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The magazine of University of Houston-Clear Lake
spring 2010 | volume 16 | number 2

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Beryl Striewski

University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland Campus will open for classes in fall 2010, bringing career-building higher education to the Pearland community.

Students can choose from six bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. Academic offerings include undergraduate programs in accounting, general business, behavioral sciences-general, criminology, psychology and interdisciplinary studies with EC-6 generalist teaching certification; and graduate programs in behavioral sciences-general, criminology, psychology, counseling and educational management.

The new 30,000-square-foot facility is located approximately one mile south of Beltway 8 at 1200 Pearland Parkway near McHard Road. Building space will be shared with the Pearland Economic Development Corp., which will occupy approximately 8,000 square feet. UHCL Pearland Campus will feature eight media-equipped classrooms, two teaching labs, a computer lab, a library and a variety of student resources. Learn more about the new satellite campus at www.uhcl.edu/pearland.

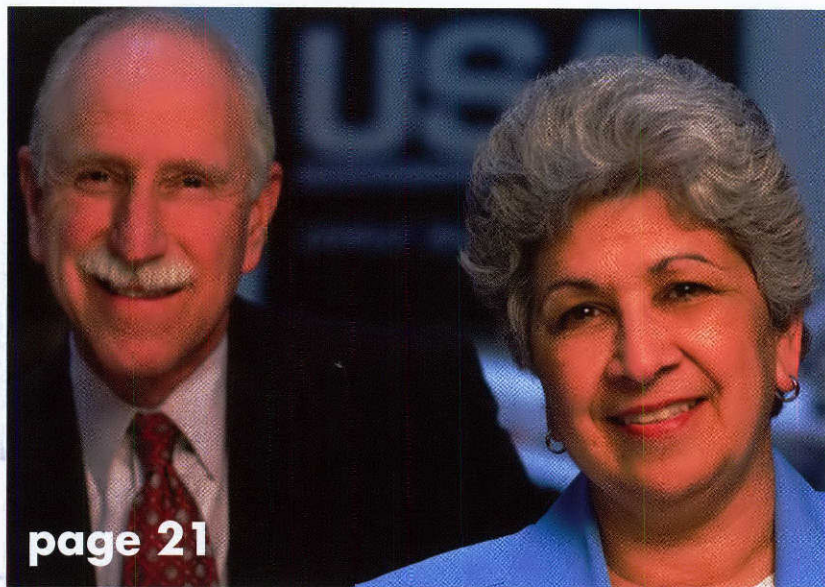
UHCL Pearland Campus was developed as a partnership between UHCL and City of Pearl and leaders to improve access to higher education for Pearl and-area residents. Pictured, left to right, are Palmer Construction President David Palmer, state Sen. Mike Jackson, UHCL President William A. Staples, Pearl and Mayor Tom Reid, state Rep. Randy Weber and City of Pearl and Council member Woody Owens.

ON THE COVER: Distinguished Alumna Tina Farrell represents strength in action. The Clear Creek ISD assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction made history at UHCL by becoming the first student to receive a doctoral degree from the university, earning a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership in fall 2009. Photo by Beryl Striewski

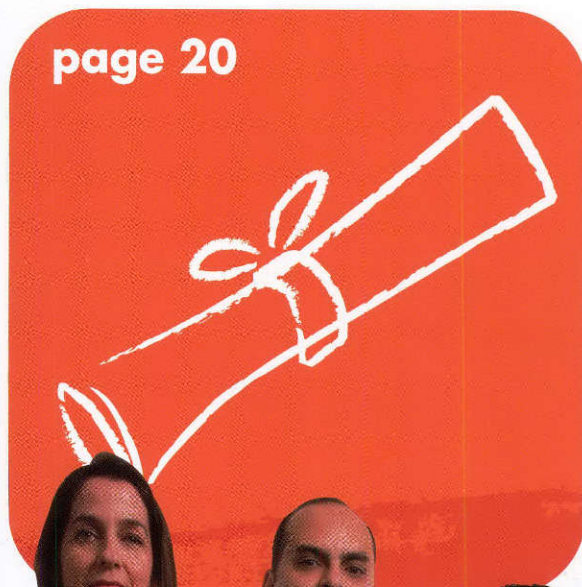


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FEATURE SECTION

SUPER POWERS UNITE! 7

By joining forces and using their powers for good, the university and its partners are able to engage community members on many levels, including personal and professional, as well as academic.

SINGULAR SENSATION 8

The School of Education claims victory in the quest to fill schools with high-quality educators, beginning with Tina Farrell, the first graduate of SOE's doctoral program in educational leadership.

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Honoring veterans has been a cause worth the fight for a pair of heroic leaders.

AMAZING THREE 14

When university researchers team up with powerful industry partners, the results are nothing short of amazing.

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{ noteworthy }

NEW DEAN Following a national search, UHCL named Zbigniew J. Czajkiewicz as dean of its School of Science and Computer Engineering. Czajkiewicz was formerly a professor of engineering and head of the Center for Applied Research in Engineering and Science at Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania. Focus areas for the new dean include expanding undergraduate programs, developing a more integrated industrial graduate program, planning and implementing research projects, involvement with local businesses and, possibly, a research center. At Robert Morris, Czajkiewicz managed and developed industry relations, conducted research, taught seminars and mentored undergraduate and graduate students. From 2000 to 2004, he was president of Computer Integrated Systems. A native of Poland, he earned his Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and Management from the Technical University of Wroclaw, Poland. He received his doctorate in industrial engineering - computer simulation from the same university in 1976. Czajkiewicz was professor and chair of the industrial engineering program and director of the Computer Integrated Manufacturing Center at California State University from 1989 to 2000. Prior to 1989, Czajkiewicz served as associate professor of industrial engineering and graduate program director for Wichita State University.

GOOD AS GOLD The Council for Advancement and Support of Education recognized UHCL for outstanding events and publications during the CASE District IV 2010 Awards Competition. Last summer's event honoring the first lunar landing's 40th anniversary, *Fly Me To The Moon: A Community Celebration of the First Lunar Landing*, received a Gold Award of Excellence in the Specialty Advertising Project category for the event's promotional items and a Pewter Special Award in the Alumni Program, Project or Special Event category. A Bronze Achievement Award went to an article titled "Kevin Munz" by Egret Managing Editor and Senior Coordinator of Publications Summer Russo, which was featured in the fall 2009 issue of Egret, in the General Feature Writing - 1,000 Words or Less category. Coordinator of Outreach and Communications Mindi Funder-

TEACHER PREP PROGRAMS IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN

Recognized for its leadership and innovation in teacher education, UHCL was named sole recipient of the 2009 Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

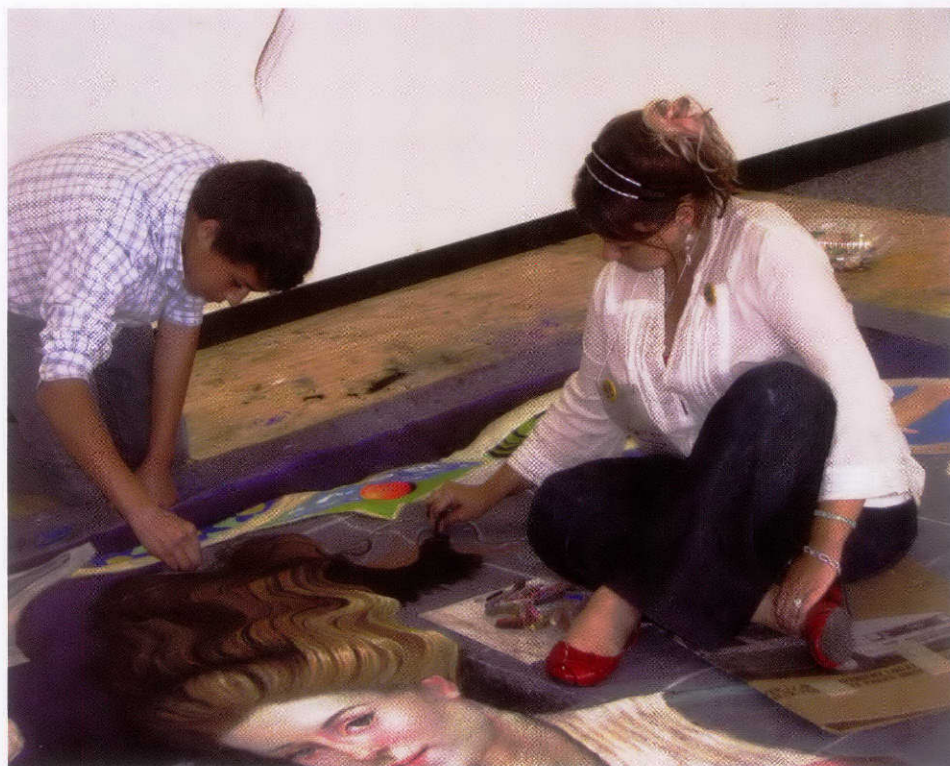
"It is especially meaningful to UH-Clear Lake that we received the Christa McAuliffe Award because of the award's namesake," says School of Education Dean Dennis Spuck. "With NASA's Johnson Space Center being just next door, both our university and Clear Creek ISD teach many students from NASA families. We are proud to be honored in Christa McAuliffe's name."

Specifically, UHCL has been honored for the collaborations between its School of Education and local public schools, for its Professional Development Laboratory School, and for its measurement of its teacher candidates' effectiveness on children's learning.

UHCL Associate Professor of Education Sue Brown, President William A. Staples, Associate Professor of Education Denise McDonald and School of Education Dean Dennis Spuck accepted the award at AASCU's annual meeting in November.

AASCU will use UHCL's practices as an example for other teacher education programs nationwide, including the teacher preparation program's internship program and its Professional Development Laboratory School, created in 2002 in partnership with Clear Creek Independent School District. Located at McWhirter Elementary School in Webster, the PDLs is run by UHCL education faculty on site, where they provide instructional leadership, conduct research and engage in professional development. Some of the university's education courses are taught at the PDLs, and many of its teacher candidates intern at the school. Since the PDLs was established, test scores at McWhirter Elementary have improved dramatically and earned the school "Recognized" status by the Texas Education Agency.

Most notably, the award also recognized UHCL for the documented success of its teacher candidates positively impacting the students they teach. In addition to the increased



CREATIVE COMPANIONS Award-winning and nationally known street artist Melanie Stimmell worked with student artists during the Texas Art Education Association's Visual Art Scholastic Event to complete a mural during the weekend arts competition at UHCL. More than 1,700 student artists from high schools throughout the state converged at the university to present their work and attend various workshops by established artists. Assisting Stimmell is Alex Ambrit, 14, of Kipp Houston High School. City of Seabrook generously sponsored the event again this year.

Diana North

test scores at its PDLs, the university also has shown increased student performance in other public school classrooms led by UHCL graduates. The School of Education conducted a comparative study of test scores of students taught by a UHCL graduate with those in the same grade and school taught by a teacher who did not attend UHCL. Although limited in scope, the comparison showed the UHCL teacher had a significant edge in improving student learning over the other teacher.

The Christa McAuliffe Award was named in honor of the teacher who died in the 1986 Challenger disaster. McAuliffe was a graduate of Framingham State College in Massachusetts and Bowie State University in Maryland, both members of AASCU, a leadership association of 430 public colleges and universities.

PHYSICS DEGREE APPROVED

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the addition of an undergraduate degree in physics at UHCL. The new Bachelor of Science in Physics provides a strong foundation for UHCL's graduate program in physics and sets the stage for those continuing to the collaborative physics doctoral program, which is offered in partnership with University of Houston.

UHCL's undergraduate program provides students with a strong educational background in physics, including the concepts and ideas that will allow them to create the career they want in a wide range of fields, including aerospace, energy and education.

"Physicists at the undergraduate level are a lot like chameleons," says Program Chair and Associate Professor of Physics David Garrison. "They can tackle problems effectively; they can use their background to fit into engineering jobs and other areas. This degree opens up a lot of doors that people wouldn't even think about."

PRESIDENTIAL HONORS

University friends and alumni celebrated the presentation of 2010 Leadership and Philanthropy Awards during the annual President's Cabinet Dinner in February.

UHCL President William A. Staples spoke to the group about the university's key initiatives including the upcoming fall 2010 opening of the UHCL Pearland Campus.

Staples presented the 2010 Leadership Award to Associate Professor of Legal Studies Jim Benson. Benson, a long-time UHCL professor and U.S. Army veteran, shared his passion for veterans by becoming an instrumental planner and participant of UHCL's annual Veterans Day Celebration, supporting the Veterans Scholarship Endowment, and leading efforts for creation of Liberty Park and the Liberty Park Gazebo.

Alumni Camille and Bill Shock received the 2010 Philanthropy Award. Bill Shock participates in the Alumni Association Executive Council, and both have offered financial support through the establishment of the William E. Shock Scholarship and through contributions to the Liberty Park Gazebo.

UHCL President's Cabinet was formed in 1999 during the university's 25th anniversary to promote partnerships among university, community and business leaders, and to recognize individuals who support the university with their time, talent and resources. The dinner honors these partnerships and, through the awards, acknowledges those who have made significant contributions during the past year.

TOP-NOTCH FACULTY, STAFF

Faculty and staff stepped into the spotlight with professional achievements and recognition in their fields.

Linda Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity, received the Mid-level Student Affairs Professional Award from the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators.

Kim Case, assistant professor of women's studies and psychology, received the 2009 Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

Cindy Cook, associate director for counseling, became the elected president of the Association for the Coordination of Counseling Centers Clinical Services in May. Alecy Gallaway, Environmental Institute of Houston historian, received the 2009 Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Historical Commission. Daniel Silvermintz, assistant professor of humanities, received the Jerry G. Gaff Faculty Award from the Association for General and Liberal Studies.

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{ noteworthly }

burg, Coordinator of Special Events Kris Thompson, both architects of the lunar event, and Assistant Director of Media Relations Karen Barbier, associate editor of Egret, accepted the awards on behalf of the university at the CASE District IV annual conference in March.

ON THE SAFE SIDE Stateuniversity.com's national rankings for the Top 50 Safest Public Colleges and Universities in Texas gave UHCL high marks for on-campus safety based on crime statistics. The rating scale accounts for severity of a crime as well as frequency of crime. Nationally, the university ranked 22nd. It ranked fourth in the state, behind three junior/community colleges, and is just one of a few universities scoring in the top 10.

ACCESS GRANT Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Yvette Bendeck received a College Access Challenge Grant two-year award of \$147,600 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to bolster a College Connection partnership between UHCL and College of the Mainland. The College Connection 2+2+2 program will help high school and community college students form academic plans for linking academic preparation with career aspirations. The initiative for student success builds on an established 2+2 partnership with the community college, which serves schools in Galveston, Hitchcock, La Marque, Santa Fe and Texas City Independent School Districts.

WONDERS AT WORK During the 32nd Annual Faculty and Staff Awards Presentation in April, President William A. Staples presented distinguished faculty awards to Associate Professor of Legal Studies James Benson, President's Distinguished Service Award; Associate Professor of Reading and Language Arts Lillian Benavente-McEnery, President's Distinguished Teaching Award; and Professor and Chair of Educational Leadership Lawrence Kajs, President's Distinguished Research Award. Carl A. Stockton, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, presented the Outstanding Lecturer Award to Mathematics Lecturer Judy Bergman and the Outstanding Adjunct Award to Family Therapy Adjunct George Pulliam.

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{noteworthy}

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Presidential staff awards included the **Hugh P. Avery Prize – The President's Distinguished Staff Service Award**, which was presented to Assistant Dean of Students David Rachita, and the **President's Staff Merit Awards**, which were presented to Assistant Director of Media Relations Karen Barbier, Assistant Director of Student Life Jennifer Clark, and School of Education Secretary Sharon Klein.

AUTISM OUTREACH Work in the UHCL Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities will be able to expand with support from external organizations. Dorothea Lerman, professor of psychology and director of the center, received \$17,043 from the Simmons Foundation to fund an applied behavior analysis graduate assistant for 2010-11, which will allow the center to enhance its intervention services to low-income children with autism and their families. Additionally, the George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation donated \$5,000 to the center for educational materials for client families. Lerman also has been selected to serve as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* for a three-year appointment ending in spring 2013.

HRM PROGRAM CERTIFIED The Society of Human Resource Management recognized UHCL's Master of Arts in Human Resource Management with full competency status, making it one of only 47 programs in the United States that has received this certification. UHCL's graduate program is offered completely online and is fully accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

IN MEMORY The UHCL community mourns the passing of a distinguished and respected colleague. Professor of Criminology Stephen M. Rosoff passed away March 2010. A member of the UHCL family since 1988, Rosoff was popular with his students and active in his field, with new editions of "Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and the Looting of America" and "Social Deviance: Readings in Theory and Research," books that he co-authored being released during spring 2010.

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Mary Stafford, associate professor of psychology, received the 2009 Award for Distinguished Services from the International School Psychology Association.

Brenda Weiser, associate professor of science education, received the Jeske Award from the North American Association for Environmental Education.

UHCL'S COMMUNITY OFFERINGS RECOGNIZED

UHCL has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. The Honor Roll includes six colleges and universities that are recognized as Presidential Award-ees, with an additional 115 named to the Distinction List and 621 schools named as Honor Roll members. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

"Congratulations to University of Houston-Clear Lake and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities," said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face."

Among UHCL's community service initiatives is the Psychological Services Clinic, which offers individual, couple, family and group therapy services during the fall, spring and summer semesters to local com-



munities. The clinic houses the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, which allows graduate students in the Behavior Analysis program to assess, diagnose and provide individualized intervention services to children.

The university's Small Business Development Institute offers free consultation services and training to managers and owners of small- to medium-sized businesses through help from junior and senior students in the School of Business. The Success Through Education Program, or STEP, provides scholarships to first-generation, low-income students in Goose Creek Consolidated, Galveston and Galena Park Independent School Districts as well as Houston I.S.D.'s Austin High School, to transfer to Lee College, Galveston College, San Jacinto College North and Houston Community College Southeast, respectively, before finishing requirements for an education degree at UHCL.

Another initiative includes the Celebrating Our Elders program, which allows first-generation students from area high schools and community colleges to submit essays about an important Hispanic or African-American elder in their life. Chosen essays are displayed with photos of students with their elders, and the writers of the selected essays receive scholarships.

MATH AND SCIENCE EFFORTS FUNDED

The Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching awarded more than \$225,000 to UHCL for math and science teacher training, mentoring and outreach during 2010-11.

A \$103,186 grant will bolster regional mathematics collaborative initiatives, directed by Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction Sandra Browning, and a \$125,296 grant will support regional science collaborative initiatives led by Associate Professor of Science Education Brenda Weiser.

The regional science collaborative received additional support with a \$34,000 gift from the Society of Petroleum Engineers-Gulf Coast Section for "Exploring Earth Science – A Summer Institute" and a \$15,000 award from the American Petroleum Institute to assist with the purchase of energy and earth science materials for teachers who participate in the workshops and institutes.

■ **The Borders of Free Expression;** By Ashley Packard, UHCL associate professor of communication. *Hampton Press Inc., New Jersey (2009)*. Thinking of the Internet as a “place” has encouraged countries to regulate it as one, creating borders for a borderless medium. This book examines national regulations and legal decisions that affect Internet content as well as the reasons countries find it difficult to compromise on this issue despite their commitment to free expression.

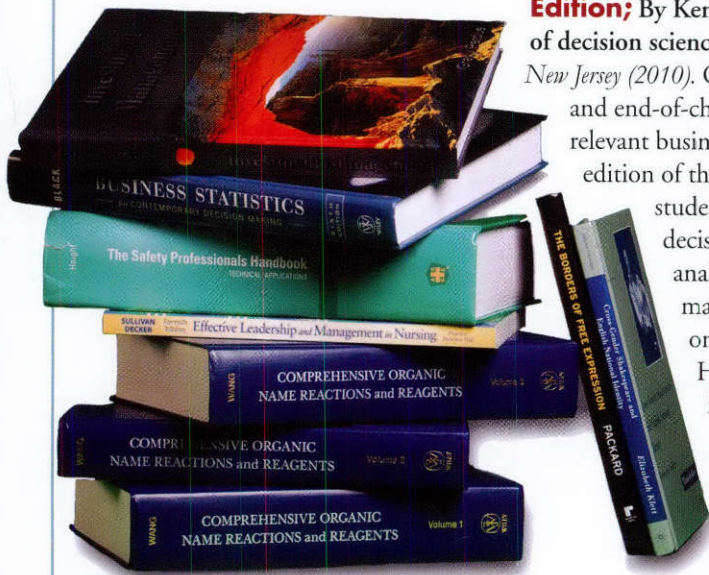
■ **Cross-Gender Shakespeare and English National Identity: Wearing the Codpiece;** By Elizabeth Klett, UHCL assistant professor of literature. *Palgrave Macmillan, New York (2009)*. Contemporary performances in which women portrayed some of Shakespeare’s strongest male characters created an uproar in the British press. Arguing the controversy signals a deep-seated anxiety about the status of Shakespeare in the British national identity, this book discusses the ways these women’s performances invite their audiences to think differently about Shakespeare, their nation and themselves.

■ **Comprehensive Organic Name Reactions and Reagents, Volumes 1-3;** By Zerong Wang, UHCL associate professor of chemistry. *John Wiley and Sons Inc., New Jersey (2009)*. This three-volume work covers 701 named organic reactions, including several chemical rules, and is designed to serve as a reference tool for scientific research rooted in organic and organometallic chemistry. Each entry contains a detailed description of the reaction, experimental procedures and references. Researchers in biochemistry, medical and pharmaceutical chemistry, environmental chemistry and material science may also find this reference work useful.

■ **Effective Leadership and Management in Nursing, Seventh Edition;** By Phillip J. Decker, UHCL professor of healthcare administration, and Eleanor J. Sullivan, University of Kansas retired professor in the School of Nursing. *Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey (2009)*. The seventh edition of this textbook includes updates to reflect the changing health care arena, nursing realities and current student priorities. Areas of expanded coverage include patient safety, career advancement, managing stress and handling threats in the workplace.

■ **Investment Management;** By Grady Perdue, UHCL professor of finance. *Aspen Leaf Books, Houston (2009)*. Suitable for a one-semester course, this text emphasizes setting investment goals and connects these goals to investment strategy. Key concepts include the risk-return relationship in financial markets, diversifying and building a portfolio to meet investment goals, and strategies to take advantage of market efficiency.

■ **Business Statistics for Contemporary Decision Making, Sixth Edition;** By Ken Black, UHCL professor of decision sciences. *John Wiley and Sons Inc., New Jersey (2010)*. Chapter-opening vignettes and end-of-chapter solutions present relevant business scenarios in the sixth edition of this text, designed to equip students with the quantitative decision-making skills and analysis techniques needed to make smart decisions based on real-world data. Highlights of this edition include chapter and topics restructured to reflect the most common teaching order and video tutorials with the author.



{ what's online? }

www.uhcl.edu/egret

LANGUAGE LESSONS Learning a language can do more than enhance career goals. For Doc Pepper, a League City resident and marathon runner, learning to speak a second language helped him communicate during a French marathon where participants run the course sampling wine instead of water. Expand cultural opportunities and get the most out of travel abroad this summer and beyond by signing up for the next session of foreign language classes at UHCL.



PEARLAND CAMPUS PHOTOS Get a sneak preview of UHCL Pearland Campus, which opens for classes in fall 2010, by viewing photos of the campus' construction progress beginning with the initial ground clearing.

COMMUNITY REPORT President William A. Staples delivered his annual Report to the Community to university friends in March. The publication updates the community on progress in academics, research and outreach and provides fiscal information.

SOCIALLY ADEPT Get your UHCL tweets when you follow @UHClearLake on Twitter. The UHCL community also has a home on Facebook. View photos, news, event coverage and connect with other alumni and community members when you become a fan of UHCL on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UHClearLake.

AND MORE! Find out about other UHCL news and events.

{ autism lectures continue }

After a successful start during spring 2010, the Autism Speaker Series will continue with a new roster of speakers for the fall semester. The series' kick-off lecture is set for Sept. 18. Deborah A. Pearson, professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, and Maria Quintero, assistant deputy director of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County will present "An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Current Treatments for Behavioral and Emotional Problems in ASD."

Pearson and Quintero will provide an overview of autism spectrum disorders, including Autistic Disorder, PDD-NOS, and Asperger's Disorder, along with proposed causes of ASDs and common emotional and behavioral problems seen in children and adolescents with ASDs. They also will discuss current interventions for behavioral and emotional problems associated with ASDs. Specific therapies that will be examined include medication management, psychotherapy, family therapy, complementary and alternative medical treatments, behavioral interventions and social skills training.

Sponsored by Johnson Space Center Federal Credit Union and CHRISTUS St. John Hospital, the free lecture will be held in the Student Services and Classroom Building Lecture Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served. For more information and to RSVP, call 281-283-3437.



The Autism Speaker Series kicks off Sept. 18. Past speakers include UHCL graduate students, clockwise from bottom left, Lynsey Jackson, Daniel LeSage, Melissa Lioffi, Emily Bellaci, Robert Leahy and Dana Harris.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Through August 20

Fall Open Registration. 281-283-2500.

June 14 - July 29

Kids U Summer Camps: Gifted Academy, Language Camp, Science Camp, Math Camp, Young Writer's Camp, Technology Camp and World Explorer's Camp, Arbor Building. 281-283-3530.

June 17 - July 5

Reading, Writing, Spelling and Study Skills Improvement for Grades 1-12, 4:30-6 p.m., Mon., Tues. and Thurs., Arbor Building. 281-283-3530.

June 24

UHCL Pearland Campus Admissions Preview, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn-Pearland, 12101 Shadow Creek Parkway, Pearland. 281-283-2515.

June 26

UHCL Alumni Association Summer Planning Retreat, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Bayou Building. 281-283-2021.

July 12 - October 8

UHCL Art Exhibition: "War Birds" by Dale Clifford and "Dialogues from Disparate Worlds" by Rahul Mitra Bayou Building, Atrium I, Level 2. 281-283-3446.

August 1

Application deadline for fall 2010 graduate admission. 281-283-2500.

August 9

Priority application deadline for fall 2010 undergraduate admission. 281-283-2500.

August 14

UHCL Pearland Campus Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 1200 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. 281-283-2021.

August 21 - 30

Fall Late Registration. 281-283-2500.

August 23

Final application deadline for fall 2010 undergraduate admission. 281-283-2500.

September 3

"Bach's Brandenburg Concertos," Mercury Baroque Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

September 13 - October 28

"Lone Star College Montgomery Faculty Exhibition," reception Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bayou Building, UHCL Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

September 15 - November 3

Reading, Writing, Spelling and Study Skills Improvement for Grades 1-12, 4:30-6 p.m., Wednesdays, Arbor Building. 281-283-3530.

September 18

Celebrating Our Elders Scholarship Project reception for Hispanic elders,

7 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I and II. 281-283-3373.

September 22

Gulf Coast Business Job Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I and II. 281-283-2590.

September 23

Gulf Coast Technology Job Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I and II. 281-283-2590.

September 25

Fall Community Outreach Day. 281-283-2611.

October 2

UHCL Fall Open House, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Student Services and Classroom Building. 281-283-2515.

October 8

"Exotique!" Mercury Baroque Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bayou Building Bayou Theater. 281-283-2560.

October 16

Celebrating Our Elders Scholarship Project reception for African-American elders, 7 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I and II. 281-283-3373.

October 23

UHCL Alumni Celebration, 6:30 p.m., South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center. 281-283-2021.

November 4

Fall 2010 Teacher Job Fair, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I and II. 281-283-2590.

November 6

UHCL Pearland Campus Fall Open House, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 1200 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. 281-283-2515.

November 6

14th Annual Student Leadership Conference, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Bayou Building. 281-283-2611.

November 11

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

November 15

Global Expo, noon - 5 p.m., Atrium II. 281-283-2565.

Nov. 15 - Jan. 20, 2011

"Lone Star College North Harris Faculty Exhibition," reception Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bayou Building, UHCL Art Gallery. 281-283-3311.

Dates and times are subject to change; please confirm event details by calling the telephone number listed or visiting UHCL's Web site 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.



When industries, schools and community programs join forces with universities, their power and reach multiply. Goals that would have been unattainable if any one agency tackled them alone become the guiding focus of new partnership. Improving teacher quality, honoring veterans and providing real solutions to industries are a few of the goals UHCL is working on with community partners. By merging powers, the university and its partners are able to engage community members on many levels, including personal and professional, as well as academic.



Clear Creek Independent School District Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and UHCL Distinguished Alumna Tina Farrell became the first graduate to earn her doctorate from UHCL. At one of the December 2009 Commencements, Farrell not only received her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, she also served as the commencement speaker.

UHCL Distinguished Alumna Tina Farrell says she has a strong will

and has learned to believe in herself. Farrell's self-described perseverance assisted her in becoming the first person in UHCL's history to receive a doctoral degree during one of UHCL's commencement ceremonies in December 2009. Not only did Farrell receive her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership that day, but she also told her story as keynote speaker, becoming the first graduating student to speak at her own commencement.

Farrell, who serves as the Clear Creek Independent School District assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, explained to the listeners that day that she wasn't really supposed to be there. There? Yes, at a commencement, let alone her commencement. Born prematurely to her mother who had been directed by doctors to end the high-risk pregnancy to save her own life, Farrell, mirrored her mother's strong will, and beat the odds.

"I am also a dreamer, one who has always believed that I somehow could make a difference," says Farrell, who told the audience at commencement how blessed she felt to be the first doctoral graduate at UHCL and to serve in the Clear Creek Independent School District, distinctions she says she does not take lightly.

Farrell's description of her journey to the podium that day included her inability to read until the fourth grade, noting that most educators would agree if a student cannot read by the third grade, the potential to become a drop out is in the 80th percentile. Again, Farrell beat the odds. She now describes herself as a "drop in," returning to UHCL about every 10 years to pursue another degree.

In many ways, Farrell resembles her alma mater, a rather young university that continues to adapt and grow because of the tenacious spirit of its administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community friends. With 50,000 alumni, many of whom are educators, UHCL plays a vital role in making the area and its schools a better place,

acting as a superhighway, literally connecting potential teachers from their university classrooms to neighborhood classrooms and beyond.

"The doctoral program was created in response to strong interest from our school-district colleagues for such a program in the Clear Lake area," says School of Education Dean Dennis Spuck. "It is designed to provide advanced preparation of educational leaders to be more effective in meeting the educational needs in the local area."

UHCL gained approval for the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership in 2006 after the painstaking steps of developing the program and going through the arduous approval process with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Students in the program

gain an extensive understanding of educational leadership through a case study approach and pertinent field experiences. With 18 others in the first cohort with Farrell, UHCL commencement audiences should see several others graduate during the next few ceremonies.

"Our doctoral program provides extensive development in sound research and administrative practices so educational leaders can take a proactive approach in addressing complex issues," says Program Chair and Professor of Educational Leadership Larry Kajs. "It is geared to educators

who want to advance their analytical, communication and leadership abilities in serving their organizations."

In proposing the program, UHCL's School of Education laid out four objectives: to provide professionals in the field of education with advanced academic preparation in educational leadership based on nationally recognized standards; to prepare graduates to serve in leadership positions so that they may address the challenges of educational reform; to produce leaders who can effectively address the pressing educational needs of culturally diverse student populations; and to serve as a model and resource in the field of education for



Singular Sensation

SOE claims victory in the quest to fill schools with quality educators, beginning with its first doctoral graduate

By Karen Barbier

other universities. With Farrell as its first graduate, the program is successfully on track in fulfilling its objectives.

"We prepare students for the types of challenges most often faced by school administrators, including dispute resolution, resource management, and cultural and linguistic diversity," says Spuck. "The program places emphasis on developing leadership, communication and research skills, preparing educational leaders to be both creative and analytical in addressing educational issues or problems now and as they emerge in the future."

Developing the new doctoral program is a priority for the School of Education, as is its ongoing commitment to excellence for all of its teacher education programs.

During fall 2009, the school received the prestigious Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The award recognizes UHCL's teacher candidate effectiveness, public school collaborations and Professional Development Laboratory School at McWhirter Elementary School.

"To receive such an award from AASCU represents a validation of the quality of our teacher preparation program and of our efforts to carry out an ongoing assessment of our program, which provides a basis for continuous quality improvement," says Spuck.

Spuck adds that it is important to remember that teacher preparation is not simply a UHCL commitment, but that it requires collaborative support from local school districts.

"The McAuliffe Award, therefore, does not focus solely on the School of Education, but also on the success of our intra-university and community partnerships."

In addition to its comprehensive range of teacher preparation programs, the School of Education offers a host of community outreach initiatives.

The Center for Educational Programs provides kid-friendly educational opportunities such as Kids U, which allows approxi-

mately 600 pre-K through 12th-grade children and teenagers to continue learning throughout the summer. Language Camp, World Explorers Camp, Young Writers Camp, Technology Camp, Gifted Academy, CompuCamp and Summer Academy allow young participants to explore writing, technology, science experiments and observations, social science opportunities, leadership, scientific reasoning and new languages in classes such as Legomation, Wicked Weather and Poetry on Parade.

Each course is designed to allow hands-on, up-close insights and new experiences in a rich learning environment that is age appropriate.

Children needing assistance strengthening their skills can get help through the center's Reading, Writing and Study Skills Tutorials. One-on-one tutoring provided by undergraduate and graduate education students supervised by UHCL faculty offers kids in first through 12th grade a chance to improve their grades throughout the year. Diagnostic tests help tutors recognize the students' skill levels and proceed from there.

Current teachers also benefit from the center's year-round offerings that assist educators to enhance their teaching skills through Back to the U programs. Educator seminars, including those designed specifically for teachers of gifted and talented pupils, mentoring program sessions, and the Greater Houston Area Writing Project are just a few of the opportunities teachers have for earning continuing education units and learning innovative ways to strengthen their teaching skills.

"As we prepare professional educators, it is essential that the School of Education be responsive to the ever-changing needs of our community," says Spuck.

Another key initiative that the School of Education has undertaken to meet those needs is its Success Through Education Programs, which take teacher candidates full circle, from their home school district to a community college before transitioning to UHCL and returning to their home school districts as teachers.

The numbers speak to the success of the program. STEP currently serves approximately 1,754 students and has 785 documented alumni who have graduated from UHCL and been recommended for certification to teach in the surrounding communities.

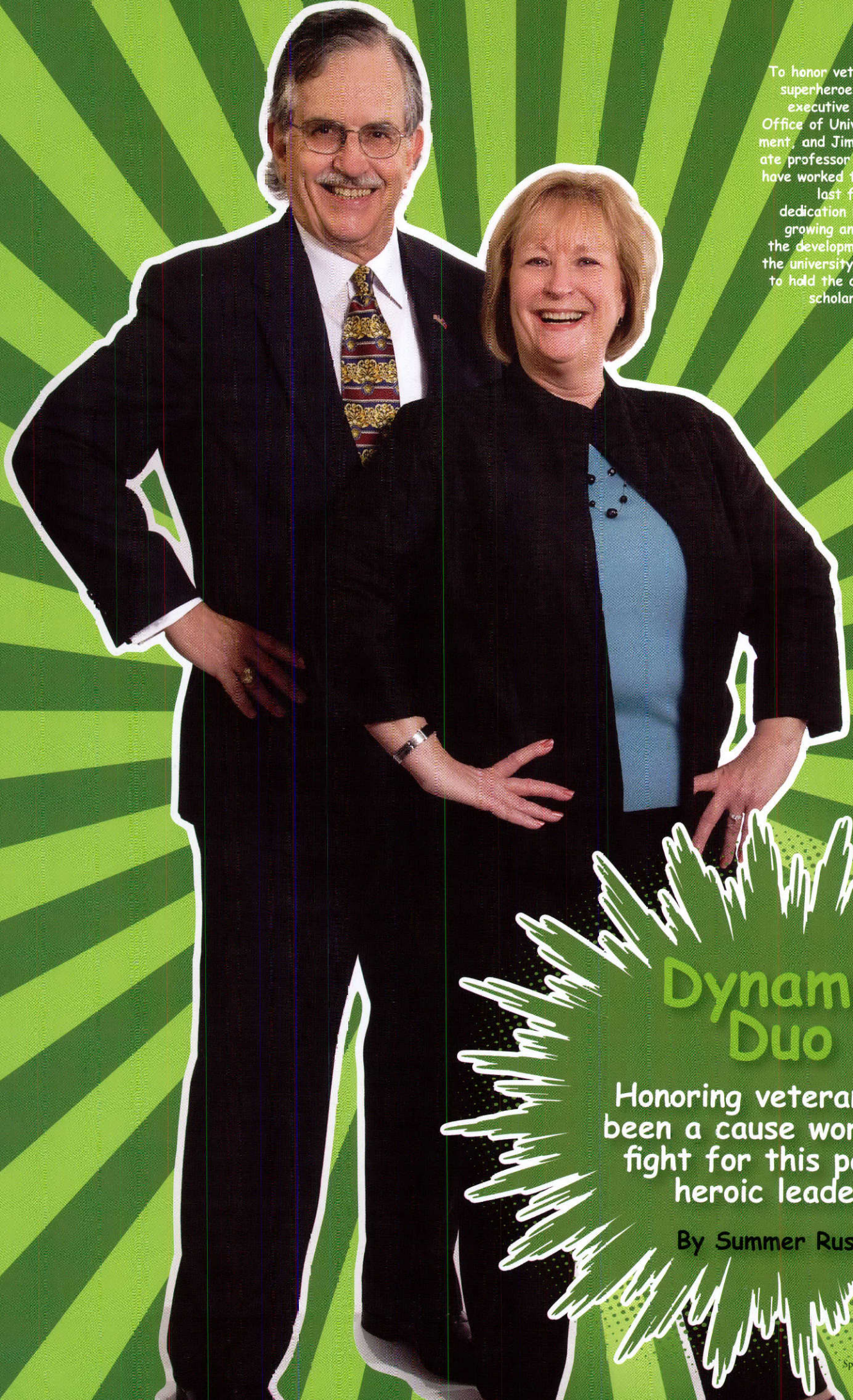
By serving as the conduit to the educational success of current and future teachers and educational leaders, UHCL uses its strengths to build better communities.

"Our primary purpose is to prepare effective teachers and leaders for the schools in our area," says Spuck.

Whether it's assisting school administrators like Farrell earn a doctorate or improving the reading skills of a third-grader who might want to beat the odds just as Farrell did, UHCL's School of Education readily accepts the challenge.

"As we prepare professional educators, it is essential that the School of Education be responsive to the ever-changing needs of our community."

- School of Education Dean Dennis Spuck



To honor veterans, America's superheroes, Cheryl Rohde, executive secretary in the Office of University Advancement, and Jim Benson, associate professor of legal studies, have worked tirelessly for the last four years. Their dedication has resulted in a growing annual celebration, the development of a park on the university campus in which to hold the celebration and a scholarship endowment.

Dynamic Duo

Honoring veterans has been a cause worth the fight for this pair of heroic leaders

By Summer Russo

Batman, Superman and Captain America may have been created for

children to admire, but Office of University Advancement Executive Secretary Cheryl Rohde and Associate Professor of Legal Studies Jim Benson would prefer it if they looked up to the real superheroes – veterans. In fact, Rohde and Benson share such a passion for veterans that they have exhibited true superpowers by growing the annual UHCL Veterans Day Celebration from a small event to a super-sized one that has not only resulted in the creation of a park on the campus, but also a scholarship endowment.

Sponsored by the Office of Alumni and Community Relations and supported by area businesses, organizations and volunteers, the UHCL Veterans Day Celebration is on its way to becoming one of the university's signature events, increasing every year in attendance, speakers and exhibits. Started in 2003 with a small ceremony in front of the Bayou Building, the event really began to gain momentum when Rohde took the reins in 2006 and paired up with Benson.

"With the help of Dr. Jim Benson and volunteers from the university, we had a wonderful event in 2006 with about 100 attendees" says Rohde. "Since then it has grown each year in both the program and the number of attendees. This year we can easily expect between 500 and 600 attendees, since that number will include 130 fourth-grade students from Teague Elementary in Pasadena, their teachers, parents and grandparents and drivers."

Heartfelt expressions of gratitude from people of all ages highlight the event, which is held every year at the 11th hour on Nov. 11, giving attendees a chance to pay tribute to those who serve and the families who help make that service possible.

"This is the first time, the only time, I've ever received thanks," said Army veteran Oscar Cessac during the 2009 celebration. Cessac spent two years in Vietnam and was thanked for his service by his sister-in-law, Office of the Provost Executive Assistant Joanne Laborde, during an open forum in which audience members take turns expressing their gratitude for family members and friends who served,

or are currently serving, in the armed forces. Several audience members stopped to personally thank Cessac and shake his hand as the event drew to a close.

Also in attendance at the 2009 event were uniformed men and women representing every branch of the U.S. military. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Ross S. Sterling High School Jr. Marine ROTC was followed by an Apache helicopter flyover by the Texas Army National Guard. The ringing of the Veterans Bell and moments of silence punctuated speeches and music, which included the National Anthem, the Navy Hymn and "Amazing Grace" played by bagpiper Stanley Fontenot.

The audience also heard remarks from Army veteran and UHCL President William A. Staples, Associate Vice President for University Advancement Dion McInnis, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Steve Waldner and the keynote speaker, Walter Cunningham, an astronaut and retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

Cunningham's address, titled "The Call to Serve: A Veteran's Perspective," praised the dedication of veterans past and present.

"America was founded by risk-takers," Cunningham said during his address. "Freedom still demands that we be willing to sacrifice — freedom isn't free."

Rohde says the Veterans Day activities are a result of UHCL's community-minded philosophy.

"Many veterans and current military are in this particular community because of NASA and its contractors, and the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base. Some are now students at UHCL," she says. "I think the UHCL Veterans Day Celebration offers everyone in the community a place to gather and celebrate those who have served our country in the military. It is a celebration, not a memorial, of the way of life we are able to sustain because of the bravery of our military men and women."

Benson, a Vietnam veteran, and Esther Anderson, an

"I think the UHCL Veterans Day Celebration offers everyone in the community a place to gather and celebrate those who have served our country in the military. It is a celebration, not a memorial, of the way of life we are able to sustain because of the bravery of our military men and women."

**- Office of University Advancement
Executive Secretary Cheryl Rohde**

alumna of UHCL and 2003 president of the UHCL Alumni Association, first suggested and supported the idea of hosting a Veterans Day Celebration at UHCL. As business partners, they used their combined staff and resources to work with the staff of the Office of Alumni and Community Relations to collaboratively create the first celebration in 2003.

"My commitment has been to make sure we keep our veterans right in front of us, on our minds and honor them for what they've done," says Benson. "A lot of the Vietnam era veterans have never been welcomed home or thanked for what they did."

As preparations were being made for that first event, Benson and Anderson inquired about having a permanent location on campus to host the event and to honor veterans. Working with the Office of University Advancement, the concept and philosophy of Liberty Park was developed, approved and created.

Located on the north side of the Student Services and Classroom Building and flanked by a wooded area on the university's campus, Liberty Park offers a quiet place for reflections on freedom among the foliage, flags and a pond. The park has gradually taken shape with the installation of flag poles, trees, park benches and the pond since the concept was first announced at the 2003 celebration.

"The park's ongoing development represents the tireless efforts and contributions of veterans and non-veterans alike. It symbolizes the belief that it is important to have a place for individuals, families and groups to gather and reflect on the liberties of our society, and the sacrifices of all who made those liberties possible," says Dion McInnis, the university's associate vice president for university advancement.

A Service Flag is flown over the park each Veterans Day, and another is displayed at all times in the Office of University Advancement, in honor and recognition of the men and women of the U.S. armed forces.

When funds for a park gazebo to honor the families of veterans and active duty personnel were needed, Benson once again delved into his personal contacts to ask for their support. In 2009, during the seventh annual UHCL Veterans Day Celebration, the new gazebo was unveiled, thanks in large part to the fundraising efforts of Benson. Paul Bruder, UHCL associate professor emeritus of healthcare administration, wrote and read a dedication giving the gazebo to the families of veterans and of those currently serving in the military to recognize their "silent service to our nation" and "the daily sacrifices they make in support of our troops ..."

"My commitment has been to make sure we keep our veterans right in front of us, on our minds and honor them for what they've done. A lot of the Vietnam era veterans have never been welcomed home or thanked for what they did."

- Associate Professor of Legal Studies Jim Benson

Benson's work to provide a gazebo for Liberty Park is only the most recent contribution he's made on behalf of veterans at UHCL. Inspired by veterans' noble service to our nation, Benson and other advocates for veterans, were instrumental in helping UHCL Librarian Frances Roppolo and her husband, Glynn, a veteran, establish the UHCL Veterans Scholarship Endowment in 2007 to support active or reserve-duty personnel or honorably discharged veterans. The Roppolos have also dedicated countless hours in previous years to collect, display and return memorabilia for an indoor exhibition of artifacts and other treasured pieces of history donated by local families of veterans.

Benson, who received the 2010 President's Cabinet Leadership Award for his endeavors on behalf of veterans at UHCL, speculates on the catalyst effect UHCL's veterans projects have had on the community.

"With the outpouring of emotions and support expressed by so many, perhaps the community simply needed a place to go," says Benson.

And, UHCL welcomes them.



For more information about the UHCL Veterans Day Celebration, visit www.uhcl.edu/VeteransDay or call 281-283-2024. Contributions to the UHCL Veterans

Scholarship Endowment may be mailed to the UHCL Office of University Advancement, 2700 Bay Area Boulevard, Mail Code 318, Houston, TX 77058-1098, or submitted via the secure online giving site at <https://giving.uh.edu/clake/> or called in at 281-283-2021.

Assistant Professor of Industrial Hygiene and Safety Magdy Akladios (c) and Assistant Professor of Psychology Camille Peres (r) are assisted in their quest for supersized results by graduate student and ExxonMobil intern April Amos (l).

Amazing Three

University researchers team up with powerful industry partners for amazing results

By Summer Russo

In a world of supercomputers and other quickly changing technology, UHCL uses its superpowers -

faculty—to keep up or, often, to make things better. Teaming up with industry and government allows professors to propel students and programs into the world beyond academic theory into application.

“The beauty of the industry and university relationship is that the benefits are really only limited by the imaginations of the individuals involved,” says UHCL Assistant Professor of Psychology Camille Peres.

She and Assistant Professor of Industrial Hygiene and Safety Magdy Akladios have been working with one such partner, Schlumberger Inc., a technology supplier for the oil and gas industry. The interdisciplinary team – Peres is in the School of Human Sciences and Humanities while Akladios is in the School of Science and Computer Engineering – received a \$100,000 one-year continuing award from Schlumberger for their project “Software Ergonomics Assessment Tools.” The initiative is an example of how a company’s need to overcome a real-life obstacle can lead to research and advancements in the larger field.

“I’m trained to answer questions” says Peres. “Industry is focused on solving problems. They rely on academia to give them a deeper understanding of the issue so we can have a more reliable solution to the problem.”

As principal investigator, Peres looks at the ways “human factors” contribute to people’s experience with computers. Her research is focused on improving humans’ experiences with technology, which is what attracted the interest of the software development group at Schlumberger. They were curious about how to assess the potential ergonomic impacts of different software.

In his role as co-principal investigator, Akladios, whose research focus is the field of ergonomics, provides expertise on the mechanical aspects of the human body. In combining their investigative interests, Peres and Akladios hope to improve the working conditions of high-end computer users by making the software they use and how they use it less likely to cause repetitive strain injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome. As Akladios points out, the benefits to both the company and university are numerous.

“Working with universities shows responsibility and keenness on the part of the company for the advancement of knowledge, genuine care for their employees and sends a good message to the community that they are team players,” he says.

And for universities, the opportunity to apply theories in a real-world setting is invaluable.

“Universities are the source of information while industry is the test bed for this information. So, hand-in-hand, the advancement of knowledge takes place,” Akladios says.

Since its inception as an educational facility in support of NASA and the growing technological community of the Clear Lake area, UHCL has pursued partners in industry and government. Blending theory with application is part of a mission to enhance students’ educational experiences as well as results for partners in chemical, environmental, aerospace, biotechnology and medical industries.

The benefits of working with university partners are well-known to Schlumberger. Partnerships with academia not only enhance the company’s products and services, but also prepare future employees by providing access to the latest research tools in their industry. The company’s Ocean for Academia program, to which the Peres and Akladios project is tangentially related, is a model of university and industry collaboration.

“Successfully collaborating with universities is critical to the future of the oil and gas industry,” said Meyer Bengio, vice president of technology for Schlumberger Information Solutions, in a press release posted on the company’s Web site when the program opened. “The Ocean for Academia program establishes a collaborative innovation network leveraging the Ocean platform to achieve greater efficiency in bringing research from concept to market. This network includes academia, oil companies and independent software providers.”

A special feature of the research Peres and Akladios are doing with Schlumberger is the combination of both laboratory and field studies so the findings can be applied directly to those who need it most. Both studies involve people being connected to electrodes while they complete tasks on a computer and then they fill out surveys. Approximately 50 students will participate in the laboratory studies and 20 to 30 Schlumberger and Exxon-Mobil geoscientists will be “hooked up” for the field studies.

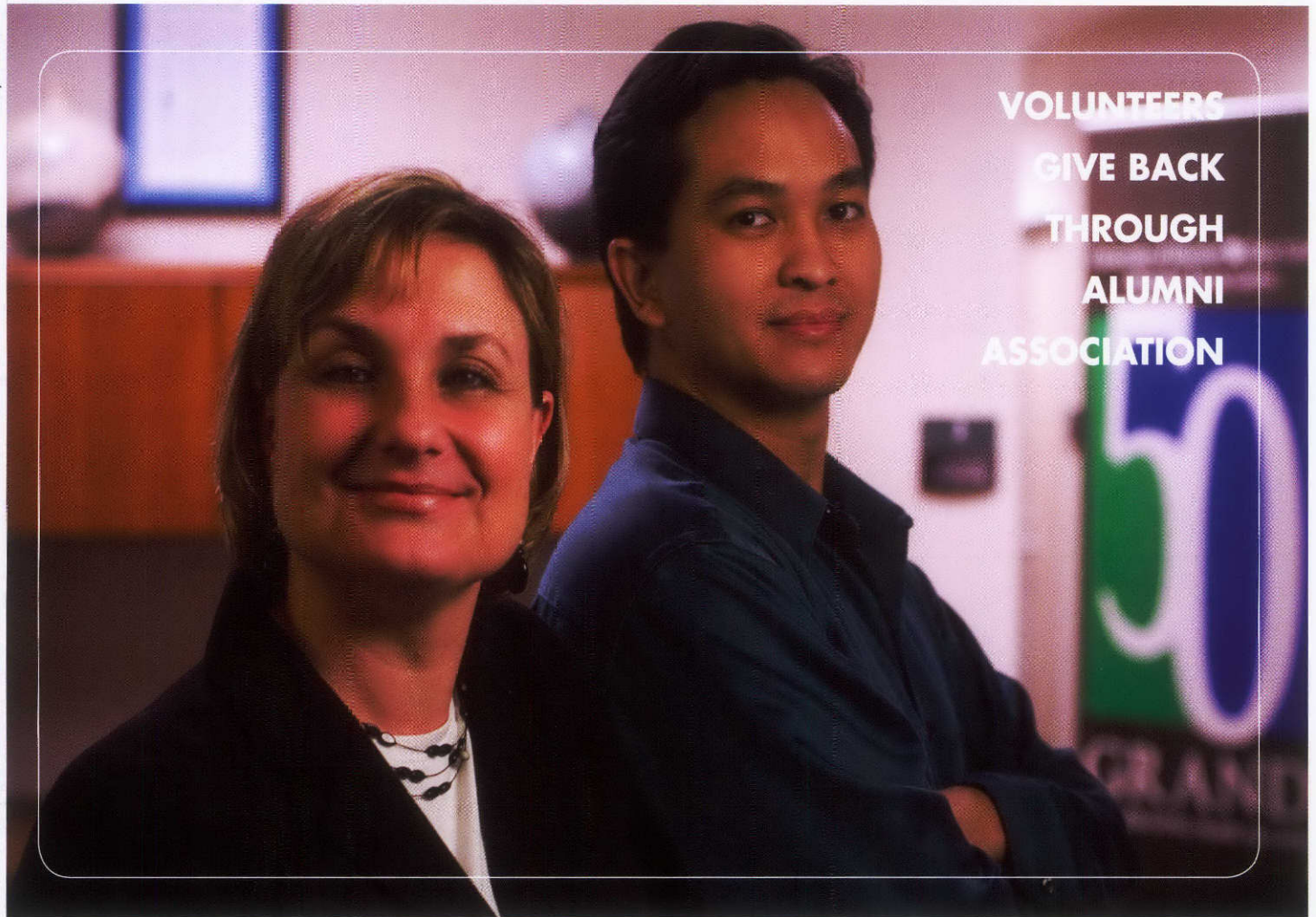
That several UHCL students have been involved and funded by this grant is an additional bonus. April Amos, a UHCL graduate student in applied cognitive psychology who has worked in the lab with Peres for about two years and Akladios for close to a year, says the work is challenging but the benefits pay off.

“They have a nickname: ‘The Muscle and The Brain.’ Dr. Akladios is the muscle and Dr. Peres is the brain. They are very tough professors, and they expect a lot from you. But, in the end, the results are astonishing,” she says. “I can look back from where I was when I came to UHCL when I first entered the RIHM [Research on the Interaction between Humans and Machines] Lab and where I am now, I can truly say that anyone who comes into this lab will leave with skills that most people would not have the opportunity to gain.”

As a research assistant for the Schlumberger project, Amos collects data from Schlumberger and ExxonMobil employees. In addition, she contributes to the project’s data management.

“Working on an industry-related project is beneficial to me, the industry and to the school in many ways,” she says. “I obtained a part-time position with ExxonMobil because of this project. The experience that I have gained from this project has given me a better understanding of what direction I want to continue my studies. It is one thing to collect data and return to the lab and analyze the data, but it is another to actually see what the user, our focus group, really needs. That alone improves the research.”

After graduation, Amos intends to pursue a doctoral degree. Although she’s still identifying her primary research focus, she is glad she had the opportunity to take educational theory and put it in practice.



VOLUNTEERS GIVE BACK THROUGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumna Brenda Quintanilla is passionate about UHCL. As chair of the Alumni Association Executive Council during the 2009-10 academic year, Quintanilla shared that passion with others who are just as fervent as she is about serving the university's alumni.

With UHCL's alumni numbering 50,000 and growing, the association is a powerful network that creates opportunity through a variety of programming, events, services and outreach. Alumni serve as volunteer leaders and committee members on the Alumni Association Executive Council to plan the association's activities and are supported by the Office of Alumni and Community Relations.

"My time as a student at UHCL only brings back fond memories," she says. "Somehow I feel connected to this campus. Volunteering to help bring the type of continued services our alumni deserve was a no-brainer. I couldn't think of a reason why I would not want to give back."

During the past year, Quintanilla and her fellow AAEC volunteers focused on developing programs and activities to contact, engage, serve, empower and acknowledge their UHCL alumni peers.

The executive council meets once or twice a quarter. Quintanilla says they strive to make the meetings as efficient and productive as possible, keeping goals clear and focused to allow each committee an opportunity to present highlights from their tasks and accomplishments. The AAEC's four committees are Alumni Acknowledgement and Community Outreach, Alumni Events, Alumni Education and Career Connections, and Constituent Relations.

Members of the AAEC are appointed by the president of the university to serve a three-year term. For the 2010-11 academic year, class of 2004 alumnus Christian Tan will move from his previous position of vice chair into the chair position. With an average time commitment of one to two hours each month as vice chair, Tan says the rewards he received in return made it time well spent.

"The rewards are mostly the joy in knowing that I can help someone further his or her life," he says.

Supporting the alumni association also benefits him personally, Tan says.

"On the more selfish side, the more UHCL is known to the public, the more valuable my UHCL degree will become," he says. "It is important for all of UHCL's alumni to be proud of their alma mater and be good examples in their office and community."

Both Quintanilla and Tan agree that graduating from UHCL is the only prior experience necessary to get involved with the alumni association.

"I would like to take this opportunity to invite other alumni to volunteer and be part of an alumni association committee," Quintanilla says. "Please bring your ideas and help us provide quality services that bring alumni together."

Alumna Brenda Quintanilla and Christian Tan share a passion for UHCL. As chair and vice chair respectively, the pair led the Alumni Association Executive Council in establishing new programming and "50 Grand" events to celebrate the number of UHCL's alumni exceeding 50,000 during the 2009-10 academic year.

For those interested in promoting education while connecting with old friends at the same time, the UHCL Alumni Association could be a good match for would-be volunteers. A good place to start working with the alumni association is at the AAEC's summer planning retreat in June.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for alumni who have never been involved to learn more about the association, meet executive council members and staff and get involved in planning activities for the next academic year," says Director of Alumni and Community Relations Charity Ellis.

Committee meetings are planned throughout the year and are also open for alumni to attend.

Alumni interested in attending the summer planning retreat, volunteering or learning more about the UHCL Alumni Association can contact the Office of Alumni and Community Relations at 281-283-2021 or alumni@uhcl.edu. Information is also available at www.uhcl.edu/alumni.

JOIN A UHCL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Get involved and help the UHCL Alumni Association with the many exciting events planned this year! Make plans to attend the next Alumni Association committee meeting of your choice. For more information or to RSVP for the meeting, call Coordinator of Outreach and Communications Mindi Funderburg, 281-283-2041, or e-mail funderburg@uhcl.edu.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 26, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

UHCL Alumni Association Summer Planning Retreat (Bayou Building, Atrium I and Garden Room)

August 26, 4-5 p.m.

Alumni Events Committee (Bayou Building, B2524)

Alumni Acknowledgement/Community Outreach Committee (Bayou Building, Garden Room)

Constituent Relations Committee (Bayou Building, B2504)

Education and Career Connections Committee (Student Services and Classroom Building, 3101)

November 18, 4-5 p.m.

Alumni Events Committee (Student Services and Classroom Building, 3200.07)

Alumni Acknowledgement/Community Outreach Committee (Bayou Building, Forest Room)

Constituent Relations Committee (Bayou Building, B2504)

Education and Career Connections Committee (Student Services and Classroom Building, 3101)

February 17, 2011, 4-5 p.m.

Alumni Events Committee (Student Services and Classroom Building, 3200.07)

Alumni Acknowledgement/Community Outreach Committee (Bayou Building, Forest Room)

Constituent Relations Committee (Bayou Building, B2504)

Education and Career Connections Committee (Student Services and Classroom Building, 3101)

May 19, 2011, 4-5 p.m.

Alumni Events Committee (Student Services and Classroom Building, 3200.07)

Alumni Acknowledgement/Community Outreach Committee (Bayou Building, Forest Room)

Constituent Relations Committee (Bayou Building, B2504)

Education and Career Connections Committee (Student Services and Classroom Building, 3101)

{ alumni celebration }

UHCL's Alumni Celebration has become an annual favorite night out for alumni to reconnect and recognize the outstanding achievements of distinguished alumni and other award honorees. The 2010 event features a semi-formal reception and dinner set for 6:30 p.m., Oct. 23, at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center in League City.

All UHCL alumni are invited to this special evening. A highlight of the celebration is the presentation of awards for Distinguished Alumni, Early Achievement, Leadership Service and Outstanding Professor. The UHCL Alumni Association presented its first Distinguished Alumni Award in 1984. The honor recognizes UHCL graduates who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments and careers have brought credit to the institution.

Proceeds from the event benefit the UHCL Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Endowment, which is awarded annually to descendants of UHCL alumni.

Events like this are possible with the support of alumni association friends and sponsors. The 2009 Alumni Celebration was generously supported by the city of Pearland, MEI Technologies, Jacobs, Delta, Anadarko, United Space Alliance, PTP New Media, UHCL's Office of the President, Office of the Provost, School of Business, Mary E. Ainslie, Preston and Joslen Johnson, Michael and Ann Wismer-Landolt, and Commissioner Steve Phelps at the "Distinguished" level; and Boeing and UHCL School of Human Sciences and Humanities at the "Emeritus" level. The UHCL Alumni Association would like to thank all sponsors and alumni for helping to make the 2009 Alumni Celebration a success.

To learn more about the 2010 Alumni Celebration, call 281-283-2021, e-mail alumni@uhcl.edu or visit www.uhcl.edu/alumni.



1970s

Roxanna Montalvo Shimotsu, '78 BS, teaches fourth grade at Sam Houston Elementary in Harlingen, Texas.

William Clement, '78 MBA, is president and CEO of WCC Enterprises Inc., La Marque, Texas.

1980s

Mary Sue Anton, '89 BA, had her book, "New Madrid: A Mississippi River Town in History and Legend," published by Southeast Missouri State University Press in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Marty Brack, '88 MBA, is a human resource manager for Alabama Metal Industries in Birmingham, Ala.

Darla Branch, '86 BA, is an environmental investigator for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Jim Higgins, '85 MS, is the health director for Cherokee County, N.C.

Angela Olige, '83 BS, has been named assistant commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Division.

Mark Platt, '86 BS, is a professor at Kaplan College, and lives in Palm Springs, Calif.

Bill Rankin, '80 MA, '76 BS, has been named city manager of Eagle Lake, Texas.

Beverly Walker, '85 MS, retired from Alvin ISD after 28 years. Her most recent position was deputy superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

1990s

Blanche Marie Armstrong, '95 MS, '86 Secondary Teaching Certificate, '81 BA, has retired after 45 years with Angleton ISD, first as a paraprofessional and then as a language arts teacher at Angleton Intermediate.

Walter Bevers, '97 MS, '91 Secondary Teaching Certificate, is executive director of secondary education for Lamar Consolidated ISD.

Byron Buchanan, '92 BBA, is an attorney with the newly formed Buchanan Law Office P.C. in Houston, Texas.

Rachel Burnside, '98 BS, works for Laboratory Corporation of America as a cytogenetics director. She has passed the American Board of Medical Genetics exam for clinical cytogenetics certification.

Rich Cilento, '94 MBA, serves as the executive chairman and CEO of Glycos Biotechnologies Inc.

Barry Gibson, '95 BA, teaches history and is head coach of men's basketball at South Houston High School in Pasadena ISD.

Max D. Jones, '91 BS, is the executive director of business solutions for Vision-Monitor Software, in Houston, Texas.

Leilani Barnett Kesner, '92 MA, is director of corporate communications for Tootie Pie Company Inc., in Boerne, Texas.

Michael Landers, '96 BS, has been promoted to principal at the CPA firm of UHY LLP in the Assurance & Business Advisory Services Department.

Todd Roemer, '95 BS, has joined Cabot Oil & Gas as controller.

Melinda Stephenson, '93 MBA, has been appointed CEO of Kingwood Medical Center, in Kingwood, Texas.

Josh Urban, '98 MHA/MBA, has been elected to the board of directors for South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber of Commerce. He is chief operating officer of Memorial Hermann Woodlands Hospital.

2000s

Scott Belshaw, '05 MA, graduated from Prairie View A&M University with his Ph.D. in juvenile justice in August 2009. He has accepted a position with University of North Texas as assistant professor.

Pamela S. Bulla, '00 BA, is a team lead for CrossMark.

Kristina M. Cox, '08 BA, was awarded National Association of Professional Women's VIP Woman of the Year 2009-10.

Stacy Cusack, '04 MS, participated in a month-long Mars simulation mission at Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station on Devon Island, Canada. The mission simulated many of the physical and psychological hazards of a Mars or moon habitat.

Cody Dailey, '00 BS, a six-year veteran of Bay City Police Department in Bay City, Texas, was promoted to the rank of corporal.

Elizabeth Fambrough, '00 BS, welcomed a baby girl, Audrey, in September 2009.

Amanda Moody Gaido, '00 BS, and her husband, Michael, welcomed daughter Madison Layne in March 2010.

William Hanna, '04 BBA, owner of Pro Race Communications, is U.S. crew chief on Chris Foster's NHRA top alcohol funny car and European crew chief for Fred Hansen's FIA top methanol dragster.

James Harvey, '01 BA, teaches history, music, geography and philosophy at Alvin Community College and Brazosport College.

Jonathan Hopson, '06 BS, is museum preparator for Blaffer Gallery at University of Houston, coordinating the installation and disassembly of art exhibitions.

Craig Hurley, '04 MBA, is the newest bishop for the Baybrook Congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Sandra Jobe, '01 BS, '90 Elementary Teaching Certificate, has been named District 4 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. She is assistant principal at Frazier Elementary in Pasadena ISD.

Quinn Letan, '00 BBA, has been named Elementary Principal of the Year by Nobel Learning Communities Inc.

Stephen F. Lopez, '02 MA, '00 BA, is chair of the social sciences department at San Jacinto College-Central Campus.

Sarah Mangione, '08 BS, is teaching kindergarten at R.J. Wollam Elementary in Santa Fe, Texas. She received the New Teacher of the Year Award for the 2008-09 school year.

Charles McClelland, '00 MA, '05 Distinguished Alumnus, has been named chief of police for the City of Houston.

J.J. McDowell, '05 MA, '03 BS, is a customs and border protection officer for the Department of Homeland Security.

Julia Bahm Mergele, '05 BA, earned her master's degree in library science at North Texas University and is working as a librarian in Sugar Land, Texas.

Stacey Miller, '03 MA, has completed her Ph.D. in consulting psychology and is working at Angelica Corp. in Alpharetta, Ga. where she is director of talent management.

Ursula K. Nance, '06 BS, was married to Anthony Hare in February 2009.

Ryan O'Connor, '09 MA, had his master's research project on recycling accepted for publication by the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis.

Sean Otmishi, '08 BS, is an adjunct faculty instructor in the computer science department at Houston Community College.

Andrew Pegoda, '08 BA, had an article accepted by the Houston History Magazine. He is also teaching and completing his graduate degree in history at UH.

Oscar Perez, '05 BS, has been named McWhirter Professional Development Laboratory School Teacher of the Year. He teaches third grade at McWhirter Elementary in Clear Creek ISD.

Carol Ann Pollard, '06 MA, married Kevin C. Kyser in November 2009 in St. Lucia. She works as an instructional designer for Money Management International.

Simone Rieck, '05 MA, '03 BA, is an English professor at Lone Star College-Montgomery in Conroe, Texas.

Aimee Roulaine, '05 MA, married Justin Anderson in May 2009. The couple resides in Friendswood, Texas.

Sheryl Saeed, '00 BS, is an adjunct professor of sociology at San Jacinto College North and a doctoral student of social education at UH.

Rajesh Shethia, '01 MS, welcomed a daughter, Vidhi, in January 2010.

Jamie Buzek Smith, '02 BA, and Travis Smith welcomed their daughter, Jade Elizabeth, in September 2009.

Joseph Stromberg, '04 MA, '01 BA, has retired from ExxonMobil and is teaching at Montana State University.

Deirdre Thompson, '05 MS, welcomed a baby girl, Lauren Grace, in April 2009.

In Memory

Robert N. Craig Jr., '75 BA, passed away January 2010

Diane M. Frary, '92 MA, '88 BA, passed away August 2009.

Renda Nowell Jones, '87 MS, passed away January 2010.

Kristi Lea Draughon Harrison, '96 BA, passed away August 2009.

Stephen Lee Owens, '91 Secondary Teaching Certificate, '86 BA, passed away June 2009.

Jacquelyn Poole Meza, '83 BS, passed away September 2009.

Laura Louise Parker, '90 MS, '85 BS, passed away September 2009.

David Hale Roberson, '97 MS, passed away March 2010.

William H. Turley Sr., '80 MA, passed away October 2009.

William Allan Young, '83 BS, passed away February 2009.

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 news item. 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.

{ polio account wins award }

UHCL alumna Heather Green Wooten's first published book, "The Polio Years in Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown" was selected out of 25 entries to receive the 2009 T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award by the Texas Historical Commission.

Named after T. R. Fehrenbach, former Texas Historical Commission chair and Texas history author, the annual award goes to authors whose original research and publication help preserve, record and recount the prehistory and history of Texas. Fehrenbach presented the award to Wooten during the Texas Historical Commission's annual historic preservation conference at the Westin Oaks Houston Hotel in Houston April 23.

Published last October by Texas A&M University Press, the book took seven years to complete and chronicles the events and aftermath of the polio epidemics in Texas from the 1930s to the 1950s. Using extensive archival research and interviews with polio survivors and their families, Wooten's book gives a sensitive human account of the epidemics.

"Texas has a unique regional history that sets it apart from other published histories of polio in the United States," says Wooten.

She says the award was "a great thrill" that acknowledged what is possible in telling a story and giving a voice to those battling the disease worldwide as well as Americans suffering from post-polio syndrome.

Wooten earned her doctorate in medical humanities from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and her master's degree in history from UHCL. She is an associate for W.H. Kellar Consulting LLC and is set to serve as an adjunct faculty member at UHCL in fall 2010.

She is currently working on a book on the history of the Ashbel Smith Building, built in 1891 and known as "Old Red," located on the UTMB campus in Galveston. She is also writing a biography of Ernst William Berner, a founding father of the Texas Medical Center.



UHCL alumna Heather Green Wooten signed copies of her book, "The Polio Years in Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown" at the university in February. Wooten spent five years conducting interviews and doing extensive research with Texas polio survivors and their families.



look closely...The perfect date night, children's activities, career networking events and more are available through UHCL, with many opportunities free to the public. The university's commitment to sharing knowledge and resources with its community made the institution one of 119 U.S. colleges and universities selected for The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2008 Community Engagement Classification. The university also was named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

worlds of opportunity are waiting



UHCL brings the world to your backyard through art shows at the UHCL Art Gallery and UHCL Art Exhibitions, performances in the Cultural Arts Series, and Foreign Language Program classes in French, German, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Portuguese and English Enhancement for foreign professionals.

to get to know your community and yourself



Join like-minded individuals for volunteer opportunities, lectures and community events organized by the UHCL Alumni Association, Clear Lake Association of Senior Programs and student organizations. For more personal needs, discover counseling for both children and adults with a variety of needs available in the Psychological Services Clinic and Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

to fill in the blanks

A boon for researchers, Alfred R. Neumann Library contains more than 506,000 volumes, 1.8 million items in microform and houses the NASA Johnson Space Center History Collection archives and the Clear Lake community's space exploration archives and oral history project. For those who want to learn more about the environment, Environmental Institute of Houston offers educational workshops, status and trend data for environmental markers, public outreach displays for exhibition and a newsletter.



to walk across the graduation stage

From enrollment to graduation, a number of UHCL offices guide the way for students. Get to know academic and student service departments at Open House events. Receive assistance relating to admissions, reg-

istration, and financial aid while pursuing a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree offered by the Schools of Business, Education, Human Sciences and Humanities, and Science and Computer Engineering. To make the dream a reality, learn about online courses, Web-enhanced classes and off-campus teaching center coursework. Or find out more about transfer programs like UniLink, which offers community college students a smooth transition to UHCL and provides access to the university library, academic advising, career counseling and other services.



to nurture young minds

In addition to degree programs, UHCL is home to many programs geared for children. The Art School for Children and Young Adults, Kids U and tutoring services offered through the Center for Educational Programs are low-cost extracurricular activities that contribute to lifelong success.



and to get down to business

Opportunities to grow professionally abound at UHCL. The Center for Advanced Management Programs offers workshops and seminars designed to refine and broaden skills and meet diverse professional and educational needs. Career Exploration Workshops, held by UHCL Counseling Services, offer a multi-faceted approach to examining vocational choices. The Office of Alumni and Community Relations coordinates many events and activities that put alumni in touch with community members.



we've written it all down for you

To take advantage of these and many more opportunities, visit the Community tab on the UHCL Web site. To view UHCL's full range of community offerings, go to www.uhcl.edu/community.





bright star

Congratulations and thank you to United Space Alliance, UHCL's 2010 Community Partnership Award honoree. USA President and Chief Executive Officer Richard O. Covey and USA Vice President and Chief Information Officer Kathy Tamer, a UHCL Distinguished Alumna, accepted the award on behalf of USA during a breakfast hosted by UHCL President William A. Staples in March.



Richard O. Covey, USA president and chief executive officer, and UHCL Distinguished Alumna Kathy Tamer, USA vice president and chief information officer, have guided USA in being an important partner in manned spaceflight and in communities on Earth. USA received UHCL's 2010 Community Partnership Award for its commitment to the university and the surrounding communities.



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{ in the gallery }

Gain new perspectives from the UHCL Graduate Student Art Exhibition. Students draw from a varied mix of materials for their creations, offering a fresh look at common and uncommon concepts. Artwork will be on display in the UHCL Art Gallery through Aug. 19.



"Untitled Raku Basket," glazed stoneware and vine rattan by UHCL graduate student Emily Black.