

THE SIGNAL

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Survey questions student-teacher interaction

Matt Griesmyer
The Signal Staff

Recently, The Signal staff and the Communication Association at the University of Houston-Clear Lake concluded a year-long survey to determine how technology has changed the student-teacher interaction in the classroom. Surveys were distributed via the Internet and through print surveys handed out at various campus activities.

Technology has changed the face of higher education, for better or worse. Survey says students now expect instant interaction between the teachers and themselves, and even for some of the work to be done for them.

Classroom formalities

Prior to the advent of the Internet, college campuses were much more tangible. Students had to physically attend classes and meet their professors in person.

Now, it seems, much of the interaction between college professors and students occurs through the illusionary forum of the Internet. This change in the classroom dynamic has affected the attitudes of the students of higher-education institutions.

For example, although not always practiced, 51.2 percent of the online participants and 46 percent of written participants of The Signal's survey were aware that electronic mail should be treated as a formal means of correspondence, keeping the written traditions of a salutation, introduction, body and close.

Instant gratification

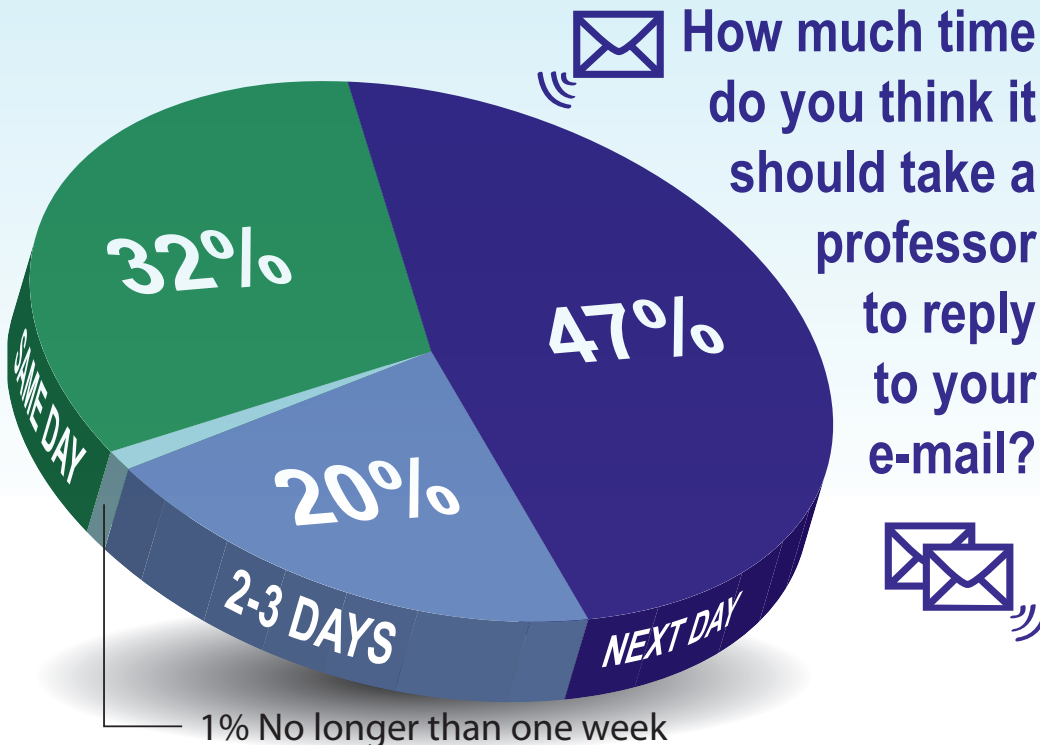
Human beings have developed into a population that requires instant gratification and information because the Internet has evolved into an environment that can provide immediate information and contact between people.

E-mail responses from professors, according to survey participants, should be answered within one day of being sent.

Taking into account the time it takes to potentially obtain information regarding a particular student, and by extension their

request, the time that it takes for a professor to reply can take quite a bit longer than expected by students, yet a high majority —

Technology survey: continued on page 6



Transfer credit guide available with the click of a mouse

Clare Kemp
The Signal Staff

For community college students trying to determine what university they want to attend, an important factor is how many courses will transfer from their previous college.

Students want to know upfront how many hours will transfer and how previous courses will apply to the major of their

choice. University of Houston-Clear Lake has given potential students an easier route when determining the transferability of their credits.

In previous semesters, prospective students had to physically show up on campus with transcripts in hand and meet with an adviser to figure out which courses would transfer. Now, UHCL has provided an online Transfer Credit Guide, which reduces the process time and gives

immediate results.

“Basically, it gives prospects a tool,” said Sai Sreerama, associate director of University Communication and Telecommunications. “As soon as you log in you know exactly how many hours you can transfer and that gives you an idea of where you place yourself in the university. It helps them make an instantaneous educational judgment, instead of going through the whole process of giving

transcripts to an adviser, which may take a long time.”

The online guide includes a level of versatility in that if a certain course is not affirmed through the system, then a student can request equivalency.

“We will evaluate the course(s), notify the individual, and add the course(s) to the system, speeding up the creation of degree and improving the accuracy of the initial degree progress report made available to

Transfer credits: continued on page 6

New UH System Regents appointed by Gov. Perry



Courtesy of Pam Francis

New members to the UH System Board of Regents — Nandita V. Berry, Tilman J. Fertitta and Jarvis V. Hollingsworth.

Cody Anderson
The Signal Staff

Gov. Rick Perry appointed three new members to the UH System Board of Regents Aug. 20. Nandita V. Berry, Tilman J. Fertitta and Jarvis V. Hollingsworth replaced Calvin Stephens, Dennis Golden and Lynden Rose, whose terms on the board expired.

“We are delighted to have three new members of the University of Houston System Board of Regents,” William Staples, UHCL president, said. “Their willingness to serve a six-year term as a regent shows their dedication and

commitment to service for the UH System and its four universities. I look forward to working with each new regent to advance UHCL and the UH System.”

The Board of Regents consists of 10 members who are in charge of governing the UH System. The UH System includes University of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Houston-Victoria and University of Houston-Downtown, as well as UH System at Cinco Ranch, UH System at Sugar Land, KUHF radio and KUHT television stations.

“As the global marketplace becomes

New regents: continued on page 6

A home for the holidays

Grant Chesshir
The Signal Staff

There is great cause for celebration this holiday season, and it doesn't have a thing to do with a heavy-set cookie bandit in a red velvet suit. First-time homebuyers rejoice as new legislation lends them a much needed helping hand.

President Obama signed legislation Nov. 6 that extended and expanded the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. These changes affect the eligibility of prospective purchasers and also extend the deadline of the credit by five months.

“It's had a dramatic effect already,” says Megan Booth, senior policy representative for the National Association of Realtors. “We are already starting to see a rebound.”

The new legislation, the

Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009, offers up to an \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers and up to a \$6,500 tax credit to current homeowners. Under this new legislation, a first-time buyer will be eligible for the tax credit so long as a home purchase — new or resale — is made on or after Jan. 1, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010. The government Web site www.irs.gov defines a first-time buyer as someone who has not owned a principle residence in the three years prior to purchase. The tax credit is 10 percent of the purchase price of the home, up to \$8000, and is does not have to be paid back unless the home ceases to be the buyer's primary residency within three years of purchase.

Under the previous legislation the income limits were \$75,000 for those filing single tax returns and \$150,000 for those filing as

New homebuyers: continued on page 6

THE SIGNAL

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EDITORIAL

Polite practices replaced by Tech-no etiquette

Move over baby boomers, technology boomers have just about taken over the classroom; which means the University of Houston-Clear Lake is not the university of old. There has been a tremendous shift in the way professors and students conduct themselves in class with the evolution of technology.

Where information used to be presented and processed through cotton blend papers, inks and face-to-face lectures, classes are now a mix of face-to-face with Powerpoints, WebCT, and Internet. Technology is an ever-changing element of society, and education has changed along with it.

Some of the changes show progress, while some of them have allowed us to forget what we are going to college for, to be a professional.

It is not appropriate for students to have their phones on or text and browse the Web during classes. Students have started treating classes as a care-free environment, interrupting lectures or leaving to answer phone calls, forgetting to put their phones on silent, or texting and checking e-mails.

Students have gotten impertinent with the arrival of Internet social media. Where communication between students and professors had been formal, students now invite professors to join as one of their friends on Facebook.

E-mail informalities have become rampant in the world of texting and twittering. Instant information delivery has cultivated this generation into thinking that every virtual conversation with anyone online is informal.

Let's start with a brief review of the parts of the letter: greeting, introduction, body, conclusion and signature.

E-mails, just like letters, start with a formal greeting. The old adage goes "you never get a chance at a second impression," and this is just as true on the Internet. "Dear Dr., Mrs., Ms. or

Mr.," is not an optional inclusion.

Also, included with this is how you get the attention of your e-mail recipient. Immediately starting the conversation off with an overly abrupt request for a favor or an inquiry is unacceptable. Right after the greeting, add a simple introduction, which can be as short as "my name is Edward Cullen, and I am in your Vampirism 101 class." Again, first impressions last, and being rude within the first few characters of text can garner an equally rude reply.

In an e-mail, the body should be short, courteous and to the point. In order to be efficient, messages must get to the point quickly, yet politely. Teachers and professionals take time out of their work day, and sometimes their time at home, in order to respond to a request.

Conclusion and signature may be a formality, but minding manners online, as well as in the real world, are simply a matter of showing that time was taken to write intelligently. A brief word of thanks at the end of a message can make a world of difference when requesting a favor.

Do not forget we are college students, before leaving professors a message take the time to use proper grammar, spelling and punctuation in order to prove the technological age is not 'dumbing' us all.

Too many current students lack common courtesy and it is time for them to relearn these rules and apply them to the cyber age.

Do unto others online as you would have them do unto you.



OLD SCHOOL ... MEET NEW SCHOOL

Matt Griesmyer:The Signal

COLUMN

Student rediscovers true spirit of Christmas

Mary Ann Wangler
The Signal Staff



Mary Ann Wangler
The Signal Staff

I face quite a dilemma this Christmas: no money. At the moment my husband and I struggle to pay the bills and put food on the table; I am left to wonder how we are going to have much of a Christmas for our family.

We have never had the finances to have an extravagant Christmas, but in past years we have been able to have a nice little gift exchange and provide the kids with a reasonable amount of presents. I don't think we are even going to be able to do that this year.

Although I shun the materialism of the holiday, I am still susceptible to the brainwashing of store advertisements. I want to give as well as receive gifts, and I want to participate in seasonal activities.

As daunting as my financial state is, it is not unique; in fact I would venture to say it is leaning on the side of being pretty common. The current economic situation is causing many families to question whether they will be able to celebrate the holidays.

But, just like a Hallmark movie, there is a change in people's attitude about Christmas. The loss of

financial comfort for some is bringing back a long-forgotten mentality. The media is calling it Depression-era thinking: learning to survive on only that which is needed to sustain life and, if there is anything left over, trying to maintain a semblance of the formerly abundant lifestyle.

While some of us may fret over the ability to provide gifts, others are adapting and changing their mindsets. Suddenly, materialism is out and simplicity and heartfelt sentiment are in. The idea of getting back to a simpler time in order to understand the true meaning of Christmas is no longer a cliché.

All the Whos singing happily in Whoville after waking up to nothing, thanks to the Grinch, becomes inspiration.

So, how does one have a simple, Depression era-like, meaningful, happy holiday?

By thinking outside of the

festively wrapped box.

Homemade gifts are a simple way to make sure there is something to unwrap. The Internet is a great resource for ideas where any elementary age child or adult can pass on their crafty knowledge.

If someone is really big into the green movement, then this is the perfect time to practice "reduce, reuse and recycle." One nifty idea is to make snowmen out of various sized bottle caps. Gather three different sized caps, glue each cap to another's rim, going from smallest to largest, then paint them and add some string for a tree ornament.

Not quite the crafty type? Doing something nice for someone else could be an alternative gift idea. Give somebody a "day off" from housework. Do the dishes, clean, etc. Anything that would be appreciated by another person that shows care and understanding and a little self sacrifice is a way to evoke the holiday spirit.

There may be very few gifts under my family's tree, but I will do as much as I can to put more thought and love into each one and embrace the revival of the meaning of Christmas and a true holiday spirit.

Letter to the editor

Are students a university's customers? Is a "business model" the best way to construe a university's function? Should university professors be in the business of generating customer satisfaction? Should a university serve the same set of values as Honest Al's Used Cars?

Such ideas are popular among certain elements of the political fringe. For instance, they are promulgated by the Texas Public Policy Center, a politically-connected, far-right "think" tank, that has the ear of our governor and many state legislators.

But the idea is loony. A university professor has the job of educating students, not making them happy. The customer is always right. Students are not always right. When students do inadequate work professors have the job of telling them so. Like a minister, priest, or rabbi, a professor has to hold his or her charges to a high standard, and admonish them when they fall short.

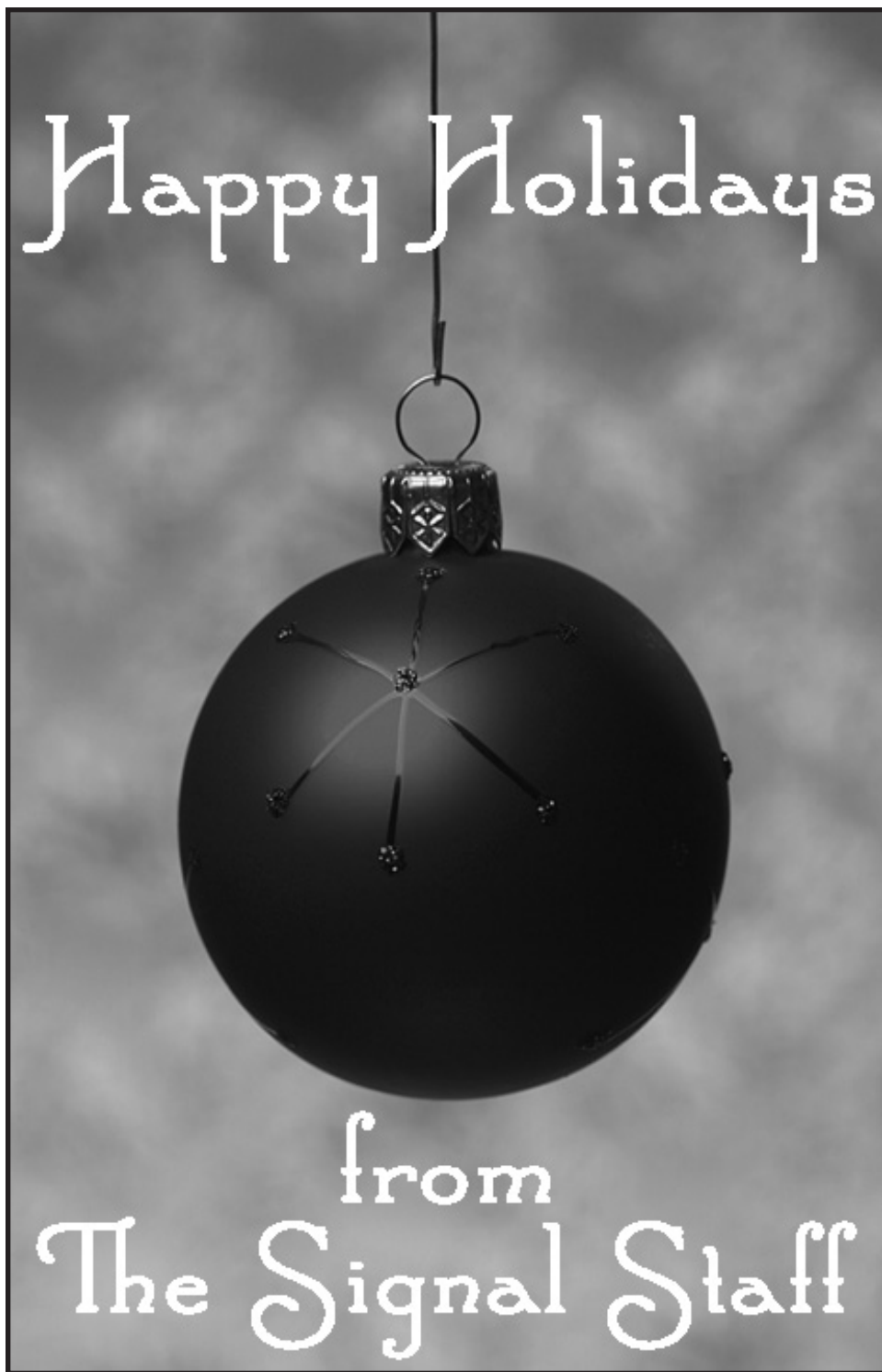
Put bluntly, a professor who does not occasionally kick some butt is not doing his or her job. Since many university students are products of school environments dedicated chiefly to enhancing students' self esteem and protecting their feelings, some students are shocked to learn that their efforts do not automatically translate into achievement.

Conditioned to think that whatever pops into their heads is brilliant, and that merely completing the assignments entitles them to A's, they are nonplused when they get C+ or B- (Believe it or not, I have had students bitterly protest getting an A-). Disparity between expectations and grades often leads to disappointment, and this disappointment sometimes shows up as dissatisfaction on course evaluations.

What would be the result of assessing teaching effectiveness, and allocating monetary awards, based solely upon students' course evaluations? A colleague of mine put it succinctly: Grade inflation on steroids. Needless to say, this would weaken and undermine public higher education.

Now undermining higher education might be fine for certain constituencies – those who fear universities as bastions of dangerous ideas like liberalism, feminism, and evolution – but rational people want sound and healthy universities. Universities can flourish only if we recognize that their values, aims, and methods cannot be the same as Honest Al's.

Dr. Keith Parsons,
Professor of philosophy



Receive your Alumni Pin * Hors-d'oeuvres & Desserts * Alumni Perk Zone

Commencement Kick-Off is a special event held the evening before commencement to celebrate graduates and welcome you as new members of the UHCL Alumni Association.

University of Houston  Clear Lake

Friday, December 18, 2009

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Bayou Building ♦ Atrium I, Level 1

For tickets, visit the Office of Student Life, Student Services and Classroom Building, first floor, or the Office of University Advancement, Bayou Building, Suite 1604.
For more information, call 281-283-2041.



Live Music * Photo Opportunity with your President & Dean * Door Prizes

*Congratulations
&
Best Wishes*

to the fall 2009 graduating class of
University of Houston-Clear Lake.

On behalf of the university family, I salute
your academic achievements and celebrate
the promise of your future accomplishments.

William A. Staples

William A. Staples
President



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

CHILI WHEN IT'S CHILLY

Chris Curry
The Signal Staff

Chili, live music and charity mixed together in perfect harmony at Houston's Traders Village Marketplace Nov. 21. When the General Go Texan Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo held its 6th Annual Houston Championship Chili Cook-off.

The event showcased 67 chili and bean cooking teams from all over Texas competing for top prize in four categories: Best Chili, Best Beans, People's Choice and Hospitality.

Most of the teams were comprised of members from various committees formed to support the Houston Rodeo.

Patti Wilburn, chairwoman of the Houston General Go Texan Committee, was in charge of the event, which helps the Houston Rodeo to raise approximately \$10.2 million for a general scholarship fund to help students attending universities and colleges in Texas.

"A substantial amount goes to the University of Houston main campus," Wilburn said. "We are very fortunate that UH is supporting the show with many volunteers and the show gives back to the school."

For a small donation, each guest received six tasting bowls and were free to roam through Traders Village to enjoy the vast varieties of chili and beans. Seconds were allowed, but not at all necessary.

"Last year we won first place in People's

Choice and second place in Hospitality," said Troy Davenport, volunteer for the Camo Cookers. "This year we hope to take it all."

Along with tasting bowls, guests were given a red ticket they could give to the team they felt had the best chili. The team with the most tickets wins People's Choice, but a panel of judges decided who would receive the other awards.

Randy Trahan, a cook for the Transportation Committee, poured his secret ingredient into his 20-gallon pot of simmering chili – nine bottles of Zinfandel wine. He won second place for best chili.

The winners were not offered cash prizes, but they did receive glass trophies in the shape of the Houston Rodeo logo.

"It doesn't really matter who wins," said Tai Molano, volunteer for the Camo Cookers. "It's about getting the community involved with Traders Village and with the Rodeo."

Wilburn is proud of the community that formed from the chili cook-off, and she hopes to expand its outreach next year.

"Next spring for the first time ever we are going to do a chili cook-off on the UH main campus with Frontier Fiesta, which will be the last weekend in March," Wilburn said.

Traders Village Marketplace holds events throughout the year for anyone to enjoy. Located at 7979 North Eldridge Rd. in northwest Houston, it is the largest open-air market in the Gulf Coast region. For more information, call 281-890-5500.



Chris Curry: The Signal

ABOVE: Brad Walling, head cook for The Overachievers, wears his feelings about this year's cook-off on his apron.

LEFT: (From left) Bob Burnham, Stacey Tryer, Gary Broomes, Ruben Flores, Willie Villanueva, Brad Webb and Doyle Campbell of the Cabo Cookers show off their awards from past Houston Championship Chilli Cook-off competitions.

BOTTOM: Pirates of the Grill and Beans cook Delbert Joyne dips into his pot of chili for a sample tasting.



Chris Curry: The Signal



Lesli Cokley: The Signal



Chris Curry: The Signal

SANTA'S SLEIGH STOPS BY THE SEASHORE

Lesli Cokley
The Signal Staff

The Historic Downtown Strand Seaport Partnership held its 3rd annual Santa by the Sea Nov. 28 from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Santa Claus's sleigh touched down in Galveston to help bring

in the holiday season and to wish a very Merry Christmas to all the boys and girls in the area, who, he said, have been "very, very good this year."

This year Santa Claus heard requests for everything from toys to puppy dogs to a pet mouse.

"I want a puppy," said Hunter Peck, 4, who plans to name his puppy Penelope. Hunter, an outgoing youngster, was the very first one out of his group to sit on Santa's lap and announce to Santa what he wanted for Christmas. He also said he had been "very, very good this year."

"I want an Erector set," said Garret Terpstra, 8.

He enjoys using the metal beams, screws, nuts and bolts to build "cool new designs" like Ferris wheels, cranes and skyscrapers.

Santa was interested in hearing all the children's requests. In fact he

had a special request himself: "please do not rush me with each kid," Santa said.

He wanted enough time to allow all the children to tell him what they have been waiting to tell him all year.

"I'm really happy for kids to get a good education and do good in school and I'm very proud of all the girls and boys," Santa Claus said. "If you do good in school and are good at home you are more likely to get all the presents you want, so that's why it's so important to mind your p's and q's during the year."

The Nesquik Bunny, known as Chip, from the Nestle Toll House Café in downtown Galveston, was also on hand to add some holiday cheer for the children. Chip had coupons for the kids to stop by after visiting with Santa to get a free treat at the Nestle Toll House Café.

"This is a very good event for families to come out and see Santa for free and take their own pictures, and they don't have to pay for them," said Lesley Sommer, executive director of the Partnership. "We have had a surprisingly good turn out this year."

After Santa by the Sea, Santa traveled to Saengerfest

Park for the official downtown tree lighting, which took place at 7 p.m. at 23rd Street on The Strand. If you missed Santa by the Sea this year, the Partnership holds this event every year. For more information, visit www.downtowngalveston.org.

The Partnership is a non profit corporation that was established in 1984 to help restore the economic vitality and physical attractiveness of historic downtown Galveston, also referred to as the central business district.

This 70-plus square block district's boundaries are 19th Street

(eastern), 26th Street (western), Broadway (southern) and the waterfront (northern, Piers 19-25).

The Partnership has helped to improve the district's appearance by sponsoring cleaning initiatives and promoting the benefits of affirmative building and site maintenance. As most of the historic buildings in the district are now restored and occupied, the Partnership's emphasis has shifted toward the promotion of downtown business, i.e., staging events to draw more tourists and residents into the district.



Lesli Cokley: The Signal

Santa at Galveston's Santa by the Sea.



Lesli Cokley: The Signal

The Briggs, Stewart and Peck families visit with Santa at Santa by the Sea.

CHRISTMAS MAGIC AT SAN JACINTO COLLEGE



Daniel Benitez: The Signal

Chris Warren, Santa; Kayleigh Crockford, Mrs. Clause; and Nate Perez rehearsing for Santa's Christmas Magic playing at San Jacinto College through Dec. 15.

Daniel Benitez
The Signal Staff

Santa Claus is coming to San Jacinto College-Central Campus and is bringing all his toys and elves. San Jacinto College Theatre and Film department is having rehearsals for their 12th annual Christmas Musical. The musical features popular songs that we know by heart such as: *Jingle Bells*, *Mr. Grinch*, and *Frosty the Snow Man*.

Each year a new cast participates in the musical.

"This is an original script that came from an improv in one of our classes where the improv topic was Santa Claus versus the Grinch as an idea for the show," said Jerry Ivins, director of theatre and film. "We change the script periodically from year to year. We have different talents that come in and can do different impersonations, we add songs and take away songs and change things a little bit."

The concept of this show is "to offer a new tradition like the Nutcracker but with a little twist, unlike other communities and organizations in Clear Lake and downtown Houston that do the same Christmas show every year," Ivins said.

The play consists of 80 cast members who include: Santa Claus, The Grinch, (The play's version of Dr. Seuss' Grinch), elves, toys and a children's choir. This musical is very high-energy and has a lot of chase scenes. The cast members are all members of the local community, including area schools and students from San Jacinto-Central Campus Theatre and Film program.

"We love to work with the local community because we can use this as a recruitment effort for future San Jacinto College students," said Jay Thomas, co-director. "Our students do not only work with other students but sometimes work with other members that can help further along their career."

A special performance is scheduled for Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. for local-area day care and elementary schools. Opening night for the general public is Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The play will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday for two weeks. On Sundays, the showtime is at 2:30 p.m.

Intermission remains an interesting part of this musical because the audience can come up to the stage and sit on Santa's lap.

Student Entitlement Survey: How has technology changed student-teacher interactions

Selection of survey results (answers compiled from written responses).

1. How formal do you tend to be when sending
e-mail to a professor?

- 46% *Formal correspondence*
- 42% *Semi-formal correspondence*
- 12% *Informal correspondence*
- 0% *Same as text messaging*

2. Students should be allowed to use computers
during class times to:

- 72% *Take notes during lecture*
- 13% *Check e-mails*
- 9% *Surf the Internet*
- 6% *None of the above*

3. How much should attendance count in a class
that meets face-to-face?

- 17% *None*
- 36% *Ten percent*
- 17% *Twenty percent*
- 30% *Up to fifty percent*

4. Which answer best reflects your attitude toward
earning a college degree?

- 14% *College is supposed to be hard, otherwise
 anyone could do it*
- 62% *Passing a college course should be an assurance
 that a student has accomplished a certain level
 of academic achievement in that subject*
- 1% *I've paid my money and
 attended the classes, therefore, I'm entitled to
 a college degree*
- 23% *If you attend all the classes, do all the home
 work, and apply yourself in calss, you should
 receive a passing grade for that course*

The full results of the survey are posted on The
Signal Web site www.uhclthesignal.com.

Technology survey: continued from page 1

over half of the replies — expect an answer within
24 hours of the first contact with said professor.

“We have become a society that seeks more
information in a quicker timeframe than in years
past,” said Anthony Jenkins, dean of students at
UHCL. “We operate under the assumption that once
we send an e-mail that the recipient is sitting idly by
waiting to receive it with nothing else to do; thus, we
have come to expect an instant reply. In my opinion
that is unreasonable.”

Online availability of course material

Before the advent of technology in the
classroom, professors gave students a handout of
their syllabi on the first day of class. It was the
students’ responsibility to follow and keep up with
the pace of the course as outlined in the syllabus.

This, however, is not the mentality for today’s
students.

More than two-thirds of the survey participants
agree that the syllabus, handouts and notes of a
class should be accessible through an online source,
provided by the teacher.

The majority of students want to see an end to
the days where they are frantically writing in spiral-
bound notebooks, burning through multiple pens and
trying to keep up with a professor who is speaking
so fast they could rival the best auction caller in the
world.

Now, students prefer the availability of printing
the class notes ahead of time and merely, if at all,
making personal notes in the margins of their printed
pages of prepackaged postulations.

In this day, the ability exists to download a pre-
recorded version of a professor’s lecture, erasing the
need to show up on campus even for face-to-face
lectures.

As a result, many students see classroom
attendance becoming less and less necessary with
the arrival of class notes, homework and other class
materials online. The belief that students should

come to class a majority of the time is currently in
flux.

Thirty-eight percent of online survey participants
and 36 percent of written participants concur that
attendance should only count for 10 percent of a
course grade. Competing with that statistic is, in a
close second, the belief that it should count for more
than 50 percent of the grade.

It seems that current students are torn between
those who feel that there is a need to be present in a
classroom and those who feel that students should
simply do the work — and there is definitely a
difference between the two. There is less conflict,
however, in students’ belief that faculty should be
required to keep up with modern technology and
incorporate it in their classrooms.

“Students are now demanding that faculty
members face the realities of the ever-increasing
technically savvy student: utilize technology the
university has invested in for students of which
the students are already paying for,” said Steven
Steiner, vice president of the Student Government
Association at UHCL.

Student entitlement

Despite differing opinions on the way
information is disseminated, there is still strong
belief in the academic system and the precepts that
college degrees require hard work and effort.

Seventy-six percent of written survey
participants believe that either college is supposed to
be hard and/or passing a college course should be an
assurance that a student has accomplished a certain
level of academic achievement in that subject.
Twenty-three percent believe that if significant effort
is presented in a college class, a passing grade is
warranted. The remaining 1 percent insist that the
payment of college tuition and fees entitle students
to an automatic degree.

New homebuyers: continued from page 1

married. The new act extends the
eligibility to \$125,000 for those
filing single and up to \$225,000
for those filing as married. The
new act also includes a cost
limitation on a purchased home of
\$800,000. A homebuyer wishing
to purchase a home exceeding the
limiting cost will not qualify for

the tax credit.

This new act also affects those
who already own a home but are
looking to upgrade. In order to
qualify for the “move-up” of up
to \$6,500 you must have owned
and used the same house as your
primary residence for five of the
eight years prior to purchasing the

home.

The Homeownership, and
Business Assistance Act of
2009 is a “great opportunity for
people that have been waiting to
purchase a home to do so,” said
Lea Crusberg, IRS spokesperson.

New regents: continued from page 1

increasingly competitive, ensuring that Texans have
the opportunity to pursue a quality higher education
is essential to the future of our state,” Perry said.
“The University of Houston System is a fast-
growing higher education system in our state, and I
am confident that these three individuals will provide
important insights and strong leadership to help
guide it into the future.”

Nandita V. Berry of Houston is currently senior
counsel at Locke, Lord, Bissell and Liddell LLP.
She was the former in-house counsel for El Paso
Corporation where she practiced corporate and
securities law. Berry is a member of the American,
State and Houston Bar associations and the Houston
Zoo Inc. board of directors. Born in Hyderabad,
India, Berry has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mt.
Carmel College, in Bangalore, India. In 1991, Berry
graduated from the University of Houston with a
B.A. and received her Juris Doctorate in 1995 from
the University of Houston Law Center.

Tilman J. Fertitta of Houston is chairman,
president, CEO and controlling shareholder of
Landry’s Restaurants, Inc. He also is the president
of Fertitta Hospitality, LLC, a hotel, development
and entertainment company that operates several
hotels and conference centers. Fertitta currently
serves as chairman to both the Houston Children’s
Charity and the Houston Police Foundation. He is on
the executive committee of the Houston Livestock
Show and Rodeo. Fertitta also serves on numerous
boards including: Texas Heart Institute, Museum
of Fine Arts, Houston, Sam Houston Area Council-
Boy Scouts of America, Central Houston, Inc. and
the Greater Houston Partnership. In 2004, Fertitta
was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame.
Fertitta attended Texas Tech University and the
University of Houston, where he studied business

administration and hospitality management.

Jarvis V. Hollingsworth of Sugar Land
is a partner at Bracewell and Giuliani LLP.
Hollingsworth is a member of the American and
Houston Bar associations, member and former
director of the State Bar of Texas, and treasurer of
the Houston Bar Foundation. He was the former
chairman of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas
Pension Fund Board of Trustees and former director
of the University of Houston Alumni Association.

Hollingsworth has earned numerous awards
throughout his career. In 2007 and 2008 he was
named a Texas Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly
magazine, putting him in the top 5 percent of all
attorneys in the state of Texas. He is a member of
New York’s Wall Street Hall of Fame, and has also
received honors from the State Bar of Texas, The
Texas Lawyer, the Houston Bar Association and
was the recipient of the University of Houston Law
Alumni Association’s Private Sector Achievement
Award in 2006. Hollingsworth received his Bachelor
of Science degree from the United States Military
Academy at West Point and his Juris Doctorate from
the University of Houston.

Earlier this year, University of Houston-Victoria
graduate Kristen Lindley was appointed as the new
student regent. She will serve as a member of the
Academic and Student Success Committee and
the Facilities, Construction and Master Planning
Committee for her one-year term that expires May
31, 2010. Lindley is the first graduate from UHV to
be named to the board and is currently enrolled in
UHV’s M.B.A. program.

Transfer credits: continued from page 1

students,” said Yvette Bendeck, associate vice president of enrollment.

The application allows students to search how lower- and upper-
level credits from other community colleges or universities will be
accepted toward their transfer. The Online Transfer Credit Guide is in
conjunction with the 2+2 transfer plan and gives students a suitable feel
for what credibly applies to a specific major. Transfer plans are utilized
to guide perspective students in choosing recommended coursework at
their current college and assist them in transferring to UHCL.

Junior- and senior-level
credits earned seven years
or more prior to transfer to
UHCL may not be accepted
automatically by the
school. Therefore, specific
requests can be made to the
appropriate associate dean
for the course to be accepted
for transfer. Freshman-
and sophomore-level core
curriculum courses are not
subject to the seven-year
rule.

“Any student that is
interested in UHCL doesn’t really have to come up to campus,”
Sreerama said. “A lot of students are hesitant to come and go through
the process of giving transcripts to an adviser. Instead, they can sit in
front of the computer in their own house and log onto the UHCL Web
site. I think that is pretty useful.”

The University Computing and Telecommunications’ application
development team partnered with the Office of Admissions to develop
the Transfer Credit Guide.

“Each university establishes their own course equivalencies, so the
tool is not intended to be used as a transfer-out tool,” Bendeck said.
“In these instances, a student would need to contact the respective
institution of interest to ask how UHCL courses will transfer to their
institute.”

UHCL’s Transfer Credit Guide is available at www.uhcl.edu/tcg.


**“It helps
[students] make
an instantaneous
educational
judgment.”**

- Sai Sreerama
Associate director of
University Computing and
Telecommunications

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WORLD AIDS DAY ART CONTEST



LEFT TO RIGHT: Participating artists Leo Chan, with Aiyanna Larson, Kristina Jantz, Tommie Sanders, Maricela and Madeline Lopez, and Gregory Griffith receive a certificate of appreciation.

The office of Intercultural and International Student Services held an art contest in recognition of World AIDS Day. The competition was open to anyone, but was limited to 20 contestants. The purpose of the contest was to bring attention to the struggles the disease continues to inflict worldwide. Winners were announced Nov. 30. Prizes were awarded to first, second and third place winners. The art exhibit will be on display through Dec. 22 in Atrium II, Level II.



Gregory Griffith, art major, placed first in the World AIDS Day Art Contest.

Faculty unveil artistic talents

The Art Gallery at the University of Houston-Clear Lake is currently hosting an exhibition of faculty artwork from different community colleges in the Houston area. The current exhibition is the 5th in the series and showcases artwork by faculty from the Northwest and Southeast campuses of Houston Community Colleges.

The exhibit features artwork created from a wide variety of materials such as: oil on canvas, sculpture and mixed media montage.

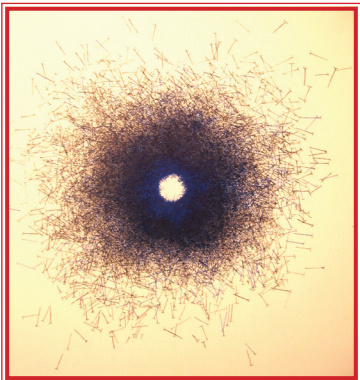
Faculty who participated in the exhibition include: Anthony Thompson-Shumate, John Adelman, Judy Chambers, Micheal Cherry, Thomas Clark, Michael Gonzales, Debbie Pesha Green, Robert Holsch, Karen Hunter, Stanely Kaminski, Melanie Loew, Daryl McCracken, David Swain, June Woest and Iskra Ivonova.

To see this exhibit visit the UHCL Art Gallery located in the Bayou Building across from the police department from now through Jan. 7.



Vivian Volirakis: The Signal

FROM LEFT: Faculty artists Michael Gonzales, Michael J. Cherry, Iskra Ivanova, June Woest, Debbie Pesha Green, John Adelman and Judith Chambers.



'16,425' by John Adelman, gel ink on wood panel.



'Bubi's Mahjong and Tea' by Debbie Pesha Green, mixed media assemblage.

Campus Calendar

Nov. 13 - Jan. 15
Spring open registration

Now - Dec. 15
Art Exhibition – Juergen Strunck
Bayou Building, Atrium I, Level 2
For more information, call 281-283-3446

Now - Jan. 2
Faculty Art Exhibition II
11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Art Gallery, Atrium I, Bayou Building

Now - Jan. 11
French/American Friendship Project
For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/fl

Dec. 1 - 22
World AIDS Day art exhibit Atrium II, Level II

Now - Jan. 11
Foreign Language Program registration
For more information visit www.uhcl.edu/fl

Dec. 12
The Power of Creative Thinking
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Arbor Building, Room A176

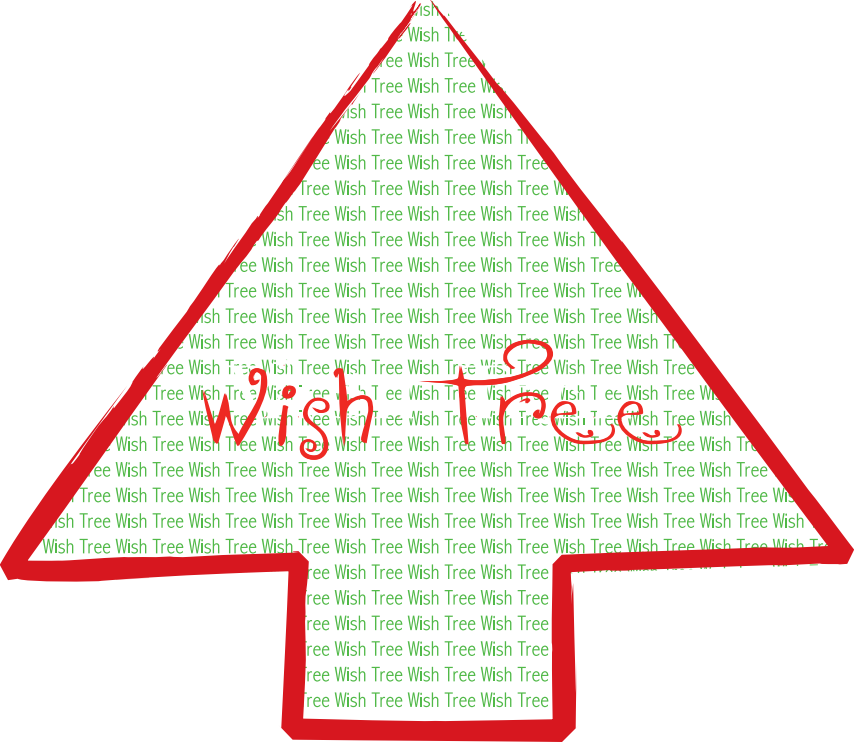
Dec. 18
Commencement Kick-off Celebration
5:30 – 7 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I

Dec. 19
Commencement
10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Reliant Arena One Reliant Park

Dec. 24 – Jan. 1
Winter holidays

Jan. 15, by noon
Payment deadline for Spring 2010

Jan. 19
First class day for Spring 2010



For the past 12 years, the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services has teamed up with the Salvation Army to provide Christmas gifts to children and senior citizens throughout the greater Houston area. Names of children and senior citizens are chosen from the Wish Tree and presents and wrapping supplies are bought for those individuals based off their wish lists.

The program, which ran Nov. 9 through Dec. 2, is carried out each year in an effort to get students, staff and faculty to join together to help those who need assistance to enjoy the holiday season and may not have the resources to do so otherwise. To find out more about the Wish Tree program, call IISS at 281-283-2575 or e-mail IISS@uhcl.edu.



Caroline Fry: The Signal

The Wish Tree located in IISS office inside the UHCL Student Services Building.