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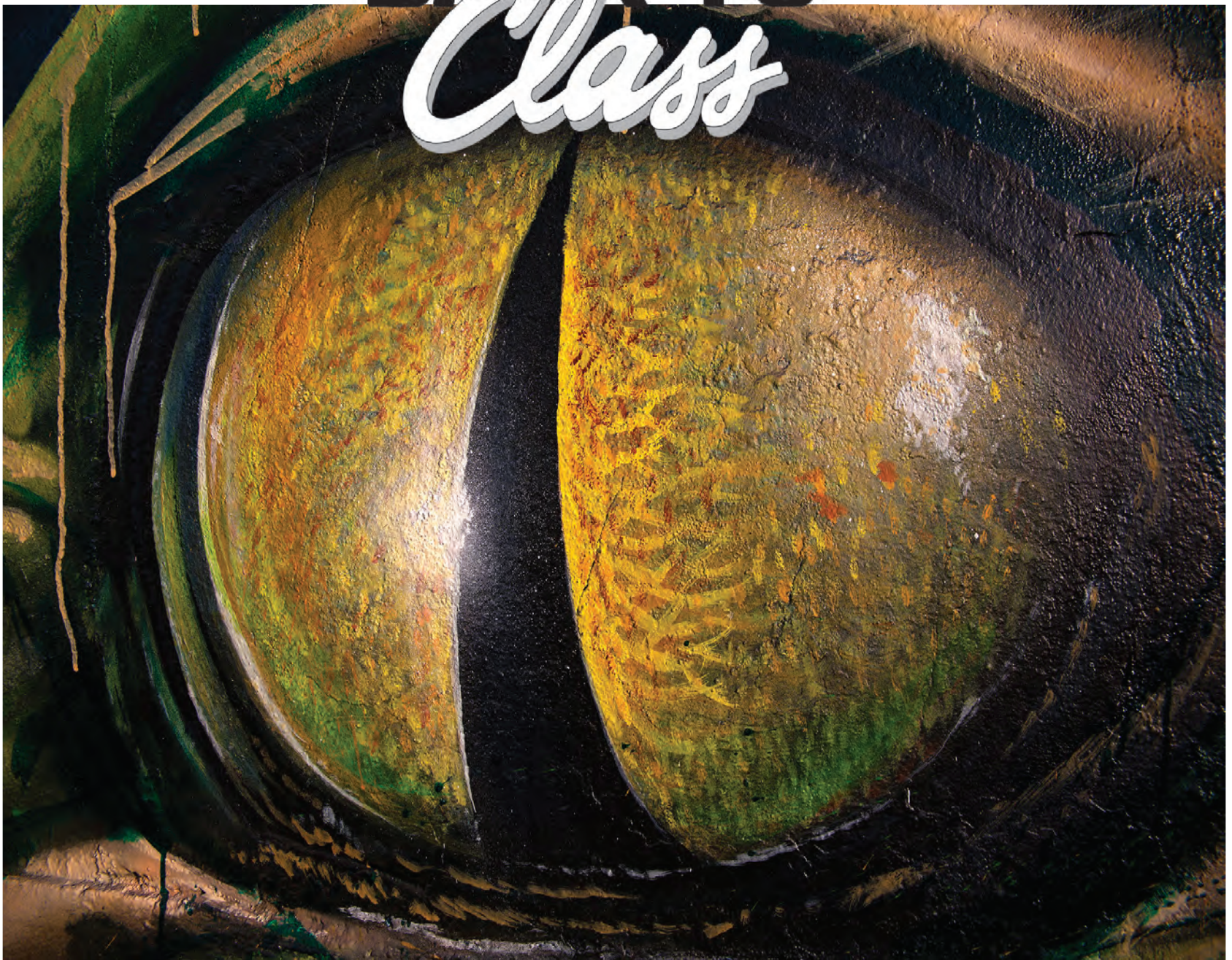
DOWNTOWN

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August 24, 2015

Volume 55 Issue 1

Class



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Dateline Downtown welcomes submissions to the editor from any member of the UH system. Submissions should be no more than 300 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major.

Anonymous submissions will not be published. Deliver submissions to room S-260, email them to date-line.editor@yahoo.com or fax them to (713)

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Freshman Students: An Event for You

By Karen Reyes

In just a few days, freshman students will have an important meeting to attend. The Freshman Convocation will take place on August 22nd in the Robertson Auditorium on the third floor Academic Building.

This event, led by the faculty, is reserved for welcoming the newest members of our family: freshman Gators. This convocation will give you the opportunity to meet and be introduced to the university's alumni and current students who will share their own personal experiences, explaining their successes and struggles as students. It will be a perfect occasion to interact with future classmates, as well as professors.

The convocation will continue with a special guest speaker: none other than writer Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *Into the Beautiful North*. You, as freshmen, received a copy of the novel during the orientation. During the event, the author will talk about his book and share ideas with those in attendance.

At that time, there will also be an announcement of the winners of the Common Reader Contest. There will be two categories and within each category there will be five winners who will receive monetary awards. For more information about the guidelines and registration, please visit the UHD main website. All the requirements must have been submitted on Aug. 15 in order to participate in the contest.

Don't miss this opportunity to win extra money for school essentials! Finally, President William V. Flores will make a warm welcome as we start our academic year. The university is eager to welcome new freshman students to our campus, and this event will mark the beginning of your path towards graduation and ultimately your career.

Make sure to attend this event to honor your incoming freshman class and to learn more about our campus life. Registration, with light refreshments, will begin at 8 a.m.



FRESHMAN

Relief from Student Debt

By Karen Reyes

I present to you the college student's dilemma: people are largely driven to obtain a college degree to improve their career prospects and financial stability. But the price of a college degree has become so expensive that it is almost only affordable to someone with the good career prospects and financial stability. If the thing which we need is what produces the money we need to pay for it, where do the funds originate?

Luckily, for those of us without a college fund, there are a few options to pursue. These are places where some or all of the money could originate, depending on the long-term financial burden you are willing to assume.

FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and Fafsa.ed.gov is where you go to submit it. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 89% percent of undergraduates at a 4-year college received financial aid in 2013, so it's likely that most students have, at least, heard of FAFSA. This federal application offers a combination of need-based grants, subsidized loans, and unsubsidized loans.

While student loans do increase the long-term financial burden and remain a point of political contention, there are advantages to taking government-offered student loans over any other kind, the most obvious one being lower interest rates.

Federal subsidized loans also allow students to delay interest accrual and the repayment process until after graduation.

Federal grants, on the other hand, don't require repayment. Grants are determined by a student's financial needs and timeliness of application submission. While FAFSA's deadline for priority consideration usually falls in April, students should be mindful that the exact date changes yearly.

For foreign or non-citizen students who are classified as Texas Residents, there's an application for state aid called TASFA. Eligible students should visit collegeforalltexas.com to apply.



For students who've submitted FAFSA or TASFA but are still dissatisfied with their out-of-pocket education expenses, there are countless scholarships available to help. A good place to start is the UHD website. Every college's webpage offers exclusive scholarships within the institution, or links to outside scholarships listed by relevance to specific degree programs.

Then there's Fastweb.com, a website that regularly provides links to scholarships for which users qualify based on their custom profiles. Its users can even set email preferences so that they receive notifications when a new scholarship is posted. Fastweb is regarded as one of the best scholarship search engines because its database is reportedly updated daily.

Students that are stressing over the cost of education should keep in mind that each year \$35 million in scholarships are awarded from private companies. Applying for these scholarships is free. Submitting federal and state aid applications is also free. For any student struggling with the dilemma that is the rising price of a college degree, refusing to apply for free money is *inexcusable*.

FAF\$A



UHD's Garden Club Plants Seeds for New Sustainability Garden

By Amanda Howard

This past Memorial Day large parts of Houston flooded, including the University of Houston-Downtown campus, that sits perched upon the intersection of White Oak Bayou and Buffalo Bayou. Around the campus lay networks of Bayou banks laced with trails, parks, and stiff concrete embankments. In 2009 UHD and the City of Houston created a vegetable garden plot in Johnny Goyen Park. For many of the students on campus, this park was a source of pride. Beauty has a powerful dark side, and our bayou-laden metropolis is prone to unpredictable flooding. So it went for the UHD Sustainability Garden, once located in Johnny Goyen Park. Easily seen from the south deck growing happily in the spring rains, but now long gone.

Vision and desire do not a garden build, and when Garden Club expressed our desire to rebuild in a location on University property we were asked to give the 9th Floor a proposal. So we all scrambled to attend meeting, draw plans and get all our needs on spreadsheets. A well-planned garden can fulfill many roles for a university such as ours; every faculty, staff, and student member wanted an outdoor space that was multifunctional. The new Sustainability Garden will not simply grow flowers and edibles, but will also be a home for experimentation and research on campus.

After a campus walk-through with Facilities Management officials, we settled on an oddly shaped parcel of land at a high point of campus. This trapezoidal plot measures 55 ft. x 65 ft. x 20 ft. x 45 ft. At Girard St. and the Bike Trail below Main Street Bridge, if you are adventurous, cross the bridge near the train station and look down over the wall. Then you will see the garden for yourself. The new space will be an ADA compliant demonstration garden, with 8 ft. tall rod iron fencing and two gates to pass through. The front gate will branch right off of the bike trail and place you on a bricked loop to stroll past 18-inch tall cedar post beds. Then on to two large spherical fruit and flower plots flanking a 6 ft. diameter herb garden spiral. The back portion of the plot will be more utilitarian in nature; Garden Club will be fundraising to purchase a 1500 gal water cistern. Additionally, members were contacted by Wal-Mart, who is offering to donate various supplies the club needs replacing, such as tools and landscaping supplies. This donation is actually the work of an incoming business college student names Ricky Munoz. He is a Facebook friend with President Flores. Thus, he learned about the club's call for donations and support.

experience for me personally. I approached Dr. Morano about reviving the campus' garden club because there was a neglected garden space on campus that I amerced myself in and connected to what I truly love to study, Plant Biology. The effect I didn't anticipate was how quickly this entire process would change my life and connect me to people who bring me great joy.



Exploring the Explorers: A Chat with the Future in Law Enforcement

By Joshua Burgman

In light of recent publicized cases of police brutality, especially concerning the black community, Dateline decided to reach out to an important voice that the public hasn't heard much from, future officers in law enforcement. I had the opportunity to sit down with Gerald Fuentes, a UHD political science major in his second year, and a member of the Harris County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program.

The HCSO Explorer Program is a youth program for individuals ages fourteen to twenty-one, who are interested in a career in law enforcement. A product of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the program began in 2011. The Explorers launched a small outfit that year, but eventually expanded to have eight posts throughout the Harris County area. Their expansion did not stop there, and they have now become a nationwide organization, responsible for prepping thousands of young people for a future career in public service. Fuentes discovered the Explorers through its page on Facebook and joined, with the hopes of fulfilling his lifelong goal of wanting to be a police officer. "When I was growing up, I've always wanted to help people; help the community," Fuentes said. "I grew up in a rough neighborhood, in Maryland, and I've grown up seeing police officers and always wanted to be one".

Fuentes says the program has "really helped [him] enhance his choice of wanting to be a police officer". Outside of training future cops, the program also has requirements that ensure it produces educated leaders of the communities, which they will one day serve. Good grades, as well as several hours of community service, are expected to be a priority for members of the Explorers. As a part of the training process, members must complete "ride along" training. "I have sixty-four hours of ride along's. I've been able to experience what it's like to be in a police patrol car for a day, for sure", Fuentes said.



When asked about what his thoughts were on the recent, publicized accounts of police brutality, Fuentes cautioned and noted that it's very important to understand that every situation is different. "You have to understand that there are always different factors that play a role" he said, "You can't look at a video online, and determine that that's the conduct that the officer has every day". "But what's most important," he went on, "is the training and experience in dealing with different types of situations". I also asked Fuentes about how police officers are expected to deal with adrenaline and other issues that may affect their emotional state of mind. When responding to the question he reiterated the importance of training, and said, "there also should be accountability within the police department".

Fuentes still has a strong will to become a police officer, and says that recent cases of police brutality have not swayed him from wanting to achieve that dream. "No, it hasn't really changed me, and not for most Explorers. The reason why is because we want to help other people, that's the best feeling in the world, knowing that one day you could possibly save a life or stop a crime from happening". He continued, "No matter what anyone says, at the end of the day, a police officer's job is to keep the community safe".

To young people who hope to become police officers one day, Fuentes suggests becoming an Explorer. He also advises that they do their research by going to the Explorer website, at www.hcsoexplorers.com. "You'll realize it's literally like a family to us. [The Program] will give you the training, and help you understand what it's really like to be a police officer".

Sasheer Zamata

Live at Fitzgeralds

by Elisa Gonzalez

In an appearance on the Weekend Update segment of Saturday Night Live last December, 29 year old Sasheer Zamata, criticized the then lack of diversity in emojis: “Unicode, the company that creates emojis, thought that instead of one black person, we needed two different dragons [and] nine different cat faces.” The clip, a model of the keen social commentary that defines her brand, went viral, and a few months later, Unicode released a diversified emoji update.

Hailing from the Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) theater in New York City, an improv school which in recent years has served as a sort of SNL cast member factory, Zamata has effectively proven her comedic skill in her first two seasons on the show. A visit to her YouTube channel proves that she has been a productive and inspired comic for far longer than she’s been on TV.

The SNL rookie has written and starred in her own sketch comedy since 2010. Some of her most popular videos are part of a Sex in The City spoof series called Pursuit of Sexiness, which Variety called one of 2013’s top 10 web series. In Pursuit, she and her best friend, UCB veteran Nicole Byer, play two hilariously narcissistic millennials awkwardly dating and living in New York City. Elsewhere on YouTube, Zamata’s stand-up ability

shines. In one clip of a past set, she discusses being flashed by a random stranger on the street in Brooklyn and unwisely proceeding to walk home alone. Assuming the identity of the flasher, she imagines the stand-up set he’d deliver. In another clip, she vents her frustration with the various methods that voice-over casting directors use to encourage her to sound more “urban.” Her anecdotal comedy is flecked with insightful observation.

Her present tour, in SNL’s offseason, brings her to Fitzgerald’s, a venue fitting for the alternative comedy fans she’s likely to attract. When asked about her current material in a recent interview with The Washington Post, she seemed to be coolly sticking with her winning social commentary: “some of it’s political, or dealing with race or gender — just things that I really want to talk about.”

Zamata performs Friday, August 28th in Fitzgerald’s lower level. Doors open at 7 pm, and tickets are \$20.00 online (at fitzlivemusic.com) or \$25.00 at the door.





- 1 One Main Building
- 2 Shea Street Building
- 3 Commerce Street Building
- 4 Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center
- 5 Willow Street Pump Station



Shuttle Bus Hours:

6:30 a.m. - 10:45 p.m.,
 Mon. - Thurs.
 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.,
 Friday

*****Shuttle buses operate only during class days, reading days and finals. They do not operate on weekends, UHD holidays or between semesters.

DATELINE



DOWNTOWN

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

One Main St., Suite S-204
 Houston TX, 77002-1001

Phone: (713) 221-8573

Fax: (713) 223-7478

StudentActivities@uhd.edu

Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday

8:00 am – 7:00 pm

Friday

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

The Writing & Reading Center

- A student & faculty resource to improve writing, reading comprehension, and study skills

CONTACT THE WRC:

N925 Main Building
 713-221-8670

Dr. Dagmar Scharold
 Director, Assistant Professor
 S1067
 scharoldd@uhd.edu

Mr. Scott Sands
 WRC Coordinator
 N925
 sandss@uhd.edu

Center for Mathematics and Statistics Support

The goal of C4MS2 is to increase each student's ability to understand and apply mathematical principles and knowledge, acquire better study skills, become more independent in learning, and excel in math classes.

LOCATION:
 Room 925 North

COORDINATOR:
 Ms. Anna Simmons
 rosenthalA@uhd.edu

HOURS: *
 Fall & Spring
 Monday through Thursday, 8am-8pm
 Friday, 8am-2pm
 Saturday, 11am-5pm

GATORPITS

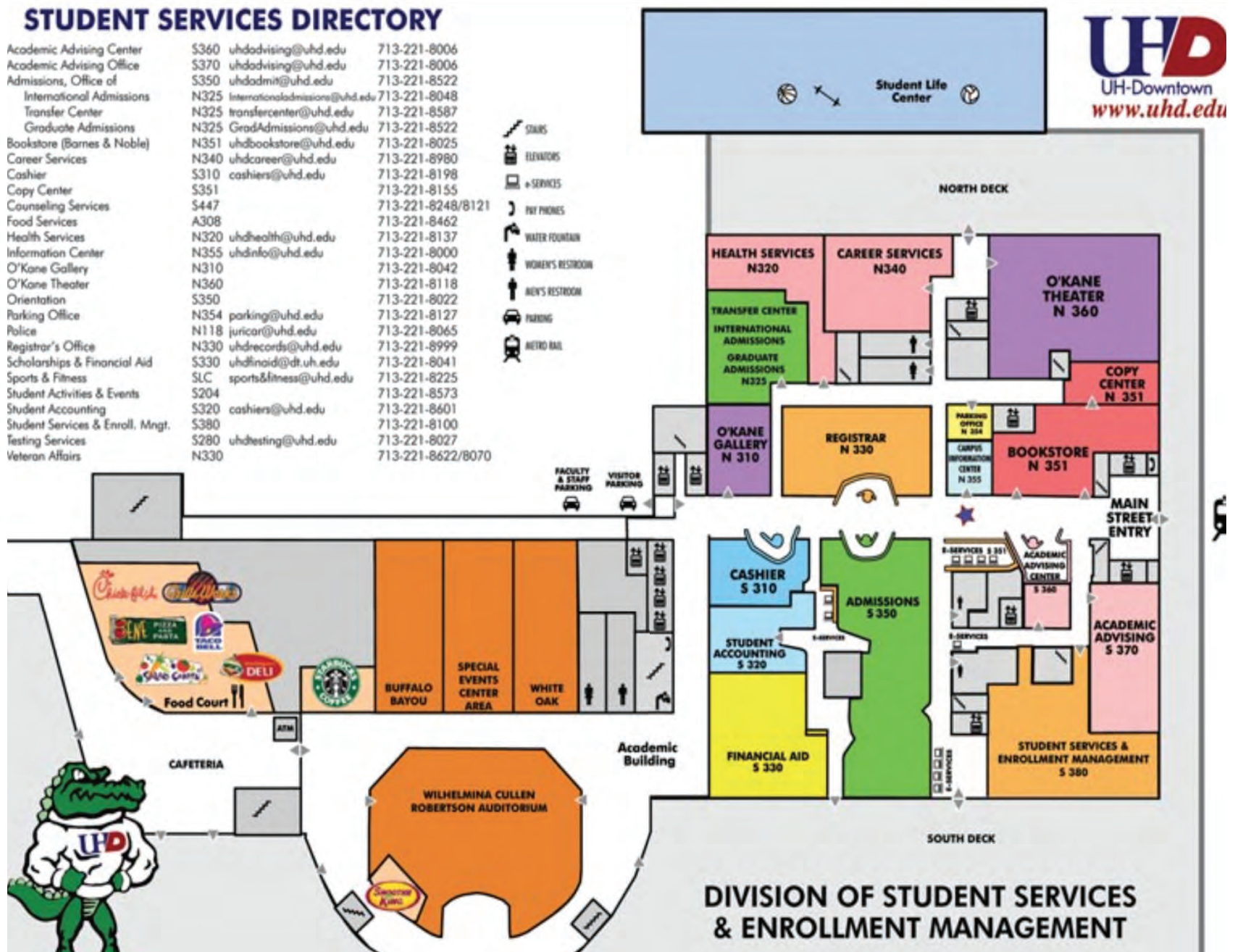


DID U KNOW?

Gatorpits are located in all buildings on campus to help answer questions and give directions! Look for the tables located in high traffic areas if you are in need of assistance~

STUDENT SERVICES DIRECTORY

Academic Advising Center	S360	uhdadvising@uhd.edu	713-221-8006
Academic Advising Office	S370	uhdadvising@uhd.edu	713-221-8006
Admissions, Office of	S350	uhdadm@uhd.edu	713-221-8522
International Admissions	N325	internationaladmissions@uhd.edu	713-221-8048
Transfer Center	N325	transfercenter@uhd.edu	713-221-8587
Graduate Admissions	N325	gradadmissions@uhd.edu	713-221-8522
Bookstore (Barnes & Noble)	N351	uhdbookstore@uhd.edu	713-221-8025
Career Services	N340	uhdcareer@uhd.edu	713-221-8980
Cashier	S310	cashiers@uhd.edu	713-221-8198
Copy Center	S351		713-221-8155
Counseling Services	S447		713-221-8248/8121
Food Services	A308		713-221-8462
Health Services	N320	uhdhealth@uhd.edu	713-221-8137
Information Center	N355	uhdinfo@uhd.edu	713-221-8000
O'Kane Gallery	N310		713-221-8042
O'Kane Theater	N360		713-221-8118
Orientation	S350		713-221-8022
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Police	N118	juricar@uhd.edu	713-221-8065
Registrar's Office	N330	uhdrecords@uhd.edu	713-221-8999
Scholarships & Financial Aid	S330	uhdinfo@dt.uh.edu	713-221-8041
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Student Activities & Events	S204		713-221-8573
Student Accounting	S320	cashiers@uhd.edu	713-221-8601
Student Services & Enroll. Mngt.	S380		713-221-8100
Testing Services	S280	uhdtesting@uhd.edu	713-221-8027
Veteran Affairs	N330		713-221-8622/8070



Welcome Week
August 24 to 28



Campus
Events

MONDAY

Graffiti Wall "What It Means to Be a Gator" 8am-10pm, Library.
Sports on the Deck 10am-2pm, Portico/Deck
Student Life Center Open House 3pm-7pm

TUESDAY

Sports on the Deck 10am-2pm, Portico/Deck
West African Dance & Drums 11am-1pm, Mural Area
Student Life Center Open House 3pm-7pm.
Movie Night/Ice Cream Social 6:30pm-9:30pm, C100

WEDNESDAY

Fitness Frenzy 10am-2pm, Mural Area
Pizza with Professors 1pm-3pm, A300
Sports Daze 2pm-6pm, Student Life Center
Waffles with the President, 5pm-7pm, 2nd floor Student Lounge S204.
Bookstore VIP party 5pm-7pm, 2nd floor Bookstore

THURSDAY

Graffiti Wall "What It Means to Be a Gator" 8am-10pm, Library
UHD Job Fair 11am-1:30pm, A300
Sports Daze 2pm-6pm, Student Life Center
BBQ & Music 5pm-8pm, South Deck.

FRIDAY

Graffiti Wall "What It Means to Be a Gator" 8am-10pm, Library.
UHD Amazing Race 1pm-5pm, Auditorium
Greek Step Show 6:00pm-8:30pm, Auditorium



Conservatives Still Upset Over HERO

by Kara Moore

The ongoing controversy surrounding HERO (the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance) will come to a conclusion this November when it will be put on the ballot in a last chance to pass HERO once and for all. Coming after the Texas Supreme Court ruling which declared that HERO must either be put to ballot or repealed, the vote coincides with the election for Houston's new Mayor, possibly to ensure voter turnout. It may be surprising, considering all other major cities in Texas have similar ordinances to HERO, but there is quite the controversy surrounding its passage, and none of the arguments against HERO are exactly new.

The opposition HERO seems to consist mostly of the US Pastor Council's Houston Chapter but is also being backed by Ben Hall, a conservative Republican candidate for Mayor, who ran in the last mayoral race. The argument being made by the opposing side consists of two major points: the first is the argument that protecting LGBTQ+ members of the Houston community would force Churches to marry LGBTQ+ couples, serve LGBTQ+ couples in their businesses, etc. The second



argument that seems to be attracting a lot of attention from conservatives is that HERO allows for transgender citizens to use the bathroom that best matches to their gender identity. Conservatives, however, twist the ordinance to imply that HERO would allow perverted men dressed as women to enter into the ladies restroom. It's not a new criticism of the HERO ordinance, but it's not an entirely valid argument either. When San Antonio's Non-Discrimination Ordinance was passed, the repeal effort congregated at Faith Outreach Center International. Reported on by Brian Chasnoff at San Antonio Express News, Pastor Flowers at Faith Outreach met with other pastors and handed out propaganda and information guides on how to motivate voters to repeal the Ordinance. In a PDF file attached to Chasnoff's article, the first page shows in bold "A man dressed as a woman can now enter ANY women's restroom or locker room!"

Considering that the Faith Outreach Center is connected to the US Pastor Council, one could assume that, by extension, it is connected to the Houston Chapter. If you check the Houston page on the US Pastor Council website, the same issue is addressed in "Men in Female Spaces" phrasing.

The problem? Both HERO and the San Antonio Non-Discrimination Ordinance do not include and/or have removed paragraphs directly addressing transgender citizens and the bathrooms of their choosing. Current laws are being proposed in the Texas legislature that would make it illegal for people to use a bathroom that does not match their chromosomal sex. As of right now, even at a state level, it is not technically illegal. Basically, transgender citizens are not *exactly* allowed, while, at the same time, not entirely prohibited from using the bathroom that matches their gender identity despite popular conservative belief.

This argument will probably continue to the November ballot box where conservatives and liberals alike hope that all the campaigning and debating will culminate in their desired outcome.

Links:
<http://uspastorcouncil.org/updates/call-to-pray-for-marriage-from-first-lady-janice-flowers-faith-outreach-center-san-antonio/>
http://www.expressnews.com/news/news_columnists/brian_chasnoff/article/Media-not-allowed-at-strategy-meeting-4831069.php

Proof of similar propaganda in Houston: <http://uspastorcouncil.org/houston/lgbt-misogyny-the-battle-of-the-bathrooms/>
Proposal of Banning Bills: <http://www.texastribune.org/2015/04/04/bathroom-bills-pit-transgender-community-against-g/>

Are you a Match?

By Joshua Burgman

Every three minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer, and the non-profit organization, Be The Match, is looking for your help. By becoming a “Match”, and joining their donor registry, it’s possible that you might one day save a life.

Be The Match began in 1979 after the daughter of Dr. Robert and Sherry Graves, received the “first ever bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor”, according to their website. So pleased with how the transplant turned out for their own child, the Graves decided to create an organization that would eventually help to save thousands of lives.

A bone marrow transplant treats cancers and other blood related diseases, by introducing healthy blood-forming cells into a body that lacked the sufficient amount needed to function normally. Upon becoming a donor, and ultimately a match for a patient in need of a transplant, Be The Match offers two different options for donation. The less invasive option, a Peripheral blood stem cell donation or PBSC, involves a five day regimen of medication that increases the number of cells in a donors bloodstream that are used for transplant. This procedure is non-surgical, and only requires the donor, outside of taking the medication, to attend an outpatient appointment at the doctor’s office; the PBSC is very common and is used 80 percent of the time. The second option is an actual marrow donation. The donor is required to undergo an outpatient, surgical procedure where they will undergo anesthesia.

Matching an ill patient not that difficult, the problem amount of individuals registered with Be The Match, there is approximately 12.5 million donors registered worldwide, within their registry, but 61 percent of those donors have Caucasian ancestry. Because 70 percent of patients diagnosed with diseases like leukemia and sickle cell anemia, will not find viable donors within their own family, they look to Be The Match as another option. Unlike blood transfusions, where an unhealthy patient may receive blood from any individual with the same blood type, bone marrow is dependent on the make up of DNA; which makes it somewhat easier to find donors with diverse ancestry.

Rosa Villanueva, a community engagement representative with Be The Match, urges students to get involved. “[Although] it’s not completely painless, students have the potential to save another persons life”, she said. Rosa will be here at UHD several times throughout the semester, helping students better understand the process, and registering them to become that match that might one day save a life. Rosa will be on campus August 31st and September 14th, 15th and 16th. For more information about Be The Match, research their website at: www.BeTheMatch.org or look up their various social media outlets on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

www.bethematch.org

**YOU
CAN HELP
SAVE
LIVES**

BE A BONE MARROW DONOR

Join Voices with us in Walk 2 Vote By Karen Reyes

Soon we as citizens will have the privilege to raise our voices for the upcoming elections. In order to encourage our whole community to participate in the polls, the Student Government Association is currently preparing for a big event: Walk to Vote. Walk to Vote's main purpose is to increase the engagement of young people and minorities in the polls and bring awareness to the importance of voting. It is a current problem that only a limited number of minorities do participate in the elections. As a result this group of citizens lacks decent representation in office, muffling their voices and their opinions.

To all citizens, voting is an expression of belief and hope that change will come, a voice for a better future in their community. As Congress continues to fail at agreeing upon various important issues, such as immigration and the economy, they fail to bring positive improvements to our community and instead cause even more disputes. Citizens, especially minorities, are discouraged by the broken promises their elected had made upon election. Citizens lose hope and may start refusing to go back to the polls, doubting that what the candidates say or what they promise will actually be for their benefit.

There is another problem: to many minorities, voting and choosing a candidate is not essential in their lives, thus resulting in lack of representation for minorities. It is our job as citizens

to change this mindset and encourage every single American citizen to raise their voice and be represented equally.

As SGA steps up to make a change, teaming up with *Mi Familia Vota*, it will soon be registering students to vote this upcoming fall semester. Along with the fourth student voting movement event, Walk to Vote will take place on Oct. 29. The UHD community will get together to rally and raise the voice of minorities and young people who have often been disregarded by democracy.

Walk to Vote will kick off in the university's south deck at 12 P.M, when Mayor Annise Parker will start the event, followed by yet to be announced performers and guest appearances of Houston local artists. The event will then continue at 2 P.M with the marching to 1001 Preston Street.

Stay tuned for more information of the Walk to Vote event and don't forget to register to vote right on campus. Remember that your vote is your voice.

The Importance of the Latino Vote By Jason J. Rivas

The Latino vote will make its voice heard during the 58th Presidential election coming up on November 8th, 2016. Candidates from all political parties should acknowledge that to win the White House, they'd have to win a sizeable portion of the Latino vote, a daunting task for Republicans and Democrats alike.

Candidates from all across the spectrum will attempt to appeal to the largest minority group in the U.S., particularly on three key issues: the minimum wage, immigration, and health care. The "Grand Ole Party" has, so far, seen a mixed bag of success in their appeal. Two candidates, in particular, Senators Marco Rubio (FL) and Ted Cruz (TX), both of Hispanic descent, have polled favorably among Hispanic voters. Ranking at 36% each, higher than the rest of the field, according to the latest Huffington Post poll. However, Republican candidate Donald Trump has been dominating the headlines and polls with comments accusing Mexico of sending deviant offenders to America. Using this bigoted reasoning as justification for an empty promise of building a wall along our southern border, and then passing the bill to Mexico. His comments may cause more Hispanic voters to feel alienated from the GOP.

On the other side, Hillary Clinton has dominated both national polls, with a 63% favorability rating from the same Huffington Post survey. Her main Democratic opponent, Bernie Sanders, has polled at a respectable 33%. However, his recent accusations of corporate America supporting immigration reform to suppress American wages has garnered mixed feelings from Hispanic civic and business leaders. Both candidates, though, have made remarks of speeding up the immigration process for more undocumented immigrants to achieve residency, as well as an expansion of healthcare, both hitting the right chords with Hispanic voters.

So how does this relate to UHD? According to "bigfuture.collegeboard.org," 41% of UHD students are Hispanic. That would equate to roughly 5,670 potential Latino voters right here on campus. UHD has acknowledged this fact, as well as the necessity in educating Hispanic students on the importance of voting, and will be holding their annual Walk to Vote event this fall. The brainchild of former student-President Ivan Sanchez was created, in part, to encourage more Latinos to vote. In the lead up to the event, the nonprofit *Mi Familia Vota* will have their local affiliate roaming the halls to register new, Hispanic voters. Executive Director Ben Monterroso recently stated the importance of the Latino vote, saying that, "To win the White House in November 2016, the Republican nominee has to win 47% of the Latino vote." That may be difficult to achieve, particularly after Democratic President Barack Obama handily won 67% and 71% of the Hispanic vote in 2008, and 2012, respectively.

For either side to win the Latino vote, though, they must educate the Hispanic youth about their issues and earn their confidence. The top concerns for Latino voters are immigration, wages, and healthcare, all of which are important for UHD students, and all of which will be covered from the Walk to Vote into the voting booth.



New O’Kane Gallery Set to Open in 2016

by Jason J. Rivas

The University of Houston-Downtown is making a lot of changes to the campus façade, and in addition to the new campus Welcome Center, there are plans in motion for a completely redesigned O’Kane Gallery. Four shows will be highlighting the brilliant creativity within the professional and student art scene. Still, before the curtain goes up and the ribbon is cut, the gallery will say goodbye to its current space with one final show this fall.

Space and visibility have remained primary concerns at UHD, a result of residing in the busy downtown district of Houston. While the new Welcome Center was coming to fruition, UHD administration realized that there was ample space to accommodate a larger venue for the arts. Director of the O’Kane Gallery, Mark Cervenka, was grateful and supportive when the university came to him with their vision. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Cervenka was enticed by the mission statement, authenticity and sincerity of the university and its faculty, and soon found himself the director of O’Kane Gallery. The gallery has maintained a reputation for being a valuable commodity of the university’s community engagement, with both local individuals and organizations. While focusing on the recruitment of new students, and aiding current students seeking employment off-campus, it has also become a viable avenue for faculty projects.

The new gallery is projected to be twice the size of the old site. The entrance will feature an elegant glass wall that allows onlookers to see and admire the creative works on display. Within the walls, the gallery will house a collection of visiting works, illuminated by stylized lighting that further enhances the works on display. An open foyer will welcome visitors as they arrive, adding both elegance and comfort to the overall experience. The Welcome Center is set to open in October, followed by the new gallery which will open to the public in February. Despite the impending construction and closing, two professional exhibits are set to be unveiled next year. The first is by British abstract artist Lucinda Copley. Copley has lived in Houston since 1998 and has created a name for herself in the Houston art scene. Her works feature optical illusions of color and light, creating a translucent



refraction through glass, vellum, and plastic. Cervenka first met Copley at an exhibit they were mutually featured in, over a year ago, and was intrigued by her sublime, abstract work and invited her to showcase at the O’Kane Gallery. She will be installing and presenting her newest exhibit during the first week of February.

The second professional exhibit feature graphic design artist Warren Lehrer. Lehrer is well-known for his works in which design and content interlock in featuring the concepts of sincerity, social justice and correctness, globalization, and not taking things for granted. He previously created a book interpreted through image, text, and design that flows into what the performance world calls “an opera.” Lehrer is a performance artist as well and will visit the university to perform his work later in the spring.

The gallery will then feature pieces of work by both UHD students and neighboring high school students in April and May, respectively. For the past three decades, the O’Kane Gallery has featured the unique pieces of various students in and around the UHD area. The gallery itself first opened its doors in the 1970s, within the O’Kane Theatre. Interest flourished, and in 2000 the growth required them to move to their current location and has been a cornerstone for creativity within UHD. This incredible renovation promises to inspire young and emerging artists within the University community, as well as the metropolitan city it serves.

Who Said Houston's Art Scene is Dead

by Miguel Nunez

For anyone who has ever told you Houston has no art scene, please be so kind as to point them to Creative Heights on 1331 Nicholson Street. It is here that a person will be thrust into a place where art, powerful messages, and just plain awesome people all collide to create a wonderful atmosphere where the creative juices just flow naturally.

I had the privilege and pleasure of passing through the doors of Creative Heights and seeing the spectacular artwork there in their *Fears* exhibit. What I saw was not just artistic, but also somewhat nightmare-inducing, but in a good way. If their aim was to scare someone into loving art, mission accomplished. Of course, with an exhibition name like *Fears*, what else can you expect?

The art exhibit is presented by Chimera Art & Culture Magazine and the purpose of the exhibit, in their own words is, "a call for artists to submit work that creatively expresses fear in all of its manifestations, whether physical or psychological. The theme encouraged artists to think expressively about their greatest sources of concern, anxiety, or despair. We invite the audience to consider fear through the perspective of these works."

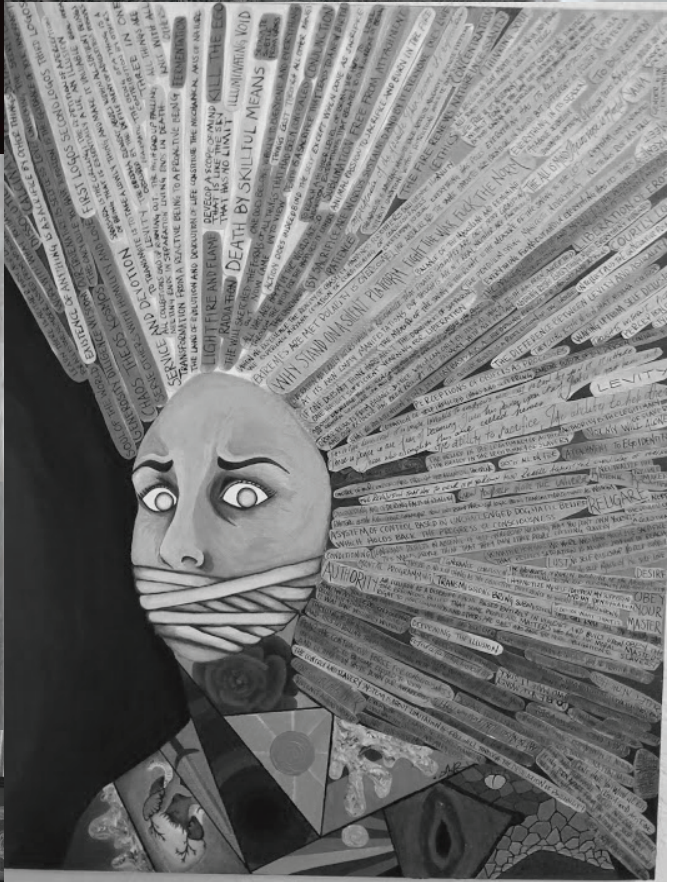
Though fear and what causes nightmares were part of the theme of the show, they were not the only ideas present in the minds of the artists as their hands were busy sculpting, drawing, or painting their responses. Take, for example, the humanoid clay figure colored gold with a mirror where the face should be. It is called *Golden Tragedy* and it is a collaborative artwork by two local artists, Julieta Cahue and Uriel Landeros. Speaking on her artwork, *Golden Tragedy*, Julieta said that it was more her aim to not merely create one piece of art for enjoyment, but also to tell the world an important message about the conditions young women forced into human trafficking face. One fact that I did not know, but was placed right on the artwork itself, was a poignant statistic. Texas ranks as one of the top three states in the U.S. to have the most victims of human trafficking and unfortunately for Houstonians, Houston itself ranks as number one in Texas. Human Trafficking Search, an online global database that keeps academic journals, reports, research studies, and news articles focused on human trafficking, states on its website that "Texas has grown into a hub of human trafficking due to its location, immigrant community, and large economy."

Julieta also went on to say, concerning her artwork, that the mirror placed at the face of the figure was intended to force the viewer to see themselves as the person being exploited. Julieta wanted to challenge the viewer to focus on seeing themselves as the victim. It was a powerful piece of art with an even stronger message.

Another artist that I had the opportunity to speak to was Lauren Bolden, an artist originally from Chicago, who later moved to Houston. Her works featured at the *Fears* gallery were two quite beautiful paintings. One was called *Ophelia*, which depicted a skeleton with a gaping mouth which seemed to be screaming in pain, and the other was called *Swap Witch*, a painting that depicted a female who could only be described as a woman in a long dress with horns and a disfigured face. Both paintings featured nightmarish images but at the same time both showed a deeper story. Lauren said that what inspired her to create *Swap Witch* was the constant stares that she as a woman has to face from men each day of her life. In her everyday life, she finds the eyes of men looking at her, often for too long and, in her own words, it made her feel like a "monster." Thus when staring at the painting *Swap Witch*, one finds a grotesque female, likely a witch, looking back at them. Lauren feels like she, herself, is that witch.

Later in the evening, the event shifted gears and featured two musicians. The second performer just blew me away. He played a strange instrument that reminded me of a large bow with a hollowed out fruit attached to the bottom. Later after speaking to the musician I found out the instrument was called a berimbau. It is an instrument that originates from Brazil but had its true origin from Africa. It is now used in Brazil with the Afro-Brazilian martial art capoeira. The berimbau is an instrument rich in both culture and history that was fascinating to see being played.

For anyone interested in future events, do not hesitate to go. Creative Heights is an amazing place that is host to all sorts of events that ring with the charm of the creative and the imaginative. According to the flyer I got during the event, Creative Heights can host small private gatherings such as CD release parties, film screenings, art classes, music recitals, and, of course art showings. So when you are in the mood for the Arts, Creative Heights will not disappoint.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SGA

"I just want to welcome the students to UHD. Hopefully, it's going to be an awesome year! We have a lot of exciting initiatives and opportunities that we want to share with students this year... UHD is one of the best schools in the country for what we do and the population we serve."

Some of UHD's upcoming developments include:

- The establishment of an official alumni association, to be finalized after the spring semester.
- UHD is partnering with companies and organizations to bring internship opportunities to students.
- Initiatives with the White House regarding student debt and financial aid
- Continuing efforts with Texas Student Association to pass pro-education legislation
- "We are on the cusp of having the first-ever daycare at UHD."
- First-ever "Gator Serve" contest between organizations to see who can get the most volunteer hours



GatorSync: How Students get Involved

by Kara Moore

Whatever your perception of the college experience, most people agree that it is a time to explore your interests and potential in ways you never have before. Getting involved in college is also important, not only to the overall experience but also for the connections you can make within your professional field. The posed question is this: "What is the best way to get involved at UHD?" The answer is one simple online tool called OrgSync.

OrgSync is a social media website accessed with your UHD student account that allows you to view organizations on campus. Learn about the thriving, rich, and diverse community at UHD! From clubs to Greek life, and honor societies, it's all at your fingertips. It's basically Facebook for UHD-related organizations and student activities, and it is incredibly easy to use!

All you have to do is go to UHD e-services and click on OrgSync button on the right side of the page. Login with your UHD ID and password, and start searching clubs on your favorite topics. If you go to uhd.orgsync.com, there's a full list of the organizations with links to their personal OrgSync pages. It's not only a good way to find out what type of organizations are available at UHD, but also to get in contact with the people involved and begin forming relationships on campus.

Organizations can put up a blurb about themselves, post updates on meetings, discuss events, and work on general recruitment. OrgSync keeps all information in a central place for students by maintaining a calendar of registered activities.

While the University of Houston-Downtown may lack the vibrancy in student life often found on other campuses, it does provide the tools for us to flourish. Due to the lack of coverage on student life in the past, many are unaware of all that is available to them. The fact that UHD doesn't have dorms or a large, over-populated campus does not mean that there isn't a dynamic and unique life to our little slice of downtown. It's the start of a new school year, and officially time to go out and find your Major Opportunity!

OrgSync

