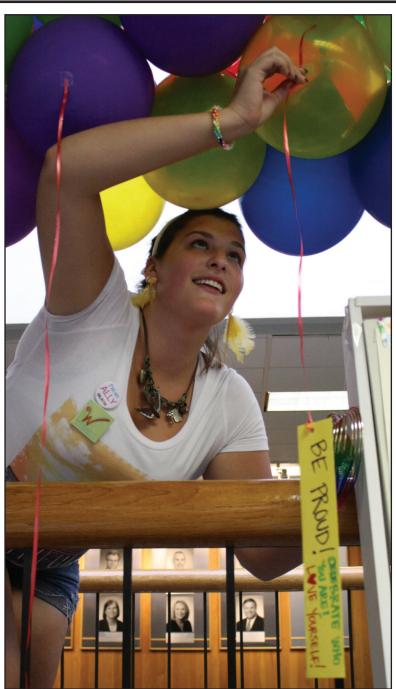
THE CHICKEN RANCH, pg. 4-5

Texas-sized tall tales about the famed LaGrange brothel are put to rest FLIPPIN' OUT, pg. 8

SGA's pancake dinner and other upcoming events on campus



**VOLUME XL, NUMBER 9** www.UHCLTheSignal.com OCTOBER 15, 2012



STEPHEN SCHUMACHER: THE SIGNAL

Whitney Barwick, management major, hangs a message of support from the arch at Unity Club's "Balloon Stories" event for National Coming Out Day.

## **CAMPUS COMES OUT** IN SUPPORT OF LGBT

Events celebrate National Coming Out Day by spreading awareness and promoting equality for diverse student population

TIMOTHY LAPOINTE: THE SIGNAL

Encouraging messages decorate IISS'

door, which represents coming out of

the closet and accepting who you are.

#### **Gary Cecil III**

The Signal

Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day (NCOD) for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. UHCL's Intercultural and

International Student Services and Unity Club celebrated the day with events to help raise LGBT awareness.

One aspect of this day is to "promote tolerance, acceptance and solidarity of humanity," said Alan Mansfield, Unity Club president.

National Coming Out Day promotes not just acceptance of the LGBT community, but of everyone.

Coming Out Day marks the anniversary of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987. On this day, half a million people were a part of this march.

"It is important for us to always be our 100 percent most authentic self on a daily basis," Mansfield said.

This was the main purpose of Unity Club's "Balloon

Stories" event. The event featured an arch of balloons with ribbons attached to them across Atrium 1. Participants then wrote down their "coming out" stories or expressions of support and attached them to the ribbons on the balloons.

The stories included all people's stories, not just stories describing coming out as LGBT.

"We want to include everyone... we want to show that the LGBT community is no different

than any other social group," Mansfield said.

Also in celebration of NCOD, IISS, in addition to helping Unity with its "Balloon Stories" event, featured its own event in which 96.5 Radio DJ Blake Hayes spoke out against discrimination.

Hayes said that what he wanted to do with his speech was to remind people that LGBT persons are here.

"Unlike with race, you can't just look at someone and tell that they're gay," Hayes said. "We want to show kids who aren't gay that it's important to treat people equally."

Initially Hayes seemed unsure why he even decided to become active in gay rights in the first place. He gave the impression that helping make

a difference was simply what he should be doing.

"It's incredibly rewarding that you can be a part of that," Hayes said.

**SEE COMING OUT, PAGE 6** 

## Piper Award recognizes outstanding professors | Syphilis cases

### **Stephanie Brown**

The Signal

There are many qualities that make a good professor – qualities that the UHCL Piper Award nominees share. The nominations are in for this year's Piper Award.

Beginning in 1958, the Piper Award recognizes outstanding professors ranging from two- to four-year public or private colleges and universities in Texas. Last year, Stuart Larson, associate professor of graphic design, was UHCL's Piper Award finalist.

"You don't just have to be passionate, but you have to be excited," Larson said. "You have to really love the subject you teach. If you as a faculty member are not excited about your subject, you are not going to win the students' interest."

The Piper Award solely judges

professors based on the category of teaching, but the UHCL panel also judges their nominees on the dimensions of leadership, service on campus, service off campus, and honors/professional societies.

"We calculate the nominations in two ways," said David Rachita, interim dean of students, who facilitates the enroll process as well as the decision-making process. "One is through pure number of nominations, and the other one is a ratio based on the number of credit hours taught and the number of nominations."

Favorable qualities of professors tend to be universal across campus, as many students strive for an interesting, funny and knowledgeable teaching experi-

**SEE PROFESSOR, PAGE 6** 



CAMERON PALMER: THE SIGNAL

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## on the rise in Houston

#### **Vonda Atchley**

The Signal

Houston Health Department reported cases of infectious syphilis doubling in the first half

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) website shows the overall national rate had been down 1.6 percent since 2009, but numerous cities have seen an increase in recent years, especially among college students. Houston is one of those cities.

The CDC defines syphilis as "a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterium. It can cause long-term complications such as insanity, blindness, paralysis, heart and blood vessel problems and/or death if not adequately treated."

"Students should be responsible for their health and not to spread the disease to anyone else," said Regina Pickett,

**SEE SYPHILIS, PAGE 6** 

# Students talk 'The Talk'

## Value of sex education classes in Texas high schools questioned by staff

he current rise in syphilis outbreaks, especially amongst college students, raises serious questions as to whether or not students have taken anything from the awkward and sometimes scary sex education classes we were forced to sit through in our younger years. Just like back in the day, we separated the boys and girls to share their experiences of what, if anything, they learned in those classes.

**EDITORIAL** 

#### -The Girls-

Most of us have experienced that uncomfortable moment in high school when we had to learn about sex in health class. The topic was already embarrassing to begin with, but discussing it in front of your friends and possibly your crush in class? Talk about awkward.

With the recent outbreak of syphilis amongst college students, the educational information we received during our health classes in high school has us wondering if the sex education provided in school really helped us make the right and safest choices in regard to sex.

Of course, both men and women have different opinions about the topic. Depending on the school district, sex education provided in high schools can be quite helpful, especially when we were taught the importance of having protected sex to avoid contracting a sexual disease or to avoid becoming pregnant. Most schools encourage abstinence, but some schools offer students additional information with a parent's permission.

For females, there is a deeper meaning behind sex. It's an emotional connection with their partner. We are taught to believe that sex should only be for a couple who are in love with each other. It helps to strengthen and deepen the relationship and make a stronger commitment with each other.

What sex education failed to teach us was the fact that the culture that surrounds us can definitely impact the thoughts and decisions we make in life. The world is a fast-paced place where everyone is always on the go.

Women's lifestyles have changed drastically from those of past generations. Women are more independent in this day

and age than ever. Women are buying their own homes and cars; they even hold CEO positions for major corporations. Women are making more money and earning more college degrees than in the past.

It seems as though our culture embraces independence amongst females. With independence comes the freedom to make your own choices in life. Once we are out of high school, our culture has accepted the fact that having one-night stands are common nowadays for women as well as

Less and less women are having children than ever. The Centers for Disease Control reports that the U.S. birth rate has decreased to the lowest level since data has been available. Women

are focusing on their careers more and postponing child rearing to enjoy their life to the

fullest, sometimes indefinitely.

The use of birth control is also increasing, although birth control or implants do not help prevent STDs. In fact, they don't always prevent pregnancy. The safest protection for sexually active males and females in a non-monogamous relationship is still a condom.

No matter how much emphasis a school puts into its sex education classes, women are the sole decision makers of their lives. At some point, they are going to have sex with or without protection. It's all up to

It's a personal choice and decision that a female makes for herself. The sex education received at Texas schools can help with those decisions when we are taught to care for ourselves as women and to take care of our bodies to remind us of our value as women and the importance of being safe.

#### - The Boys -

The 'sex talk' always seemed to revolve around the negative and terrifying consequences of what sex could potentially bring, such as STDs and teen pregnancies. In other words, it was meant to invoke fear in us at a young age. We do not seem to remember any positive aspects regarding sex. It was like an anti-Nike slogan: just don't do it.

We remember the large, cold and musty science rooms packed with teenage boys more interested in sports and the girls next door than whatever the presenter had to say about sex. We remember laughing at the one kid brave enough to actually ask a question that our ignorant selves were also wondering. We remember snickering and

squirming through every second of the entire presentation. It was an hour chock-full of excruciating punishment.

We started our long journey through sex education with a slide show that unveiled all the lovely surprises that STDs could potentially bring to one's life and genitalia. To a bunch of horny teenage boys, a vow of abstinence was a viable life choice after that experience. The horrifying images were burned into our retinas as we were made aware of the potential threats that awaited any of us willing to engage in unprotected sex.

If you do not remember these grotesque images, Google search STDs and take a gander. But that brings up other questions. Do people really remember those talks? Were those talks even effective? The current rise in syphilis, especially within the Houston area, leads us to believe the answer to both questions is no.

Another thing to take into account is the embarrassment factor that comes with

sex education courses. The unfortunate truth is, many students are simply too embarrassed or afraid to stand up and ask the important questions involving sex. They are more willing to take their own chances than to be laughed at by a group of their

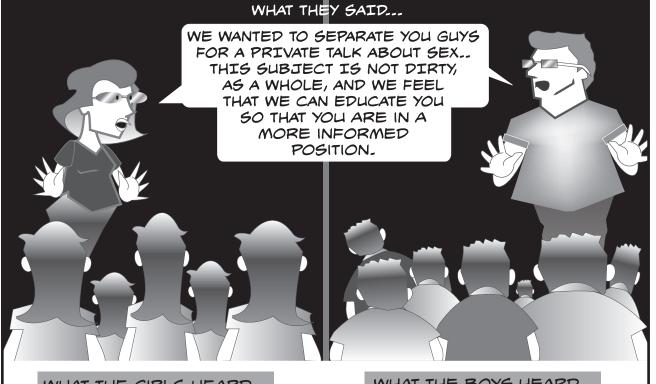
Most of us tried our best to unlearn everything we were taught as soon as we stepped out of those doors. We tossed it all out, relying on friends and family to enlighten and educate us with their past experiences and endeavors about sex.

To us, those sex "education" classes were just a way out of whatever "actual" class we were in at the time. At that age, and even now, many guys still feel invincible and actively ignore the very real repercussions they face when dealing with unprotected sex. In other words, the mentality of 'it would never happen to me' has become the all-too-common phrase heard amongst college students.

For those of us who went to parochial schools or who came from a very strict, sheltered or disciplined household, there might not have even been a sex education program. Sex was purely meant for procreation between a man and a woman, a gift from God, not to be tampered with until the rings were tightly secured onto newlywed fingers.

The way we remember sex education being taught – or not taught, as the case may have been – is not a viable way to educate anyone, especially students, about sex. This fact has become evident with the increase in STDs and teen pregnancy statistics across the country. Trade the fear factor slides and off-handed threats for open dialogue and honesty. The old way isn't working; we have the numbers to prove it.

#### **WANTNEEDO**



#### WHAT THE GIRLS HEARD.

WE WANTED TO SEPARATE YOU GUYS FOR A PRIVATE TALK ABOUT SEX ... THIS SUBJECT IS NOT DIRTY, AS A WHOLE, AND WE FEEL THAT WE CAN EDUCATE YOU SO THAT YOU ARE IN A MORE INFORMED

POSITION.

#### WHAT THE BOYS HEARD ...

SEPARATE PRIVATE DIRTY HOLE POSITION.

# THE SIGNAL

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by Kalan Lyra

THE SIGNAL 3 OCTOBER 15, 2012

## Why did you post that?

**Stephen Schumacher** The Signal

Social media has given the world a voice; it has brought us together in ways we could have never imagined. While I will be the first to admit that this is a great thing, more often than not I find myself asking out loud, "Why did they post that?"

I can't help but notice how many of my friends and family post their entire lives online. My personal Facebook page is a barren wasteland of "hey, how are yous" and happy birthday wishes from long-lost friends and acquaintances.

To me, social media has become somewhat of an online zoo or carnival sideshow. The exhibits are replaced by profiles, each with their own size and personality, designed to showcase the lives of the people who live inside them... Step right up and witness the amazing braless wonder and her gang of misfit sorority sisters!

My Facebook is often littered with interestingly awkward pictures that my friends are seemingly proud to show off to the world. In these pictures my friends can be seen in a number of what I would consider embarrassing situations. People tend to make great faces when they are wasted, so you can always tell. In this new age of social media, notoriety is being substituted for dignity.

I take great enjoyment in the free entertainment my friends so willingly provide. I do worry for them, though. As a student in the last semester of my college career, I have spent a large amount of time preparing for my step out the scholastic door and into the professional job



**STAFF COLUMN** 

world. I have been asking my friends and family for advice about what to expect regarding those ever intimidating interviews that are just around the corner.

The one thing I have heard from my recently graduated friends is that the things you post online are going to follow you. In fact, many professional companies are even openly requesting

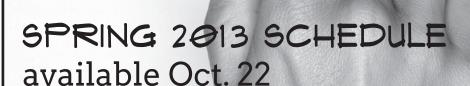
your Facebook profiles as a way to find out more about you... A quick message to any young readers out there – the old people are learning to use Google.

A personal friend of mine ran into this problem firsthand when a company he hoped to work for called him in for an interview. About midway through the interview, my friend was asked about his social media habits. He was informed that the company had recently started looking into their employees' online reputations after an employee was reprimanded for posting inappropriate material that eventually started popping up on the company's own Facebook page. My friend assured the interviewer that his profile was clean and family friendly. He then excused himself to the restroom where he deleted the page as fast as he could.

Times have certainly changed. In the social media world, privacy is a luxury and it is definitely not guaranteed. A private profile may mean you'll never become the next Internet sensation, but at least you'll never have to answer the question "Why did you post that?"

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## THE WHISTLEBLOWER

Monday, Nov. 5 7 p.m., Bayou Theater

Distinguished Speaker: Katheryn Bolkovac

This ripped-from-the-headlines thriller is inspired by actual events. Kathy Bolkovac (Rachel Weisz) is a Nebraskan police officer who takes a job working as a peacekeeper in post-war Bosnia. Her expectations of helping to rebuild a devastated country are dashed when she uncovers a dangerous reality of corruption, cover-up and intrigue amid a world of private contractors and multinational diplomatic doubletalk. Rate R.

Admission is FREE. Reception and book signing will follow screening. This event is part of the American Whistleblower Tour sponsored by the Government Accountability Project.

Any person requiring an accommodation to participate in an event should contact the Student Life Office at 281-283-2560, at least two weeks before the event Send all questions to movies@uhcl.edu. Visit our website at www.uhcl.edu/movies

#### **Charles Landriault**

The Signal

Edna Milton Chadwell died Feb. 25 from injuries sustained in an auto accident that occurred a few months earlier in October 2011. Her death marks the end of one of the most celebrated scandals in Texas history...or does it?

Chadwell was known as the last madam of the "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." Infamously nicknamed "The Chicken Ranch," the brothel gained notoriety as the oldest, continuously run whorehouse in the nation after a 1973 exposé by Marvin Zindler, reporter for KTRK-TV in Houston, closed the bordello perma-

The legend of the Chicken Ranch inspired a Broadway play, a movie starring Dolly Parton and Burt Reynolds based on the play and a hit song by ZZ Top.

"Rumour spreadin' 'round in that Texas town, 'bout that shack outside La Grange and you know what I'm talkin' about. Just let me know if you wanna go to that home out on the range. They gotta lotta nice girls. Have mercy. A haw, haw, haw, a haw."

-La Grange by ZZ Top

The legend of the Chicken Ranch seems to be surrounded by rumors, many of which are to the dismay of the citizens of La Grange. The first falsity is how long the Chicken Ranch was actually

The bordello was reported to have begun in 1844, yet the original deed, in the name of Jessie Williams (born Faye Stewart, the original madam), shows that the land where the Chicken Ranch stood was purchased in 1917. Edna Chadwell or Miss Edna as she was more commonly referred to, joined the staff of the Chicken Ranch in 1952 and purchased the Ranch from Williams in 1961 due to Williams' failing

Even the rumor of how the brothel got its name, the Chicken Ranch, is false. Legend reports that Edna's Fashionable Ranch Boarding House earned the nickname "Chicken Ranch" during the Great Depression when gentleman began paying with chickens for the services being offered there.

Miss Edna herself set the record straight in a July 30, 2007 telephone interview with Kathy Carter, then director of the Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives.

"Jessie was afraid a new grand jury might try and investigate so she bought 100 baby chicks and called the place a poultry farm," Miss Edna said. "By the time I got there in 1952, all the chickens were gone."

The play and movie have the madam liv-

ing at the brothel with her girls. Miss Edna did not live at the Chicken Ranch. In her telephone interview, she told Carter that the Ranch was her job and she would come and go on a daily basis.

"No, I always had my own home away from the Ranch," Miss Edna said. "The Ranch was my job, and I went home when I wasn't on duty."

The Chicken Ranch hosted customers from all walks of life such as farmers, businessmen and politicians, but Donna Green, archivist/curator of the Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives said the Ranch made

"HE DELIVERED THAT SAME CHAIR SO MANY TIMES IT GOT TO BE THE JOKE OF THE TOWN. WE ALWAYS KNEW WHEN HE WAS GOING TO THE 'RANCH' BECAUSE HE WOULD HEAD OUT HWY. 71E."

- Aileen Loehr Reporter with The Fayette County Record

its money more from local patrons than from outside the city limits.

"One of the popular rumors is that the military would fly people here on a helicopter and Mr. V.A. Hrbacek would pick them up from the airport and deliver them to the Chicken Ranch in his cow trailer," said Green. "Afterwards, he would take them to his restaurant to eat and then back to the airport. This rumor is not true."

Buried deep in Aggie lore is the legend of freshmen from Texas A&M University being sent to the Chicken Ranch as part of their initiation or as a right of passage. This, as far as Green knows, is also untrue. The portrayal, in the play and movie, of Aggies being present when the Chicken Ranch was "raided" by Zindler's television crew is not

"They may have gone there, but no more than anyone else," Green said. "There was more local business than there was Aggies and Longhorns."

Sheriff T.J. Fluornoy, or Sheriff Jim as he was known locally was sheriff of La Grange at the time and was reported to have had a relationship or "understanding" with Miss Edna. This was also untrue.

"Sheriff Jim and Miss Edna did not have a relationship," Green said. "The woman was married four times. The first time against her will. She was not very fond of

the male gender as a whole."

As to the rumor of a "hotline" being installed at the Chicken Ranch by Sheriff Jim so that Miss Edna could call if there were any problems or if any criminals showed up, well, this one has not been confirmed or denied, but Green doubts its validity.

"This story is not true as far as I know," Green said. "There was no reason for such a thing. The Chicken Ranch was outside of the city limits down a dirt road. The rumor is that he had the phone line installed to warn her when they were about to be raided. But virtually no one cared about the place around here. There was no reason to raid it. Sure, prostitution was illegal, but so was selling beer to minors, and he didn't have a phone installed in every

Items such as decorations, photographs and fancy furniture claiming to be authentic from inside the Chicken Ranch are being sold on Ebay or other sources. These items are almost certainly fake. In fact, the Chicken Ranch was not a "fancy" place or extravagantly decorated.

beer joint to warn those people."

"The Chicken Ranch was not a fancy place at all," Green said. "It was not highly decorated or anything of the sort. There are people selling brass tokens that they say were accepted as payment at the Chicken Ranch; this is also untrue." Miss Edna confirmed these facts in her telephone interview with Carter.

There are many inconsistencies regarding the history of the Chicken Ranch, but buried deep within are some truths that did make their way to the foreground of the story. For example, Miss Edna really did have a list of rules to which the girls had to abide that included no drinking while on duty, no tattoos and mandatory weekly visits to the doctor.

"The girls went to the doctor every week for an exam," said Aileen Loehr, reporter with The Fayette County Record. "The madam did not want any transmitted diseases. I saw them come to Dyer's Pharmacy to purchase makeup and perfume. They were always nicely dressed and never had a suntan. They sort of stuck out if you know what I mean."

Loehr remembered a funny story about the owner of a local furniture store who drove around with a rocking chair tied on to the back of his truck.

"One day we had gone into his store to buy furniture and he came through and told the clerk that he was going to deliver the rocking chair on the truck," Loehr said. "He delivered that same chair so many times it got to be the joke of the town. We always knew when he was going to the 'ranch'

because he would head out Hwy. 71E and if you watched him or followed him, he always delivered that same chair there."

After Zindler broke the story of the Chicken Ranch's existence to the world, he returned to La Grange and was seen in front of a local barbershop. Zindler's return to the small town sparked an infamous showdown between he and Sheriff Jim, which made local and national headlines.

"Fluornoy got right in Zindler's face and knocked off his hair piece which fell to the street," Loehr said. "The street was a bit messy as it had rained during the night before. Well, in trying to get out of there, Zindler's car drove over the hair piece and Zindler stopped the driver and tried to get out and pick up the hair piece. How he got it back I don't recall. But it was not on the street because we [girls] went for coffee down the street and it was not there when we went by."

Miss Edna was philanthropic with the money brought in by the Chicken Ranch. The Fayette County Record reported Aug. 7, 1973, that she contributed \$8,000 to the building fund for Fayette Memorial Hospital and \$1,000 for the city swimming pool, although she was never formally recognized for her charitable donations.

Forty years have passed since the doors of the then scandalous brothel were closed permanently in 1973. Very little of the actual building still stands; but its existence still plagues the town and people of La Grange. Shortly after the Chicken Ranch was shut down, the Fayette County Record ran an editorial summarizing the town's stance on the bordello's demise.

"But the fact is that, however fashionable, however philanthropic, a whorehouse is still a whorehouse," the editorial stated. "And when your town becomes known from coast to coast for that one thing, the long-range results are scarcely beneficial. When it comes to be joked about on national television...well, it takes a perverted mind indeed to go on saying how good this is for La Grange."

Since its closure, the people from La Grange have attempted to put the legend of the Chicken Ranch in their rearview yet, to their dismay, they continue to be met with heckling and teasing because of where they live. To this day the tawdry history of the brothel's past existence tarnishes the memories of the townspeople of La Grange.

"I don't like it," Green said. "There is so much wonderful history here and 99 percent of the people who come here want to see the Chicken Ranch house. That's all they care about and there is so much more to the town than that."



#### **COMING OUT:** continued from page I



TIMOTHY LAPOINTE: THE SIGNAL

Blake Hayes, radio DJ for Houston station 96.5, speaks at IISS' National Coming Out Day event. Hayes talked about why coming out is important for the LGBT community and how doing so helps fight against discrimination.

Hayes pointed out that one important reason to come out is because people who know LGBT persons will be more likely to stand up to defend and side with gay rights. Hayes recalls the change in his own family's approach to gay issues when he came out to his family.

His father, whom he described as "blue collar," may hear coworkers use homophobic slurs such as "fag," and now he is the first to say, "that's not okay."

"Coming out is crucial for the fight to equality because it puts a face to the LGBT community," Hayes said.

Hayes went on to indicate that it is especially important for the LGBT youth in Texas to know that they are not alone and that there are supporters. Hayes recalls a story from when he first came to Texas. Working as a radio DJ, Hayes was asked by a man to dedicate a song to his boyfriend. Hayes complied, originally

expecting complaints. He only received one phone call. It was from a woman telling him that because of the dedication, his station was now her favorite.

"That was not at all what I expected," Hayes said. "She called just to say thank you... maybe there's a lot more supporters in Houston than I thought."

Ally Week also takes place this month. This is when students are encouraged to stand up against anti-LGBT bullying. In honor of Ally Week, Unity Club will hold an Ally Panel Discussion featuring Sociology Professor Arch Eric, City Council Candidate Jenifer Rene Pool and Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen Monday Oct. 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Bayou Garden Room.

Pool will discuss "working together, creating communities outside of your comfort zone." Pool points out that the transgender community has been an unsung voice in the LGBT community

for some time now. She said this might be because, until recently, the transgender community was not organized and that many people in the gay community do not consider her as a part of their community.

"But it is changing," Pool

Pool challenges all who meet a transgender person to try to get to know that person.

"Have a cup of coffee with them and... you will find out how much you have in common," Pool said

These events are observed to help bring awareness to the LGBT community and to encourage support.

"We can always do more to educate younger people to get on the right side of history," Hayes

For more information about Ally Week and Unity Club, visit www.facebook.com/unityuhcl.

#### **PROFESSOR:** continued from page 1



MARK KINONEN: COURTESY

UHCL honored recipients of the Distinguished Alumni, Outstanding Professor and Early Achievement Awards during the 2012 Alumni Celebration held Oct. 6 at Space Center Houston. Pictured from left to right are: Dion McInnis, associate vice president for university advancement; Distinguished Alumnus Douglas Hiser Jr.; Distinguished Alumnus Juan Manuel Traslaviña; Outstanding Professor Kim Case, associate professor of psychology and women's studies; Distinguished Alumna Cris Daskevich; Outstanding Professor James Benson, associate professor of legal studies; Early Achievement honoree Mitali Paul; and UHCL President William Staples.

"An awesome professor possesses passion for their field of work to engage their students with novel ideas and guide intellectually stimulating classroom discussions," said Timothy Duffield, applied cognitive psychology major. "The traits that I look for in a professor are enthusiasm, integrity and commitment to students."

Students feel it is also important for faculty to remember that students have busy lives outside of school; some may have full time jobs, or some may have families to take care of at home.

"I prefer professors who allow creativity in the projects they assign but who also understand that life happens and you can't always be in class," said Stephanie Eddy, studio arts major.

Interaction/accessibility with students is also a quality that students look for in a professor, and it is important that the professor is easy to contact either through office hours, phone or e-mail.

"A professor should be interactive with students, as well as have knowledge and a grip on the subject," said Anusha Obbilisetty, biotech major. "Whenever students approach, the professor should make it a point to help them. The professor should interact with every person and make sure every student is comfortable

with the teaching style."

Students' success rate is yet another teaching trait the student body desires from professors; the professor should want his or her students to achieve not only in education but in life.

"In my opinion, a great professor is hard to find," said Kristen Martin, history major. "He inspires curiosity, is approachable, knowledgeable and passionate, and ultimately seeks the success of the students. He has a contagious excitement about what he does. He is happy, friendly, wise and loud."

One method students use to find good professors is through the website RateMyProfessor. com. This website allows students to share reviews about professors, as well as rate them on a 1-5 scale in the following categories: easiness, helpfulness, clarity, the rater's interest in the class prior to taking it, and the degree of textbook used in the course.

"The website helps me find the professors I think will work best with my learning style," said Chelsea McCoy, EC-6 generalist and EC-12 special education major. "If students want an interactive teacher, they can see the options, or if they want a lecture teacher, they can find one of those too."

All in all, students seek a

professor who genuinely cares not only about the course, but about students' success. The Piper Award is designed to recognize these teachers, especially through nominations by the students themselves.

"This award really means a lot because it is student driven," Larson said. "I highly encourage each student to nominate his or her favorite professor. Even if the faculty member is not a finalist or a nominee, just knowing that students have included their name really means a lot."

The Piper Award is not only important for professors or students, but it is also a way to honor UHCL as a whole.

"I think The Piper Award is important for the university because it gives us a chance to show off," Rachita said. "Look at the great faculty we have, and they are doing great things in the classroom."

The UHCL finalist will be announced in the spring semester, and he or she will move on to a statewide competition. The statewide nominees/finalists will be publicized around May 1, 2013. For more information regarding the Piper Award, visit http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/funding/programs/piperprofessors.php.

### **SYPHILIS:** continued from page 1

registered nurse, UHCL Health Center.

Kurt Koopman, public information officer from the Galveston County Health District, recommends that sexually active people use a condom to prevent the spread of STDs.

"Students must be educated to stop the disease from spreading to others," Koopman said. "Other than abstinence, protected sex is the only way to prevent the spread of syphilis and other sexual transmitted diseases."

While syphilis is on the rise, it is not the most prevalent STD among college students. There are other STDs transmitted on a more regular basis. In fact, the CDC reports one in every four college students has been infected with an STD.

The most common STD is Human Papillomarvirus (HPV). This disease may lie dormant for long period of times, thus quietly increasing the transmission rate. It causes genital warts and cervical cancer.

A close second is Chlamydia. If this disease is left untreated, it can cause permanent damage to reproductive organs in both males and females.

The third most contracted STD is Genital Herpes. Unlike its counterparts, it is not curable. Once you have it, it can show its ugly face anytime through genital redness and blisters.

If you have had unprotected sex, you should see your personal doctor or visit a local clinic to be tested for STDs.

Many local clinics offer free/reduced rate testing, education and medications for lower-income individuals.

Most large cities are equipped with a Center for Disease Control and most colleges have a health clinic to assist with testing, education and medication.

UHCL's Health Center offers services to educate, test and treat students suspecting the transmission of an STD. The costs of the services depend on the test, ranging from \$20-\$55.

"We privately meet with any student needing consultation re"OTHER THAN

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Kurt Koopman
 Public Information Officer,
 Galveston County
 Health District

garding STDs reviewing symptoms and sexual history," Pickett said. "Necessary testing is done, medications are prescribed and education material is provided to help prevent the spread of STDs. We also follow up with all patients. All information is kept extremely confidential."

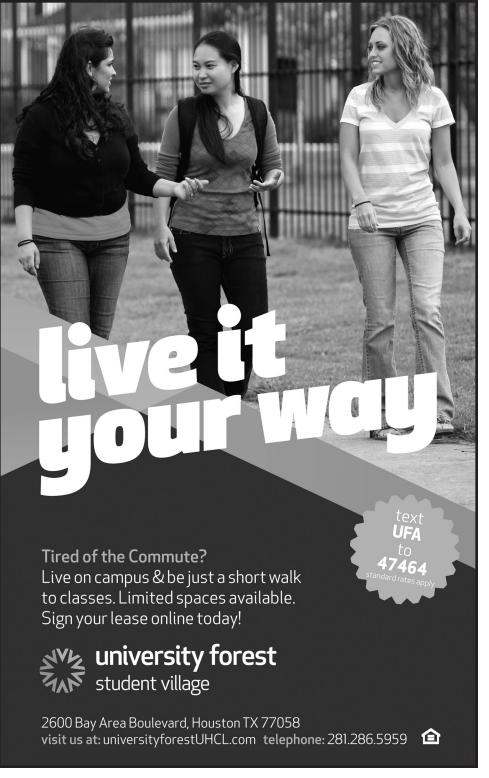
In additional to individual counseling and help, the UHCL Health Center also provides a table display to educate students about the dangers of STDs. The display includes statistics, brochures and local clinic information.

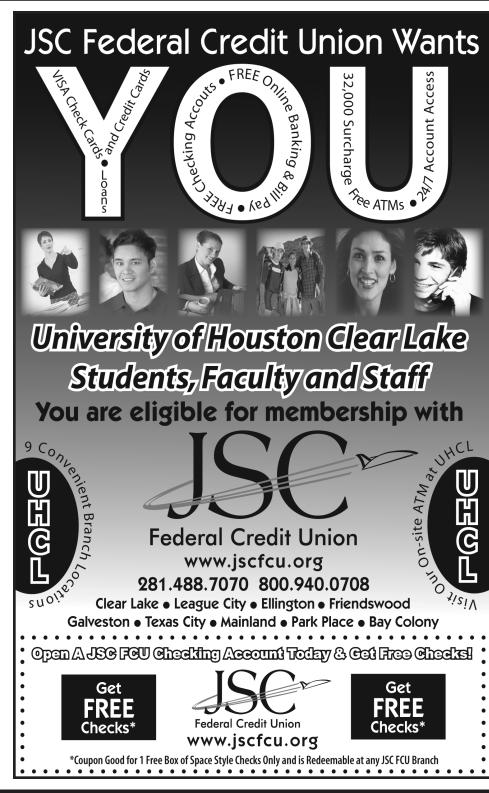
"To help promote protected sex, the health center also offers student condoms at a reduced rate," Pickett said.

In an effort to educate and help the community with the latest syphilis outbreak, the Harris County Health Department is intensifying community field-work and expanding the schedule of the mobile clinic. The agency hopes to increase testing among those who may be at risk for syphilis and/or who have tested positive for other sexually transmitted diseases.

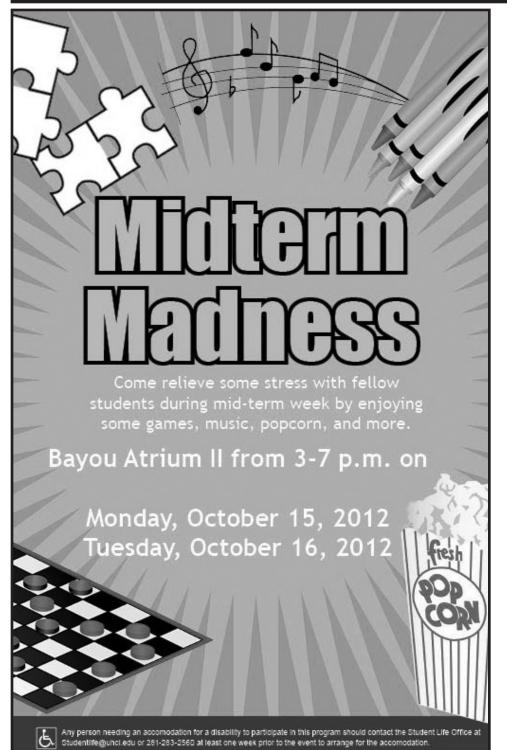
The Center of Disease Control has more facts, treatment information and other resources for all STDs.

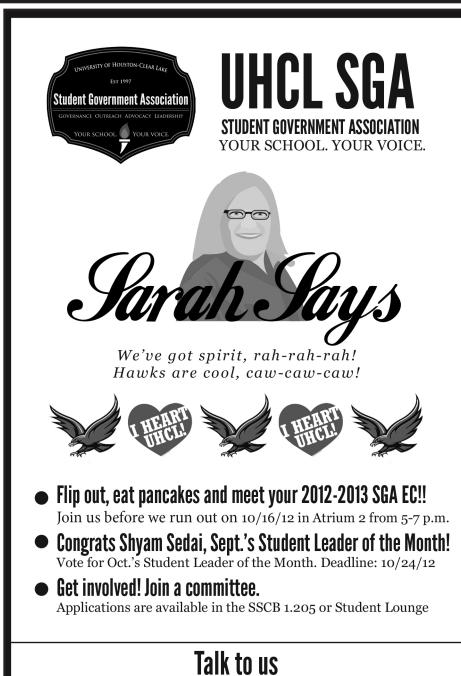
"Students can even find details on proper use of a condom on the CDC website," Koopman said THE SIGNAL 7 OCTOBER 15, 2012





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# TPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS



Bring family and friends and come in costume. Prizes will be awarded for: Best Monster, Best Titan, Best Couples Costume, Funniest Costume and Scariest Costume.

THE SIGNAL

6 p.m. Literary Readings and Art Car Viewing at the Alumni Plaza.

7 p.m. Costume Contest and "Clash of the Titans" movie screening in the SSCB Lecture Hall.

KrakenFest is free and open to the public. Free parking in Lot D. Registration is limited. Tickets are required for the movie screening.

For more information, visit krakenfest.eventbrite.com.



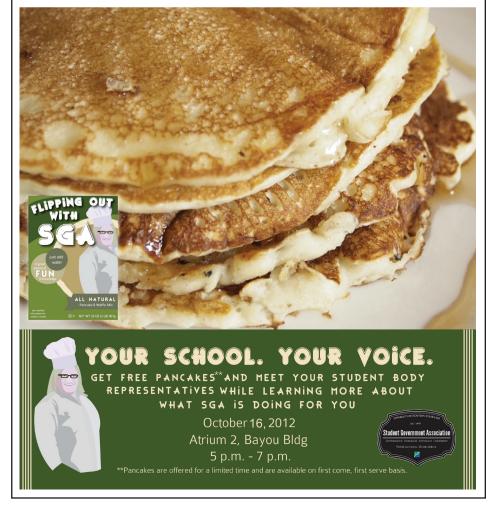
OCTOBER 15, 2012

Love Your Body Day October 20, 2011 12pm - 7pm Atrium 1 & Garden Rm.

### Celebrate your beauty with IISS!

The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the falsities in and affects of the way women are portrayed in the media and to empower women to embrace their beauty despite these messages.

For more information about Love Your Body Day, contact IISS at 281-283-2575 or visit the office in SSCB 1.203.





UHCL GLOBAL EXPO • Nov. 7 • Noon-5 p.m. • Bayou Atrium II Educate the UHCL campus community by promoting your country, state, city or unique culture as well as your hobby or interest by adding global perspective to it. Register online at www.uhcl.edu/iiss/globalexpo. Deadline to register is Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.