



EGRET

**inside:**

- a great day
- cosmic post grad
- sts 134 and uhcl

*family*  
**at UHCL**





**F**or many years, Sandra Mossman, former superintendent for Clear Creek Independent School District and a UHCL Distinguished Alumna, assured students and teachers "It's a great day in CCISD" in her morning greetings.

In June, former students, colleagues, family and friends gathered in her honor at UHCL, to celebrate the creation of the Dr. Sandra Mossman Endowed Fellowship in Educational Leadership.

"Dr. Sandra Mossman has been a visionary leader who leads by example while serving as a role model for current and future K-12 administrators," said UHCL President William A. Staples. "We are delighted to say 'It's a great day at UH-Clear Lake' as we gather to honor Dr. Sandra Mossman."

The endowment will support a faculty fellowship in the School of Education. A plaque, which was unveiled at the event, is posted in the university's Bayou Building, Atrium II, to recognize recipients of the award.

Mossman credits her UHCL certifications in mid-management and in curriculum and supervision as defining steps in her career.

"I am very honored to have this endowment established in my name," said Mossman. "I owe much to the university."

The celebratory event, "Another Great Day in CCISD - Celebrating Sandra Mossman," included performances by the Space Center Intermediate student orchestra. Student safety patrol from Mossman Elementary were also on hand to help direct guests to the event.

For information about contributing to or establishing an endowment at UHCL, contact the Office of University Advancement at 281-283-2021.

CCISD students (l-r) Sydni Rapson, Ariana Leatherby, Brianna Daphis and Chloe Sharp joined the festivities honoring former educator Sandra Mossman (c).

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**ON THE COVER:** Subash Simkhada and Prashanti Pandit met while studying in Kansas, and were married in 2010. Missing their families and Nepali communities, they created the Nepalese Students Association while both were students at UHCL.





{ c o n t e n t s }

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**FEATURE SECTION**

**A PORTRAIT OF THE UHCL FAMILY 6**

A university is made up of many people, and at UHCL, those include family members and individuals who have formed relationships that share the bonds and support of families around the world.

**ON COMMON GROUND 8**

As an undergraduate, Alvin Johnson struggled with aspects of being a first-generation college student. Now, he helps guide UHCL students and their families through the same situation.

**CULTURAL BRANCHES 10**

Halfway around the globe from their supportive family environments, two students create a familial community in Houston.

**KINDRED SPIRITS 12**

More like sisters than mother and daughter, Ann and Jessyka Reynosa are conquering their degrees in the same way they do everything else: together.

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{ **n o t e w o r t h y** }

**A MERITORIOUS EFFORT** The Office of Student Life presented School of Education lecturers Nancy Wright and Norma Minter with the 2010-2011 Meritorious Service Key Award for their dedication and efforts on the Children's Book project. The book, "My Trip to UHCL," will be given to children of new UHCL students attending New Student Orientation.

**HARD-SHELLED RESEARCH** George Guillen, executive director of the Environmental Institute of Houston and associate professor of biology and environmental science, received a \$71,807 award from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for his proposal, "Estimation of Blue Crab Fishery Bycatch Mortality and Critical Life History Parameters of the Texas Diamondback Terrapin, *Malaclemys Terrapin Littoralis*." Funding will be used to support two graduate students participating in field research during the study, as well as to help to cover travel expenses and the purchase of marker buoys, bycatch devices and additional field supplies.

**FULBRIGHT FACULTY** Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration Mary Femi Ayadi has been named a Fulbright Scholar. The award is for both teaching and research. Ayadi will be lecturing at Covenant University in Sango-Ota, Nigeria, from January through August 2012. Her research project will investigate the interdependencies that exist between health care expenditures and economic growth in Nigeria.

**A FIRST FOR ART** Students from UHCL's first art car class drove off victorious after being awarded a first place Grand Trophy and \$1,500 in prize money at the 24th annual Houston Art Car Parade. The car was designed and created by the class of 13 students, taught by UHCL Art Lecturer Jason Makepeace. Named "ouR.Mutt 2011," the UHCL entry was one of four first place art car winners in the parade. Originally a Toyota Corolla, donated by AutoNation/Champion Toyota, the art car entry was modeled after French surrealist artist Marcel Duchamp's controversial work "Fountain," a porcelain urinal, signed "R. Mutt 1917."

**UNIVERSITY EXPANSION RECEIVES STATE APPROVAL**

**U**HCL received approval for downward expansion from the state legislature in June, which will allow the upper-level university to move forward on plans to add freshman- and sophomore-level courses to its roster. Approval came after Texas Governor Rick Perry signed Senate Bill 324, which was presented by State Senator Mike Jackson. A similar bill, House Bill 706 presented by State Representative John Davis, had been previously approved by the Texas House of Representatives.

"Securing the authority for downward expansion is a major milestone in the continuing development of UH-Clear Lake," says UHCL President William A. Staples.

Although the approval gives the university authority for downward expansion, Staples emphasizes that the next step in the process is the determination of the feasibility and timing for the university to begin to offer freshman- and sophomore-level courses. At the earliest, lower-level programming will be added in 2014.

The proposal for downward expansion was approved by the University of Houston System Board of Regents in 2008. A university master plan and prospective business plan – completed earlier this year – explore the facilities and resources needed to support downward expansion. The hiring of additional faculty and staff based on projected levels of enrollment and core curriculum requirements, as well as the construction of new academic buildings and student housing, are addressed in the two plans.

Initially, lower-level programming will only be offered at the Bay Area campus. Future demand and resources could mean the expansion of freshman- and sophomore-level courses to UHCL Pearland Campus and the Texas Medical Center component.



**STUDENT IMAGINATIONS** Four graduate students from UHCL's School of Science and Computer Engineering received honorable mention in the Microsoft 2011 Imagine Cup U.S. competition. Pictured are members of The Mind Benders team including (l to r) Meghan Bairat, Jay Dani, Shreyas Sali and Prjakta Sangore. The students designed and implemented GreenClick, a server-based application which allows organizations to centrally monitor and control the state of workstations to save energy.



## \$600,000 FACULTY GRANT

Two School of Science and Computer Engineering professors were awarded \$600,000 by the National Science Foundation for their proposal, "NSF Scholar Program for Computing and Mathematics Majors."

The award, the third NSF grant for this proposal, helps the school recruit students to high-technology disciplines, provide mentoring and support services, and facilitate career placement through industrial partnerships.

Citing the area's high-technology and aerospace industries, the proposal was submitted by program co-directors Associate Professor of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems Sharon P. Hall and Program Chair and Professor of Computer Science Kwok-Bun Yue. The award will fund approximately 18 scholarships averaging \$7,300 annually for undergraduate students majoring in computer science, computer information systems, computer systems engineering, information technology and mathematics.

"I am thrilled about the opportunity that this grant represents," says Hall. "Dr. Yue and I have worked with over 60 NSF Scholars since 2002, and we have seen the impact that this prestigious scholarship has made in the lives of those students."

## A LEGACY IN EDUCATION, BUSINESS

In 1974, Sam J. Bruno along with 59 other scholars formed the charter faculty of UHCL. They laid the academic groundwork for the university to grow, expand and evolve, and the impact of their dedication continues to be evident on campus today.

Bruno served as a professor of marketing in the School of Business as well as director of the UHCL Center for Advanced Management Programs. For more than three decades, he dedicated himself to developing the business school. Sharing his commitment to the school was his wife Joan Bruno, who served as a professor of accounting and the school's associate dean.

Born in Port Arthur, Bruno went on to become chief petty officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He also served as the first executive director for the Southwestern Federation of Administrative Disciplines, and



Sam J. Bruno, UHCL Charter Faculty Member

continued to serve in that role until 2009. He officially retired from the university in March 2011.

On Aug. 23, Bruno passed away after a three-year battle with leukemia. He is survived by Joan, his wife of 45 years; his children Chad and his wife Tammy, Felicia and her husband Chris, and Scott and his wife Erica; and seven grandchildren.

"The UHCL community is deeply saddened by the loss of Sam Bruno, who was a well-respected colleague and a beloved professor. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Bruno family," says UHCL President William A. Staples, who as a former professor and dean in the School of Business, worked closely with both Sam and Joan Bruno.

## PALMER PLAZA MARKS FIRST YEAR

UHCL installed a custom sundial just in time to mark the one-year anniversary of Palmer Plaza and UHCL Pearland Campus. The plaza was originally dedicated during a grand opening ceremony in August 2010.

Centered in Palmer Plaza, the sundial honors the David and Stephanie Palmer Family. They created the first educational endowment specifically for UHCL Pearland Campus students. In addition, Palmer Construction LLC built the founding structure at the new campus.

"The sundial was selected as a way to commemorate the timelessness of an endowment, which provides perpetual support," says Dion McInnis, associate vice president of university advancement.

*continued on page 4*

## { noteworthy }

**MASTERING TOP HEALTHCARE** UHCL's Master of Healthcare Administration program has been ranked number one by Modern Healthcare on its Top Business Graduate Schools for Physician Executives for the 2010-2011 school year. The ranking was based on five factors: length of time to complete program, cost of total tuition, number of days students must spend on campus, age of each program in years, and number of total graduates.

**FONDREN FUNDING** UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities received a financial boost through a \$25,000 grant from the Fondren Foundation. Specifically, the money will help the center's Severe Behavior Disorders Research Clinic by adding much needed staff and materials. The grant provides support for adding two graduate students from the Master of Arts in Behavior Analysis degree program and Applied Behavior Analysis certificate program to assist at the center. Those two students will help in shortening the center's waiting list of area families whose autistic children could benefit from CADD's services.

**NANO GRANT** Samina Masood, program chair of physical sciences and assistant professor of physics, received a \$15,000 grant from the Texas Space Grant Consortium to help fund her development of a nanosystems program at UHCL in collaboration with NASA.

**EXTENDING MATH** Program Area Chair and Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction Suzanne E. Brown received a \$144,201 continuation award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Teacher Quality Grants Program for her proposal, "UHCL Mathematics Institute 2009-2012."

**CENTERING COURSES** The Center for Research, Evaluation and Advancement of Teacher Education awarded one of only 10 grants to UHCL School of Education doctoral candidate Alicia Martin from its 2010-2011 Public School Research Scholars Program. The \$3,000 award will assist Martin in developing her dissertation research titled "Integration, Learner-Centered, and Curriculum-Centered Approaches in a High School Mathematics





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Course." Martin is currently enrolled in UHCL's Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program and is an Algebra II teacher and team leader at Robert E. Lee High School in Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

**TRIO OF NEW LEADERS** Three new administrators have joined the UHCL family, including Rick Short, who will serve as dean of the School of Human Sciences and Humanities. Before joining UHCL, Short served as the associate dean at Middle Tennessee State University for the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. In addition to Short, UHCL welcomes Kevin Barlow, executive director for the Office of Planning and Assessment and Sameer Pande, executive director for the Office of International Initiatives. Pande, who graduated from UHCL in 2002, was formerly associate director of the university's Office of Intercultural and International Student Services while also serving as an adjunct faculty in the School of Science and Computer Engineering. Barlow previously served as executive director of research and accountability for the Clear Creek Independent School District, where his responsibilities included leading assessments and planning initiatives on 44 CCISD campuses.

**WRITES OF ACCOUNTING** Three School of Business faculty co-authored "Earnings Benchmarks and the Information Content of Quarterly Foreign Earnings of U.S. Multinational Companies." The paper, written by Professor of Accounting Barry Marks, Associate Professor of Accounting Michael Lacina and Assistant Professor of Accounting Haeyoung Shin, received the American Accounting Association Southwest Region 2011 Distinguished Paper Award.

**ISA SUPPORTS SCHOLARS** Representatives from the Indian Student Association presented UHCL with a check in the amount of \$6,200 for the DSLabs/Indian Student Association Scholarship Endowment. ISA, a UHCL student organization, aims to maintain Indian students' cultural heritage, and donates funds toward

*continued from page 3*

Called a Renaissance Focusing Sundial, the piece was created by Precision Sundials LLC in Burlington, Vt. One of its unique characteristics is the cylindrical base, which features wedges crafted to always form a perfect sphere, regardless of how they are rotated. At almost four feet high, the sundial is mounted on a pedestal of stone.



Taryn Burnett

The Renaissance Focusing Sundial, located in the center of Palmer Plaza at UHCL Pearland Campus honors the Palmer Family.

## FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

In May, four UHCL faculty members received University Faculty Fellowships for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Recipients include Terry Dupler, associate professor of fitness and human performance; Barry Marks, professor of accounting; Kevin Wooten, professor of management; and Carl Zhang, professor of environmental science and environmental chemistry.

Each recipient was awarded a \$5,000 stipend to be used for educational materials, research seed money, and travel to conferences, workshops and seminars.

## A CLASS OF THEIR OWN

Welcome Back Bash, an annual university event held at the beginning of the new academic year, celebrated its 10th anniversary with the creation of two new traditions: taking an annual UHCL Class Photo at the event, and inviting UHCL alumni and their families to the event.

This year's event created new opportunities for alumni and students to connect on campus.

"Our alumni had expressed interest in a fun weekend event where they could bring their families to campus for a good time," says Charity Ellis, director of alumni and community relations. "Welcome Back Bash was the perfect opportunity for that and a great way for students and alumni to connect in a fun and casual environment."

An estimated 600 students, alumni, faculty, staff and families attended this year's Welcome Back Bash, which included carnival and other family-oriented activities. Sponsored by the Office of Student Life and the Office of Alumni and Community Relations, the event is predominantly organized and orchestrated by student and alumni volunteers.



Brent Goucher

2011 Welcome Back Bash student and alumni attendees, in addition to faculty and staff, gathered for a class photo to mark the event's 10th anniversary.





## what's online?

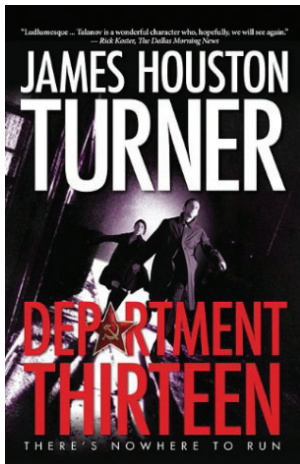
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### IMAGE EXHIBIT HONORS SHUTTLE HISTORY

In August, UHCL launched a monthlong exhibit featuring iconic images from each of the 135 NASA space shuttle missions. On hand to help celebrate the exhibit, "Celebrating Shuttle: An American Icon," were many icons from NASA's shuttle history, including Associate Director (technical) of the Johnson Space Center and former JSC Flight Director Office Chief Milt Heflin and STS-1 Space Shuttle Program Manager and former Space Shuttle Program Office Manager Bob Thompson.



NASA



### NATIONAL BOOK TOUR BEGINS AT UHCL

Inspiring award-winning author and UHCL alumnus James Houston Turner launched his national "Too Ugly Tour" at the university in September. His latest thriller, "Department Thirteen," follows Aleksandr Talanov, a retired KGB agent living with a secret about the KGB's Department Thirteen that, years later, forces him and his wife to run for their lives from unknown killers. Turner earned his Master of Arts in History at UHCL. His published books include, "The Identity Factor," which was released in 2007 in Australia, where Turner now lives, after more than 35 years of research.

### FOUNDING ART IN PEARLAND

Submissions by 33 area artists were considered during a juried competition, with the selected pieces becoming the Founding Art Collection at the UHCL Pearland Campus. A total of 27 unique pieces created by 20 individual artists were selected. The collection was unveiled during a reception earlier this year. Selected works are displayed throughout the campus's first building.

Pictured, Lynn Williams, fiber, "The Red Target."



Mike McCormick

- UHCL EXPANDS UNIVERSITY, COMMUNITY AND NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ARCHIVES
- SCHOOL OF EDUCATION OFFERS DIGITAL ACADEMY
- PHASE II OF UHCL's MASCOT SEARCH BEGINS



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## { noteworthy }

the scholarship endowment each year. Current UHCL graduate students, who are members of ISA and have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

**SPACE APPLICATIONS** Professor of Computer Engineering Liwen Shih was awarded a \$17,995 grant from the Institute for Space Systems Operations for "Understand and Optimize the Electrical and Thermal Properties of Novel Carbon Nanofiber Reinforced Polymer Composites for Space Applications," a joint project with the University of Houston Mechanical Engineering Department.

**BILINGUAL OFFICERS** Judith Marquez, program area chair of foundations and professional studies and professor of bilingual and multicultural education, is president-elect of the Texas Association for Bilingual Education, and will serve as president beginning June 2012. Professor of Bilingual and Multicultural Education Laurie Weaver serves as treasurer of the association.

**OHANA QUALITIES** Assistant Professor of Counseling Tonya Hammer was awarded the Ohana Award from the Counselors for Social Justice. The award, which honors individuals in counseling who affirm diversity and advocate for social justice, was presented at the national American Counseling Association Conference.

**IN MEMORY** The UHCL community mourns the passing of four university colleagues. Sam Bruno, who was a charter faculty member, passed away in August 2011. He was a former professor of marketing and director for the Center of Advanced Management Programs. Joseph C. Giarratano joined UHCL in 1985 and retired as an associate professor in February. He passed away in September 2011. Steven Hayes, who worked in the Office of Admissions from 2000 to 2008, passed away in July 2011. Former Associate Professor of Healthcare Administration Joseph (Joe) K. Taylor passed away in April 2011. Taylor joined UHCL in 1980 and was an associate professor emeritus at the time of his death.



# a portrait of the UHCL

# family

At UHCL, family is defined by more than biology and genetics. Here, family means sharing culture and community when relatives are halfway around the world; learning side by side and sharing accomplishments in education; finding your way with the help of those who were here before and those who are here with you. Here, family is connected through stories and experiences, through who we are, who we've been and who we can become.

Photos by Beryl Striewski



# On the Family Path

A family's passion for education, three generations deep

by Diana North

**[the LEGACY]** Walking through the Bayou Building doors as a student brought back childhood memories for Rae Cole, a second-generation UHCL graduate who remembers playing in the building's atria while her mother studied.

"I remember my mom bringing my sister and me to UHCL with her while she met with study groups," says Cole.

Sharing a common goal of higher education and academic success at UHCL with her parents and stepfather, Cole hopes to pass down her educational legacy to her six-year-old son, Kaden. Perhaps he'll even attend UHCL someday.

"I am so very grateful to have a family who believes education is important and assisted me in getting my degree," says Cole.

Cole received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in grades 4-8 generalist last May from UHCL's School of Education. She is considering returning for a master's degree in counseling. Her stepfather, Enrique de Leon, received his master's from UHCL in 1994.

"Once she decided what she wanted to study, I shared stories about what to expect as a teacher," says Enrique de Leon, who teaches criminal justice at Robert E. Lee High School. "UHCL provides a quality education in a small community setting. I knew it would prepare her very well for a career."

Her father, Roger Cole, graduated from UHCL in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in accounting, but died one year later in a car accident.

"My father passed away when I was four, so I never really got a chance to know him or remember him. When I walked through the doors of UHCL, I knew that he once did as well – and that made me think he would be proud of me following in his footsteps."

Cole's grandfather, Frank Cole, who was instrumental in her young life and remains so today, made sure she pursued an education. Whether learning or teaching, a passion for education is strong in Rae Cole's family: her uncle is a retired teacher and a cousin is currently teaching.

Her mother, Barbara de Leon, graduated from UHCL in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in biology and now works at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

As an adult, Cole relied on her mother and stepfather to help with childcare, as well as to encourage her to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher.

"She absolutely loved classes and going to school," says Barbara de Leon. "She made the Dean's List even though, with work and school, the odds were stacked against her."

Cole says campus programs and helpful professors ensured her success as a student, which helped her balance family and education – an experience she plans to take into the classroom as a teacher.

"I want my future students to know how important family is," says Cole. "As they say, 'friends can come and go but family lasts forever'."

**Rae Cole knows the value of family and education. Her family, which helped support her undergraduate mission, includes three UHCL alumni and three teachers.**







# On Common

Speaking the language of first-generation students



**[the FIRST-GENERATION]** Moving to Texas came as a surprise to Jessica Valdovinos, but when your family's California mobile home is on property that will eventually become part of a freeway, moving is inevitable. Influenced by the high cost of housing in California and the persuasive urging of an aunt already in Texas, the family decided to move here. Then 13-year-old Valdovinos was sent a month ahead of the rest of her family so that she could start her freshman year of high school on time. And, although she might be a Californian at heart, she quickly found her place in Texas.

One thing is for sure, education was always first and foremost in her family's heart. Neither of her parents had made it through middle school so the idea that their children would go to college, in particular their firstborn, was ingrained at a very young age.

"My parents would tell me they wanted me to get an education," explains Valdovinos, now 20. "They didn't want me to have a difficult life like they had."

Now enrolled at UHCL, Valdovinos plans to complete a bachelor's degree in accounting and, hopefully, a master's degree.

Being a first-generation college student maneuvering through the educational maze can be tricky without the guidance of parents or other family members. Many rely on mentors or advisers, which, in some cases, are the same person. Fortunately, Valdovinos met UHCL Academic Transfer Advising Coordinator Alvin Johnson. Johnson knows what it's like to be a first-generation student, so guiding new students in the right direction comes naturally to him.

One of eight children (six girls and one brother), the Memphis, Tenn., native had always hoped that he would be able to go to college, but knew that money would be tight, especially since two of his sisters had already started their college careers. So, he applied for every scholarship that he could, at various universities. Although several schools offered academic scholarships, it was University of Mississippi that offered Johnson the music scholarship that he ultimately accepted.

"My mom was so busy making a living, we never really got a chance to talk about college," explains Johnson. "It was our public schools that drilled the notion of college into our heads."

by Karen Barbier

# Ground

Getting into school was only a part of the struggle though, as Johnson soon found out. After looking at a class schedule and deciding that since he was already familiar with going to school all day in high school, he registered for a full day of classes, which translated into 21 hours, a mistake no freshman should make.

Johnson remembers those days well. He signed up for chemistry his first semester and, although he had made excellent grades in the subject in high school, all his prior knowledge was covered during



Jessica Valdovinos (r) knew at a young age that her parents expected her to attend college. Thanks to the support of her father, Jose, and her UniLink adviser, Alvin Johnson (opposite page), she is well on her way to completing her collegiate goals.

the first week of the course. He stuck it out, but was embarrassed of his grades that first semester.

"I was ashamed to talk about grades," says Johnson, who thought a 3.2 grade point average was something to be upset about. His classmates, of course, couldn't understand his disappointment.

It's that kind of drive that helped Johnson succeed even though he, as a first-generation student, wished he had more counseling support. By the time he was a senior, he had a job in his university's newly created student assistance center – the office that eventually gave him a career goal to assist others in their first year in college.

"I thought to myself, 'I could have used this when I was first starting,'" says Johnson. "And, that this is what I wanted to do."

In order to do it, though, he needed a graduate degree. After moving to Texas and teaching at a middle school, he completed his Master of Education in Higher Education. His middle school students were upset when he left, but he knew that he could help college students, especially first-generation students like himself. Johnson was eager to provide much-needed assistance to students like Jessica Valdovinos, whom he met in his role as UniLink adviser.

"She was someone very passionate about her education and planning ahead," says Johnson. "When she and her father came to visit UHCL, you could see the pride in their eyes. Her father didn't go to college, but you could tell he wanted to make sure that everything went well for his daughter."

"One of the most rewarding parts of my job is helping students who were on the wrong path or who were given the wrong information or lost in the process. I try to get them on the right educational path."

He has since reconnected with one of his middle school students who now attends UHCL.

"I could identify with many of my middle school students," says Johnson. "They weren't from the richest families or, often times, the most supportive, so I wanted to give them information and advice that they had never had."

It seems to have worked both at the middle school and UHCL.

"He made everything so smooth," says Valdovinos, who has gone a long way on her educational path since moving to Texas. "I'm really thankful for him. He was a great help."







# Cultural BRANCHES

by Diana North

## *When a community becomes a family*

**[the COUPLE]** After leaving their homeland and traveling halfway around the world in pursuit of a higher education – Prashanti Pandit and Subash Simkhada understand the importance of family.

Emigrating separately from their native Nepal, a sovereign state in South Asia that shares its border with the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, they arrived in the U.S. to study and build successful careers. Simkhada left Kathmandu, the country's capital, in 2004, and Pandit left the city of Pokhara the following year.

Together the pair, who met in 2005 and married February 2010, created a kind of extended family at UHCL for themselves and others who share their heritage.

"Family is important because we can share moments that we cherish and moments of failure, and family embraces us for who we are," says Pandit.

Simkhada, who graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, works as an accountant at KK Sub LLC, Subway, a fast-food corporation with restaurants in Houston and New York.

Pandit, who received her Bachelor of Science in Sociology in 2009, is pursuing a Master of Arts in Sociology while working in the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services.

As students in 2009, the pair co-founded the Nepalese Students Association, extending a sense of family and community to others.

"Being away from family and friends is difficult, and to build a social network is not an easy task," says Simkhada. "Organizations such as NSA are important for social networking and sharing cultural values."

The organization, which has grown from seven to 25 members, honors their heritage with a festival that traditionally brings family members together to celebrate.

"In 2010, we organized the first Dashain Festival at UHCL," says Pandit. "There were students from all parts of Houston including the three San Jacinto Community College branches. Some students were alumni from out-of-state universities."

Dashain is the longest religious festival in the Nepalese annual calendar and is observed for 15 days during the lunar fortnight ending on the day of the full moon. Celebrated around the

world by Nepalese, the festival is held in late September and early October with gifts, feasting, worship, ritual blessings and the reunion of distant and nearby relatives.

"It is the most important time of the year – the time you miss family and family misses you," says Pandit. "We felt like we were part of a big family when we had the opportunity to celebrate the festival at UHCL."

Active on campus, Pandit joined the National Society of Leadership and Success and served as vice president committee coordinator of the Student Government Association in 2010. She volunteered with Student Leadership Involvement and Community Engagement, and remains a student adviser for the Nepalese Students Association.

Simkhada served in various positions in NSA, including treasurer and vice president and now acts as alumni representative. He is an executive member of Nepalese Association of Houston, where he serves as a liaison between Nepalese students at UHCL and the Nepalese community in Houston.

Last year, both their sets of parents traveled from Nepal to Houston for their wedding. Pandit, in a gold-embroidered crimson wedding costume, wore the green and gold necklace given to her on the wedding day by her husband's parents – a ritual gift with the significance of a wedding ring in other cultures.

"My family is my inspiration," says Pandit. "As our families prepared us to be responsible family members, UHCL has mentored us to be student leaders and mentors. Also, without the support of my husband, I would not have been able to build such a strong relationship with UHCL."

Together they continue to reach out to the Nepalese community, organizing Nepal Day and the Annual Nepalese Engineers conference that includes Nepalese from across the U.S.

"The majority of international students from Nepal who come to UHCL do not have family in the United States – therefore it is very important to have the Nepalese Students Association and a Nepalese community where students get well connected to their culture and traditions," says Simkhada. "For most of Nepalese students in the United States, their communities and friends are their families."

**Both from strong family backgrounds, Subash Simkhada (l) and his wife Prashanti Pandit, found themselves longing for that sort of familial community when they moved to Houston. They became passionate supporters of fostering and growing the Nepalese community at UHCL, and in and around Houston.**



# Kindred Spirits

## Navigating higher education together

by Karen Barbier

**[the "SIBLINGS"]** Once upon a time and happily ever after serve as traditional beginnings and endings that most readers have enjoyed during their lifetime. However, these happy fairy-tale literary openings and closings appropriately describe the mother/daughter duo of Ann and Jessyka Reynoso, who not only study together at UHCL, but also write together.

"When I was a child, my mother and I would make up stories as a game," says 26-year-old Jessyka Reynoso. "One of the stories kept surfacing, and we continue to build on it now. We're writing the novel together."

Ann Reynoso, 45, says she's leaving the writing of the story up to Jessyka Reynoso, while she illustrates it.

"She was always bored, so I would call her into the kitchen while I was cooking or cleaning and say 'let's make up stories.'"

This mother's and daughter's prospects seemed less hopeful once upon a time. The elder Reynoso explains that she lived with her own mother in Houston as an unwed mother for the first four years of Jessyka Reynoso's life. Her memories of this time are sad ones. Working two jobs to make ends meet, Ann Reynoso relied on her mother to look after her daughter, which caused her to miss many of her daughter's firsts. She remembers coming home from work, putting her daughter in her lap and hugging her tightly, then feeling sad and happy at the same time, knowing that she wasn't getting much bonding time but gladly soaking up the time she had.

"She would hold my hand," says Ann Reynoso with a hint of melancholy.

It was tough times like these, as well as Ann Reynoso's early teenage observations of watching her own mother struggle, that made Ann Reynoso realize that education was the only way out, and that she wanted more for her daughter. Her husband of 23 years, Tivo Reynoso, agreed.

"I always knew I wanted to go to college. I can remember watching Discovery Channel and thinking I would become a marine biologist," says Jessyka Reynoso, who eventually realized that the aquatic profession was not the one for her. "But, I also remember my dad always telling me 'If you don't want to break your back for the rest of your life, you need to go to college.'"

Ann Reynoso smiles as she recalls the daughter's school days. While her grades were good, her conduct occasionally was not so good, because, as Ann Reynoso remembers, she questioned so much. Ann Reynoso eventually pulled her out of school and home-schooled her from seventh-grade through graduation on the family's 2 1/2-acre farm outside of Alvin.

"We always let her have freedom of thought and express it, which is something I never had growing up," explains Ann Reynoso. "We taught her how to express that freedom properly; that there was a certain way to express yourself."

Once Jessyka Reynoso finished the high school curriculum, her next goal was to complete college, and that is when Ann Reynoso got really excited. After hearing her daughter discuss college and all she wanted to learn, Ann Reynoso decided that she too would attend. At Alvin Community College, they took many classes together and, because of the expense, found jobs on campus.

"We took turns being each other's boss," says Jessyka Reynoso. "In one of the offices, I was in charge; while in another she was in charge."

Being together in the classroom helped both succeed at the community college level with mom and daughter proofing each other's research papers and checking each other's math in their various foundation courses. Once at UHCL, though, their paths deviated a bit. Ann Reynoso chose the women's studies degree program, while Jessyka Reynoso, who always thought she would get a degree in science, eventually landed in the humanities program. Both received their bachelor's degrees in December 2010.

"We took eight of our classes together," says Ann Reynoso. "By doing this we not only could help each other study, but we also saved





When you meet Ann (I) and Jessyka Reynoso, it is difficult to imagine them as mother and daughter. Much more like sisters, the pair decided to pursue higher education together, although the path to this educational destination took many more bumpy turns for Ann Reynoso. And, although things were difficult at times financially for the family, in December 2010 both Ann and Jessyka Reynoso graduated with their undergraduate degrees from UHCL. With that chapter completed, the two began their simultaneous paths toward a Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural Studies. Their future paths diverge with Ann Reynoso hoping to teach at a secondary school or community college and Jessyka Reynoso working to earn a doctorate.

money on books, with us buying only one set and sharing them between us.”

Not all was smooth financially however. At one point in 2009, despite the fact that they both worked, Ann Reynoso believed that she would have to skip a semester in school.

“Finances were tight, and my parents felt that if we were going to make sacrifices to send someone to school, that someone would be me,” says Jessyka Reynoso.

Fortunately, one of her professors urged Ann Reynoso to apply for the Marilyn Mieszkuc Memorial Scholarship Endowment, an endowment specifically for students in transition – academic, financial, personal or professional. She won the scholarship twice.

Their educational goals have not stopped with bachelor's degrees. Both are now pursuing a Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural

Studies at UHCL. They also have joined the university's staff: Jessyka Reynoso as a full-time senior secretary for the Student Success Center and Ann Reynoso as a student worker in the Office of Student Life. Once their degrees are complete, while their educational paths may separate, their occupational choices may not. Jessyka Reynoso is anxious to pursue a doctorate and, ultimately, teach at the college level. Ann Reynoso, while holding off on the doctorate, hopes to fulfill a new dream of hers – teaching at either the secondary or community college level.

“I want to be the voice of Latin American women,” says Ann Reynoso. “I want to teach Latin American/Women Studies.”

And, while their ultimate dream is still a long way from being complete, it is probably already safe to say they will live happily ever after together.



# COSMIC CONNECTIONS

Fueled by a love of space, education and giving back

BY DIANA NORTH

Christopher Greenfield, a native of Wales, earned his Master of Science in Physics in 2010 from UHCL. He now works at University of Houston as a teaching assistant while pursuing his Ph.D. in astrophysics. He is also director of educational programs for the Foundation for International Space Education, and has been involved with the nonprofit organization since 1997, when he first began visiting the U.S. for the Foundation's United Space School. He moved to Houston in 2009 to attend UHCL.

As a student at UHCL, Greenfield was a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, the Student Government Association executive council, the Rugby Club and the Soccer Team. He also organized the university's Physics Club, and, with the help of his wife, Clare Leonard, he co-founded Celtic Connections, an international student organization. Greenfield credits his work with student government for helping him develop his leadership and communication skills.

Last year, he was invited by UHCL President William A. Staples to join the Alumni Association executive council and welcomed the opportunity to serve in a new capacity.

"I'm hoping that my presence on council will help inspire other students to make a similar transition from student to alumni. I like generating new ideas and solutions to help make university life more beneficial to its constituents," says Greenfield.

Beyond his involvement with the council he also volunteers at key events such as AlumNight, UHCL Open House, Commencement and Alumni Celebration.

"He is passionate about UHCL, about service, about giving back and truly making a difference with his time and talents however he can," says Charity Ellis, director of alumni and community relations. "We know we can always count on Chris to show up. And, he not only shows up, he shows up with heart and with passion and with the intention and purpose to make a positive contribution to the task at hand."

Greenfield's motto is, "Immerse, engage and activate your career on campus, while having lots of fun in the process," guidelines he exemplifies by his commitment to education and the future of spaceflight.

In 2005, Greenfield married Leonard, also a Wales native. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in early childhood education at UHCL. A longtime volunteer, Leonard is now president of Celtic Connections, secretary of the History Club, and a member of the Physics Club and Texas State Teachers Association Student Program.

Leonard is the dean of students for the space school – first volunteering as group leader in 2001, and then as head teacher from 2003-2010.

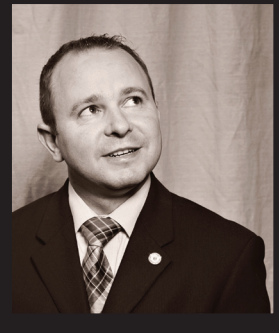
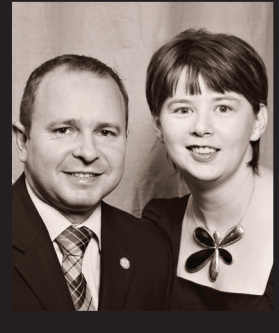
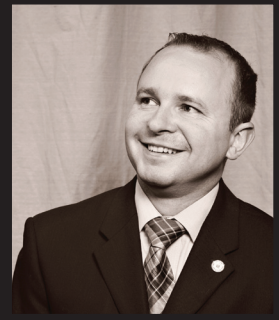
Together, Greenfield and Leonard put their leadership skills and passion to work bringing students from around the world one giant step closer to careers in spaceflight.

Hosted by the university since 2003, and by UHCL's School of Science and Computer Engineering since 2010, the space school provides academic instruction to international high school students seeking orientation in the aerospace industry. So far, students from 29 countries have attended the school since it was founded.

This year, 38 students from 18 countries participated in the two-week session. Students completed a "Human Mission to Mars" project by working in teams, and participated in a simulated mission at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

In between planning the next space school and serving on the alumni association's executive council, Greenfield will continue to be a familiar face around UHCL.

"I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to serve members of the campus community while attending the university as a student and thought that I couldn't resist the opportunity to continue with this service – but in a slightly different capacity, as an alumnus," says Greenfield.



Beryl Striewski



## { a distinguished group }

In October, the UHCL Alumni Association honored four Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, along with two Early Achievement Award honorees and the Outstanding Professor Award honoree.

Nominations in the three award categories, in addition to the Leadership Service Award, are accepted each spring from members of the university and greater community.

The Distinguished Alumni Award, which premiered in 1984, honors UHCL alumni whose contributions to the university community serve as an invaluable example for future alumni and the university as a whole.

Presented to alumni 45 years of age or younger, the Early Achievement Award recognizes those who have reached notable achievements through community or university involvement. It was first presented in 2005.

First given in 2006, the Outstanding Professor Award is presented to a current UHCL professor, or a professor who was current at the time of nomination, who has made a name for him or herself for dedicated teaching both in and outside the classroom. This year's award honorees are as follows:



Mark Kinonen

Pictured, l to r, front row, are honorees Stephen K. Jones Jr., Nefertari Brown Mundy, Christa English George and Craig Cordola. Pictured, l to r, back row, are Associate Vice President of University Advancement Dion McInnis, honorees E. J. "Joe" King, Bernard Harris Jr., Kwok Bun-Yue and President William A. Staples.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES

Craig A. Cordola, '98 MHA/MBA  
Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center

Bernard Harris Jr., '99 MBA  
NASA Astronaut; President and Chief Executive Officer, Vesalius Ventures; Founder and President, Harris Foundation

Stephen K. Jones Jr., '96 MHA/MBA  
Chief Executive Officer, Clear Lake Regional Medical Center and Mainland Medical Center

The Honorable E. J. (Joe) King, '77 BS  
County Judge, Brazoria County

### EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREES

Christa English George, '95 BA  
NASA JSC Scientific and Technical Information Center Supervisor, Tessada & Associates Inc.

Nefertari Brown Mundy, '06 MS, '09 MS  
Manager of Counseling Services, Houston Independent School District

### OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR HONOREE

Kwok-Bun Yue  
Professor, Computer Science and Computer Information Systems; Chair, Computing and Mathematics Division; School of Science and Computer Engineering





# a lifetime experience at 1.3 million feet

by Taryn Burnett



At 3- or 4-years-old a child's perception of outer space is dream-like. They dream of riding through space and conversing with aliens. Over time, these fantasies evolve, or are forgotten completely. For two UHCL alumni though, their dreams of space shuttles and moon walks never quite dissolved. Instead, they materialized.

The oldest of nine children, UHCL alumnus Michael Fincke, MS '01, knew when he was just a toddler that he wanted to be an astronaut. And to be an astronaut, he had a lot to learn.

"I was very motivated to read when I was about 3 or 4 years old because I wanted to learn about space," says Fincke. "We had a big Encyclopedia set and I remember the 'S' volume, which stood for solar system, and I learned to spell and read just because I wanted to learn about space."

When Fincke was an impressionable child, man was walking on the moon and Star Trek was airing on neighborhood television sets. The existence of SkyLab, which Fincke admits he couldn't read enough about, also influenced his childhood. It was impossible to know then that Fincke would go on to serve as commander of

SkyLab's successor, the International Space Station.

Fellow alumnus Greg Chamitoff, MS '02, also found inspiration from Star Trek, though through some much closer and confusing ties. His father, Ashley, attended high school with William Shatner, who went on to play Captain Kirk on the Starship Enterprise. Chamitoff admitted that knowing of Shatner as a real person, and then seeing Captain Kirk doing so many strange outer space things on television, made for some surreal experiences. Years later, Chamitoff became the first person to ever call Shatner from space.

While Shatner's role on Star Trek further fueled Chamitoff's interest in space, his father was the leading source of inspiration. The senior Chamitoff's interest in the universe, helped to fuel Chamitoff's interest in a career at NASA. In 1998, Chamitoff was accepted to NASA's astronaut class. Ten years later he launched on his first shuttle mission, STS-124, which included a six-month stay aboard the International Space Station. He returned aboard STS-126. When the space shuttle Endeavour launched for its final mission, STS-134, on May 16, 2011, Chamitoff served as a mission specialist.

Though he had previously resided at the International Space Station, Chamitoff never had the opportunity to participate in a spacewalk, also known as an extravehicular activity or EVA, until STS-134. In May, while orbiting 250 miles above the earth, he was able to at long last take his first steps in space.

"I could see my hand on the handrail, and there was this little circle of light around my hand and I just thought 'this hand on this handrail represents everything that I know: my bed, my family, my home, my whole life, everything that I've ever known is represented by this handrail right here. And in every other direction is the complete unknown rest of the universe,'" says Chamitoff.

When Chamitoff completed his first EVA, it was Fincke who met him at the hatch, welcoming him back aboard the ISS. The mission also meant a milestone for Fincke, one he thought he'd never have the opportunity to achieve. Though he holds the current American record for time in space, Fincke had always launched on Russian Soyuz rockets instead of NASA space shuttles. STS-134 was his first, and last, experience launching on a space shuttle.

Though his most recent mission was bittersweet, he will never forget the emotions on his first launch into space in 2004, a memory that he likens to a special first kiss. Fincke didn't think that first launch was going to happen though.

"We were sitting on the launchpad, our knees up in our noses, for three hours, just sitting there waiting," says Fincke. "And then the ground control team starts playing Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World.' I'm in the middle of Khazistan on a Russian rocket in the middle of the desert, and we're listening to a classic American song. I kept waiting for the knock on the hatch and they were going to say, 'you, get out.' I thought it was going to be one big cosmic joke."

But the knock never came. High above the earth, as the main engine cut out, the rocket naturally began to roll. Fincke, who had a window seat, could see the planet first.

"English has the perfect word for it – it's breathtaking – because you literally see something and it takes your breath away."

**"English has the perfect word for it – it's breathtaking..."**

## they are not alone...

**UHCL's 52,000 alumni include countless NASA representatives and their families. Not to be over-looked, 10 UHCL alumni are NASA astronauts and shuttle veterans.**

**Gregory J. Harbaugh,**  
STS-39, STS-54, STS-71, STS-82  
MS Physical Science, '86

**Guion S. Bluford Jr.**  
STS-8, STS-61A, STS-39, STS-53  
MBA, '87

**Bruce McCandless II**  
STS-41B, STS-31  
MBA, '87

**Story Musgrave**  
STS-6, STS-51F/Spacelab-2,  
STS-33, STS-44, STS-61, STS-80  
MA Literature, '87

**Michael E. Fossum**  
STS-121, STS-124  
MS Physical Science, '97

**Bernard A. Harris Jr.**  
STS-55, STS-63  
MBA, '99

**Edward Michael Fincke**  
STS-134  
MS Physical Science, '01

**Rick Mastracchio**  
STS-106, STS-118  
MS Physical Science, '01

**Gregory E. Chamitoff**  
STS-124, STS 126, STS-134  
MS Physical Science, '02

**Lee M.E. Morin**  
STS-110  
MS Physics, '09

A fish-eye lens attached to an electronic still camera was used to capture this image of NASA astronaut Greg Chamitoff during the mission's fourth session of extravehicular activity (EVA) as construction and maintenance continue on the International Space Station. During the seven-hour, 24-minute spacewalk, Chamitoff and astronaut Michael Fincke (visible in the reflections of Chamitoff's helmet visor), both STS-134 mission specialists, completed the primary objectives for the spacewalk, including stowing the 50-foot-long boom and adding a power and data grapple fixture to make the Enhanced International Space Station Boom Assembly available to extend the reach of the space station's robotic arm.





1970s

**Teresa Hemphill**, '77 BS, works at Cadence Bank as the executive vice president and chief credit officer.

**Charles McCauley**, '78 MA, was re-elected to Position 7 on the Alvin Independent School District Board of Trustees. His term will expire May 2014.

**William McLelland**, '79 MS, is a staff scientist for ConocoPhillips in Bartlesville, Okla.

**James E. Toups Sr.**, '79 BS, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Galveston County Ports.

1980s

**Leslie Guditis**, '87 BBA, works at Capella University, Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences Counseling/Marriage and Family Therapy.



**Sandy Johnson**, '82 MBA, was awarded the United Way 2010-2011 Chairman's Award by the United Way of Greater Houston.

**Bob Leiper**, '88 BA, was appointed city manager for the City of Baytown. He previously served as fire chief and deputy city manager.



**Steve Phelps**, '80 BBA, was elected to the board of directors for Moody National Bank.

1990s

**Blake Barnes**, '90 BBA, founded A-Blake Records, a record label.

**Timothy D. Blevins**, '91 BS, is a Ph.D. candidate at Barry University, Miami Shores, Fla. He is a professor of legal methods at Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando.



**Mary Linda Breneman**, '95 MS, retired as a middle school counselor. She lives in Novi, Mich.

**Elizabeth Castro**, '98 MS, '95 BS, is currently teaching for San Angelo ISD.

**Mark Goeman**, '95 BS, is employed by Jacobs Engineering as a software analyst. He resides in Houston.

**Bernard Harris**, '99 MBA, received the FBI Director's 2010 Community Leadership Award for his nonprofit foundation's education and crime prevention programs for students in the Houston area.

**Matthew Legg**, '99 MBA, is the director of human resources for Ensco plc.

**Sandra Rasch**, '96 MS, was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in telecommunications and training. She has been employed with AT&T Inc. for the past 13 years.

**Victor Rodriguez**, '91 BA, was appointed police chief of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County.

**Lydia San Miguel-Mondragon**, '98 BS, was named principal of St. Mary Catholic School in League City.

**Neeta Sane**, '97 MS, is a Houston Community College trustee for District VII and was honored by the State of Texas House of Representatives in recognition of her service to the community and HCC.

**Clyde Skarke**, '93 MS, '87 BS, was named principal of Deer Park High School-Wolters Campus. He has been with Deer Park ISD since 1989.

**Gary Vaughn**, '98 MS, works for Thomson Reuters as an eXtensible Business Reporting Language consultant.

2000s

**Joanie DeForest**, '06 MS, '99 MA, '94 BA, was named president-elect of the Texas chapter of the College Reading and Learning Association. She works for San Jacinto College South as the lead faculty for the college preparatory division.

**Sheryl Ferguson**, '04 BA, is a sixth-grade language arts/dyslexia specialist for Goose Creek ISD. She was voted campus teacher of the year by her colleagues at Baytown Junior School in Baytown.



**Michael Fincke**, '01 MS, was one of the six-member crew on the 25th and final mission for the Space Shuttle Endeavour. He holds the current time in space record for a U.S. astronaut.

**Paul Generale**, '02 MBA, was named vice president and senior financial officer of CHRISTUS Health.

**Stacey Glaesmann**, '02 MA, published her second work, "Thank God I ... Volume 3," earlier this year.

In addition to operating a private counseling practice in Pearland, she teaches psychology at San Jacinto College South.



**Martin A. Gonzalez**, '06 MA, was sworn in as a police officer for Deer Park.

**Ron Graham**, '04 MA, '01 BS, founded Visually Impaired People of South East Texas, a support group for people who are visually impaired in the Kingwood and Humble areas.

**Anthony Lack**, '05 MA, is an assistant professor of sociology at Kenai Peninsula College, Kenai River Campus, Soldotna, Alaska.

**Khalid Malik**, '04 BA, married Fatima Khan in May 2011.

**Scott Martindale**, '03 MA, is principal of Davila Middle School in Bryan.

**Amanda Matthys**, '03 BBA, and her husband, Mike Chopsinski, welcomed baby girl Chloe Grace in June 2011.

**Suzanne Mau**, '07 MS, was awarded Pearland ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year.

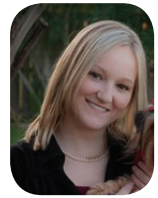
**Gabe Moreno**, '00 BA, is the strength training coach for the Louisville Bats, Louisville, Ky.

**Sean Otmishi**, '08 BS, teaches computer science technology and computer science at Houston Community College Northwest.

**Keshani Perera**, '02 MS, '00 BS, was selected as Teacher of the Year at Project Chrysalis Middle School in Houston. She teaches eighth-grade math and algebra.

**Eva Vosta**, '09 BS, is a clinical information manager for Team Health West.

**Jessica Ramirez**, '09 BA, owns J&D Productions, a photography and videography company specializing in weddings. Her company was recently selected to receive the 2011 WeddingWire Brides Choice Award.



2010s

**Rachael Mattson**, '10 MS, was named District Secondary Teacher of the Year for Galveston ISD and Teacher of the Year at Austin Magnet Middle School,





where she teaches seventh- grade English/ language arts.

**Tony Morquecho**, '10 BS, is an account executive for station LA RAZA, 103.3 FM.

**Elvis Quintero**, '10 BS, is an optician at Bay Area Eye Center.

**Brett Toche**, '10 MS, completed his first Ironman competition in The Woodlands in 15 hours 55 minutes.



**Shalyn Watson**, '10 BS, works for Northwestern Mutual-The Texas Financial Group as a new business processor.

### In Memory

**Barbara Baldwin**, '80 BBA, November 2010.

**Betty Bell**, '80 MA, April 2011.

**James R. Broughton**, '83 MBA, March 2011.

**Tammy A. DeLong**, '02 BA, April 2011.

**Anthony Edward Giarratano**, '05 BBA, August 2011.

**James Goggin**, '84 MS, November 2010.

**Dina Hobbs Griffin**, '90 BBA, February 2011.

**Vinette A. Johnson**, '81 MA, May 2011.

**Patricia L. Lambert**, '00 MA, May 2011.

**William J. Lowery**, '91 BS, October 2010.

**Barbara McCauley**, '90 BS, May 2011.

**Bobbie J. McRummen**, '87 MA, June 2010.

**Edward K. Muraski**, '95 MHA, October 2010.

**JoAnne O'Neal**, '99 MA, April 2011.

**Amy Linn O'Sullivan**, '04 MA, December 2010.

**Margaret Russell**, '90 MS, May 2011.

**Sylvia Branscum Shelley**, '76 MA, May 2011.

**Marvin T. Taylor**, '79 MA, March 2011.

**Peggy Jean Wilcher**, '77 BBA, June 2011.

**Patsy P. Yokum**, '93 BA, March 2011.

*Submit your items to Class Notes by sending an email with "Class Notes" in the subject line to [alumni@uhcl.edu](mailto:alumni@uhcl.edu) or by completing the online form at [www.uhcl.edu/alumni](http://www.uhcl.edu/alumni). Be sure to note your full name, class year and contact information with your news item. You may also mail your submission to Class Notes, UH-Clear Lake, Office of Alumni and Community Relations, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., UHCL Box 318, Houston, TX 77058.*

## { get involved }

### JOIN FELLOW ALUMNI AT ALUMNIGHTS

The UHCL Alumni Association hosts AlumNights, casual networking events for alumni to mix and mingle, while building relationships, new and old. Since beginning these events nearly two years ago at the university, AlumNights have proven to be so beneficial that the events were expanded to off-campus locations. Events are hosted by alumni and business owners. If you are interested in hosting an AlumNight at your business, contact Mindi Funderburg, coordinator of outreach and communications, at 281-283-2041 or [funderburg@uhcl.edu](mailto:funderburg@uhcl.edu).

### RETURN TO CAMPUS

One of UHCL's greatest traditions is Chili Cook-Off. Bringing together students, alumni, faculty and staff, this one-day event is fun for participants and guests. Competitors face off to see who can create the year's favorite chili. Guests can purchase tasting kits to sample the various provisions and cast their vote, along with the judges. Each year the UHCL Alumni Association puts together a team of chili gurus, so make sure to mark your calendar and let us know if you're interested in joining us. The 2012 event is scheduled for Saturday, March 31.

Looking to participate in alumni activities on-campus a little sooner? Throughout the fall and spring semesters, the UHCL Alumni Association hosts an Alumni Coffee Table, providing free coffee, hot cocoa and snacks to students as they pass by on their way to class. Created at the request of an alumna who recalled being on campus for night classes, long after many offices and the cafeteria had closed for the day, the Alumni Coffee Table has been warmly received by both students and alumni.

To join the UHCL Alumni Association Chili Cook-Off team or to volunteer at an Alumni Coffee Table, contact Kris Thompson, coordinator of special events, alumni and community relations, at 281-283-2040 or [thompsonk@uhcl.edu](mailto:thompsonk@uhcl.edu).

### A NEW COUNCIL

UHCL President William A. Staples appointed seven alumni to serve three-year terms on the UHCL Alumni Association Executive Council. These new members will serve along with the 13 existing council members. The new members are: Johnny Galaviz, BBA '07; Christopher Greenfield, MS '10; James Robert Lay, MBA '06, BS '04; Michael Phillips, MS '08; Camille Shock, MS '00, BS '93; Marilyn S. Sims, BS '88; and Joyce Delores Taylor, MA '08, '06, '04.

The Alumni Association is composed of your peers, your fellow alumni and your friends. Alumni volunteers, the association's executive council and the Office of Alumni and Community Relations staff work together to reach, engage, serve, empower and acknowledge members through meaningful services, events and outreach.

**Are you interested in becoming more involved with your alumni association? Visit [www.uhcl.edu/alumni](http://www.uhcl.edu/alumni) or email [alumni@uhcl.edu](mailto:alumni@uhcl.edu).**



[www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation)





**November 3**

Fall 2011 Teacher Job Fair, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I. 281-283-2590, jobfair@uhcl.edu.

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“Oman Adventures: Cave Exploration in the Land of Sinbad, Frankincense and the Queen of Sheba” by Louise Hose, Texas A&M University. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

**November 5**  
15th Annual Student Leadership Conference, “Step Up and Be the One,” Bayou Building. 281-283-2611.

**November 11**

Annual Veterans Day Celebration, 10:30 a.m., Liberty Park. 281-283-2024.

**November 11 – January 13, 2012**

Spring 2012 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

**November 14**

IISS Global Expo, 12-5 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium II. 281-283-2565, iiss@uhcl.edu.

**November 14 – January 20, 2012**

“Campeche,” photography by Van Edwards and poetry by Joshua Edwards, Bayou Building, Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

**November 17**

Poetry Reading Series Open Mic, 5-6:30 p.m., Student Services and Classroom Building, Cappuccino Bono. 281-283-3430.

**November 19**

Gizmo Guys, 7 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**December 1**

“From the Depths of Hell: How NASA Helped Save 33 Chilean Miners” by Albert Holland, NASA Johnson Space Center. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

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Spring 2012 application deadline for new graduate students. 281-283-2500.

**December 16**

Commencement Kick-Off, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium II. 281-283-2021.

**January 3, 2012**

Spring 2012 priority application deadline for new undergraduate students. 281-283-2500.

**January 5**

“The Space Shuttle in Retrospect” by John Shannon, space shuttle program manager, and John McCullough, flight director, NASA Johnson Space Center. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

**January 12**  
New International Student Orientation, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I. Registration required. 281-283-2575, iiss@uhcl.edu.

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UHCL Pearland Campus New Student Orientation, 6-8:30 p.m., 1200 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. Registration recommended. 281-212-1679.

**January 14**

New Student Orientation, 8:50 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration recommended. 281-283-2560, orientation@uhcl.edu.

**January 19**

“Farewell Haydn, Hello Mozart,” by Mercury Baroque Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**February 2**

“Lunar Detective Work: Meteorites Reveal the Moon’s Early History and Evolution” by Julianne Gross, Lunar and Planetary Institute. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

**February 6 – March 20**

“Fotofest 2012 Biennial,” Bayou Building, Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

**February 16**

“A French Valentine” by Mercury Baroque Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**February 17-18**

“The Vagina Monologues,” 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2564.

**February 24**

Urban Souls Dance Company, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**March 1**

Summer 2012 application deadline for international students. 281-283-2500.

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“The Training and Challenges of a Navy Seal: How to Apply the Warrior Mentality to Everyday Life” by Christopher Cassidy, US Navy Seal. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

**March 10**

UHCL Day of Service. Locations throughout the Houston-Galveston area. 281-283-2566.

**April 5**

“Revolution Egypt: Protests That Removed a President” by Mike McMullen, UHCL. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

**April 16 – May 17**

“UHCL BFA Exhibition 2012,” Bayou Building, Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

**April 17**  
“Small Talk. Big Ideas.” Breakfast Roundtable, 7-9 a.m., Bayou Building, Forest Room. For tickets, call 281-283-2021.

**April 20 – June 1**

Summer 2012 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

**April 22 – August 17**

Fall 2012 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

**May 3**

“Command Briefing of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their Responsibilities” by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. CLASP event, 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room. 281-283-2021.

**May 10**

“Heroic Beethoven,” by Mercury Baroque Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**Find more UHCL events at [www.uhcl.edu/events](http://www.uhcl.edu/events).**

*Dates and times are subject to change; please confirm event details by calling the telephone number listed or visiting UHCL’s website at [www.uhcl.edu](http://www.uhcl.edu). Individuals who wish to participate in any of the events listed and who need special accommodation to do so, should contact the university’s American Disabilities Act coordinator at 281-283-2626 at least two weeks before the date of the event.*





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