

e

E G R E T

inside:

- down to a science
- extraordinary relationships
- one alumna's path

changing spaces
new growth, new experiences





Climbing, crawling and jumping are an important part of everyday life for kids, and for those with autism spectrum disorders these same activities can also improve coordination and motor skills. Through an \$81,344 grant provided by The Brown Foundation, UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities will be able to provide play opportunities for children who attend the center.

"Previously, we had no outdoor facilities for our children and we would not have the ability to build a playground without this generous grant," says CADD Director and Professor of Psychology Dorothea Lerman. "We are so grateful for the generosity of The Brown Foundation in providing a much-needed resource for the children who receive services from CADD."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate an average of one in 88 children in the United States have an autism spectrum disorder, which is four to five times more likely to occur in boys than girls. Because the unstructured space, loud noises and rambunctious children of a neighborhood playground can be overwhelming to those with an autism spectrum disorder, children with autism do not often experience the learning and social development benefits that other children do. Playground practice sessions, though, can allow the children to learn how to interact with their peers and become less anxious and withdrawn in a group setting.

For more information about the center, visit <http://hsh.uhcl.edu/CADD>.

The Brown Foundation funded an \$81,344 grant for the construction of a sensory playground for UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, built as part of the Arbor Building expansion.

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ON THE COVER: Jeff Bowen, audience development coordinator for the UHCL Art Gallery, quickly shouldered his new responsibilities including overseeing a much-needed expansion of the gallery.

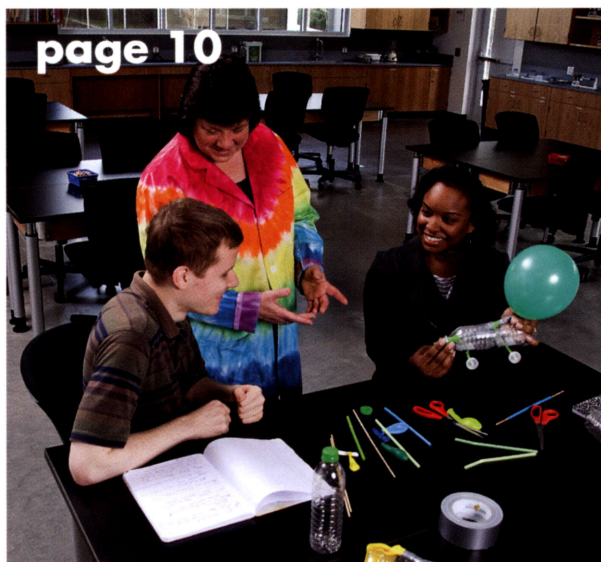
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FEATURE SECTION

NEW NATURE 9

A new wetland area is quickly earning its place on campus by offering an expanded educational area for university and community students, and creating an environmentally efficient method to clean runoff water.

ROOM TO RACE 10

When the School of Education's updated teaching lab was unveiled, the space was a dream come true for students and faculty.

ANALYZING THE INVISIBLE 12

From cattle ticks to soft coral, updated DNA equipment at UHCL is helping students and faculty explore genetics and DNA sequencing with far-reaching results.

THE RIGHT AUDIENCE 14

Jeff Bowen's first few months at UHCL have included social media, art exhibits, community workshops and a demolition crew.

DEPARTMENTS

FOR THE RECORD	2
FACULTY BOOKSHELF	4
WHAT'S ONLINE?	5
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT	6
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT	16
CLASS NOTES	18
DATEBOOK	20



{ noteworthy }

A LEAD IN EDUCATION UHCL's School of Education named Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership Bettye Grigsby educational management program coordinator. Grigsby, who joined the UHCL faculty in 2007, is responsible for the Master of Science in Educational Management and related principal certification programs.

SAFETY RANKS HIGH AT UHCL For the third year in a row, *stateuniversity.com* recognized UHCL as one of the top 25 safest public higher education campuses in the United States. UHCL ranked as the 17th safest institution in America and the second safest campus in Texas.

NEW PROGRAM AT CINCO RANCH In January, UHCL began offering its Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership degree at the University of Houston System at Cinco Ranch. UHCL has five additional programs at UHS Cinco Ranch, including a master's degree in educational management with principal certification, online graduate degrees in software engineering and in instructional technology, and certifications in instructional technology, principalship and Professional Development and Appraisal System.

INTERNATIONAL ART Sandria Hu, professor of fine arts, met with administrators from the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, to formalize the International Consortium agreement. Her trip was funded, in part, by a Houston Endowment Inc. grant, which aims to strengthen UHCL arts programs and international art relations. The consortium, established in 2003, involves universities from Texas, Slovakia, Serbia, Hawaii and Czech Republic.

FINALIST FELLOWSHIP Graduate student Henry "Hank" Hodde has been selected as a finalist by the Texas Sea Grant Agency for the National Sea Grant College Program Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship. If selected as a national finalist, he will be matched with a government host in Washington, D.C., for a one-year paid fellowship. Hodde is completing his master's degree in environmental management this year.

UHCL CHOSEN FOR MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

UHCL's Office of Counseling Services is one of three grant sites chosen for a \$1.6 million initiative to create internships for doctoral psychology students that will help alleviate mental health workforce shortages in Texas.

The university received a five-year, \$509,082 grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health at The University of Texas at Austin. The grant will fund a new internship program that will enable students to get a year of supervised training and experience required for a doctoral degree in psychology.

Twelve interns will be trained during the five-year initiative, with their salaries and the cost of their training to be paid by the grant. In return, the interns will expand the university's capacity to provide mental health services to a student population of more than 8,000.

"Mental health services in Harris, Galveston and Brazoria counties are severely lacking, especially for students who don't have insurance," says UHCL Associate Director of Counseling and Training Cynthia Cook. "With this grant, our center can serve more students, and the interns will gain invaluable experience working with people from all walks of life who are dealing with a variety of challenges."

Michele Guzmán, assistant director of research and evaluation at the Hogg Foundation and a clinical associate professor in counseling psychology, finds psychology workforce trends in Texas troubling. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of practicing psychologists in 77 counties decreased, and 102 counties had no practicing psychologists in 2009. The shortages have been most severe in rural areas, especially in South Texas, West Texas and the Panhandle.

Two other sites participating in the initiative are Scott & White Healthcare System in Temple and Travis County Juvenile Probation Department in Austin. The three programs combined will train an estimated 38 interns during the next five years.

The Hogg Foundation advances recovery and wellness in Texas by funding mental health services, policy analysis, research and public education. The foundation was created in 1940 by the children of former Texas Governor James S. Hogg and is part of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.

CREATIVE MASCOT WINNERS

As part of Phase II of the Mascot Search Project, UHCL solicited illustrations and naming options for the top four mascot options: the hawk, buck, blue heron and egret. Artists had a chance to have their mascot concept help shape the official UHCL mascot's image and to win cash prizes for the mascot's illustration or name.

Alumnus Faisal Ali and student Don Suttajit were selected as the Mascot Creative Contest winners. Ali, who graduated with a Bachelor in Fine Arts in Applied Design and Visual Arts in 2011, won for his hawk mascot concept. Current graduate student Suttajit won with his blue heron and buck artwork. Suttajit is pursuing a graduate degree in digital media studies.



Pictured (l to r) are Faisal Ali, UHCL President William A. Staples and Don Suttajit. Ali and Suttajit won the Mascot Creative Contest.

HONOR THROUGH SCHOLARS

Four UHCL students will continue to pursue an education with financial assistance from the M.L. Wismer Scholarship Endowment. Undergraduate students Natalie McKenney, Monique Martinez and Tracy Furman, as well as graduate student Ambericent Cornett received the scholarships.

"This is an outstanding example of how generous alumni and contributors can make a difference in the lives of students who might otherwise be unable to pursue their degrees," says UHCL Associate Vice President for University Advancement Dion McInnis.

The two community and business leaders created the M.L. Wismer Scholarship Endowment in 1993, the university's first

private scholarship, to honor Ann's father, M.L. Wismer, as well as to aid students in attaining their chosen educational goals. The couple has helped establish three other endowments.

"The Landolts are very supportive of UH-Clear Lake and its students," says McInnis. "Their passion for the university and their generous personalities are apparent when they meet the scholarship recipients."

Michael Landolt, a local certified public accountant, serves as a senior financial adviser for Merrill Lynch. He is a recipient of a 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award, the 2005 UH-Clear Lake Community Partnership Award and the 2000 President's Cabinet Leadership Award. 1993 Distinguished Alumna Ann Wismer-Landolt remains very active in the community.



Four UHCL students received a much-needed financial boost through the support of the M.L. Wismer Scholarship Endowment, an endowment created by university 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Michael Landolt and 1993 Distinguished Alumna Ann Wismer-Landolt. Pictured are (seated) Ann Wismer-Landolt and Michael Landolt; (standing, l to r) UHCL President William A. Staples, recipient Natalie McKenney, recipient Monique Martinez, recipient Ambericent Cornett and Executive Director of Financial Aid Billy Satterfield. Not pictured is recipient Tracy Furman.

NEW MASTER'S DEGREE APPROVED

The School of Human Sciences and Humanities expanded its roster of degrees with a Master of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the new program in November 2011, bringing UHCL's total number of graduate-level programs to 45.

Students enrolled in the program will

learn about assessing and evaluating organizational theories and interventions, as well as gaining knowledge of psychological theories and principles. Formerly a sub-plan of the Master of Arts in Behavioral Sciences – General, the degree program includes core course requirements such as Personnel Psychology and Change and Organizational Development. Since 2002 when the program was first introduced as a sub-plan at UHCL, enrollment has shown a continual increase.

{ noteworthy }

AWARDING STUDENT RESEARCH Celina Gauthier, a student in the School of Science and Computer Engineering, received the 2011 SETAC/EA Engineering Jeff Black Award from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. The annual award is granted to one graduate-level student based on the student's thesis research proposal regarding environmental toxicology or chemistry.

TRANSLATING ART School of Education students Evelyn Alvarez, Jo Castellanos, Laura Cayon, Daniela Gracia, Wendy Madrid and Brigida Ponce, were recognized for their assistance in translating a children's coloring book from English to Spanish. The book, "My trip to UHCL," is given to the children of new UHCL students during New Student Orientation.

A MODEL EXPERIENCE Five UHCL students participated at the Model Arab League Conference in Houston, and two received award recognition for their work. Udeshika Amara, Nick Burns, Imelda Estrada, Juan Garcia and Jane Terekhova served as a mock delegation for Morocco. Terekhova earned an honorable mention for her work on the mock Council of Palestinian Affairs and Burns received an honorable mention as a member of the mock Council for Economic Affairs.

LEAD MARKETING Jaehoon Lee, assistant professor of marketing, in partnership with University of Texas at San Antonio Professor of Marketing L.J. Shrum, published "Conspicuous Consumption versus Charitable Behavior in Response to Social Exclusion: A Differential Needs Explanation" in the leading marketing publication, *Journal of Consumer Research*.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS The Signal and Bayosphere, both UHCL student publications received awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's state competition. The Signal student newspaper won 25 awards between its print and online editions. Three of those awards were at the first-place level. UHCL's literary art magazine Bayosphere received three awards, including an honorable mention for story package.

{ noteworthy }

A PARADE AT SEA The Environmental Institute of Houston, housed at UHCL, participated in the Clear Lake Boat Lane Parade's gold anniversary. EIH entered two research boats in the holiday event. The "Twin Vee" placed third in the sponsored power boat 23-foot and under category. Crewing the winning boat were School of Science and Computer Engineering graduate students Emma Clarkson and Alex Miller, in addition to Executive Director of EIH and Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science George Guillen, his wife Chatta and his grandson Maddox.

HONOR AND RECOGNITION Assistant Professor of Accounting Randall Xu and the Zeta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi were recognized by the honors organization as a Distinguished Chapter. The chapter excelled in the areas of academics, professionalism and leadership. Xu serves as faculty adviser.

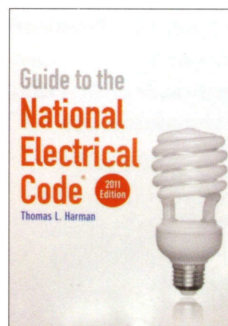
CADD AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, along with The University of Texas Health Sciences Center, University of Houston and Texas Woman's University, was awarded a shared five-year federal grant for Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities. Only one LEND grant is awarded per state. Dorothea Lerman, UHCL professor of psychology and director for CADD, will serve as core faculty and associate director of training for the grant.

STUDYING PUBLIC EDUCATION Margaret "Peggy" Hill, associate professor emerita of reading and language arts, serves on the national board for the League of Women Voters and is chairing "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education," a national study. This is the first time that the League of Women Voters has worked to develop a national position on public education.

FUNDING COUNSELING The Meadows Foundation awarded UHCL Counseling Services a \$32,500 grant to support the salary and benefits of a pre-doctoral intern during the 2012-13 academic year.

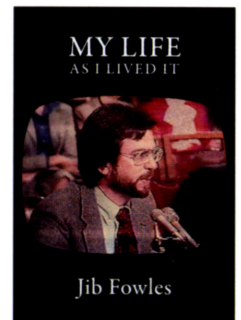
faculty bookshelf

■ **An Anthology of Educational Innovation: Digital Frameworks of Understanding;** Edited by Caroline M. Crawford, Associate Professor of Instructional Technology. *Common Ground Publishing, Champaign, Illinois (2011)*. Crawford shares her immense and diverse collection of suggested works that illustrate different methodologies for creating successful online learning environments – concepts that are critical for today's evolving environment in education. Included in the works are examples of support, technology resources and teaching techniques. ISBN: 9781863358996.



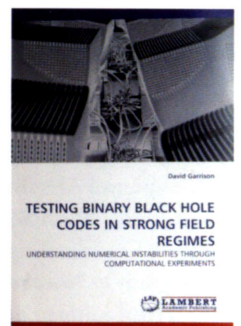
■ **Guide to the National Electrical Code, 2011 Edition;** By Thomas L. Harman, Professor of Computer Engineering and Co-Director of High Technologies Laboratory. *Prentice Hall, New Jersey (2012)*. This ideal companion for studying the National Electrical Code features updates for 2011. Harman's text is geared toward both advanced and student electricians, featuring problem-solving exercises, examples and illustrations. Tables are arranged for readability and ease of use, and references are practical and explained in detail. ISBN: 978-0-13-212162-0.

■ **My Life as I Lived It;** By Jib Fowles, Professor Emeritus of Communication. *Self-published, Dickinson, Texas (2011)*. Meet UHCL charter faculty member Jib Fowles as he narrates his lifetime journey and discovers what it means to be content. He revels about his first impressions of the university, becoming a Houstonian, and the experiences he had at the young Bay Area campus. ISBN: 9780615417547.



■ **Setting the Table: Preparing Judy Chicago's The Dinner Party;** Edited by Jane Chin Davidson, Assistant Professor of Applied Design and Visual Arts. *Disc Pro Printing and Graphics, Houston (2011)*. Featuring essays by Jane Chin Davidson and Gretchen Mieszkowski, this illustrated catalog details the 30-year anniversary of Judy Chicago's "The Dinner Party" exhibit at UHCL as well as the controversy surrounding the exhibit's 1980 Houston premiere. ISBN: 9781450761604.

■ **Testing Binary Black Hole Codes in Strong Field Regimes: Understanding Numerical Instabilities Through Computational Experiments;** By David Garrison, Program Chair of Physics and Associate Professor of Physics. *LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG, Germany (2011)*. Garrison's text focuses on Einstein equations, offering a study of vacuum solutions of the cosmological type, exploring constraint violating and gauge mode instabilities. ISBN: 9783844314458.





what's online?

University news highlights, for on the go, anywhere.

NEW HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR NAMED

UHCL's Healthcare Administration named Lee Revere as program director and faculty chair earlier this year. Revere, a longtime university faculty member, brings with her a strong and well-published background in the health care industry.



UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED

In April, distinguished faculty and staff were honored at the 34th annual UHCL Faculty & Staff Awards Presentation. The ceremony included the presentation of distinguished faculty awards, staff merit awards, the Hugh P. Avery Prize – The President's Distinguished Staff Service Award, and service year awards.



UHCL DAY OF SERVICE CONNECTS COMMUNITY NEEDS WITH RESOURCES

UHCL held its Day of Service in early March. Sponsored by the university's Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement program, the event aims to connect students, faculty, staff and alumni with local agencies to help build houses, stock shelves and more. The event, originally known as "Community Outreach Day," was created in 2003.



- MASCOT FINALISTS NARROWED, ILLUSTRATED AND NAMED
- THE NEW LOOK OF UHCL AND UHCL PEARLAND CAMPUS
- UHCL STUDENT EXPLORES ART IN SPAIN



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www.facebook.com/UHCLPearlandCampus

www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation

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{ noteworthy }

MICROSCOPIC INVESTIGATING Associate Professor of Biology and Biotechnology and Program Chair Larry Rohde received a \$146,717 grant from NASA for his proposal, "Dependence of radiation quality on charged particle-induced early and late damages in chromosomes and investigation of intrachromosome rearrangement as a biosimulator for radiation exposure."

SUPPORTING STAFF EDUCATION The UHCL Support Staff Association awarded two \$600 scholarships to university support staff members who are currently enrolled in school. Scholarship recipients included Charise Armstrong, executive secretary, and Gabrielle Fraire, library associate.

FLOCKING SUCCESS In December and January, the UHCL Professional and Administrative Staff Association held a "Get Flocked" fundraiser to raise scholarship money. Members of the association visited more than 150 offices on campus, filling the offices with neon pink, inflatable flamingos. PASA raised \$2,316.50 for the Jean Nettles PASA Scholarship fund, which helps fund university undergraduate and graduate staff scholarships.

A FINAL FAREWELL University of Houston System President Emeritus Charles Bishop passed away in January 2012. Bishop served as UHS chancellor from February 1980 to September 1986. His tenure included growth in facilities and endowments, with the system's endowment almost doubling. Bishop was the second chancellor to lead the system.

IN MEMORY The UHCL community mourns the passing of two university colleagues. E.T. Dickerson, who joined the university in 1975 and retired in 2006 as a professor of computer engineering for the School of Science and Computer Engineering, passed away in November 2011. He had also served as interim dean and dean of SCE. Hans C. Olsen, who joined the university in 1980 as founding dean of the School of Education, passed away in December 2011. He served as professor of educational leadership and as associate dean of SOE.

Community

Shared inspirations guide community resources for children

JSC Federal Credit Union is passionate about education, especially when it comes to educating people about their finances. But, their zeal for education goes beyond their location in the heart of the Bay Area. Actively involved in the community, JSC FCU is an ardent sponsor of numerous educational events at UHCL. This continued assistance has led to the credit union's recognition with one of two Community Partnership Awards presented by UHCL President William A. Staples.

"JSC FCU and UHCL have mutual goals: to educate and foster members of our community so that they will be financially independent and prosperous and productive members of society," says JSC FCU Marketing and Business Development Manager Jennifer Robinett. "The more successful UHCL is in educating its students, the more likely they will become independent and free-minded individuals who can make educated decisions about finances for themselves and their families."

"UHCL is proud to have JSC FCU as a community partner," says Staples. "They represent everything that UHCL values in a partner and they strive to make our community a better place to live, not only by assisting their members with managing their assets, but also by offering their support to the local organizations, like UHCL, that make a difference."

Throughout the years, JSC FCU has supported many activities at the university including UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Speaker Series, annual Veterans Day festivities and new student orientations.

"Credit unions exist to help people, not to make a profit," adds Robinett. "UHCL is a valued and integral part of our local community and, as such, JSC FCU sees the importance of reaching out to students, faculty and staff."

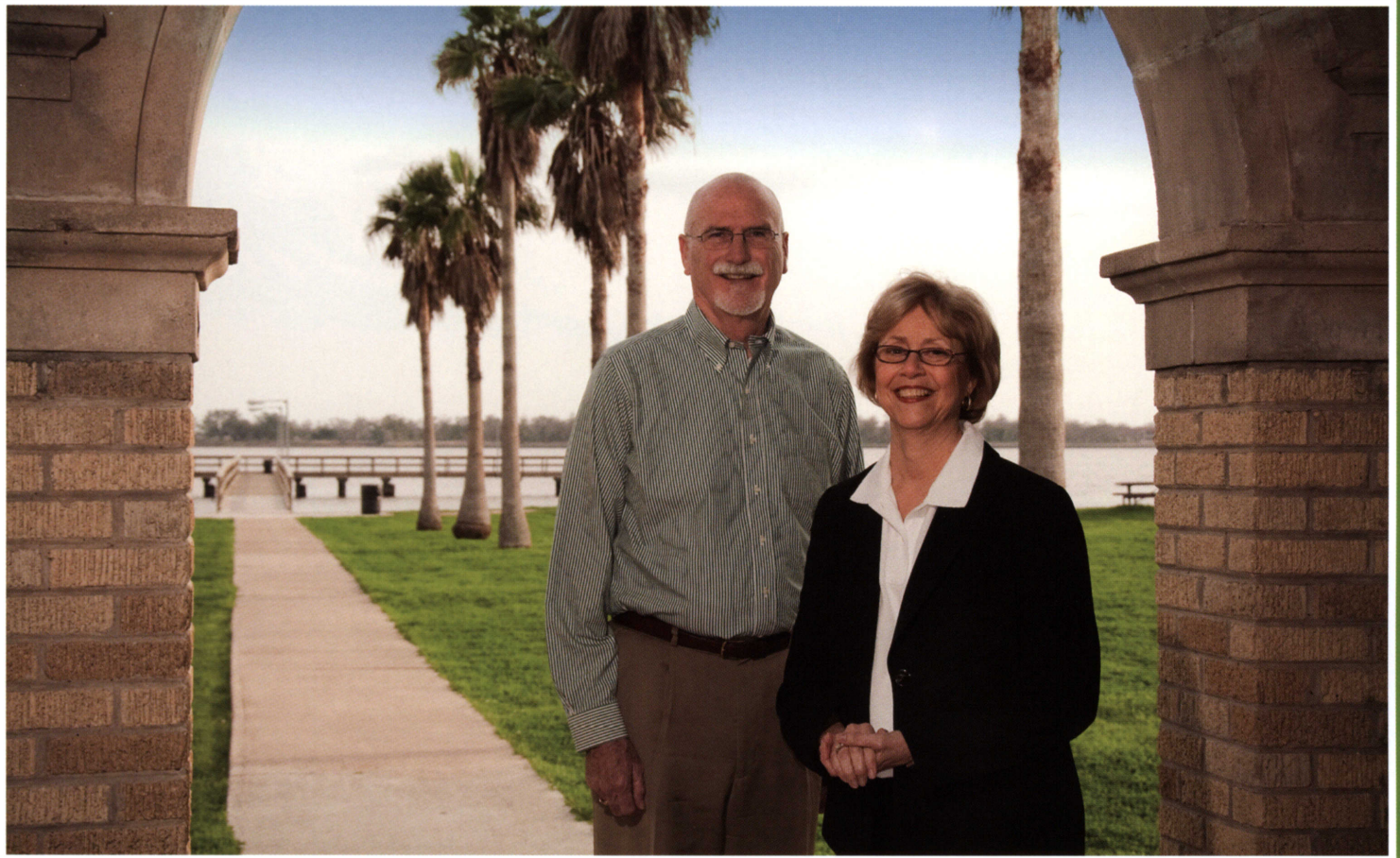
JSC FCU knows and proves that while providing stable financial products to its members is incredibly important, money isn't everything. Sometimes, active involvement is what's needed to have a positive impact on the lives of others.

Like UHCL, JSC Federal Credit Union was created for NASA and the local community. The similarities of their stories are just one of the many connections the university and the credit union share. Pictured (l to r) are JSC FCU Vice President of Lending & Marketing Thomas Hast, President Michael G. Brown, Business Development Coordinator Becky Day and Marketing & Business Development Manager Jennifer Robinett.



Momentum

by Karen Barbier



Space Center Rotary Club helps mark the beginning of fall for many Bay Area residents when they host the rotary's annual Shrimporee. A popular event that supports the local community, the 2011 Shrimporee celebrated life for those with children who have autism spectrum disorders with proceeds benefitting UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

Space Center Rotary Club's support of these well-deserving families as well as its more than 35 years of continuous involvement in connecting business leaders and organizations to UHCL have appropriately made it one of the recipients for this year's Community Partnership Awards.

"When a partner like Space Center Rotary Club shows their continued loyalty to the community by fundraising for multiple organizations including CADD, we know there is a commitment to helping others," says UHCL President William A. Staples. "This commitment is present in the rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self.'"

Chartered in the early 1960s, the Space Center Rotary Club has remained focused on its motto. Traditionally, the incoming president recommends who should receive funds from the Shrimporee.

"CADD was brought to my attention by a fellow Rotarian whose grandchild is autistic and thought this would be a good organization to support," says Space Center Rotary Club President-elect and Shrimporee Chairperson Marilyn Musial. That Rotarian was Jerry Smith, vice president at Merrill Lynch and a longtime member of UHCL's Community Partners Council.

Space Center Rotary Club President Mike Dennard listened to Musial's suggestion and, after visiting with CADD Director Dorothea Lerman, agreed.

"There are several criteria we consider," adds Dennard. "The program has to benefit everyone; provide services to the whole community and offer the services at no charge.

"CADD is the only one of its kind in this area to offer the services it provides."

Created by members of the community to serve and celebrate those around them, the Space Center Rotary Club not only recognizes their commitment to others, but also commemorates local organizations that support similar objectives.

Changing a child's life is surely something to smile about, and for members of Space Center Rotary, their contribution to UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities was rewarding on many levels. Pictured (l to r) are Space Center Rotary President Michael Dennard and President Elect Marilyn Musial.

a changing campus

Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, “The only constant is change,” and at UHCL that couldn’t be more true. With each passing semester the campus expands its reach and experience through new facilities, equipment and areas that reflect the university’s close ties to its local environment and community. This semester, the campus welcomed increased workspace for art students and an expanded art gallery, a new defined space for the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, and new teaching methods labs — just to name a few changes.

by Taryn Burnett



experience

by Karen Barbier

BAY AREA BOULEVARD BUZZES WITH ACTIVITY

on the other side of the trees, but those who discover the new wetland area at UHCL will feel miles away from the hustle and bustle of suburban life. They might learn something about the local environment in the process too.

UHCL's Environmental Institute of Houston, working in partnership with and through funding from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, created a wetland area to provide habitat for wildlife and fish, and to improve water quality before the water enters Horsepen Bayou. But it has proven to do more than that. It has become a way for area children to strengthen their environmental education.

"A bunch of creatures live in the water," says 10-year-old Mason Penrod, a fourth-grader from Clear Creek Independent School District's Parr Elementary. "We need to learn to respect them—the water and the wildlife that live in and around the water."

"There are lots of different types of plants," adds 10-year-old CCISD North Point Elementary student Annie Nguyen. "I've always liked to play in water, but I've never really learned about it."

Both fourth-graders are part of just one of the many groups that will benefit from the educational programs offered by EIH at the new wetland area.

"Water is a precious natural resource and the UHCL wetland is an interesting place to teach fourth graders from the science trek class," says UHCL Habitat Curriculum Specialist Sheila

UHCL's new wetland area is a haven for wildlife and students. Pictured, students from local elementary schools participate in a science trek class guided by UHCL Habitat Curriculum Specialist Sheila Brown, who introduces them to different species that live in and around the wetland area and teaches them to identify the different environmental elements.

Brown, who leads students from 11 CCISD elementary schools through the fourth-grade science trek class. "It is extremely important for them to gain awareness about the birds, aquatic organisms and plants."

George Guillen, executive director of EIH and associate professor of biology and environmental science, expresses pride in knowing that the wetland area is being used just as it should be.

"Wetlands are important for a number of reasons and having developed one on campus is significant, not only to UHCL, but also to the Bay Area community," says Guillen. "In addition to controlling flooding and improving water quality, the newly added wetland area will provide a habitat for fish and wildlife, which offers teaching, learning and research opportunities."

Looking to future generations, the institute, Galveston Bay Estuary Program and its parent organization, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, emphasize the importance of creating wetland areas like the one at UHCL.

"This project is special to me," says Galveston Bay Estuary Program Executive Director and UHCL alumna Helen Drummond. "Not only did I attend graduate school at UHCL, but I personally love this campus because it was built with nature in mind."





innovat

IN THE WORLD OF SCIENCE, CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY IS OFTEN

the driver. Brenda Weiser, associate professor in curriculum and instruction, is ecstatic about the latest technology upgrades in the new science laboratory in Arbor South; and while she's delighted with its snazzy, state-of-the-art whiteboard that lets her write on it from anywhere in the room, it's the little things about the new facility that excite her the most.

The biggest of those "little things" that make the new facility her dream lab is space. Weiser reports the approximate 40- by 46-square-foot combination laboratory and lecture room meets the Texas Education Agency and National Science Teachers Association's guidelines for recommended square footage per high school student. The new area, not counting the chemical and biology preparation and storage rooms, is nearly five times the size of the old lab.

"In part it's a safety concern," explains Weiser. "You want students to be able to work and not trip over each other."

The laboratory provides an ideal setting to demonstrate engaging ways for future teachers to instruct students—from early childhood through high school—in science subjects like physics, chemistry and biology. The previous facility, officially dedicated in spring 1986, served the university for more than 25 years. A growing emphasis on science and technology education in elementary and secondary schools, coupled with the advent of student backpacks

the size of mini-suitcases, eventually caused the original science space to become outdated and cramped.

Plans to renovate the old lab had been on and off the drawing board for more than eight years. The final decision to build an entirely new facility came once it became apparent that meeting the square footage guidelines required more space than was available in the original location.

Having the new facility is an important plus for students. The space mirrors the current labs at most modern elementary

and secondary schools, and gives students the opportunity to receive hands-on experience in a similar setting.

"When you walk in you can see how spacious it is; how organized it is," says student Katherine Simieou. "Everything has its place. You don't have to sit on top of each other to do your experiments."

For student Joseph Sellers, the new laboratory is a better, safer environment.

"Safety is such a vital part of science teaching, and as a future science teacher I need to see practices modeled before me that exhibit the right way to do things," says Sellers.

The larger space also opens up a world of opportunities for new activities which the older space couldn't accommodate.

That means Weiser and the other science

instructors will be brainstorming new activities for future classes.

In the new lab, 12 adjustable-height science tables comfortably accommodate a class of 24, and can easily be configured to slant

when performing inclined plane experiments.

Lining the outer perimeter of the room along the back and side walls are six sinks with both hot and cold running water.

"It's the little things," says Weiser, her face beaming as she considers the improved efficiency of readily-available hot water.

Gas jets are also in place, and the abundance of counter space is a much-welcomed feature.

"We can set up labs and let them run for a week each," says Weiser.

Large windows above the sink and counter areas allow for bright, natural light to support plant growth. Plants provide excellent lessons, demonstrating everything from environmental impacts to insights about human physiology.

The spacious laboratory also has plenty of wide, open areas where students can put into practice fun ways to demonstrate the physics of force and motion.

Simieou's class recently built bottle rocket cars, providing an opportunity to test the limits of the lab space.

"We were able to race them through the classroom," says Simieou. "Everyone was on the floor; nobody was going out in the halls. We were able to do everything in the room."

Safety features are paramount in the new lab. Besides having adequate space, an in-room safety shower is available in case of a mishap. For proper and secure storage of chemicals, a separate chemical preparation room adjoins the lab. Its state-of-the-art fume hood—a ventilation device that limits potential exposure to hazardous or noxious fumes and vapors—provides a safe site for mixing and transporting chemicals.

A second adjoining room, the biology prep room, is equipped with science tables and shelving for storage. It provides a staging area for experiments related to physics, earth, space and life sciences.

Beyond the addition of space and increased safety, the lab provides valuable preparation for future science educators.

"As future science teachers, we need to see and have modeled the right storage methods, the right procedures and the right methods for doing things," explains Sellers.

The community will benefit from the new facility, too.

"We've already hosted one workshop with the Galveston Bay Foundation, bringing teachers here for a program on the Gulf of Mexico," says Weiser.

Texas Regional Collaboratives' ongoing professional development workshops will now be held in the new science laboratory. TRC is a statewide network of partnerships between institutions of higher education, school districts, business partners and the Texas Education Agency, and it draws science teachers from all across Houston and the Bay Area.

The new space will also be used by the Clear Creek Independent School District's middle school Gifted and Talented Alpha II program and the UHCL's Kids U summer science camps.

Age-old values like "good things come to those who wait," and "it's the little things that matter most," couldn't be truer for Weiser and her students. As the semester closes the door on the new classroom's premier semester, Weiser knows that next term and for many years to come, future science teachers will have a safe, efficient and spacious area to prepare for shaping students' scientific experiences.

Future science teachers Katherine Simieou and Joseph Sellers are two of the many School of Education students benefiting from UHCL's new science teaching methods labs. Pictured (l to r) are Sellers, Associate Professor in Curriculum and Instruction Brenda Weiser and Simieou.





UHCL's School of Science and Computer Engineering faculty members show off their new genetic analyzer machine. Pictured (l to r) are Professor of Biology and Chemistry Ron Mills (seated), Assistant Professor of Biology and Biotechnology Brian Stephens, Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Sanghoon Kang, Program Chair of Biotechnology and Associate Professor of Biology and Biotechnology Larry Rohde and Assistant Professor of Biology and Biotechnology Lory Santiago-Vázquez.

UHCL'S BIOTECHNOLOGY and Genomics Research Facility not only received a facelift over winter break, but also a new piece of equipment vital to School of Science and Computer Engineering students and faculty. Used for DNA sequencing and genetic analysis, the new analyzer significant to today's biological research as well as an important diagnostic tool.

The Applied Biosystems 3500xL 24-capillary Genetic Analyzer provides hands-on laboratory research training—a crucial skill for careers in biomedical, agricultural and environmental sciences.

Purchased with grant funds from the National Science Foundation, the analyzer serves as “a stepping stone” for the fast-growing program from the viewpoint of Associate Professor of Biology and Biotechnology and Program Chair Larry Rohde.

“This new equipment sets the stage for future collaborations,” says Rohde, who is principal investigator for the grant, which runs through Aug. 31, 2014. “We must demonstrate that we are able to do the research and that we have the facilities to do what we say we will—that we are a serious research facility.”

At least eight faculty members will use the analyzer for their current and future research.

The National Science Foundation awarded \$203,660 for the equipment. More efficient and more automated than UHCL's prior machine, the new analyzer saves time, is cost effective and includes a workstation computer with Microsoft Windows and DNA sequencing analysis software.

Housed in the newly renovated research area, the analyzer is conveniently located near

the biology and biotechnology teaching labs, the plant tissue and culture labs, and other faculty research labs.

Co-principal investigators for the grant are Professor of Biology and Chemistry Ron Mills, Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Sanghoon Kang and Assistant Professors of Biology and Biotechnology Brian Stephens and Lory Santiago-Vázquez.

Rohde will use the analyzer for teaching purposes and for researching tick control technology for the USDA Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program as part of an ongoing attempt to control Texas Cattle Fever, a devastating disease that has affected the cattle industry since 1868.

Working collaboratively with internationally renowned Research Physiologist Felix Guerrero of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, Rohde's research will help determine the functions of resistant genes in an effort to eradicate the pesticide-resistant tick.

Stephens, whose research training and experience is in plant physiology and genomics, is currently researching molecular mechanisms involved in maintenance of zinc homeostasis in plants.

"The analyzer machine allows students to understand the processes of DNA sequencing and genetics analysis," says Stephens. "With 12 to 15 students in lab classes, there are more opportunities to do hands-on research and undergraduate students get into the lab much faster, since most universities must send samples to a University Core Facility or an independent lab and wait for results."

Building a library of genetic sequences to help understand and protect soft corals, a potential source of new drugs, Santiago-Vázquez and her students will use the analyzer for DNA sequencing.

"We have thousands of genetic sequences to analyze and the cost of sending it to a sequencing facility would be too high," Santiago-Vázquez says.

Pursuing a Master of Science in Biotechnology, with a specialization in molecular biology, Giridhar Prasad Jangly plans to graduate from UHCL in May 2013. Currently working on his thesis, Jangly will use the analyzer for his own research on the molecular mechanisms of environmental stress on soft coral.

"With the DNA analyzer, the quality of the data will increase and the total cost per template will be reduced considerably," says Jangly. "The other advantage is that more templates can be run each day at the same time. Our work deals with making natural products from taxonomically similar bacteria and this work requires a lot of gene expression and taxonomical identification studies."

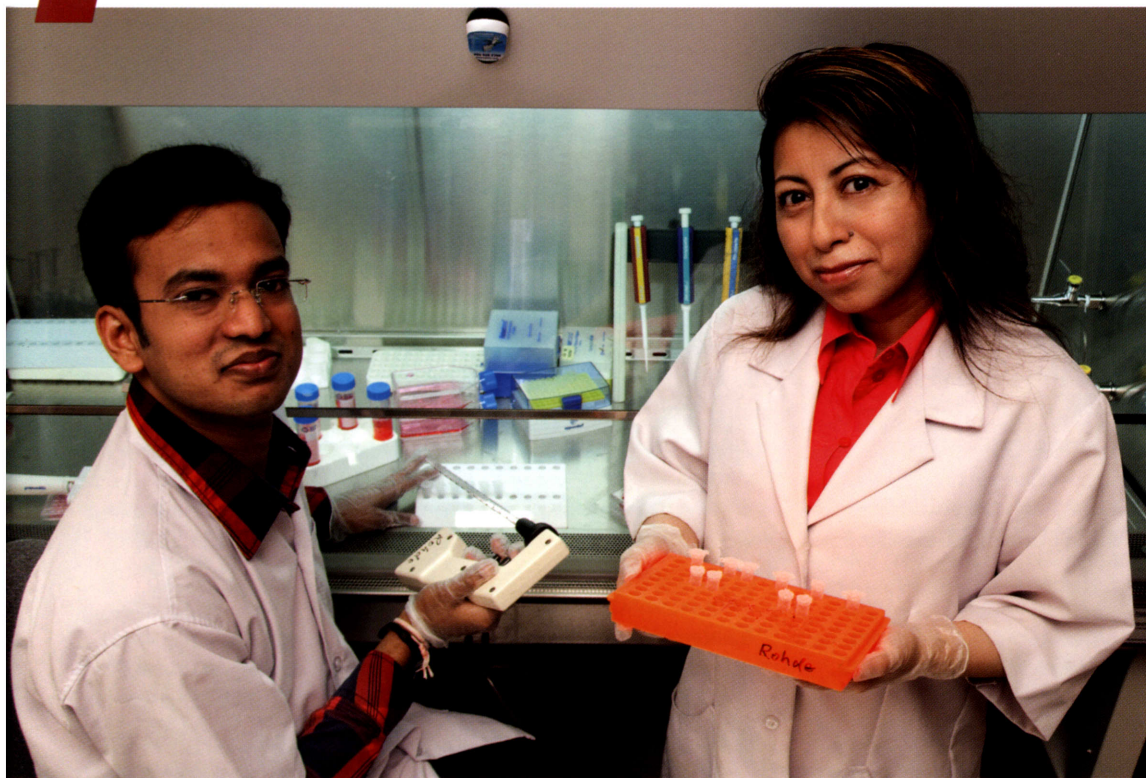
One UHCL alumna who understands the value of learning to operate DNA analyzer machines is Micaela Morgado, a 2007 Master of Science in Biotechnology graduate.

"Having a sequencer in the lab saved me a lot of time and provided me with almost immediate results," says Morgado, who trained on an older DNA analyzer than the one added this year. "Knowing how to use the sequencer as well as other skills helped me be competitive to apply for a position in the biotechnology field."

Those skills will enable Morgado to fulfill her dream of a career in biological science.

"I hope I can provide a contribution to this field with my current research," says Morgado, now a second-year graduate student in the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at Rice University.

Though the analyzer itself is a small piece of equipment, the impact it will have on UHCL students and faculty in regard to research and experience will be monumental. Reaching far beyond the classroom, those using the DNA analyzer here will have opportunities to make discoveries that could change the world.



Pictured (l to r) in UHCL's Tissue Lab are graduate student Giridhar Prasad Jangly, who is studying biotechnology, and alumna Micaela Morgado. Both students use DNA machines in their studies.

WEARING MANY HATS DURING

his never-typical days, Jeff Bowen's unpredictable agenda is part of what makes him so enthusiastic about his work. As the new audience development coordinator for UHCL's Art Gallery, Bowen's responsibilities are as deep and abstract as some of the art displayed in the gallery.

Tall and fit with a purposeful stride, an intense and keenly focused gaze and confident manner, Bowen is a natural communicator. A self-proclaimed "people person," he admits that his favorite part of the job is organizing and attending events.

"It's when 'work' doesn't feel like work because the time spent is so personally exciting and professionally rewarding," says Bowen. "Plus, I am a social creature and public events give me the opportunity to share with the community why art matters at UHCL."

Bowen's vision for the university's gallery and art programs combines an appreciation of the historic, human story of art with the latest technology to foster deeper connections between art and the community.

Drawing from his experience in public relations, art history and education, Bowen's goal is to elevate the art experience at UHCL.

"To me, art is important for the following reasons. First, by surrounding ourselves with or creating aesthetically pleasing objects, we improve the quality of our lives. Second, art makes a wonderful historical record of our human existence, documenting the important issues of our time," says Bowen.

UHCL received a three-year \$400,000 grant last year from Houston Endowment Inc. that supports 10 campus art program initiatives, including Bowen's new position. He was hired last November.

The grant will provide funding for events, exhibitions, Internet and social media outreach and support the university's continued efforts to make a range of art media—from painting and sculpture to video installations—accessible to the community.

Overseeing the Art Gallery renovation and developing and implementing new outreach programs both on and off campus are just part of Bowen's job description. In the coming months, he will act as a liaison by working closely with fine arts program professors to cultivate new artwork collections for the university gallery and exhibition areas. He plans to expand cooperative and collaborative art events, organize international art consortia, arrange art and artist exchanges, and create virtual projects.

"I am very excited to lead the gallery into new web technologies that create an engaging experience for the arts community," says Bowen.

In his new role Bowen reaches out to the art community using everything from written press releases to tweets and Facebook posts.

"Social media makes it possible to converse directly with our audience," says Bowen.

Bowen will work with a videographer to record and edit artist interviews and virtual exhibitions that will make behind-the-art stories accessible.

He and the gallery's assistant director Karen Fiscus lead group tours for high school seniors from area schools. In March, Bowen organized a screen-printing activity for children attending the Pearland PTA's "Day in the Arts," and he plans to offer art-making demonstrations during the summer's Bay Area Art Walk and an open-to-the-public printmaking demonstration in November.

Bowen welcomes personal interactions most of all.

"My door is always open," says Bowen, who hopes university and community members alike will stop by to share ideas on how to make the arts on campus a "truly rewarding experience."

Bowen also hopes that those visitors will stop by the Art Gallery, where renovations include an enlarged display space with the removal of the room's south wall. A black ceiling, polished stained concrete, a new lighting system and support points for suspended pieces enhance the viewing experience for patrons. Plans are also under way to introduce a security system into the gallery.

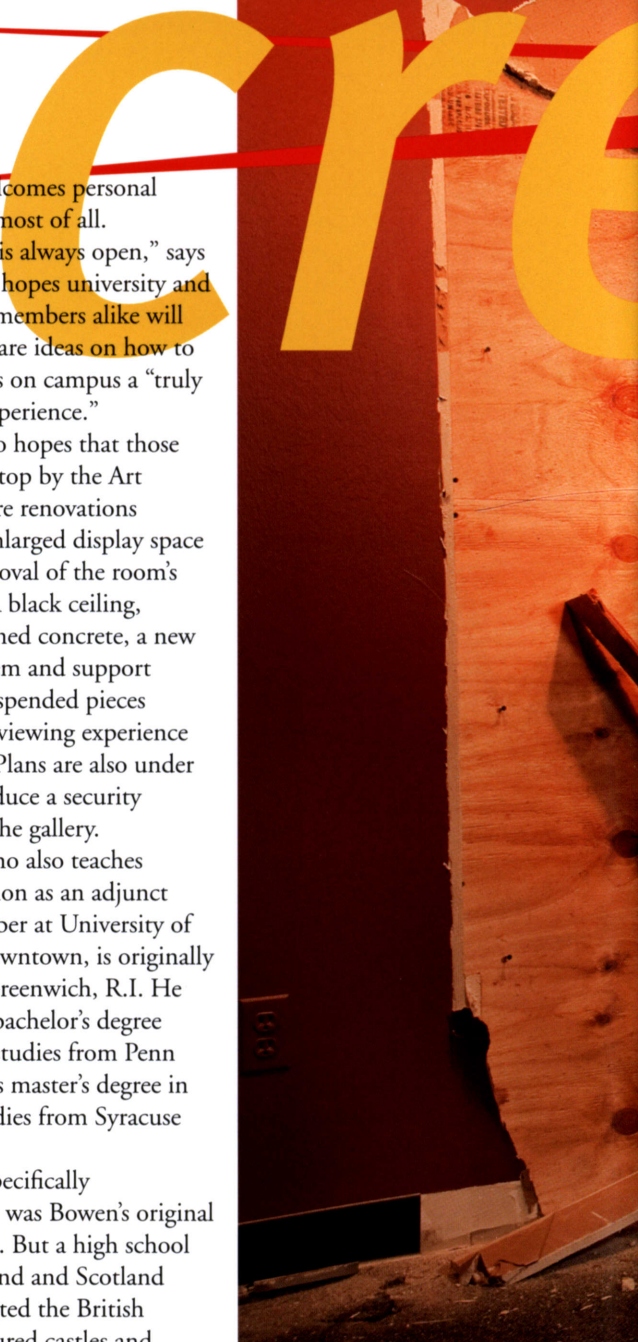
Bowen, who also teaches art appreciation as an adjunct faculty member at University of Houston-Downtown, is originally from West Greenwich, R.I. He received his bachelor's degree in medieval studies from Penn State, and his master's degree in museum studies from Syracuse University.

Science, specifically meteorology, was Bowen's original career choice. But a high school trip to England and Scotland where he visited the British Museum, toured castles and cathedrals and learned about the rich history of the British Monarchy was, for Bowen, a life-changing experience.

"I had already been accepted to Penn State for meteorology, but by October of my freshman year I knew I needed to make the 180-degree turn from the sciences to the arts and humanities," says Bowen. "Don't get me wrong, I still love observing the weather. I've even gone on a couple of unsuccessful tornado chases. But it's just a hobby—my career is in the arts."

Bowen balances his career by spending time in museums, playing volleyball, watching his favorite sports teams, the Red Sox and Patriots, home brewing beer and hiking in the Texas Hill Country.

"I hope to help make UHCL an arts destination," says Bowen. "Without the creativity of the UH-Clear Lake arts faculty, staff, students and alumni, we wouldn't have both the financial means and the interest to present terrific exhibitions. What's clear about the gallery, the art programs and the university as a whole, is that our strength is our people."



One of Jeff Bowen's first major responsibilities when he joined UHCL was to oversee the demolition and expansion of the Art Gallery.



EXPAND

UHCL's Arbor Building renovations offer redesigned spaces and expanded areas for fine arts studios, classrooms and teaching labs, as well as psychology and autism centers.

Flanked by the wooded acreage of the park-like campus grounds, the building's white exterior now encloses 33,538 square feet of additional space. The project broke ground in 2010 with what is now called Arbor North, which contains the university's fine arts ceramic and sculpture studios. The fine arts area, which gained 21,419 square feet, was completed in stages to prevent program interruptions. Arbor South gained 12,119 square feet.

"Arbor North has huge aircraft hangar doors and a good relationship with its surroundings so classes can spill into a green and spacious area," says Dan Wilson, director of planning, design and contract administration at UHCL.

Professor of Fine Arts Sandria Hu teaches drawing and printmaking in an area four times larger than before the renovation. A new conference room, storage slats for paintings, new presses, office and storage area as well as new lighting for the drawing classes provides what she calls "a better flow" of the space. There are also new drawing boards, wooden easels and drawing horses.

Jason Makepeace, senior lecturer, teaches in the new woodshop, which is approximately 2,000 square feet and outfitted with two state-of-the-art table saws and other equipment.

His renovation wish list included equipment and space for a bronze and aluminum foundry.

The wish came true for Makepeace, and the new foundry allows him to teach an ancient technique known as lost-wax casting, a process of creating cast metal sculptures from original wax-based sculptures. Artists use a coat ceramic shell around the wax, which is melted out in a de-waxing kiln. The ceramic shell molds are then filled with molten bronze or aluminum to create the cast metal sculpture.

New equipment includes an elevator de-waxing kiln, wax pit and a furnace that heats metals to pourable temperatures.

Professor of Fine Arts Nick J. de Vries is fine-tuning the new ceramics studio with its wall of windows and three large skylights. The generous space provides private cubicles for graduate students.

"The cubicles give students a sense of belonging," says de Vries. "It gives them privacy to explore their ideas."

An adjacent library room with computers is for research and study. Also new is a glaze-mixing and storage area. An interior kiln room has four new electric kilns, in addition to five older kilns. Two large gas kilns used for Raku firing—a special process used for pottery traditionally used in Japanese tea ceremonies—are located in the exterior kiln space. At the end of the first semester in the new space, de Vries had students set up their artwork for critiques in the gallery-like studios.

"I remember the reaction of the students. It looked so much better and they were able to observe more of each other's work and give better critiques," says de Vries.

"The new building has lots of space, which allows students to have two shelves and a full table to store and build our work," says Bachelor of Fine Arts student Jason Shaw. "The extra equipment will allow me and other students to learn more techniques than ever before."

Renovation of the space for the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities in Arbor South extends the university's services to the public, as well. Until recently, the center shared space with two other programs, which limited the number of children served. It now offers three large therapy rooms, a waiting room, storage space and an office.

"We anticipate providing more services now that we have more dedicated space," says Professor of Psychology and CADD Director Dorothea Lerman.

Other renovations to existing space include updates in The Art School for Children and Young Adults which now features new SMART boards, lockers, dry erase boards and sinks within glossy white walls, new ceilings and flooring. Further renovations will provide additional space for photo labs, design studios and the Center for Educational Programs.



Shari Sweeney turned her internship experience at a local non-profit into the foundation for her rewarding and unpredictable career.

*a Curve in
Life's Path*

by Taryn Burnett

To look back

at a career and pinpoint the experience that launched it isn't always an easy feat. For Shari Sweeney though, recalling exactly how her career went from an accidental internship to the "real world" is a pretty simple task—filled with lots of stories, style and more than a few local connections.

In 1992, Sweeney was facing her final undergraduate semester in media studies at UHCL. She was also confronted by a complete lack of career experience. Her part-time knowledge of waiting tables wasn't going to take her very far in the communications field, so she began looking for internship opportunities.

"I had to be certain that my internship would give me the 'real world' communications tools I was lacking," says Sweeney. She accepted an internship at a local radio station, but before she had a chance to start, a classmate told her about his work at the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. The revelation was a show-stopper. After meeting with the chamber's president, she knew her plans were about to go in a new direction. "It sounded perfect; the opportunity to sharpen all of my skills in one place."

She walked away from radio promotions and followed her educational path to an organization located in UHCL's backyard.

Sweeney admits from childhood through her early college career she never knew what she wanted to do with her life. Even as an adult when she thought she'd decided on a career path, she changed her mind and major a few times. Finally she picked a major at UHCL and stuck with it. But even then, her choice was a very broad one. Once at the chamber though, her internship served as a great "self-test," helping her figure out what exactly she wanted to do in the communications field.

"The staff at the chamber told me that this kind of non-profit work is either in your blood or not," says Sweeney. "They were right."

Being a Clear Lake native, Sweeney's work allowed her to support the community she loved and, develop relationships with the businesses and organizations she had known her whole life. Sweeney attained her degree in 1992 and, for a brief time, worked at Space Center Houston bringing inspiration to those who visited the distinctive facility. When an opportunity arose to return to the chamber as the director of program development she was eager for the challenge and excited to do work that would enhance the quality of life in "her" community.

Keeping connected

Sweeney's connection to the chamber has helped continue her connection to UHCL as well, especially the university's Office of Alumni and Community Relations.

Part of the chamber's anniversary year campaign is to recognize

50 phenomenal individuals in the Clear Lake area. "50 Years, 50 Faces, 50 Stories," includes a portrait and story of each of the individuals, whose essence was captured by Dion McInnis, associate vice president for university advancement at UHCL and a published writer and photographer who has been cited internationally.

Familiar steps

As the chamber celebrates its 50th anniversary, Sweeney marvels at how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. Visiting the chamber's office on NASA Parkway is much like being given a tour of someone's childhood home. Sweeney reminisces about how exciting it was to get the new sign in front of the building, the different office spaces she's occupied through the years, and how the chamber's reach and events calendar have grown over time.

Now, as vice president of the chamber, her responsibilities have grown. But one thing has stayed the same: her appreciation for how significant internship opportunities are. Each semester she now has the chance to work with those interning at the chamber, such as UHCL senior Samantha Samuel.

Like Sweeney, the chamber wasn't the first internship Samuel was slated to do in her final semester as an undergraduate communication student. When an internship with a local United Way branch fell through, Samuel was crushed, and a bit panicked too. Then someone put her in touch with the chamber and things began to look up.

"Internships are essential in today's troubling economy," says Samuel, who believes college graduates gain a competitive advantage with internship experience. As an intern, students have chances to network within their career fields before beginning their job searches.

When Sweeney began her internship at the chamber years ago, it was just a great opportunity to fine-tune her skills. She went from promotions to non-profit and discovered that the opportunity to step into your future may only be a conversation away.

"This kind of non-profit work is either in your blood or not."

Are you a current UHCL student looking for internship or job opportunities?

The Office of Career Services can help you in discovering your career path.

*Visit them today:
Student Services and Classroom Building, room 3109
281-283-2590
www.uhcl.edu/careerservices
www.uhcl.edu/jobfairs*

1980s

JoAnne Burch, '89 BS, retired from teaching in Texas and moved to Tennessee. She works as an educator for the Tennessee Aquarium and the Creative Discovery Museum of Chattanooga.

Mark Edwards, '87 BS, married Trish Barnett Nov. 3, 2011. He owns Edwards Insurance Locator in Lancaster, Ohio.

Leslie Guditis, '84 BBA, is core faculty at Capella University, Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences - Counseling/Marriage and Family Therapy.

Dorothy Hagan, '89 BA, finished her second novel, "The Offshore Triumphs of Karla Jean."

Steven Jamail, '89 MS, retired as principal at Dobie High School, Pasadena ISD after 11 years.

Kirk Lewis, '83 MS, was honored by Texas Tech University as a Red Raiders Distinguished Alumnus.

Shannon McClendon, '89 BS, has joined Gardere's Energy Group in Austin, Texas, as a partner.

Wanda Mercado-Arroyo, '87 MS, is president and CEO at AM International Consultants Inc. in Trexlertown, Pa.



1990s

John Albanese, '96 BBA, is customer systems marketing manager for Microsoft in Redmond, Wash. He works in the Interactive Entertainment Business on Xbox marketing efforts.

Tricia Berry, '99 MBA, has co-authored her second book, "You Can't Eat Your Degree."

Donna Lord Black, '92 MA, '88 BS, has been reappointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Joanne Blocker, '95 MS, is director of academics for Gateway Regional School District in Huntington, Mass.

Terri Brooks, '94 BS, has been named a principal at UHY Advisors, a tax and business consulting firm.

Susan Blair Callaway, '98 MHA/MBA, '91 BBA, is chief financial officer for Texas Orthopedic Hospital.



Robert McReynolds, '98 BS, is the assistant principal at Columbia High School, Columbia-Brazoria ISD.

Siba Moukayed, '94 BBA, is a director at Playwell International Co., LLC and lives in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Keith Parrott, '95 MHA, has been promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of Baptist Health System in Birmingham, Ala.

Joshua Putter, '91 MHA/MBA, is the chief operating officer for Steward Health Care System.

2000s

Marlin Barber, '05 MA, has completed his Ph.D. in history at the University of Missouri and has joined the faculty as a visiting assistant professor of history.

Mary Lynne Barends, '01 BA, celebrated 10 years with NASA in September 2010. She has returned to UHCL as a graduate student in the digital media studies program.



Melissa Black, '00 BBA, is director of marketing for the Pearland Economic Development Corp.

Tracy Cobb, '05 MS, married Joshua Cash Oct. 8, 2011. She is a school counselor at Roosevelt-Wilson Elementary in Texas City ISD.

Amy Denton, '09 MA, is teaching history at Lone Star College.

Anne Dickens, '03 MA, '00 BS, has completed her Ed.D in Educational Leadership at Lamar University.

James Harvey, '01 BA, is teaching music and history at Alvin Community College and Brazosport College.

Haley Hedderick, '04 BA, won this year's Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce poster design contest for the chamber's 17th annual Clear Lake Crawfish Festival and Gumbo Cook-off.

Sue Lienhart, '05 MA, teaches art at Clear Creek High School. Her art was displayed at San Jacinto College South's high school faculty outreach exhibition.

Carrie Lowery, '07 MS, is principal at Hutsell Elementary in Katy ISD.

Dee Manning, '05 BA, has self published a book of poetry, "Soul's Liberatoron."



Suzanne Mau, '07 MS, won the Pearland ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year award.

Natalie Mohtashami, '07 MA, is a marriage and family therapist.

Franklin Moses, '06 MS, has been named principal at Dobie High School, Pasadena ISD.

Lisa Nixon, '04 MS, is the new director of testing and program evaluation for Pearland ISD. She is also enrolled in UHCL's Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program.

Sangeeta Pathak, '01 MA, has launched "Write to Shine," a program that offers handwriting tutoring, individualized to the child's needs.

LaDonna Pratt, '00 MS, is principal at Dickinson ISD's Coastal Alternative Program in Texas City. She is also a doctoral candidate at Texas Southern University.

Jason Rudisill, '07 MS, married Katherine Lopez Aug. 20, 2011. The couple resides in Houston.

Kathryn Brown Sanford, '00 BA, started a corporate events management company, Kat Sanford Productions.



Michael Skillern, '03 MA, was promoted to captain and is in command of the patrol officers assigned to the Houston Police Department's Westside Police Station.

Chris Valvaneda, '05 BS, became a licensed CPA in December 2011. He is employed by EOG Resources Inc. as an accountant.

April Vrtis, '00 BS, is a tenured faculty member at Mt. San Jacinto College in California.

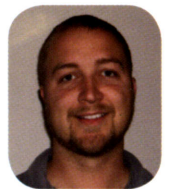
Shane West, '09 MA, is teaching history at Lone Star College.

Grant Wheat, '07 BS, works for Price Waterhouse Cooper, LLP as an assurance senior associate, in Milwaukee, Wis.



2010s

Jonathan Abston, '11 BS, works for DynCorp International as regional water manager over the west and southwest regions of Afghanistan.



Kristen Foxley, '11 MS, was appointed to the Texas Developmental Education Advisory Committee and is a San Jacinto College professor of developmental math.

Nicole Griswold, '10 BS, is a financial account coordinator for APPS Financial Group Inc. She is also pursuing an MBA at Texas Woman's University and has been inducted into the Epsilon Omega Epsilon Honor Society.



Sabiha Mahmood, '10 MA, '07 BS, was cast in "Witness for the Prosecution" at Clear Creek Community Theater.

Alyssa Martin, '11 MA, is a behavior analyst at Texana Center in Rosenberg, Texas.

Jessica O'Rear, '11 BA, is a junior account executive at Griffin Communications Group.

Carlos Pagan, '10 BA, is teaching history at Living Stones Christian School in Alvin, Texas.

Erika Reyna, '10 BS, works for Service Transport Co. as assistant human resources manager.

John Simms, '11 BA, is teaching 10th-grade world history at North Shore High School, Galena Park ISD.

Kimberley Slade, '10 BS, is working for NRG Energy as a senior accountant.

Monica Stout, '10 MA, is a graphic designer for Empire Advertising and Design, LLC and an adjunct professor at UHCL.

In Memory

Constance "Connie" Alexander, '79 MA, passed away January 2012.

Dorothy Gail Rogers Boyes, '00 MS, passed away October 2011.

Phillip Eastabrooks, '86 BS, passed away January 2012.

Jared Varea, '07 BS, passed away January 2012.

Stephanie Wagner, '08 BS, passed away September 2011.

Submit your items to Class Notes by sending an e-mail with "Class Notes" in the subject line to alumni@uhcl.edu or by completing the online form at www.uhcl.edu/alumni. Be sure to note your full name, class year and contact information with your update. You also may 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 }



A WELCOME CELEBRATION

Make plans to attend the 11th annual Welcome Back Bash Friday, Aug. 31, 5-9 p.m., hosted by UHCL's Office of Student Life and Office of Alumni and Community Relations. This family-friendly event will take place in Alumni Plaza, located between the Bayou Building and Student Services and Classroom Building.

Current UHCL students and UHCL alumni will receive a 2012-13 UHCL Welcome Back Bash T-shirt, so be sure to bring your student/alumni ID to receive your shirt.

JOIN FELLOW ALUMNI AT ALUMNIGHT

The UHCL Alumni Association hosts AlumNights, casual networking events for alumni to mix and mingle, while building relationships, new and old. Events are hosted by alumni and business owners alike. 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.

May 22, 5-7 p.m., Edgewater Community – Coventry Homes, 100 Water St., Webster

IN THEIR WORDS – ALUMNI BOOK EVENTS

Upcoming alumni book signings and receptions. Have you published a book? Contact Kris Thompson, coordinator of special events, at 281-283-2040 or thompsonk@uhcl.edu.

"The Offshore Triumphs of Karla Jean," by Dorothy Hagan
May 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m., UHCL Bayou Building, Garden Room and Atrium I

"My Success Journal: Capture Your Thoughts. Live Your Dreams.," by Jill Hickman
Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m., UHCL Bayou Building, Garden Room and Atrium I

"Journey to the Aisle: A Story of Cultural Expectations," by Carmen Moreno
Oct. 9, 6-8 p.m., UHCL Bayou Building, Garden Room and Atrium I

UHCL'S OLDEST TRADITION

The UHCL Alumni Association participated in UHCL's oldest tradition – the Chili Cook-Off. Pictured are team members Bill Shock, John Smith, Chris Greenfield, Johnny Galaviz, Joyce Delores Taylor, Kanch Weerasinghe, Chris Wagner, Chili Cook-Off Team Captain Sean Murphy, head cook Jack Leavell. Team members not pictured include Marilyn Sims, Camille Shock and Mary Sue Anton.



GET SOCIAL!

The UHCL Alumni Association joined Facebook last year and recently launched a new YouTube channel. Become a fan of the association on Facebook or subscribe to the channel on YouTube to view photos and videos of recent alumni events and stay informed about upcoming events. Are you interested in becoming more involved with your alumni association? Visit www.uhcl.edu/alumni or email alumni@uhcl.edu.



www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation



www.youtube.com/UHCLalumni

Through August 17

Fall 2012 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

May 10

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

May 18

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

May 21

Summer I and II application deadline for domestic students. 281-283-2500.

May 30

New International Student Orientation for new summer semester students. Registration required. 281-283-2575, iiss@uhcl.edu.

May 31

New Student Orientation for summer I semester, 6-8 p.m. Registration recommended. 281-283-2560, orientation@uhcl.edu.

June 1

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

June 4 – July 26

Kids U Summer Camps: Gifted Academy, Language

Camp, Science Camp, Math Camp, Young Writer’s Camp, Technology Camp and World Explorer’s Camp. 281-283-3530.

June 4 – August 27

“UHCL Graduate Student Exhibition,” Bayou Building, Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

July 11

New Student Orientation for summer II semester, 6-8 p.m. Registration recommended. 281-283-2560.

August 1

Fall 2011 application deadline for new graduate students. 281-283-2500.

August 10

Bring Your Kids to UHCL, 2-8 p.m., Student Services and Classroom Building, Student Lounge. For parents who are also UHCL students, and their children. 281-283-2660.

August 13

Fall 2011 priority application deadline for new undergraduate students. 281-283-2500.

August 18

New Student Orientation, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration recommended. 281-283-2560, orientation@uhcl.edu.

August 23-24

New International Student Orientation, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration required. 281-283-2575, iiss@uhcl.edu.

August 23

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

August 31

Welcome Back Bash, 5-9 p.m., Alumni Plaza. 281-283-2560.

September 27

Gulf Coast Job Fair, 1:30-4 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I and II. Registration recommended. 281-283-2590.

October 1

Spring 2013 application deadline for international students. 281-283-2500.

October 6

UHCL Alumni Celebration. Visit www.uhcl.edu/alumni for more event details. 281-283-2021.

November 1

Fall Teacher Job Fair, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium II. Registration recommended. 281-283-2590.

November 3

UHCL Pearland Campus Open House. 1200 Pearland Pkwy., Pearland. Registration recommended. 281-212-1679.

16th Annual Student Leadership Conference, Bayou Building. 281-283-2611.

November 9 – January 11, 2012

Spring 2013 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

November 11

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

Find more UHCL events at 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. Individuals who wish to participate in any of the events listed and who need special accommodations 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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AT UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE, PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, community friends and donors each strengthen the university through their gifts, support and involvement. We are thankful that so many people are actively committed to the success of UHCL.

During 2011, we again experienced record-breaking enrollment with the student population at 8,185 during the fall semester. To accommodate the growth, UHCL moved forward with new construction and renovations at the Arbor Building, providing more classroom and lab space. Student scholarship and internship programs were also bolstered by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Hogg Foundation and other partners.

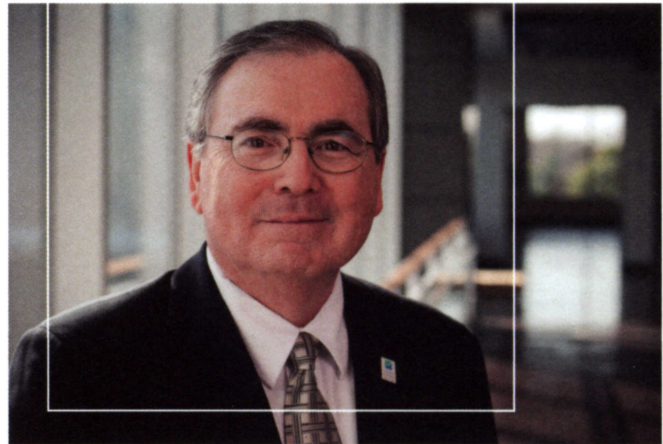
UHCL received approval from state legislators in 2011 for downward expansion, which allows the university to add freshman- and sophomore-level courses to its roster. As we take steps toward admitting our first freshman class in fall 2014, your impact on the future success of our students increases.

This year, I presented the President’s Cabinet Philanthropy Award to David and Stephanie Palmer, who have continued to offer their support to students, especially those at UHCL Pearland Campus, through the establishment of the David and Stephanie Palmer Family Scholarship Endowment. It was also my pleasure to present the President’s Cabinet Leadership Award to Distinguished Alumna Marilyn Sims, who has displayed her support of the university as a dedicated member of the Alumni Association Executive Council.

As a community-minded, partnership-oriented institution, UHCL focuses on providing exceptional education opportunities in the Bay Area and beyond. Your generous support makes it possible to do this, and I thank you for making a difference.

William A. Staples

William A. Staples
President



ON THE COVER: Marilyn Sims, Stephanie Palmer and David Palmer recognize the importance of education. In recognition of their many endeavours to help UHCL students, David and Stephanie Palmer were awarded the President’s Cabinet Philanthropy Award. Distinguished Alumna Marilyn Sims, who believes in being as involved as possible in the UHCL Alumni Association, was recognized with the President’s Cabinet Leadership Award. Pictured (l to r) are Sims, S. Palmer and D. Palmer.

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ANTONIA ANADU | M.A., Healthcare Administration | Joe and Lou Taylor Scholarship Antonia Anadu is no stranger to change. She moved with her family to the U.S. from Nigeria eight years ago, and has adapted to a new country with new traditions. Most recently, she began transitioning her career from information technology to hospital administration.



PETE FRANCO | B.S., Computer Science | Texas Scholars in Computer Science Scholarship Pete Franco's big plans for his family's future include building a business using cloud technology to help consumers access information. Franco credits his success to the many people in his life who believe in him as well as the many people who create scholarships to help students like him.



MARIA CHAIREZ | B.S., Interdisciplinary Studies: Early Childhood-6th Grade Bilingual Generalist Certification | Barnes & Noble Scholarship Experience and education shaped Maria Chairez, beginning at a young age when she attended a school without bilingual educators to guide her. When she finishes her undergraduate studies, Chairez plans to provide much-needed assistance to non-English speaking elementary school students.

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PANKAJ KUMAR MALIK | M.B.A. | Jesse H. Jones & Mary Gibbs Jones Scholarship Pankaj Kumar Malik dreams of working in wealth management after he attains his degree. He joined family members from his native Italy who live in the Houston area, knowing that a graduate degree from UHCL will allow him to realize his dream.



KIM RINEHART '11 | M.A., Clinical Psychology | Lynette Autrey Scholarship Kim Rinehart says one of the things she likes about counseling people who have anxiety disorders is watching them transform. Although it wasn't the direction she thought she would go with her graduate degree, anxiety disorders have become a specialty for her.

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UHCL's engagement with the communities it serves is aided by university friends who contribute financially to scholarship programs, faculty development, research opportunities and campus enhancements. Donors' generosity can secure the university's future for many years to come.

Help strengthen the university's ability to serve students and generate funds for specific initiatives by contacting the Office of University Advancement at 281-283-2021 or gifts@uhcl.edu.



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