

THE SIGNAL



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SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

A One-Stop Shop For International Students

ALICIA ALVAREZ
THE SIGNAL

UHCL is preparing for the admission of freshmen and sophomore students beginning fall 2014. With the new student population, comes change; with change, comes restructuring and reorganization.

Beginning Sept. 1, two offices have a name change. The Office of International Initiatives is now the Office of International Admissions and Programs (OIAP), and the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services is now the Office of Intercultural Student Services (ISS).

The idea was to streamline the process for international students from application to admission to enrollment, a one-stop shop concept. The international admission requirements and documentation process is very different from the national admission process.

“What we did was look at the entire process, and we said OK, there are a lot of things that are exclusive for international students,” said Sameer Pande, executive director for OIAP. “It’s scattered all

around and they won’t understand how our university structure functions, so it would be easier if there was one office that would fulfill all of these things that are exclusive for international students.”

Once the student has applied and enrolled, OIAP continues communicating

with the student to make sure he or she follows a specific set of guidelines, rules and regulations exclusive to international students.

“We orient them to the new educational system, to the new country, to the new culture and what the expectations are, and then

we funnel them into the rest of the university,” Pande said.

As part of its international admissions responsibilities, OIAP will monitor immigration rules and regulations exclusive to international students. International students will work with OIAP to consult with their international advisers regarding jobs, travel and questions about their enrollment, among other things.

“We are not pulling functions out of different offices; what we are doing is, we are consolidating our services so that our students – who at the end are the ones that matter the most – get a seamless experience when they are coming to UH-Clear Lake,” Pande said.

Another service that was moved from ISS to OIAP is airport pick-up for international students coming to UHCL for the first time. This is part of the process to introduce and transition students into the university.

A new service OIAP started is an online presentation using Wimba Classroom for

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INFOGRAPHIC BY SEAN WESLEY: THE SIGNAL

Prepare for Healthcare Reform Marketplace Opens Oct. 1

HALEY FOLLETT
THE SIGNAL

In January 2014 the long-awaited Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare, goes into effect. In preparation, the Health Insurance Marketplace, the new way to find, compare and buy insurance, will open Oct. 1.

The Marketplace was designed to help uninsured citizens find insurance at an affordable price. It is also a source for those who have insurance but want to look at what else may be available to them.

“There will be plans to fit just about every need and budget,” said a customer service representative for the Marketplace.

UHCL full-time faculty and staff will see few changes come 2014. United Healthcare, the university’s health insurance provider, has already included many of the changes in its plan including: dependent(s) up to 25 years of age, preventative care and cover-

age of pre-existing conditions.

The primary reason why the changes will not greatly affect the staff is because of a change that occurred Sept. 1. This change considers employees who work 30 hours a week for more than four and a half months to be full-time employees.

Even with a full-time employee being 100 percent covered, the price of healthcare quickly adds up when covering any dependents the employee may have. These employees may want to look into acquiring insurance from the Marketplace to possibly find a cheaper insurance carrier to cover their dependents.

“If they can qualify for the assistance or a cheaper plan through the Affordable Care Act, that may be an option for some of our employees,” said Erica De Leon, benefits coordinator for the Office of Human Resources. “Maybe not for their personal coverage but for their dependents.”

With 2014 quickly approach-

Student Health Insurance Plan

- +\$1,186 per year
- +\$593 per semester
- Must be enrolled in 6 credit hours
- Online, Home Study and Correspondence courses do not fulfill requirements

INFOGRAPHIC BY SAM SAVELL: THE SIGNAL

ing, students also need to start looking into what insurance options they might have. Being a student is not an automatic exemption from needing insurance.

As part of the changes brought by the Affordable Care Act, students 25 years old or younger will be able to stay on their parents’ insurance until their 26th

SEE HEALTHCARE, PAGE 6

UHCL Mourns The Loss Of A Charter Member

DANIEL DURBIN
THE SIGNAL

The University of Houston-Clear Lake currently offers 600 majors, averages 8,000 students a semester, and has awarded more than 53,000 degrees.

In 1974, during its very first semester, there were a total of 1,069 students enrolled and 60 charter faculty professors.

Among those original 60 was Donald Kyle, professor of accounting, who continued

to teach at UHCL until last semester.

Kyle died Sept. 4. He leaves a legacy only a few UHCL faculty members have achieved.

When UHCL opened its doors in 1974, the entire campus was comprised of a solitary building – the Arbor Building – surrounded by a vast wooded landscape, which is still abundant to this day on the 524-acre nature and wildlife preserve.

The original objective of the university’s establishment was to offer graduate degrees to NASA employees located in Clear Lake – then known as the Manned Spacecraft Center. Kyle and the other 59 charter members were critical in turning this idea into a reality.

After earning his MBA in Business Administration and Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Arkansas, Kyle and a handful of others helped



DONALD KYLE

SEE KYLE, PAGE 6

ONLINE
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Affordable Care Act: Affordable for Whom?

The Nation Prepares For Healthcare Reform

American citizens witnessed the nation’s first robust healthcare plan since Medicaid and Medicare took center stage in 1965.

With a 219-212 House vote March 21, 2010, Republicans and Democrats reached a landmark agreement on a healthcare plan that could benefit all Americans.

President Barack Obama signed the healthcare plan into law March 23, 2010. Formally known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, it is commonly referred to as Obama Care.

Simultaneously, bipartisan parties unleashed campaigns both for and against the implementation of the new law. For every voice that argued this was the nation’s solution to the 49.9 million uninsured Americans, another voice argued against it. The bickering, coupled with an ambiguous 2,000-page document left many puzzled about how and when this would affect them.

Those intended to benefit most from the Affordable Care Act are those who are currently uninsured: minimum-wage workers, part-time workers and those with pre-existing illnesses. The new law’s intent is to help expand coverage to all people who need and want it, though exactly how

EDITORIAL

the new law will benefit individuals is unclear.

Insurance rates for the state of Texas will become available Oct. 1. Meanwhile, the Kaiser Family Foundation website (www.kff.org) can produce an estimate based on the Affordable Care Act’s fundamental criteria.

If you live off of an annual salary that is either at the poverty level—in Texas that is \$11,490 for a household size of one (www.familiesusa.org)—or up to 400 percent of that level—in Texas 400 percent above the poverty level is \$45,960—and if the cost of the healthcare premium is more than 8 to 9.5 percent of your annual salary, the government will step in and help you pay for those insurance premiums.

The average single 26-year-old student in Texas making about \$17,235 annually (150 percent of poverty level) will probably end up paying close to \$114.90 per month for insurance.

While that seems like a good deal considering the average monthly premium paid by employees is in the \$300 and up range, most students living paycheck to paycheck might still find

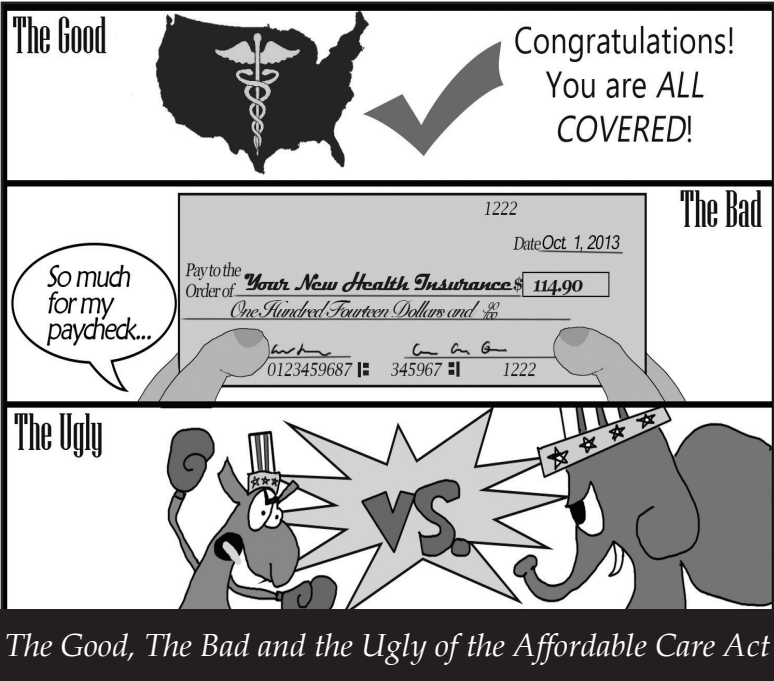
the cost of healthcare somewhat hefty.

The other option is an estimated tax penalty of \$95 per adult or 1 percent of your annual income, whichever is greater, and then that fee will continue to increase annually. In addition, those who choose the tax penalty will be responsible for the full cost of medical care, regardless of how high the amount.

In the coming months, you will need to do the math and decipher the new law to make an informed decision as to whether a tax penalty, or a monthly health insurance bill, will benefit you more.

The Affordable Care Act raises a few more questions than its direct benefits to uninsured Americans. Employers are also wondering what changes they will have to make and how that will affect their employees. Talks of cutting hours and workforces have surfaced, adding further concern to employees.

In addition, healthcare coverage for existing employees might be affected. There has even been talk of employers dropping existing coverage so that their employees can take on the task of finding health insurance for themselves. Self-education is important



in decoding the new law. Exactly how employers and employees will be affected by the Affordable Care Act will not be known until its full initiation next year.

While the intention of the new law is a good one—to make healthcare affordable and accessible to all Americans—the principal question is, affordable by whose standards?

The Affordable Care Act appears to be a step in the right direction, but there is much work to be done as it seems that those the new law is meant to reach, the lower- and middle-working

classes, are still finding its goals unreachable.

The majority of uninsured Americans will tell you that the reason they are not carrying health insurance is not by choice, but rather because of a lack of options, so it does not matter if the new healthcare plan will cost \$100 or \$1000 a month; no extra money means no extra money.

Healthcare at a government-discounted price might sound like a great deal, but if the government is not careful, it may end up just another tax burden for its average-earning citizens.

Zero Tolerance: One Punishment Is Not Fair For All

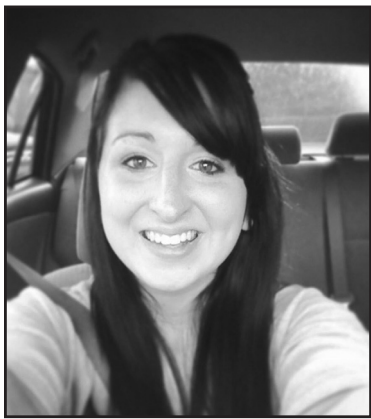
MALORI BIZZELL
THE SIGNAL

Texas Legislature passed a new policy in 2009 that enacted a “Zero-Tolerance” policy to protect students and to create a safe environment on school campuses.

In view of recent local school stabbings, this policy seems like a great idea, but the policy doesn’t allow school administrators to determine the punishment on a case-by-case basis.

Last April, my nephew was sent to alternative school and charged with a felony terroristic threat for bringing a pocket knife to school. Being expelled seems like a reasonable punishment for this offense, but being charged with making a terroristic threat does not.

My nephew is a 12-year-old who has attention deficit disorder, lives in a single-parent home, and is ignorant of the violence in



STAFF COLUMN

schools today.

The pocket knife was a handmade birthday present from his grandfather. He brought it to school to share his excitement for his present with his classmates. He never thought of the knife as a weapon.

Bringing the knife to school was a mistake, but not a terroristic

threat. Because of this mistake, my nephew will now have a felony on his permanent record.

There are numerous cases in schools where students have been expelled for such minor incidents.

One student faces a felony charge of terroristic threat for putting an alarm clock in the ceiling for it to go off in class as a joke. Definitely not funny; the teacher misunderstood the ticking sound to be a bomb. However, the student only tried the prank after witnessing another student pulling the same prank earlier in the year in another teacher’s classroom without being reprimanded.

Another example is the honor student who was expelled for having her brother’s theater sword prop in her car at school.

When does the punishment go too far and how can the students’ “crimes” all be categorized the same?

After the Spring High School

stabbing Sept. 3, I understand the seriousness of having any type of weapon at school, and there should be policies in place.

Weapons should not be brought into schools and there needs to be consequences for children’s actions, but there also needs to be discretion applied to the rules and punishment assigned by schools’ administrators.

The intentions behind the act should be weighed by the administration when punishing the student because a knife can be represented differently depending on the intentions. A knife can be used as a weapon, but it can also be used as cutlery or a prop for a play. In this case, it was a prized-possession given as a gift.

The punishments and charges given to children can be extremely traumatic, especially if a child’s intention is misunderstood and does not truly mean any harm to classmates.

My nephew’s entire life will be changed by having a felony on his permanent record. This will be a hurdle to jump over when trying to get accepted into college or applying for a job.

All school campuses should have “Zero-Tolerance” policies against weapons but should not include a singular, set-in-stone punishment. The punishment should fit the offense dependent on the intention of the student because one punishment does not fit all.

A child’s life is a picture painted by every stroke from a different experience and mistakes shouldn’t be the biggest portion of the picture.

“Zero-Tolerance” policies in schools don’t necessarily give children the chance to learn from their mistakes and grow without having those mistakes follow them for the rest of their lives.

THE SIGNAL

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CROWD FUNDING KICKSTARTS ALUMNUS' COMIC SERIES

L.D. FORREST
THE SIGNAL

Asthmatic teenager Darius P. Clyde longs to run. After his old running shoes become magically infused with thermogenic liquid, the shoes become linked to Darius' imagination and the scene is set for "Selling Soles," a comic series by UHCL alumnus Kalan Lyra.

Lyra is utilizing Kickstarter, one of the leading crowd-funding platforms for startups, in an effort to catapult his "Selling Soles" comic series out into the world.

The award-winning cartoon-

ist's work has been published in The Signal and featured in the textbook "Digital Media Law" by Ashley Packard, professor of communication and digital media studies.

Lyra's "Selling Soles" comic series, which is more than just the everyday comic storyboard, aims to blend traditional comic storytelling with animated sequences rendered in 3D.

"The idea for my story comes from an experience I had in my childhood," Lyra said. "I never knew I was asthmatic until I had an attack while running in gym class. It was so severe that I

passed out and had to be hospitalized. After that, I became obsessed with

running and going fast. As I got older, I became aware of the irony of my situation. An asthmatic runner sounds like the subject of a cruel cosmic joke.

"My character is a figure of juxtaposition whose body cannot perform the tasks his spirit wills it to. The other idea that drives the story is the idea that we lose our creativity and imagination as we get older. The world loses its magic patina as we learn how it all works."

Lyra plans to mix his long-standing enjoyment of traditional comic drawing with his more newly formed enthusiasm for 3D modeling and animation – utilizing skills and practices he learned in classes at UHCL.

The series, which will be funded almost entirely by Kickstarter donations, will be experienced by readers through traditional print as well as electronically through the download of digital files from the Web.

Kickstarter, for those unfamiliar, is a Web-based organization that allows content creators to pitch a project to not only the entire Kickstarter community, but also the Internet community at large. So far, nearly 5 million Kickstarter users have pledged a total of \$795 million to help fund projects created by artists, musicians, inventors, writers and

small business owners.

Every project on Kickstarter is created and managed by its project creators. Project creators set their own project's funding goal and a deadline by which to collect pledges from donors.

If people like a project and want to help support it, they can pledge their money to make a project happen. If a project meets its funding goals, backers' credit cards are charged for the amount pledged at the end of the deadline. If the project does not meet its funding goal, no one is charged for the project.

To encourage funding, pledgers are often offered bonuses for supporting the project. Some rewards include early access to a service, exclusive content or the final product at a reduced price.

At any given time, there are thousands of projects seeking funding on Kickstarter, so in order to be a Kickstarter success, creators have to start with a great idea. Lyra's great idea is a comic series that goes beyond traditional ink and paper.

On his Kickstarter project page, Lyra describes "Selling Soles" as "a way to transport the reader to a world beyond the drawings, a world of exciting visual possibilities that a regular comic book cannot offer." Lyra's deadline for funding ended Sept. 29, and while "Selling Soles" did not reach its funding deadline, Lyra plans to post the project on Kickstarter again at a later date.

"My experience with Kick-

starter has been positive as a whole," Lyra said. "The preliminary steps to getting a project submitted are quite involved. The story, the rewards, the video, the background info, the bio – all those things take time. Maybe more time than the artist expects to put into their initial pitch, but all of it is crucial to creating a fully fleshed-out project."

Julie Auman, one of the project collaborators said Lyra is a very talented artist and had fun working with him on "Selling Soles."

"I think he has a great idea," said Auman, senior software engineer for Lockheed Martin and a digital media studies major at UHCL. "As a team we will really have fun and produce some great artwork and entertaining pieces."

Keith Kimble, who assisted with preliminary rendering and consulting on character modeling and rigging on "Selling Soles," summed up his work with Lyra as an excellent experience.

"He is a great person and artist to work with, and I hope we can work together more in the future," Kimble said.

Lyra is currently working on the second book of the "Selling Soles" graphic novel and, with the help of Kickstarter, Lyra, Auman and Kimble may get to work together sooner rather than later.

CONCEPT FOR A POSTER DESIGN.

SELLING SOLES



ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF KALAN LYRA.



KALAN LYRA



DRAFTING DESK WHERE "SELLING SOLES" WAS CREATED.



SCAN THE QR
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FOOD

There's a Truck

Food Truck Feeding Frenzy On The Rise In Houston

KIMBERLY WARREN
THE SIGNAL

Want to grab a bite to eat? Only have a couple of bucks? There is no need to find a restaurant; just look outside and find the nearest food truck.

Food trucks, aka “mobile cuisines,” were originally found in cities like New York, New Jersey and Chicago. Different vendors would park their trucks along the busy streets to sell different types of food: hot dogs, pizza, burgers, etc.

Once upon a time people would have thought twice about eating from food trucks; in those early days they were often referred to as “roach coaches.” They were viewed as unsanitary and unhealthy because of the small working area and the greasy food that was produced. Today, food trucks have become the newest food trend. Some of the best gourmet food now comes from trucks.

There are numerous types of food trucks in the Houston area including: Bernie’s Burger Bus, The Waffle Bus, H-town strEats, Kurbside EatZ, Fork in the Road and Rita’s Italian Ice. Whether you want burgers and fries, bar-b-que, seafood, Mexican, Chinese food or a cold treat, there’s a food truck for that.

When the trucks are not rolling, look for local gathering spots such as the recently

opened food truck park located near downtown at 1504 St. Emmanuel.

Popular in cities like Austin and Portland for several years now, these designated spots allow different food trucks to

Sandeen said. “It brings a community together.”

Another local gathering spot is the H-E-B Montrose Market located at 1701 W. Alabama St. While most trucks that gather at H-E-B are privately owned,

an introduction to H-E-B and the food truck community, with the events we host on the site as well as the events that Fork in the Road participates in, in the Houston food truck scene,” Hurter said.

In order to know the whereabouts of food trucks, patrons can follow their accounts on Twitter or Facebook. Social media is the most popular and efficient way for food trucks to communicate with potential customers their daily locations and specials.

“That’s the way to get the word out quickly,” Sandeen said.

Food trucks are also becoming popular fixtures on college campuses. Here at UHCL, several trucks rotate their business on campus: The Waffle Bus, Kurbside EatZ, Third Coast, Barebowls Kitchen, Happy Endings Asian Fusion and Bernie’s Burger Bus. Having access to food trucks on campus is convenient for many students.

David Oliva appreciates that food trucks come to UHCL’s campus.

“I really like it,” Oliva said. “It brings variety to the stuff that we could eat, and usually prices aren’t that high.”



SUZETTE ORTIZ:THE SIGNAL

Both of the chefs for the Bernie’s Burger Bus Jose Vasquez and Sandy Posas

literally park in a permanent location so that customers can come to them.

Zach Sandeen, employee of Bernie’s Burger Bus, believes that food trucks can bring people together.

“In one spot you can have up to seven to 10 different food trucks, so you get a little bit of everything; you get Mexican, burgers and Asian fusion,”

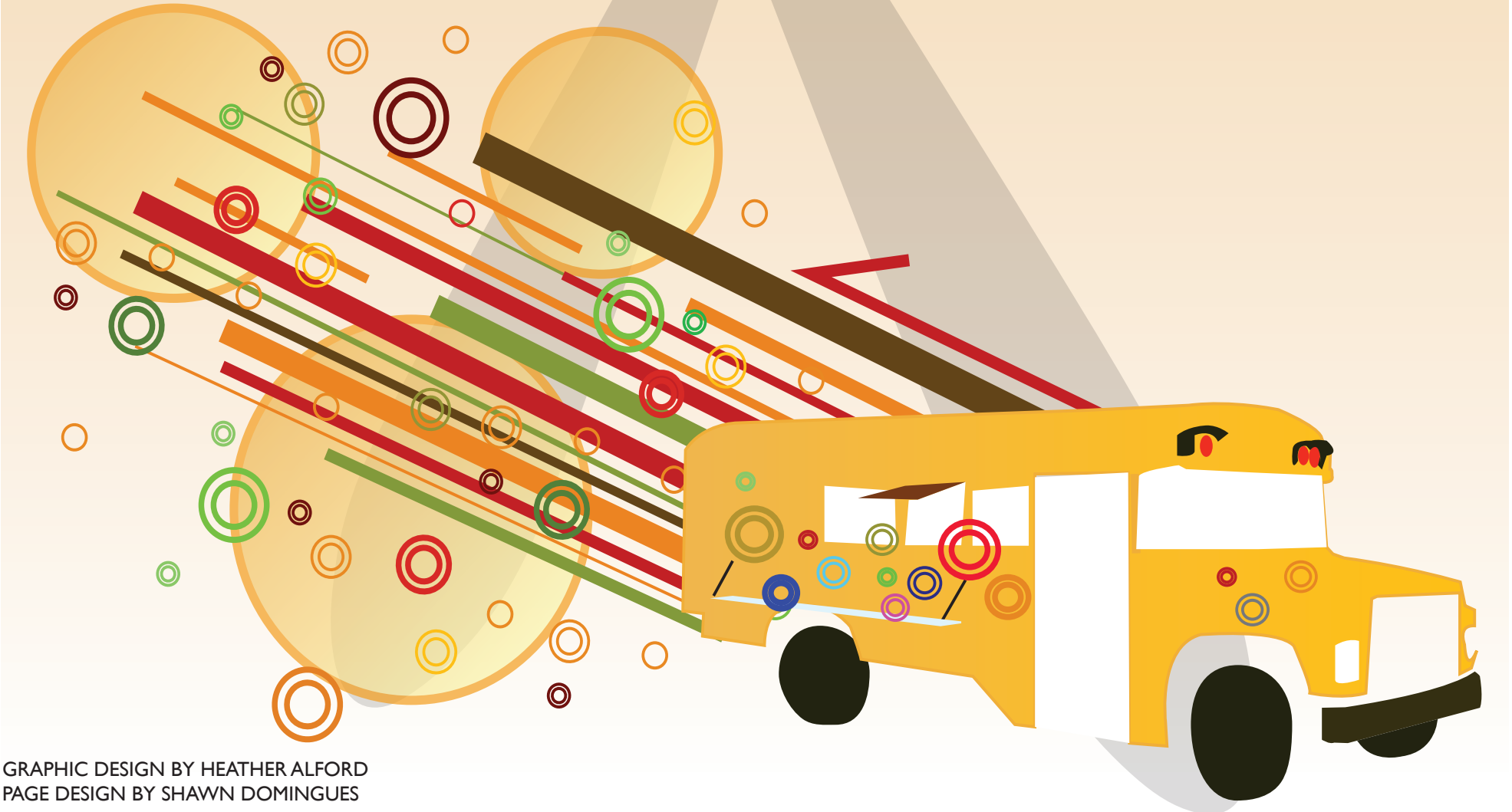
H-E-B has its own food truck presence.

Fork in the Road is an extension of H-E-B Montrose. Brent Hurter has been an employee for H-E-B for six years and has been managing the food truck for a year. He said Fork in the Road was a H-E-B concept.

“They wanted to have an offering not only for a food truck there at the store, but also

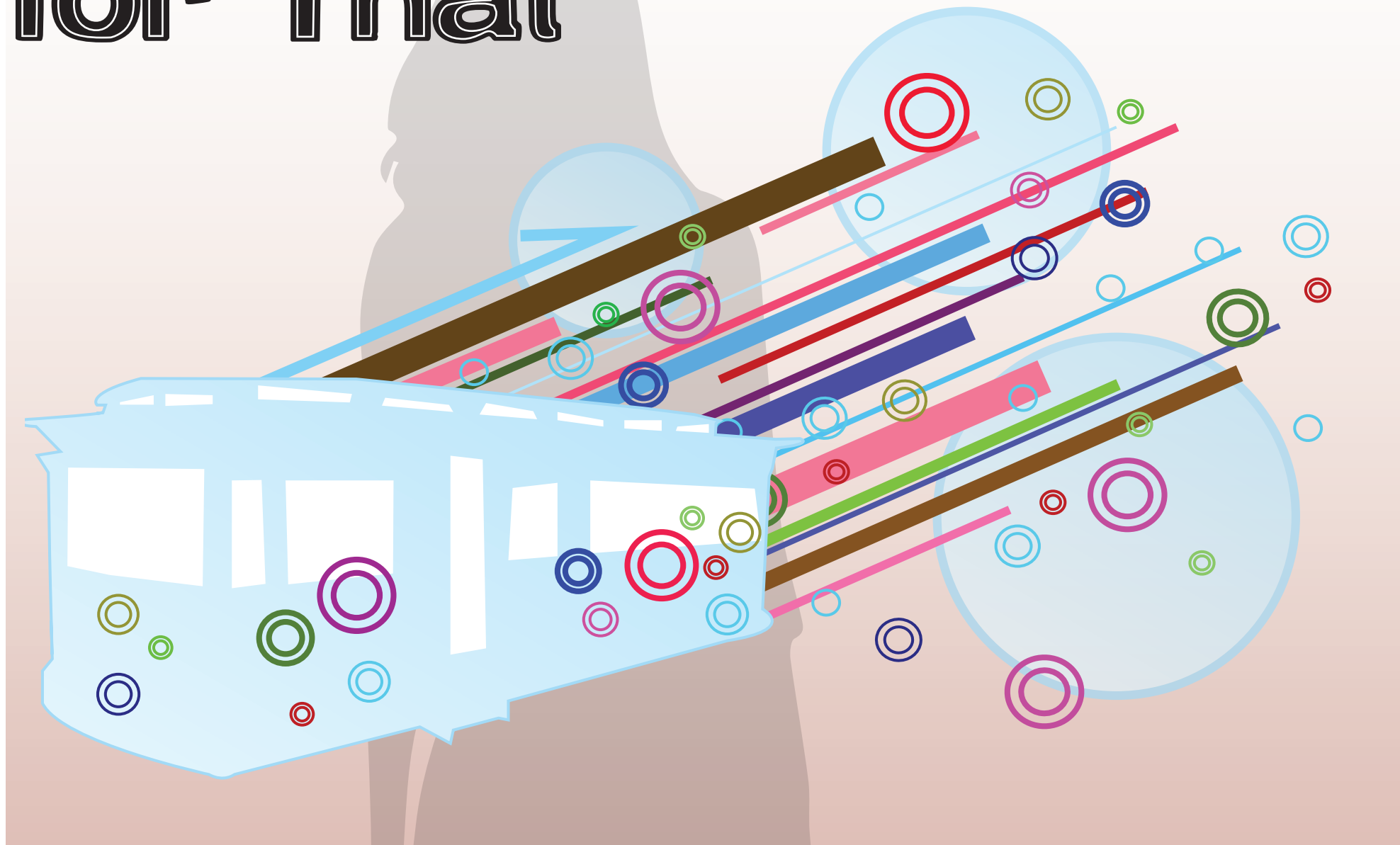
Every first and third Friday of the month, the Montrose H-E-B holds “Food Truck Friday” in the store’s parking lot. Along with good food, live music entertains attendees. This event also includes several non-food truck vendors that sell everything from books to boutique items. Other places that food trucks can be found around Houston include: parks, bars and coffee shops.

MORE ONLINE
Scan the code to view a slide show about food trucks on campus and around the Houston area.



FASHION

for That



Fashion-Forward Trucks Bring The Shopping To You

TIFFANY FITZPATRICK
THE SIGNAL

Over the past few years, the mobile business concept has grown considerably in the greater Houston area.

The food trucks were the first to arrive on the scene, and it has been an uphill battle as they have had to fight city ordinances and “taco truck” stereotypes simultaneously.

Recently though, Houston food trucks developed a dedicated, cult-like following and several other types of mobile businesses have emerged.

The Urban Izzy truck is styled inside and out. The truck boasts two chairs outside and a canopy on the exterior of the truck, clothing carefully displayed along one interior wall, and a variety of accessories along the other. Sarah Platt, owner of Urban Izzy, said most of her products come from local artists.

Platt said her boutique on wheels was the first in Houston and that the growing food truck industry did help contribute to the idea.

“It’s always been my dream, forever to have a boutique,” Platt said. “I was brainstorming, and putting a boutique on wheels came up. When I thought about it, I fell in love with the idea.”

She is not the only one who has fallen in love with the

mobile boutique concept. There are several fashion trucks in the Houston area today with hundreds of dedicated followers on social media sites, which are usually the best way to find the mobile businesses.

The Shoe Bar is a sleek,

Stella, a ’72 Scotty Serro travel trailer that has been remodeled into the Height of Vintage mobile shop.

Fashion is not the only new truck industry. Several other ideas have come to life in Houston.

The two long interior walls are lined with shelves full of neatly sorted books, CDs, movies, and even VHS tapes. There is a free books bin and a sign advertising children’s paperbacks for one dollar.

Creators Chris Grawl and

go directly to the shelves, Allen said.

The greater Houston area has several public library locations and bookstores, but, as far as Grawl and Allen are aware, theirs is the only bookmobile in Houston.

Grawl said the idea behind the library was “to bridge the gap between a consumer culture and just culture.”

“People think they need to buy things to absorb things,” Grawl explained. “We sort of give them the option to do it in a more frugal manner.”

The business model for most of the trucks is one that thrives on a friendly team environment. The trucks coordinate events together, such as the bi-monthly Fashion Truck Festival at Liberty Station, and frequently give each other referrals.

The community environment, rising business, and growing fan base are opening doors for entrepreneurs across Houston and could pave the way for an even greater variety of businesses that travel to the customer.



RANDI NULL:THE SIGNAL

Urban Izzy travels all over Houston and features clothing and accessories from local artists and designers, many of the pieces are one of a kind.

white trolley stocked with shoes that travels around Houston, and it gets nearly equal praise for the style of its shoes and the beauty of its trolley.

Height of Vintage sells vintage items on its online Etsy shop but also sells locally through

If a used bookstore could be condensed into a single aisle by removing all of the excess and leaving only the favorites, whether classic or modern, the result would look something like the Billy Pilgrim Traveling Library.

Kelly Allen run the library with a unique rent, barter or donate system. Annual membership to the library starts at just \$5 to rent one book at a time but they will also barter – for money or goods – if a customer wants a book to keep. The donations they get

MORE ONLINE
Scan the code to view a slide show about fashion trucks in and around Houston.

INTERNATIONAL: continued from page 1

newly admitted international MIS and Computer Science majors, which includes a faculty member, a current student and an alumni student, who come in and talk about the program and answer questions or concerns students may have.

“Initiatives like that have really helped us grow and tell the students that we are a university that actually cares for our students, not just our current students but also our prospective students. We are there to answer their questions,” Pande said. “I am really excited about this new initiative. It speaks volumes about our leadership, in terms of the president and the provost, that they do take internationalization of the campus very seriously. And they are willing to make the changes that will make UHCL the international destination for everyone, and when I say everyone, I am talking about students as well as faculty.”

OIAP plans to expand this type of communication to include other programs.

After completing the orientation process and successfully enrolling at UHCL, international students will need the same services as the rest of the student population. Those needs will continue to be met through the Office of Intercultural Student Services (ISS).

In order to avoid confusion,

the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services was asked to remove the word International from its title.

“The main reason was to try to make a more efficient and effective process for prospective students so, then, the prospective student would only have one office to deal with instead of three,” said Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for student services.

The growing number of international students and the complexity in international student advising was a key motivating factor behind the plan to move international student orientation from ISS to OIAP. International enrollment has doubled to approximately 460 new students this fall.

“This is an important point; there are two ways of looking at orientation,” Biggers said. “Orientation can be viewed as the last piece in recruitment, and I think with the model that they are creating that is the emphasis. Whereas in Student Services, we were seeing it as the beginning of student success and retention, and we were looking at it as a time when we could connect students to the resources and services that would be available to them when they got here.”

Many services affecting international students will remain in ISS.

“Student Services will still be responsible for major portions of services for international students,” Biggers said. “Certainly, we will be the ones responsible for the health and wellness of the individuals, safety and security issues, involvement and engagement, and academic success. Those are the key issues that we will still be involved in, and certainly the involvement and engagement also includes celebrations of the various cultural events.”

Since international orientation will no longer be the responsibility of ISS, it frees up time for the office to review its services and look into the other student needs, something they had not had time to do before.

“We are looking forward to being able to expand some of the programs that we already have, revisiting and, if it’s still working, expanding it; if it’s not working, examine what do we need to do to make it work,” said Linda Contreras Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity. “It is going to free us up to do some re-evaluation of our strategic goals that we had in place and move forward to new programs that are inclusive to all students.”

ISS plans to expand the First-Generation Scholars, Latino, African-American, Women’s and LGBT programs.

KYLE: continued from page 1

start the accounting program at UHCL from scratch. In the past 39 years, Kyle played a key role in recommending who was hired in the accounting program. Today there are 13 full-time accounting faculty members.

Kyle was a member of the American Accounting Institution, the American Institute of CPAs, and the Institute of Management Accountants. He had also been a sponsor of the Annual Accounting Recruiters Reception since it began 24 years ago.

He was a former UHCL nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award, an organization that annually awards 10 college professors in the state of Texas for superior teaching. Additionally, Kyle won an Institute of Management Accountants Academic Mentor Award.

“He also instilled in the students the professional attitude of giving back to the community through activities such as sponsoring UHCL blood drives and going in groups to prepare dinners for families of children stricken with cancer staying at Ronald McDonald House,” said Joan Bruno, assessment coordinator for the School of Business and fellow colleague of Kyle’s since 1975.

Former student and UHCL alumnus, Fahad Siddiqui, remembers Kyle in the classroom.

“He made Cost Accounting fun, and he told great stories relating to the real world, which ultimately led to my decision to be an accountant,” said Siddiqui, who is now an accounting manager for WinPark.

One glance at his highly rated page on RateMyProfessors.com will further illustrate his former students’ opinion of him. Not only did Kyle receive an extremely respectable overall quality rating of 4.6 out of 5, but his page has now become a site of remembrance since his death.

“He was my absolute favorite accounting professor and actually led a course that [he] taught better than any textbook could,” was one of the comments left on the student-reviewed website.

William Staples, president of UHCL, worked with Kyle since 1979. Staples estimated that in his 39-year tenure, Kyle has taught roughly 10,000 students.

“When you have someone that is so committed to their program and so committed to their students, it’s really the kind of faculty member you hope to have,” Staples said. “The joy I

had interacting with Don was just to see someone who enjoyed so much what he was doing. He had a passion about teaching accounting and he wanted it to be interesting and, yet, informative for his students.”

Being part of the first faculty staff to start a university is an achievement in itself. Kyle’s exceptional precedence has helped

the accounting program become the second-largest program at UHCL, following closely behind psychology by an estimated 20 students.

“The legacy of Dr. Donald Lewis Kyle will benefit the students of the UHCL accounting program, the accounting program [itself], and the reputation of UHCL well into the future,” Bruno said.

The Donald L. Kyle Scholarship has been created to commemorate Kyle’s level of commitment. The scholarship will be available to future eligible accounting students. Those interested in donating to the scholarship may do so online at <http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/OD/kylescholarship>. Donations may also be mailed by check to UHCL, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 318, Houston, TX 77058 or by calling the UHCL Office of University Advancement at 281-283-2021.

HEALTHCARE: continued from page 1

birthday. For students who do not have insurance through their parents or place of employment, there are two options available: Marketplace and Student Health Insurance.

Marketplace will be open to students as it will be to everyone else searching for insurance. Any student or person with income below the amount required to file taxes will not be required to obtain insurance, because they fall into one of the exempt categories.

UHCL offers its students the option of purchasing the AIG Student Health Insurance plan. This policy is a non-renewable one-year term insurance plan purchased through the school from the AIG insurance company. The insurance can be purchased for the whole year or by semester.

The cost for the full 2013-2014 school year is currently \$1,186. If purchased for fall or spring only, the cost is \$593 per semester.

Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours to be eligible for the Student Health Insurance Plan. Home study, correspon-

dence, television and online classes do not fulfill the requirement for credit hours.

“The benefit for having the AIG insurance is that students who come to this campus can come to us and see our doctor for \$2 versus \$15,” said Regina Pickett, director of UHCL Health Services and family health specialist. “They can come and get blood work done no matter what is ordered for \$10 versus \$70-150. They have access to free nursing as long as we are open, Monday-Friday. They have over-the-counter medications that are free. We are their referral source. We have a class D pharmacy on campus where students can get their birth control or anti-inflammatory.”

There are still many things unknown about the future of healthcare and what the Affordable Care Act will bring in the years to come. For now one thing is certain: unless exempt, beginning January 2014 everyone is required to have insurance. The penalty for someone who can afford health insurance, but does not have coverage beginning January

2014, will be 1 percent of his/her yearly income or \$95, whichever is higher. This penalty fee will increase every year. By the year 2016 the penalty for not having insurance is estimated at \$695, or 2.5 percent of the income.

“People without health coverage will also have to pay the entire cost of all their medical care,” HealthCare.gov stated on its website. “They won’t be protected from the kind of very high medical bills that can sometimes lead to bankruptcy.”

For more information on the Health Insurance Marketplace, visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/individual>.

For more information on faculty and staff insurance, there will be a presentation Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 9 a.m. and again at noon in Bayou Building, Room 3332.

For more information on the Student Health Insurance, call 888-560-7427, or stop by the Office of Health Services in the Student Services Building, Room 1.301 to pick up a packet.

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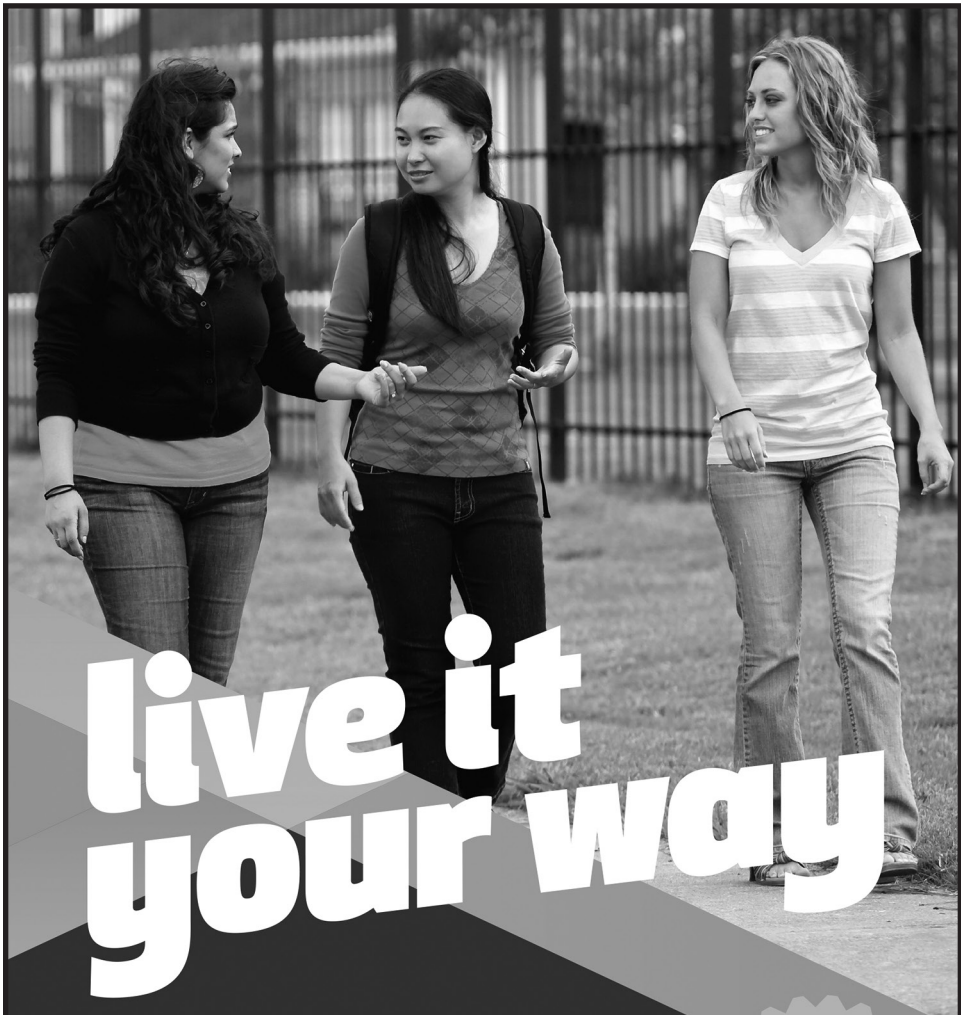
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TEXAS COMICS SKETCH OUT FUTURE FOR RISING ARTISTS

SAM SAVELL
THE SIGNAL

The heroes of comiCulture saved the day by joining forces to share their experiences of working in the comic book industry.

Professional comic book artists and writers, vendors and attendees filled the floor of Atrium I in the Bayou Building Sept. 20-21 for the inaugural comiCulture symposium.

James O'Barr, creator of "The Crow," was on hand to help kick off the festivities Friday night with a screening of his movie followed by a question-and-answer session with moviegoers.

O'Barr is still shocked to this day by the cult following and success of "The Crow."

"I haven't changed, I'm still the same person [as when I wrote 'The Crow']," O'Barr stated.

"The idea that 100 million people have seen the movie, and there's a million copies of the book sold in 14 languages, I try not to think about that and just do what I do."

O'Barr joined other writers and artists for the two headlining panel discussions on writing and art in the field of comic books and sequential art.

Each guest came from a different creative background, including Web artists, screenplay writers, self-publishers and artists

from major publishers.

"Comic Narration: Industry Secrets of Great Storytelling" began Saturday's activities. The panel outlined topics such as the nuances of adapting a story from comics to film, finding artists who will work with writers and where to find inspiration for developing a thorough story.

The panelists shared with the audience their insight into how to pitch a story idea from the writer to the artist and how to communicate with artists to fully realize a writer's story, as well as how to market their ideas to the public.

"Drawn to Graphics: Comic Illustration as a Way of Life," spoke about the difficulties of breaking into the comic industry as an artist, the skills and tools needed to do so, and where to start as an artist who wants to get into comic illustration.

"You have to know the rules before you can break them," said Terry Parr, owner of Shonuff! Studios, a comic studio based in Dallas.

Parr, joined by fellow artists, explained to attendees the importance of choosing the correct working environment, the right tools, an artist's personal style and the building blocks to great art in learning composition, perspective and anatomy.

Terry Wagner, owner of Mental Diversions Studios and event coordinator for comiCulture, moderated both panels, which held audiences of 60-80 people.

"I tried to model the panels the way I thought would be beneficial for the university," Wagner said. "I wanted to show what it would take to be an artist or a writer in the comic book industry and the pitfalls and some of the benefits of it too."

Outside of the panels, attendees could check out vendor tables, which featured the professional guests' works. Bedrock City, a local comic book store, was present selling comics, toys and clothing. The professional artists and writers were also standing by their respective tables ready to do a one-on-one critique with attendees hopeful to rise to a professional level.

Plans for comiCulture have been outlined for the next two years to present bigger guests,

both locally and internationally, and increase interactivity with attendees by Wagner and Sandria Hu, the woman behind the idea of comiCulture.

"I'd like to have more of a hands-on, actual drawing, comic book workshop," stated Hu, professor of art.

Stuart Larson, professor of graphic design and a volunteer who helped bring comiCulture together, is excited and hopeful for the prospect of another year.

"I'm pushing very heavily to have a second [comiCulture]," Larson said. "I think it's the kind

of event where every year can build momentum in the Gulf Coast region and people know they can rely on it every year."

The Art of Sequential Storytelling and the *UHCL Student Illustration Exhibitions* are currently on display in the Bayou Building as part of comiCulture through Oct. 17.

For additional information on being a part of next year's comiCulture, contact Jeff Bowen, coordinator of audience development for UHCL's Art Gallery, at Bowen@uhcl.edu.

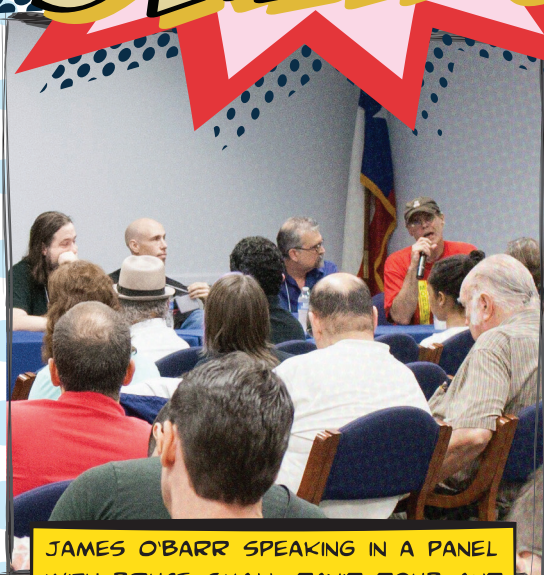


TASHA DAVIS AS BABYDOLL FROM SUCKER PUNCH, SKY DAVIS AS GREEN LANTERN, TAMRA DAVIS AS FAORA FROM MAN OF STEEL, AND MATT McDONALD AS DR. HORRIBLE



JESSE LIRA HAVING HIS PORTFOLIO REVIEWED BY ARTIST MAURICE TERRY JR.

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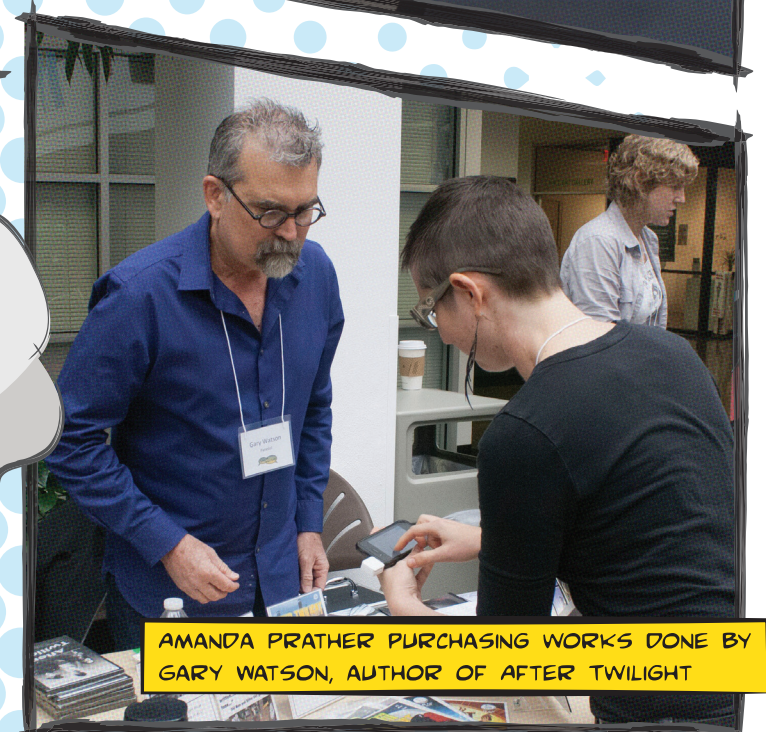
JAMES O'BARR SPEAKING IN A PANEL WITH BRUCE SMALL, DAVID DOUB, AND CHARLES MARTIN



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ARTIST J. LINARES DOING A LIVE DRAWING AT HIS BOOTH



AMANDA PRATHER PURCHASING WORKS DONE BY GARY WATSON, AUTHOR OF AFTER TWILIGHT