

## President's Survey

Surveyors have taken the survey, but for what purpose?

FRONT PAGE

## Houston Mayoral Race

With the upcoming CHD forum, voters should get to know each candidate

CAMUSIN EWS

## Breathe Electric

Pop-punk band plays Houston and describes working with Plain White T's Producer

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# DateLine: Downtown

NEWS PAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - DOWNTOWN

Volume 43 Issue 3

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www.uhd.edu/date line

## UHD's Scantron Effect

**Wilbert Chirchilla**  
MANAGING EDITOR

UHD President William Flores presented a new survey at his convocation for all stakeholders to fill out on Thursday, September 10, 2009. Since its presentation, the survey has currently been filled out by 400 surveyors within the past week. The survey is available to all on the front page of the website

where "UHD President Bill Flores asks for your ideas and insight as UHD moves ahead." The four questions posed were purposefully placed for President Flores' inquiry:

What does UHD do exceptionally well? What makes UHD distinct from other institutions serving Houston or South Texas? What could UHD do better? What would you recommend we improve?

What opportunities exist for UHD that we are not currently tapping (resources, partnerships, unaddressed needs, groups we're not reaching, etc.)?

If you were president for a day what one thing would you do to make UHD a better place?

According to Director of Public Relations at UHD Sue Davis, "Dr. Flores' goal was to learn more about UHD.

The survey lets us see how those closest to the institution view our challenges and our successes and will help us chart the University's future."

Aside from the survey, Dr. Flores has been learning more about UHD by meeting with students at the council of organizations and in elevators rides with students, but will a standard evaluation help in understanding the schools future? Also, if there were only 400 surveyors out of all 12,740 students and remaining staff and faculty, how effective can

the survey be? Carlos Cruz, a nineteen-year-old Education Major, has not taken Dr. Flores' survey yet. "I have seen a couple of questions from the survey and have seen him at the council of organizations". When asked the "president for a day question" from the survey, Cruz says, "I would try to do something about school spirit because that is my main concern. We need a sense of belonging in this school. I think with high academic standards and school spirit we can be a

see SCAN on page 7

## "L'Italia ti chiama!" UHD's 2010 Study Abroad Program

**By Rebecka Black**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Picture this - a curious traveler from the mysterious west stands before the great Colosseum of Rome. Like the gladiators before him, he is in awe of the colossus that is now the legendary bloody grave for hundreds of those battle-worn warriors. For this traveler though, there is no gruesome and bloody demise; for him there is only the mind-enriching experience of Italian history and...course credit? You too could be this curious traveler. The UHD College of Humanities and Social Sciences is preparing to launch its annual spring Study Abroad Program.

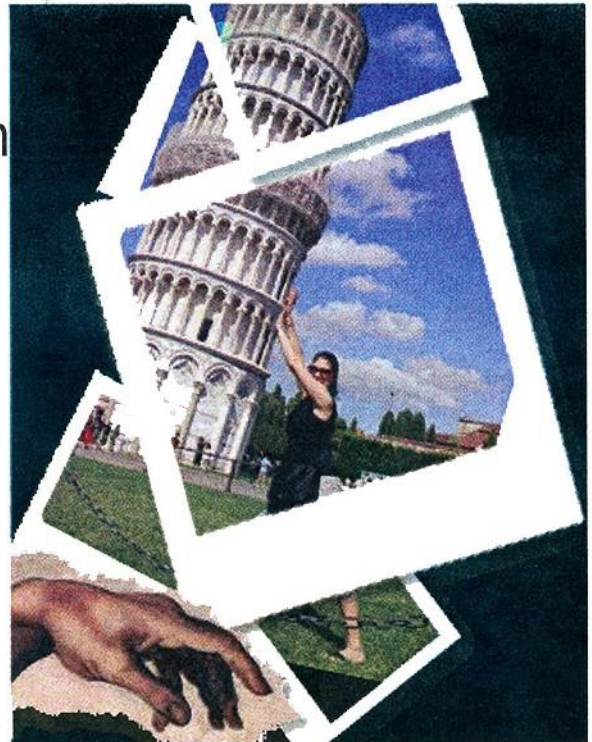
This trip will occur May 17-28, 2010, right between

graduation and Summer I semester. For the past several years, UHD students and alumni have been able to participate in the program that has traveled to historic destinations such as England, Scotland and France. This year, they are expanding the program and reaching east to take student travelers to Italy. Cities that will be experienced will be Orvieto, Pisa, Florence, and one of the most powerful historic world cities - Rome. Each of these cities offers students a chance to visit historic sites like the influential Vatican, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, Accademia Museum (where the sculpture, *David* resides) and the photo-worthy Leaning Tower of Pisa.

So where does the course

credit catch come into play? Well, once accepted into the Study Abroad Program, you'll enroll in one or two classes of your choice for the Spring 2010 semester that correlate with the trip to Italy. These classes meet only once per week with the remainder of the course time being your studies while in Italy - *fontas;ico*. This year's trip will offer a theatre course, an English course and an art course (which can count as a Humanities credit, if needed). All of these courses will be focused on Italy's contribution to or influence on these areas of academics. Here's a quick list of what will be offered to get you thinking and planning about adding these to your spring schedule:

see ITALY on page 6



# STUDIDT IIPI

## Looking for the light on Rainy Days

**Sara Barnat**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I got dressed up the other day to go to yet another interview for a job that really needed last month... Did my hair and makeup nicer than usual, put on a pair of heels and double checked there was nothing in my teeth. Opened the front door and low and behold, it was pouring down rain, "gully washing" as I've heard some southerners describe it. In the middle of September in Houston should not have been surprised, but it definitely caused a damper in my morning...

Seeing as I'm from San Diego, California and I just returned from summer break with a small amount of my belongings, there was only a single hooded jacket in my closet- of course the ever-fashionable off-white with "fur" around the hood kind of jacket we've all seen in the middle of winter when it's actually cold when it rains. Laughed at myself as I put it on, knowing I would immediately start sweating in the humid heat outside. Regardless of the inconvenience, I continued my adventure anyways.

Life seems to throw curveballs everytime we turn around. During the school year it's

no different. Everyday students are faced with difficult circumstances and situations that make school *seem* to be an even lower priority. Events far more traumatic than my weather faux pas definitely need attention before school can return to the top of the priority list. It's important in the mix of it all to not give up mid-semester what you've spent time and money to start.

UHD students are very fortunate to have a number of services available to help anytime.

From access to counselors and advisors, to helpful professors, tutors, library and study facilities and people throughout campus who can provide resources and information on almost anything you may need, students have a solid support staff to help ensure their success.



Image via Google Images

Obtaining higher education is no easy pursuit, but is well worth the temporary dedication and focus it takes.

If you would like us to spotlight a resource on campus, contact the Dateline:Downtown, at [Dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:Dateline@gator.uhd.edu)

Until next time, Happy Learning!

## Cameras Are Watching

**Judith Wattley**  
STAFF WRITER

With the increased amount of students at UHD, the police department has done its best to be more present around campus. According to UHD Police Chief Rick Boyle, "we have made it our goal to be more visible." UHD Police and Security has made it their goal to patrol *more* throughout campus where pending funds can provide additional security to the public. The library is one of the first places to have a security officer patrol for just that purpose. There was a serious problem with missing books and other items from the library. Now, Janette Martin is one of the security officers at the entrance of the library and one of the first security officers hired to patrol that area.

Janette Martin said "One of the main focuses of my job is the prevention of the loss of books, personal belongings and other items through theft. I'm also here to protect our staff and students'

personal security." Christine Stempinski, the Assistant Director of Public Services said, "There is a stronger effect having the security more present in the library." More security could be provided because the university has recently awarded the UHD Police Department a larger budget. This new budget will allow more security officers patrolling throughout the university and video camera surveillance once more funding is given.

Currently there are cameras in each building, but more cameras won't be added until more funds are distributed.

*One way that could help prevent or reduce crime is to report it to the police. If someone witnesses something suspicious or sees a crime, report it. Sometimes the security officer might be on another lead, but if the crime is reported they can help. Remember to be aware of your surroundings. Also, not leaving personal items unattended can help prevent theft.*

## Online Sound-Bites Other UHD Twitter Accounts



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# CAMPUS NEWS

Do you have tips? Contact us at [Dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:Dateline@gator.uhd.edu) for any tips, events, or story ideas to cover.

## Retraction

In our last issue, Volume 43, Issue 2, we published the article 'How Enrollment Affected Students' that stated that the University of Houston-Downtown has had an increase of 40 percent in enrollment. The enrollment has in fact only increased by 3.6 percent, which was then rounded up to 4 percent. We are currently reviewing our Figures Policy, but please view our Editorial Policy below.

# Who will be Houston's New Mayor?

## Dateline Staff Report

(In no particular order) All photos were provided by their respective campaigns. Roy Morales' photo was obtained via googleimages.



Gene Locke is currently a member of the law firm Andrews Kurth LLP and represents municipal organizations such as METRO and the Port of Houston Authority along with other private businesses, but he began as a University of Houston student who graduated in 1969. Since then he has earned a degree at the South Texas College of Law and been employed by both a congressman and a Houston mayor.

As City Attorney and in his own practice after employment with the city, he had a part in erecting some of Houston's most well known structures including Minute Maid Park, Reliant Park and the Toyota Center. He has also been very involved in community groups and associations which help him to serve the city and the less



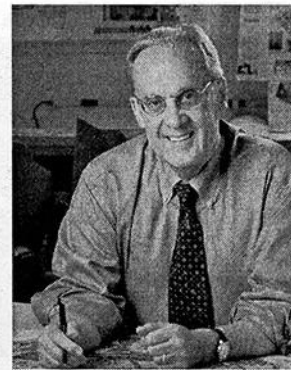
Lieutenant Colonel Roy Morales, United States Air Force-Retired, had an admirable career in the United States Air Force. Since January 2007, Morales has been a member of the Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees. He chairs the Audit Committee and the Federal Community Initiative Committee which oversees Area I Head Start. As a Trustee, he is in charge of setting a tax rate that affects 4 million county residents and approves a \$90 million budget that provides education services to over 20,000 children. In the past, Morales served as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the area of Mathematics at Chapman University.

By being the only candidate with an active Secret Clearance, Morales hopes to protect Harris County residents from man-made disasters. Morales



Annise Parker has worked in the private sector in the oil and gas industry for twenty years before entering into public office. She has been working in the Houston Public Sector for eleven years, six of those years being a city council member. For the last five years, she has been the City Controller for the City of Houston managing audits for the city. As a city council member, she created the rainy day fund that aided to the response to the national disaster Hurricane Ike. Parker as also created Bank on Houston after discovering that in certain areas, 50-percent of Houston residents have no banking relationship.

Bank on Houston is a non-profit who's goal is to bring the city's unbanked individuals into the financial mainstream. She gathered banks, credit unions, the FDIC, and the Federal Reserve to create Bank on



Peter Brown comes to this Mayoral Race with civil leadership and public service experience. A third-generation Houstonian, Brown graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French Literature. After that, he studied at the University of Pennsylvania, where he ended up earning his Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Architecture, and Master of City Planning. His biggest achievement as an Architect took place in 2003, when he became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the profession's highest honor. He is now an adjunct professor in the graduate program of Urban Planning at Texas Southern University.

Brown took office as an at-large Council-Member in 2006, and was reelected two years later. His notorious

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see **GL** on page 4

see **RM** on page 4

see **AP** on page 7

see **PB** on page 7

**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](mailto:dateline@gator.uhd.edu); fax them to (713) 221-8119. All submissions are subject to editing.

**Editorial Policy:** The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in the Dateline reflect the viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown or its administration or studentS. Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. Submissions should be sent to [dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:dateline@gator.uhd.edu) in Microsoft Word format. All submissions become property of Dateline and may not be returned. If you have any questions, please call (713) 221-8569.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Dateline Downtown accepts unsolicited music, film, and video game reviews from students. Have an event to promote or cover? Contact us at [Dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:Dateline@gator.uhd.edu).

## Electric, Pop, Punk, Product



Photography by Lindsay Young

**By Lindsay Young**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Influenced by the likes of Daft Punk and Alphabeat, a new electric pop band from Chicago, Illinois breathed dance into the audience at the Meridian on September 12. Breathe Electric, a band created only a year ago and already working with Alliance Music Management and hitting Hot Topic stores across the country, are currently trying to work their way up the musical ladder. Although Breathe Electric is a pop band, Grant Harris (the leading man) believes their sound differs from some of the other bands you may hear by popular ear. I guess in comparison to other

bands our stuff is a lot different because not everything is guitar driven. It is organically driven I guess you could say. It is a lot of electronics, but we do have some drums and bass," Harris said.

Growing up with a father who was classically trained in piano, Harris was able to broaden his musical interests and joined the school band playing saxophone and then writing lyrics for songs toward the end of junior high. These songs encouraged him to join his first pop-punk band in high school. However, not accomplishing a whole lot and the band moving onto college, Harris began taking lyrics he had written and applying them to music he made through special computer software. During this time he became a lot more interested in electronic music.

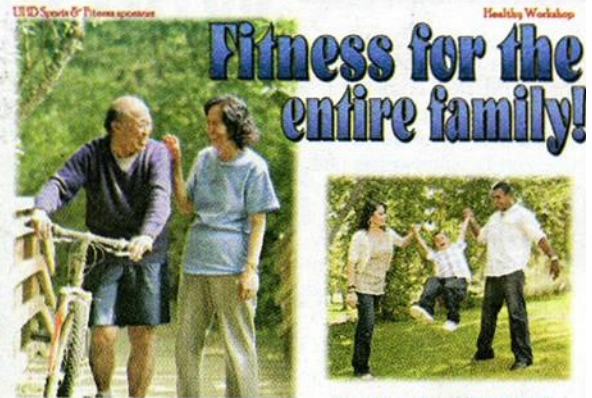
When first creating this new music, Harris thought of it as a fun side project and was able to create free demos online

which were fairly popular. After this he released his first EP Honestly. Although only his second effort, Breathe Electric's latest EP, Emotion, released on August 18, has been brought to listeners by a more experienced

Harris. "Emotion is a lot different than my first album because that was basically me just still having fun with it. I wasn't taking it very serious.

I was still in school full time. The cool thing about doing Emotion was that I got to work with a real producer in a real studio," Harris said. Although Harris's producer is not high in popularity, Harris feels that Ian Kirkpatrick is destined for producing stardom. While working with Breathe Electric, he put them in a studio house that they were able to stay and record. He was also working with pop-punk band the Plain White T's. Kirkpatrick seems to be a good influence on the band's works with.

Working with him was a real eye-opening experience. He really showed me different things you can do with electronics and with different sounds and brought everything to a whole new level." Harris see **BAND** on page 7



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### GL

Continued from page 3  
fortunate citizens of Houston. He was a chair of the Houston Katrina Rita Fund, which is something that nearly everyone in the South can relate to. He has been the recipient of both the Distinguished Alumnus Award from South Texas College of Law and the NAACP Freedom Award for Outstanding Service.

Lastly, Locke has a family that consists of his wife, three sons, two daughters, and two grandchildren. These remain the foundation of his life, amidst all of his community involvement and business.

### RM

Continued from page 3  
hopes to combine this with his expertise in disaster planning and homeland security. Relevant experience in the past includes the implementation of the City of Houston Emergency Center, and leading the Houston Metropolitan Area \$6.8M project which would allow different law enforcement agencies to communicate with each other.

Morales graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Dallas. The highly decorated veteran is the proud father of four grown children.

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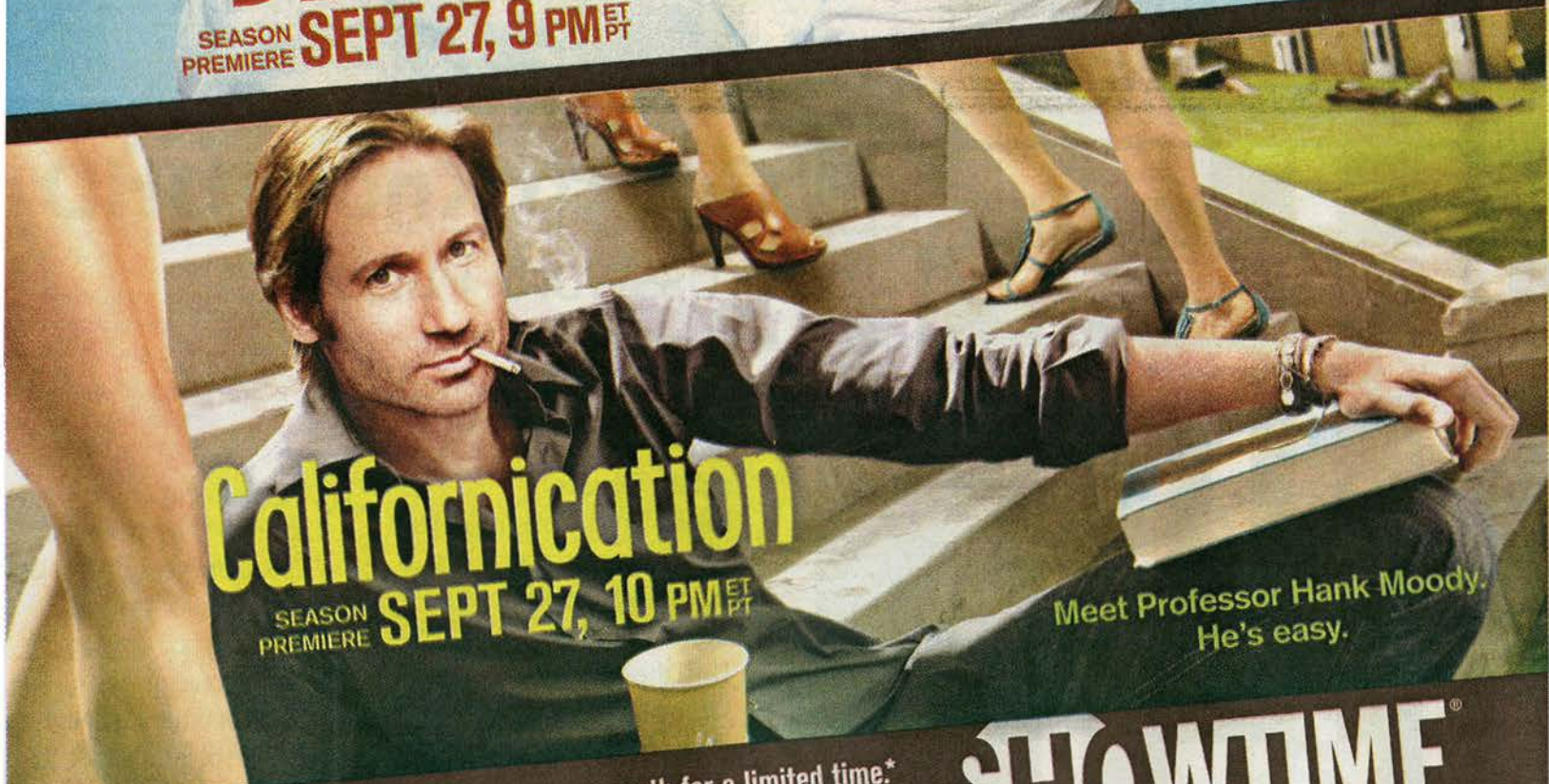
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# ITALY

Continued from page 1

DRA 4309: Theatrical Staging from the Romans to the Renaissance

ENG 3367: 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature -The British in Italy

ART 3303/ HUM 3308: History of Renaissance Art

You can find more specific course information and even preliminary syllabi on the program's website at <http://chss.uhd.edu/chsssummerabroad/>. So far, it all sounds *motto bello*, right? I'm sure you're wondering

how many Euros this is going to cost you though. Don't worry. Although it will require some saving, there are scholarships available to help cover the costs. There will also be informative meetings with the faculty coordinators of the trip to discuss how much you might need to save, specifics of travel costs, class information, and travel tips. The dates for the informational meetings are:

Wednesday, September 23 7:00-8:30pm  
1070S

Saturday, September 26 11:30-1:00pm  
1070S

Monday, September 28 1:30-3:00pm 1070S

Of course, if you still have more questions, can't make the meeting times, or are just still unsure if this trip is right for you, you can always review the program website or talk to the coordinators directly. They'll be more than happy to answer any of your questions.

Reach them at [rejaiea@uhd.edu](mailto:rejaiea@uhd.edu) (Dr. Azar Rejaie) and [larosen@uhd.edu](mailto:larosen@uhd.edu) (Dr. Nicole LaRose). *Speriamo di vedere vi! (Hope to see you there!)*

## ATTENTION STUDENTS!



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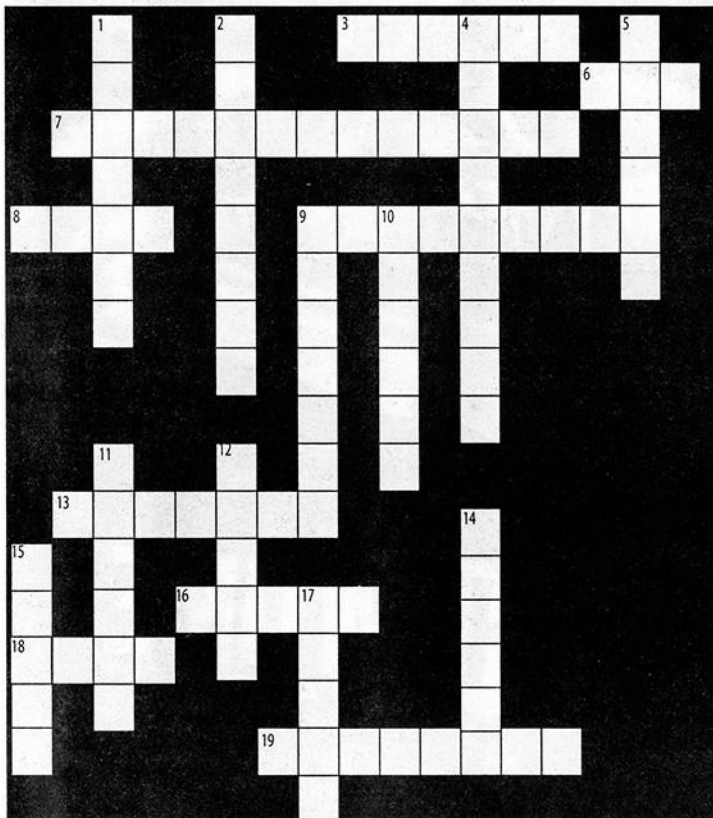
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## Get to Know UHD Crossword Puzzle

By Rebecka Black

Down:

- 1 English professor
- 2 Needed for multiple choice tests
- 4 Where to request transcripts
- 5 Communication professor
- 9 Bayou
- 10 UHDtheater
- 11 What we're all working towards
- 12 UHDMascot
- 14 On the 11th floor
- 15 UHD online
- 17 Library director

Across:

- 3 UHD president
- 6 Current O'Kane exhibition
- 7 Criminal Justice honor society
- 8 Exam to replace a course
- 9 Where you buy textbooks
- 13 Math professor
- 16 Name of fitness center
- 18 College of Business building
- 19 Campus location

# Greener Gators

## An Eco-conscious Column



Photography By Greener Gators  
Greener Gators are enjoying one of their volunteer days with Habitat for Humanity. All majors and classifications are welcome to share with us their expertise, as the environmental cause crosses social, ethical, financial and scientific issues all at once.

### Greener Gators

We gave you some information about the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GGI) in the last issue, now let us elaborate. A GGI helps in informing us about the breakdown of energy consumption on campus; and in turn, it is becomes a must for starting efforts to curb the consumption. Among the colleges that have conducted a GGI, one was able to pinpoint the exact source of some of their school's useless consumption. For years an unnecessary water pump turned on at 1am and off at 5 am, and this time frame made it virtually undetectable. With the aid of that GGI, they were able to attribute the energy loss to the pump and fix that mistake, saving money and energy.

We believe that we have numerous similar situations at UHD. They may not be

pumps, but instrumentation: electric items needlessly left on; overnight computers that go back to default settings after the user Jogs off; lights that remain on in classrooms. As for the use of manpower in turning all of these off every night, there is hardware available that can control power use remotely. As a school that signed



the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, we are required to have this information before we could implement appropriate energy-saving measures on campus; a requirement of being

in good standing for ACUPCC. It is a little embarrassing when we read about other universities that conducted their first GGI as early as 1990.

Almost two decades later, when campuses such as Tulane University, Tufts University and others have already conducted the inventory- some several times since then- we still

have not and an alarm should be ringing for us. Not all campuses that conducted a GGI are signatories of ACUPCC; therefore, we have more reason to complete our inventory as soon as possible.

With the dream of making every Gator a Green Gator, Greener Gators

**Green Tip:**  
Make sure to turn the computers off if you are here late on campus. It's likely that the next person won't use it until the next day.

Our objective is to not only point out the problems that we have on campus, but also to recommend solutions. In this regard, we have already prepared a report on decreasing the consumption of paper on campus. We wish to include all aspects in our proposal and not just paper. If you are interested, contact us at: GreenerGators@gmail.com

## SCAN

Continued from page 1

great university".

The survey will be available until the end of October. No one currently knows how UHD's future will be charted. Everyone will have to keep filling in the squares until the results are scanned.

## BAND

Continued from page 4

said. "It was just like a full studio and it sounds as good as any studio out there. It's really nice and you can live and record so you don't have to pay for studio expenses and stuff like that." The EP itself is full of fun tracks.

Totally danceable and fun to sing along with, Breathe Electric could hit radio stations, club DJs, or music venues near you and sweep you off those stiff feet and onto the dance floor. If you have not heard of this EP or band, I recommend the tracks Emotion or The Average to listeners. If you like bands like Native Texans, PlayRadioPJay! or Forever the Sickest Kids, I would definitely recommend this EP for your iTunes. "I wanted something that was fun and not too negative and that could get kids upbeat," Harris said about the process of making his EP. Breathe Electric will be recording more in October

as well as touring again in November with Electronica and Screamo band, Brokencyde.

Although they have a slightly different style, Brokencyde opens them up to all kinds of new fans and venues that will hopefully help Harris to accomplish his dream. "I would love to make music a career of mine. I mean, I know that is something a lot of people want, but that's really ultimately what I want to do with the rest of my life," Harris said.

## PB

Continued from page 3

background in Architecture allowed him to focus primarily on Houston's infrastructure by designing numerous municipal facilities, and by cofounding Blueprint Houston, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to improve Houston's quality of life. He also serves on the board of over 30 charitable and civic organizations including, Trees for Houston, Habitat-for-Humanity, and the Houston Grand Opera. Today, Brown is the only City Council member to have previously served in U.S. military, from where he was honorably discharged after 6 years of active reserve service.

With 5 children and 15 grandchildren, Brown hopes to serve as an inspiration for Houstonians that seek strong family and neighborhood values.

## A

Continued from page 3

Houston. As a non profit, the goal was to have 10,000 new accounts by the end of this year. They saw 2,000 new accounts within the first quarter. By May 6th of 2009, the program had 10,264 accounts opened.


Annisie Parker is a native Houstonian being born in Spring Branch. She attended Rice University in 1974. She graduated in 1978 and began working in the Oil and Gas industry. Annisie has two children with her partner Kathy Hubbard.

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# COMICS

# SPACE WROCK!

*GALACTIC ADVENTURES IN WRITING!*

BY: REBECCA BLACK

A STAR TRAVELLER GETS LOST IN AN ASSIGNMENT...  
HOW WILL HE FIND HIS WAY TO SUCCESS?!