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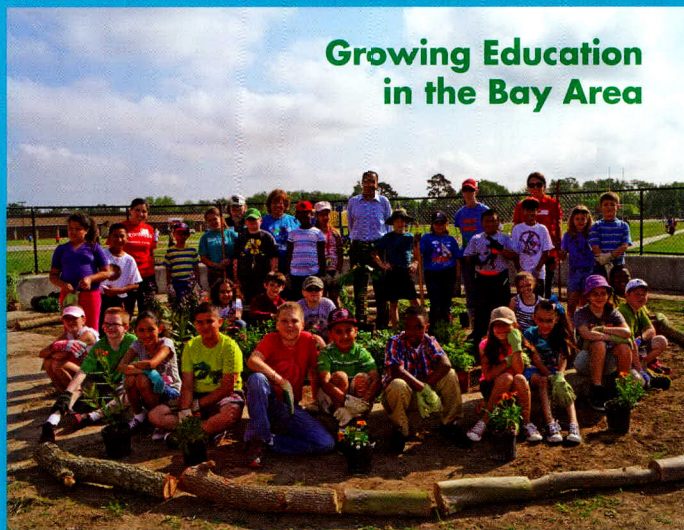
**inside:**

- perspectives abroad
- intertwining team
- leadership skills



**A BALANCING ACT:**  
*Mother, Student, Wife*

**A**mong two concentric log circles, placed to mark a pathway, dozens of fourth grade students were busy digging with spades and shovels to remove weeds and prepare the soil for a habitat they'd plant later that day. Alongside them were volunteers from UHCL's Environmental Institute of Houston and ExxonMobil Baytown, helping the William B. Travis



## Growing Education in the Bay Area

Elementary students plant an educational "outdoor-classroom" area, where the students will learn about basic ecological concepts and environmental awareness.

ExxonMobil Baytown has supported environmental education with a grant to the Environmental Institute of Houston at UHCL for the School Habitat program, enabling several teachers from Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District to participate in workshops to learn how to install the educational gardens at their schools, plus covering expenses and full-staff training for three Goose Creek CISD schools to install their own school habitat gardens.

In recognition of ExxonMobil Baytown's shared mission of advancing education in the Bay Area of Houston, UHCL named ExxonMobil Baytown as this year's Community Partnership Award honoree. In addition to supporting the School Habitat program, ExxonMobil Baytown has supported the Math Institute for the last two years, helping UHCL provide mathematics training to Goose Creek CISD middle school teachers.

They have also supported the Baytown Area Education Recruitment and Retention Program initiative, a part of UHCL's Success Through Education Program, providing scholarships to economically-disadvantaged Baytown students studying at UHCL to become teachers in their home community. As a sponsor of this year's Envirothon, they helped cover programmatic expenses and supported a Goose Creek CISD school with registration and participation in the event.

UHCL President William A. Staples presented ExxonMobil Baytown Technology and Engineering Complex Site Manager Juan Reinoso with the award at this year's Report to the Community breakfast.

"Thank you for your ongoing support of UHCL and your life-changing investments in our students, faculty, academic programs and our community," says Staples.

Pictured are ExxonMobil Baytown Technology and Engineering Complex Site Manager Juan Reinoso, center, and fourth grade students at William B. Travis Elementary School in Baytown. Volunteers from ExxonMobil joined Travis Elementary students and UHCL Environmental Institute of Houston members in planting a habitat garden at the elementary school.

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**ON THE COVER:** Graduate student Marie Ogedegbe found the balance between being a student, mother and wife. Read her story, inspiration and motivation on pg. 12. Photo by Chris Kuhlman

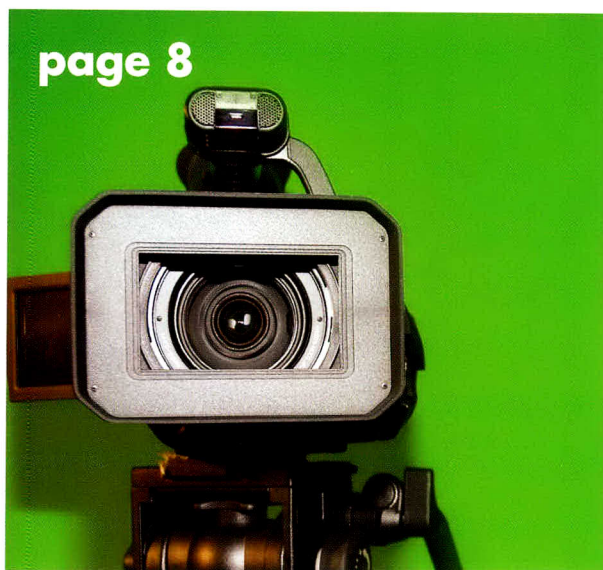




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History was made at UHCL when members of its **first freshman class** attended Student Orientation and Registration in June as UHCL's newest Hawks. Students and their families, led by orientation leaders, went on a guided tour of the university, learned about student resources and organizations, attended an academic advising session and learned how to be successful at UHCL.

"I was very impressed by the enthusiasm and seriousness of the students attending our first SOAR program," says Interim Dean of Students David Rachita. "All of the students I had the chance to meet were very engaged and excited about being at UHCL."

Faculty, staff, current students and alumni have all played a role in the transition of the university and are waiting to see what kind of impact the students have at UHCL.

"This is a very unique opportunity for faculty and staff and for me personally. I am proud to be part of this transition and I'm looking forward to the next few years as we get a sense of how the addition of freshmen and sophomores changes us as an institution," says Director of Orientation and New Student Programs Angie Montelongo.

Traditionally, UHCL has served only upper-level students who have already completed two years of college or are pursuing a graduate or doctoral degree.

Orientation leader Samantha Oser got to know the new students first hand as one of the volunteers at the check-in table.

"My first semester was last spring, so I'm really honored that I get to be in the 'before and after' stage of the university," says Oser, who is a dual major in Literature and Communication and plans to graduate in spring 2015.

Orientation days for freshman and sophomore students will continue throughout the summer, with the first day of fall classes beginning Aug. 25.



Freshmen attending Student Orientation and Registration at UHCL take a moment to sign their names on giant numbers representing their class' 2018 graduation year. All freshmen will be encouraged to sign the numbers, which will be displayed on campus at the start of the fall semester.

## CELEBRATING UHCL'S MASCOT



At the 25th annual Chili Cook-Off in April, UHCL students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members celebrated the quarter-century tradition and joined **Hunter the Hawk** in celebrating his first birthday.

Part of the celebration included introducing the "talent" who have suited up

as Hunter over the past year: Interim Dean of Students David Rachita; Coordinator of Student Life – Student Organizations Patrick Cardenas; Office of Student Life Staff Assistant Megan Hall; Assistant Director of Media Relations Karen Barbier; outgoing Student Government Association President Carla Bradley; former Associate Director of Organizational Development in the Office of Human Resources Ron Klinger; and Division Chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences Associate Professor of Psychology Robert Bartsch.

## UHCL TOY TRAVELS THE WORLD VIA GEOCACHING

A toy yo-yo bearing the UHCL logo has been transported around the country before landing in British Columbia, Canada, earlier this year. Geocaching enthusiast and UHCL Alfred R. Neumann Library Associate Director for Technical Services Martha Hood first placed the toy in April 2013 at the university.

Since it was placed at the university, the yo-yo has traveled through Houston, San Francisco, and hopped through various

parts of Canada. It was last spotted on New Year's Day in British Columbia, Canada – an impressive 2,700 miles from its original location.

"Geocaching has made me explore places that I otherwise would have not," says Hood, referring to her most interesting find — a cache hidden within an airplane at Ellington Air Force Base.

## UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES BLUE AND GREEN WEDNESDAYS

The Hawk Spirit and Traditions Council launched Blue and Green Wednesdays earlier this year, urging those on campus and beyond to participate in the initiative by wearing something blue and/or green every Wednesday.

"Since I Heart UHCL Day was established and held annually on a Wednesday and tends to be one of the busiest days for classes at UHCL, the committee proposed Blue and Green Wednesdays to the council along with other new initiatives planned for future implementation," says then Student Government Association President and

Four-Year Initiative New Traditions  
Committee Chair Carla Bradley.

All in the community are invited to share their UHCL spirit on social media by using the hashtag #UHCL.

### UHCL ASTRONAUT ALUMNUS TALKS WITH ALMA MATER FROM SPACE

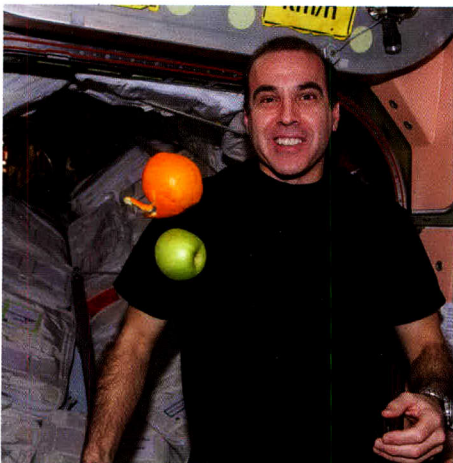
“University of Houston-Clear Lake, I hear you loud and clear. Welcome to the International Space Station,” said UHCL alumnus and astronaut **Rick Mastracchio** as he made UHCL history in April by becoming the first UHCL alumnus to connect with students at the university live from space.

Shortly after moving to Houston to work with NASA as an engineer, Mastracchio enrolled at UHCL and earned his Master of Science in Physical Science in 1991.

“University of Houston-Clear Lake is a great place to go. It’s a great campus, has lots of opportunities and different programs,” he says. “Getting that master’s degree had a lot to do with me being selected as an astronaut.”

Since graduating and being selected to become an astronaut, he has participated in spaceflights STS-106, STS-118 and STS-131. In November 2013, Mastracchio launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan to the International Space Station as part of Expedition 38/39. He returned to earth on May 14, 2014.

In a downlink that also included students from Mastracchio’s other schools, University of Connecticut and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, pre-selected UHCL students asked Mastracchio questions as he orbited the Earth aboard the International Space Station.



**ART TRIP TO MEXICO** Art students from UHCL traveled to Mexico this spring to exchange artistic work and approaches with art students and faculty at the University of Veracruz in Xalapa, Veracruz, as part of the International Arts Consortium, which began in 2003 and has provided mutual art exchanges between UHCL and six international universities. Pictured are the students and faculty from UHCL with faculty from two of the consortium schools including the University of Veracruz in Mexico and University of Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Belgrade, Serbia

### FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED AT AWARD CEREMONY

Celebrating the efforts of faculty and staff, UHCL recognized many for their work during the 36th Annual UHCL Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony. President William A. Staples, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Carl A. Stockton and Vice President for Administration and Finance Michelle Dettre honored 118 faculty and staff with service awards.

Five-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, 30- and 35-year service awards were presented. Staples also honored 26 faculty and staff who are retiring or have retired this year.

Director of Technical Services **Jerry Jones** received the 2014 Hugh P. Avery Prize – The President’s Distinguished Staff Service Award, named in honor of Hugh P. Avery for his years of service to UHCL. Staff Merit Award recipients included Associate Vice President of Finance **Usha Mathew**, Senior Academic Advisor for Distance and Off-Campus Education **Leticia Sanchez-Retamozo** and Office of Career and Counseling Services Administrative Secretary **Laura Velie**.

Stockton awarded the Outstanding Lecturer Award to Senior Lecturer in Computer Engineering **Vernon E-yant** and the Outstanding Adjunct Award to Adjunct Professor of Social Work **Peter Wrienschel**.

Faculty awards presented by Staples included the President’s Distinguished Service Award to Professor of Psychology

**Sharon Hall**, the President’s Distinguished Research Award to Professor of Management **Kevin Wooten** and the President’s Distinguished Teaching Award to Assistant Professor of Sociology **Stephen Cherry**.

### NEW AVP JOINS UHCL

UHCL welcomed **Ronda Thompson** as the new associate vice president for university advancement. Thompson brings more than 15 years of management, fund-raising and organizational development experience within higher education, nonprofit and health organizations.

Thompson comes to UHCL from University of Houston where she worked as the director of foundation relations. Previously she served as assistant dean for strategic planning and senior director of development for UH’s College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of Texas at Arlington.

### ARTIST CREATES BOWLS, HOLDS BOWL-A-THON

Art Gallery Assistant **Karen Fiscus** used her artistic talent to complete 100 bowls for the 10th Annual Empty Bowls Houston, a grassroots effort by artists throughout the country to feed the hungry in their communities.

The ceramist has created 100 bowls for the Houston Food Bank in its annual Empty Bowls Houston campaign, fulfilling the 100 bowl challenge—a goal that she has achieved for the past three years.

“I call it a win-win-win situation,” says Fiscus. “I win because I can share what I love with others, the people buying the bowls win by owning a beautiful handmade bowl and supporting those who are less fortunate, and the hungry win with full stomachs.”

Fiscus has donated handmade bowls for Empty Bowls since its first year—making this her 10th year. In celebration of its 10-year anniversary, Empty Bowls Houston challenged Fiscus, as well as other area artists, with creating a more detailed collector bowl to be displayed in a month-long exhibit at the Archway Gallery, and then sold to benefit Empty Bowls and The Houston Food Bank.



## IN MEMORY

The UHCL community mourns the loss of charter faculty member **Floyd D. Boze**. He joined the university in 1974 and was a professor emeritus of education at the time of his death. Boze and his wife Nancy were both charter faculty members in the university's education program. Boze passed away in February 2014.

UHCL also mourns the passing of **Linda Charlene Carter**, clinical assistant professor in reading and language arts. Carter joined the university as an instructional associate in 1992, and in 2002 she became a lecturer in the School of Education. She was promoted to clinical assistant professor in 2008. Carter passed away in May 2014.

## AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Psychology **Kim Case** has been invited to join the American Psychological Association Leadership Institute for Women, an institute that encourages and enriches the academic and professional success of women in psychology.
- Three faculty members were selected to receive University Faculty Fellowships for the 2014-2015 academic year. The three faculty selected include: **Sadegh Davari**, professor of computer science and computer information systems; **Lillian McEnery**, associate professor of reading and language arts; and **Lie June Shiau**, professor of mathematics.
- School of Education Information and Library Science student **Jean Darnell**, a Fort Bend Independent School District librarian at Goodman Elementary School, received the Texas Library Association's Black Caucus Roundtable Conference Scholarship, which included a stipend to attend the organization's annual event in Austin.
- School of Human Sciences and Humanities undergraduate geography student **Cassandra Seabourn** received the Outstanding Student Award from the UHCL Department of Social and Cultural Sciences and will be interning at the National Geographic Society as their sole Map Division Intern.
- UHCL's **Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program** collected multiple awards at the annual TSTA-SP conference including the Local Excellence Award. It was also recognized as the largest such group in the state, and the one with the largest increase in membership.

## RESEARCH AND GRANTS

- **Jennifer Arney**, assistant professor of sociology, received \$21,109 from the DeBakey VA Medical Center/Department of Veteran Affairs for her proposal, "Examining Utilization and Clinical Effectiveness of Genomic-based Erlotinib Therapy in Management of Veterans Diagnosed with NSCLC at VHA."
- The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science awarded \$3,187 to Associate Professor of Psychology **Christopher Ward** for his proposal, "A Minimally Invasive Electroencephalographic Procedure for Rats."
- Executive Director of the Environmental Institute of Houston and Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science **George Guillen** was awarded \$204,300 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality/Environmental Protection Agency (Federal Pass Thru) for his proposal, "National Rivers and Streams Assessment." He was also awarded \$48,750 from Texas Parks & Wildlife for his proposal, "Distribution, Abundance & Habitat Use by the Saltmarsh Topminnow."
- Project Management Institute awarded Assistant Professor of Management **Dorothy Kirkman** \$25,485 for her proposal, "Translational Science & Its Effects on Organizational Structure & Program Management."
- Director of the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities and Professor of Psychology **Dorothea Lerman** received a \$29,996 award from Organization for Autism Research for her proposal, "Evaluate a Model of Training in Which Caregivers Trained by Professionals Will Then Train Other Parents to Implement Functional Communication Training."
- Department Chair of Social and Cultural Sciences and Associate Professor of Criminology **Everette B. Penn** was awarded \$203,175 from the Department of Justice for his proposal, "Collaborative Partnership to Reduce the Social Distance Between At-Risk Teens, Their Parents/Community & Law Enforcement." He also received a \$12,600 award from City of Columbus, Ohio for his proposal, "Providing Material and Consulting Services for Teen and Police Services Academy."
- Associate Professor of Instructional Design and Technology and Curriculum and Instruction **Jana Willis** received \$67,534 from Tietronix Inc. for her proposal, "Collaboration with Tietronix Software Inc. to Create a Game that will Provide In-Depth Immersion into The Field of Energy Education."



## what's online?

University news highlights, for on the go, anywhere.

**FORMER PROVOST HONORED WITH UHCL LEGACY AWARD** UHCL's Office of Intercultural Student Services honored former Senior Vice President and Provost and Professor of Counseling Edward J. Hayes, presenting him with the newly created Legacy Award. The award will be named in his honor and presented every year.



**CAMPUS RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS** After undergoing a makeover that included new staff, a new location and a new director, the Math Center is prepared to take on the task of adding freshman and sophomore mathematics courses to its extensive list of tutoring services. The center moved from the Student Services and Classroom Building to the second floor of the Bayou Building. The University Academic Advising Center, designed to help first-year and second-year students with fewer than 45 credits transition into university life, opened earlier this summer. It shares a suite with the Testing Center, located between Atriums I and II in the Bayou Building.



### THREE BOOKS YOUR PRETEEN WILL WANT TO READ THIS SUMMER

The UHCL Center for Educational Programs Director Roberta Raymond and her colleague, Sam Houston State University Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant Monika Anderson, suggest three books that will give your preteen something fun to read this summer.

**CREDIT UNION THINKS LOCAL BY DONATING TO UHCL** Employees from the Gulf Coast Educator Federal Credit Union raised money for UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, following the "think local" motto of the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce when choosing who would receive the funds they collected.



### LIVE PERFORMANCE INSPIRES FUTURE ARTISTS

UHCL's Arbor Building was alive with the eerie sounds of an extraterrestrial journey as the university's Art School for Children and Young Adults hosted Sound Hive, a chamber ensemble. The ensemble told the story of a boy and his journey to Moonbase 14 through local composer Joshua Vinci's "Lost Signals from Moonbase 14." Artists were encouraged to let the music inspire them as they created responsive art.

Check out "Short Takes" each week on [www.uhcl.edu/news](http://www.uhcl.edu/news) to find out what's happening at UHCL.

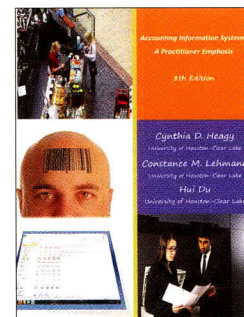
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■ **Accounting Information Systems: A Practitioner Emphasis, 8th Edition Image.**

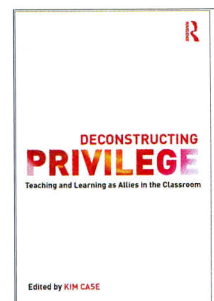
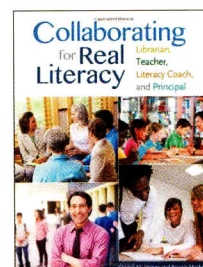
*Textbook Media Press.* Co-authored by Hui Du, associate professor of accounting, Cynthia D. Heagy, professor of accounting and Constance M. Lehmann, associate professor of accounting. The eighth edition of this popular accounting textbook has been fully renovated for the Textbook Media publishing model, with the authors providing a thorough update of current examples and coverage. This textbook gives students the theoretical foundation and skills they will need to conduct a requirements analysis, search for a commercial solution, and successfully implement the software package selected. ISBN 1930789823.



■ **Algebraic Structure of Lattice-Ordered Rings.** *World Scientific Publishing Company.* By Jingjing Ma, associate professor of mathematics. An introduction to the theory of lattice-ordered rings and new developments in this area in the last 10-15 years. Readers will gain a solid foundation on the subject, as well as new research ideas and topics in the field. ISBN 9789814571425.

■ **Collaborating for Real Literacy: Librarian, Teacher, Literacy Coach, and Principal.**

*Linworth Publishing, Inc.* Co-authored by Bonnie W. Mackey, associate professor of reading and language arts. Authentic literacy practice is crucial to preparing all students to be successful in the workplace and college during the 21st century. Insisting that this literacy achievement will only happen when librarians, teachers, literacy coaches and administrators work together in their schools, this text addresses the role of each instructional leader individually and examines the importance of the group collectively in bolstering the literacy of all students. ISBN 9781610692410.

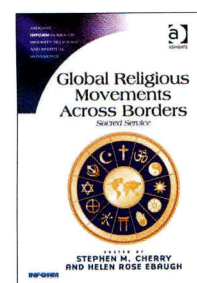
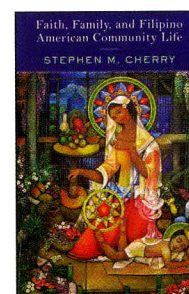


■ **Deconstructing Privilege: Teaching and Learning as Allies in the Classroom.**

*Routledge.* By Kim Case, associate professor of women's studies and psychology. *Kendall Hunt Publishing Co.* Although scholarly examinations of privilege have increased in recent decades, an emphasis on privilege studies pedagogy remains lacking within institutions. This edited collection explores best practices for effective teaching and learning about various forms of systemic group privilege such as that based on race, gender, sexuality, religion and class. Drawing on a wealth of research and real-life accounts, this book gives educators both the theoretical foundations they need to address issues of privilege in the classroom and practical ways to forge new paths for critical dialogues in educational settings. ISBN 9780415641463.

■ **Faith, Family, and Filipino American Community Life.** *Rutgers University Press.* By Stephen M.

Cherry, assistant professor of sociology. The author draws upon a rich set of ethnographic and survey data, collected over a six-year period, to explore the roles that Catholicism and family play in shaping Filipino American community life. This ground-breaking study outlines how first-generation Filipino Americans have the potential to reshape American Catholicism and are already having an impact on American civic life through the engagement of their faith. ISBN 0813562058.



■ **Global Religious Movements Across Borders: Sacred Service.** *Ashgate Publishing Company.*

Co-edited by Stephen M. Cherry, assistant professor of sociology. Exploring how religious roots are shaping "service movements," the text focuses on how religious movements establish structures to assist people with basic human needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education and health. Encompassing various faith traditions with origins in different parts of the world, the collection offers a unique discussion of the intersection between religious transnationalism and social movements. ISBN 9781409456889.



# Finding Time to Give Back

By  
**Taryn  
Burnett**

Alumna Luci Fuller gives back to UHCL by volunteering on behalf of ACU of Texas.



After almost 20 years away from the Clear Lake area, Luci Marez Fuller was eager to come home and find opportunities to balance her work life and personal life. When she joined Associated Credit Union of Texas in 2013, Fuller quickly discovered that finding balance had grown from a dream to a reality.

Just a few days on the job with ACU of Texas as the Clear Lake Kroger branch manager, Fuller was able to join her new employer at a familiar location — her alma mater. Fuller graduated from UHCL in 1994 with a degree in behavioral psychology. When she found out that UHCL was hosting Welcome Back Bash in 2013, she called the university and volunteered to help staff a booth on behalf of the credit union. While at the event she connected with Kris Thompson, senior coordinator of alumni and community relations at the university.

“She was introducing me to this person and that person, and just trying to build a stronger connection and a stronger relationship,” says Fuller. Somewhere in all of those introductions Fuller learned about the UHCL Alumni Association’s Alumni Coffee Table initiative.

While attending UHCL, Fuller took both day and night classes and still remembers the challenges of even finding a snack after regular business hours ended and many campus resources closed for the day.

“When I attended, the cafeteria wasn’t open late at night, so when you went to the vending machine, it was ‘good luck,’ you hope there’s something there to eat,” says Fuller.

Though the café on campus now offers extended hours, Alumni Coffee Table was created with night classes in mind. Fellow alumna Kim Herhold, who is now the assistant director of development for UHCL’s Annual Fund, also attended evening classes at UHCL. Years later, phone conversations with alumni led Herhold to focus on the connection missing between alumni and current students, especially those who attend classes only after normal business hours.

“I had just attended the university and I wasn’t really involved,” says Herhold, who considered herself a night student while pursuing her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. “I knew I had to change that for other students. I remember being a student here at night and there was nothing open, not even a place to get coffee. I wished somehow we could make those night students know someone is there for them.”

Herhold suggested hosting evening events where students and alumni could connect. Now, alumni spend an evening on-campus handing out free coffee and snacks to students at Alumni Coffee Tables.

When Fuller heard about the Coffee Tables, she pursued information on the initiative’s current success and its future plans. She even stopped by one night to check things out for herself.

“And I pretty much took it from there,” says Fuller, who volunteered to be the head person for the initiative. But she also took her involvement one very big step forward. “I said, ‘I would love to do it on behalf of the credit union. We can afford to do this right now. And Kris [Thompson] has allowed me to do just that.’”

With ACU of Texas on board, Fuller was able to offer sponsorship of Coffee Tables by purchasing snacks, including coffee sleeves with the credit union logo on it. She was also able to combine her work and her personal life in a balanced way — just as she had hoped.

Fuller, who attends Coffee Tables as often as possible, considers herself a cheerleader for students and knows how helpful some encouragement and caffeine can be to students with evening classes.

“It’s providing substance, strength and stamina through the semester,” says Fuller, who enjoys the opportunity to speak with students who remind her so much of herself at that stage of her life. She especially appreciates speaking with students about their classes and sharing stories about some unique experiences she had as a student, including one professor who spent the first few minutes of class pretending to be a student in order to create an engaging discussion about social dynamics and human behavior.

Fuller also wants students to see UHCL alumni coming back and participating, and helping students find ways to get involved now so that they’ll stay engaged.

“Find your passion,” says Fuller.

“Find what you’re passionate about and interested in, because then you’ll stay involved.”

Alumni Coffee Tables are held each semester. If you’re interested in getting involved, you can contact the UHCL Alumni Association at [alumni@uhcl.edu](mailto:alumni@uhcl.edu) or visit [www.uhcl.edu/alumni](http://www.uhcl.edu/alumni).

**“Find what you’re passionate about and interested in, because then you’ll stay involved.”**

— Luci Fuller



# COLLABORATIVE FOCUS CAPTURES SUSTAINABILITY

Charles Darwin once said that “those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.” Though Darwin quotes are more likely to be a part of the reading assignments for those in geology or sociology, students in Assistant Professor of Digital Media Studies Michael Brims’ Single Camera Video Production class and School of Business lecturer Kathleen Garland’s Seminar in Sustainability Management class actually put this Darwin quote into action when they collaborated on video projects to promote sustainability.

 **BY KAREN  
BARBIER**

Brims approached Garland the first week of class about the possibility of the two classes working together and Garland saw it as a positive opportunity for her students to approach sustainability from a different angle – through the creative eye of a videographer.

“Michael has been making videos for the City of Houston for some time now and has a wonderful professional working relationship with the sustainability office,” says Garland, speaking of Brims.

“His assignments required his students to create a structured research-driven video story supporting sustainability, and my environmental management students, whose work throughout the semester focuses on sustainability, could offer a technical perspective as it relates to the subject of the project.”

“We met the first week of class last fall to discuss the possibility of the two classes working together and the more we discussed it, the more we thought this collaboration would give students a great way to come at a particular project from very different viewpoints,” adds Brims, who was teaching his first semester at UHCL at the time.

The specific assignment included Brims’ students making two videos: one looking at sustainability projects at UHCL and the other in the city. Garland’s students would provide sustainability advice and ways to present the ideas while Brims’ students put their digital creativity to work.

“It’s a great way for students from two completely different disciplines to create a project together and learn about collaborating across disciplines,” says Garland.

For UHCL graduate digital media studies student Jack Moore and Master of Business Administration student Loan Le the collaboration was a positive team effort with successful results. The two, along with others in the respective video production and environmental management classes, created videos promoting area sustainability projects and the finished projects have resulted in real-world success.

During the first assignment, Moore and his classmates uploaded their UHCL sustainability projects online so that Garland’s class could assess the videos. At that point, students were not paired up, but rather students individually offered broad critiques about the finished product from a few different perspectives.

“Overall, we looked at style and then we looked at it from an audience perspective as UHCL students,” explains Le. “Finally, we looked at it from an audience perspective as a person with no understanding of sustainability.”

“We took notes and offered our advice about how to strengthen the video so that it could educate viewers.”

During the second assignment a more collaborative approach was needed. Brims, a videographer who has made several videos for the City of Houston, invited City of Houston Sustainability Manager Lisa Lin to speak to his class about sustainability projects going on around Houston.

“Sustainability is important to the City of Houston because we’re focusing on improving the quality of life in our community by enhancing the environment, maintaining a strong economy, and ensuring equitable access of our programs and services to our citizens,” says Lin.

After Lin presented the various projects, Moore chose a topic that is housed in the city’s Solid Waste Department: the ReUse Warehouse.

Funded in part by a grant from the Houston Galveston Area Council, the ReUse Warehouse provides space for excess building

material that would otherwise be dumped in local landfills. Materials that might be dumped in landfills are accepted at the site from individuals, supply companies and builders, and are then available for reuse.

“I love seeing old things re-purposed,” says Moore. “ReUse Warehouse appealed to me. It is very unique in that they collect materials cast out and leftover from other projects and make them available to nonprofit organizations and others.”

Environmental management students looked at a list of projects that students in Brims’ class would be producing and chose the topic that interested them. Le liked Moore’s topic and the two began to work together.

“In this project, I played more in the role of supporter,” explains Le, who plans to graduate in December. “We shared our understanding about the advantages of the warehouse for sustainable development.”

“We saw a full range of connections,” says Garland. “Some of the students connected early on and were very involved in their projects, while some students had less association. This is true of real-world collaborations, too.”

Moore appreciated Le’s perspective, and Le respected the skill Moore brought to making the video, which began with an interview with Houston environmental artist Charles Washington and how the ReUse Warehouse played an important role in his art project, “The Doors.” A frequent visitor to the ReUse Warehouse, Washington uses doors to showcase his art. Moore thought by highlighting Washington he could “tell a story that has purpose.” Le agreed.

“I was interested in the ReUse Warehouse as it not only educates in optimizing costs but also in contributing to the community... a long-term program for sustainability,” says Le.

Moore explains that the two discussed several aspects of the production including the audience they wanted to target and the framework for the topic. And Washington’s story seemed the best one to include.

“When he discusses his art, he highlights his process in finding the right door. He says the doors ‘speak to him,’” says Moore.

While Washington talks about the doors in the video, the warehouse manager discusses other ways the materials have been used by organizations to build community gardens and strengthen and reinforce the walls on low-income housing projects.

When Lin saw the video, she was pleased.

“It captured the essence of what the ReUse Warehouse was for,” says Lin.

Among the other collaborative projects in the Houston area were videos highlighting Urban Harvest, Bike Share and East Beach land conservation projects in Galveston.

“The key words defining all of the projects are community outreach, interdisciplinary approach and visibility for the university,” says Brims. “What is so important is that students produce a product for the real world, work with students who come to the project with different angles and ideas, and introduces those on the outside to UHCL.”

“Students in my class loved it,” adds Garland. “They found the creator of the video very interesting. It was an eye-opener and allowed them to see sustainability in a different way.”

Sara Khalifa and Angie Montelongo, pictured l to r, are the dynamic duo leading orientations and new student programs for all of UHCL's incoming students.



Chris Kuhlman

# INTERTWINING TEAM

by RACHEL HOBSON

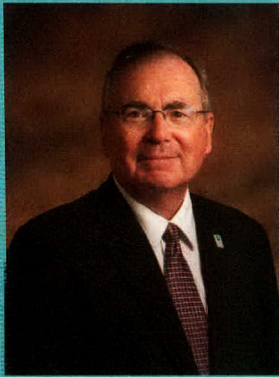




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**University of Houston-Clear Lake** looks forward to the 2014-15 academic year, when our first-ever freshman and sophomore students begin their studies. Now is a historic time to be a part of the UHCL community, and we appreciate all who have made this milestone possible.

As the university transforms into a four-year institution, we remain steadfastly committed to meeting the educational needs of the communities we serve. Undergraduate offerings at UHCL Pearland Campus have expanded to include a Bachelor of Applied Science in Information Technology and Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Plans are also underway for a second doctoral program in education and a new doctoral degree in psychology.

UHCL continues to offer exceptional educational opportunities because of the efforts of many people. JHCL retiree and alumna Sue Fellman and her husband Chuck exemplify those who help expand the university's reach by supporting and creating student scholarship endowments. For that reason and more, I am pleased to recognize them as the President's Cabinet Philanthropy Award honorees for this year. In the same spirit, Distinguished Alumni Award honoree and Delta Airlines Chief Executive Officer **Richard Anderson** received this year's President's Cabinet Leadership Award. Anderson's support of the JHCL Liberty Bell Project helped make the initiative a reality.

Alumni, students, faculty, staff, community friends and business leaders make UHCL the thriving educational institution that it has become since opening 40 years ago. Thank you for your active involvement and generous support.

*William A. Staples*

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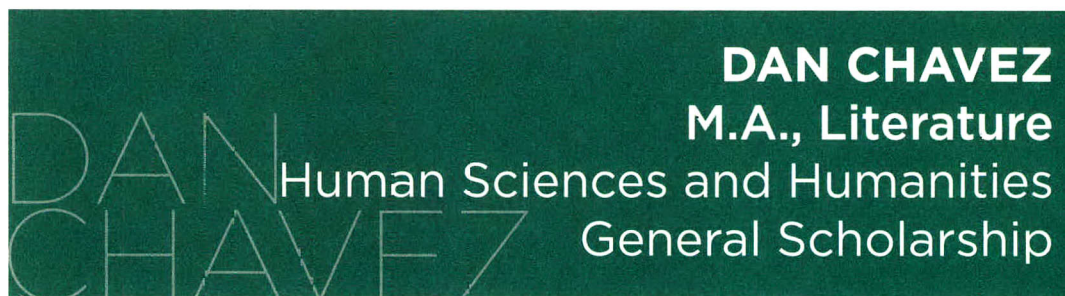
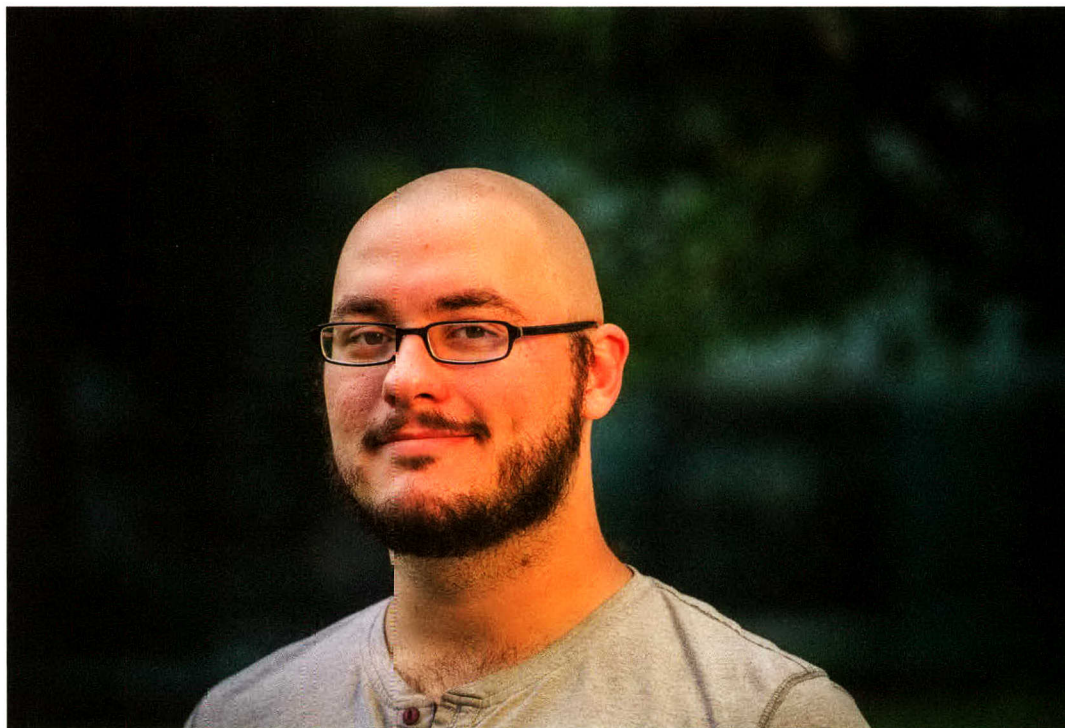
On the cover: Sue, an alumna, and Chuck Fellman were recognized as the 2014 President's Cabinet Philanthropy Award honorees. Right: alumnus Richard H. Anderson was recognized as the 2014 President's Cabinet Leadership Award honoree.



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The honor roll reflects contributions made between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy. In instances of omission or misidentification, please report corrections to the Office of University Advancement at 281-283-2021 or [gifts@uhcl.edu](mailto:gifts@uhcl.edu).

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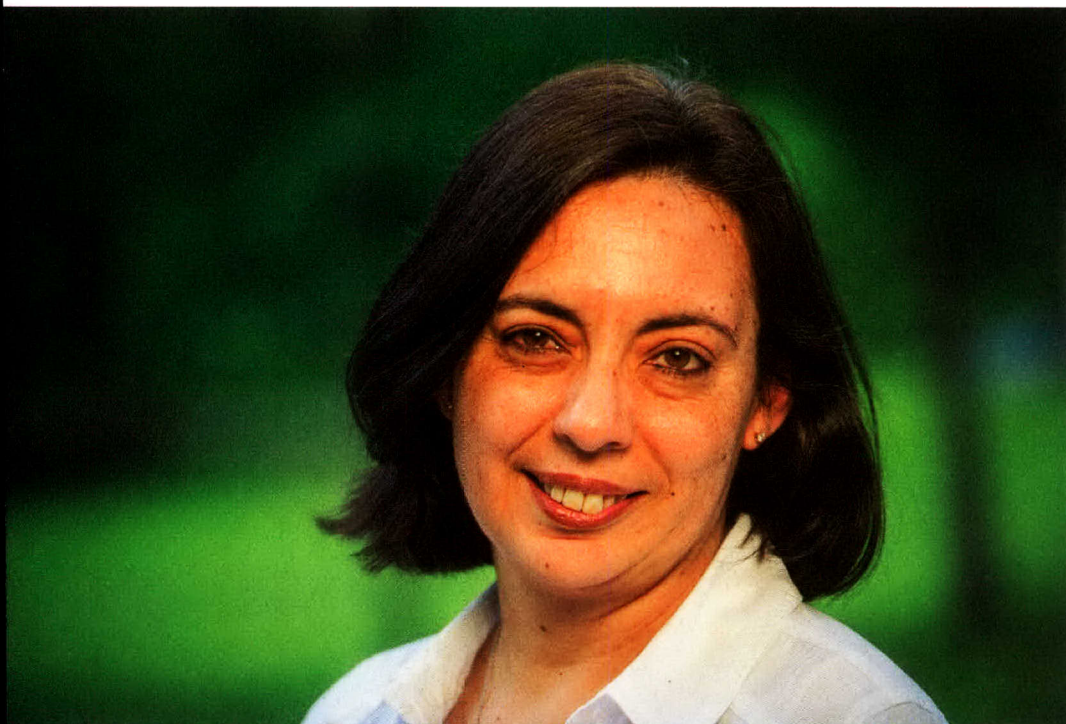
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**ANGIE MONTELONGO**, director of Orientation and New Student Programs, has a simple and direct piece of advice for new UHCL students: “Get involved on campus, both inside and outside of the classroom.”

This advice is at the heart of the extensive programming ONSP offers to new students throughout the year as they transition into university life. ONSP was established as part of the Four-Year Initiative, and Montelongo and Coordinator Sara Khalifa, are using their professional and personal experiences to put together a variety of programs and activities to support and engage new students.

One of the main responsibilities of ONSP is to organize, promote and host new student orientation sessions. As Khalifa describes, orientation gives students a glimpse of what their experience will be like at UHCL. They have the opportunity to interact with faculty and student leaders, learn what the expectations are for the classroom and what organizations they can join, as well as what services are available to them.

“It’s taking that nervous excitement that they might have right when they’re admitted to that confidence that shows, ‘Hey, I made the right choice of being here. I’m excited and I’m ready to go,’” says Khalifa.

ONSP serves students and families at the end of the admissions process and the beginning of the retention process.

“We serve as a bridge for new students and their parents and families to the institution,” says Montelongo.

The first stop for incoming freshmen is Student Orientation and Registration, where they will register for classes, meet with academic advisers and meet fellow students. Khalifa says SOAR covers many of the task-oriented parts of getting ready for school, along with social pieces, but a new extended orientation program called Hawk Launch will incorporate a school spirit component of attending UHCL, and will give the entire incoming freshman class an opportunity to bond.

“You can come to orientation, but you’re not going to meet everyone in your class,” says Khalifa. “It’s important for us to have a day where they’re all coming together. You get to see who is a new freshman or sophomore student, and you have that opportunity to engage with them before they get into the classroom. We want to create that spirit and pride for UHCL.”

“Part of our goal is for students to get hyped, and get that spirit going. We want to make them feel like, ‘I am a Hawk. I am proud to be a Hawk. I am tied to this institution and know the traditions, and I feel great about blue and green.’”

Montelongo says they want students to feel excited and confident in their choice to attend UHCL, and want them to look forward not only to their classes, but also the social aspects of attending the university.

“Hopefully, they’ll get excited about involvement opportunities,” Montelongo says, who envisions students not only making a connection to ONSP but also to other offices at the university.

That involvement can come full circle as students become leaders on campus. Khalifa says another important purpose of the ONSP is to offer leadership opportunities for students who want to give back

to the university. Randon Taylor, a senior business management major, says it was his desire to become a better leader and build up those around him that made him want to apply to be an Orientation Leader, known as OLs.

“When I began college as a young freshman, I looked for warm, welcoming faces to assist me in my transition,” says Taylor. “I try to create that same atmosphere for incoming freshmen so that they can be comfortable while trying to acclimate themselves with the UHCL culture.”

Brittany Cardenas, an art and design undergraduate student, says she is looking forward to helping set the tone for the freshmen first year experience as a member of the orientation planning committee known as Hawk Guides. She explains that OLs are one of the first groups of people freshmen will see on campus, and says she hopes that once students see the team’s energy and school spirit, they will be excited about coming to UHCL. Cardenas draws on her own experiences at UHCL to reassure students they made a good decision by attending the university.

“There was a time I was unsure about coming to UHCL,” says Cardenas. “But after my orientation, I got a chance to talk with some of the students, faculty and advisers, and I knew I was in the right place.”

Montelongo says that having a diverse group of student leaders offers a good view of the institution and its values.

“It’s important for us to make sure that the team we put together is reflective of who we are as an institution,” she says.

Noting the team members’ diverse backgrounds, interests and involvement on campus, Cardenas says, “We all have one thing in common, and that is to make incoming students’ first experience at UHCL awesome.”

Past those initial experiences at orientation and Hawk Launch, ONSP offers a variety of programming and support for new students such as Welcome Back Bash, and support around mid-terms and finals.

“Orientation is a process,” says Khalifa. “It doesn’t start and stop at new students coming to orientation. It’s all of the programs throughout.

It’s helping them transition into all aspects of UHCL. There’s a purpose to everything that we do in making sure that students are developing and transitioning while here.”

That transition process can pose challenges, though, such as older students heading back to school after a long absence, or new freshmen adjusting to life on a commuter campus.

“We try our best to address those challenges they might face,” says Khalifa. “This class is the first freshman class coming in, which is amazing, and it’s going to be an amazing experience for them. At the same time, it is a big challenge, because as a team, we’re also learning.”

“It’s a really rewarding job,” Khalifa says. “You have the opportunity to not only develop these student leaders, but also see all of these fresh, new faces coming in. Freshmen who are almost terrified at times, coming into school, and then their lives get completely changed by these orientation leaders. I think it’s very rewarding to see.”

**“IT’S IMPORTANT  
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TOGETHER IS  
REFLECTIVE  
OF WHO WE  
ARE AS AN  
INSTITUTION.”**

**— Angie Montelongo**

# A BALANCING ACT: Mother, Student, Wife

BY JENNY HOWARD

Graduate student Marie Ogedegbe's beaming smile is a friendly sight for those passing the University Computing and Telecommunications suite.

**UHCL is home to many different cultures and ethnicities that come together to make up its diverse student population. Marie Ogedegbe, UHCL alumna, current UHCL graduate student and customer service representative in the University Computing and Telecommunications office, brings her Nigerian culture and pride to that diversity, helping to make UHCL an accepting and welcoming campus for all students.**

Ogedegbe moved to the Houston area from her childhood home in Lagos, Nigeria with her family when she was 14 years old. Her parents—her father, an electrical engineer and her mother, an English educator with a master's in English Literature—placed emphasis on the importance of her education, so adjusting to the requirements of the American education system wasn't difficult. At just 16 years old, she graduated from Clear Creek High School a full two years ahead of her peers.

Although life in a new country can be an intimidating change, Ogedegbe didn't lose sight of her academic goals. She spent nine years working toward earning her bachelor's degree. After the birth of her son Jonathan, Ogedegbe took classes part-time at San Jacinto Community College. When she completed her associate degree in mathematics, her future home at UHCL became a reality and she became a full-time student. In fall 2008, Ogedegbe simultaneously graduated with her bachelor's degree in biology and a certificate in biotechnology. Next, she enrolled in the university's biotechnology graduate program. Throughout her journey, Ogedegbe found inspiration in the help and support she's received from her husband, her now 10-year old son and her family members.

"My son has inspired me to further my goals and accomplish things such as getting my bachelor's degree after I had him and now, pursuing my graduate degree," says Ogedegbe. "He gives me the impetus to want to be a better person and parent every day."

Ogedegbe's determination and success throughout her education are not only helping her to accomplish her goals, but are allowing Jonathan to witness first-hand what it takes to be successful and accomplish lifelong dreams, despite individual circumstance.

"If he sees me doing something he can be proud of, he will aspire to do better. He has seen and continues to see that it is possible to dream big and to work hard to realistically achieve one's goals."

Although she has her parents, siblings and son here in the United States, one important person is still missing: her husband, Olasehinde Martins. He still resides in Nigeria, but is in the process of moving to the states.

"It is difficult to be without the person you love especially when he is continents away from you," says Ogedegbe. "He supports my education 100 percent and plans to start attending UHCL as soon as he comes to join my son and me in the states."

Ogedegbe began college with the dream of being an engineer like her father, but quickly realized that it wasn't the life for her. With encouragement from her mother, she was able to see that her true passions were science and writing, skills that she brings together in her biotechnology master's degree.

"My mom has been a real bastion of support for me," says Ogedegbe. "My parents always taught me that they wanted me to do better than they did ... to work hard, to accomplish what you want to accomplish, do what you want to do, and learn."

After attaining her bachelor's degree, Ogedegbe participated in a post-baccalaureate research enrichment program at The University

of Texas-Medical Branch at Galveston, designed to encourage minorities to pursue a doctorate in the sciences.

"From there, I realized that I wanted to continue down that path for now and I decided to do my biotechnology master's," says Ogedegbe. "The main challenge is deciding what I want to do. I know what I want to achieve, but what do I want to do to achieve it?"

Not only did her time in the program solidify her decision to go into the sciences, but it also showed her the importance of minorities taking part in scientific discovery. With minorities being represented much less in the scientific world, Ogedegbe hopes that an increase in the minority population will allow more research to go toward things that affect them at a higher rate, as well as bring invaluable diversity to the field.

Ogedegbe had a strong support system throughout her educational career, which is an advantage that she feels many young girls don't have today. She hopes that her experience in the UTMB program and the UHCL graduate program will inspire future scientists to pursue their goals.

"I would advise them to do lots of research about their field," she says. "Young girls should take the opportunity to enroll in internships and speak to established scientists to learn more about what it takes to be successful in the field."

Ogedegbe, who seems to seek out opportunities in whatever life offers, found a way to turn her customer service position for the University Computing and Telecommunications office in to much more than just a job. The position has allowed her to have more study time, learn important customer service skills, as well as overcome shyness when talking to strangers and answering the telephone.

"Working at the support center has given me the confidence to know that I can provide solutions for issues whenever the need arises and has taught me how to be a critical thinker and what great customer service entails," says Ogedegbe.

Kathy Kirchner, UCT support center supervisor, has watched Ogedegbe grow as an employee and a leader by encouraging other staff members to do the best they can on a daily basis.

"She looks at how we do things in the Support Center and she tries to find ways to do it better," says Kirchner. "I've seen her confidence grow and she has learned to handle the sometimes stressful environment of working in customer and technical support."

Balancing the life of being a mother, a wife and a student isn't easy. In fact, it takes a support system of friends and family to accomplish, which are gifts that Ogedegbe is thankful for each day. With her master's degree nearly complete, Ogedegbe is now planning for the future, which might include working towards her doctorate or following in her mother's footsteps and teaching a class of her own.

# PERSPECTIVE

BY TARYN BURNETT

**WHEN A GROUP OF UHCL STUDENTS** studying healthcare administration traveled to India to study hospital systems, each of them had different expectations and in the end, they each had exceptional experiences.

The students visited three hospitals including a private, for-profit facility with private multi-bedroom apartments; a private, non-profit facility supported by a pharmaceutical company; and a public, government-funded facility with so many staff that the emergency room wait time was almost non-existent.

For healthcare administration graduate student Angela Miller, the study abroad program was something she'd been hoping for since late in her undergraduate career.

When Miller was an undergraduate student, she developed an interest in studying abroad. Well in to her academic plan though, adding a study abroad term would have complicated, and likely extended, her graduation timeline.

To UHCL International Education Specialist Meghan Perry with the Office of International Admissions and Programs, Miller's story is a familiar one. Perry works with students early in their academic careers so a lack of time doesn't prevent the experience of a lifetime.

"The earlier we can talk and start planning, the easier it is to fit this in their academic plans," says Perry, who oversees the programming side of OIAP.

Perry meets with dozens of students each semester to discuss areas of study or locations that may interest them, areas of concern, and preferences on whether they travel alone or with a group.

Because cost is often a major concern, Perry recommends that students consider faculty-led study abroad programs, which tend to be more cost-effective, and to apply for a study abroad scholarship offered by the Office of Financial Aid. In the newly renovated OIAP suite, a resource room holds materials about study abroad destinations, international education organizations and financial aid resources.

Faculty-led trips are typically two weeks long and equal to at least three semester credit hours. Professor of Healthcare Administration Ashish Chandra led a trip to India earlier this year, combining his personal knowledge of the country and academic background.

"A lot of students look to the faculty-led option because it is easier, cheaper, more in their comfort zone and they know the semester credit hours will apply," says Perry. For the India trip, each student applied and received a scholarship through UHCL's Office of Financial Aid. The scholarships are geared toward off-setting some of the trip's cost.

"Faculty work really hard to make the trips as cost-effective as possible," says Perry.

At UHCL, faculty-led trips cost \$2,000-4,000, in addition to the tuition fees for a regular class.

When Chandra mentioned an upcoming study abroad opportunity in India, Miller made sure not to miss out.

Along with seven other students and Chandra, Miller spent more than a week in India. The students were able to provide feedback on what they felt worked and what didn't at the different hospitals. They also visited a manufacturing plant.

"We were able to see industry and manufacturing facilities and how they don't have the safety protocols we have in America and how that affects the healthcare system and the demand for healthcare," says Miller.

One of the biggest surprises the students found was the involvement and communication with a patient's family members. In one hospital, family members held a patient's intravenous fluid bags while another facility provided additional bedrooms so that family members could stay together.

Graduate student Erica Jones was especially surprised by how different a family's presence was in the hospitals in India compared to those in America.

"In India, families are very involved in their care. There are more dorm-style rooms while we are pushing for private rooms here." Jones hopes to work in group practice management when she graduates this December and paid special attention to the "mind balance versus mechanics" in each hospital the group visited.

Chandra felt that the eight students represented the university very well, not only while touring the hospitals and a manufacturing plant, but also when they presented at Convergence 2014, a conference with the top 50 Indian business schools in attendance.

"The students learned a tremendous amount over there," says Chandra, who hopes for similar trips abroad in the future.

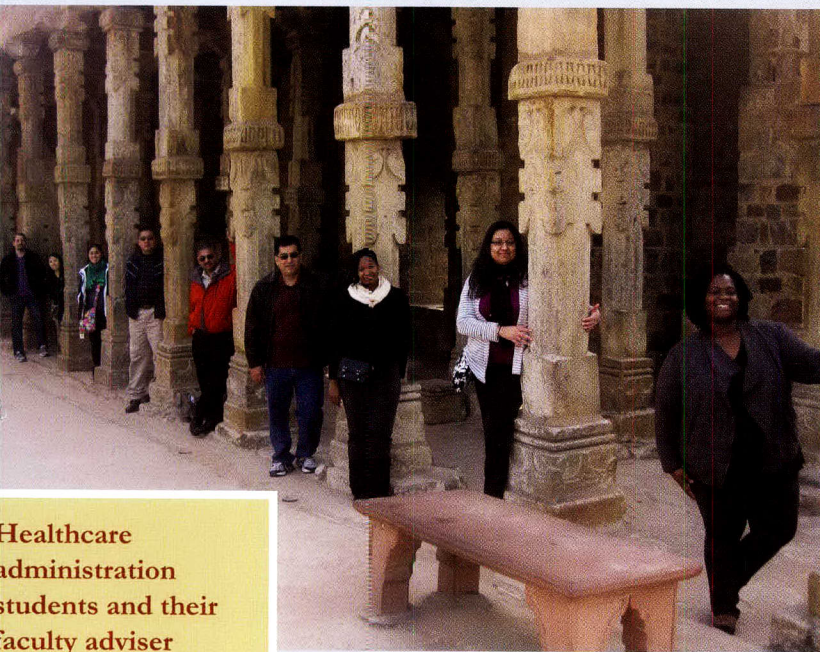
Meanwhile, Miller, who also serves as an instructional assistant for UHCL, is planning to attend medical school and explore a focus in surgery after completing her graduate degree.

"After seeing the large inequalities there it pushed me more to wanting to volunteer my time," says Miller, who hopes to volunteer her medical knowledge overseas someday. "It gave me a new appreciation for what we have here."

Just under 30 students were able to find new perspectives abroad during the 2013-14 academic year. In addition to the trip to India led by Chandra, faculty members Professor of Fine Arts Sandria Hu, Associate Professor of Geography Jeffrey Lash and Program Chair of Biological Sciences and Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Cindy Howard led trips to Mexico, Costa Rica and the Amazon respectively.

"The whole point of international study is that it enriches your education," says Perry, who will begin meeting with faculty members soon to plan 2014-15 study abroad opportunities.

# es ABROAD



Healthcare administration students and their faculty adviser Ashish Chandra do some sightseeing during their study abroad trip to India.



By Jean Rudnicki

# A Test of Leadership Skills

UHCL School of Education Assistant Professor of Educational Management Esrom Pitre has done more than just teach the principles of educational leadership, he has actually practiced them. Prior to joining the UHCL faculty in fall 2013, Pitre successfully took on the challenge of transforming a low-performing Louisiana high school into a model of academic change and success.

Pitre, the newest member of UHCL's educational leadership team, was teaching at a university in Denver, Colorado, when his wife's new job at a university in Louisiana required the family to relocate. The professor saw the move as an opportunity to prove that the culturally responsive leadership principles he had been teaching were more than ivory tower theory.

After years of low performance, morale at Donaldsonville High School had taken a hit according to Pitre. Rated an F school for eight consecutive years, the school had been placed on the academic watch list and was on the verge of being taken over by the state, adds Pitre. He explains that the graduation rate at the school was a low 67 percent and that the school culture was one where the students weren't motivated to learn and showed no respect to teachers, with teachers encountering discipline and attendance problems.

Pitre says that drugs and weapons were often found on campus, and student fights were a daily occurrence.

"The students didn't produce because they didn't care," Pitre says. "Nobody at the school wanted to be there – not the teachers, the students or the administrators."

Recruiting a few teachers who believed as he did, that they could make a difference, Pitre launched a three-prong program to engage the students, the teachers and the community.

Addressing the incoming freshman class he told them, "We're going to change the culture at Donaldsonville High School. As seniors you all are going to make history and become known nationally for transforming our school into a highly successful school."

Working diligently with stakeholders, including area ministers and business owners, Pitre says the school began to transform. After four years under Pitre's leadership, the school rating increased to a B, the graduation rate rose to 87 percent, and the school made

the top of the list in gains of academic improvement in the state of Louisiana in 2013.

"I was proud of the way that we took that school and changed the minds of the kids from really not believing in education to having some hope, really trying hard and believing that they could be as successful as they wanted to be in reaching their dreams," says Pitre.

He says the transformation resulted from a variety of actions. "The biggest thing for me was paying attention to the difference between how the school should be from the teachers' standpoint and the community's, and then also the student's total disconnect. It was trying to connect all the pieces."

The teachers wanted to improve the curriculum and ensure that the students were constantly learning in a way that they could retain what they learned, Pitre explains, so the teachers focused on a research-based strategy of culturally responsive teaching. One element included using structures that required the kids to talk and work together in groups.



**“We needed people to inspire them to believe that they could do more than they ever thought they could.”**



**Professor Esrom Pitre helped lead a failing school in Louisiana to a passing grade. Now he shares that experience and others with educational leadership students at UHCL.**

“The most important element of culturally responsive teaching is teaching the whole child and responding to the needs of the students on your particular campus,” says Pitre. “This strategy does not consider the one size fits all model. It requires that leaders have a sociocultural consciousness when responding to every aspect of the students’ educational experience. Educating a child then extends to practices and beliefs on campus, the community, the church, the home, and the hearts of the students in which you educate.”

Pitre believed that on the students’ side, the biggest issue was the need for inspiration.

“We needed people to inspire them to believe that they could do more than they ever thought they could. I had to get teachers that felt like they could inspire students to believe in themselves.”

Lastly, Pitre engaged the community in a way that it had never been engaged before. This included hosting “preachers versus teachers” game nights. They brought the ministers into the games, encouraged them to walk the halls, and welcomed them as a part of

the school. In return, the community was willing to help in any way that he asked without question.

Pitre also opened the school’s doors to other administrators from across the state who wanted to see what Donaldsonville High was doing to foster its remarkable transformation. His willingness to share the techniques earned him the 2013 National Institute of Excellence in Teaching’s TAP™ Ambassador Award. TAP™ is NIET’s System for Teacher and Student Advancement, which focuses on raising student achievement. The goal is accomplished by creating incentives and support structures that will maximize teacher effectiveness such as the work done by Pitre at Donaldsonville High.

Leaving Donaldsonville was one of the hardest decisions that he had to make, but he says, “Where I was able to help this one school, I’m hoping now that I can have an impact on more schools nationally. I’m thankful for the opportunity to be at UHCL. I’m excited about helping out and maybe working with one or two schools to help them reach the goals that they set.”

1980s

**Joe Barnett**, '84 MBA, retired from Matheson Gas and lives in Webster.

**James Bevil**, '83 BS, was named as guest curator for a new exhibit, "On the Run: Currency, Credit and Capitals of the Republic of Texas," located at the Capitol Visitor Center, Austin.

**Ricci Ivers Casserly**, '84 MS, has published a children's book, "Kathy's Adventures."

**Kathleen Clements**, '87 MS, is the chair of the education department at Saint Joseph's College of Maine.

**Robert "Bob" Edmonds**, '80 BS, joined Gulfmark Offshore as director of orders to cash.

**Celia Garrett**, '85 MA, '81 BS, retired and is now a substitute teacher for Taylor Independent School District and Round Rock ISD.

**Sharon Grudger**, '89 MA, '80 BBA, works for Jewish Family Service-San Antonio as a therapist.

**Ronald Howell**, '82 MS, '77 BA, is owner of TV Personnel and Safety Services, Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Sharon Jenkins**, '84 MA, is the World Languages department leader and teaches Spanish at Hightower High School, Fort Bend ISD.

**Diane Overman**, '83 MS, was accepted as a professional member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association and is the owner of Overman College Consulting.

**David Salva**, '88 BA, works for Military Personnel Services Corp. as a coordinator.

**Greg Scoggins**, '80 BS, is director of downstream planning at Pioneer Natural Resources.

**Rosanne Scott**, '88 MS, a counselor for Pearland ISD, wrote two ebooks, "Fawn Forest ISD" and "Blue Bonnet ISD."

**Shawn Sybert**, '88 BBA, is the owner of Whiskers of My Heart Pet Sitting LLC in League City.



1990s

**Marc Biehl**, '94 MHA/BBA, works for Baylor Scott & White Health as associate vice president of strategic planning.

**Donna Black**, '92 MA, '88 BS, was selected by the National Association of School Psychologists for the 2014 Government and Professional Relations Outstanding Advocate Award.

**Gayle Cook**, '94 BS, is the city manager for Seabrook.

**Gina Davis**, '92 BBA, is an account manager at hibou.

**Francis Haggerty**, '95 MS, '92 BS, has retired from Lee College, Baytown.

**Kristy Havard**, '99 BS, is a dyslexia intervention teacher for Pasadena ISD.

**Donnie Jones**, '91 BBA, is a senior sales representative for Amgen.

**Diane Listi**, '90 BS, is assistant district attorney for Chambers County.

**Morgan LoCaste**, '93 BS, is director of sales and marketing for Broadband One.

**Scott Marler**, '96 BA, presented his paper, "New Orleans, Latin America and the Afro-Caribbean World," at a special conference of the Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians. He also published "The Merchant's Capital: New Orleans and the Political Economy of the 19th Century South."

**Roy Milam**, '94 MBA, is president of Cornerstone Marriage and Family Ministries in Cypress.

**Keith Parrott**, '95 MHA, is chief executive officer of Baptist Health System in Birmingham, Alabama.

**S. Camille Peres**, '96 MA, '90 BA, is an assistant professor at Texas A&M University.

**James Smalley**, '98 MS, is director of organizational development at Texas Children's Hospital.

**Shane Spees**, '97 MHA, is president/CEO of North Mississippi Health Services.

**Terry Thornton**, '97 MBA, works for Goldman, Sachs & Co. as vice president of investment banking.

**Shelley Wooley**, '90 BS is a program director at Lake Superior State University.

**Chia-Ming Wu**, '98 MA, teaches for Plano ISD.



2000s

**Lejo Abraham**, '06 MBA, '06 MS,

'02 BS, is vice president of investments/financial adviser for Wells Fargo Advisers LLC.

**Alejandra Alcalá**, '09 BS, is a bilingual elementary teacher for Pasadena ISD.

**Cheryl Brown**, '01 MA, is a partner with Brown & Brown, Attorneys at Law.

**Matthew Burke**, '03 MS, is director of performing and visual arts for La Porte ISD.

**Linda Butcher**, '03 MA, is owner and lead therapist at Therapy Solutions 4 U, PLLC in Wharton.

**Catherine Crissey**, '02 MHA, is an investigative auditor for the Texas Attorney General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

**Antoinette Green**, '05 MA, is vice president of diversity and inclusion for CHE Trinity Health.

**Dixie Jones**, '07 MS, is assistant principal at Mary Burks Marek Elementary, Alvin ISD.

**Margaret Kidd**, '08 MA, '85 BBA, is completing doctoral work at Texas Southern University.

**Verina Kennedy**, '07 BS, '07 MS, is a corporate accounting manager for Service Corporation International, Houston.

**Jill McCadden**, '04 BA, teaches ALPHA II Art for Clear Creek ISD.

**Stephen McCanness**, '04 MS, '98 BA, is principal of Cleveland High School, Cleveland.

**Karin Miller**, '07 MS, is the assistant superintendent of support services for Texas City ISD.

**Julie Owens**, '00 BS, is a licensed professional counselor in Pearland.

**Misty Owens**, '08 BS, is an educator/coach for Clear Creek ISD.

**Robert "Jeff" Pack**, '06 MS, is the principal of McAdams Junior High School in Dickinson. He received his



Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from Lamar University in 2013.

**Andrew Pegoda**, '08 BA, teaches at University of Houston and presented his paper, "Slavery, Historical Memory and Political Control in Texas," at a special conference of the Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians.

**Guruprasad Ramachandra**, '09 MS, works as a consultant for ERM Information Solutions.

**Shannon Rountree**, '07 MA, is a process safety assistant for Aon Energy Risk Engineering.

**Barbara Sharp**, '07 BS, is a payroll operations accountant for Humble ISD.

**Leigh Ann Shelfer**, '09 MA, wrote "The Last Nacho," which was published in the May/June issue of "Life is Good!" magazine. She writes



under the pen name Leigh Ann Thornton.

**Rajesh Shethia**, '01 MS, works for the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange as director of information technology.

**Craig Simons**, '00 BBA, is a real estate agent for Keller Williams Metropolitan in Houston.

**Amber Strickler**, '09 BFA, has gained national exposure for her photography project, "Pretty and Inked." She is the owner of Zasey Photography.

**Ana Valenzuela**, '09 BS, is a clinical trainer for the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County.

**Lisa White**, '09 BS, is the finance director for the City of Hendersonville, North Carolina.

**Mellodee White**, '07 MS, works for The University of Texas Medical Branch as a research associate II.

**Robert White**, '04 BS, is a medical account representative for Patient Financial Services.

## 2010s

**Whitney Barwick**, '12 BS, is director of human resources for Intrigue Promotions Inc., Galveston.

**Melaine Bartsch**, '12 BS, is a web content specialist at Sam Houston State University.

**Gavito Cano**, '11 BS, works for Tanger Properties as the assistant general manager for the Tanger Outlets in Texas City.

**Ismael Capelo**, '14 Ed.D, has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the School District Mentoring Program Advisory Committee.

**Siddharth Chandwani**, '13 MS, is a web developer for CyberThink Technologies.

**Kenneth Cunningham**, '12 MA, works as a database administrator for UHCL.

**Dennis Delgado**, '12 MA, '10 BS, works as an administrative assistant at Continental Realty.

**Karen Fiscus**, '12 MA, had her work "Balance" accepted into the 20th San Angelo National Ceramic Competition at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts.



**Kamisha Francis**, '10 MHA, is a healthcare administrator in the U.S. Navy.

**Connie Fuentes**, '13 BS, is an adviser in distance education for Houston Community College.

**Krystal Hawks**, '10 MS, is the principal of Mary Burks Marek Elementary, Alvin ISD.

**Jennifer McNally**, '12 MA, '09 BS, is an adjunct instructor at San Jacinto College, Pasadena.

**Ravindra Meka**, '12 MS, is a software developer for CYMA Systems Inc. in Oregon.

**Dawn Rodriguez**, '14 BS, works for Galveston ISD as a reading specialist.

**Gloria Rodriguez**, '14 BS, works for the Pasadena Police Department as a sex offender registration coordinator.

**Kimberly Sanders**, '12 MS, '10 BS, works for NASA Johnson Space Center as a space ground link accountant.

**Nupura Sudrik**, '12 MS, is a buyer for Expro Americas.

**Abishek Vaidya**, '14 MS, is a research assistant for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

**Elizabeth Welch**, '12 BFA, has been accepted into the graduate program at Louisiana State University and will hold a teacher's assistant position.

**Chelsie Wiatt**, '10 BS, works for Novatech International in sales/customer service. She married Teddy Fisk in December 2013.

**Stephanie Woods**, '11 BA, teaches English I for Magnolia ISD.

## In Memory

**Ramah Koenig O'Gorman**, '87 MS, passed away in January 2014.

**Cheryl Lynn Stoerner Tomlinson**, '82 BS, passed away in February 2014.

**Joe Charles Webb**, '84 BS, passed away in December 2013.

*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 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

Your UHCL Alumni Association is here for you! Use your free association membership to receive discounts around town and to get involved with other alumni and the future of UHCL.

Do you have news to share? Update your information or submit a Class Note at [www.uhcl.edu/alumni](http://www.uhcl.edu/alumni) to let us know what you've been up to since graduation.

## WE WANT YOU!

Visit [www.uhcl.edu/alumni](http://www.uhcl.edu/alumni) or email [alumni@uhcl.edu](mailto:alumni@uhcl.edu) to get involved in your alumni association.



[www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation) | [www.youtube.com/UHCLAlumni](http://www.youtube.com/UHCLAlumni) | UHCL Alumni Association on LinkedIn

# UHCL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

University of Houston Clear Lake

**August 1**

Application deadline for new graduate students. 281-283-2500.

**August 11**

Fall 2014 application deadline for undergraduate and graduate transfer, former and non-degree seeking students. 281-283-2500.

**August 15**

Spring 2015 freshman priority application deadline. 281-283-2500.

**Through August 22**

Summer and Fall 2014 Early Registration. 281-283-2500.

**August 25**

Foreign Language Program class sessions. Registration required. 281-283-3033.

**August 28**

"Fandango," concert by Mercury, 8 p.m. Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**August 29**

**Welcome Back Bash, 5-8 p.m. Alumni Plaza. Students, alumni and the UHCL community. 281-283-2560.**

**September 6**

GMAT Review hosted by Center for Advanced Management Programs. Registration required. 281-283-3120.

**September 8**

Master's Certificate in Project Management hosted by Center for Advanced Management Programs. Registration required. 281-283-3120.

**September 9**

Advanced Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Program hosted by Center for Advanced Management Programs. Registration required. 281-283-3120.

**September 11**

Accounting Recruiters' Reception for current students and alumni, 6-8 p.m. Bayou Building, Atrium II. 281-283-2590.

**September 13**

SAT Preparation hosted by Center for Advanced Management Programs. Registration required. 281-283-3120.

**September 18**

Gulf Coast Job Fair. Open to the public. 281-283-2590.

**September 20**

**GRE Review hosted by Center for Advanced Management Programs. Registration required. 281-283-3120.**

**September 22**

Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Certificate Program hosted by Center for Advanced Management Programs. Registration required. 281-283-3120.

**September 24**

Federal Acquisition and Contracting Certificate Program hosted by Center for Advanced Management Programs. Registration required. 281-283-3120.

**October 1**

Spring 2015 application deadline for international students outside of the U.S. 281-283-2500.

**October 4**

**UHCL Fall Open House. Registration recommended. 281-283-2515.**

**October 10**

"Mozart Symphony 40," concert by Mercury, 8 p.m. Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**October 13**

Foreign Language Program class sessions. Registration required. 281-283-3033.

**October 15**

**I Heart UHCL Day. Celebrate your UHCL Hawk spirit no matter where you are.**

**October 15**

Spring 2015 freshman application deadline. 281-283-2500.

**October 18**

**Alumni Celebration, 6:30 p.m., Space Center Houston. Tickets required. 281-283-2021.**

**November 1**

Spring 2015 application deadline for international students in the U.S. 281-283-2500.

**November 1**

Hawk Premiere. Registration recommended. 281-283-2515.

**November 3-13**

Spring 2015 Early Registration. 281-283-2500.

**November 8**

UHCL Pearland Campus Open House. 1200 Pearland Pkwy., Pearland. Registration recommended. 281-282-1679.

**November 11**

Annual Veterans Day Celebration, 10:30 a.m., Liberty Park. [www.uhcl.edu/veteransday](http://www.uhcl.edu/veteransday).

**November 14 - January 16, 2015**

Spring 2015 Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

**November 19**

**Fall Teacher Job Fair. Open to the public. 281-283-2500.**

**November 21**

"Beethoven & Elgar," concert by Mercury, 8 p.m. Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

**December 1**

Spring 2015 application deadline for new graduate students. 281-283-2500.

**January 12**

Foreign Language Program class sessions. Registration required. 281-283-3033.

**January 13**

Spring 2015 priority application deadline for undergraduate and graduate transfer, former and non-degree seeking students. 281-283-2500.

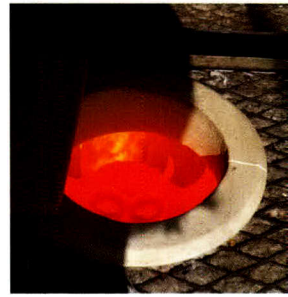
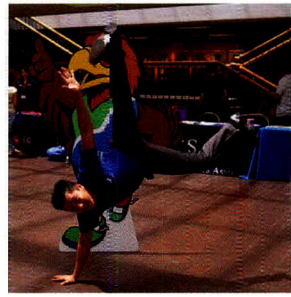
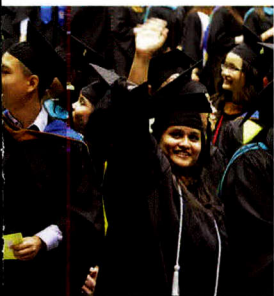
**Find more UHCL events at [www.uhcl.edu/events](http://www.uhcl.edu/events).**

*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.*

# COLLEGE LIFE: PICS OR IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.



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**share it.**  
@UHClearLake

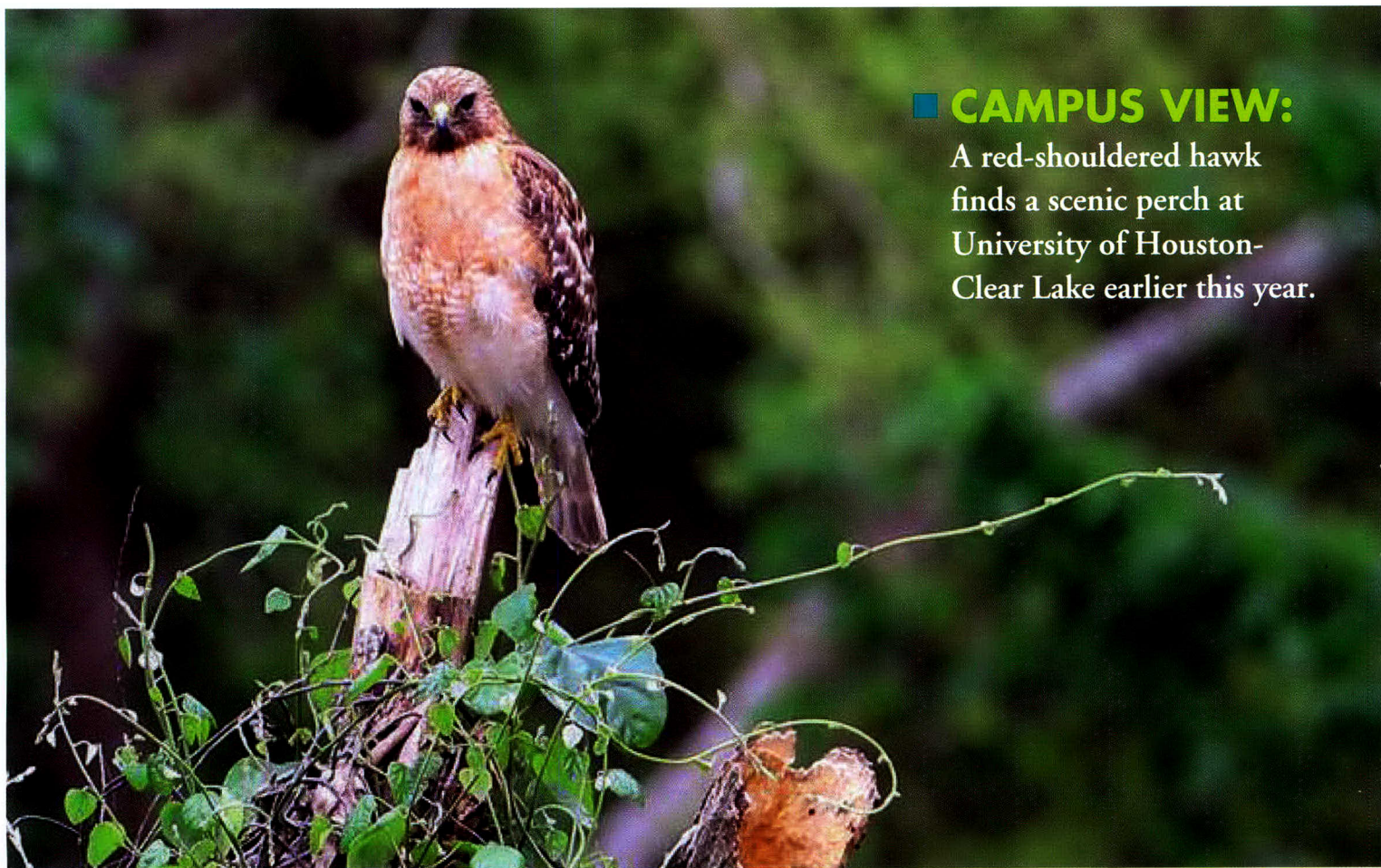


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## ■ **CAMPUS VIEW:**

A red-shouldered hawk finds a scenic perch at University of Houston-Clear Lake earlier this year.