

THE SIGNAL



HIP HOP DANCERS
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Volume XXXVI, Number 9

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October 13, 2008



Jim Livesey: The Signal

The wood shop, currently an air-conditioning building outside of the Arbor Building, will move to the main building with the renovations.

Renovations for Arbor Building

Jim Livesey
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston System Board of Regents approved a February 2009 ground-breaking for renovations to the Arbor Building during their Aug. 12 facilities, construction and master planning committee meeting.

The Arbor Building will be renovated, expanded and brought up to code. The changes will add 31,000 square feet to the existing 46,000 square feet structure, creating more room for programs currently housed in the building including: Art, Applied Design and Visual Arts, School of Education, Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, and Psychological Services. The budget for the renovations has been set

at \$11,808,604, with \$10,808,604 sourcing from a tuition revenue bond issued through the University of Houston System and the balance provided by the Higher Education Assistance Fund. As planned, new areas of the building should be in use during the spring 2010 semester with all renovations completed by fall 2010.

The Arbor Building has been open since 1971 and was the first building in use on campus. These will be the first major renovations to take place in the building since its construction. While the additional space is a key benefit to the renovations, major maintenance issues will be addressed as well. The building will be brought up to current regulations on the Life Safety Code, creating no dead-end corridors and adequate exits in case of fire. The American

Disabilities Act will be addressed, ensuring that the facilities are accessible to everyone. The plumbing, electrical, lighting and cooling systems will be improved, creating a more usable and energy efficient building.

Dan Wilson, director of planning, design and contract administration, has taken an active role in the renovations to the Arbor Building. Creating his own designs and estimates, Wilson was able to increase the facilities increasing the budget. Using efficient construction techniques, the renovations will be less expensive, take less time and create more effective space. The School of Education will be the hardest hit during the construction, but it will not be a hindrance to any of

Arbor: continued on page 10

Series on diversity: Internationally aware

Srishti Saini
The Signal Staff

Every day different faces, young and old, fill our classrooms and halls where cultures mix into a big educational melting pot. UHCL prides itself on this. This semester, each issue of The Signal will focus on a different aspect of diversity on our campus. This first article in a series of five focuses on international students, the challenges they face and what each of their cultures brings to UHCL.

International students face many challenges such as functioning in a foreign language, (English) while achieving unique academic goals, adjusting culturally and integrating with American students.

International students come to the University of Houston–Clear Lake every semester from far off locations making you wonder how they found out about UHCL. The application procedure is often long and, often, just getting here is only the first of many major hurdles that they have to overcome.

But because international students face unique obstacles with lingual, educational and cultural differences, their experience can lead to a more dramatic personal growth.

“Coming to United States of America and studying here, for me, is like starting a whole life all over again,” said Akshay Balasubramanian, a MIS graduate student from India.

Even though international students are not eligible for federal aid, they are eligible for scholar-

ships as well as on-campus jobs, said Linda Contreras Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity for Intercultural and International Student Services.

The competition to find jobs on campus is very fierce and international students can not go elsewhere because of legal restrictions. Due to this reason, instead of housing one or two students per apartment, large numbers of students are found living together. Also, instead of eating out, food is usually cooked at home.

Bullock would like to see different departments on campus create more job opportunities for international students so they are able to maintain their living expenses. She points out that no matter the difficulties, the United States is still their dream destination. The quality services and caring faculty that UHCL offers is what motivates the international students to earn their degree here.

Junior Bowen, a MIS graduate student from Trinidad and Tobago, came to the United States to obtain useful knowledge that he can utilize in the hardware industry.

“It is very interesting that whatever skills I am taught in class are the same skills that are utilized in the workforce,” Bowen said. Although he is jobless right now, he manages to take care of his living expenses from the money accumulated from a paid internship. He is currently searching for a job on campus.

Abigail Fabien, a MIS graduate student from Dominica, student ambassador of IISS and president of the management association at UHCL, said that a

Diversity: continued on page 10

HELPING HANDS



Jenna Simsen: The Signal

Diane Flynn, a member of the Salvation Army, gathers hot meals to transport to residents of San Leon on Sunday afternoon. As many as 1,800 meals are being prepared and distributed everyday. All meals have been cooked and prepared by Southern Local Baptist Church in San Leon. Flynn and the rest of her crew have been there for more than three weeks now.

Relief efforts for Hurricane Ike survivors

Amy Carr
The Signal Staff

Hurricane Ike caused damage throughout the greater Houston area. Organizations have started pulling together and are reaching out to those in need. There are relief programs all over the Houston area ready to help such as: Interfaith Caring Ministries,

Christians Organized for Relief Efforts, Texas Workforce Commission, University of Houston–Clear Lake and many financial institutions.

Interfaith Caring Ministries has opened a Hurricane Ike Relief Center. This center is organized for anyone who has been affected by the hurricane. Food, clothing, household appliances and clean-

ing supplies are being offered.

“We are in dire need of volunteer support to unload truck loads,” said Arden Stone, director of development.

There are trucks coming in from Conroe full of donated furniture. The relief center is providing food for approximately

Relief: continued on page 10

Child care tops students’ wish list: Students consider desires in UHCL expansion

With enrollment exceeding 7,500 students, UHCL’s programs have outgrown the facilities. During staff discussions about the upcoming renovations to the Arbor Building, the conversation led to another topic of interest; what else would UHCL students like to have on campus?

Reporters for The Signal asked UHCL students what they would like to see built, renovated or added on our campus. The responses ranged from food and relaxation to fitness and child care.

Students would like to not only see more food options and longer operating hours for the cafeteria, but healthier food options as well. Others would like to see more relaxing areas including a movie theater and a bar. It should be noted that suggestions for a bar came with suggestions of a one-drink limit, just enough to “ease the stress.”

Among the most popular requests are the additions of a pool and indoor gym. Recreational activities like swimming and basketball are favorites of UHCL students. For the time-conscious, having these facilities located on campus would be appreciated. As an alternative to building these facilities, discounts to local gyms would also be welcomed.

It comes as no surprise that the response heard most often was the request for on-campus child care.

According to the university’s Web site, the average age of UHCL students is 32. While heading to college straight out of

high school does still occur, many of today’s students are returning to school while juggling a full-time job, schoolwork and family obligations.

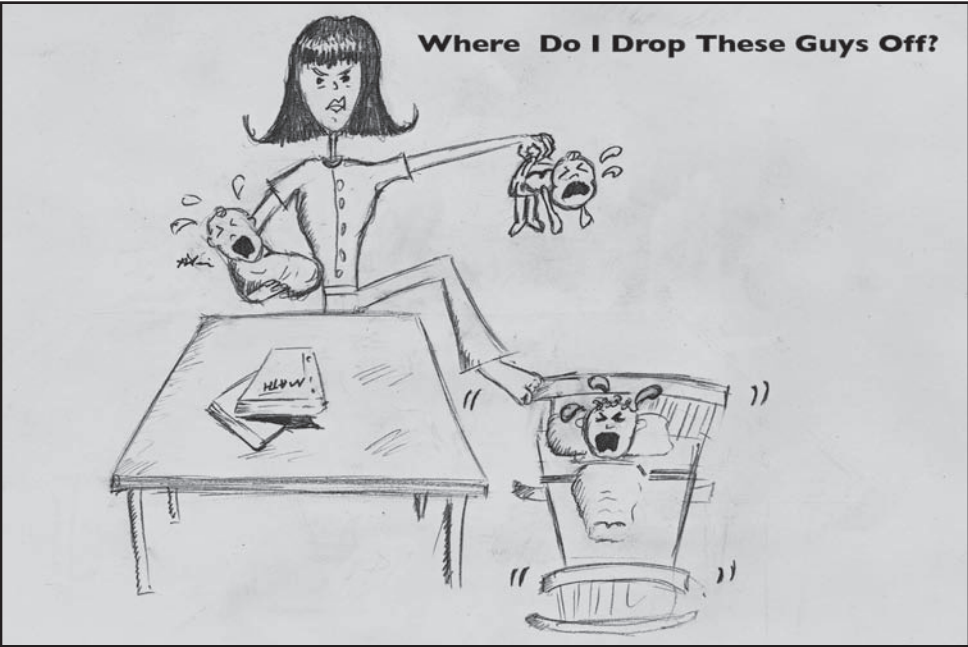
Time is a valuable thing, and no one understands that more than a parent. We have all seen the frazzled students walking in late for an exam because traffic was horrible and they had to drop their child off at the babysitter. Imagine how frustrating that would be.

Now imagine how convenient it would be if UHCL had an on-campus child care program. The parents could drop their child off while walking to class and pick their child up while walking out of class. The amount of time and frustration saved would be phenomenal.

David Rachita, assistant dean of student life, said requests for an on-campus child care center are received on a regular basis. UHCL does not ignore these requests. Surveys have been done and discussions have been held, but “there just aren’t any easy answers.”

Liability, insurance, cost and space are among the issues involved with creating an on-campus child care program. Rachita said the university has looked into contracting outside companies, but the problem still remains that there is no room on campus for it.

Another concern is determining who would pay for the program. Should the parents utilizing the program pay for it, or should the entire student body be charged



Jeffrey Meier :The Signal

in their tuition?

For the number of students who would utilize this service, there are more students who would not. Those students do not want to pay for a service they will not use.

Perhaps payment for the program could be handled as the parking passes are. If you utilize the service, you pay for it on a semester-long basis. Regardless of who pays, the fact still remains that there is no room. Perhaps in the next round of building renovations, a section of a building could be allotted for it.

With considerations of UHCL

becoming a four-year university underway, surely there are discussions of building and program expansions. This is a great time for students to make suggestions. The procedure for requesting changes or improvements largely depends on the jurisdiction in which the request would fall.

If you aren’t sure who to talk to, visit the Office of Student Life in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1.204 and ask one of the helpful staff members where to direct your queries.

CrossSignals

The Signal staff members want you to share your thoughts on the UHCL expansion. Join the discussion by logging on to The Signal blog at: www.myspace.com/signal_UHCL

What services and programs do you think should be offered if the university expands?

Corrections and Clarifications

- In issue 1, a special edition on the effects of Hurricane Ike, it was reported in the article “UHCL Recovers From Ike” that two UHCL employees, officers Paul Jones and Ira Leigh, lost their homes on Galveston Island due to the storm. Although their homes did in fact sustain damage, they were not destroyed as previously reported.
- In the article “Ike Has No Boundaries,” which appeared in issue one, the following names were misspelled: Sameer Pande, Doyle Rodrigues and Priya Pakhanavar.

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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.

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Don't Lose The Experience

At the liquor store where I work, I witness a lot of funny incidents. I overhear many funny conversations and am given lots of sage advice over arms full of Jack Daniels. One thing the older, wiser customers tell me is, "live life, because you only get one life and it's all about your experiences."

Life is all about the experiences you have. Growing up, I was always told that I needed to live and learn. I heard all about how high school would be full of growing experiences, and then it was how college would be the best time of my life. Well, I don't know who's having these amazing experiences, but high school was horrible and college has been nothing but work.



Ashley Helms
The Signal

I think my problem is simple; I don't take enough breaks. I am so busy rushing around that I never stop to think. When I was younger I did a lot of stupid things, some of which could've really ruined my life.

At that time, I didn't care because I told myself I was living for the moment. Even as I got older, I did a lot of things that I am paying for now because I didn't want to listen to anyone but myself. Living for the moment got me nothing but debt, grey hair and ulcers. OK, maybe not ulcers, but I do have debt, a lot of debt, and grey hair.

Many times in my younger years I did things that somehow got me in trouble. I remember once when I was 18 years old my friend talked me into going to San Antonio. We were just going to go for one night.

"Live it up, have fun, and let loose," she said.

We just wanted to get away from everything. We just wanted a break. We lied about where we were going and what we were doing, but we thought it'd be OK because we were just doing our own thing.

We had a blast that night. It was full of laughter and celebration. We thought we had gotten away with it, that we'd be laughing about that night for years. We thought we knew everything and were so cool.

The next morning I got into a terrible car accident. I lost my brand new car and had to call my grandparents to explain that I was not where I was supposed to be in addition to being in a wreck. I suffered from several leg injuries that almost prevented me from walking at my high school graduation. That's the day I quit taking

breaks because I thought I had to live for today.

From that point on, I have been taking as many classes as I can, working as many hours as I can, and stressing out about everything. I always freak out. I freaked out several times as I tried to write this very column. I swear I had four or five different stories to tell, and each time I erased them. I literally spent about four days stressing out. I thought about it in classes, at work, and I thought about it until I almost pulled those gray hairs out!

Now I'm rambling. I'm rambling because I did have a point when I started and now I'm not sure what that point was.

Maybe my point is that I notice so many young people who work hard and are doing well in school, but this isn't the life they want. They do it for their parents or they do it for the money or they do it because it's what they think society wants. They don't want to take breaks, they don't want to take risks, and they're afraid to be who they really want to be.

Maybe my point is that if you don't ever stop to just think, you'll stress yourself out too much. Maybe my point is that sometimes you just need to write or talk things out. Clear your head. Maybe my point is that every one is allowed to make mistakes and take risks – you just have to learn from them.

Lately, I've been getting better about taking breaks, breathing and relaxing. While I made many mistakes in my past, I have learned from most of them. Note I did say most, not all. I have gained wisdom beyond my years because of it.

I see people everyday in the liquor store who are shaking so bad because they need the alcohol they are in line to purchase, and that's sad. They line up at nine in the morning tapping on the glass to be let in. I see people living under overpasses each day on the way to classes, maybe not by choice, but some are there because that's where their choices got them.

I know people who did what they were supposed to. They followed all the rules, graduated from college and then they were lost. They had no clue what life was really about, what to do, or where to go. And what can I say to these people? Nothing. I have nothing to say. The second best piece of advice I have been told is only you can choose how you live your life. Only you can choose how people make you feel. Only you.



Laurie Vaesa-Perez: The Signal

Sales Gimmick or Hidden Desire?

Have you ever been suckered in to buying something you thought would be nice, but you were not ready to buy it? It's OK, it happens to the best of us. The shoes you have been dying to get are sitting in a shoe mantle under a bright light reflected by a glass mirror, and your eyes stare in awe, as if you saw the gates of heaven.

What seemed to be a quick trip to the mall for a "necessity" will turn into your worst nightmare. Spending money you



Oraleyda Cantu
The Signal

don't "need" to spend right now. After all, you just spent over three hundred dollars at the bookstore for your fall semester, and too much to say for your tuition. But, no, you can't help it. You are seduced by the glare of the light. No! Wait, it's the sales representative coming your way! "Good afternoon, how may I help you today!" says the sales representative in his courteous, upbeat voice.

You try to walk away discreetly and smile back. After all he's just being polite. But no, they insist. "I see those beautiful, new-style shoes got your attention ma'am, and by the way they would look quite nice on someone like you, and let me tell you... you are in luck today! We have a sale and you receive a gift with your purchase, just for today."

Your mind is automatically programmed to think a sale equals a good deal, and you don't stop to rationalize the situation. Instead you are easily convinced by the "great offer." Remember this offer ends today.

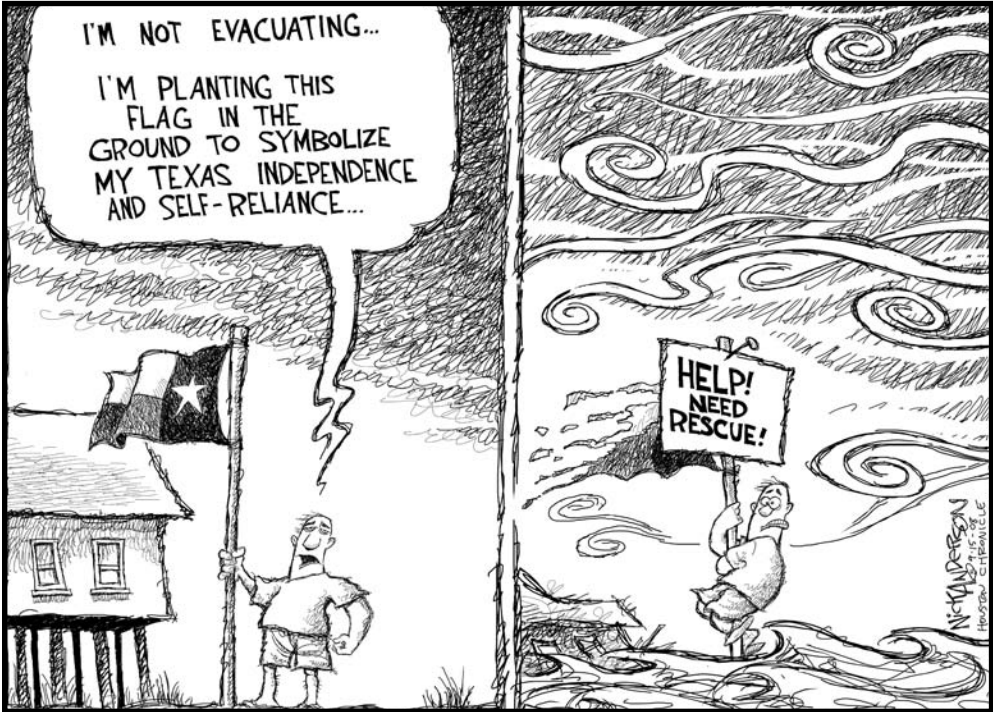
Which, I might add, is a classic.

I know you're probably thinking a pair of shoes might not make much of a difference, but what about when you are unconsciously swayed into a huge commitment, like a brand new vehicle. What then? Just another collection to your beginning of the month bills, adding another responsibility. But look at you, showing off the new ride to all your friends and family. Not to mention, you have to add a couple of accessories to the shiny, black mirrored-look truck. Yet, another reason to be persuaded into buying some of the extra's.

How do salesmen succeed in the car business, especially with gas prices now? They target their audience. It's more of a psychology game. What will intrigue YOU the customer, to buy that truck today? "Believe me sir; offers like this have not come up in years! You must take advantage of this opportunity today!" Come to find out, a few months later that SUV you purchased in March has now been marked down \$10,000.

So, how do we fall for these sales gimmicks, and why? In reality it's not so much that the salesmen have won the battle, it's our hidden self-conscious. We really want to buy it, and with the salesman's extra push, we are easily persuaded to do something we wanted to do all along. That way when you go home to your wife/husband, you can justify your purchase "But, honey, the salesman told me we were getting the best deal in town!"

Nick Anderson



Nick Anderson



UPCOMING
EVENTS



The Visitor

Saturday, Oct. 18
7:00 p.m.
SSCB Lecture Hall

In a world of six billion people, it only takes one to change your life. A thought-provoking film about the randomness and unpredictability of relationships. Rated PG-13. (Presented in partnership with Hispanics Advancing Culture and Education) Distinguished Speaker: Maria Jimenez, Immigration Activist Admission: \$3.75



Bigger Stronger Faster

Saturday, Nov. 8 & 9
7:00 p.m.
SSCB Lecture Hall

A fascinating, informative, entertaining and especially introspective account of the American 'enhancement' culture. Distinguished Speaker: Denise Caze, Fitness and Human Performance Instructor Admission: \$3.75



The Dark Knight

Saturday, Nov. 15
7:00 p.m.
SSCB Lecture Hall

Batman is forced to confront everything he believes, as he fights his greatest nemesis, the Joker. Rated PG-13. Distinguished Speaker: Craig White, Associate Professor of Literature Admission: \$3.75

Dastardly Doings at Dove Manor

The ongoing fight for justice continues

Katherine Antes
The Signal Staff

The San Jacinto Community College Department of Theatre and Film presents the melodramatic production of "Lorna's Love Lost," a comical tale full of predictable characters in the ongoing fight for justice.

"Lorna's Love Lost," also known as "Dastardly Doings at Dove Manor" is a story that is told as much by the color of the hat on one's head and by the boos and hisses of the audience, as by the typical asides made to the crowd in the form of cheesy one-liners.

This family-oriented play is a much loved tradition at SJCC, said Department Chair Jerry Ivins. Theater students and local talented artists from the community cast the play. Audience interaction is highly encouraged. In place of rotten fruit – as was the case in the original melodramas of the late 19th century – popcorn is thrown by the bagful at good-natured actors.

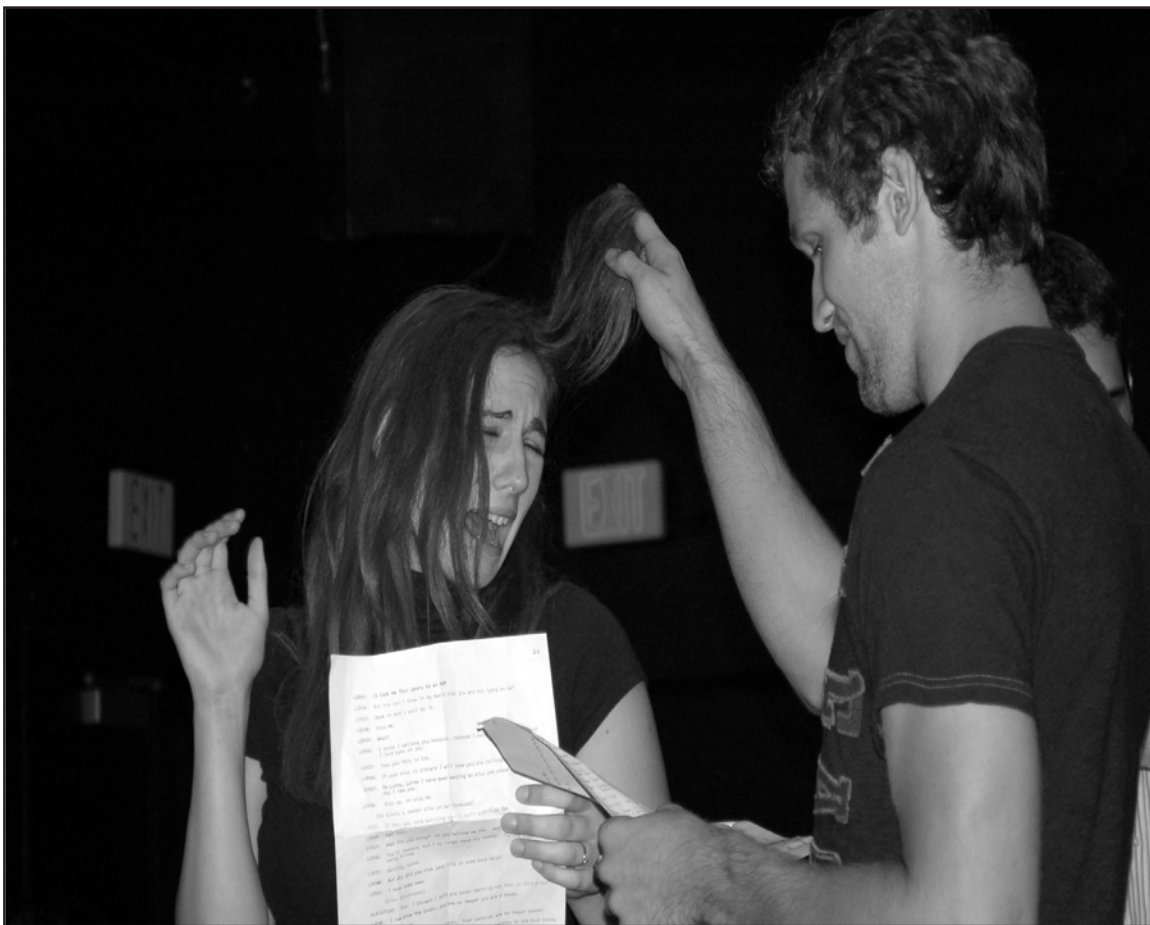
The production was originally planned to open in the spring of 2009; however, because of Hurricane Ike and the postponement of the much-anticipated "High School Musical," it will open in late October. It is still a "day by day" process though, says Ivins. As of press time, even Ivins was unsure of when opening night would be.

"Opening night will be either Thursday or Friday [Oct. 30 or 31]," Ivins said.

Of the six scheduled performances, three will offer a highlight – a dinner that is catered and served by San Jacinto College's own Culinary Arts Department. For \$15, one can enjoy dinner and a show. The meal will consist of an entree, sides, salad, bread, drinks and dessert.

For the price, it's "pretty doggone cheap entertainment," said production director Richard Turner.

"Lorna's Love Lost" is being shown in the Powell Arena Theatre at SJCC Central located at 8060 Spencer Hwy. in Pasadena. The production will open Oct. 30 or 31 at 7:30 p.m. Additional show times



Katherine Antes: The Signal

Furiously "overacting" — a requirement consistent with the style of a traditional melodrama. Actors Richard Furin and Ashley Osburn auditioned for parts in San Jacinto Community College's production of "Lorna's Love Lost." The play is scheduled to open at the end of October.

include Nov. 1 - 2 at 7:30 p.m., a dinner theater Nov. 7 - 8 starting at 6:30 p.m., and a matinee dinner theater Nov. 9 at 1:30 p.m. Dinner theater tickets must be purchased two days in advance; dinner is served in the adjacent Slocomb Auditorium.

"Lorna's Love Lost" play-only prices are \$10 for general admission, and dinner theater prices are \$15. Discounts are offered for seniors, children and groups. All proceeds are split between SJCC's Drama and Culinary Arts Departments to benefit scholarship programs. For exact show times and prices, call 281-476-1828.

Auditions for SJCC's next production, "Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical," are scheduled for Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. Auditions for children and adults are open to the general public;

no registration is required and there is no cost.

The cast will include "an entire elf chorus of children who perform Christmas carols pre-show," Ivins said. The production is a family Christmas celebration featuring a villain versus Santa Claus story line.

Rehearsals for "Santa's Christmas Magic: The Musical" begin Nov. 4. The production begins Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Powell Arena Theatre. Additional show times are Dec. 6, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., matinees Dec. 7 and 14 at 2:30 p.m. and a special school performance Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. For more information or for educational ticket rates for the special performance, please call 281-476-1828. For more information about San Jacinto College, please visit www.sjcd.edu.

Film and Speaker Series:

Illuminating social issues through film

Srishti Saini
The Signal Staff

The Film and Speaker Series, which focuses on the study of film as a primary source of social history, chooses films that are entertaining, educational and informative. Most films feature a speaker to engage the audience in a dialogue on issues raised in the movie.

In 2003, F&SS started as a student organization, the Film and History Club. In 2007, the film series became a part of the cultural arts program in the office of Student Life. The FHC still exists and helps with F&SS events.

"By watching and studying a high quality film, one may be able to understand the issues, values, concerns, fears, aspirations and myths operating informally within the society that produced that film," said Sonia Hernandez, cultural arts assistant for the Film and Speaker Series.

Each semester six or seven films are selected for screening. The films must have high production values, good acting and must address at least one issue that is of importance to society. Films are paired with a speaker who is knowledgeable about the issues raised in the movie.

"Some of the topics that have been discussed include immigration, euthanasia, women's rights, health care, anti-Semitism, Black History, climate change and Hispanic heritage, just to name a few," Hernandez said. "That doesn't mean it is all serious. This semester 'Iron Man' was screened

and 'The Dark Knight' is coming Nov. 15. Each semester's programming has at least one comedy."

This past weekend, they screened "Kenny," a surprise comedy hit from Australia. It is the story of a Don Quixote/Chaplinesque proletarian worker just trying to find dignity in the modern world. Kenny is a port-a-potty manager. It is dirty work, but someone has to do it. He keeps the lid on the fundamentals of life.

"I want the students to know that the Film and Speaker Series looks at the cultural relevance of films and the issues the films deal with," said Andrew Reitberger, assistant director of student life and Student Government association adviser.

"Films have become such an important medium in our lives over the past 50 years that they have shaped the way people think and feel about certain issues. The films and speakers in our series recognize those issues and are built on that."

Films for F&SS are open for suggestions. If there is a film that you would like to see screened next semester, or a film that a student organization would like to sponsor in order to get a particular message out, let Hernandez know by sending a message to movies@uhcl.edu. All programming suggestions are welcome. For more information, visit the Web site http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/SLO/Film_And_Speaker_Series.

** Student Life ** Student Life ** Student Life **

SPIRIT WEEK

October 25th – 31st

Everyday throughout campus! Open to all!

Saturday Oct. 25th – Mission Improbable 2

Presented by Cultural Arts. 8pm, Bayou Theatre. Limited seating. \$6 presale, \$8 at the door.

Monday Oct. 27th – FREE UHCL t-shirt giveaway!

Sport your UHCL apparel, school colors, & show your school spirit!



Tuesday Oct. 28th – SGA Day

Meet & Greet our Student Government Association.

Wednesday Oct. 29th – Competition Day

Go head-to-head with UHCL faculty & staff on a **mini golf course** or play a friendly game of **Wii**. **Great prizes & FREE water bottles!** Bayou, Atrium II.



Thursday Oct. 30th – UHCL Cares Day

Show that **UHCL cares!** Donate a canned good, support a cause with a ribbon, or write a thank you card to UHCL faculty & staff.



Friday Oct. 31st – Halloween Bash

Games, food, face painting, & costume contest! Bring your friends & family to the **Halloween Bash!** Bayou, Atrium I & II.



For more information visit: www.uhcl.edu/studentlife

Do you wonder why life is unfair to some of us?
Do you know that YOU have the power to spread goodness?
Do you know that YOU CAN make a difference?

Yes,

YOU CAN be a HERO

...in your own little way...

Just contribute canned foods at the Canned Food Drive, make the world a happier place.

Watch out for more details... coming soon...

SGA Day – Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Goal: 7000 Cans!!! Organizations with most number of cans on that day will win a prize. So, start collecting today!

Cans will be collected from October 28 to November 18, 2008.

The proceeds of this drive, will be reaching people in need regardless of race and religion.

For more information contact the SGA Executive Council:

Patrick Cardenas – President
Steve Steiner – VP Committee Coordinator
Jessica Williams – VP Outreach & Communications
Connie Lafayette – VP Administration
SSCB Rm. 1.205
281-283-2556
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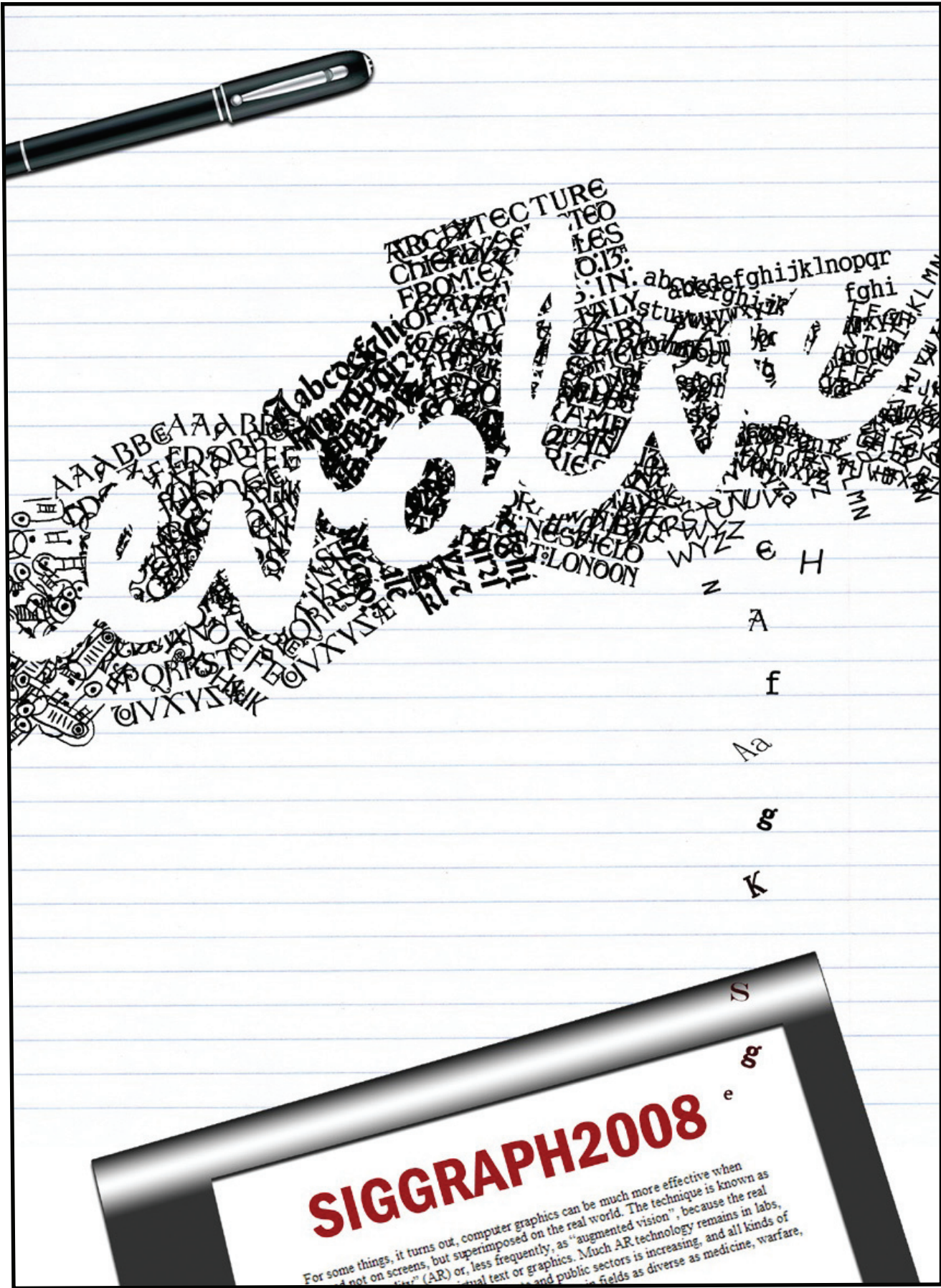
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Amy Carr:The Signal

Winning Siggraph poster, designed by Istra Bauza.

SIGGRAPH: A One Time Experience

Amy Carr
The Signal Staff

Istra Bauza, a graduate student in Digital Media Studies attending the University of Houston-Clear Lake, entered her artwork into the Poster Design Competition for the Siggraph Conference held in Los Angeles in August.

Bauza had no expectations of winning or even placing, but that is exactly what she did. She received first place for her poster design in the Poster Design/Space Time Student Competition category.

Bauza is from Puerto Rico and has lived in the Houston area for five years. She has been pursuing graphic design for 13 years. Family has always been very important to Bauza; her mother is an architect and has been encouraging Bauza to fulfill her dreams in design.

“When I told my mom I won first place for my design in this competition, she was so excited for me,” Bauza said.

In the spring semester Bauza decided to take 3D Computer Modeling with Leo Chan, assistant professor of communication and digital media studies. Throughout the semester, Chan encouraged a few of his students to use his class as an opportunity to create a design for the Siggraph Conference.

The Siggraph Conference is an annual international event that garners the participation of thousands of students going into graphic design. In 2008, approximately 30,000 people attended this conference with 87 different countries represented. Chan saw this as the experience of a lifetime

for Istra Bauza.

“I have been to this conference a few times and it is a very important international conference for digital media, computer graphics and interactive computer techniques,” Chan said. “A student would be able to learn a lot by participating in this competition.”

This was the first time Bauza had been a part of this conference. Bauza started working on her poster in March and submitted her finished design to the conference in May.

“It didn’t take me very long, only about two months,” Bauza said. “The execution is faster, but the conceptualization takes time.”

Bauza’s inspiration came from the theme of the conference, “Evolve.”

“The poster presents a chronological map of the artistic transition in handwriting as it evolves into computer-generated letters in digital form,” Bauza explained. “It also presents the transition of the use of paper as an artistic medium and how it transitions to a digital medium in the form of electronic paper.”

Bauza’s work was viewed by thousands of individuals from all over the world. She said she will treasure this experience for the rest of her life.

“This was a one-time experience and I am excited and thrilled I got to participate,” Bauza said. “I will take it with me always. I also want to give thanks to my professor for following through on everything and being so enthusiastic about this competition.”

Leadership conference free for UHCL students

UHCL students have a chance to develop one of the top skills employers look for at the upcoming leadership conference.

The 12th annual UHCL Student Leadership Conference will be held Nov. 7 – 8 in the Bayou Building. Students will have the chance to attend lectures by keynote speaker Nancy Hunter Denney and breakout sessions dealing with leadership skills.

Denney, an author and educator specializing in higher education and non-profit organizations, is nationally recognized for her leadership training and motivational books “Life by Design” and “Zing! Your Life and Leadership.”

“[Denney] got me excited about the idea that I can make a difference,” said Jennifer Clark, coordinator of student life, student leadership and community engagement.

This years theme, “GlobaliZING Leadership: Unleash the Hero Within You,” emphasizes students abilities to make a difference in the world. Students can take skills learned in the conference and apply them to real world, working environments.

“As a leader, your purpose is to serve others so they can turn around and serve others,” Clark said, “It is a pay-it-forward concept.”

Students will have a choice of 20 different educational sessions including general student leadership, leadership in the workplace, diversity and leadership and community service.

Students interested in attending the conference should register by Nov. 3 at the Office of Student Life in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1.204. More information can be found on their Web site, www.uhcl.edu/studentleadershipinstitute.

Clark encourages UHCL students to attend.

“It is an awesome opportunity in your own backyard and it’s free.”



Amy Carr:The Signal

Bauza displays her award-winning poster design.

RECOGNIZING — OUR — FACULTY

Amy Garcia
The Signal Staff

The start of the academic year brings recognition to those faculty members who exceed expectations in the areas of teaching, research and service.

The university awarded Mike Hanna, professor of decision sciences; Sandria Hu, professor of art; Dorothea Lerman, professor of psychology and director of the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities; and Jack Lu, professor of chemistry and environmental sciences, with University Faculty Fellowships.

This recognition comes directly from full-time faculty members and administrators who nominate the recipients.

The fellowship comes with a \$5 thousand dollar stipend used for educational expenses. These expenses can include educational materials, money

for research and conferences.

“All four of this year’s recipients have made significant contributions to their fields,” said President William Staples. “They are well respected by their peers and are deserving of this fellowship.”

- William Staples
President

“They are well respected by their peers and are deserving of this fellowship.”



Mike Hanna Beryl Striewski: Courtesy

Mike Hanna, born and raised in Houston, received a B.A. in economics, an M.S. in mathematics with an emphasis in statistics, and a Ph.D. in operations research from Texas Tech University. After a short stint at UT-Arlington, family brought him back to Houston and UHCL. Forecasting and application of mathematical models in finance and real estate are his main research interests.

“When I heard that I received the fellowship, I was very pleased,” Hanna said. “However, I feel that if a person is passionate about their field and is willing to work hard to succeed, then good things will happen.”

Undecided on how he will use the fellowship money, Hanna expects a good portion of it to be used traveling to conferences and on computer software.



Sandria Hu Beryl Striewski: Courtesy

Sandria Hu, whose list of achievements and exhibits is pages long, received news of the fellowship grant through a message on her voicemail.

“I spend all day in the studio painting, and then at the end of the day I sit down and check my messages and there was a voicemail from the president telling me I received the fellowship,” Hu laughed.

Hu, who received a B.A. and M.A. in art from San Diego State University and a M.F.A. from Stanford University, plans on using her fellowship on a program she has been working on for two years. The arts faculty from UHCL, University of Hawaii in Hilo, Universidad de Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico and University of West Bohemia in Plzen, Czech Republic are all involved in the research and workshop collaboration between the four schools.



Dorothea Lerman Beryl Striewski: Courtesy

Dorothea Lerman received her Ph.D. in psychology with an emphasis on applied behavioral analysis from the University of Florida. After spending some time at Kennedy Krieger Institute, a pediatric hospital affiliated with Johns Hopkins, Lerman taught school psychology at Louisiana State University. The possibility of starting a new program in applied behavioral analysis brought Lerman to UHCL in 2004.

“The president came to my office to tell me I received the fellowship,” Lerman said. “I’m surrounded by many accomplished people and I was pleased and surprised to be chosen.”

Lerman plans to use her fellowship money on research in applied behavioral analysis, specializing in autism and developmental disability.

“This is a wonderful program the university has to recognize its professors,” Lerman said.



Jack Lu Beryl Striewski: Courtesy

Jack Lu received his master’s degree in chemistry, and went on to become a lecturer at Dalian University of Science and Technology. He received his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Northwestern University and became a postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University.

Lu became interested in designing new materials with desirable applications, and focused his research on metal organic framework polymers.

Chemistry Nobel Prize winner Alan MacDiarmid joked with Lu when he came to lecture in 2000, saying the faculty should pay to work here. Lu agreed and is pleased with UHCL’s support of faculty achievements. Lu will use the fellowship money for research and education.

“I really like both research and education,” Lu said. “The university is the best place for both of them.”

Specialized master’s degree arrives at UHCL

Stacy Parent
The Signal Staff

The new Master of Arts in Behavior Analysis program – the only program of its kind in the Houston area – will be unveiled at the University of Houston-Clear Lake this spring.

Students currently interested in this field are participating in the applied behavior analysis sub-plan in the Master of Arts General Psychology program.

“The applied behavior analysis sub-plan will be eliminated after the new program is implemented,” said Hilary Karp, associate professor of psychology.

Dorothea Lerman, professor of psychology and coordinator of the Applied Behavior Analysis program, saw a need

“There is a huge demand for certified behavior analysts right now...”

- Dorothea Lerman
Professor of Psychology

for the program at the university.

“I knew that there would be quite a demand for the program because there aren’t any other programs in Houston,” Lerman said. “There is a huge demand for certified behavior analysts right now because of the incidence of autism.”

There are currently 25 students enrolled in the applied behavior analysis sub-plan. They will receive a master’s degree in behavior analysis upon completion of their studies.

Jennifer Fritz, visiting assistant professor of psychology, said graduating students would likely become more competitive for top positions in the field as their degrees would indicate a specialization in applied behavior analysis.

“The program is similar to professional

programs such as clinical psychology, school psychology and family therapy,” Lerman said. “Students and graduates work with public and private agencies and serve as private consultants to families or school districts.”

The Clear Creek, Pasadena and Pearland school districts fund graduate assistantships for students in the program. Students provide consultation services to these school districts and work with children and teachers.

The university also has a large grant to provide services to children at the on-campus autism clinic.

“We have four graduate students who are working on that project along with a board certified behavior analyst who is a former graduate of mine,” Lerman said. “We also have a number of formal practicum sites at various private day programs for children with autism.”

Upon graduation, students can expect to obtain similar careers working with

special populations.

“Most of the jobs are in the area of autism and developmental disabilities,” Lerman said. “Therapy based on applied behavior analysis has been shown to be effective with these children. This program is geared to prepare people to work with that population.”

Karp strongly encourages students to enroll in the new program.

“The training in this program is excellent and more than prepares students for the certification in behavior analysis,” Karp said. “Dr. Lerman is known both nationally and internationally to be an expert in this field. Students will get a strong background in both the theoretical underpinnings and the application of behavior analysis. They will be especially well-trained to work with those who have autism and developmental disabilities.”

Students interested in the program can contact Lerman at 281-283-3437 or lerman@uhcl.edu.

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Illustration: John Alexander, Roy, 2003, oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist and McClain Gallery, Houston.

CAMPUS
CALENDAR

October 13
Workshop: Chicago Documentation Style, 1-2 p.m., Writing Center

Workshop: Resumes & Cover Letters, 5-6:30 p.m., SSCB 3.308
Advance registration encouraged. Call 281-283-2590.

October 14
Workshop: APA Documentation Style, 2-3 p.m., Writing Center

Workshop: What Not to Wear, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.308
Advance registration encouraged. Call 281-283-2590.

October 15
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Support Group, 4-5 p.m., SSCB 3.307

October 16
Business Etiquette Dinner, 4:30-9 p.m., Perry's Italian Grille
Cost: \$20, includes dinner
Registration required. Call 281-283-2606.

October 17
Workshop: Resumes & Cover Letters, Interviewing & Salary Negotiation, 8:30 a.m.-noon, SSCB 3.308
Advance registration encouraged. Call 281-283-2590.

Workshop: NSLS Leadership Training Day, 1-4 p.m., SSCB 2.310
Registration required. Call 281-283-2611.

FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS, CHECK OUT THE STUDENTS TAB ON THE UHCL WEB SITE.

Spirit Week aims to inspire students

Amy Garcia
The Signal Staff

Blue and green will flood the halls come the end of the month. The university kicks off Spirit Week Friday, Oct. 24, and the fun doesn't end until Oct. 31.

Festivities begin with the nationally recognized *Mission IMPROVable 2* in the Bayou Theater at 8 p.m. To experience a different kind of comedy where the audience interacts with the improvisational agents, purchase discount tickets in advance at www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Students who watch "Whose Line is it Anyway?" will recognize this form of comedy with a "Mission Impossible" secret agent twist.

The spirit continues Oct. 27 with Wear Blue and Green Day. Students can receive free UHCL shirts on this day. In an effort to create more programs for students, Michelle Kaltenbach, coordinator of student life, student organizations and special events, spoke with student leaders and found that our campus was different from others in a major way.

The lack of a sports team, which brings homecomings and pep rallies, causes a lack of spirit. Kaltenbach hopes to change that with Spirit Week, giving students something to look forward to other than simply rushing to and from class.

"We have an awesome campus and students," Kaltenbach said.

"We wanted to do something to make them feel connected to the campus— whether it's getting a free T-shirt or competing against faculty in a Wii competition," Kaltenbach said.

Student Government Association Day is Oct. 28 and students are encouraged to attend the SGA meeting in Atrium II at 11:30 a.m. The theme of the day is "You CAN be a hero!" Student organizations will compete to see who can collect the highest number of canned foods.

All canned food will go to St. Bernadette Catholic Church Food Pantry and Interfaith Caring Ministries, both local food banks, where it will be disbursed.

The canned food drive will continue Oct. 30 on UHCL Cares Day and go through Nov. 18.

Students can show they care by wearing colored ribbons to support various causes, donating canned food, making an appreciation card or picking up their own Go Green Grocery Bag.

Competition Day, Oct. 29, has faculty and staff competing against students at miniature golf or Wii. To watch the competitions and also receive free bottled water, stop by Atrium II.

All these activities lead up to the finale. October Fest, held Oct. 31, will include a costume contest, face painting, food, candy, crafts and games. The event is open to the public and a \$3 entry fee per child will be charged for the costume contest. For more information on Spirit Week, visit www.uhcl.edu/studentlife.

Health Services will be administering FLU SHOTS starting October 13.
No appointment is needed – just stop by!

Hours of operation:
Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. to noon

Cost: \$25, cash or check only

If you have any questions or would like more information about the vaccine, call Health Services at 281-283-2626.

2008 UHCL Fall Open House
Saturday, Oct. 25 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Student Services and Classroom Building

Meet the faculty and staff and get to know the great individuals who enrich the university
Tour the campus and experience everything UHCL has to offer.

Whether you're currently taking undergraduate courses, looking for a graduate degree, or have been out of school for 20 years, an extraordinary education is within reach. Attend Open House to meet with advisers and faculty members, take campus tours and map out your personal career path.

Call 281-283-2515 or visit www.uhcl.edu/openhouse to reserve your spot today.

Take A Break

Take a mid-term break
Oct. 14, 5-7 p.m.
in the
Bayou Building, Atrium I



Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m.
in the
Delta Building lobby



Oct. 16, 5-7 p.m.
in the
Student Services/
Classroom Building lobby

Stop by on your way to or from class and meet Dr. Anthony Jenkins, Dean of Students.

Cookies, coffee and punch will be served.

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Diversity Series

What's happening at IISS

The mission of the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services is to provide leadership, advocacy and support that facilitates the development of successful, well-rounded, educated and accepting individuals. IISS organizes different events and activities for all UHCL students and IISS sponsors many services and events on campus that help international students get oriented.

- Orientation** – UHCL brings in peer advisers with whom international students can form relationships and make new friends. Information about visa regulations, health insurance, campus housing and academic advising is provided to international students.
- Strictly Speaking** – International students are paired with domestic students. They meet for an hour every week to practice English speaking skills, which can benefit both international as well as domestic students. International students have the opportunity to get to know more about the English language, while the domestic students have the opportunity to interact with students they otherwise would not.
- Welcome Back Dance** – Helped new students get involved on campus, meet new people, interact with each other and build relationships with other students and marked the beginning of a great upcoming academic year. This annual event took place Sept. 5.
- Global Expo** – UHCL students from different countries set up a booth and display their culture, traditions and customs. The event will take place Nov. 18.
- Total Success & Mentorship Program** – Student orientation was held Sept. 26 in the IISS office. The program is for all students who would like the assistance of a mentor to succeed in their lives. Students and mentors can meet every Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the IISS office. This program needs more students as well as more advertisers.
- Hispanic and African American Elders Program – Elders Program** – The Hispanic Reception scheduled for Sept. 20 was cancelled due to Hurricane Ike. A combined reception for Hispanic and African-American students will be held Oct. 18 from 7 to 10 p.m. in Atrium II of the Bayou Building.

Those who participate in the program are asked to write an essay about an Hispanic or African-American person who has influenced and inspired their lives. The winners are awarded scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$1000 and will have their pictures taken with the person who inspired them. Their essay and pictures will be displayed in the IISS office for a month. A final winner will be chosen to travel throughout the city, visiting different churches.

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender support group** – Meets every Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m. in SSCB 3307 (Sponsored by IISS and Career and Counseling). The service provides community and campus resources, safe zone training and mentorship programs. The support group is set up to encourage students to talk about their problems, if any, fearlessly.

Relief: continued from page 1

120 families everyday. The center offers services to everyone who has been affected by the hurricane and it will supply families with all the essentials they will need. In order to receive assistance, individuals must provide an ID and proof of residency to verify that they live within the affected areas.

“This process has been very rewarding; the heart-wrenching part is not being able to give families more,” Stone said. “Our biggest outcry is providing shelter for families that lost their homes.”

University of Houston Clear Lake is accepting clothing donations through Oct. 17 in the Intercultural and International Students Services office. These donations will be dropped off at the Interfaith Caring Ministries Relief Center.

Christians Organized for Relief Efforts is responsible for going into neighborhoods and restoring homes back to normal. The primary target for CORE is to get rid of any mold; therefore, in some cases workers have to remove the wet sheet-rock, strip the house down, and sanitize the studs and the concrete.

“The reason for this is for safety issues and it is also to prevent any financial issues that might occur,” said Matt Schultz, base camp director. “Most insurance companies will not help if mold is an issue.”

The CORE base camp is located at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The base camp is set up to hold 150 base workers and provides them with shelter, food and showers. The other churches involved with CORE are Gateway Community, Clear Creek Community, University Baptist Church and Ecclesia Churches.

Volunteers who help out with CORE also go into neighborhoods and haul off any fallen trees, fences or any other debris found. Volunteers use many tools and resources consisting of: hammers, fuel, push brooms, bleach, soap, power tools, sprayers, ladders, rubber gloves, chain saws, and respirators



Jenna Simsen:The Signal

Barbara Edwards speaks to Evelyn Ford during their few moments of downtime at their FEMA site in San Leon.

for mold elimination. There are more than 1,000 volunteers helping out with this organization.

“God is blessing us with all sorts of resources and volunteers all across the country,” Schultz said. “We can’t say no; we have to help our neighbors.”

CORE has already provided home clean-up services to 43 homes and there are more than 100 waiting to be done.

The Texas Workforce Commission is helping those who are unemployed or who did not receive a paycheck because of the mandatory evacuation. They are accepting applications for disaster unemployment assistance. In order to receive assistance, claimants must provide their Social Security number, the most recent federal income tax form and a check stub, or documentation stating employment. The last day to submit applications is Oct. 15.

Many financial institutions are offering assistance to their customers by increasing credit card limits, giving extensions on mortgage payments, and granting immediate loans. Individuals should contact their local banks to obtain information regarding assistance.

Relief Organizations

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Interfaith Caring Ministries – The Relief Center
Monday – Friday
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
231 W Main
League City, Texas 77573
281-332-3881 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Christians Organized for Relief Efforts
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
18220 Upper Bay Rd
Houston, Texas 77058
281-333-4535
www.core-alliance.org
If you want to volunteer call
877-684-2673, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Texas Workforce Commissions
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tele-Center 800-939-6631
Houston local: 281-983-1100
www.texasworkforce.org |
|---|--|---|

Diversity: continued from page 1

scholarship program at UHCL motivated her to come here for her graduate studies. Fabien said that she expected to find a Texas with cowboys and a desert area, but the greenery in Clear Lake surprised her.

“The key to success is to get involved on campus and learn to interact with people other than from your own culture,” Fabien said.

Paurva Uchbuch, a MIS graduate student from India and student ambassador of IISS, transferred to UHCL from San Jose State University.

“The great fact about UHCL is that the professors are easily and readily accessible,” Uchbuch said.

He finds it a homely environment. During the admission process, his papers were misplaced but eventually they were found.

“The management is very cooperative in the process,” Uchbuch said.

This was the only unexpected thing that happened to him so far. He said the transition was an easy process for him as he loves to eat American food and there are people from his country at UHCL

with whom he can bond.

Mai Pham, an undergraduate student for accounting and health administration from Vietnam, and a tutor for the Student Success Program, after hearing UHCL described as a small campus with professors who are easily accessible and friendly. Pham heard about UHCL from her classmates and professors in Vietnam.

Pham said the only challenge she has faced is competition among students in her courses and catching up with them.

“For an average international student, the level of motivation is really high as they have already taken a decision to go to a different country and get a higher degree,” said Sameer Pande, assistant director of intercultural and international students services. “They have already made up their mind. Moreover, in terms of GRE or GMAT scores, international students’ scores are usually much higher than an average domestic student. Hence, IISS is committed to creating a vibrant and diverse environment to foster positive relationships among all students.”

Arbor: continued from page 1

the programs. “The new building has been designed to fit the needs of the program,” said Stuart Larson, associate professor and convener of applied design and visual arts.

“There will be increased space for the three dimensional arts. Ceramics, sculpture, kilns, foundry and wood shop will all be in the new facilities.”

The changes to the facilities will alleviate the need to use external structure without air-conditioning and graduate students will have studio spaces for individual works. These changes to the Arbor Building will facilitate the Arts and Applied Design and Visual Arts programs in offering a new bachelor of fine arts degree.

Additional major renovations to the building will be a state-of-the-art model science classroom for the School of Education, new classrooms and a separate entrance for the psychology clinics.

Skaters flip for Southside’s latest renovation

Erik Ostos
The Signal Staff

Southside Skatepark, located at 510 Iowa in South Houston, opened its doors this month with an entirely new layout. Southside has been the breeding ground for up-and-coming skaters like: Darrell Stanton, Brad Hiser, Wil Taylor, Trace Saylor, Franky Machuca, Kelly Bird and Guru Khalsa, just to name a few.

The Houston skate scene is widely known. Amateurs and pros come from different parts of the world just to skate Houston. But street skating is illegal in downtown Houston and skaters need a facility at which to practice their stunts. Southside remodels its floor plan about every two years. Judging from the locals’ reaction to the new layout, patrons will be pleased.

“I’ve been coming to Southside for the last five years and have seen it been rebuilt about three times now,” said Ramiro Rubio, a senior at Lamar High School. “This is officially the best skatepark in Texas.”

Word is spreading about the rebuild and skateboarders can’t seem to stop flocking to it. It is the only skatepark in the southern part of Houston that is indoors. There are a handful of outdoor skateparks in the Houston area, but with the crazy Texas weather, skaters never know when it is going to be 100 plus degrees or when it is going to rain.

There is also a skateshop inside the skatepark, which is well stocked and convenient.

“I broke my board skating the park,” said Sean Villars, a senior at Friendswood High School. “It’s real convenient to have the skateshop because they had exactly what I needed.”

Skating in a skatepark is very different than street skating. On the street, skaters never know what they are going to run into: rocks, cracks, security, cops, broken

glass, a syringe filled with a virus that only German doctors can cure, or whatever. But in the park, they do not have to worry about any of those – there’s nothing but smooth ground with rails and ledges that grind for days, maybe weeks even.

Nevertheless, Southside provides what a real skatepark should have: a bowl with a spine, step up, flat bar, a big four stair, manual pad, ledge to drop, ledge to bank, and a mini. When planning the reconstruction on the park, Southside owner Eric Visentin wanted to make a bold statement.

“Southside has been the center of the Houston skateboarding scene for the last 15 years,” Visentin said.

The builders and Visentin sat down to figure out a way to bring creativity to his park. They decided to take real skate spots from around California and put them in their backyard. The remodeling took place just in time for this year’s Make-A-Wish event.

Every year South Shore Distributing holds a benefit at Southside for the Make-A-Wish Foundation where more than 200 pros from around the world come to skate for the day. In the 11 years they have held this event, the Texas Skate Jam has raised more than \$400,000. In memory of Johnny Romano, 10, who passed away from cancer recently, the 12th annual Skate Jam was renamed the first annual Johnny Romano Skate Jam and will be held Nov. 8.

This year is sure to make an impact with such pros as Paul Rodriguez, Ryan Sheckler and Jamie Thomas on the list. Tickets are available at participating skateshops in the Houston area including Southside. Throughout the day the foundation holds contests during the event and gives away free skate products for all to enjoy. Skaters can walk right up to their hero and get their autograph.

For more information on Southside and upcoming events, visit their Web site at southsideskatepark.com.



Erik Ostos:The Signal



Erik Ostos:The Signal



Erik Ostos:The Signal

Above: Sean Villars, senior at Friendswood High School, tweaks his backside smith at the newly renovated Southside Skatepark.

Far left:The bowl at Southside was completely redone for the upcoming Johnny Romano Skate Jam.

Left: Ramiro Rubin, senior at Lamar High School, demonstrates how to properly pop and catch a kickflip.

OILER LEGEND TACKLES PEARLAND GRIDIRON

Jeffrey Meier
The Signal Staff

Houston Oiler legend Haywood Jeffires is back on the gridiron, not as a football player but as a coach. Jeffires is head coach of a semiprofessional football team known as the Bay Area Pearland Gamblers.

“Coaching the Gamblers is truly a calling,” Jeffires said. “I love to be around people who love to play the game.”

In 2006, the Gamblers joined the largest semiprofessional football league in the world, the North American Football League. The team competes in the Lonestar Division, which is one of 32 divisions.

The Gamblers face opponents from Texas such as Sugar Land, Elgin and San Antonio, and out-of-state opponents from Louisiana.

Tryouts are held every spring before the season begins, which draws athletes from all over the greater Houston area.

Many players who competed at the collegiate level play in the league as a way to maintain their athleticism and stay in shape.

“Playing for the Gamblers in the NAFL allows the players to get another shot at making it into the big leagues and a chance to stay competitive,”

Jeffires said. “You never know who is watching the games.”

Some of Jeffires’ former players have gone to the Canadian Football League and the Arena Football League in hopes of reaching the NFL.

“[Jeffires] knows what it takes to make it to the pro level,” said quarterback Stephen Sahr. “You have to give it 100 percent because you are going to get out what you put in.”

Athletes who play for the Gamblers learn many things from coach Jeffires.

“Coach has taught us how to be better receivers, not just how to run and catch the ball, but how to block and run routes,” said wide receiver Raymond Bell.

The Gamblers are the division’s best at 7-0, which secures them a playoff spot where the top 64 teams across the nation will play for the NAFL National

Championship, which will be held November 15, in Atlanta.

Jeffires believes the key to success this season is the strong organization. The team had its ups and downs in the past years but now has a strong core.

“It all starts with General Manager Travis Chatman and our staff,” Jeffires said. “We have great

coaches who have all been there and we have a great group of players with a lot of talent.”

Jeffires likes the team’s chances of winning a championship this year and their zero losses reflect his optimism.

“This is the year that we win our championship,” Jeffires predicted.

Jeffires was selected to the Pro Bowl three times and played 10 seasons in the NFL, nine with the Houston Oilers and one with the New Orleans Saints. Over his career, Jeffires caught for 50 touchdowns, 6,334 yards receiving with an average of

“This is the year that we win our championship.”

- Haywood Jeffires
Gamblers head coach



Jeffrey Meier:The Signal

Gambler quarterback Stephen Sahr poses before a game against the Sugar Land Sharks.

11.8 yards-per-catch.

Visit the Bay Area Pearland Gamblers at www.bapgfotball.com or nafl.org for the upcoming playoff schedule.

Utilizing Hip-hop Dance

Story, design and photos by
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“I said a hip hop, the hippie, the hippie to the hip hip hop,” were the words Sugarhill Gang used to introduce the concept of hip-hop into the mainstream culture that it is today.

Along with the culture came the elements that made hip-hop: graffiti, DJing, MCing, and breaking. Break dancing is now one of the most practiced forms of dance. Dance shows such as “America’s Best Dance Crew” and “So You Think You Can Dance,” are the newest urban dance fad.

What people may not know is that break dance is not just a fad, but part of an established hip-hop culture. The hip-hop culture became popular in the 1970s by South Bronx’s Latinos, African-American and Jamaican immigrants. Break dancing was a way for urban, poverty stricken youth to deal with the struggle of being misunderstood.

Although hip-hop’s true meaning has been lost in translation, the dance form is still a powerful and positive recreation. Knowing this, Youth Advocates, a nonprofit organization, utilizes hip-hop dance to teach at-risk youth discipline, honesty and respect.

“Hip-hop is a culture, not a song,” said Marlon Lizama, intervention specialist for YA. “We teach kids a positive, alternative lifestyle with dancing and hip-hop.”

Lizama reaches out to kids who have troubled school or

home lives; he dismisses the negative and false identity the media portrays as hip-hop. Lizama feels that people do not interpret the hip-hop culture correctly. He enjoys teaching individuals about the hip-hop culture and the impact of urban dancing. He has found that poetry is a powerful way to enlighten people about the culture.

“I like to educate people about the history of hip-hop, whether it be at schools, detention centers or college universities,” Lizama said. “It’s a great tool for educators to

use as an alternative method of teaching. Kids can relate to hip-hop.”

For many young individuals,

urban dancing promotes creativity, independent thinking and self-expression. Christy Salinas, a University of Houston-Clear Lake student majoring in humanities, teaches dance to people of all ages. She too is amazed by how the discipline changes people’s lives.

“In a quinceanera we choreographed, we taught the boys break dance and that made them feel better about themselves and more confident,” Salinas said.

Another organization that utilizes hip-hop dance to promote a positive lifestyle is Urgeworks. Urgeworks is a nonprofit organization under Houston ARTreach, a program that exposes art-related programs and services to underprivileged communities. Urgeworks members realized that there was urgent work that needed to be done for at-risk

youth. What had been a small concept flourished very quickly.

In 2005, the U.S. Embassy partnered with Urgeworks to send the group to teach American hip-hop culture and dance to other countries. Urgeworks has taken their message to places such as Switzerland, Peru, Germany, Vietnam and Bolivia, just to name a few.

“We hold classes all over the world,” said Mario Jaramillo, co-partner of Urgeworks. “Not just anyone can teach these kids. My experience with Urgeworks has given me the skills I need to help these kids out.”

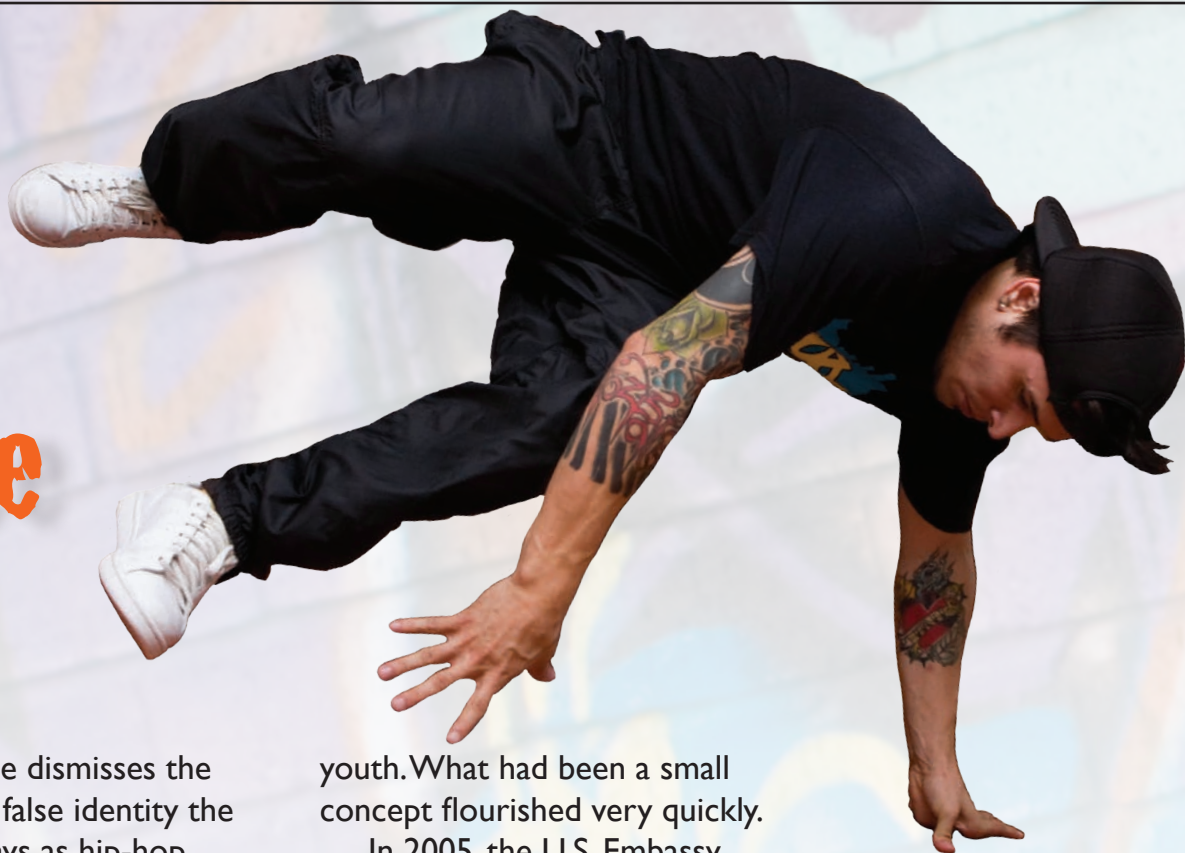
Jaramillo understands the discipline of urban dancing, because he too is a prodigy of reformation through hip-hop dance.

“Hip-hop dancing gave my life soul and depth,” Jaramillo said.

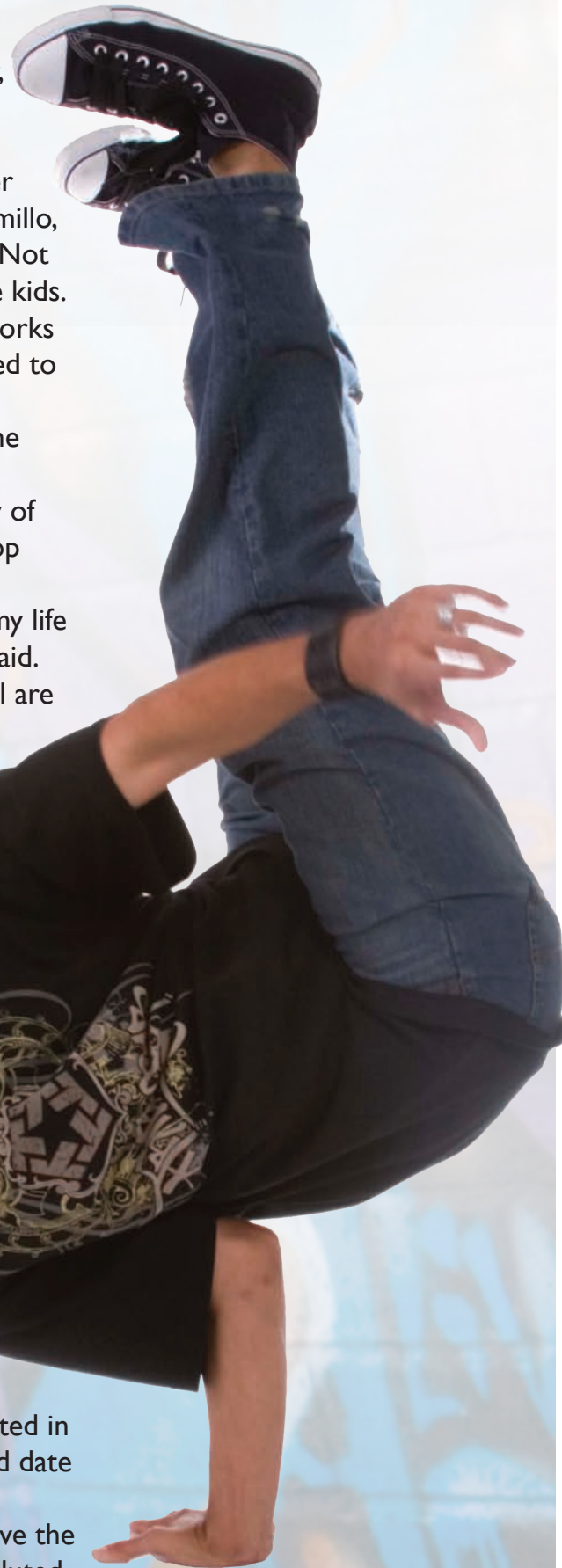
Companies like Red Bull are now utilizing the culture. Jaramillo will host Red Bull Academics, a mentoring program for

dancers. He will teach the history and theory of the dance culture to those who want to learn. The event will be hosted in November; the location and date have not been determined.

Even though some believe the hip-hop culture has been diluted, the multi-billion-dollar industry provides a positive recreation, reformation and exposure to this diverse American culture.



Marlon Lizama, Youth Advocates intervention specialist, demonstrates Floor Rock.



Chris Gamez, Urgeworks ensemble leader, demonstrates a break dance move called an airchair.

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gave my life

soul and depth” -Mario Jaramillo