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Anonymous submissions will not be published.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) 223 7466. Letters to the editor may be edited for space. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. Submissions must be the work of the writer and must be signed. All submissions become property of Dateline Downtown and will not be returned.

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**United We Goforth** 

by Darci McFerran



As the sheriff approached her, Kathleen Goforth solemnly stood to receive the flag that now symbolized her loss. A loss greater than any of the thousands of people in attendance could comprehend. Watching the wife of Deputy Darren Goforth as she endured the funeral of her murdered husband reinforces the senselessness of the tragedy. Deputy Goforth, a veteran officer, was gunned down, execution style, on August 30th while pumping gas at a Shell station at Main and Telge. The highly publicized, and debated, murder of this veteran officer comes during a tumultuous time in American history. U.S. police officers have faced heavy criticism for brutality and murder of the very citizens they serve. Resulting in a society divided by

their perception of the events unfolding, and a movement that remains polarized by the media.

Whatever your beliefs regarding these efforts towards social change, everyone seems to agree that violence is not the answer. In the days that followed the death of Deputy Goforth a secondary movement, in support of police, emerged. Shannon Miles, a black male, murdered Goforth and many perceived his actions to be a result of the Black Lives Matter movement. However, the only evidence to support this notion is that Miles is black, and Goforth is white. Miles has made no affirming statements, and no evidence of any involvement with the social movement have surfaced yet.

There is something incredibly powerful about people joining hands to make a strong statement; it is what America is built on. The idea that the people have control of what the future holds for the nation, and can each have an impact on the outcome, defines what our culture should be about. So what do we do when the lines seem so clearly divided? Without Police officers to enforce the law, we would be vulnerable to anarchy and chaos, but is it not our social responsibility to question authority and keep their powers in check? We may never know what Shannon Miles was thinking when he walked up behind Deputy Goforth that fateful day, and, in a lot of ways, it is better that we don't. Miles has been shown to be a man with multiple mental health issues and that is ultimately the only reason for this murder.

It is our First Amendment right to assemble peacefully and voice our views and concerns, especially regarding our government and officials of authority. "The right to freedom of association is recognized as a human right, political right and civil liberty," as defined by Wikipedia. This idea, regardless of your stand on any issue, should constantly be supported and reinforced because it benefits every citizen.

On September 4th, 2015 Kathleen Goforth, and her two children did not think about the social movements that now encompass the death of their father and husband. For his family, the loss can never be repaired. Police officers should not have to worry about being murdered in their everyday life just because of their uniform. Likewise, citizens should not have to be afraid of the individuals whose duty is to protect and serve them. If there is anything positive to be derived from this horrific act of violence, it is that we need to find a common ground to stand upon as citizens. A shared platform where we shoulder these issues, not

as individuals or members of a group, but as a nation. Allow the memory of these events to remind us that there are two sides to every story; that not every police officer is bad, not every black person is a criminal, and not every white person is racist. Every single one of us falls somewhere between the edges of these spectrums, somewhere individually gray, and this tragedy should remind us that we must come together as a nation and "United we Goforth!



Photos Courtesy of khou.com



### Will Dallas-Houston Rail Connect with Texans

by Jason J. Rivas

The controversial Dallas-Houston rail line has finally decided on a path that connects the two metropolises. This, along with earlier successes, has breathed new life into the railway. But key hurdles remain in its way before an inch of steel can be laid. For 50 years, residents of Japan have enjoyed the epitome of luxury from an industry that was once dominated by the United

States: high-speed travel via rail lines. The landscape of America was once crisscrossed with lines of steel and wood. However, the Federal

Aid Highway Act of 1956 brought forth the imminent demise of the railroad, as highways and freeways carved faster, more efficient paths for travel. Flash forward to 2015, Texas is at a crossroads. The freeways are struggling to keep up with the growing populations of Houston and Dallas. The future looks more congested after the Texas Department of Transportation's December 2013 report predicted that travel time from Houston to Dallas along Interstate 45 will be six hours by 2035. Nevertheless, a group of businessmen hopes to alleviate the crowded freeways and bring commuters to or from Dallas within 90 minutes, with state-of-the-art technology, reminiscent of Japan's.

Texas Central Powers (TCP) is the private company hoping to complete the grand endeavor. On July 22nd, they announced that they had raised \$75 million in



#### **Courtesy of JR Central**

private investments to complete the first phase of the rail line. The money will be used to go forward with development planning and environmental impact studies. However, with an estimated price tag of \$10 billion, the project is a long way from being fully funded. TCP hopes to pay for the rail line through large private equity funds, pension funds, real estate, and asset investors. Consequently, dollar figures are not the only roadblock for the tracks, there are both private citizens as well as state legislators hoping to derail the venture.

In July, Montgomery County and the city of Magnolia formed a committee aimed at derailing any proposed rail line from TCP or the Texas Central Railway (TCR). Both the city and county felt the railway would have a negative effect on their communities, particularly in real estate prices. TCP hoped to use pre-existing rail lines operated by BNSF and Union Pacific Railways to avoid conflicts with Montgomery County but were rejected by both. In August, though, TCR successfully gained approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration for a new corridor that would lay tracks fully bypassing Montgomery County. The proposed tracks would run through Dallas, Ellis, Navarro, Freestone, Limestone, Leon, Madison, Grimes, Waller, and Harris counties. However, that has not stopped Montgomery County officials from continuing to lobby against the railroad, and they are not alone as many citizens in the region have also raised concerns.

In order to build the proposed rail line, huge stretches of land must be purchased from private citizens. Some residents have refused to sell their land, as they fear the railway will hurt real estate prices by lowering land value. Additionally, many properties are ranches that depend on open land for cattle grazing and herding. And, while TCR has promised to raise as much of the rail line as possible to accommodate farmers, ranchers, and drivers, some remain skeptical that these promises will not be fulfilled.

That hasn't stopped many residents from imagining the high speed railway, though. The blueprints call for two tracks going in opposite directions, sitting a top 14 foot high beams and security fences to accommodate cattle and machine, with the trains reaching speeds of 205 miles per hour. The train itself will use the Japanese N700-I bullet-train technology that has revolutionized high-speed travel. And with the Office of the State Demographer predicting that Texas' population will double by 2050, the bullet train is seen as an efficient way to use minimal space to accommodate a growing commuter class. The bullet train will also give Texas bragging rights for developing high-speed, efficient travel for high volumes of traffic, something of a novel in the United States. With Fort Worth officials recently agreeing to fund a separate line to connect to the Dallas-Houston line, more and more urbanites are getting behind the project, while resentment and distrust among rural dwellers continues to stir. The \$10 billion endeavor is tentatively scheduled for completion in 2021.

### Monitoring Metro's New Network

Since the 70's Houston's Metro has operated on a system that has become no longer equipped to handle the fast paste growth that the city sees every day. In February of this year the Metro Board of Directors approved a fiveyear plan that aims at making public transportation in this city a lot easier to navigate, and faster between each stop. On August 16th, Metro launched that plan. Dateline spoke with Metro CEO, Tom Lambert, to check on its progress.

Since 2004 UHD has been one of the many destinations on the Metro rails crucial Fannin South line, and today continues to be one of the sole means of transportation for many of our students. According to Metro, the new network system will "provide local bus service for roughly 6,900 trips, on 78 routes, over approximately 8,300 revenue hours and 100,800 revenue miles of service on weekdays." Lambert stated that while it may be very early, he and his team at Metro are positive about what they have seen in the first few weeks of the implementation of the by Joshua Burgman

new system. "Our goal is after two years of implementing the new bus network, we expect to see a 20 percent increase in ridership," he said.

Like the rest of the city, UHD has seen a substantial increase in the size of its student population. Because of our diverse make-up, students come from all over the city of Houston, and its outskirts to attend on-campus classes. Metro has acknowledged Houston's population growth and Lambert agrees that it is important to adapt to the growth that we have seen, and will continue to see. "The bus network really hasn't changed since the 1970's, and our population, as you know, has continued to grow," said Lambert. "The board is committed to expanding the bus fleet to serve more areas of our community that may not have service today, or to continue to build higher frequency service," he continued.

The students of UHD are always factored in when considering the expansion Metro has for the future. Because of our schools unique placement, in the midst of downtown, Lambert says that our students are very important when considering new plans. "Y'all are extremely important to us. The Main St line, the University of Houston – Downtown students and faculty are very much supported in using that system, and we really appreciate that."

**Courtesy of Metro** 



### WRITING & READING CENTER PRESENTS FALL WORKSHOP SERIES

Starting on Tuesday, September 15, the University of Houston-Downtown Writing & Reading Center (UHD WRC) will kick off its Fall 2015 Workshop Series. Workshops will run through the Fall 2015 semester and cover a variety of topics, from writing thesis statements to using commas and semicolons appropriately. All workshops will be held in the Library Special Events Center, located in N420 in the One Main Building. The full list of workshops is below; to reserve your seat, visit the UHD WRC in N925 in the One Main Building, email us at wrc@uhd.edu, or call us during regular business hours at 713.221.8670. The UHD WRC is open Mondays-Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. See you there!

**UHD WRC Fall Workshop Series – Dates and Times** 

*Citing Sources in APA Style* September 15 & 16, 10 – 11 a.m. September 17, 2 – 3 p.m. September 21, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

*Citing Sources in MLA Style* September 22 & 23, 10 – 11 a.m. September 29 & 30, 2 – 3 p.m.

*Citing Sources in Chicago Manual Style* October 1 & 5, 10 – 11 a.m. October 6 & 7, 2 – 3 p.m.

Writing a Thesis Statement

October 13 & 14, 10 – 11 a.m. October 15, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. October 19, 2 – 3 p.m. **Proper Comma & Semicolon Usage** October 20 & 21, 10 – 11 a.m. October 27, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. October 28, 2 – 3 p.m.

**Integrating Research into Your Writing** October 29 & November 2, 10 – 11 a.m. November 3 & 4, 2 – 3 p.m.

Subject-Verb & Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement November 9 & 10, 10 – 11 a.m. November 11 & 17, 2 – 3 p.m.

**Designing & Delivering Effective Presentations** November 18 & 19, 10 – 11 a.m. November 23 & 24, 2 – 3 p.m.

# **CAMPUS CALENDAR**

September UPD						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Sucide Prevention Week Starts	8	9	10	11	12 Sucide Prevention Week Ends
13	14 Screeing of "The Other Side of Immigration" in A300 11:30am-1pm	15 Target Hunger 5k Walk Registration by Third Floor Mural 11:30am-2:30pm	16 First Generation College Sucess Forum in N420 11:30am-1pm	17 Business Career Fair Outside Career Center S402, 4pm-7pm Student Org Fair A300, 1pm-3pm	18 Business Career Fair Outside Career Center S402 4pm-7pm	19
20	21 Time Management Workshop N1099 Ipm-2pm	22 Time Management Workshop N1099 2:15pm-3:15pm	23	Golden Key Member Recognition Bluebell Icecream Sale Outside 5th Floor Coffee Shop 24	25	26
27	28 Test Taking Strategies N1099 1pm-2pm	29 Test Taking Strategies N1099 2:15pm-3:15pm	30			

To have your event added to the UHD calendar, please contact Dateline Downtown assitant editor Kara Moore at kmmoore12@gmail.com or come by the Dateline Office at \$260



### Gators "Get-Down" on the Bayou



by Christopher Joseph

Last week the school has made a very fun effort to welcome back returning students, as well as new faces. The school had a lot of fun events taking place all throughout the week. This past Thursday was a good time for everyone to shed the stress of the first week of school; getting lost and adapting to a brand new environment. This barbecue was great fun for everyone who was a proud Gator, and this event showed the personality of what being a Gator is all about.

From the very start of the event, the student life was buzzing about, getting ready to sign in to enjoy the good times. The line had wrapped itself around the barbeque, so people were eager to get their name on that paper and get to grubbing.

The fun didn't really kick up until the Platinum Players Band started doing their thing. The music was going and so were the students and faculty. A couple of students started to get up and boogie on down the tune of the band, doing a couple of old school moves mixed with new school. At one point, a couple of the members hopped off the stage to encourage more people to come out and dance and, lo and behold, they had a few more students and members of the faculty getting on down and letting loose. During one of the sets the Platinum Players invited some people to come and play with them and it amplified the fun 'x 10'. This was not the first event this band did for this school, they had recently played at the Bayou Bash earlier this year during the crawfish festival. This band was so good and well liked that they were asked back for this event.

Once the barbecue came out, the line instantly became a mile long. When I did get my hands on some food the country boy inside of me was satisfied. It felt like the real home-cooked barbeque that Texas is known for.

During the fun, some of the UHD organizations came out in support and to provide information about their respective organizations. The UHD Garden Club, headed by their president Amanda Howard, held a fundraiser for their recently lost garden. "We have the materials for our beds, we just need to get them milled...so we have a ways to go, but in the next week or so we are going to start building our beds out and getting the pathways laid," said President Amanda Howard. The Garden club wasn't the only organization to come out for barbeque. Members of the SGA walked around passing out pixie sticks with information flyers attached.



As the evening started to wrap up and the crowd was starting to pitter out, there was something wonderful about sitting there as the band played out their last couple of sets. The sun was just setting behind the city which made everything seem peaceful, in a way, and it truly felt like this was what being a Gator is all about.

For this being the first music and barbeque event the school has hosted, it was a big success. I got chance to sit down with the Director of student activities and events, Sarah Crass, and when asked if she would want to have this event she said, "Absolutely! I mean, yeah, the turnout was really good and the students really liked it, so, yeah."



Courtesy of Louie Galvez





### Pizza with Professors by Karen Reyes

As the first few weeks of school kick off and the students get in the habit of their routine, new incoming Gators get familiar with the grounds of the university. Faculty and staff are here to welcome them, encouraging students to get involved in school events, to get to know one another, and to create a fun Gator spirit. The STAR program took the lead in getting students and professors to get to know one another. They hosted an event called "Pizza with Professors," which took place on the third floor of the main academic building.

As the event started, members of the STAR program were in the hallway encouraging passing students to come and meet their professors; there was, after all, free pizza. Little by little, students gathered in the auditorium along with professors from various departments. Together they sat at round tables and amiably enjoyed casual conversations while eating free food. Their conversations covered various topics from their major to their current semester classes. Professors came and went during the duration of the event, so students had the opportunity to talk to several professors.

As I conversed with one of the members of the STAR program on how this particular event would increase the connection of students to professors, she mentioned that a lot of students are intimidated by the professors, which prevents well-established communications between them. "This event is to ease the barriers between professors and students." She continued, "This event will really benefit the students as they can create connections for their future careers that will definitely help them in the long run."

Students need something to encourage them to participate in events and get their attention. In this case, food and music were an effective conduit. Everybody enjoys free food, and as more students participate, more professors are likely also to attend the event.

More events are still taking place at the university; make sure you attend any events that interest you or take information from any organization you would like to join. You can encounter an opportunity that can impact your future career.

# **Stomping the Bayou** by Kara Moore

On a typical Friday night, you might expect UHD to be a ghost town. Usually you would be correct, but that was not the case on the Friday of August 28th. That Friday, the auditorium was very much alive with the sounds of music, chanting, and stomping feet. The sororities and fraternities of UHD had gathered there to stomp it out, as well as recruit new members.

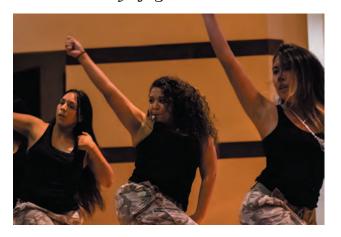
There are quite a few stereotypical images surrounding sororities and fraternities. Some of these might include huge Greek style houses, wild parties, and hazing rituals. As of late, there have been a lot of controversies surrounding major Greek organizations at other universities. But at UHD, the Greek life seems to be more about brother/sisterhood and giving back to the community. "I want women who will empower me and motivate me to better myself, to motivate me better in school, because I think I was kind of lacking that," Dulce Hernandez said of why she joined Gamma Alpha Omega. "When I went to the first event that they had, I fell in love."

After asking around, most members of other sororities/fraternities had the same to say about their organizations. Angie Castillo, an alumnus who is helping UHD students re-establish Kappa Delta Chi on campus, said that what makes her sorority special is that it is a "service based org" which was the best fit for her, personally. Sylvia Finch and Irene Solomon of Zeta Phi Beta, UHD's African American sorority, expressed the same appreciation. "We are a service organization and we believe strongly in sisterhood." After chatting with a few other organizations, the step show kicked off and every sorority/fraternity got a

chance to work their stuff. It was a great time, full of good moves and fun. Every organization brought their best chants and fought to win the competition, but Gamma Alpha Omega ultimately stole the show and won the prize for their sorority.

If you are interested in joining a sorority or fraternity at UHD, take some time to research the following organizations on campus and keep an eye out for their events:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority Inc. Sigma Kappa Omega Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority Inc. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. **Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc.** Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc. Kappa Delta Chi (http://www.kappadeltachi.org/) Courtesy of Ignasio Hernandez



## **Geeks Gone Wild**

by Jason J. Rivas

Last month UHD hosted the Student Organization Leadership Development (SOLD) Conference. It featured a multitude of speakers and workshops, aimed at developing leadership skills and networking within the orgs. One workshop in particular, titled "Conspiring with Geeks," was led by students Aracely Garcia, Daral Moore-Washington, and their advisor, Dr. Mari Nicholson-Preuss. During their presentation, the trio highlighted how important it is for organizations with common interests to band together, and achieve their common goals. Later, I met with two of them to discuss the umbrella term for the group known as "UHD Geeks."

Last year, the UHD honor society chapters of Alpha Lambda Delta (top 20% of freshmen class) and Golden Key International (top 15% of sophomore, junior, and senior classes) launched an endeavor called "Get Your Geek On," a pop-culture-inspired trivia contest. To advertise the event, the two orgs decided on creating a Facebook page called "UHDGeeks," to consolidate their efforts. They were successful, as many orgs competed in the first round of Geek trivia. The Facebook page and Geek contest quickly developed a cult following as the "UHDGeek" banner began enveloping other orgs.

"It's not an organization, but a collection of organizations... or a soviet," jested Dr. Nicholson, a history professor and advisor for ALD and Golden Key. As the page grew in interest, several other orgs realized that they all shared common interests. The Facebook page then became a popular stomping ground for joint-promotion by other orgs, including Tau Sigma (transfer honor society), UHD Feminists, Texas Freedom Network and, more recently, Webb Society, and Stand Out! "Anybody can be a part of UHD Geeks, it just depends on how much you want to participate in it," chimed Daral. The page has also been used to promote activities and events happening on campus, places nearby to eat, and points of interest for students to visit.

UHD Geeks is not just about having fun, they also promote involvement in serious causes, such as volunteering opportunities, tabling for legislative issues, and a financial literacy week. Every Friday, various students visit The Beacon to do laundry service for those in need. This September and October, the Texas Freedom Network will be alternating week-to-week tabling to spread awareness and support for the HERO ordinance, and registering students to vote, respectively. In early October, several orgs will be participating in a financial

literacy week, in which workshops will be held for students looking for help in saving money, networking, obtaining and filling out scholarships. The soviet looks to find a balance between fun and engaging activities as well as educational opportunities for all to enjoy.last school year, a total of seven "Get Your Geek On" contests were held, culminating in an end-of-the-school-year "Freak Show Circus" event that defied odds and proved to be hugely popular. Going into the new semester, UHD Geeks will host a variety of events, including: a "Moon-member" Golden Key ice cream social fundraiser, featuring Blue Bell ice cream, on September 17th; a financial literacy week on October 5th-8th; several rounds of Geek Trivia beginning October 15th; and a Death Ball: Zombie Prom on October 29th.

Daral summarized the goal of UHD Geeks best. "Considering we're not a traditional campus, we don't have a lot of traditional things that other colleges have, so we have to make something and make it last." All orgs are welcomed to participate, as well as all students, regardless if they are in an org or not. For more information on UHD Geeks, look up and like their Facebook page for updates and fun.







### **Political Activisim at UHD**

by Kara Moore

The Texas Freedom Network is a non-partisan, but progressive, political organization which focuses on protecting religious freedom, defending civil liberties, and strengthening public schools in the state of Texas. Another focus of theirs is reaching out to young people at the university level to recruit them as not only active voters, but activists for ongoing issues in the Texas legislature.

UHD's chapter of the Texas Freedom Network is headed by Aracely Garcia and Michellee Gutierrez-Valdez. On Thursday, September 3rd, I met up with Aracely after an information meeting in room N420, to discuss TFN, not only as a statewide organization, but as a local and collegiate one as well.

Aracely stressed the importance of the Texas Freedom Network's presence on campus, due to the fact that "millennials make up 25% of Texas' eligible voting population and that [sic] stereotype is that these people don't vote because they are lazy, they don't care, and I think that that is a backwards idea." Aracely reiterated, "I think young people do care. I think young people are turned off because nobody is telling them that their voices matter, that what they do matters, and that voting is important... TFN is really cool and good at engaging young people."



TFN chapter at UHD is no stranger to media exposure either, as a picture was circulated nationally (via outlets like Buzzfeed) of Aracely, Michellee, and others at the front of a reproductive rights rally in Austin. Aracely said it was a really cool experience.

At this moment, the UHD and UH chapters of TFN are focusing on the HERO ordinance, while other chapters across the state continue to work on reproductive rights. They plan on tabling information about HERO by the auditorium every other week, in between registering students to vote. They will continue to have informational meetings, as well as possible trips to Austin concerning advocacy on current legislative issues. Look for them in the upcoming months outside A300

### **Passport to the Future** by Elisa Gonzalez



Studying abroad is a unique learning experience that immerses students in unfamiliar parts of the world. This educational opportunity is available for eligible UHD students with a passion for travel and an interest in cultural exploration.

Most people consider study abroad programs as semester long placements, a convention which might be unrealistic for some of UHD's unconventional student population. In reality, however, the study abroad options include varying stretches of time, convenient even for students who might not be able to commit themselves to a whole semester of international study due to personal responsibilities.

UHD offers several 1-2 week faculty-led trips where travelers can enjoy a condensed international experience. The destinations for faculty-led trips planned for 2016 are: Australia, Taiwan, Cuba, Finland and Sweden, Ghana, and Greece. Stories from a previous trip to Taiwan are featured on the UHD website in the Study Abroad section, and it's worth a look for anyone curious about what these shortened journeys can offer. In one contribution from January 8, 2013, Leroy Adams wrote from Taiwan, "I don't believe that you can truly understand who you are in life until you've lived outside of the bubble that you're so accustomed to."

For students looking to occupy their summers, UHD is offering month-long courses in Costa Rica. Classes consist of three different levels of Spanish or the study of Latin American civilizations. The application deadline for this course is February 22, 2016, so there is plenty of time to really consider it. For students in search of a truly immersive experience, traditional semester-long study abroad courses are offered through a number of programs with which LHD partners. Placement options include China. Theiland, Chila, Ner

through a number of programs with which UHD partners. Placement options include China, Thailand, Chile, New Zealand, Russia, and those are just a few from a genuinely large and diverse list of destinations. All of the study abroad options available directly through UHD or its partners include the opportunity for

All of the study abroad options available directly through UHD or its partners include the opportunity for scholarships that pay a portion of trip expenses. Keep in mind, however, that each one has its own prerequisites and varying qualifications. The two most basic qualifications for every trip are: Students must be in good academic standing without any holds, and they must have at least 12 credit hours.

Whether you are certain that studying abroad was meant for you or you are just an interested party, initiating the application and information process is as easy as visiting the study abroad section of UHD's website and clicking Apply Now. From there, you can search the database of study abroad opportunities.

The study abroad office is hosting three info sessions through the remainder of September. They are on Thursday the 17th, Tuesday the 22nd, and Wednesday the 30th. Their office is located at S-370C.

### **Gator Health**

#### by Christina Movaghar

University of Houston - Downtown provides an array of resources for its students. One of them being a health center that some may not be aware of. Student Health Services is located on the fourth floor in S445, Dateline sat down and spoke with two of the center's directors, one for the clinic, and the other for counseling services.

We learned that the center has a contract with UHD for more than eight years from UT Medical, and continues tending to patients with a wide range of health and counseling needs. The clinic has counselors, three doctors, and one nurse practitioner. Together, they can take care of anything from a flu shot to a well woman exam. Blood work and confidential STD testing are also available for students that may need them. Clinic coordinator Janet Franco, stated that this is a "low cost clinic where students with or without insurance" are welcome. She also says that "students are our number one priority," and they will try their best to accommodate anyone that needs an appointment. The clinic however, does not write notes for missing classes, so she suggests that students schedule appointments during their free time when they do not have class.

Upon enrollment and payment of each semester, students are allotted five free sessions with a clinic counselor. Counselors at the clinic are professionally trained to help students deal with issues ranging from eating disorders to thoughts of suicide. Michelle Plamondon, LPC, says that the university has a counseling hotline that students can call 24 hours a day if they need someone to talk to. The counselors "rotate being on call," and answer the phones throughout the night, says Michelle. She urges students that need a safe place to talk to "utilize their university resources" and make an appointment to see one of the clinicians.

Education and resources for safe sex is something the clinic tries to provide. If a student needs access to condoms, they are welcome to visit the clinic and pick up a few. They are "never turned away and we do not want them to feel embarrassed about it," says Franco. The clinic also provides a private lactation room for nursing mothers.

Having affordable access to healthcare is important for all college students. The Health Services center at UHD aims to keep students healthy, both physically and mentally. Anyone who needs more information about the clinic is welcome to pay a visit and grab a pamphlet from room S445. Stay Healthy, Gators!

### Profile of a Professor: Jay Arnold

by Christina Movaghar

that he bets they "don't have as many

Success is not defined by where you come from. Success is not defined by who you are, or who you know. Success, according to a simple Google search, is "the accomplishment of an aim or purpose." From high-school dropout to Yale graduate, and then published author, Jay Arnold, an Academic Advisor here at UHD, has known his share of failures and successes. Dateline Downtown had an opportunity to sit and speak with him about his academic life, in hopes of encouraging students.

Jay Arnold graduated with his bachelor's degree from Texas State University at the age of 29. Before receiving his degree, he went through many ups and downs in his academic quest. After dropping out of high-school in order to become a mechanic to help his parents pay the bills, Jay received his GED at a local post office. Soon, he would enroll at Blinn College, and fall in love with the study of philosophy. It was at Blinn, the local community college, where he got his start in life. Jay believes that " community college is the American way." If it were not for the small college in his town, he, as well as others "would not have had the opportunity to attend a university" and earn a degree. Jay would soon be admitted to Texas A&M University where he admits that he "lost focus and didn't go to class." He had "three or four semesters of straight Fs," because he would enroll in classes, not drop them, and fail. With his unsatisfactory performance, Texas A&M let him go, or in his words "kicked him out."

At this point he "gave up on college," and started working odd jobs in order to make extra money. Jay often tells students who "feel like the world is over" because they got a semester of Fs, Fs on your transcripts as I do." These words can mean so much to struggling students, who cannot see a light at the end of their tunnel. His story however does not end there. After two or three years of working, his love for philosophy and writing started to stir inside of him. He says that at this time of his life he "knew what he wanted to do, but didn't have a college degree to do it." Jay told us he "tried to go back to A&M but they wouldn't take [him]." He also tried to attend the University of Texas, but to no avail. With his poor academic standing, it was difficult to get back into school.

His saving grace came when he was admitted into Texas State University in San Marcos. Jay told us that he likes to "compare Texas State University with UHD," because they were "similar with regards to their admissions policies." He says that schools like UHD give students the opportunity to excel where they might not be given that chance somewhere else. Jay does not believe in "academic snobbery" and feels that students should not feel inferior based on the schools they attend. He stands behind UHD with pride, knowing that it gives students a place to shine.

Upon his admission to Texas State, he made his decision to "work hard and put his nose to the grindstone," Jay shared with us. He graduated with a 3.9 GPA and wanted to attend an exemplary graduate school. This choice caused everyone to laugh at him because he "surely could not get into a top school with his track record." He often says, "if you set yourself a goal, don't expect people to be

supportive, but you have to do it anyway." After applying to seven of the top schools in the U.S, Jay was accepted into six of them. "The only one I didn't get into was Princeton, for some reason!" he says with a laugh. This came as a surprise to the naysayers, and he was invited by Texas State to give his graduating commencement speech. Jay is now an advisor, instructor, and published author with a book called Candi: or, the optimist, available for purchase wherever books are sold, including Amazon. He has overcome much adversity and wishes to encourage students like himself by reminding them that they can overcome anything. There is always a way out of the hole they might be in. He wants to remind us that he was a "high school dropout that went to a community college, got kicked out of a university, and five years later [he's] going to Yale." Having an unsuccessful past that you have overcome shows future employers, and graduate admissions boards that you can "fall, get back up and keep going." According to Jay, these are qualities that show "huge strength of character," and "speak a lot about a person." Anything is possible, no matter what your circumstances are. Success is what you choose, don't give

#### up. Go UHD Gators!





## Pogue Prose

by Joshua Burgman

Since the days of Joshua music has been used as a means to "rally the troops." It's written that the biblical general decimated the famed walls of Jericho at the breath of ram's horns. When Caesar marched on Rome, he did so at the thundering boom of the battle-cry, warning the Romans that war was just on the horizon. This has been a tradition for many millennia, and yet our university does not have a song that rallies the troops or announce our charging pursuit down the shaky roads of success. Kathrine Pogue, a lecturer at UHD, is seeking to help change the narrative.

"One Main Street high upon the hill. The bayou flowing to the sea, the glorious wide and open sky. Promised us our dream would never die," Pogue writes. The song is meant to ignite the spirit, and evoke feelings of pride. Like the battles of old, everyday each student that walks through these halls are engaged in a war of minds, wit, and sheer will. We possess a mental toughness that is reserved for those who are determined to succeed no matter what the obstacle; after all, we are fighting for our futures here. Pogue says that her song is only a suggestion, and isn't meant to be forced on students. Even if her version of a school song isn't accepted by faculty and students, she has certainly started the conversation as to why we do not have one.

Last year UHD celebrated 40 years of steadfast commitment to education and improving the city of Houston. So for 40 years our school has been in this fight without a battle-cry to march to. In the past four decades, UHD has exemplified the model of what education should be. In that time, the university has jumped leaps and bounds from its original existence, and has transformed the way it educates its students. However you slice it that equals success.

In the coming weeks the university will have only its second homecoming ever. As we approach the events that accompany homecoming, events that signal the beginning of another semester of hardships and joy, it would be nice to do so with a song that represents our commitment to the fight for our education. As the song goes, "Where ever life may take us, whatever we may do. UHD, we'll always praise you. UHD, we'll not forget you."



### Performances of Julius Caesar

Fri.	Oct.	23	Opening Night	8 p.m. curtain	
Sat.	Oct.	24	Performance	8 p.m. curtain	
Sun.	Oct.	25	Matinee Performance	3 p.m. curtain (10-minute pre-show talk)	
Mon.	Oct.	26	Dark		
Tues.	Oct.	27	Dark		
Wed.	Oct.	28	Student Matinee Performance 1:30 p.m. curtain (10-min. pre-show talk)		
Thurs.	Oct.	29	Performance 8 p.m. curtain		
Fri.	Oct.	30	Student Matinee Performance 1:30 p.m. curtain (eat at BW 3's, 3939		
				Washington Ave., between shows)	
Fri.	Oct.	30	Performance	8 p.m. curtain	
Sat.	Oct.	31	Closing Night (Halloween)	8 p.m. curtain	



### **Caesar's March on Main**

by Jason J. Rivas

Friends, Gators, countrymen, lend me your ears. This fall, the UHD Drama Department is proud to present their latest William Shakespeare adaptation: The Tragedy of Julius Caesar. The O'Kane Theatre will host nine showings of Caesar, as well a whole weekend of student-directed one-act plays, which are set to debut in November.

Shakespeare's most renowned political play, Julius Caesar tells a tale of allegiances, preemptive strikes, honor and betrayal, morality of assassination for the sake of the state, integrity, heroism, and various other political themes. Directed by Professor Kate Pogue, a respected scholar and author on Shakespeare. Mrs. Pogue has taught at the university for 15 years and has directed six plays, including various other Shakespeare classics such as Much Ado about Nothing. She previously has directed Shakespearean plays at a variety of venues, including the Houston Shakespeare Festival at Miller Outdoor Theatre and Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame. Last year, she led an alumni cast from the O'Kane Theatre in an experimental production of Caesar featuring Shakespeare's original pronunciation, which was then showcased at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

This year, Mrs. Pogue will adapt Caesar to American standard speech. As well, she will oversee an abbreviated version of the play, with an expected runtime of 80 minutes. This will allow for a more concentrated adaptation of one of history's greatest assassinations. The play will also be featured in an outdoor setting twice. The first being here at UHD, and the second at the Round Top Festival Institute's 18th Annual Theatre Forum. The Forum is a three-day weekend event dedicated to the classical origins of modern drama, with Mrs. Pogue's Caesar set to be performed on November 7.

The theatre recently held auditions to cast Caesar. These auditions also served as an acting pool for student directors to discover talent for their one-acts. Every fall, Dr. Lyttle, the Director of the UHD Drama program and O'Kane Theatre, teaches a Stage Directing class, in which each student goes through all the preparation and process of directing a one-act play. Additionally, the auditions were an opportunity for UHD students, faculty, staff, and alumni to get out of their comfort zone and try their hand at acting. The one-act plays range from comedic to dramatic scenes from iconic plays, an excerpt from a musical, a student-written endeavor, and three Spanish one-acts, a burgeoning stable of the theatre.

Julius Caesar will run October 23rd-31st with tickets going on sale October 9th. The one-acts will run November 19th-22nd to cap the fall calendar. Stay tuned to future Dateline announcements pertaining to the spring semester's play: The Unexpected Guest followed by two Lunchtime-Theatre productions.



UHD Sports & Fitnes Wednesdays Dance V 2:30pm - 3:45pm 11/18/15 9/16/15 Gnoreography **SLC Studio** \$10 for 10 classes **Register at the Student Life Center** 

www.uhd.edu/sportsandfitness

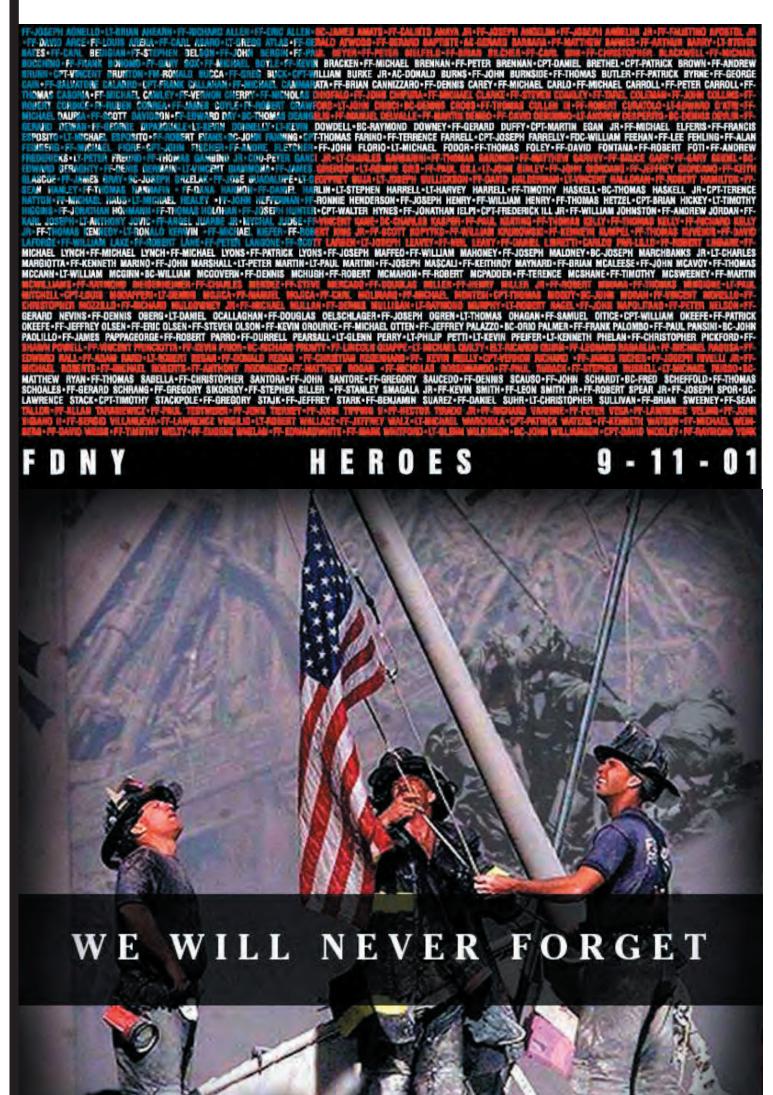
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