

# DATELINE DOWNTOWN

THE UNIVERSITY BI-WEEKLY STUDENT-RUN SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

## Diamonds and Pearls: UHD's Two Anniversaries

by Daniel Wibel  
Contributing Writer

If you've walked through the halls during the first few weeks of this semester, you've surely seen signs announcing the September 9 grand opening of the new Commerce Street building, which houses the newly-created College of Public Service. While this is indeed cause for great celebration, you may not realize that this semester UHD celebrates not only that opening but also two other milestones in its history.

Built in 1929 and opened in 1930 (yes, before the advent of air conditioning), the Merchants and Manufacturers (M&M) Building offered Houston a unique and innovative venue for its burgeoning import/export industry. At that time, the tallest building in Houston, it was the first location in the country to combine in one centralized place transportation methods of land, rail and water. While the Great Depression intervened and prevented the M&M building from reaching its full potential as a seat of commerce, we can be grateful for its construc-

tion because several decades later, it became an institution of higher learning in the 1960s known as South Texas Junior College. In 1974, it became the University of Houston-Downtown.

UHD occupied only about a quarter of the building and a whopping 3,537 students enrolled that first year. The cost of tuition? An unbelievable \$4 per semester hour – and no, that's not a misprint! Still, the dedication of its staff and faculty and the smaller class size offered students a high quality, more per-

sonalized education that wasn't always available elsewhere. To this day, UHD is known for these attributes across the state and across the nation.

As Houston grew, so did UHD. By the 1980s it was acknowledged as the fastest-growing public university in the State of Texas. This growth continued through the 90s and into the twenty-first century, and today, UHD boasts an impressive 11,000 students studying toward 43 academic majors and four

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Eloy Zuniga Jr.

## New Degree at UHD

by Mechelle Garrett  
Dateline Business Manager

The English department of The University of Houston-Downtown is proud to announce its new Master of Science in Professional Writing and Technical Communications (MSPWTC) degree. The MSPWTC graduate program began this fall with fifteen students accepted and enrolled in classes, and seven additional enrolled post-baccalaureate students.

The MSPWTC is an outgrowth of the well-established undergraduate program in Professional Writing. The program is designed to provide students with writing, design, and management skills based on rhetorical principles. The MSPWTC's goal is to offer students the oppor-

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## Student Leadership Conference

by Israel J. Salazar  
Assistant Editor

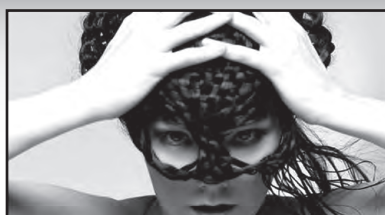
The Fall 2004 Student Leadership Conference (SLC) will take place September 17 in the UHD Special Events Room, A300. This informative workshop is free and all students are welcome. Registration will start at 9 a.m. and the con-

ference itself will begin at 10 a.m. The SLC will last until 3 p.m., but do not be concerned about skipping your breakfast; a complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided – you can even request a vegetarian meal! In addition, there will be countless giveaways and free t-shirts.

Keynote speaker John Spence will be offering UHD students guidance in his presentation, "The Keys to College Success & Beyond," which will cover effective studying methods and the gravest college student pitfall of

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# Editorial

Edgar Fuentes  
Editor in Chief

As editor of the Fall 2004 semester, I am enthusiastic about working with the Dateline Downtown. This being our first issue, I thought it would be appropriate if I introduced myself along with the rest of the team that makes the Dateline operate. Our assistant editor is Israel Salazar and

our business manager is Mechelle Garrett. Doing our layout for this semester is Eloy Zuniga. We have also selected a number of talented contributing writers to cover stories that occur not just in our university but also in our neighboring Downtown area which affect our readers.

Many people have asked me about what I intend to achieve for the Dateline this semester and I've given the question much thought. I must admit I had no preplanned "vision" when I took the job of editor,

but I certainly had many ideas. In the end, all of these ideas all stem from one goal, which is my eagerness to give voice to the diversity that exists in our school.

Having said this, I urge everyone to become aware of and active in the news that takes place around them, both locally and nationally. If your ideas are being underrepresented in the media, this should be reason enough to stand up and speak out. Dateline Downtown is the perfect platform in which to present your

opinions.

Each of us will combine our knowledge to create a newspaper that our fellow students will anticipate reading. At the same time, I welcome any suggestions which will help us improve in future issues.

Anyone interested in becoming part of the Dateline team is welcome to come by room S260 or call (713) 221-8569 for more information.

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them all: time management. In accordance with the spirit of this annual tradition, brought to you by the student activities center, this year's Student Leadership Conference is intended to give students the tools and information they need to be successful.

Regardless of your major or personal goals, if you invest the time in yourself to attend this convention, you can be certain that the knowledge you gain will be priceless. And in a time of skyrocketing educational expenses, the word FREE is a rare find, not to mention a darn good reason to attend this year's Student Leadership Conference. From the friendly staff at the Office of Student Activities & Events, students are urged to take advantage of this great opportunity to "Think, Learn, and Become."

For further information contact Michelle at (713) 221-8250.

### DATELINE STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF :  
Edgar Fuentes

ASSISTANT EDITOR :  
Israel J. Salazar

BUSINESS MANAGER :  
Mechelle Garrett

LAYOUT DESIGN :  
Eloy Zuniga Jr.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS :  
Kim Bowman  
Yvonne Kendall,  
Stacy Martin  
Briana Pedraza  
Carrie Vlasek  
Daniel Wibell

FACULTY ADVISOR:  
Anthony Chiaviello

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## Tour England, Earn Credits

by Carrie Vlasek  
Contributing Writer

The Summer in England trip, open to all UHD students and staff, will take place May 16-29, 2005. Earn college credits, enhance your résumé, experience another culture and learn more about yourself all at the same time. This is the fourth year UHD has gone and every year has been a unique experience for each individual - even those that have been before. The group consists mostly of students from the classes providing credit for the trip, however all are welcome. This year, the classes involved are:

HUM 3302: Art & Literature in Nineteenth Century England  
HUM 3310/ENG 3340: Transatlantic constructions of Social Class  
POLS 4304: American & British Political Thought  
ENG 4314: Charles Dickens  
ENG 4322: (PW) Editing & Print Production in Cultural Context

During the Spring 2005 semester, people going to England will meet irregular hours. They complete their course requirement by participating in the group tour and completing a final project or exam. Each class will focus on a different perspective of the history and culture of England. Some students will have the opportunity to enjoy personal time to look around and explore for themselves. However, there will be a full schedule of tours and sightseeing that can only be fully experienced when in a group

setting such as this. Some of the things on Dr. Walker's working agenda include visiting the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Parliament, the Globe Theater, Oxford, Blenheim Palace and the Dickens Walk where participants trace the life of Charles Dickens through London. There will also be potential for guided tours such as those at the Museum of London and the British Museum. There may even be a chance to stop in and visit the home of legendary band, The Beatles, in Liverpool!

As with any group trip, there is a fee. The cost is not confirmed, it estimates somewhere around \$2700. It sounds like a lot, but that pays for airfare, all ground transportation, hotels, entrance to many attractions, London tube pass, Shakespeare performance at the Globe Theater, and at least one meal per day. There is a lot of scholarship money available to those who qualify. Contact the program administrator for more information regarding financial assistance.

There will be an interest meeting at the UHD campus on Monday, October 4 at 3 p.m. in room A300. Dr. Walker will be distributing a flyer soon with more information. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, just contact Dr. Jim Walker either by email WalkerJ@uhd.edu or by phone at 713-222-5392. His office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 11-12:30 p.m. or by appointment.

### ADVERTISING:

Please contact our business manager, Mechelle Garrett at (713) 221-8192 or GarrettMe@uhd.edu.

### EDITORIAL POLICY, ETC.

The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in the Dateline Downtown reflect the viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown or its administration or students.

Dateline Downtown reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar or space limitations. Electronic submissions should be sent to the editor at fuentes2@gator.uhd.edu and all other submissions, which must include a saved copy on a floppy disc, should be sent to the Dateline Office in S260. All submissions become property of Dateline Downtown and may not be returned. If you have any questions, please call (713) 221-8569.



# Dr. K sees the Far East:

by Yvonne Kendall  
UHD Professor

*On her recent travels to the Far East, UHD's Professor Kendall visits Japan, Australia and New Zealand to experience the musical culture and shares her adventures in a multi-part series.*

## PART 1 - "Leaving Houston"

It was a dark and stormy day. No, really, it was. It was the first day of a trip of a lifetime. I've taught World Music for years, but this was my first time visiting countries I had taught about, hearing the music performed by natives in their own countries. I was on my way to Japan and Australia! Yeeee-haw!!! (Have I been living in Texas too long?)



friend, the soprano, driving that car in flood conditions.

She eased through deep pools of water, leaving more timid souls staring in fear. She quickly followed in a truck's wake so that she could climb onto a sidewalk to drive. Once we got to the passenger drop off, we both looked at each other and burst out laughing. Part of it was relief, but another part is our long history of having things go horribly wrong whenever she's involved with me going out of town (remind me to tell you some time what she found one time when I was out of town and she was checking on my apartment).

Well, I was finally at the airport with my two medium bags for a six-week trip (I like to travel light). Having gotten the cheapest airfares possible through a long internet shopping trip, I had had little (meaning "no") choice in flight

times and airlines. Most of my domestic flights are via Southwest because they are both cheap and fun. Their nice staff had spoiled me for other airlines.

So, imagine my surprise when I got a very helpful United Airlines employee who noticed that my layover in Chicago, to change from a domestic flight to the international flight in Japan's Narita Airport outside Tokyo, was less than an hour! He not only noticed this, but also switched me to an earlier flight. This was perfect because the weather was so bad that we were an hour late getting to Chicago; his thoughtfulness still left me with over an hour to change planes, so everything worked out well.

Next Installment: "On the way and into Japan"

# College Bowling Without Balls

by Kim Bowman  
Contributing Writer

The Intramural College Bowl Tournament, open to all registered students, will be held at UHD on Saturday October 9 at 9 a.m. College Bowl is an exciting trivia game that covers a variety of subjects such as history, pop culture, music, science and literature. The format is similar to the quiz show, Jeopardy, although you do not answer in the form of a question. This challenging competition is open to all students enrolled at our university. Lunch will be provided for all registered participants.

Sample question from  
[www.collegebowl.com](http://www.collegebowl.com):

This book provided the inspiration for the name of the Starbucks Coffee chain, as Starbuck was the coffee-drinking first mate... aboard the Pequod (PEE-kwod) in – for 10 points – what novel?

Answer: *Moby Dick*

Students are welcome to compete individually or to form teams of two to four players. It is a double-elimination tournament where each team can play until they have lost twice. The competition averages between six to eight hours, but you are free to leave once you are eliminated. Winners have a chance to compete in a regional tournament. Participation is not only intellectually stimulating and exciting; it also enhances any résumé.

UHD proudly holds the largest intramural tournament in the Houston area and this may contribute to successful performances at the regional level. In the last regional contest, UHD student, Will Bateman, was the third place top scorer in a competition of over 100 students. The UHD team came in fourth at the regional competition in 2002-2003 and finished in eleventh place in the 2003-2004 season.

In addition, there are links on the College Bowl website to help you

study. So leave your bowling shoes at home and put your thinking caps on for this mentally challenging and fun competition.

For more information go to [www.collegebowl.com](http://www.collegebowl.com) or contact Dr. Sandra Dahlberg at [DahlbergS@uhd.edu](mailto:DahlbergS@uhd.edu) and Dr. Michelle Moosally, [MoosallyM@uhd.edu](mailto:MoosallyM@uhd.edu).

# SGA Kicks Off Fall Semester

by Stacy Martin  
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) held their first meeting of fall semester on Wednesday September 1, in S290. The meeting began with SGA President J.B. Bobbitt introducing himself to the new SGA members and welcoming back the current members. He then passed out flyers and informed the current members about the vacant positions in various committees such as the Student Services Fee Committee, University Planning Committee, Student Publications Committee and the Curriculum Committee. Bobbitt invited new SGA members to sign up for the particular committees that interested them. New SGA members introduced themselves and explained why they wanted to join SGA. The responses of the new ranged from the interest to know what SGA was all about to the previous experience that students had at other campuses. "I have experience in politics," said Tracy Jones.

After Bobbitt addressed the new SGA members, he turned floor over to Benito Vasquez, who informed everyone about volunteering for the UHD Activities Day, Adopt-a-Beach cleanup campaign and Make a Difference Day. The meeting concluded with SGA advisor Scottie Attaway introducing herself to everyone and expressing high expectations for new semester.

If you would like to join SGA, contact J.B. Bobbitt at (713) 221-8570 or email [sga@uhd.edu](mailto:sga@uhd.edu) for more information.

## CORRECTIONS:

Inaccuracies or corrections to any of our articles may be submitted to the Dateline Downtown office at S260 or e-mailed to the editor at [fuentes2@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:fuentes2@gator.uhd.edu)

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tunity to improve their publication and production skills, study project management and the ethical and global implications of professional communication, participate in research, conduct audience analyses and usability tests, and create web sites and on-line help.

The MSPWTC program is valuable for a range of candidates:

- Professional writers seeking promotion to managerial positions or interested in teaching technical writing in high schools or community colleges
- Science and technology, public relations, or corporate training professionals with the goal of expanding employment options
- Undergraduates interested in an applied master's degree, either to increase their employability or to pursue a doctoral degree in technical communication

The students enrolled have undergraduate degrees in various areas of discipline: professional writing, nursing, political science, English literature, finance, communications/journalism, anthropology, interdisciplinary studies, business, French/Spanish, and tourism/management.

The MSPWTC requires a minimum of 36 semester hours that include a choice of a research thesis or capstone project. It joins three graduate programs already being offered at UHD: the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ), the Master of Security Management (MSM), and the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT). The MSCJ program, UHD's first graduate program, began in the fall of 2000, and the MSM began in the spring of 2004, while the MAT began its first semester in the summer of 2001.

For more information on any of the graduate programs please visit the Graduate Program webpage at <http://www.uhd.edu/academic/gradprograms.htm>.

# Björk 'Strips' in New Album



<http://www.bjork.com>

by Edgar Fuentes  
Editor in Chief

**B**jörk achieves tribal sounds by stripping songs down to voice with minimal instrumentation by using layers of vocal rhythms in her latest album, *Medúlla*.

The Icelandic singer performed "Oceania," one of the album's songs, during the 2004 Olympics opening ceremonies in Athens. Her ocean-colored dress spanned almost the entire length of the Olympic Stadium arena. The album as a whole, however, is not as majestic as her Olympic performance.

"Oceania" is perhaps one of the pearls in the album. It is written from the perspective of the ocean, who is a mother to us all: "your sweat is salty / I am why." Its rich lyrics cement it as a Björk classic. But there are moments when the listener might feel as if drowning among the many sounds.

In the August 2004 issue of *W Magazine*, Björk explains that she was inspired by the thought of a universe that is entirely human and that she wanted the record "to be like muscle, blood, flesh."

Some songs drag on longer than they should. Lyrics die out toward the middle of some songs, leaving you alone with the strangest of sounds. Sometimes, however, those eerie noises add depth to some tracks, such as "Ancestors," a song with no lyrics; only what sounds like heavy breathing among frenzied sounds.

But not all songs are this energetic. *Medúlla* contains an acapella track and several tracks in which Björk sings in Icelandic. Among other surprises is a song version of E.E. Cummings' sonnet, "It May Not Always Be So" and vocal beats by The Roots member, Rahzel.

The album is an interesting collection of new songs, some reminiscent of her previous albums, but it fails to reach the full potential needed to surpass Björk's earlier musical achievements.

**RATING:** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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**Standout Tracks:**

- "Oceania"
- "Sonnets/Unrealities XI"
- "Who Is It"

# Hair Half Off!

by Briana Pedraza  
Contributing Writer

Half-price ticket discounts at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts are available September 9-26, for the premiere of the Broadway musical *Hair* to students who show up one hour before the performance.

The show, which originally opened in 1968 on Broadway, has made quite a journey throughout many countries and has finally landed in Houston.

Director, Philip W. McKinley, is no stranger to Theatre Under The Stars (TUTS) performances and will direct a cast of several Broadway actors in Houston's production of *Hair*. Along with director and cast, a strong production team will make the musical possible, lending talent from such areas as choreography and design.

The musical's controversial plot explores 1960s America and issues that surround sexuality, war and

peace among a tribe of "flower-children" in New York's Greenwich Village. The year is 1968 and though the country's problems are clearly present, good music and of course, good hair are part of the day. Although show-goers should expect topics containing adult content, they should also expect *Hair* to provide a timeless musical score of hits from the sixties, including Let "The Sun Shine In" and the title track "Hair."

So let your *Hair* loose, go back to a time of carefree youth, and join Houston in it's opening of this 60's Broadway revival. Tickets for *Hair* are available in prices ranging from \$27-\$72 and can be purchased by phone (713-558-8887), at the TUTS Box Office (800 Bagby at Walker), or online at [www.tuts.com](http://www.tuts.com). Discounts, however, apply only to tickets purchased at the TUTS Box Office an hour prior to performance with valid school identification.

Visit the TUTS website for performance schedule.



<http://www.tuts.com>

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masters-level programs in Arts in Education, Professional Writing, Criminal Justice and Security Management. Additionally, UHD offers classes off-campus at Sugar Land, Cinco Ranch and the Woodlands, and now offers its first fully-online degree program, the B.B.A. in General Business.

So as you make your way through the seemingly tangled maze of classes, studies, essays, projects and the many other myriad aspects of student life, take a minute to reflect on the history of your school, its location and how this university came to be. Then take another to wish the M&M Building a Happy 75th Diamond Anniversary and your own University of Houston–Downtown a Happy 30th Pearl Anniversary. Because you always knew that UHD was a gem, only now you know how precious a gem it really is!



**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?  
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Photo taken by Monica Zamora



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