Students sign petition to help Venezuela

Students show their support for Venezuela by signing a White House government petition asking the US to intervene. Mohammad Mohsen / Dateline Downtown

International
by Jessica Hernando
Feature Editor

UHD students signed a White House government petition stating, "We petition the Obama Administration to intervene and help all Venezuelans suffering and fighting for freedom of the dictatorship and being killed brutally" on February 26. Informative posters decorated the mural area of the third floor. Face painting of the Venezuelan colors took place at school. Flyers and flag colored pins were being given out. Once students were informed about the current state of Venezuela, many were willing to sign. The petition currently has 23,768 signatures.

Venezuela has caught the attention of the news and media all over the world. Hashtags such as #PrayforVenezuela and #SOSVenezuela have been trending worldwide on Twitter. American news coverage over Venezuela has Americans asking what they can do to help, and whether or not the United States government is going to help. However, the question most students are asking is, "What is happening in Venezuela?"

“There’s a dictatorship going on in Venezuela,” said UHD Education major and Venezuelan student, Cecilia Zejia, "The government is hiding behind a democratic mask.”

On Venezuela’s National Youth Day, two million students came together to peacefully protest the economic and social crisis.

Plagiarism: Not a universal term

by Devalina Nag
Staff Writer

Don’t eil. Telling eils regularly may lead to misunderstandings with a loved one and cause you to experience cognitive dissonance (mental stress).

The above sentence did not make much sense, did it? This sentence clearly states two detrimental results of eils. But, since you do not know what “eil” means, you probably do not know how to avoid it. Now, if I tell you that “eil” is the reverse spelling of the word “lie,” then the sentence would make perfect sense.

When a person lacks the understanding of the meaning of a certain term, the person will find it difficult to put the meaning into practice. This is the very situation many international students at UHD when it comes to plagiarism.

International students who struggle with plagiarism roughly understand that plagiarism is a wrongdoing, and must be avoided at all cost from their in-class assignments. Alina D. Garcia / Dateline Downtown

Women’s Body Love workshop is a success

by Chelsea Conaway
Staff Writer

UHD Success presented the first annual Women’s Body Love Workshop on giving students the opportunity to come together and discuss women’s body issues on February 25. The workshop was organized in an effort to encourage self-love and empowerment among the student body at UHD.

The gender stereotype
Texas’ ban on gay marriage declared unconstitutional

by Vanessa Ramirez
Staff Writer

San Antonio judges declared the Texas ban on gay marriage unconstitutional at the same time that same-sex couples raise awareness of their un-giving right to marry who they love. Judge Orlando Garcia from San Antonio challenged the Texas’ ban on gay marriage. He claimed that the U.S. is taking away the right to marry from the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community “for no legitimate reason.”

“Everyone is human, and who they love does not define them,” said Christian Lopez, a UHD Alumni.

Others disagree with Lopez’s point of view, and believe that marriage should only be held between a male and female. “A woman is supposed to be with a man, that’s how we keep this cycle going,” said Angelica Garcia, another UHD Alumni.

Meanwhile, two same-sex couples from Texas have sued the state to get rid of this ban. One of the couples wants to get married; however, Texas does not allow it. The other couple travelled to Massachusetts to marry, but wants Texas to recognize their marriage. In November 2005, Texas became the 19th state to ban on same-sex marriage with only 44 percent of the people being for gay marriage. Recently, same-sex marriage rights have passed in a few states. More people are accepting that same-sex marriage and LGBT people are coming out at a younger age than they were in 2005. In 2008, 44 percent grew to 55 percent. The final decision on same-sex marriage is still pending, and many believe that this is a first great step into equal rights in Texas.

Same-sex marriage is a sensitive topic to many, as those against it believe that it is a sin, or that it ruins the definition of marriage—as a union only between a man and a woman. However, 17 out of 50 states have agreed to give the LGBT community the right to marry the same sex. That is 54 percent of the United States agreeing on same-sex marriage.

Texas, along with other states, is going to continue the process of fighting for LGBT rights.

UHD students become volunteer voter registrars during Spring Break

by Theodore Shull
News Editor

While many students were traveling or relaxing over the Spring Break holiday, a diverse group of community-service minded students showed up on UHD campus to become volunteer deputy voter registrars in Harris County.

Past and present leaders of the UHD Student Government Association organized the campaign, and with the active participation from multiple organizations and colleges, marched together on March 11 towards the Harris County Administration Building.

Upon arrival at the offices of Mike Sullivan, Harris County Tax Assessor and Voter Registrar, the group was so large that many had to sit on the floor or in the doorway of the classroom where the training was provided. All present voluntarily filled out the necessary forms and sat through over an hour of required training and lecture.

One of the chief organizers of this event was Ivan Sanchez, recent graduate and former student body president of UHD, who was surprised and very excited about the large turnout for the event. Sanchez is the district immigration liaison for US Representative Sheila Jackson Lee. TV station Channel 59 recently interviewed him regarding an article he wrote entitled “Why Latinos Don’t Vote through the eyes of a new generation.”

According to Sanchez, many immigrants to the US come from countries that have long histories of corrupt and repressive regimes, which can foster a feeling of fear and intimidation that leads to low voter participation even after gaining US citizenship.

“Latino community often suffers from much lower rates of univer- sity level education, and economic status, when compared to other ethnic groups, and this trend also manifests itself in lower rates of voter participation,” Sanchez mentioned. “Our efforts today to become voter registrars will not only reflect positively on our resumes in the future, but also help us to ex- pand voter participation in the communities that we live in.”

Submission Policy

Dateline Downtown welcomes submissions to the editor from any member of the UH system. Submissions should be no more than 300 words, include the au-thor’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-546, email them to dateline.editor@uhd.edu 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.

Dateline Downtown is the official student-produced newspaper of The University of Houston-Downtown. Columns and letters are the opinions of individual students and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other individual student writers, editors, or advisors of the University of Houston-Downtown, its administration or students.
The Dream Act: Turning into a bad dream

by Theodore Shull
News Editor

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the lead agency for processing DACA renewals, has posted on its website that recipients of DACA benefits are solely responsible for ensuring that they submit all supporting documents, and their renewal fee of $465.00 before their work authorization permits expire. One UHD junior who received deferred action shortly after the President implemented the program, Sara, was not even aware of the renewal requirements.

“I thought that they would just send me a renewal card in the mail, I didn’t expect to have to jump through all of these hoops all over again!”

A local Houston immigration attorney spoke with Dateline about the renewal process, and gave some advice for those who need to reapply.

“Save money and contact an attorney for assistance with the renewal process, and don’t rely on information from friends, neighbors or relatives because it may not be correct,” said the immigration attorney.

“The USCIS has a reputation of being very finicky and unforgiving for even minor mistakes in paperwork. Most importantly, don’t drop out of school! If for some reason you have dropped out, re-enroll immediately, because your eligibility is directly tied to your enrollment. Don’t submit any form of payment to an attorney or notary to begin working on your renewal, while the extension of DACA has been announced, the official forms and process have not been made public yet.”

“I think that the government is taking advantage of students, making us pay nearly $500 every two years, without giving us real permanent status,” Sara added. “I am really concerned about what will happen after graduation, and if I will be eligible to find work here with the college degree I earned here.”

Venezuela

continuing from page 1

arising from Venezuela’s alleged illegitimate government on February 12. Insecurity, scarcity, corruption, inflation and censorship are among the many reasons the students decided to protest.

Venezuela is one of the most dangerous countries in the world. During 2015, about 9,500 people were killed in Iraq. Compared to Venezuela, about 25,000 homicides took place last year alone and a majority of those cases have not been just. 92 percent of those crimes have gone unsolved with no convictions or punishments made.

Blackouts have also become frequent in most cities but what concerns Venezuelans even more is the scarcity of basic life supplies. The supermarkets are empty, the bread has no food,” Zejia said. “People have to wait in line just to get toilet paper.”

In addition to food and supply shortages, medicine is also hard to come by. It has been estimated that the pharmaceutical industry is facing a shortage of 40 percent. Hospitals are unable to adequately treat patients due to a lack of medications.

The country’s instability can be traced back to an evident problem in economics.

“In Venezuela, the economy is based on oil. Oil is their commodity,” said Dr. Edgardo Colon, UHD Political Science professor. “So changes in the price of oil will affect their budget.”

In 1999, the oil price was $9 per barrel and today it is around $100 per barrel. Since then, Venezuela has had the lowest economic growth index of Latin America at only percent. The value of their currency, the Bolivar, has been devaluated five times which amounts to 15 thousand percent in the last 15 years.

Venezuela also has one of the highest inflation rates in the world marking at 56.3 percent last year (the 2015 U.S. inflation rate is 1.5 percent). Consequently, the supplies that are available are priced exceedingly high and more than the average Venezuelan can afford. Many blame the country’s economic crisis on government corruption.

“The government is against capitalism and positive growth for the country. They are taking things from the public for themselves,” Zejia said. “They don’t want the public to be happy.”

Venezuela’s own military and police forces have accused, arrested, abused, tortured and even killed innocent citizens, including students, for peacefully protesting their rights. One scene in the video shows a young man being chased by two policemen who caught up to him and started hitting and kicking him.

The question that now remains is, “Why should Americans and students care about what is happening in Venezuela?”

“The students of Venezuela are fighting for what they want by peacefully protesting and they are being treated unjustly because of it,” Zejia said.

“We need to support the Venezuelan students because we are students too.”

Many radio stations, new stations, and TV channels supporting the opposition have been forcibly closed down to prevent the public from seeing what the government does not want them to see or know. Newspapers are having a hard time finding paper and are unable to inform the public through print. Twitter accounts and pictures have also been censored by the government.

The biggest and only means the opposition has to inform the public and the world is social media. While Twitter related hashtags continue to trend, videos informing the public of Venezuela have gone viral on YouTube. The video “What’s going on in Venezuela in a nutshell (English version)” shows powerful pictures and graphic footage. The video showed scenes of protests against the government, burning cars, smoke and flames on the streets, rapid fire gunshots, masses of people coming together to pray and hundreds of citizens either fighting, screaming or running away.

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“We need to support the Venezuelan students because we are students too.”

These principles include a respect for human rights such as the right to equality before the law, freedom from torture and degrading treatment, and right to life, liberty and personal security; rights of the people that are currently being oppressed due to government action.

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**Editor for 2014-15 needed**

The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, and successful candidate should make his or herself available for training some time after the end of the Spring semester, 2014. Candidates must commit for the entire 2014-15 academic year.

Duties include working cooperative-ly with student business manager and student adviser, developing and managing a stable of student freelance writers to cover academics, administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of theatre, film, music, and the arts. Typical commitment is 20 hours per week.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or communications courses; and the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until March 31 or until the position is filled. To apply download and complete the application form on UHD web site, along with resume and letter of application and forward as attachment to Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.

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**Business Manager for 2014-15 needed**

The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of business manager for Dateline Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but training is desirable with the current staff prior to the Fall 2014 semester. Candidates must commit for the entire 2014-15 academic year.

Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and selling advertising space in the paper, including businesses in the campus neighborhood. Desire, ability, and ideas for selling advertising in the paper will be important issues for consideration of your application. Successful candidate will train on People-Soft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Typical commitment is 20 hours per week, monthly salary plus 15 percent commission on ad sales.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic business courses; and the maintenance of at least a 2.5 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until March 31 or until the position is filled. To apply download and complete the application form on UHD web site, along with resume and letter of application and forward as attachment to Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

Response to “Coca-Cola Super Bowl commercial”

March 18, 2014

**Dear Editor:**

I am in agreement with the feelings of outrage expressed in the “Coca-Cola Super Bowl Commercial Sparks Controversy” article. Social media platforms such as Twitter or Facebook are sorts of breeding grounds for all manner of controversial discussions, and the issue of race is not excluded. Some trending topics on the web, pertaining to the article, sent us an ugly view of some Americans’ outright bigotry. The Coco-Cola commercial, a vision of cultural diversity in America and appreciation for being an American citizen, ended up inciting the dialogue of the prejudiced.

So, in light of the backlash I had heard and read, I decided to ask the following questions: If the people who have taken such issue with the commercial think so highly of themselves, being a part of the American nation, what is so bad about others looking up to America? If America is indeed a "beautiful" nation, as per "America the Beautiful," what causes it to be beautiful? Does uniformity properly answer these questions?

The Merriam-Webster definition of the root word uniform is “not varying or changing: not being the same.”

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**EDITORIAL**

Being a senior: The best and worst

by Chad Anthony
via uloop.com

**Starting a career**

For some of us, real life begins after graduation. The job offer is accepted and you are finally on your way to utilizing that major in some aspect other than class discussion. For others sticking with academia, more school simply means better chances in the job market at a later date. Either way, the future looks bright with sparkling adventures and no regrets – yet. Life after college provides an opportune learning experience. A new chapter in your life starts with brand new people. It’s like college all over again (kind of). And remember, you are far from the person you were that first day freshman year. That school embroidery finally fades away on that bottle opener you bought during Orientation Weekend.

It’s not at all like college

That’s your first real world check: expect hopes to be dashed. The past four years, however fulfilling they may have been, come crashing to a halt. Everyone is moving away. The college life of raving whenever possible, going to class at odd times during the day, and sleeping in between day-drinks and night-time bar hopping most crushingly fizzle out. We seniors must carry this burden of pending reality for two entire semesters. Imagine buying a puppy. You love the puppy so much, you take it to the vet only to find out it has two semesters to live. Rising juniors, get ready to begrudgingly take the torch.

**Seriously, there should be a support group**

Senioritis /senyor-itis/: an illness typically affecting fourth or fifth year undergraduate students; symptoms include but are not limited to laziness, significant loss of motivation and/or drive, extended periods of not being able to think, and a drive to drink, tendency to skip classes, pretending your job pursuit isn’t as pressing as it actually is, justifying irresponsible behavior because of a somewhat made up illness, going out when you shouldn’t, committee meeting with friends over the ever encroaching graduation date, and general sensation of not giving a damn about anything that’s constantly happening around you.

**Spring semester breeze**

My condolences to those unable to participate in the raucous behavior, engineering majors and bio/chem majors. The majority of your hard classes are out of the way! Say hello to Wine Tasting and Scuba Diving. With 11-15 credits on your plate, you can really cherish the last moments on your beloved campus, and/or friends. And when I say “credits,” I mean those couple general elective classes you need to round out your major. That Music History 101 class with all freshmen turns into your designated nap time, regardless of whether you attend. Sleep on couches, stay up late, put off that Geology 201 presentation about rats caked in dirt.

**That dreaded day**

Periodically throughout the second semester, signs of impending doom surface. Picking up your cap and gown makes everything sink in. Facebook becomes littered with emotional rants about the final days. Instagram is showered with pictures of tassels and caps with the #Crying4dayz. Family members mark “The Big Day!” on their calendars. Oh don’t you worry, that estranged Aunt Betty is coming, along with that strange uncle who doesn’t say much. But after the awkward hugs and gut wrenching good-byes, you realize that this moment will be unlike any other. Everything that once was, is now gone. But, you’ll keep those friends - those memories - with you for a lifetime.
Innocence lost – A soldier’s story

by Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

It is late in the evening. Light from the television covers Jesse as he lies on the couch. Half awake, he hears a report on CNN. The Obama administration is planning for the possible withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the end of the year – if no security agreement is reached.

Combat operations in Afghanistan will end this year. For the US to keep forces beyond 2014, an agreement needs to be reached with the Afghan president. President Karzai has refused to sign an agreement, which appears to be a political move concerning the upcoming elections for new Afghan leadership.

A few moments pass. Jesse screams in disgust, throwing a half empty beer bottle across the room. He curls up into a ball and cries.

As a boy, Jesse would play “war” with his younger brother. With make-shift guns and sling-shots, they would run around the neighborhood. Their father was prior military and proud. Serving the country and chasing the American Dream were paramount for this American family.

In high school, Jesse was approached by an Army recruiter on Career Day. The recruiter was a good salesman who promised the world to Jesse – travel, adventure and the GI Bill. After graduation, he enlisted for six years. Jesse endured many weeks of training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. This Initial Entry Training is required and necessary before deployment. His MOS or “Military Occupation Specialty” was 11B Infantryman. Of all his responsibilities, Jesse enjoyed reconnaissance the most.

Afghanistan was Jesse’s home for nearly three years. Some days were spent sitting around; entertaining his fellow troopers – trying to get a laugh. Other days involved contact with the enemy. Whatever the circumstance, the soldiers passed time as best they could.

One evening, Jesse and his battle buddy were patrolling south of camp. The air was quiet and the sky was clear. Jesse looked up at the millions of stars and thought of home - back to the days of Lake Somerville and camping with his family. For that moment, all was well. With a smile on his face, Jesse looked over to his buddy across the road. The soldier asked Jesse, “What are you so happy about?”

There was an explosion and a flash a light. Jesse was knocked to the ground. His buddy was gone – he had tripped an IED buried in the roadway. Jesse stumbled to find the soldier but only found pieces of him spread across the blast area.

In Jesse’s unit, the soldiers shared life and death together. These soldiers were brothers – they were all that Jesse had. They were his family. It has been three months since Jesse left Afghanistan. He finds himself alone in his living room. Like many soldiers, Jesse has succumbed to addiction and thoughts of suicide.

Soldiers such as Jesse trust their government and are willing to sacrifice. They cling to the words of President Kennedy who said, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country!” Our soldiers live to serve America.

Before going to war, we need to ask if the pain, torment and sacrifice to be suffered by our soldiers are worth it. Unfortunately, the campaign in Afghanistan has been unclear. Our purpose has morphed over the years. Originally, we invaded Afghanistan in retaliation for the attacks on September 11, 2001. We were determined to destroy Al Qaeda and its ability to support and conduct terrorist activities. Al Qaeda is still around.

Another goal of occupying Afghanistan was to find and kill Osama bin Laden. The U.S. military killed him in May of 2011. Bin Laden was found in Pakistan, not Afghanistan. Three years later, the U.S. is still in Afghanistan.

Other reasons cited for U.S. occupation are the rebuilding of Afghanistan and our strategic interest in the region.

Pulling out of Afghanistan will have terrible consequences. Our absence will ensure Al Qaeda’s survival and its terrorist plans will continue. Our effective rebuilding of Afghanistan will deteriorate – this country will engage in civil war and eventually return to its pre-conflict self.

This is something Jesse battle within his mind. He is happy that his brothers may soon come home but knows if we leave Afghanistan, the country will implode – as if we were never there. Jesse wonders if his sacrifices, as well as those of the soldiers before him, matter.

We depend on our government to make the right choices in utilizing our soldiers. To fight for an actual purpose is noble. To fight for an agenda or political reasons is evil.

Light shines through the narrow window, bathing the flag that rests peacefully on the closed casket. With their make-shift guns and slingshots, they chase the enemy.
KISS to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

After being neglected for over 15 years, KISS will finally be inducted in the Rock & Roll hall of Fame this year, but will not perform at the ceremony as many fans and the Hall thought they would be.

by Juan A. Hernandez
Arts &Entmt/Sports Editor

Rock & Roll icons KISS have had a tremendous career as a band, spanning a total of 40 years. Selling over 100 million records around the world and charting 28 gold albums, KISS remains one of the world's most-selling bands of all time. Since its inception in 1974, KISS has reached unattainable heights of success, plummeted to the lowest pits of rock bottom, and managed to get back on top like no other band ever has in their career.

For the first time since their eligibility in 1999, KISS is being inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on April 10, 2014, along with Pete Gabriel, Hall & Oates, Nirvana, Linda Ronstadt, and Cat Stevens. It is surprising to think that KISS would have already been in the Hall since their first year of eligibility, especially because the original lineup was still together then in 1999 at the height of their critically and commercially successful reunion tour. The biggest blow that has come out of the band being inducted is that they will not be performing at the ceremony like many other bands have in the past. Originally, the Hall intended for the original lineup to perform, but founding members Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons quickly shot down any ideas of performing with fellow founding members Ace Frehley and Peter Criss who have been out of the band for almost 12 years.

Original lead guitarist Ace Frehley first issued his statement on the Hall's situation, stating that he and Gene do not want KISS to perform the ceremony in respect to every lineup of the band. It is important to note that the current KISS lineup has been together for over 12 years, and has since been well-received among fans worldwide.

Most purists will never understand that this move by Paul and Gene is primarily a business decision and not a personal one. Had they intended to perform with the original lineup, rumors would have once again been kicked-started about another reunion tour with the original lineup, which is clearly what Paul and Gene do not want.

Regardless of whether or not KISS will perform at the ceremony, they will finally be inducted after 15 years of eligibility. The biggest crime here is not KISS's decision on not performing, but rather the Hall for ignoring a band that has influenced millions of musicians worldwide, and have made their mark in music history.

Video game movies: Are they the next big thing?

by Brian Frost
via uloop.com

The movie industry is forever changing. While the phrase "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn" was once both astonishing and groundbreaking, today we have Oscar hopeful The Wolf of Wall Street, a record total of 522 F bombs. Hollywood’s sources have grown over the years as well, from best-selling books to Hasbro action figures. But the latest trend to sweep the box office has been comic book movies, which began in 1998 with the commercial success of Blade and steadily gained momentum with X-Men (2000) Spider-Man (2002), and Batman Begins (2005); eventually culminating in the mega blockbuster hit The Avengers (2012). Comic inspired movies are still going strong, with the upcoming Avengers: Age of Ultron and the tentatively titled Batman vs. Superman; they've even seeped into television, with the CW's hit Arrow (and its Flash spinoff) along with the upcoming Gotham show on Fox and the four Marvel series to be produced for Netflix. But that hasn't stopped Hollywood for searching for the next big thing, and what they've found might surprise you.

It is the video game movie that will next dominate the world's box offices, an idea that seemed impossible not too long ago. To date, silver screen adaptations have been lukewarm at say the least, from the atrocious Super Mario Bros. (1993) to the more recent, but still eagerly ignored Resident Evil series and Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time. But the first true success is right around the corner. This March 14 Need for Speed gets its film adaptation starring Aaron Paul (Breaking Bad), then on August 7, 2015 we'll be given the Michael Fassbender (Prometheus, X-Men: First Class) led Assassin's Creed, followed by Warcraft (based on the online game World of Warcraft) on March 11, 2016. These are the first games in the new wave to hit theaters, but they will be far from the last. Ubisoft, the developer behind Assassin's Creed is leading the charge and has recently formed their own studio, Ubisoft Motion Pictures. They plan to adapt several of their IP's in the coming years, namely Far Cry 3, Raving Rabbids, Splinter Cell (starring Tom Hardy) and the upcoming Watch Dogs. Along the vein of Raving Rapids Sony will be putting out two video game inspired animated features, Ratchet & Clank (2015) and Sly Cooper (2016). All of this is coupled with a statement from producer Avi Arad, who has had his hand in just about every marvel cinematic property to date, stating that he is involved with the production of movies based on the Uncharted, Metal Gear Solid, and Mass Effect franchises. Uncharted is supposedly the furthest along, although it has had its share of setbacks. Originally Uncharted had Silver Linings Playbook and American Hustle writer/director David O. Russell crafting the script with Mark Wahlberg attached to star.
Two of the most well-known welterweights in boxing today will go at it for the second time in their careers, as Timothy Bradley defends the WBO Welterweight Championship against longtime rival Manny Pacquiao.

by Juan A. Hernandez

Arts&Entmt/Sports Editor

This rematch is set almost two years after their first championship bout, where Bradley defeated Pacquiao by what most considered a controversial split decision that clearly had Pacquiao winning the card. All three judges scored the bout 115-113 in favor of Bradley, giving way to Pacquiao’s first defeat in over seven years.

Pacquiao currently holds a boxing record of 55 wins, 5 losses, and 2 ties; whereas Bradley holds 31 wins and no losses. In his last fight against Brandon Rios, Pacquiao won via unanimous decision while Bradley retained the WBO Welterweight Championship against Juan Manuel Marquez in his last bout. Boxing has been met with widespread criticism of recent bout decisions, and many have questioned the sport’s credibility when it comes to making those decisions. Yet after two years of having met, this match will certainly not be a repeat of the first. Pacquiao struggled to get back on top after his staggering defeat against Marquez that resulted in Marquez knocking out Pacquiao with just one second left in the sixth round.

This defeat comes right after Pacquiao was defeated by Bradley in their first controversial encounter. If Pacquiao manages to defeat Bradley, he will not only become the new WBO Welterweight Champion, but will also put an end to Bradley’s undefeated boxing record. This can also set in motion speculation for a third and final fight, but only if Pacquiao wins. If Bradley wins, however, he will retain the WBO Welterweight Championship and extend his record of wins to 32.

Pacquiao and Bradley will square off on April 12 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Say hello to Tanner, the UHD Powerlifting team member

COMM Media
Campaigns Class

Meet Tanner Surratt, a member of the UHD Powerlifting team. Coach Hudson recruited Surratt during his last year of high school. Despite his young age, Surratt already has six years’ worth of experience in Powerlifting.

“I started lifting weight since I was 13, and the next year I started doing Powerlifting,” said Surratt.

At 20, he has participated in championships such as AAU Junior Olympic Games and WABDL National Collegiate Bench Press and Deadlift Championships. His personal best in squat is 407.7lb and in deadlift is 542.2lb. As a child Tanner tried many different kinds of sports, but he enjoyed powerlifting the most.

“I tried it, and I liked it. I enjoyed it so much that I became successful at it,” said Surratt.

Surratt believes that powerlifting taught him how to be disciplined. He says that discipline is important in every sport and can help to succeed in life. The members of the UHD Powerlifting team have to come to training session three times a week or more, eat healthy, watch their weight and stay away from drugs.

“This month the team is getting ready for the regional championship for power lifting and the training is getting very intense. When it comes to competition the judging plays a big role. In a squat lift a bicep femoris (also known as hams) of the athlete must come parallel to the floor and then go lower. The so called ‘proper position’ may vary. “There are too many rules and the ‘proper squat’ varies depending on the judge,” said Surratt.

He says that a properly executed lift might not count if the judge did not consider it “proper.”

Despite all the rules Surratt has been training very hard and looks forward to the upcoming competition.
Experiences abroad enhance opportunities

by Alicia Calender
Staff Writer

Eric Ganzo and Ever David Florez, two UHD seniors and International Business majors, share their experience of studying abroad. Both students described that the experience allowed them to enroll in classes that complemented their major. Their time abroad not only focused on their academic career, but it also included personal benefits too, such as learning about a different culture.

"When employers see that I have international experience, they are interested in what I learned and gained," Ganzo said.

Studying in a different country offers opportunities not available in the classroom. Dr. Sara Jahansouz, Dean of Students said studying abroad provides students an opportunity to explore global citizenship.

"It enables opportunities to learn about differing cultures and customs, while earning credit to support their degree program," Dr. Jahansouz said. "It also allows students to develop international travel competencies. The experience challenges students to learn and grow through the context of higher education from a global perspective."

Both students experienced their time in France, the city of Lille for Ganzo and the city of Nice for Florez. The study abroad program involved taking classes at a local university. At the same time, both students ventured into neighboring cities in Europe, including Barcelona. Both students feel that they gained a lot from their experience and would recommend it to any student who is hoping to gain experience or supplement their academic career interests.

According to Isabel Toledo, Coordinator of International & Study Abroad Programs, there are many programs that allow a student to study abroad, but before they decide to go overseas they should be aware of certain circumstances.

"The process of applying to go abroad involves basic steps, but sometimes mistakes are made during the application process, including not consulting with their academic advisor," Toledo said. "Once they have done this, students can choose to go alone or participate in faculty led trips."

Toledo also suggests that students should choose a country to study abroad that interests them so the students can experience something new.

Overall, going abroad is open to all majors, but before a student considers going overseas, they should research the country.

"Learn about a country's history and keep an open mind," Toledo advised. "For example, a student should not assume that everyone speaks English," she added.

For students, the experience has many rewards, such as improving your self-confidence, encouraging one to be adventurous. Studying abroad also looks appealing on a resume and opens up the possibility of job offers when looking for internships or employment in the near future.

"The experience of being abroad highlights my ability to be able to adapt to a culture in a different country," Florez added.

Plagiarism continued from page 1 lectures. Most of these students fail to understand the meaning of the word "plagiarism." The reason is that plagiarism is not a universal term, which means that plagiarism cannot be translated into many existent languages because plagiarism may not exist as a vocabulary term.

"I do not have the exact Vietnamese translation for the word 'plagiarism,'" said Thuy Nguyen, an Accountant major at UHD who was born and raised in Vietnam.

International students, whose first language is not English, suffer from the lack of an adequate translation of the term 'plagiarism,' making it difficult for them to understand the reasoning behind the term. As a result, the students face challenges when trying to avoid it.

"I have seen from my experience that students who have submitted plagiarized papers to me are usually those whose first language is not English, although there are several exceptions," said Dr. Matiko Bivins, a Psychologist and instructor at UHD.

There are rules, rubrics and guidelines to avoid plagiarism while expressing ones gathered knowledge from internet or databases on a topic when writing an academic paper. It is not feasible to cite every source containing the same trivial information that a student puts on a research paper, in other words, facts that are common knowledge do not require citations. However, copying word-for-word would still be considered plagiarism.

"This plagiarism is confusing to me," said Haime, a junior at UHD whose first language is Amharic. "I did not know what it was until I came here. I find it difficult to avoid plagiarism, unlike most students [at UHD]. It is too complicated for me."

Dr. Bivins feels that students who do not speak English as their first language lack the knowledge and ability that is needed to effectively reword or rephrase information that they read online. The tactics and techniques of being able to effectively paraphrase are vital in academic writing.

Often times, students hear their professor say, "If you plagiarize in my class, you will fail this course." In order to avoid the act of plagiarism, course instructors are required to print the Academic Honesty Policy on their syllabus.

International students and students with a first language other than English are encouraged to visit the library or the writing center to avoid being a victim of their innocent mistakes.

"I have plagiarized, but not purposely," Haime said.

This is not to suggest that rules, rubrics and guidelines for plagiarism need to be eliminated or the consequences of plagiarizing on an academic paper should be less ruinous for the student at fault. However, it is important to ensure that students are not just aware of the consequences of plagiarizing, but also understand the broad meaning of plagiarism in its entirety. This can be done with regular workshops that teach the concept of plagiarism.

"I would love to attend workshops that teach methods to avoid plagiarism. That would be great," Nguyen said.
What is postpartum depression
by Abigail Murillo
Staff Writer

A 23-year-old mother from Texas is being accused of murdering her infant daughter by letting her starve to death. The woman, Tiffany Klapheke, claims she was suffering from a deep depression after her husband abandoned her. Klapheke claims that the depression and stress was too much for her to handle while having to care for all three of her children on her own.

People are skeptical over her case. Some argue she should be punished for her crime, while others are suggesting therapy sessions since they believe the woman suffered from postpartum depression. Postpartum depression can affect any mother within the first three months after delivery or even up to a year afterward. The exact causes of postpartum depression are not known but some probable factors include physical changes in a woman's body after her pregnancy, hormonal changes, lack of sleep, changes in work and doubts of their ability to be a good mother.

Marissa Garcia, mother of two and student at San Jacinto College, tells us her thoughts on the case and recalls how she handled her stress as a mother. Garcia had her first son at the age of 17, while she was still in high school. "After I found out I was pregnant, I was scared but I was not going to abort my baby," Garcia said.

Garcia described her pregnancy as a very stressful one because of her boyfriend constantly causing problems. She did not have his support which made things a lot more difficult for Garcia. She said she always felt fatigued and her hormones had her moody at all times.

"My hormones were off the walls and everywhere," Garcia said.

After Garcia had her first son, Bryan, she said life became even more exhausting and she often found herself in tears from the stress. However, Garcia’s first reaction to the case of Tiffany Klapheke was one of shock. Garcia understands the pressure and intense stress a mother can go through but firmly believes it is never the child’s fault.

"Your baby didn’t ask to be born," said Garcia. "I don’t understand how they could kill their babies, that thought has never crossed my mind, even at my worst times."

Her second child, Leilanni, was born six months ago and Garcia has managed to find a way to dedicate time to her children and school. She said her main concern was possibly neglecting her kids because of work and school. Garcia explained the best way to dedicate time to school without feeling like she neglects her children is by trying to finish all her homework at school so when she arrives home, she can give her full attention to both her children.

Garcia recounts the stressful moments provoked by the lack of support of her children’s father. The only support Garcia received came from her mother, who cared for her children while she was at school. Her mother is currently in bad health and can no longer care for her children to Garcia’s distress.

Garcia described that life is full of obstacles and one must always stay positive to overcome them. She explained that burying yourself into your troubles will always make life seem much more miserable.

Garcia gives this advice to all student mothers: "Never give up on yourself or your children. Take every life threat thrown at you with a clear mind and if you’re feeling overwhelmed; it’s best to talk to someone else about it. If things seem to be getting too difficult for you, then professional help is the way to go. Life is hard, but don’t ever give up on your kids, killing them won’t solve your depression."

80% of women experience baby blues, which is a feeling of sadness and emotional surges that begin in the first days after childbirth.

( Follow Soothika to find out How to overcome postpartum depression / babyblues)

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Why you can’t multitask

by Shelby Copeland
via uloop.com

It’s a typical Sunday, and you make a mental list of all the things you have to do to prepare the week: read history chapter, finish math questions 6-19, write the conclusion sentence of your English paper and do laundry. At about 6:30 p.m., your friends call you out for dinner and you remember that your favorite show is premiering at 9 p.m. No big deal. Then you get a text from your girlfriend/boyfriend that reads “Call you later, I gotta tell you something.”

You make a plan in your head, you say to yourself “After I eat, I’ll put my clothes in the laundry and start reading, then try to knock out my English paper. At 9, I’ll watch my favorite show and do math during the commercials. By the time ‘bae’ calls, I’ll probably be almost done and can just relax.”

Except you’re wrong. Besides having some time management issues, there’s another problem going on there that you may not have noticed—the myth of multitasking.

This is of particular interest to me because it took a long time for me to accept the notion that a person cannot multitask effectively. Multitasking was basically a sport for me. However, I want to share why it doesn’t work and how you can be more productive.

First off, let me clarify that it is possible to multitask, just not to multitask effectively—as in giving the same amount of attention to two things at the same time. You may argue that you can talk and drive, breathe and blink or even walk and listen to music. However, what you’re doing isn’t exactly multitasking.

Taking a hint from my psychology class, things like walking, breathing, blinking are called automatic processes. Basically they don’t need thought, it is more like muscle memory, if anything. According to the American Psychology Association, automatic processes are “processes that do not require attention; they can often be performed along with other tasks without interference.”

In the all-too-familiar scenario above, what’s happening isn’t automatic. That is trying to do two things at the same time. NPR’s story, The Myth of Multitasking, with Cliford Nass, a psychology professor at Stanford University and host Ira Flatow discuss how multitasking affects your thinking:

NASS: That’s right. No, [people who multitask all the time] actually think they’re more productive. They actually think they tend to—and most notably, they think they can shut it off, and that’s been the most striking aspect of this research.

We - the people we talk with continually said, look, when I really have to concentrate, I turn off everything and I am laser-focused. And unfortunately, they’ve developed habits of mind that make it impossible for them to be laser-focused. They’re suckers for irrelevancy. They just can’t keep on task.

So actually, it turns out that multitasking is actually counterproductive.

This is all still hard for me to believe, myself but there are some ways to get in the habit of managing your time while still getting work done. The main reason we tend to multitask is because it’s time consuming to do everything and still get to do the things that we want to do. Anyone remember the quote by James Wooden:

“Perhaps, we can learn to somehow evolve into learning new ways to balance activities. Yet until then, try not to multitask—you’re not very good at it. No one is.”

Workshop continued from page 1

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4 Technologies that are revolutionizing education

by Malcolm Aquino via uoloop.com

1. Tablets

The popularity of tablets in the classroom can already be seen in many places. Apple has partnered with public and private institutions to provide iPads to students for school. The iPad and competition like the Nexus 10 have changed the way we go to school. Tablets offer up a plethora of features that make learning easier. Whether it’s the access to millions of useful apps or the portability of them, tablets have proven that they are here to stay. They replace the now archaic notebook and pen and are quickly replacing laptops as the thing to bring to class. It’s hard to argue against them, since there are so many new types of tablets coming out every few months.

2. The Cloud

The Cloud is a large number of servers where users can save any type of file to. Cloud computing is becoming to be used in many different fields. It is already a big part of the music industry, with programs like Spotify and sites like SoundCloud. Apple has created its iCloud format, which was fully implemented into iPhones with the iOS 7 update and Microsoft has thrown its hat in the ring with SkyDrive and Microsoft Office 365. There are also things like Google Drive, Docs, and Dropbox that utilize cloud computing for storage of important files. For educational purposes, the Cloud is important in a few ways. First, it allows students (and teachers) to have a safe, reliable place to store important files like papers or lesson plans. Google Docs allows different users to edit the same document, making group projects even easier to manage. The Cloud is already starting to become a significant part in 21st Century functionality, so it’s natural that schools are going to adapt and keep up with the times.

3. iVersity

iVersity is the future of education because it is the first website that offers higher level courses that are available to anyone and are free of cost. Utilizing many different types of media, an iVersity class takes a different approach to teaching. Lessons are published once a week, and can be viewed and completed at the user’s convenience. For example, in the “Future of Story Telling” course, teachers provide a quick lecture giving you an overview of key terms and techniques. They will also provide links of other lectures or examples from the lesson that week. In addition, iVersity has assignments that can be completed and shared in the class discussion board. Since it is completely online, there are students from all over the world and from different age groups.

4. Municipal WiFi

Municipal WiFi will allow students to be connected at all times, which in turn lets them have the ability to learn from anywhere. Much like most college campuses now.

Science Corner

Get vaccinated! Stop the spread!

By Laura-Michelle Graczyk, Mary Truong, Ted Uotani and Andrew Phan
Contributing Writers

The seasonal flu hospitalizes 200,000 people and kills 36,000 every year in the U.S. That’s comparable to the number of women killed by breast cancer and more than twice the number of people killed by AIDS annually, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC)! Why then do so many persons, especially college students, not receive the recommended vaccinations, even when they are readily available at student health services, pharmacies and clinics?

Vaccines don’t just protect you from diseases; they also prevent the spread of diseases to others. College students are particularly vulnerable due to exposure in high-trafficked areas such as classrooms, cafeterias and dormitories. Have you had all your shots? Are you debating whether you should get them? Read on.

Vaccines work by introducing a weak or inactive form of the disease-causing microbe into your body. Since the microbe in the vaccine is a weakened or killed form, it doesn’t cause the disease, but your immune system doesn’t know that and mounts an attack. In addition to eliminating the microbe in the vaccine, the immune system prepares itself for any future exposure to that microbe.

How, you ask? By producing memory cells that will recognize the live intruder upon future exposure, and respond faster and more strongly to eliminate the microbe – pretty smart, right? Think of each vaccine as a way to build armies that will fiercely fight the microbes. Wouldn’t you feel safer with an immune system that’s armed and ready for a surprise attack? The effect of some vaccines wears off after a period of time, so remember to get booster shots. A commonly forgotten booster is tetanus; it is required every ten years to prevent a bacterial infection that can lead to uncontrollable muscle spasms and even death. When did you have your last tetanus booster?

If you’re a student, you probably got your meningitis shot recently. In January 2012, the meningitis vaccine became mandatory for all Texas students entering an institution of higher education. Incoming students rush to get the meningitis vaccine so they can enroll in classes, but most do not know why. The meningococcal infection is transmitted by a bacterium that causes inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Outbreaks often occur in highly populated institutions like college campuses and can lead to brain damage and death. Aren’t you glad that nearly all students are now protected?

How about the flu shot? Did you get it? The annual flu shot is the best way to protect your respiratory system against this virus. Why is the flu shot necessary every year when other vaccines last much longer? The flu virus is really smart and changes every year making it “new” to your immune system and the memory cells useless. The flu vaccine is designed to match the expected strains of the flu virus for that year. The CDC estimates the flu season to last from October-May, but Texas Department of State Health Services suggests that Texans are most affected in December-February. Pregnant women and people who have allergic reactions to eggs should consult their health professionals before getting the flu shot. It’s not a bad idea to visit a healthcare professional and discuss what options are right for you.

Ready to get your shots? You can at Student Health Services (Suite 5445). They offer a wide range of vaccines including HPV, bacterial meningitis, and the flu. Have more questions? Feel free to contact UHD Student Health Services at 713-221-8137 or visit www.uhd.edu/health for more information. The UHD Student Health Clinic is just steps away – don’t be shy. Get informed, get vaccinated, and stop the spread!
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11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
UHD South Deck

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