

What do you do if you are faced with the same situation Vavricka faced? Talking to an adviser early in your college journey is vital. Having face-to-face interaction with someone from the college or university you plan to attend who knows the ins and outs of being successful is very important.

Taking electives in areas of study that one believes will interest them early in their college years is important as well. When taking the basic requirements many college students have to take in order to move past the first two years of school, students should not take “blow off” classes in order to gain their elective credits.

Strongly considering what their interests are and pursuing those in the classroom setting will help college students focus on what they genuinely enjoy doing with their time. Getting an



Kalan Lyra

education will not feel like going to school when students have a true passion for what they are studying.

The American College Test (ACT) reports 65 to 85 percent of students will change their majors at least once in their college years. Vavricka and other students may not be that statistic by choosing not to change their majors due to various deciding factors. Other students, if they act before they are too far into their original degree plan, will change their majors and begin the process

of earning their degree all over again. Whether changing a major or sucking it up and sticking it out, college students need to thoroughly think through their decision.

Gone are the days when students can afford to experiment with different degree programs in hopes of learning about their own likes and dislikes through the exposure to knowledge. As of 2006, any college credit hours beyond 30 earned toward a degree is considered excessive.

Houston to Austin on a bike...YEAH RIGHT!

Truett Manning
The Signal

The BP MS 150 bike ride is the largest event of its kind in the United States. This two-day, 180-mile ride from Houston to Austin is an annual event held at the end of April. This year, the ride is being held April 21-22. The ride is sponsored by BP, an oil and gas company, and organized by the National MS Society to raise money for multiple sclerosis.

I learned about this bike ride through my family several years ago. My mother, father and younger brother have all participated in the ride a few times. They encouraged me to ride with them, but all I could think about was how difficult the adventure would be. If there’s anything my friends and family know about me, it’s that I hate to sweat. I never hit the gym or go for a jog, so the thought of riding a bike



STAFF COLUMN

from Houston to Austin seemed like an impossible task for me. I don’t even like driving to Austin, much less hoping on a bike and pedaling myself there.

One thing I can say for sure is that I was really missing the big picture. I knew in my mind that the ride is tough and pushes you to the limit. It takes months

of training and getting in shape to complete a ride of that size. I realize now that the ride is about being a part of something bigger, something that helps people and spreads awareness for a debilitating disease.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease that affects the central nervous system and interrupts the flow of information between the brain and the body. The disease can cause anything from numbness to blindness and paralysis. More than 400,000 people in the U.S. have multiple sclerosis and many of them come from all over to participate in the ride each year.

When my family participated in the ride a few years ago, I picked them up in Austin to bring them and their bikes home to Houston. I saw the riders cross the finish line with a look of satisfaction in their eyes. Each person, though red-faced and

exhausted, still managed to beam with pride. It sounds strange, but even though I was there, I felt like I was missing out on an incredible experience by not being on a bike. Seeing the look on peoples’ faces made me regret not joining and riding with my family.

It has been awhile since my family completed the ride, and I don’t know if my parents would physically be up for doing it again. I fear it may be too late for me to share that experience with them. Had I not been so caught up in my aversion of getting active, I probably would have joined them and been able to cross the finish line with my head held high.

While I may not be ready to partake in the ride even now, the BP MS 150 is on my bucket list of things to do before I die. My hope is that one day I will have the drive to join and be that

person who can finish the race. Although it has been a few years since I stood at the finish line in Austin waiting for my family, the images of the riders remains fresh in my mind. I saw people young and old, big and small, and of all races united together for a good cause and it allowed me to see the importance of joining something so great.

For those who love biking and being active, I encourage you to grab a friend or family member and be a part of this amazing event.

For more information on the BP MS 150 or to donate to the National MS Society organization, go to www.nationalmssociety.org.

Whether you like to be physically active or not, there are always ways to help.

THE SIGNAL

EDITOR Jessica Brossack	STAFF Ana Gabriela Avendano Chelsea Dennard Jennifer Ferguson Rosita Gomez Theresa Greenshields Sara Haghipour David Hensley	DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS Taleen Washington
ASSISTANT EDITOR Samantha Samuel	Truett Manning Tracie Momie Lakeisha Moore Joshua Ojeda Rebecca Scherrer John Scoggin Ashley Toman	PUBLICATION SPECIALIST Lindsay Humphrey
DESIGNERS Michelle Kaldenberg Rebecca Scherrer Bryan Waites		

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



STUDENT LIFE PRESENTS

THE 23RD ANNUAL

CHILI

COOK OFF

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 12P - 4P SSCB NORTH LAWN

WWW.UHCL.EDU/CHILICOOKOFF

• Student Life • Student Life • Student Life • Student Life •

New Student Orientation Programs
wants you to...

BE AN O-LEADER



PICK UP AN APPLICATION IN THE STUDENT
LIFE OFFICE OR ONLINE AT
WWW.UHCL.EDU/NEWSTUDENTORIENTATION

ENDING HUNGER ONE BOX AT A TIME
HOSTED BY: STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
DONATE NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS AND DROP THEM OFF IN THE SGA BOXES
PLACED AROUND CAMPUS. MAKE SURE THE FOOD ITEMS ARE NOT EXPIRED.

FEBRUARY 21 - APRIL 17

Fill It Up!

FOOD DRIVE



ALL PHOTOS - THERESA GREENHIELDS/THE SIGNAL



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: 1) Landon and Kylee Kelly begin their chicken paintings. 2) The Kelly family channel Van Gogh as they begin to paint. 3) Owner Melanie Delgadillo pours a drink for a customer. 4) Rick Gutierrez, Jr. reloads his paint brush to continue his painting. 5) Josie Kirk, Desine Norris, Jacob Patterson, Brandon Patterson and Amanda Patterson paint a beach scene.

The Paint Pub: The Place Where Painters Party

David Hensley
The Signal

Everyone can express their inner Picasso at The Paint Pub, where folks can enjoy a unique painting experience, including drink selections and a variety of templates, at affordable prices.

The Paint Pub is a new local business located in the Clear Lake area where people can pay to paint a picture, socialize and enjoy a few drinks with family and/or friends. Patrons are provided with everything they need to create original artwork including a canvas, paints and a sample template; they also get to take their masterpieces home with them.

“Besides being a good business idea, I’ve always been into arts and crafts and very creative; this really fits my element,” said Lindsey George, president of The Paint Pub.

As an added bonus, what makes The Paint Pub stand out from other venues of its kind is the added shopping as well as the fact that wine and beer are served in-house.

“We added the boutique and shopping that helps with the daytime traffic to bring people in and decided to do the beer and wine services in-house, while other concepts are to bring your own bottle,” George said.

The Paint Pub was created as a place to relax and enjoy a day of drinking and painting with friends and/or family.

“Getting behind a canvas and picking up the paint brush and actually putting paint on the canvas is very therapeutic too,” George said.

The Paint Pub is also a family-friendly establishment with a special Sunday afternoon

“family day” every week as an opportunity for families with children to partake in the excitement.

“I love working with kids, so anytime we have our family day sessions and have our little ones that are doing their paintings I love seeing what they come up with,” George said.

The Paint Pub has a team of artists that range from professionally trained to self-taught and they work together to come up with the different painting ideas.

No artistic experience or training is needed because everyone is coached through the painting process. All supplies are included in the price.

“It’s something fun to do, so it’s not just your typical bar or restaurant; it actually gives you something to do and something you walk away with at the end of the evening,” George said “You still get to come in and have a few drinks and relax, but you walk away with a product that you’re proud of too.”

People participate with a group or attend solo. The Paint Pub can be fun either way and is a great place to socialize.

“I went with a group of friends for the experience and had a great time,” said Chris Broxson, a Paint Pub patron. “The atmosphere is fun and a great place for girls’ night out. I’d recommend it, definitely.”

Prices vary depending on the session. The Paint Pub offers a \$20 open paint session on Wednesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and \$25 per painter on family day. They also have a \$35 or \$40 acrylic paint session that starts at 6:30 p.m. and \$35 Mimosa Mornings sessions where

the first mimosa is free. A calendar is available on their website, www.ThePaintPub.com, where people can see the dates and times for all the sessions offered as well as a picture of that day’s scheduled painting.

Private parties can also be booked in the studio for parties of at least 10 people during daytime hours and 20 in the evenings. Professional artists from The Paint Pub will also travel to homes for private parties located within 30 miles of the studio. Home parties have an additional travel and set-up fee.

Patrons can also participate in or even suggest fundraising events through The Paint Pub. Fundraising is done regularly, at least twice a month. Each person pays \$40 to paint and \$10 of that amount is given to the featured organization.

The Paint Pub has a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ThePaintPubTX, where they regularly update events and post pictures of painting customers happily showing off their artwork. They also have a newsletter that is available electronically that provides updates for customers about upcoming events, deals and discounts. Sign up for the newsletter at their website.

The Paint Pub teamed up with the UHCL student savers program and offers a \$5 discount on any class for students participating in the program. Students must show ID to receive the discount.

The Paint Pub is located at 1840 Nasa Parkway Houston, TX 77058. The president of The Paint Pub is Lindsey George and she can be reached at (281) 333-2200.



dubstep

dubstep

New Music Genre Goes Mainstream

Jennifer Ferguson
The Signal

Move over techno; there's a new form of electronic dance music in town.

Dubstep originated as early as 1998. However, 2011 has been dubstep's most influential year yet, with the music making a loud entrance into the culture of mainstream music.

"Dub music is a form of reggae music," said Amir Borhani, dubstep advocate and enthusiast. "In turn, dubstep is a derivative of reggae and hip-hop beats. That is what makes it so catchy."

This genre, coined "dubstep" due to its ties to Jamaican "dub" music, is one of the fastest-growing fields in music history. Since what is believed to be the first recorded use of the term by Ammunition Productions in a 2002 cover story, the music has steadily gained momentum. In recent years, this momentum has spread from the U.K. to the U.S., and Houston is quickly getting involved.

"Personally, I'm attached to the music emotionally," said Suraj Kurian, founder of Gritsy, Houston's infamous dubstep movement. "It's my crutch, my drug; it's the way I breathe."

While the music initially originated in a South London town, Croydon, it didn't take long before it spread to other areas of the U.K. It was DJ Mary-Anne Hobbs who put dubstep on the map in 2006 with her BBC Radio special titled "Dubstep Warz."

This initiation into mainstream in the U.K. was what dubstep needed to

gain worldwide recognition. Before long, the music was being played in major night clubs and taking over other electronic genres all over the world.

"The speed at which [dubstep] caught on here in Houston as well as across the globe was unreal," said Billy McCain, aka 'Badbwoy BMC,' dubstep DJ. "When I first heard dubstep, I knew right away that it was going to blow up, mainly because of the space in the music and the deepness of the bass."

Indeed, bass is one of the most prominent elements of dubstep music. The idea is to not only hear the bass, but to feel it. Typically void of any vocals, dubstep uses bass as the driving force throughout the tracks. This paired with rhythm, dark overtones and atmospheric space, is what sets dubstep aside from other forms of electronic music.

"With dubstep, it's a lot more space," said Huy Cao, Gritsy photographer and DJ. "It's kind of like music in moderation; it's not just everything thrown at you at one time. With dubstep nights, the natural flow of the evening is much smoother."

The course of the dubstep movement continues to flow smoothly. In 2011, mainstream artists Britney Spears, Jay-Z and Kanye West broke into the scene by releasing their own variations of bass-driven, dubstep beats. Moreover, American dubstep DJ, Sonny John Moore, aka 'Skrillex,' was nominated for five Grammy Awards that same year.

Nonetheless, as with any genre, there seems to be a sense of resistance toward

dubstep music and many supporters believe that it is the very presence of mainstream, trendy tunes that are accountable for these negative associations.

"A lot of the modern dubstep that is really popular is just hype music," said John Mullins, aka 'John the Third,' dubstep DJ and producer. "When people DJ that dubstep all the time, it doesn't really make sense to people... it's a lot of what kids want to listen to, but people are going to burn out on it so fast because there is no diversity in the sound."

This is hardly the basis of original dubstep music. Dubstep music has expanded so drastically that there are many different sounds and styles associated with it. Much like any genre, one dubstep track by any given artist may completely differ from another.

"If [people] scratch and dig a little deeper they'll find a buffet of bass, if you will," Kurian said. "It's not just that one type of sound... The rabbit hole goes so much deeper."

As for the continuance in the movement of dubstep music, advocates seem extremely optimistic. Although there is slight opposition, the general consensus has great expectations for the future of dubstep.

"When [dubstep] first came out, people said no one would take the genre serious," Mullins said. "Then it grew, and people said it would hit a peak and die out, but it just keeps building... There is still more of a life to it left."

TOP: Villains Houston, located at 2001 Commerce, serves as a platform for the latest craze in music – dubstep.

LEFT: Typical instruments in dubstep include: sequencers, turntables, drum machines, synthesizers, keyboards and personal computers.

PHOTOS COURTESY: GRITSY

keep houston
gritsy
www.gritsy.com

MISTAKE: continued from page 1

“Now if the student has only two courses left, then absolutely, graduate and then come on back,” Hinojosa said. “If a student has two semesters to go, then let’s take a look at what you really want to do as opposed to where this degree will take you.”

There are several reasons that drive a student to change majors. Hinojosa states that the cost of education makes it difficult on both students and their parents. She points out there used to be a time when students had time to grow up before making such an important decision.

Several factors should influence students’ decisions when it comes to choosing a major, for example weighing their general interests against earning potential of a specific career.

“Finding a career path that is enjoyable and rewarding, that fits one’s values, interests and skills is an important process for college students,” said Cynthia Cook, associate director for counseling in the Career and Counseling Center at UHCL. “There might not be just one ‘right path’ for students, but it is important that they find a path that feels like a good fit for them in terms of the work they would eventually like to do.”

Lisa Vavricka, a student at the University of Notre Dame double majoring in political science and psychology, made the decision

to go in a different direction than the path her degree program was taking her.

“It was more than just a general dissatisfaction and decreasing interest in my two majors combined with an increasing interest in planning events and working on the promotions, public relations and marketing side of things,” Vavricka said. “From there it just kind of snowballed. I started gaining more work experience in the field and became increasingly passionate and excited by it. It finally got to the point that I would rather be at work than in my classes, and I guess that’s when I realized I had found my ‘true calling.’”

Researching potential degree programs before enrolling can be beneficial for students. Dominic Chavez, spokesman for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, said the first thing students should do is to talk with their adviser to get all the necessary information about degree plan options.

“Students need to understand the jobs available and the pay scale of the major they are interested in before signing up,” Chavez said. “What type of career path you want should drive your choice of major. Discovering yourself can get very, very costly.”

GOOGLE: continued from page 1

Google quickly dominated search engine programs, a role previously led by Yahoo, Bing and AOL among others. In December of 1998, PC Magazine reported that Google “has an uncanny knack for returning extremely relevant results” and recognizes it as the search engine of choice in the Top 100 Websites for that year.

Google employee Tasha Bergson-Michelson, curriculum fellow, says that as one of the most-recognized Internet search engines for finding information on any topic, Google employees work very hard to ensure users will find what they want, when they want it, where they want it. Bergson-Michelson says the Google Web search makes it possible for users to find offline resources and more.

As this search engine has grown in popularity, the term “Google” has been transformed into a verb and used in phrases such as “Google it,” which refers to a search for information. The Oxford English Dictionary officially added “Google” as a verb in June 2006.

Google’s quick rise in popularity, especially among students, is part of the reason why it works very hard to make sure that they provide their searchers with the best information available. A strong scholarly research process involves checking many different kinds of sources, which is reflected in Google’s creation of Google Scholar, Google Books, Google News and other collections containing materials appropriate to scholarly tasks.

Google Scholar points users to scholarly articles and books that are in the databases available through your library or free online. Google Books locates books and allows users to check the “find in a library near you” link. Google News helps users target newspaper articles available online.

“Remembering your options when using Google helps you make informed choices about what sources to use to carry out exceptional scholarly research,” Bergson-Michelson said.

Chris Seiter, UHCL humanities student and Internet marketer/search engine optimizer, thinks students’ dependency on Google is not necessarily a bad thing. Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is the process of improving the visibility of a website in search engines. Many print resources today are being published online, not only because of high printing costs but in an effort of trying to reach a broader audience. The earlier and more frequently a site appears in the search results list, the more visitors it will receive.

“There is a big problem that a lot of people don’t even recognize: Google has a monopoly on Web traffic,” Seiter said. “The last time I checked, Google commands over 70 percent of the searches on the Web. When I optimize my sites, I do it for Google. Since Google is this big, they make the rules and everyone has to abide by them.”

Factors such as time and location are key elements students take into consideration when choosing between doing a search on the Internet rather than physically going to a library. Google Web Search makes it possible to explore questions of current public opinion, find statistics and more. Searching has become a simple task of just typing in keywords on a search engine.

UHCL’s Neumann Library offers many of their services online. Student service fees pay for access to databases that require a subscription. Students would not have access to these same databases using Google without having to pay to subscribe. Ex-

amples include past issues of newspapers and periodicals.

“Generations and technology are changing; we don’t know if 10-15 years from now, faculty will still require students to use or come to a library,” said Chloris Yue, reference and instruction librarian at Neumann Library.

Search engines, in general, have the ability to produce millions of results for a single query in a matter of seconds, but Walker points out that quantity does not always equal to quality.

“THEY DO NOT TAKE THE TIME TO FIND THE MOST CREDIBLE SOURCE; THEY LACK THE CURIOSITY TO LOCATE THE BEST SOURCES AND INFORMATION.”

— Royce Walker
Adjunct Instructor in Communication

“The concern I have is students take the first few listings and stop there,” Walker said. “They do not take the time to find the most credible source; they lack the curiosity to locate the best sources and information.”

UHCL’s Neumann Library staff is trained to help students with any questions on a specific subject they might have. They have created a library instructions program, which works with faculty to bring their classes to the library and teach them what resources have been purchased by the university for the student body.

“Make use of the resources we have for you, we are here to help you; do not feel intimidated to ask for help,” Yue said. “We are here for you, face-to-face, online through our IM services or mobile access.”

SWIPE: continued from page 1

B pill for the cost of \$25 at the school’s Etter Health Center. Pennsylvania law does not require a prescription for the pill for anyone 17 or older; therefore, students can obtain the pill with the swipe of a credit card. Convenience, in this particular instance, would be privacy.

Davis Kent, a graphic design major at UHCL, understands the desire for college students who use these vending machines to remain anonymous.

“If they don’t want to deal with people, it’s a lot less embarrassing to get a Plan B pill from a vending machine than a person,” Kent said.

Kent expressed that though it is convenient, there are risks that should be considered. For example, a person’s medical history might not be taken into account when using the vending machine as opposed to meeting with a pharmacist to get the pill. He also points out that people could abuse the Plan B pill by taking it instead of safer prescription birth control contraceptives.

Convenience is a factor considered by vending machine companies. It has been verified by the invention of the credit card kiosks Redbox, owned by Coinstar Inc., which has recently aided in the closing of 500 Blockbuster movie rental stores nationwide

In February, Redbox spent \$100 million for ownership of Blockbuster Express kiosks, a National Cash Register Corporation (NCR) competitor, thus making Redbox the sole movie rental kiosk once again.

Coinstar Inc. is now working with Starbucks’ Seattle’s Best Coffee vending machines to explore a different wave of vending services, allowing customers the convenience of freshly brewed coffee at the price of \$1 with the swipe of a credit card.

“People will continue to go to Starbucks for the experience of drinking coffee and hanging out on their computers,” Kent said, who has used credit card vending machines many times in the past at College of the Mainland.

Forbus agrees that enjoying the experience is something sacrificed by the growth of credit card vending services.

He used the example of gumball and toy machines for further explanation. He said part of the joy a kid has in using such machines is the fun of putting some spare change in it and watching the gumball drop, or spending \$15

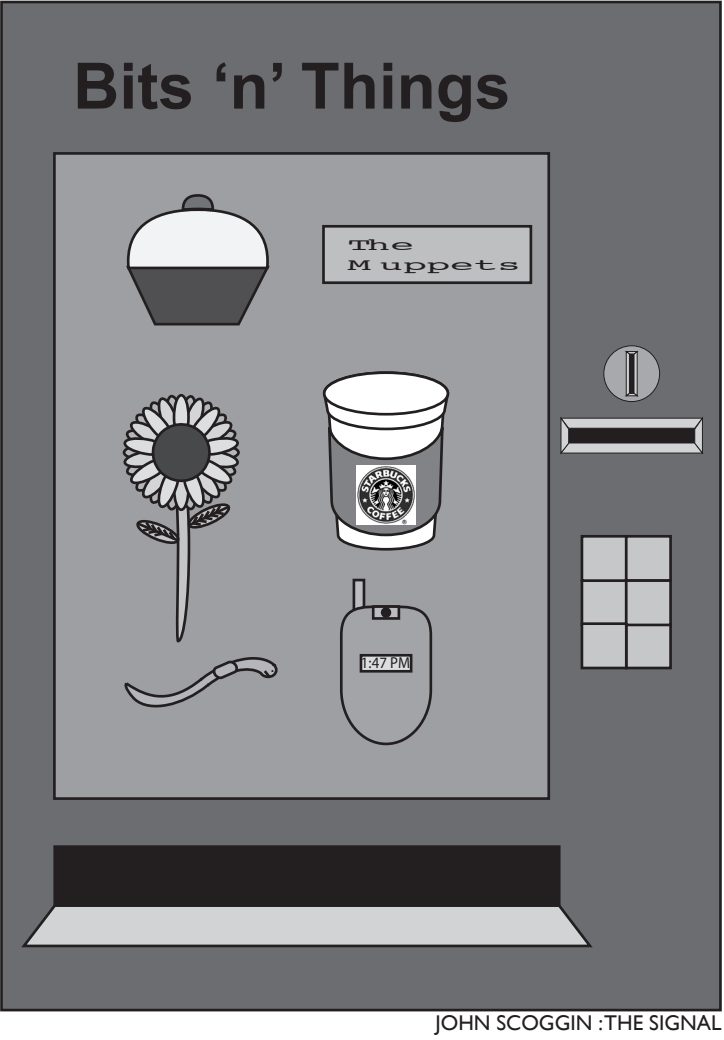
in quarters on a toy that costs less than \$1. This suggests precedence of experience over convenience.

Forbus’ vending business donates a portion of the proceeds to National Children’s Cancer Society (NCCS). Some of the businesses he services include warehouses and medical institutions. He says his objective is to provide a service and support a cause.

Forbus provides snack and beverage vending through Promo Vending but does not see it necessary to venture into the latest vending product market.

“People want to try new things, but they aren’t necessarily going to last,” Forbus said.

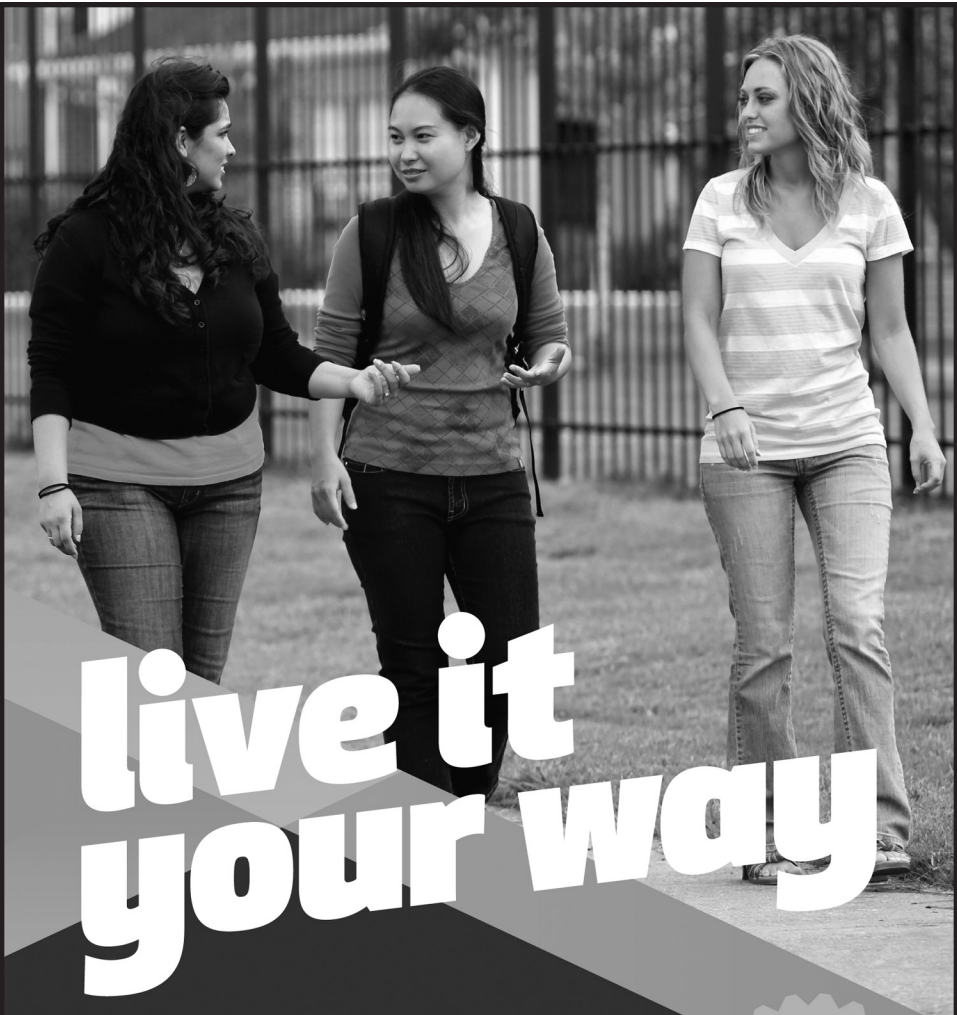
Demographics will no doubt aid in determining which credit card vending machines will be most successful. If people want to relieve themselves of boredom at an airport, it might make sense to visit the Best Buy Express machine to buy a new iPod or NintendoDS video game. Buying a Sprinkles’ cupcake out of its new vending machines, however, might not prove to be as successful in rural Texas as in the greater-Houston area.



JOHN SCOGGIN :THE SIGNAL


Items you can find in a vending machine:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toothbrush• Toothpaste• Deodorant• Mouthwash• Maps• GPS• Ipods• Ipads• Headphones• Cellphones• Miniature art pieces• Stamps• Umbrellas• Bathing Suits• Boardgames | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flowers• Books• Men’s Ties• Batteries• Diapers• Babywipes• Pacifiers• Sunblock• Tylenol• Pull-Ups• Sippy cups• Bibs• Bottles• Sushi• Eggs |
|---|---|




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

WE'VE BEEN HOPELESS. WE'VE BEEN LOST. WE'VE BEEN INSPIRED. WE'VE BEEN THERE.

WE

CAN
HELP

US

text **WeCanHelpUs** to 30364
or go to reachout.com/campus

HEAR FROM OTHER STUDENTS
that have been there & made it.

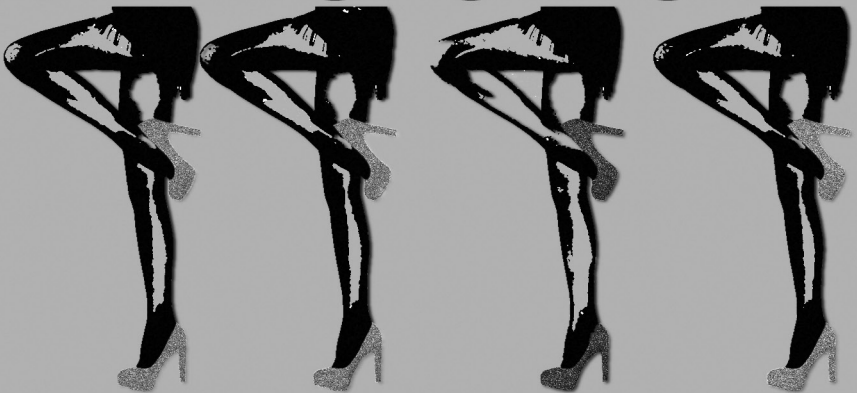
  

Message and data rates may apply.

UHCL UNITY CLUB PRESENTS ITS

2ND ANNUAL

DRAG SHOW



MARRIAGE EQUALITY BALL

FRIDAY, MARCH 30
8 - 10 P.M. BAYOU ATRIUM II

FEATURING
THE GENDERMYN
AND
ERSICSS

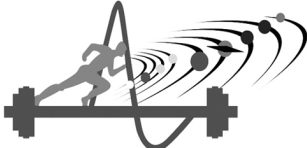
(THE EMPIRE OF THE ROYAL SOVEREIGN & IMPERIAL COURT OF THE SINGLE STAR OF HOUSTON)

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT, RAFFLE PRIZES,
PHOTO BOOTHS, FACE PAINTING & MORE!

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
GLSEN HOUSTON

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UNITYUHCL
OR EMAIL UNITYCLUB.UHCL@HOTMAIL.COM

NASA JSC



NASA Crutch-Walking Study

*Exercise Physiology
&
Countermeasures*

Study Description: Subjects will participate in a study that simulates the influence of weightlessness on skeletal muscle size and function. Participants will be required to wear one thick-soled shoe on their right foot, thereby, eliminating ground contact with the left foot. Daily activities will, therefore, always be performed using the assistance of crutches.

To explore the effect of nutrition and exercise during the crutch-walking period, participants will be assigned to either a high-load or a low-load resistance exercise group and consume a protein-carbohydrate beverage before and after each exercise session.

Participants will need to be available for frequent visits to the Exercise Physiology Laboratory for testing sessions. Before and after the crutch walking period, muscle biopsies (optional) will be taken from left and right thigh and calf muscles (8 total samples during the study); and assessments of muscle size, strength, endurance, and blood flow will be performed.

Volunteers will be compensated for their time (restrictions apply to NASA and NASA contractor personnel). Prior to participation, a volunteer will receive an "Air Force Class III" physical examination at no cost to the participant however no compensation is given for the time spent during the physical examination.

Qualifications: Healthy individuals with previous exercise experience (~2 days per week), 20-60 years old, non-smokers, not taking any medications, no milk protein allergies or gastrointestinal discomfort from consuming dairy products, no major health problems.

For more information, please contact:
The NASA Test Subject Screening Facility (7:30am – 4:00pm)
Linda Byrd, R.N. 281-483-7284 or Rori Yager, R.N. 281-483-7240

This little piggy went to college

Jessica Brossack
The Signal

If you were in the Bayou Building the week of mid-terms, think back to Mid-term Madness and allow your memories to follow the smell of the freshly popped popcorn. Now look to your left — there sits a table full of decorated piggy banks.

The banks were part of the new “Be the Change” campaign created by the Student Life Office “for students to benefit students,” said Andrew Reitberger, student life associate director.

“You could donate by filling a bank or the pork barrel, and vote online by clicking the link for the ‘Be the Change’ fund at UHCL’s Facebook page,” Reitberger said.

Professors and staff were asked by “Be the Change” committee members to decorate the banks and donate them to the cause.

“The ‘celebrity’ piggy bank designers were chosen by ‘Be the Change’ committee members during a brainstorming meeting,” said Ali Albrecht, coordinator of student life-orientation and new student programs. “We looked to find individuals from all four schools and we sent invitations to multiple individuals from each school to help us.”

The winning bank during the Mid-term Madness fundraiser was designed and donated by Nancy Wright, senior lecturer in reading and language arts, and Norma Minter, senior lecturer in bilingual and multicultural education, for designing the ‘Professor Piggy Bank,’ which raised \$97.79. It was designated the winner for having the most money dropped into its bank.

“The coins that spill out of the treasure chest represent important ‘changes’ accumulated on students’ road to graduation including curiosity, connection, communication and collaboration, all of which are related to UHCL’s new QEP [Quality Enhancement Plan] initiative,” Minter said.

Minter’s collaborator on the design expanded on their thoughts.

“The university’s QEP gave us a framework for how to produce

what we really want for our students: lifelong learning and adaptability,” Wright said. “These concepts became the ‘word labels’ on the coins in and around the treasure chest: critical thinking, creative problem solving and reasoning, communication, connections and curiosity. It was a joy to collaborate on the project and we are really proud of our students who gave back by donating to student events. It shows that even pennies can add up to make a difference!”

There were 11 little pigs donated, and they each had a very different look.

Some pigs took on an artistic flair, such as Associate Professor of Graphic Design Stuart Larson’s piggy bank. It sat in a deep bank of water, and one had the challenge of dropping the coins into the pig through the water.

“I have always been influenced by the Fluxus art movement of the late ‘60s where the lines between artist and viewer would blur,” Larson said. “Here I wanted the act of placing the money in the pig to be a sort of performance that would bring the viewer into the space of the artist. The pig in the water is not the art but, rather, it is the act of donating that is the art. The mesmerizing flow of the coins flipping through the water is relaxing and poetic.”

UCHL Police Chief Paul Willingham wanted to poke fun at stereotypes with his entry ‘Officer Oink,’ who was dressed in a full officer’s uniform.

“Seeing the motif played off the piggy bank, we thought we’d embrace the term ‘pig’ often used to describe the police in a derogatory term and make it our own,” Willingham said. “The police department shares a very good relationship with Student Life and University Advancement. We thought it would be fun and show that we cops have a sense of humor too.”

Robert Bartsch, interim associate dean of academic affairs for the School of Human Sciences and Humanities, followed along the humor theme with his bacon-themed pig, displaying his pig on a platform decorated with bacon-

themed products and a banner entitled “Bring Home the Bacon.”

“Some of my extended family really gets a kick out of the different bacon-themed products that one can buy, and we’ll purchase novelty bacon products when we see them,” Bartsch said. “When I was thinking of how to decorate my pig I thought displaying some of these bacon products would be fun.”

In his attempts to expand the campus, Sameer Pande, executive director of the Office of International Initiatives, offered this tidbit about his design.

“I wanted to decorate a pig that would bring an international flavor to the contest,” Pande said. “Princess translates into all cultures.”

Along the international line, Cynthia Howard, Program Chair of biological sciences and professor of biology and environmental science, who travels to the Amazon every year, based her design for ‘Piranha Pig’ off of her travels.

“I decorated the pig with all natural materials from the Amazon, including scales from the arapaima, the largest freshwater fish in the world, to make the pig’s fins, acai seeds dyed pink (around the pig’s eyes) and, of course, real piranha teeth,” Howard said.

Some of the entries were heartfelt decorations done to remind their designers of loved ones or done by their loved ones.

“The idea for a pig covered with shiny bling and flowers was inspired by one of the academic advisers in the School of Business,” said Kathleen Williamson, executive director of academic programs and advising. “She wore flowers and shiny jewelry every day, which was a delight to see. She recently left our office to accept a job in Galveston, so I guess I was missing her when I stuck flowers all over my pig. When other advisers in my office saw my pig, they were reminded of her immediately also.”

Assistant Professor of Economics Stephen Cotten attached a sign to his pig stating, “I was decorated by an adorable 3-year-old girl who really wants to win.



JESSICA BROSSACK:THE SIGNAL

The winning pig, ‘Professor Pig,’ designed and donated by Nancy Wright and Norma Minter.



JESSICA BROSSACK:THE SIGNAL

Various pigs on display during the mid-term fundraiser in Atrium II as part of the “Be the Change” campaign.

FEED ME COINS!!”

“A little girl had a blast decorating the pig,” Cotten said. “This pig was to see how people responded to an incentive of guilt (or with humor at the naked attempt of guilt).”

The “Be the Change” campaign has raised \$239.28 so far, and donations will continue to be accepted through the Chili Cook-Off March 31, or you can bring donations or your own piggy bank to Bayou Building, Room 1604 if you cannot attend the cook-off. Donations are also being accepted at UHCL-Pearland.

To see how the pigs are doing, you can monitor their progress on the Student Life Office’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UHCLStudentlife.

“Funds raised through ‘Be the Change’ activities will be distrib-

uted back to students through student programming, sponsorship at events, and book scholarships,” said Kim Herhold, assistant director of development-annual fund. “Final totals will be announced at the Student Organization banquet in April.”

Visit <http://uhclthesignal.com> to view more pictures of the Piggy Banks or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below to go directly to the online article.

