

# Dateline: Downtown

O N L I N E E D I T I O N

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## UH System Regent Meets With UHD Students

By Jennie Orellana  
MANAGING EDITOR

U of H System Regent Wilson met with student leaders on Tuesday, Apr. 21 to address the name change process that took place last semester. The small group of 20 discussed various aspects of the name change in regards to funds and identity.

Those opposed to the name change questioned how a new name would be prosperous for UHD. But once again President Castillo expressed how difficult it was to get funding when companies kept confusing the Central Campus with the Downtown campus. Donors don't see the difference and don't understand that UHD is a separate institution of its own.

The group then discussed the possibility of a John Doe coming in and donating millions of dollars to the university. If this were to happen, it would come down to changing the name to John Doe University; of course along reasonable and respective measures.

Students expressed their concerns to Regent Wilson on what the funds would be spent on if and when funds were to increase due to the name change. Two students believed that more money should be spent on the expansion of programs.

In regards to the student's concern both Regent Wilson and UHD President Max Castillo explained



Wilson, Chairman of the Board of Regents of the UH System meets with students on campus. Wilson told students that he is very proud of UHD.

that UHD attracts a different type of student than other traditional colleges do.

It would be inconvenient to provide the same programs that a university just on the other side of the freeway already has.

One student expressed that there was a lack of communication between faculty and students in regards to the issue. If the name change has been an issue for several months now, why did it just get introduced to students in 2008?

Another concern students brought up to Regent Wilson is that UHD is looked down upon by categorizing it as the lesser, easier, and cheaper version of UH Central by other students. Regent Wilson said he believed UHD was a wonderful

university with great programs and that it would take time to pass an effective new name.

Although there were students who agreed to the name change, none of the names presented last semester were "good enough." Regent Wilson agreed and explained to students that even though their opinions would be taken into consideration, the final decision would be made by the Board.

The hour-long discussion ceased with the shaking of hands between Regent Wilson, students and faculty. To most students the meeting served as a compilation of all the discussions held last semester about the name change and nothing fairly new, except the opinions of Regent Wilson, was introduced.

## UHD Uses KBR Grant For Summer Program

By Celeste Zamora  
MANAGER OF MEDIA RELATIONS

Middle and high school students will launch miniature rockets, visit NASA Johnson Space Center and learn engineering design at the 2009 Houston Pre-freshman Enrichment Program (PREP), thanks in part to a \$5,000 grant from Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) to the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD).

This summer up to 250 kids from local schools will get hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in a seven-week summer course. The curriculum gives them a range of exciting and challenging activities that enhance learning, experimentation and research.

For many years, KBR professionals have worked with students during the Houston PREP Engineering Day, held at the end of each summer session. This is the first corporate grant KBR has awarded to Houston PREP.

"We are very happy to receive the acknowledgement and grant from KBR," says Sangeeta Gad, program coordinator of Houston PREP and lecturer of mathematical science in UHD's College of Sciences and Technology. "I believe there should be more activities in the community like Houston PREP because the demand is so high. This type of program deserves to be on more campuses and have more industry and community support."

# STUDENT LIFE

## Family Guy, Really?

### Response to "Don't Drink Pepsi!"

By Yolanda Bridges  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was misled to believing that the proposed boycott to not drink Pepsi was for a reason like 'we're a nation of fatties,' or 'soda rots the teeth.' Instead the "supporting" argument was merely a tirade against Family Guy; and I thought, really?

Although the episode was described as "sickening" I noted that the author wasn't quite sickened enough to simply stop watching since the entire episode was listed in detail.

I found some hypocrisy in pointing out Seth MacFarlane as an "acknowledged atheist" and exulting religious freedom in a few paragraphs later. Not believing in religion is a free choice. He simply chooses not to believe.

Another contradiction in the article is "the one way street" comment. In response to criticism, MacFarlane put his response in an episode. It didn't say he objected, cried foul or refused to play. He made a joke out of it as

is his forte.

I agree that Family Guy routinely pushes the envelope of good taste, but when it's too much for my palate, I exercise my freedom of choice and change the channel.

It is important to keep in mind that a lake of viewers cause ratings to drop; low ratings cause sponsors to pause; No sponsors, no show.

Of course then television executives would have to find programming the public wants to watch instead of overloading the schedule with reality television and canceling the good stuff like Men in Trees, October Road, Life on Mars, and Women's Murder Club.

Like many other viewers, I only started watching Family Guy routinely when it replaced Will & Grace in the 11 p.m. timeslot. Since one of the lead characters in that show was a gay man, I probably shouldn't have mentioned that, but the irony was too sweet. Just like soda!

## Alumni Profile Corey McKay

By Sara Hood  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the school year winds down, many of us are left wondering, after graduation, what comes next? After graduating from UHD in 2002 with a Psychology degree, Corey McKay took this question in stride as he began pursuing his Master's in counseling at Prairie View A&M. He is currently a PhD candidate in Psychology. Upon receipt of his Master's he went back to where it had all begun in 1994 at San Jacinto College. Working as a Share Counselor, he continued the efforts he had undertaken as a member of the UHD Fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, working with the organization

"Go to High School, Go to College." He began to realize, however, that many of the issues that plagued him as a student at San Jacinto had still not been resolved since.

After repeatedly trying and failing to make a difference as an outsider, McKay says he was told, that "If [he] didn't like something [he] needed to step out there and do something about it." And in this statement, McKay's political aspirations were born. He resigned from his job at the school and began preparing to run for the recently vacated and unpaid position-number-5 of the Board of Trustees at San Jacinto College. Looking

back, McKay remembers being "amazed" when attending a board meeting at UHD. The UHD board members were available, and willing to talk about issues on the agenda. It is this accessibility that he wishes to institute at San Jacinto. McKay believes that  
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Corey McKay is a 2002 Undergraduate of the University of Houston-Downtown. McKay Graduated with a degree in Psychology and is to run for the recently vacated and unpaid position-number-5 of the Board of Trustees at San Jacinto College.

**Letters to the Editor:** Dateline welcomes letters to the editor from any member of the UH system. Letters should be no more than 250 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deliver letters to Room S-260 Main Bldg; email them to dateline@gator.uhd.edu; fax them to (713) 221-8119. All submissions are subject to editing.

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# UHD Trio To Conduct Summer Research in Chicago

By Celeste Zamora

MANAGER OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Thanks to a \$21,000 National Science Foundation Grant, University of Houston-Downtown associate professor of mathematical science Erin Hodgess and two UHD students will work on a computer research project for 10 weeks this summer in Chicago analyzing large amounts of human genetics information.

The Faculty and Student Teams Program at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory outside of Chicago chose Hodgess and UHD junior, Melinda Chin, and UHD sophomore, LaToya Green, for the program. They will work with faculty from the University of Chicago analyzing bioinformatics on super computers. They will be on site from late May through the end of July working on the project.

Hodgess says she hopes to return to UHD with new research techniques to share with her students. UHD offers small classes for its science majors allowing students such as Chin and Green to work closely with faculty members in the College of Sciences and Technology. The two say they are looking forward to learning in Argonne's prestigious national laboratory research environment.

"It will be wonderful for all of us," says Hodgess. "It is always good to get a different perspective on your particular research. Studying biological data in a national laboratory environment with super computers will give the students valuable experience that few undergraduates enjoy."



UHD students Melinda Chin (left) and LaToya Green (center) are looking forward to participating in human genetics research at Argonne National Lab near Chicago this summer with UHD Associate Professor of Mathematical Science, Erin Hodgess (right).

The grant program supports research opportunities for faculty from universities with students underrepresented in science, technology engineering and mathematics, including women and minorities. It is a cooperative effort between the Department of Energy's Office of Science and the National Science Foundation.

Hodgess serves as a faculty mentor in UHD Scholars Academy, providing a positive role model for young scientists. She conducts Graduate Records Examination (GRE) preparation workshops at the University and works closely with UHD students in mathematical sciences.

Hodgess invited Chin and Green to participate in the summer program based on their outstanding academic performance. Both students also participate in UHD's National Science Foundation Broadening Participation in Computing FEM Prof Program, which grooms young women to consider higher education career paths. They are also both members of the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program.

Hodgess and Richard Aló, executive director of grants and contracts in the Center for Computational Sciences at UHD and professor of mathematical sciences, are co-principal investigators for the summer program. Hodgess' interest in computer grid problem solving and UHD's status as a federally designated Minority Serving Institution made the UHD team a good fit for the nationally competitive program.

# International Conference At UHD Succeeds

By Celeste Zamora

MANAGER OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fighting poverty, overcoming terrorism, and preventing global warming were the real-world issues tackled by more than 80 students from five countries at the first Houston International Model United Nations (HOUMUN) earlier this month at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD).

Similar to the United Nations in New York City, HOUMUN committee delegates discussed topics faced by current world leaders. University and high school students acted as ambassadors from 25 member nations. They debated for long hours at the three-day conference to bring about resolutions and gain understanding of UN dynamics. The exercise polishes students' skills in debate and global politics.

UHD English major Sara Hood said she enjoyed the challenge.

"Delegates have to think on their feet," said Hood, a senior who will graduate in May. "Representing Russia, a country with a drastically different value system

than the U.S., forced me to look at global issues from a fresh perspective. I learned that all countries and cultures have something to offer on any given issue, and if all of these possibilities are maximized and actualized, the world would be a much nicer place."

Model United Nations is a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly and its components such as the Security Council, the Disarmament Council and the Organization of American States. UHD supports opportunities for international travel and exchange that expose UHD students to the global environment.

University students from the Colombia, Mexico, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Venezuela traveled to Houston to take part in the

# CAMPUS NEWS

## HSF Commended For Outstanding Leadership

**UHD-HSF Scholar Chapter**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) Scholar Chapter at the University of Houston-Downtown was honored as its institution's student organization of the year. Led by enthusiastic student coordinator, Eloy Gutierrez, and supported by an excellent Executive Board and members, the chapter impressively participated in over 15 events this academic year.

The vibrant student group demonstrated its commitment to their campus, community and personal college experience. They participated in a wide-range of events. The chapter went above and beyond by joining in more than the required number of school-sponsored events.

Additionally, they hosted several events on their own. The Chapter left its mark on the community by conducting outreach at local schools and organizing a food bank drive. They also provided resources to UH-D students by holding sessions on internships, scholarships and the first Knowledge is Power event which encouraged students to stay in school.

"As a chapter, we took pride in our mission and goals and are acting upon it with the academic, career and graduate school events we host," said Eloy. "We have taken advantage of the departments and services being offered at school and help make it known to our chapter and school community."

## Pre-Law Forum Recap

**By Elizabeth Alvarez**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Thursday, Apr. 9, the UHD Pre-law Student Association and the Department of Social Sciences hosted a Pre-Law Forum. The event featured Bernard M. Jones, the Dean of Admissions at Oklahoma City University Law School, former Houston City Council Member Dr. Gracie Saenz currently in Administrative Law, Commercial & International Business Transactions, Dr. Adrian Patterson in the field of Public Finance, and Dr. Sergio Leal in Complex Business Litigation.

Each speaker was introduced by a member of the UHD Pre-Law Student association and

gave a brief summary of their background, experiences in law school, an idea of their legal duties regarding their specialty and gave advice for success in law school. Students were also given an insight to the admission process, academic requirements, cost and expenses, first year curriculum, and the LSATs.

The event proved to be a success. The topics covered were insightful and an eye-opener. On behalf of all the attendees, thanks go to Dr. Edgardo Colon and the Pre-Law Student Association for organizing the event and our featured speakers for dedicating their time and advice to our students.

HSF is now accepting applications for leadership roles in the 2009-2010 school year. Everyone is invited to apply for Academic Chair, Publicity Chair, Events Chair, Outreach Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. The best part is that there is no fee to join.



HSF members pose for the camera with their awards at One Main Event on Friday, March 13, 2009. (Photo provided by Eloy Gutierrez)

## ALUMNI

Continued from page 2

this accessibility and the accountability that will follow are necessary in creating a board that is held responsible to students and tax payers alike.

These acute senses of accountability and responsibility were honed while McKay served on UHD's Finance Committee, divvying up the funds for student groups. McKay hopes that by creating a more transparent decision making process that is more representative of the community interests they are expected to represent, he will be able to affect consistency and fairness in Board decisions. If elected on May 9th McKay will be one of the youngest trustees in the school's history. It is this lack of diversity that he sees as the biggest fault on the board currently. There are few areas of the community represented, with most of the board residing in Pasadena, and only one other member under the age of fifty. He believes that his election will provide a fresh perspective more aligned with the majority of tax-payers and students.

McKay feels that he is blessed to be able to pursue such an opportunity. He believes that his time at UHD instilled in him the structure, discipline, and time management skills needed to undertake such a rigorous position. So, if you are dreading the close of the semester, worrying about what comes next, and are interested in pursuing politics or community involvement, what advice would Corey McKay have for his fellow UHD Alumni? "Go for it—work hard!" Mr. McKay urges students interested

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# Yearbook

FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON DOWNTOWN  
WILL HAVE A YEARBOOK.

This is a student initiated project, and will chronicle the entire school year 2008-2009, registration for Fall 2008 through graduation in May of 2009.

The yearbook will consist of anything and everything... UHD.

*Attr. Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and All Who Treasure UHAD*

The yearbook is a way to showcase all of the positive happenings within the UHD family, to capture and preserve what we cherish and adore so much about our institution, and to open a window for the world on what makes UHD so special and so unique. It will portray the wonderful UHD experience, as well as convey the university's impact on the city and world beyond.  
One Main Street.

Everyone is welcome to make submissions to the yearbook. Submissions should include as much of the following, whenever possible: detailed information about what is submitted, any date associated with what is submitted, and the name of the photographer, if applicable. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submissions may be sent to: [yearbook\\_submissions@yahoo.com](mailto:yearbook_submissions@yahoo.com)

~ Everyone ~  
Gather Together - Materials, Photos, Etc.  
From This Year,  
For Submission.

Each And Every Day History Is Lost, But New History Is Also Made...As Are Memories To Last A Lifetime.

Record Some Memories...

Pick Up A Camera And Snap Pictures Of You And Your UHD Friends Enjoying Life At UHD...Helping The Community...Making A Difference In The World.

Immortalize Our Institution And Your Wonderful Moments Connected With The University.

A Yearbook is a Gift to Ourselves...That All May Treasure for Years to Come.

Principle Organizations:  
The University of Houston System Student Organization  
The University of Houston System Pre Alumni Association  
Allied Organization: BSA UHD

## ALUMNI

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in this campaign, and the foundation of his platform to visit his website, or call him directly with questions: [www.Voteformckay.webs.com](http://www.Voteformckay.webs.com) or call (713) 545-9615.

## HOU MUN

Continued from page 3

University students from the Colombia, Mexico, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Venezuela traveled to Houston to take part in the proceedings. High school students from Spring Woods in Spring Branch, and Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas also participated.

Committee leaders selected the top three committee delegates and recognized them at the closing session:

Best delegates: Sara Hood, Perla Laborico (UHD), Aya Kantorivich (Arkansas) and Gerardo Pacheco (Venezuela)

Outstanding delegates were Erica Paz, Nancy Adossi, Jennifer Keefover, Alberto Gutierrez, Veronica Fernandez (UHD); Juan Magadan (Spring Branch); and Sai Desikad (Arkansas).



Consulate general representatives were special guests at the 2009 Houston International Model United Nations (HOU MUN), April 2-4. From left to right, Eduardo Landaeta, UHD student and HOU MUN executive director; Renee Mason Cohen, Consulate General of Israel ; UHD President Max Castillo; Brenda Rios, UHD student and HOU MUN Secretary General; Haibo Zhou, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China, and Albert Pimpinelli, Consulate General of France.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Is Alcohol Cool?

By Rebecca Maitland  
PALMER DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM STAFF

College students often use alcohol to relax, celebrate, or at parties, just for fun. After all, most all are bombarded with media messages and advertisements making drinking look cool and fun.

“Just like the advertisements about the so-called joys of drinking, everyone has seen the commercials about how drinking and driving can kill,

but what most youth and college students do not know is the real impact on their lives,” said Jean McMillan, executive director, Palmer Drug Abuse Program.

McMillan added, our young people are invaluable resources and are the next generation to run business, commerce, government and our communities. We need their unique perspectives, insights and experiences which bring diversity and richness to our community. But if alcohol is involved, we may lose many of these wonderful assets, these bright young adults.”

Alcohol is a drug; it alters the mind, body and emotions. It is also the Nation's largest youth drug problem, killing 6.5 times more young people than illicit drugs combined.

Alcohol is the leading cause of death among youth, particularly teenagers and college students. It contributes substantially to vehicle crashes, other traumatic injuries, suicide, date rape, and family and school problems.

“What most do not realize is that alcohol is a depressant, and when youth and college

students are stressing over challenges in their lives, they need to be on their game full-force. Feeling down, depressed or not feeling their best is not the way to meet their lives every day, but that is what alcohol does in the days after drinking,” said John Will, program director, Palmer Drug Abuse Program.

Research shows that young people

who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin drinking after the age of 21.

“Alcoholism destroys lives, families and is a downward spiral, an accident waiting to happen. Here are our youth, promising college students going for their goals and dreams, but the weekend parties or that beer after finals could be enough to wipe their dreams off the spectrum,” McMillan said.



## Rockets Launch Into Playoffs

By Will Orellana  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



After defeating the Portland Trailblazers 108-81 in game 1 on Saturday, Apr. 18, the Houston Rockets demonstrated their dominance in this year's NBA first round series. Yao Ming was flawless against the Blazers with perfect shooting, hitting all nine of his shots in the first half scoring 24 points. Aaron Brooks racked up a career playoff-high and game-high of 27 points in his first playoff start. Luis Scola's defense dominated in his matchup against LaMarcus Aldridge, holding him to just seven points and three rebounds for the night. The Rockets took control from the tip-off and didn't give up the lead. The team's overall performance wrapped up as

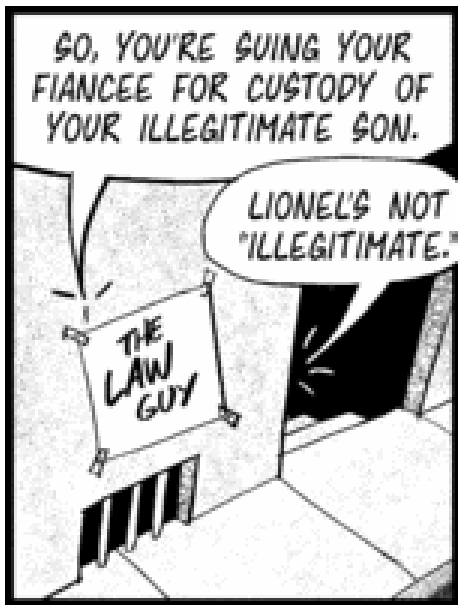
a complete blow out giving them the lead in the best of seven series.

This defeat ended the Trail Blazers's six game winning streak which hurt their home court advantage. Coach Nate McMillan along with the players were ready to put this game behind and prepare for game 2 on Tuesday, Apr. 21, in Portland. Game 2 was all about Brandon Roy who put up 42 points and 5 assists. Early foul trouble hurt the Rockets and Dikembe Mutombo suffered a career ending injury. The game got close in the last minute of the fourth quarter but Rudy Fernandez's freethrows clinched the game for Portland 107-103. Coach Rick Adelman plans on making adjustments necessary in order to prepare for the next two games at home. Blazers have lost 10 of their last 11 games in Houston. The Rockets must be ready to face a confident and young Blazers team. The players understand the importance

of winning every homegame in order to move on to the next round. A series lead of 3-1 would be a comfortable and favorable position for the Rockets because come Apr. 28, its right back to Portland for game 5.

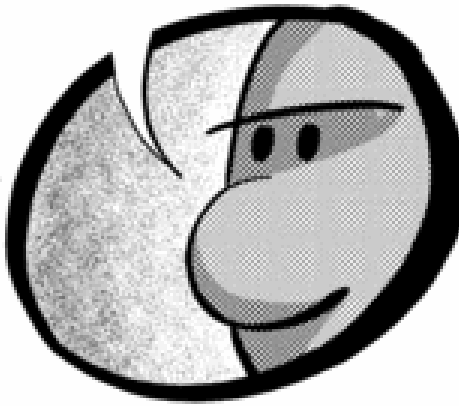


# COMICS

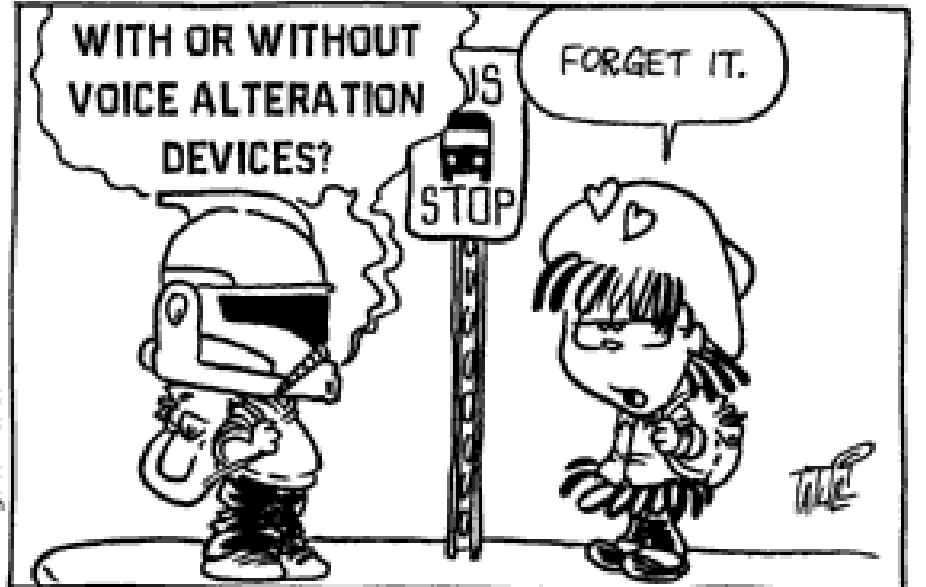


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