



Art Exhibit - College of the Mainland PAGE 6



Lunar New Year Festival PAGE 7



John Gorman Spoofs James Bond Film & Speaker Series PAGE 4

Plans continue for downward expansion

Brenda Cabaniss
The Signal Staff

school.

Currently, there is no set date for the expansion bill to be introduced before the legislature.

The downward expansion plan for the University of Houston-Clear Lake received a boost last December when the University of Houston System Board of Regents authorized UHCL to continue seeking the approval process by taking the matter up with the Texas Legislature.

Now, almost 20 legislative sessions after the school was first established during the 62nd Texas Legislative session in 1971, UHCL once more is going in front of the Texas Legislature, now in its 81st session, hoping to get its approval to obtain planning authority, the third step in becoming a four year

UHCL President William Staples is hoping Rep. John Davis and Sen. Mike Jackson will have an opportunity to review the bill with their respective houses before the session comes to an end May 31.

UHCL's main goal for the expansion is to stimulate students and other area residents to obtain a higher education, not to take away opportunities

from local community colleges. Staples explained that none of the local community colleges have expressed a resistance toward the expansion, mainly because "they [colleges] were not really surprised by the expansion move," since

Expansion: continued on page 10

"Of course, the expansion won't happen overnight," said McInnis. Instead, the expansion plan will take place as "an intelligent, staged approach."

- Dion McInnis
Associate Vice President,
University Advancement

UHCL receives special recognition from Carnegie Foundation

Dianna Shaw
The Signal Staff

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced their findings for the 2008 Community Engagement Classification Dec. 18, 2008. The University of Houston-Clear Lake is among those chosen for this prestigious classification.

"UHCL is a community-minded university and we strive to give our students real-world experiences," said Carl Stockton, senior vice president of academic affairs and provost. "Receiving this classification endorses our accomplishments."

The Carnegie Classification in Community Engagement is a recent addition to the established Carnegie Classification method for U.S. colleges and universities. It is an elective classification that requires institutions to submit applications with extensive credentials. Of the 217 institutions that applied for the classification in 2008, only 119 were given the title.

"This classification is a starting point," said Jennifer Clark, coordinator of student life. "It is now up to us to step-up and do more; to become an on-campus clearinghouse for volunteering and community engagement." Clark also said she hopes that this new classification will act as a catalyst to spark participation in new areas of the university.

Community engagement is a technique where groups of citizens, who are joined by geographic closeness, similar concerns or parallel circumstances can work together mutually tackling problems that distress the well-being of citizens.

"This classification tells the community that we are serious in our efforts to give back to our community," Stockton said. "It is very exciting to receive this honor and now we look forward to expanding our programs further."

Advancing the efforts of the UHCL Student Services, Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement (SLICE) helps to develop students into community leaders.

"UHCL has been a partnership-oriented institution that is responsive to the needs of its community," said Mrinal Mugdh, associate vice

Carnegie Foundation: continued on page 10

Student wins design contest

see



Space Center Houston's 15th Annual
Space Exploration Educators Conference

Matt Griesmyer

Communication undergrad Matt Griesmyer recently won the SEEC graphic design competition sponsored by Space Center Houston. This competition was open to all UHCL students and alumni.

Griesmyer's logo will be featured all over the upcoming SEEC convention. The logo will also appear on the competition's shirts, badge holders, bags, etc. Griesmyer said he felt "absolutely giddy" when he learned his design had been chosen for the SEEC logo. I had a smile from ear to ear when I walked into sign-in and saw my logo on t-shirts, pens, notebooks, etc. It was surreal," Griesmyer said.

Even though Griesmyer is an undergrad student, he won the competition while in a graduate level graphic design class. His instructor, Stuart Larson, associate professor of visual and applied arts, said that he let Griesmyer take one of his graduate level classes because he "proved his creativity, attention to detail, and true love of graphic design" while in Larson's summer computer imaging class. "I am very proud of his accomplishments."

New program offered this spring

Derek Calhoun
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake and the University of North Texas are the only universities in Texas to offer a Master of Arts in Behavior Analysis now that the graduate program has been implemented at UHCL.

"The Texas Coordinating Board lays out a very clear set of procedures by which a new degree program seeks approval," said Howard Eisner, assistant dean of the School of Human Sciences and Humanities. "At every stage of the approval process, the proposal sailed through with no opposition and minimal need for changes."

Eisner commended Dorothea Lerman, professor of psychology and coordinator of the behavior analysis program, for her hard work in getting the new degree program approved.

"It garnered final approval faster than any other degree proposal that has emerged from HSH in the last decade," Eisner said. "That is largely a reflection of Lerman's efforts. She and the degree program are tremendous assets to UHCL and the surrounding community."

The new program has been in the approval stage for the past year.

"We developed the new program last fall, so it took about a year to get all of the final approvals," said Lerman, who also serves as the director of the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. "We are very pleased to offer this new degree program, which will help fill a tremendous need in Houston."

Job opportunities for students with a degree in behavior analysis have increased over the past few years.

"Demand for graduates with a degree in behavior analysis has been growing both nationally and

locally for many reasons," Lerman said. "For example, a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 6.6 per 1,000 children, or about 1 in 150, 8 years of age have an autism spectrum disorder.

"In Texas, the U.S. Department of Education found that the prevalence of children with autism in our public schools increased by 594 percent from 1992 to 2003. Our

state also passed a law in June 2007 requiring health plans to provide coverage for applied behavior analysis treatment for autistic treatment for autistic children between three and five years of age. These are just a few reasons why this program is so important."

New Program: continued on page 10

"It garnered final approval faster than any other degree proposal that has emerged from HSH in the last decade"

- Howard Eisner
Assistant Dean HSH

Educators Bring Home Classroom Concepts

“Do your duty and a little more and the future will take care of itself.” -Andrew Carnegie

The purpose of educators can be defined simply as to educate, meaning that information and facts are transferred straight from textbooks to the minds of students. However, it is well known that the impact that educators have on our lives is much more than that.

It takes determination to share knowledge with patience and without discrimination. This determination is something that educators must possess as they set the stage to educate others.

Recently, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation bestowed the University of Houston-Clear Lake with its Community Engagement Classification. UHCL was recognized because of its various programs in place that get students to take their education outside of the classroom and into the community. Ultimately, this enhances a student’s learning experience and encourages further community involvement in their future lives.

Often times, educators teach more than just the subject of their course. In teaching

others, educators have had the chance to take their own real-life lessons and tie them into their lessons. If teachers draw upon this life experience, they are able to handle situations that might arise in the classroom

in which they are inadvertently able to teach something that may not have been intentional, but is more valuable than a traditional lecture.

Teachers who possess a strong sense of community responsibility have the ability to not only teach students what is in their textbooks, but how it directly relates to their everyday lives in collaboration with their surrounding residential area.

Professors who are engaged in their community can use the resources they have around them to

better get through to students with the use of information acquired and practiced locally.

Educators who are able to bring this sense of community into the classroom have performed one of the greatest tasks of all, which is to make students feel like what they have learned will never go to waste when it can be applied to everyday life.

But more than that, it allows students to become educators in their own light. Teaching community engagement in the classroom has a trickle-down effect as students learn by example.

“It takes determination to share knowledge with patience and without discrimination.”

- The Signal Staff



Rami Schindler:The Signal

CrossSignals

The Signal staff invites students, faculty and staff to visit our new blog via our Twitter site at www.twitter.com/uhclthesignal to voice your comments and opinions about anything involving UHCL campus life.

The editors will follow the blog dialogues closely as a way to track topics of importance for possible inclusion in the student newspaper.

We may even pull blog entries to post in our Cross Signals section of The Signal to emphasize these threads of conversation. The newspaper has always been a forum for student voices on campus. This new blog offers a more convenient way for students to find that voice.

We are now on



To Do List

- ☒ Sign up
- ☐ Log In
- ☐ Find “uhclthesignal”
- ☐ Become a follower
- ☐ Leave a comment

www.twitter.com/uhclthesignal

THE SIGNAL STAFF

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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.

Address letters to:
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Reach the staff:
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Fax: 281-283-2569
E-mail: thesignal@uhcl.edu

**Ad Manager/
Production Asst.** Lindsay Humphrey
Faculty Adviser Taleen Washington

What else could possibly go wrong today?

Monday, Feb. 2, and the month has already kicked off to a bad start. It is 7:45 a.m., I have 15 minutes until I have to open the store for work and both computers are down.



Tina Di Vora
The Signal

You know it is going to be a long day when technology has already turned on you before your morning caffeine drink. I stare at the twirling box on our shipping program at work waiting for the program to begin. It is five minutes until I have to open the store and there is no luck in site.

The technological innovations are supposed to make our lives easier, more streamlined and efficient so we can accomplish more in our day.

The little box is still twirling on

the shipping program and it is now 10 minutes after 8 a.m. The store is open and customers are coming through the door.

Just to give you a brief description of our shipping program, it does everything. It calculates cost, inputs the “To” and “From” addresses, creates address books for our customers and generates the labels for shipping.

I have a line to the door and the system is still down.

It is now 9 a.m. and we have managed to figure out a way to process our customers’ packages without saying, “forget it,” and closing the doors. The only delay is that instead of taking three to five minutes to help a customer, now it is taking about 10 to 15 minutes.

Customers are huffing and becoming agitated. They are making comments: “How long will it be down?” “Have you tried rebooting the system?” “All my information was in the computer; I don’t know the address.”

I listen to the customers make comments and suggestions all morning, as if we have not tried to go through those

channels already, as if we wanted to cause chaos first thing in the morning.

It is now 1 p.m. and our computers are still down.

My cell phone just went on the fritz.

You never know how much you depend on your cell phone till you have either broken or lost it.

Looking back, less than 10 years ago the only thing you could do on a cell phone was make and receive phone calls.

Today, we rely heavily on our cell phones for so much more than calling. Not only can we make calls anywhere at any time, we can e-mail files, take and send pictures, set our appointment calendars, download our favorite songs and movie clips, and search the Internet.

My cell phone is my lifeline to family, friends, boyfriend and work. I have been at work for about eight hours now and have received only eight text messages compared to the average of 30 or more that I generally get throughout the day.

I feel completely disconnected from the world. Text messaging is such a good and easy way to stay in contact with the

world without it interfering with work.

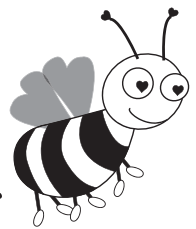
It is now 4 p.m. Our computer system is still not working and my cell phone is only letting me send one text message per hour. My blood pressure is high; I have a migraine coming on, and I still have two more hours.

Isn’t technology grand?!

“You know it is going to be a long day when technology has already turned on you before your morning caffeine drink.”


Tina Di Vora
The Signal Reporter

The Signal Staff wishes you a very Happy Valentine's Day!!




“Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it”
—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

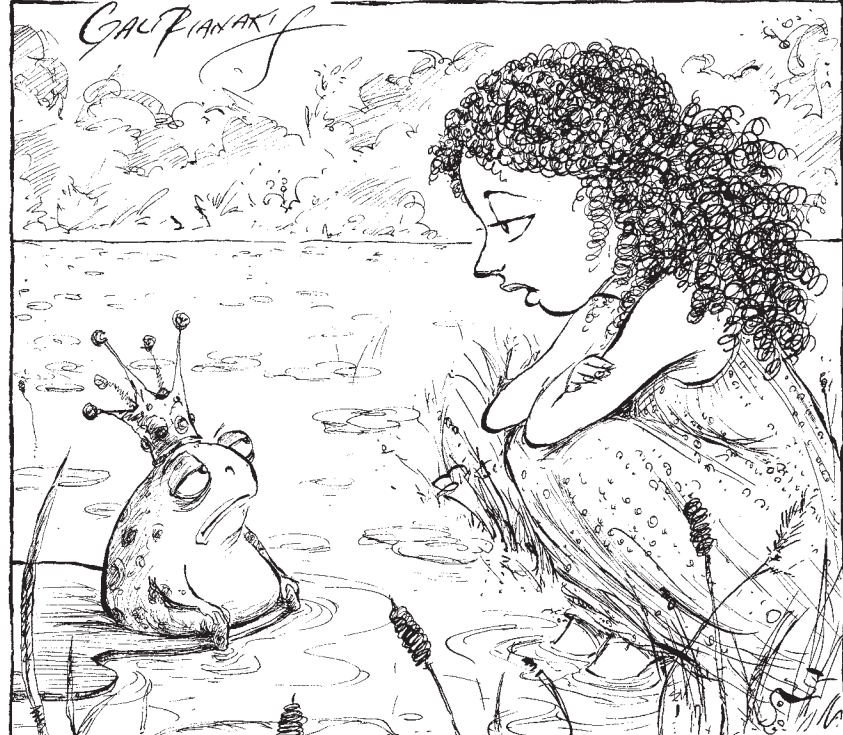
February is also a celebration of Black History Month!



GALIFIANAKIS



GALIFIANAKIS



GALIFIANAKIS

I MEAN, SHE WON! WE'RE A COUPLE NOW. YET SHE STILL EXPECTS ME TO TAKE HER OUT AND STUFF.

OK THEN. BUT WHAT DO YOU TURN INTO AFTER THE WEDDING?

Film and Speaker series continues at UHCL

Lucia Y. Rodriguez
The Signal Staff

Inexpensive, and even some free, award-winning movies are now showing at University of Houston-Clear Lake.

See Mickey Rourke in his swashbuckling comeback role as “The Wrestler,” “Quantum Solace” with the always suave James Bond, and “Milk” with Sean Penn in his stellar performance as the slain gay politician Harvey Milk. These are just a few of the movies brought to students by the Film and Speaker Series this spring semester.

Each movie has an added benefit; a distinguished speaker with expertise about the film’s content and background will discuss the movie in an interactive forum with moviegoers.

“Most people come to hear the speaker; the open dialogue the speaker has with the audience adds dimension to the overall experience for the moviegoer,” said Sonia Hernandez, cultural arts assistant.

Dean of Students Anthony Jenkins was the distinguished speaker at the recently featured docudrama “The Great Debaters.”

“I feel it was important to have the audience interact with me and one another,” Jenkins said. “I wanted to get everyone thinking not only about the film, but its significance as to how we approach life’s issues today.”

The “Great Debaters” is based on actual events that took place in Texas in 1935 at the esteemed predominantly black Wiley College in Marshall. Professor Marvin Tolson guides his almost undefeated student debate team to nationals to compete with the prestigious Harvard debate team. The realistic depiction of racial discourse is very poignant within the movie, which makes the success of the Wiley College debate team that much more exceptional. In addition, the docudrama highlights Wiley College as an academic powerhouse with high-caliber faculty and students, which in essence sets the standard for future black educators and students alike.

“As a first-generation student who attended two nationally ranked historically black universities, I appreciate and value HBCU – Historically Black Colleges Universities – and the opportunities they give to many under-represented students,” Jenkins said. “You can see in

the movie how the culture of the university, and its expectation, helps shape the students. The culture of the university demanded the highest level of integrity and respect of its students. That was true then and remains consistent. I would not be where I am today if not for my undergraduate university and the dedicated faculty who refused to let me settle.”

James Bond fans will not want to miss the distinguished speaker for “Quantum Solace.” None other than “00.75 The Quintessential Sleuth of Academia,” alias Professor of Literature John Gorman, will speak about all things spy-related Feb.21 – and he will be looking dapper in his master spy attire while doing so.

Political novices will enjoy the distinguished speaker for “Frost/ Nixon,” Professor of History Adam Hodges, who will share his wealth of expertise March 14 about the Nixon Era. The “Frost/ Nixon” movie promises to be both informative and entertaining.

Other featured movies include “Milk,” the true story of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in the U.S. Sean Penn is an Academy Award nominee for his role as Milk. “The Wrestler,” starring Mickey Rourke as a down-and-out wrestler, is also an Academy Award nominee.

The admission for non-students is \$3.75. A season pass is also available for \$20.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at the office of Student Life, room SSB1.204. All movies will be showing in the Student and Classroom Services Building Lecture Hall, room 1.100.

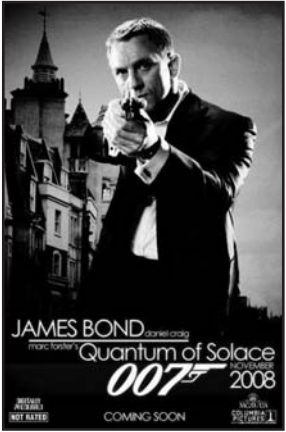
Students will be offered free admission to three of the movies: “Quantum Solace” with Daniel Craig as James Bond, “Frost/ Nixon,” which is based on the historical post-Watergate interview with TV personality David Frost and former President Richard Nixon, and “Valkyrie,” the docudrama about a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler during World War II starring Tom Cruise. A valid UHCL student ID is required to see the three free movies.



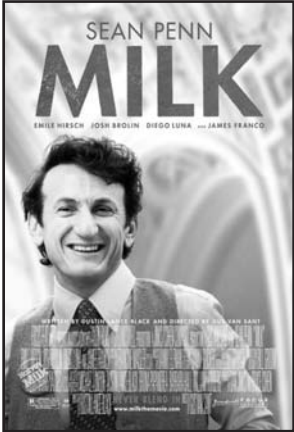
Professor of Literature John Gorman, aka “00.75 The Quintessential Sleuth of Academia.”

Show Times

Quantum of Solace
Saturday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m.



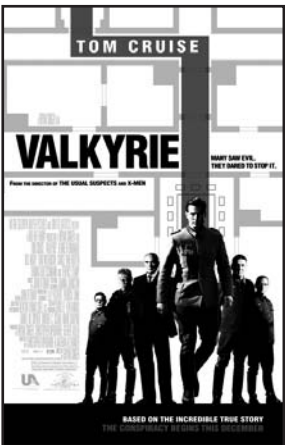
Milk
Saturday, Mar. 7, 7 p.m.



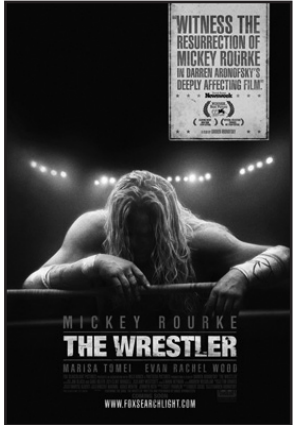
Frost/Nixon
Saturday, Mar. 14, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Mar. 15, 3 p.m.



Valkyrie
Saturday, April 18, 7 p.m.



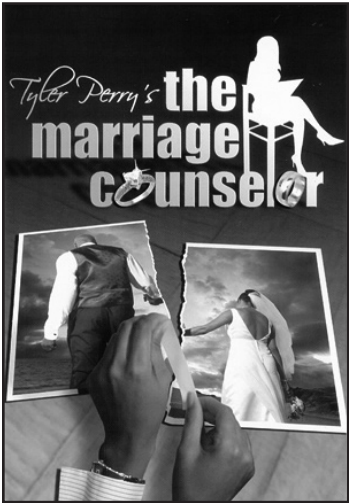
The Wrestler
Saturday, April 25, 7 p.m.



UPCOMING EVENTS



BODY WORLDS 2
The Houston Museum of Natural Science
Through Feb. 22, 2009
HMNS will be open around the clock during closing weekend, from 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20 through 9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22.
Visit www.hmns.org for more information



Tyler Perry's The Marriage Counselor
Feb. 19 - 22
Verizon Wireless Theatre
Tickets Available at www.LiveNation.com



Shawnie Boudreaux: The Signal

Tattoo artist and author Kat Von D promoted her new book “High Voltage Tattoo” at Houston’s Barnes and Noble on Feb. 3. Although Houston was not originally on her tour list, Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers Having Their Say worked their magic and she sold more books in Houston than in Hollywood or her hometown, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

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

The Center for Student Leadership,
Involvement and Community Engagement
(SLICE)

Live Speaker PROGRAMS



Les Brown:

*Discover Your
Power Voice
To Unleash Your Success
and Leadership Ability*

Best-selling author of *Live Your Dreams* and *It's Not Over Until You Win*, morning radio dj, CEO, community activist teaches how to:

- ✓ Discover how to positively influence others
- ✓ Aim for the mind and capture the heart
- ✓ Find possibilities in the impossible

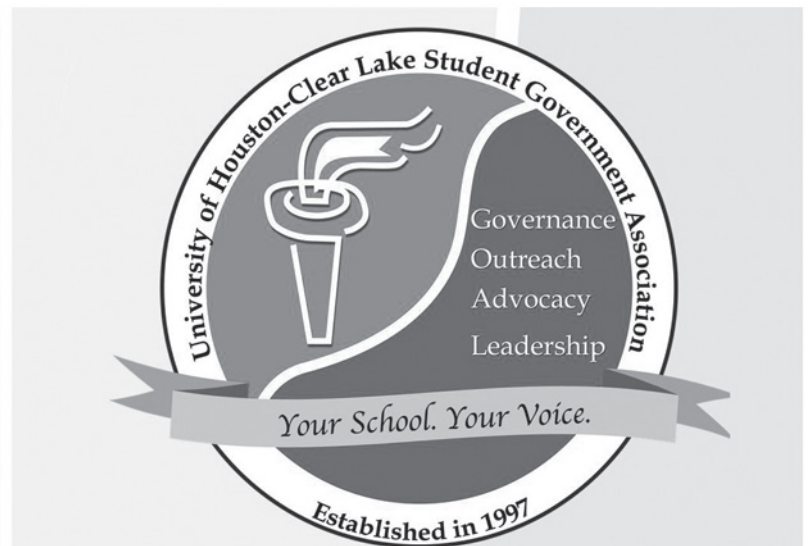
Live Broadcast: Tuesday, Feb. 24
6pm – 7pm, SSCB Lecture Hall, 1100)
Encore DVD Presentation: Weds., March 11
(12pm – 1:30pm, SSCB 1.202.07)

These are part of a series of presentations by The National Society of Leadership and Success. If you are a pending member of the Society, attendance at these programs counts towards your membership requirements. (For more information about how to become a member, email Coordinator of SLICE – Jenn Clark at clarkjen@uhcl.edu.)

These programs are FREE to attend and are open to EVERYONE.

SGA Executive Council Elections

Application DEADLINE 05 March 2009



Interested in leadership?
Executive Council applications are now available.

Attend the Student Government Association meetings
every Tuesday at 11.30am at SSCB Lecture Hall
1.100.03.

Be an active member !
Apply Now

For Details 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
SGA@uhcl.edu

281-283-2556
www.uhcl.edu/SGA

ELECTIONS Tuesday 28 March 2009

Mercury Baroque Ensemble presents

Birds, Bees & Brandenburg

Sunday, February 15
2 p.m., Bayou Theater

Call 281.283.2560 for tickets & info





Adolfo P. Gonzalez: The Signal

Adolfo P. Gonzalez
The Signal Staff

Houston painter Howard Sherman was the guest artist at the opening for College of the Mainland’s Drawn to Painting art exhibit. Just looking at one of his large-scale canvasses makes you stare in astonishment while appreciating his unique use of paint.

The tradition of action painting began in the 1950s. It is sometimes called “gestural abstraction,” a style of painting in which paint is spontaneously trickled, smeared or splashed onto the canvas instead of being carefully applied. The canvas or surface becomes a space in which the artist acts rather than just present an image. This exhibit is a group show of five Texas painters, including Jeff Yerger, Arthur Turner, Gail Stack, Gary Parker and Howard Sherman, whose work is based in the tradition of abstract expressionism.

To start off the exhibition, Sherman displayed most of his collection from a laptop hooked to a overhead projector in a small art studio with a little over a dozen people sitting very close to one another. The reason for this was that most of his paintings are about 9 feet tall, and to fit all of his paintings in the gallery would have required many rooms.

Sherman described each and every one of his



Adolfo P. Gonzalez: The Signal

Top: “The Healthy Skeptic” is one of Howard Sherman’s paintings on display now at College of the Mainland Fine Arts Gallery.

Left: Houston painter Howard Sherman talking about his art piece “Republican Bowtie.”

drawings enthusiastically, including what was going through his mind while he painted, while answering questions from the crowd.

“I am very interested in creating depth on the surfaces of my paintings,” Sherman said about the majority of his creations. Once his art is seen up close, instead of on a computer screen, you can really see a great difference.

A reception followed the visual presentation in the gallery room where Sherman had two of his enormous paintings on display.

The first of his two paintings was called “The Healthy Skeptic,” which was inspired by a book on Judaism and spirituality. The artwork was a feast for the eyes with its bright yellows, pinks and whites. It resembled graffiti on the side of a building, but it was amazing.

The second painting was called “Republican Bowtie.” Sherman said his inspiration for the name of this painting came from an episode of “Curb Your Enthusiasm.” Although rich in bright colors like the first, it had a darker undertone.

Sherman took a few minutes to explain some of his views and the concepts behind his two paintings on display. He explained that he sometimes works on four paintings at once and that he never starts a painting with

Drawn to Art REVIEW

a preconceived notion. His work is mostly spontaneous.

Sherman’s best advice for aspiring artists was, “Go look at art, go make art.” Sherman also encouraged the crowd to take advantage of available resources in and around Houston, which he believes has some of the best resources for inspiration.

“Untitled,” by Jeff Yerger was displayed both at the gallery and the invitation flier. The painting was full of rich turquoise and yellow colors on lavender background along with what looks like white tree branches emerging from the middle, like the tentacles of a squid. It has the feel of a dessert sunset. There were a couple more paintings by artists like Arthur Turner and Gail Stack.

“Swallowtail,” by Gary Parker, reminded me of an old Spanish church in the desert. One of the ladies at the exhibit said, “I love the painting, I just wish I could make out the phrase carved into it.” Upon further inspection, it was found that the phrase said, “Today I hit another damn swallowtail with my rock.”

The Drawn to Painting exhibit runs from Jan. 20 to Feb. 16, 2009, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at College of the Mainland Fine Arts Gallery, 1200 Amburn Road, Texas City, TX 77591. For more information, log on to www.com.edu/gallery or call 409-938-1211.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year

Nancy T. Nguyen
The Signal Staff

Dragon dances, fireworks, and money in red envelopes were part of the festivities that celebrated the Lunar New Year – the year of the Ox.

The festivities took place Jan. 31 at the Hong Kong Food Market located in Bellaire. Many people of different nationalities, young and old, gathered to view the dragon dance entertainment provided by Lee’s Golden Dragon Association. Allen Lee leads this association as the Sifu, which means master. The association is well known in the Asian community, as they have competed against other dance companies in Malaysia and China.

Lee’s dance company traces its beginning from a long history of training. Lee began learning the art of lion dancing in 1966 from Chung Ngai Dance Troupe Company in San Francisco. As a student, he trained for hours to master the dance. He learned a variety of dance styles that included lion dancing and Chinese folk dancing. He also learned Kung Fu and some drumming.

Lee then became a member of the Chung Ngai Dance Troupe in 1974. After finishing college that same year, Lee returned to Houston and brought the lion dancing and the spirit of Chung Ngai Dance with him.

Lee incorporates the dance styles he learned in San Francisco with props, which he brings to each location. The props signify different scenes of nature in which the dragon roams. Lee named his dance company Lee’s Golden Dragon because the dragon is the highest-ranking of the Chinese zodiac, with gold metal. The dragon is considered to be the master for the rest of the Chinese zodiac animals.

“We believe that the power of the Golden Dragon inspires us to perform our best at all times, spreading good luck and joy everywhere we perform,” Lee said.

There are eight principles that the Golden Dragon lives by: loyalty, righteousness, perseverance, courage, wisdom, honesty, harmony and politeness. Lee believes these are good traits everyone can live by.

Teamwork is the key word for any event to run smoothly. There were many members of the association who made up different parts of the entertainment. Some members were drummers while others donned the front and back of the dragons.

“I have been doing this for nine years,” said Bryan Vu, Lee’s Golden Dragon member. “I love it and it is a dedication ... I love to see our Asian communities coming out to celebrate and watch our show.”

The drummers provided a tempo for the dragon’s dance while Buddha

walked around with a fan collecting red envelopes filled with money to feed to the dragon to ensure a year of prosperity, happiness and health.

The Lunar New Year is special for many people in the Asian community because it is a time to celebrate with family and friends.

“I look forward for this holiday every year because it is a time I share my stories and cook lots of dishes for my family,” said spectator Quyen Nguyen. “I go to Hong Kong Food Market for the last six years to lift my spirits and look forward for a wonderful new year.”

The shopping center was crowded and several spectators were very anxious for the festivities to begin. While the crowd continued to cheer, one of the dragons slowly stepped up to a red ladder, which symbolizes a mountain.

The dragon’s goal of catching and eating the cabbage with the red envelope hanging from the top of a prop signifies the people’s goal for the New Year. By catching the cabbage and the red envelope, Asians believe they will have a prosperous new year. This year, it is especially



Nancy T. Nguyen: The Signal



Nancy T. Nguyen: The Signal

Faculty Art : Local Faculty Members Show Off Art Skills

Hayley Shaw
The Signal Staff

Faculty from Houston Community College Central will showcase their art pieces at the University of Houston-Clear Lake art gallery in the Bayou Building until March to help bring attention to professional artists who are also instructors.

Nick de Vries, gallery director and professor of Fine Arts here at UHCL, wanted to give these artists a spotlight for their hard work. He understands their struggle to keep up with course work and, thus, have their own professional artwork take a back seat to their obligations as an instructor.

“In a show like this I can showcase, you know, maybe 12 different artists who are teachers,” de Vries said. “It is hard to be a full-time artist and make enough

money to put it on the table.”

De Vries points out that the exhibit also showcases our school by informing community college students of our courses and degree programs offered through the two-plus-two transfer program, which is where students at HCCC can take up to 18 hours of art classes that transfer into UHCL’s new Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program.

This is the first year that the BFA is being offered at UHCL. Faculty members, including de Vries, have been pushing for this undergraduate degree for some time now and have finally been able to offer it to students. The BFA offers higher credentials in the art field, which expands job opportunities after a student has graduated. The BFA also offers a smoother transition into the graduate level.

“I wanted to showcase these artists and also offer the community colleges the opportunity to know a little bit more about our school,” de Vries said.

Each artist’s work offers a different theme designed to appeal to the community and to UHCL students. Some pieces have a social background while others have a gender or political background.

One piece, exhibited by Joanne Brigham and titled “Thirteen Moons,” features glass flasks shaped liked a female figure; these flasks are filled with red sand in a calendar-like presentation representing the female’s unshakable tie to mother nature.

“Nick promotes the program very well,” said Serge Kovalchuk, HCCC art history and painting professor who has known Nick

for the last 30 years. His piece “Untitled,” which is acrylic and canvas, shows his interpretation of hot springs at a national park. His inspiration for art comes from water or the absence of water.

“There is always a theme, sometimes more than one theme,” said Gladys Bel, HCCC ceramics teacher.

For her, it was memories from her life that inspired many of her art pieces. “Bagatelle,” is one of her pieces in the exhibit on mixed media.

The Houston Community College Central Faculty Art Exhibit runs until March 26.

The next art exhibit will showcase students who are graduating from the UHCL art program. The date for the student art show will be announced later.



Hayley Shaw: The Signal

Top: Faculty artists (from left) Michael Golden, Carol Schwartz, Scott Carothers, Gladys Bel, Perry House and Serge Kovalchuk.



Hayley Shaw: The Signal

Right: Art gallery visitors browse.

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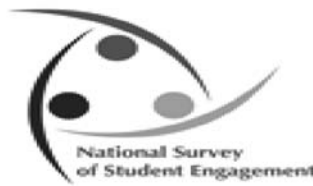
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February 9
2009 Physics Seminar Series,
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February 13
International Students
Symposium, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,
Bayou Atrium I & Garden Room

February 15
Mercury Baroque Ensemble
presents: 'Birds, Bees and
Brandenburg,'
2 p.m., Bayou Theater

International Student Orientation,
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Bayou Atrium I

February 16
2009 Physics Seminar Series,
7 p.m., Bayou 1211

February 17 & 18
Spring 2009 Blood Drive,
1-7 p.m., Bayou Atrium I

February 20
Career Exploration Workshop,
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Location TBA

Last Day to Drop/Withdraw
8-week I Classes

Last Day to Apply for
Spring 2009 Graduation

February 21
'Quantum of Solace'
Film Screening, 3 p.m.,
SSCB Lecture Hall

**Ongoing through
February 12**
Who's Who Among Students
Students check with your student
organization faculty/staff for
nomination deadlines

**Ongoing through
February 27**
Fall 2009/Spring 2010 scholarship
application deadline

Boldly Breaching Uncharted Territory

William Humbird
The Signal Staff

If you wanted to go to a place where everyone knew your name, you went to Cheer's. If you wanted to go somewhere that everyone knew your character's name, you would go to a con.

Con is the slang term for a convention that caters to a variety of different interests from anime to science fiction to gaming.

Cons tend to attract a variety of individuals from the closet World of Warcraft player to the guy in the "Star Wars" storm trooper outfit.

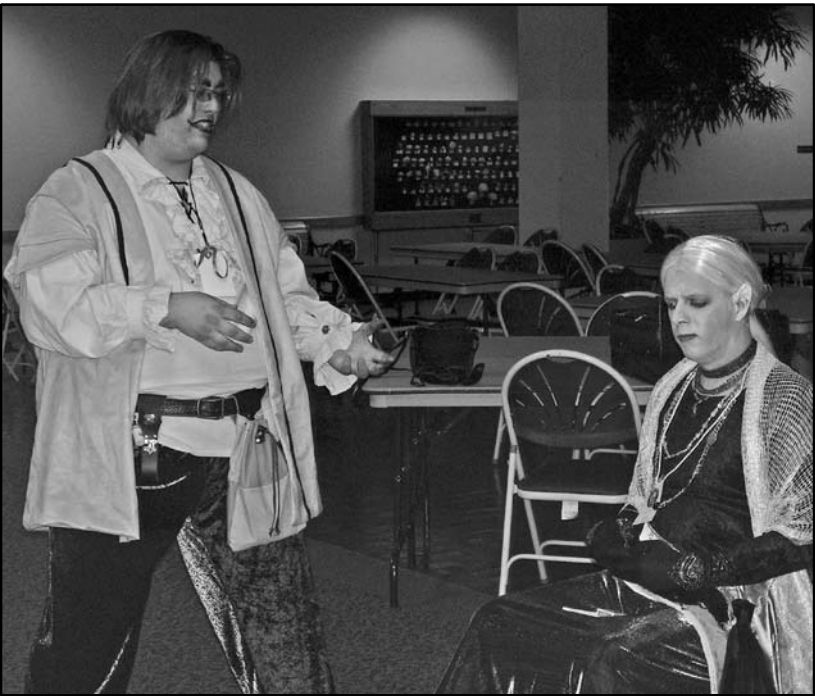
The con world is not one that is easily broken into though as the University of Houston-Clear Lake Gamers' Guild found out when they hosted their first ever Con-Jour Jan. 31 through Feb. 1.

The attendance was lower than the Guild had hoped, only 30 participants. Con-Jour's chairwoman, Deborah Kent, an undergraduate education major and Guild Mistress of the Gamers' Guild, admitted being disappointed by the low turnout, but not surprised.

"Unless something weird happens, a first-year con doesn't make," Kent noted.

The low attendance did little to hamper anyone's mood, something that UHCL Literature Professor John Gorman noticed.

"I'd never been to a con before, and found it all very friendly and interesting," Gorman said. "I admired the spirit of everyone – even the vendors, who



William Humbird:The Signal

UHCL alumnus Marion Carpenter interacts with the Queen of the Winter Court, convention participant Chris Pineau, during a live action role-play performed at the Con-Jour 2008.

couldn't have been at all stoked about the turnout."

While Con-Jour was mainly focused toward science fiction, the con offered a variety of opportunities for any fantasy fan. The con featured three movies brought in by NASA software engineer, Ben Wittmeyer. The sci-fi classic "Forbidden Planet" was paired with the fantasy movies "Labyrinth" and "Brothers Grimm." Anime was shown in three different rooms and Gamers could spend their time playing everything from chess to Warmachine to participating in live action role-play.

The biggest draws to the cons are the panels, where individuals can meet experts and gain insight into various topics. The topics were slighted toward sci-fi, specifically the steampunk concept. Steampunk is science fiction in Victorian Era, a concept used by authors H. G. Wells and Jules Verne.

Due to the low attendance at the con, the panels were usually very small, but that did not stop them from being entertaining.

"The panels I participated in were lively and full of creative exchanges," Gorman reminisced. "[I learned] a good deal of

information that was new to me."

Outside the panels, the discussions were less focused, but equally entertaining. Everyone at the con had their own story to tell, especially special guest Glen Welch.

Welch's stories start from horrors he has subjected game masters of various role-playing games to and extend out to a variety of cult films and chance encounters at various other cons. Welch has gained popularity through his "1,125 Things Mr. Welch Can No Longer Do in a RPG," which has even been reviewed by graduate students writing term papers on modern day humor.

Stories aside, most of the conversations were quick to turn toward planning for next year's convention, Con-Jour 2010 or Con-Jour 2.0.

Gorman supports the club's desire for a future con.

"I think they're right not to let the experience go to waste," Gorman said. "I consider my exposure to the con and the world it represents quite a positive experience."

The Guild is compiling a "convention bible" of the do's and don'ts to pass on to future Con-Jour planners, and Kent is looking forward to reprising her role of chairwoman.

"I believe running cons show you what sort of mettle you are made of," Kent said

With their initial con behind them, the Guild is still buzzing from the experience and the great learning opportunity Con-Jour 2009 provided them.

UHCL CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 9-11 a.m.

"Normandy Crosses UHCL's campus" for I Can Be a Hero featuring special speakers from the Houston Fire and Police Departments, NASA, Kozmikooasis Recordings, a skit by BSA, poems, songs, participation by the Normandy Crossing Elementary School students, as well UHCL's administration and the student leaders from SGA.

This free presentation will be held in the Bayou Theater

Noon-1 p.m.

Voices of Color Speaker Series features Rebecca Reitz, attorney at law, discussing the topic "Baby's Fate...Who Decides?"

Admission is free. The event will be held in the Garden Room.

Saturday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

Black History Month Mini-Concert featuring Kozmikooasis artist Caretta Bell, refreshments will be served after the concert.

The event will be held in Bayou Theater and is free for UHCL students with a UHCL ID, \$5 for all others.

Wendesday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m.

"Yes We Can"

UHCL African American professors discuss the recent presidential election and the inaguration of the 44th president and first African-American president, Barack Obama.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

The discussion will be held in the Garden Room

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Expansion: *continued from page 1*

UHCL is one of only four remaining higher-level institutions in the nation, down from 25 in the 1970s.

“[The expansion] is not about a zero sum, it’s about the whole pie,” said Dion McInnis, associate vice president for the Office of University Advancement and University of Houston alum. The expansion plan will help all schools within the greater Houston area, added McInnis.

McInnis noted that the downward expansion is not meant for high school graduates moving away to far off schools, but those interested in pursuing a higher education a little closer to home without having the burden of paying for room and board at another school. The plan is a simple way to offer area residents an opportunity to achieve the same quality four-year education, but in an environment in which they are more accustomed.

“Of course, the expansion won’t happen overnight,” McInnis said. Instead, the expansion plan will take place as “an intelligent, staged approach.”

The plan aims to achieve an enrollment of 350 freshmen by fall 2012 with a gradual growth continuing throughout the pursing five years, including the enrollment of sophomore students by year five.

Outreach plans are in place to reach students and their parents while the students are still in middle school and high school. Outreach initiatives will include all 10 area school districts, community colleges and the UH System.

The expansion plan includes working with local school districts to implement a dual credit course system, similar to what is currently offered by many area high schools and community colleges including San Jacinto College and College of the Mainland.

The plan also provides students with the options of taking courses that may not be offered to them at one UH

campus, the opportunity to enroll in a course at another UH campus or local college, and the transfer of credit hours without the hassle.

Cuong Tran, a Master of Business Administration student at UHCL and Vietnamese national who arrived at the school two weeks ago, is excited about the possibility of the campus pursuing the expansion. With the expansion, Tran said, the student population would most likely include students from different cultures, giving him the opportunity to learn from those cultures and, in turn, take that knowledge back to his home country.

An issue that has been voiced by several students and faculty is the limited parking and classroom accommodations currently available at the UHCL campus. However, the plan notes that many of the classes currently offered at UHCL cater to the working student. Since most students enrolled at UHCL are also in the workforce, most of the courses offered at UHCL are evening courses. Thus, many of the classrooms are empty throughout the day. If UHCL were to expand to include lower-level courses, the empty rooms would be occupied by the freshmen class, which would primarily attend during daytime hours.

Additionally, some of the concerns are not just about where to hold classroom sessions and parking for the new student population, but about the staff and faculty needed once the expansion takes place.

Silvia Gamez, UHCL custodial employee, said expanding the size of the student body is a welcome event as long as the university increases its staff to balance the additional work a larger student body would most likely require.

Still, with the current economic situation faced by many Americans today, hiring employees is a welcome change

to the numerous layoffs recently announced by companies including Houston-based Baker Hughes, Cooper Industries and University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. In the existing proposal, UHCL plans to hire additional staff in 2011 to prepare for the incoming 2012 freshman class.

Although Hurricane Ike may have damaged one of the primary areas planned to be accommodated by the expansion, Galveston Island, McInnis does not think that the damaged island will impact or change the plan’s current path. In fact, many island residents have simply relocated to other neighborhoods within the greater Houston area and many plan to return to Galveston in the near future. Thus, the expansion plan offers Galveston residents another reason to return to the area.

The executive summary released by Staples’ office last summer says UH continues with its plans to become a Research I university, a category for schools that focus on extensive research. The policies for that type of school would require UH to adopt more stringent standards in its selection process. If the UHCL expansion is approved, the Clear Lake campus could accommodate students who would not be granted entry into UH due to the new rigorous admissions policy. Therefore, instead of losing potential students to schools such as Sam Houston State University and Stephen F. Austin University, the UH System would retain more area students if lower courses were offered at UHCL.

The UHCL expansion comes on the heels of the University of Houston-Victoria expansion that was approved by the UH System Board of Regents last year.

Carnegie Foundation: *continued from page 1*

president of academic affairs.

SLICE members often serve individuals or organizations in need of guidance or assistance. They also aid in mobilizing resources that help to change relationships in society and serve as a vehicle for changing policies, programs and practices.

“It is always interesting to see if those served then serve,” Clark said.

Organizations applying for the Carnegie classification are required to provide extensive descriptions and illustrations of community engagement in action. Universities must also demonstrate a coalition of mission, leadership, culture, resources and practices.

In the area of curricular engagement, Carnegie Foundation looks for evidence of a positive relationship between the universities and their surrounding communities. Carnegie requires that institutions educate students to have deep academics and civic commitments that boost the well-being of communities and improve scholarship.

“The Carnegie classification is recognition of UHCL’s effort to promote this scholarship of community engagement and service learning,” Mugdh said.

Carnegie Foundation requires that establishments use the resources available to them in a way that benefits both the universities and the community. They evaluate participants to see if the institutions use their resources in such a way that the community and the university have developed more fully in knowledge, economics and scholarship.

“The classification honors our engagement with the community, underscores our commitment to public accountability and transparency, applauds the role of our community in helping us grow and succeed as an institution, and validates our efforts to promote the scholarship of community engagement and service learning on campus,” Mugdh said.

There are numerous examples of UHCL’s community engagement, such as Community Outreach Day Service Projects, which include: 2009 Super Sci-Tech Saturday Conference for 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Girls; Habitat for Humanity – Baytown; the Houston Food Bank; and the Star of Hope Mission. These activities offer students, in any program, opportunities to serve the community. Students can view other volunteer opportunities at www.uhcl.edu/studentlife.

The School of Education actively engages the local school districts with the Center for Educational Programs. Through this program SOE offers one-to-one tutoring to grades 1-12 for reading, writing and study skills. This gives graduate and undergraduate interns opportunities to prepare for state certification programs while aiding the public schools.

“The hands-on experience of tutoring a student one-to-one while being guided by a skilled educator is a valuable opportunity that I am very excited about,” said Christine Pearson, an undergraduate education major. “This preparation allows me to build confidence and provides me the chance to help a student in need.”

Another example of how the university prepares students to be active in the community is the Annual Student Leadership Conference. At this conference, students work with professional staff from universities across Texas and Mexico. Jointly they investigate new trends in leadership. In 2008 more than 200 students participated. These are just a few examples of community engagement at UHCL.

The classification which UHCL was chosen is combination of the first two classifications, curricular engagement and outreach and partnership and it includes aspects of both of the other categories.

New Program: *continued from page 1*

The new behavior analysis degree program is designed to provide students with a well-rounded groundwork in psychology and behavior analysis through an incorporated sequence of coursework, practicum and research activities.

Graduates of the program will be taught to provide and supervise behavioral intervention services for those with disabilities in clinics, hospitals, schools and community settings.

Former graduate students who were enrolled in the Master of Arts in Psychology sub-plan for applied behavior analysis in the fall of 2008 have been switched to the new degree program.

Prior to the new graduate program, UHCL offered students an emphasis area within the master’s program in psychology for those interested in applied behavior analysis.

The increasing need for professionals trained in behavior analysis was the driving force behind implementing the new degree program, Lerman said.

“YES WE CAN” – UHCL celebrates Black History Month



Courtesy

HOUSTON — Four special presentations in February will help the University of Houston-Clear Lake community celebrate Black History Month. Spearheaded by the university’s Black Students Association, with support from numerous other organizations, one of this year’s events includes bringing more than 300 students and teachers from a local elementary school to the university.

“This year we are doing something totally new, and that is to bring the younger community to UH-Clear Lake to ‘experience college’ and a very special Black History Month program,” says Black Students Association President Joyce Delores Taylor. “We have invited Galena Park Independent School District’s Normandy Crossing Elementary School to our campus to answer an appeal of the Dean of Students, Dr. Anthony Jenkins, to reach out into the community and to tell them the story of our past and our resplendent present, inspiring their future with college attendance as one of the choices they make.”

The Normandy Crossing Elementary School will come on campus to attend the I Can Be a Hero program on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 9-11 a.m. This Black History Month program features speakers from the Houston Fire and Police Departments, NASA Johnson Space Center, Kozmikoasis Recordings, a skit by the Black Students Association, poems and songs, with participation by the Normandy Crossing Elementary School students, as well as UH-Clear Lake’s administration and student leaders from the Student Government Association. This free presentation will be held in the Bayou Theater.

“African-American Culture is one that our campus needs to be aware of, seeing as 10 percent of our population at the campus is African-American. The public needs to know where we came from and how we got to where we are today. The African-American culture and history needs to be known and understood by all,” Taylor said.

This is the sixth year that UHCL has celebrated Black History Month.

“This year, we began planning during the fall semester and we are pleased with what we have scheduled; the events offer a little something for everyone,” Taylor said.

For more detailed information on these events, see events calendar on page 9.



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Student involvement is still on the rise!

Matt Griesmyer

The Signal Staff

Students at the University of Houston-Clear Lake campus come from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and families. Nearly matching the diversity of the student population are the ways the students can become involved on their campus and become an active member of the student population.

The Student Organization Expo was held Jan. 28 in the Bayou building and the population of the campus was there in force. This event is typically held every semester, within the first two weeks of classes. Its focus is to bring attention to all the different organizations on campus that are available for the students, so that everyone can find a place and a group of people with similar interests if they so see fit.

The purpose of the expo is almost self-explanatory.

Anthony Jenkins, dean of students, said the design of the Student Organization Expo is, "To showcase the student organizations and give them an opportunity to create interest."

Organizations that participated in the expo ranged from the Student Government Association, which has existed for many years, to organizations that have just begun to meet. Organizations that were present included, but most certainly was not limited to, the SGA, Student Veteran's Association, Film and History Club, and Indian Students Association.

Has the expo been successful in fulfilling the objectives that it was assigned?

Christopher Curry, an undergraduate communication major, and Johnathan Gulde, pre-med undergraduate from the Student Veteran Association think so.

Their organization is designed to "Help veterans transfer to student life," Gulde said.

They have received overwhelming support from the expo. At the time of the expo, the Student Veteran Association had been organized for a mere 10 days, with a total member roster of six participants. As of 2 p.m., only two hours since the Student Organization Expo had started, and with four hours to go, the SVA reported an increase of interest by 10 members on top of the initial founding members.

Michelle Kaltenbach, former coordinator of student life organizations/special events – Kaltenbach transferred departments the first week of February – says that UHCL has been doing involvement fairs for quite some time and that all student organizations on campus are invited to participate.

"They have been going on since at least 1989," said Kaltenbach. A few years ago the name was changed from fair to expo.

The expo is not only designed to generate interest in current organizations, but also to encourage current and future students to create their own organizations.

"I'm always looking and listening for new ideas to start implementing, because ultimately what I want to do is create that university "feel" where students are confident and feel confident that this is their institution and that they have played a significant role in changing the overall culture of the university," explained Jenkins.

To create new organizations, ideas or events that are not currently seen on campus, one simply needs to visit the Office of Student Life, SSB room 1.204.

"It is really a good program," Jenkins summarized. "Students get a big kick out of it; the organizations do also. It again, is one of the things that we are very proud of here. I want to continue to see it grow and do well and I want to see the number of student organizations grow as well. I'm always encouraging groups to come up with new ideas, new organizations that will add to the overall environment of making this university special."



Matt Griesmyer: The Signal

Sabiha Mahmood, a graduate student in Sociology, supervises a spinning prize wheel at the Student Organization Expo, held Wednesday, Jan. 28.

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