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From the editor’s desk

by Quintin Coleman

Travel is has become something of a romanticized activity. Or maybe it always has been and that idea hasn’t clicked in until social media really dug its hooks into us. Don’t believe me? Here’s an excerpt from an article called “Why We Travel” written by Pico Iyer: “…we travel, in essence, to become young fools again — to slow time down and get taken in, and fall in love once more.” Maybe it’s just me, but I never thought about travel as a means of discovery, growth, or being a “young fool” as Iyer mentions. Of course, I never really had “young fool” tendencies.

The idea of travel does have some value. There is worth in seeing a different world than what you’re used to seeing, trying new foods you probably wouldn’t have tried otherwise, and experiencing a new culture on that culture’s territory. It’s kind of like going to someone else’s house for the first time and seeing how they do things. I would argue that, while there’s no magic in an endeavor such as traveling because we’re all adults here and there’s no reason to attach some fantastic ideal to the process, it is an awesome thing to experience. That is, if you can afford it.

Unless you’re traveling within the continental United States (and even then, it depends on what city you go to), the costs, as well as frustration levels, associated with travel stack up really, really quickly. Buying airline tickets (and hoping that the flight is not overbooked of course), booking hotel accommodations, buying appropriately sized luggage for your stuff, and sitting by someone with body odor problems in a flying vehicle for hours on end are all common frustrations with air travel. The frustrations don’t decrease if you’re traveling by car either as it’s an endless cycle of stopping to get gas, to go to the restroom, and to get snacks that aren’t filling in the least. The only real difference between traveling by car or by plane is that you probably hate your traveling companions a little less in the car.

Part of the romantic notions attached to travel have to do with the purpose of that travel in the first place. I, and probably most people, would consider only traveling for either business or pleasure. But there is a third option, which is what Iyer (and I’m sure many other travel writers) fawn over and that’s discovery and growth. I suppose it’s fine if you want to do the whole journey to find yourself thing, but I think that takes away from the point of travel. Iyer is right that we travel to shake things up, but it’s not to shake things up due to complacency or anything like that. We travel in order to allow ourselves to do something that we don’t normally get to do in our day to day lives.

Think about the last time you got to travel. Whether it was for fun or for work, on some level, I would surmise that you got the opportunity to be a different you, if only for a little bit. You ate a little more than you normally would, you drank a little (or a lot) more than what you would in your regular day to day life, or you might have even taken a few more risks than you would have.

Now think about you in your normal life. If you’re the average person, your normal life persona is probably quite a few shades different from your vacation persona. In a way, that’s how it’s supposed to be because we can’t live our lives in a hedonistic way, lest nothing productive ever gets done. However, travel allows us to let ourselves go, whether it’s for a day, a week, or a month. Travel releases a pressure valve that we have to keep pent up because of life demands. I don’t think there’s an inherent form of discovery that occurs with travel, but it does allow us to be someone different, if only temporarily.

Quintin Coleman is a graduate student at UHD in the Master’s of Rhetoric and Composition (MARC) program. His ultimate goal is to teach writing at the college level. When he’s not tutoring at a community college part-time or doing homework, he’s thinking about what countries he wants to go to and how to get around his fear of flying to get to said countries.
March 5

Join the Department of History, Humanities, and Languages for two separate events this day. “A Talk and Poetry Reading” by Dr. Pedro Larrea. There will be a conversation session offering lunch and will be in room A-627 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Poetry Reading from “The Wizard’s Manuscript” and “Manucrito Del Hechicero” will be at the Coffee House between 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc. will be conducting a two-day B.A.D.D. event. Before students head out for Spring Break ODP wants to educate students about their Brothers Against Drink Driving Campaign. From 11a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 5 and 6

March 6

The Scripture Study group has organized an Ash Wednesday Mass that will be held in the Wilhelmina Cullen Auditorium. Mass will begin at 12:00 p.m. and end at 12:45 p.m.

The Know Your Status has been organized by SGA. This event will encourage students to get tested for HIV and STI’s on campus. We will have Bee Busy on campus on from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for onsite testing. SGA is working in partnership with Student Affairs and the “Health Fair”. We will be handing out free T-shirts as well as fanny packs filled with supplies to have a safe spring break.

March 7

The College of Business will be hosting an online webinar. Session 1 of 2. The webinar begins at 2:00 PM. For more details call (713) 226-5552.

Fandom UHD and UHD eSports have scheduled an arcade battle titled “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament”. Gamers can start signing up at 11:00 am. The tournament commences at 1:00 p.m.

Spring Writing Retreats Event will be held in room A-701 between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

March 8

UHD Animal Rescue Club will be volunteering at the nearby BARC animal shelter and rescue organization. Come help represent UHD and be prepared with the mindset that anything worn will get dirty. Volunteers are meeting at 2700 Evella Street Houston, TX 77026 between 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Center for Latino Studies is pleased to announce a $500 prize for Best Student Paper on Women or Gender in Latino/a/x or Latin American Communities. A second $500 prize will be awarded for Best Art. Contact Dr. Lucero: LuceroBo@uhd.edu

The Dead line to submit abstract is 3/8 and final papers are due by 3/20.

March 13

Deadline to submit a 2-5-minute video of your talent for the Gator’s Got Talent event, hosted by the Campus Activity Board. Enter to win an Apple watch or a fit bit for first and second place respectively. Contact cabuhd@gmail.com for more details

March 18

Welcome Thi Bui event, organized by the Department of English. Hend in the Welcome Center - Tour Room, starting at 4:00 p.m. Free and open to the public: Register at thibuireading.eventbrite.com

March 20

Gator’s Got Talent hosted by the Campus Activity Board. Tentative rehearsal day. 1st prize is an apple watch, 2nd place prize is a fit bit. Contact cabuhd@gmail.com for more details.

Gender Conference Event, hosted by The Center for Latino Studies. Deadline to Submit Final Paper. Contact Dr. Lucero: LuceroBo@uhd.edu

Online Webinar event, session 2 of 2 by the College of Business. Begins at 7:00 p.m. For more details call (713) 226-5552

March 21

Spring Writing Retreats Event will be held in room A-701 between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Fabian Ramirez is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Science in Technical Communications (MSTC) degree. He was born and raised in Houston and is a UHD College of Sciences and Technology alumni. He has a passion for design and engineering. His favorite hobbies include laying on a beach, listening to live Latin-Jazz, and practicing his photography. He also enjoys weekend road trips to Austin Texas, where he can see live Formula 1 racing.
Gator Grit series hosts controversial figure from Bush Administration

By Naomi Cardwell

Early Friday morning, the hallways at University of Houston-Downtown were close to empty. But in the welcome center, there was a room full of excited people eager to hear Alberto R. Gonzales speak. The room was filled with kolaches, yogurts, orange juice and coffee. This lecture started at 9 a.m. and it was full of both interested professors and students. The turnout was shockingly impressive due to the fact it was scheduled at an odd hour on a day most students do not attend the university.

President Juan Sánchez-Mañoñ started the event by welcoming our speaker and moderator. He spoke about the intent of these lecture series which focuses on the idea of inviting “those that have experienced some challenges in their professional lives to give us an idea on how we might persist in the face of adversity.”

Gonzales, the former U.S. Attorney General, was the guest at the Gator Grit Lecture series that took place on February 22, 2019. Dr. Michael A. Olivas, who was the interim president of UHD from 2016-2017, served as a moderator in the conversation with Gonzales. Dr. Olivas started the conversation very friendly when he said that, “Alberto and I do go back a long time.” and “that in fact he is one of only four Republican friends that I have. So, I work very hard to keep them.” Dr. Olivas then stated “Although we’ve never agreed on a thing politically, I love this man.” and “that I am truly blessed to know him.”

Gonzales was appointed during President George W. Bush’s presidency as U.S. Attorney General. He is the highest-ranking Hispanic American in executive government to date and has an impressive reputation with a record of many legal accomplishments. His name is also associated with the memo he wrote about the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the United States Code.

In regards to the association that Gonzales has with torture, Dr. Olivas asked him, “If it were your call would you have closed Guantanamo?”, which was in reference to the military prison on an American Naval base in Cuba where the Bush administration kept inmates detained without trial and where inmates were tortured.

Gonzales responded, “Oh yeah, President Bush did not like Guantanamo Bay,” and he said that “We explored all kinds of options. We thought of putting them on a floating ship where they would float around indefinitely.” In explaining his reason for Guantanamo he stated, “there was no alternative to President Obama like President Bush that was a good alternative”.

Dr. Olivas responded with, “I think President Obama, at least by my indications and my reading of it really did want to close it, but Congress wouldn’t let him”.

Dr. Olivas brought up the subject of Dick Cheney by questioning Gonzales about the movie “Vice” and stating that, “There is certainly a sense that both Chaney and his lawyer Addington pushed on issues of torture in the acts of interrogating” and in between this statement, there was a joke made which seemed to be an awkward attempt to lighten up the mood from speaking on the U.S torturing people. The joke came Dr. Olivas when he stated, “of course when I was president here I liked to keep that handy as an alternative”.

Gonzales replied with, “Be careful what you say when you are talking about the term torture it’s dangerous let me tell you I know” and the crowd proceed to laugh.

After the subject of torture was directly brought up, Dr. Olivas asked Gonzales what his view on torture were and what they were before 9/11. Gonzales replied with, “I don’t think I would have had views against torture more than anyone else in this room” and later admits “I understand this is a very controversial issue and I quit a long time ago trying to convince others that certain techniques aren’t torture under certain conditions.”

Gonzales then stated that, “The C.I.A came to the next security council and announced that we have these very high value detainees. Just one or two, who we believe who has information about an impending attack and we can’t get information from them. Can we take additional steps?”

This led Gonzales to reevaluate the anti-torture law and to create something that would allow them to get their information they needed. Gonzales said that, “We took steps that we thought were necessary to deal with this immediate threat.” and that “Information became a very valuable currency on the war on terror.”

In the closing of the event, the first individual to ask a question was Dr. Andrew Pavelich, a Philosophy Professor here at UHD and he said, “I remember feeling that sort of rage. I remember seeing that morning we are at war with someone we just don’t know who yet. I am very curious and I have been very curious since that time. Why was that the first reaction? Why did we not react as if it was a law enforcement action but it was war?”

Gonzales answered, “I guess instinctively President Bush understood we could not respond appropriately simply relying on the FBI and local police.”

After questions were answered, and the conversation ended the attendees of this event walked away with a little bit more knowledge of the why behind what happened after 9/11.

Naomi Cardwell is a Technical Communications major. Her career interests are in social media and mass communications. She believes in the city of Houston and wants to use her degree to help Houstonians be better informed. In her free time she loves being with family, friends and binge watching above average television.

Students, faculty take trip to state legislature

By Aans Usmani

Details:

Every two years, students and faculty members at the University of Houston-Downtown travel to Austin to meet with their Texan Representatives/ Senators. The purpose of this trip was to persuade Texas lawmakers to accept a proposal of fifteen million dollars (allocated from the state government) to fund the University’s goals of rebuilding and expanding. From dawn until dusk, students traveled to Austin to convey the University’s monetary goal, hoping to convince either the legislators themselves or members of their staff. Although it was a long day, it felt like students were learning the significance of being active members of their community; they were understanding the purpose of being civically involved and how it can affect themselves (either directly or indirectly).

Significant Parts of the Bill:

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey severely affected the One Main Building, flooding the first and second floors and the parking garage. Since then, the University has dealt with the flooding aftermath, yet there is still visible damage on the first two floors.

Roughly fifteen thousand students attend the University, a number of whom are under the Hazelwood Act, an act that reduces tuition for those who have served or had family members that have served in any sect of the army. As the student population continues to grow, the number of exemptions will likely increase as well. The University hopes to get an increase in funding from Hazelwood, helping those students succeed and do well.

Finally, the University plans to expand the Health and Wellness Center, stemming from polling results last fall. Students were asked if they were in favor of expanding the gym to include facilities such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, and other commodities. The majority of those polled were in favor of the plans, adding this section onto the bill proposed. This section also includes revamping the area outside the library into an area for tutoring and other learning assistance, combining all the learning centers in one area rather than scattered across campus.

The mission was to allocate fifteen million dollars to fund these projects. Although it may be years until Continued on page 8
Black student association holds discussion about important issues

By Joshua Williams

For many people, black history month is a celebration of the past, a reminder of the trials and tribulations of those who paved the way for black acceptance. For others, black history month brings about an opportunity to ensure better representation for African Americans in the future. For some, black history month is acknowledging while things may have changed, blacks still have a long way to go before succeeding in white society. And for a small group, black history is a guide for how to take back control of one’s own economy.

UHD’s Black Student Association is a small organization dedicated to bringing up issues of black discrimination and poverty with the community. Discussion is a powerful weapon in their toolbox, and this group uses it to debate whether African Americans have progressed since the civil rights movement. On Feb. 6, the organization held an open student panel discussion where topics included black history, race relations, and black culture. Only a handful of students showed up, but it did not faze the row of passionate black intellectuals who came to discuss what black history month meant to them.

And yet, not everyone who came showed their passion for black history. When asked who were some prominent black figures who paved the way for their development, only several students answered and all of them were black. The students bounced around a few famous names, including the likes of Huey P. Newton and Mary Bethune. One, a mixed-race history major student, told the story of Bethune taking a $1.50 and turning it into a university. When speaking about her accomplishment he said, “I don’t see a better return in investment.”

When the panelist asked the only Latino student to tell the story about Bethune was asked if he saw similarities to how blacks were treated during the 60s and today. The student used W.E.B. DuBois as an example, mentioning how DuBois went to Harvard and how that compares to the acceptance of many African American students to Ivy League colleges today.

His argument harkened back to the words of Malcolm X who proposed a separation of blacks from whites and focused on black progression without any influence from government. The student spoke with sincere confidence, saying, “we’re not segregated, we’re tolerated.”

By the end of this discussion, most of the panelists agreed that integration may have come at the cost of invention. The mixed-race student spoke the words loud and clear, “with integration, we gave up our voice.” Another black student from the crowd echoed his words, revealing that her parents gave more support to her brother since he was studying to become an engineer while she wanted to study the arts. When she said how it was ‘outlandish’ most in the room laughed. Only a few remained silent, including the Latino student.

Many young African Americans are looking up to the likes of Lebron James and other famous sports athletes for inspiration. They see the trophies and accolades of these superstars and try to follow in their footsteps, but at the cost of focusing on improving the quality of their education and their present situations. For the one Latino student who came to the student panel, his education and present were more important to him than someone’s past.

Interestingly enough, one of the black professors mentioned how University of Houston-Downtown was once a predominantly black university when it was founded in 1974. Now, it is predominantly Hispanic, but for this month only it was decided that only the black voice should be heard. The Black Student Association here at UHD broke from that way of thinking and gave students of all colors a chance to lend their thoughts on black history. For these students, black history month means including other students’ thoughts, even if some students were just thinking about building their own history.

Joshua Williams is a current UHD senior expecting to graduate in the fall of 2019. His passions include playing video games and spending time with his family. He’s also a huge fan of online movie talk shows on YouTube.

Isiah Carey speaks to UHD in open panel talk

By Janet Salas

On Feb. 20, the Communications Studies Department and the Center for Critical Race Studies held the Spring 2019 Communication Studies Speaker Event. This open panel discussion was called “The Black Factor: Overcoming Barriers to Black Representation in Media.” Ricardo Enríquez was the student moderator and had the pleasure to introduce Dr. Creshema Murray, Dr. Felicia Harris and local television broadcast journalist and reporter Isiah Carey.

Dr. Murray opened the discussion to the UHD community about The Black Factor, a conversation that hovers around the need to highlight the importance of black people on television and what it means to see black people on television. Dr. Murray brought up the recent controversial issues of political figures being outed for wearing blackface at Halloween parties, designer fashion houses such as Gucci creating clothing that imitates black face and Burberry adding a noose to a sweatshirt, “not even caring to realize that the symbol highlights generations of lynching to black and brown bodies.”

Dr. Murray spoke on the importance of having both a national and international conversation about race and addressing the issue of having people of color absent from television. She even gave students a glimpse from her book that says, “Television is key medium of education and socialization, transferring multiple images and messages through news programs, scripted and unscripted reality television, drama and situational comedy. We use television as a gateway to understand difference, realize social encounters and learn how to perform black.”

Carey shared his story on the start of his career as a news reporter. He discussed how at the beginning of his journey he faced his very first racist moment in his workplace. However, he did not let that stop his pursuit to accomplish his passion in the news. His dedication and hard work lead to many successes. Carey has received numerous awards and honors in his career. One of the highlights was receiving an Emmy award in 1999 for live reporting in Little Rock, Arkansas. He also was awarded with the distinction of, “Isiah Carey Day”, by Mayor Bill White for the City of Houston in June 2009. He shared with students that his show “The Isiah Carey Factor” is successfully on the fourth year airing with ratings that beat the Jimmy Kimmel Show.

Dr. Harris commended Isiah Carey for his success. She stated that although we may encounter setbacks, it is important to strive to do your best. Many want to have “a seat at the table”. However, her optimism expressed that instead of worrying about getting that seat, you make your own table. Her motivational speech encouraged students to overcome all barriers that they are faced with. She stated, “Take matters into your Continued on page 8
iRadio celebrates one year anniversary

By Joshua Williams

When you first walk inside the One Main Building, you would be remiss if you did not take a turn into one of the elevators, take the ride up to the 10th floor, and find room S1024. As it turns out, inside this room is a radio station run by communication studies students who all have a story to tell, and who all started by taking that one elevator ride.

This year marks the anniversary of UHDI Radio, a radio station which allows students to intern and develop their communication skills through the use of radio. Students who intern at the station are given assignments each week by the station manager Cali Apodaca. Student interns also are helped by the program manager Cam Living who assists the interns with any scripting or technical issues. The station is supported by the lead advisor Dr. Lucas Logan and academic consultant Professor Abigail Koenig.

Both faculty and interns celebrated by throwing a small gathering outside the Robertson Auditorium on Feb. 20. Interns gathered for a photo op in front of a cake and smiled as Professor Koenig looked on. The gathering took place just moments after the Black Representation in Media panel which featured Fox 26’s Isiah Carey.

UHDI Radio was developed thanks in large part to the efforts of Dr. Henry Roubicek, a senior communications professor who had been working on getting a radio station up running for the past 15 years. The idea of having a radio station at UHD was problematic due to financial concerns at first. While talking with Dateline, Dr. Roubicek went on further about the risk of having such an investment, saying an internet radio station, “had more restrictions than a typical campus commercial station.”

In fact, it was not until a few years ago that UHD began to once again explore having a radio station dedicated to telling stories and presenting news to students. About a year and a half ago, the school administration finally agreed to fund the station, much to the delight of Dr. Roubicek. “It’s been a frustration, and a labor of mine,” the proud founder of UHDI Radio said with a smile. Dr. Roubicek’s commitment for the art of communication is also shown with the creation of COMM 1305: Radio and Performance, a class dedicated to developing students’ radio skills.

UHDI Radio currently has a diverse group of interns who all want to tell their stories and the stories of others. One such intern, Ricardo Henriquez, has used the skills he learned in Dr. Roubicek’s classes to showcase his love for art with his Mane Artium show every Wednesday morning. Henriquez believes it was building connections with communicators like Dr. Roubicek and Dr. Logan, which allowed him to grow into the confident storyteller he is today. Unlike other schools he has attended, Henriquez feels like the classes he took at UHD provided more graspable information rather than just pure theories.

“Everyone kind of knew he each other,” he said while speaking about his experiences studying communication at UHD. “It felt like a small world.” You can see how close everyone is once you enter the station. While the room may not be as wide as any classroom, it is difficult to discount the amount of knowledge that bounces from corner to corner. Not only does the station allow students like Henriquez to tell their favorite stories, but it also presents some of the most popular songs from both the past and present.

But the future for interns like Henriquez also seem to be bright. While the communications program does not attract as many students as other programs at the university does, Henriquez is confident he can still make the best out of his chosen field. “I’ll definitely be using my communication major in the future,” Henriquez hopes to one day work with Dr. Roubicek on his show So, What’s Your Story? at KPFT.

Now that the station is going into its sophomore year, you can bet there will be more stories told in the future. Who will be next to take the elevator ride to S1024? Guess we will find out soon.

Joshua Williams is a current UHD senior expecting to graduate in the fall of 2019. His passions include playing video games and spending time with his family. He’s also a huge fan of online movie talk shows on YouTube.

Student creates business selling vintage clothes

By Lissette Perez

Vintage clothing is making a comeback nationwide—and locally, thanks to UHD student Leonardo Avila. Leonardo is a Houston-native who is part of Texas Heat, an upcoming vintage clothing company located in the North Shore area of East Houston. He, alongside the pioneer of Texas Heat, Robert Miranda, work together in bringing forth a brand that was very popular and influential in street/pop culture in the 80s and 90s, mostly in the rap culture, is what we try to look for and sell, “not only because he admires the style, but also because he knows how impactful outfits can be. A business is nothing without consumers. Leonardo believes the thing that has kept Texas Heat running is its loyal customers and their passion for collecting vintage clothing, saying, “the appreciation that other people have for that era keeps our business going.”

To him, the people are what make his business worth it. It’s the little moments that he finds most touching, like “the
Students perform unique play for second year

By Madelyne Lehnert

“Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind”, directed by Neo-Futurism founder Greg Allen, was performed for a second time at UHD from Feb. 18 to Feb. 23. This show first started in New York in 1988, and now Allen has had people perform this show all around the world. Students at UHD were ecstatic to find out that Allen was coming back for a second time to bring his wits, creativity, and overall Neo-Futurists energy as well. “TMLMTBGB” was also the longest running show in Chicago, going as long as 1988 to 2016. Now the show has expanded bigger than ever.

To be a Neo-Futurist means to perform on stage as yourself and nothing more. With “TMLMTBGB”, every show is different and students were prepared for this. The Neo-Futurist ensemble has to write, direct and perform 30 short plays within 60 minutes, which can be a real challenge. Many students were excited to see the show, and with its interactive premise, students sometimes even come two and three times. Director of O’Kane Theatre, Timothy Klein was more than happy to have the show back at his theatre. His favorite part of the show is the audience interaction.

These 30 plays consist of real, honest experiences that are shared with the audience members. Some of the audience members got to draw their greatest fear on stage and share it with the rest of the audience. Other individual audience members received an opportunity to gamble, give input and advice, and go on a date with the ensemble members. Julissa Treviño, a freshman psychology major, says, “I loved how genuine and raw everything was. The actors are so authentic and give such amazing energy on stage. It is completely different than anything I have ever seen, and this show was so loveable with its truthfulness and quirkiness that it made me want to come again for a second time.” This is Treviño’s first time at the show, but she said she would definitely come back for as many shows as she can because each experience is different.

Vanessa Ramirez, MARC alumni from UHD, says, “Being in ‘TMLMTBGB’ twice has been really fun. I like to use Too Much Light as an opportunity to get my work out there as a writer. I like to use it as an opportunity to express myself and be silly with the audience. It’s always fun to make the audience laugh, especially when I share some of my silly experiences from the past. It just goes to show how open and real I am with them, and that’s what Too Much Light is really about.” Ramirez is a second-time actress for “TMLMTBGB” and she says if it ever comes back to O’Kane theatre, she will not hesitate to audition.

“TMLMTBGB” really gives O’Kane Theatre a contemporary twist to its theatre, and overall creates an experience that keeps students, faculty, and staff coming back. All the students involved with this worked hard to give out real content, real stories and real experiences for the audience. As actors, it was not easy to be part of a show like this because it meant very fast paced rehearsals and very fast shows. Overall, “TMLMTBGB” has been a show that created friendships and also created families because of the workshops leading up to opening night. All the students involved wish that the audience viewing the show had as great a time watching, as they did performing for them.

Madelyne Lehnert is currently studying at the University of Houston Downtown to pursue her degree in English with a Creative Writing Concentration. She strives to be as hardworking and motivated as she can be through any obstacle. Her hobbies include reading and writing, and performing as an actress at O’Kane theatre. Madelyne will continue on with her academic career to get as far as a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of North Texas.
Houston offers many staycation opportunities

By Christina Loos

Spring Break is a time for students to unwind and get away from the stresses of university life. Some students flock to beaches while others stay in Houston. Luckily, Houston is a perfect place to have a staycation. Houston has a plethora of things to do, places to go, and sights to see.

Buffalo Bayou is a river that, according to the Buffalo Bayou Partnership’s (BBP) website, starts west of Katy, Texas and flows about 53 miles to Galveston Bay. BBP focuses on the part of Buffalo Bayou that stretches from Shepherd Drive to the Port of Houston. A variety of attractions along Buffalo Bayou range from Allen’s Landing Park, located south of UHD to the Yolanda Black Navarro Buffalo Bend Nature Trail near the Port of Houston. There are also long stretches of biking and walking trails that run along Buffalo Bayou’s sinuous stretch. Buffalo Bayou has something for history enthusiasts, cyclists, and nature lovers alike.

The Waugh Drive bat colony lives under Waugh Bridge near Buffalo Bayou. According to a 2018 Q&A the BBP held with wildlife biologist Diana Foss, the colony was made up of an estimated 300,000 Mexican free-tailed bats before Hurricane Harvey. Unfortunatley, Harvey devastated the colony. Foss stated that the colony’s population was 200,000 or more. Nonetheless, each evening thousands of bats emerge from beneath Waugh Bridge. The sight of their tenacious forms against the evening sky is one of the most memorable sights Houston has to offer. The bats emerge about 30 minutes before sunset each evening. There is a bat viewing platform where Waugh Drive meets Allen Parkway.

The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center is a non-profit nature sanctuary located near Woodway Drive in the western portion of Memorial Park. The Arboretum covers about 155 acres and has 5 miles of trails. Several different habitats are located along the trails. For example, there is a meadow of native grasses that act as food and shelter for different species of birds. Within the meadow is a 1-acre pond that the Arboretum’s website says is home to turtles, snakes, bullfrogs, and fish. The variety of native plants and animals that inhabit this nature sanctuary makes the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center a great place to experience nature without leaving the city. The Arboretum is open every day from 7 a.m. until dusk.

The Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) is located on Bissonnet Street in the Museum District. The MFAH is considered a cultural institution and for good reason. The MFAH’s website states that the museum has over 70,000 pieces of art in its collection. These pieces range from early twentieth century photography to Mayan earthworks to contemporary sculpture. The MFAH is also holding multiple exhibits that run through Spring Break. For example, the exhibit Eye on Houston: High School Documentary Photography is on display at the MFAH Visitor Center and the Kinder Foundation Education Center in the Caroline Wiess Law Building. Eye on Houston features 93 photographs taken by high school students from nine schools in the Houston Independent School District. Admission to the MFAH is free every Thursday which makes the museum perfect for college students on a budget. The MFAH is open every day but Monday and hours vary.

The Menil Collection is located on Sul Ross Street and is about a five minute drive from the MFAH. The Menil Collection opened in June 1987 and was founded by John and Dominique de Menil. The de Menils were famous philanthropists in their day and over the years, they built an extensive private collection of art. That collection became public when Dominique de Menil opened the Menil. Over time, the museum’s collection has expanded. The Menil has a permanent exhibit of Surrealist art including pieces by René Magritte and Max Ernst. The museum also features a permanent display of African art, Byzantine art, Pacific Islander art, and modern and contemporary art. The Menil Collection also hosts programs and lectures for the public. The Menil is a small museum so visitors can take their time looking at the art without committing to spending half a day at a museum. The Menil Collection is also free to the public every day. The Menil’s size and price makes it a great fit for students whose staycations are already filled to the brim with activities and who are on a budget. The Menil Collection is open from Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

These destinations give students a chance to escape from the usual Houston scenery and to learn about different cultures without leaving the city, which makes them ideal for a staycation.

Carey speaks to UHD con’t from page 4

Isiah Carey is best known for his high-spirited television news show that bears his name, “The Isiah Carey Factor”. Mr. Carey has been a reporter for Fox 26 News for over 17 years. He began his career in media before graduating with his degree in mass communication as a reporter at the age of 20 years old in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He worked in Little Rock Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, and Washington D.C. before coming to Texas.

Dr. Felicia Harris

Dr. Harris is an Assistant Professor of Communications Studies in Media at the University of Houston-Downtown. She holds a PhD. in mass communication with a layered interest in health promotion and behavior. At the university, Dr. Harris frequently teaches the introductory course in mass media, advanced media, advertising as communication and a special topics course, “Black Twitter and Beyond.”

Janet Salas is currently a senior working towards her Bachelor’s of English. She is a first-generation college student as well as a Navy veteran. Once she graduates she plans to pursue a career as a paralegal. When she is not in school she enjoys working out, volunteering, hiking, and kayaking.
A Graduate Gator’s Perspective

By Fabian Ramirez

Houston, Texas continues to hold fourth place amongst the most populous cities in the United States. Since the time I began my undergraduate studies at UHD, Houston has expanded its infrastructure and has made inner-city improvement a priority in order to accommodate growth. Houston is where I was born and will always be my home. That is the philosophy I used when deciding to return to UHD to earn a Master of Science in Technical Communications.

Returning to UHD after 11 years has been a very rewarding experience. It has allowed me to compare two distinct chapters in my academic career. In Spring of 2006 I completed my Bachelor of Science in Structural Analysis and Design Option in Engineering Technology. During the years I worked on my undergraduate studies I took advantage of opportunities like tutoring for the College work and writing, working as a peer mentor for the Scholar’s Academy, and conducting undergraduate research.

Well before my graduation date, I was offered an opportunity to work for one of the largest oil and gas service companies in town. I accepted the offer on the day of the interview after being blown away by the sophisticated technology and innovative methods used by that company to export oil and gas from underneath the ocean floor. I enjoyed the challenge so much that I worked as a subsea structural engineer for 11 years. I helped design, construct, and install systems in the Gulf of Mexico, Europe, and West Africa.

Fast forward to now, I feel that I am blessed to be a graduate student with more than a decade of corporate career development. This experience gives me an interesting perspective on how students were taught then, versus what degree professionals encounter in the workforce, versus how students are learning now. When I think about it all, I appreciate time in a different way than before. I have a stronger appreciation of how it brings change to our lives. It is a dimension that cannot be stopped and when I walk through the doors of the One Main Building, I am reminded of that. The feeling is surreal, because the doors have not moved one inch since I graduated, but I feel that the changes time has brought to UHD make a familiar building seem like new to me.

The biggest difference I have noticed between then and now is the reduced foot traffic, due to UHD’s expanded footprint. In order to help current students imagine what I am remembering, picture all of the students from the adjacent buildings entering the One Main Building during the first few weeks of school to attend class, buy books, etc. Imagine the wait for book seating assistance and book store purchasing lines without the luxury of using a smartphone to pull up a class syllabus or the convenience of online book ordering. When I think of the days of walking into the One Main Building during morning rush, I compare it to walking into a discount department store the day after Thanksgiving.

With that said, I have to mention that these were the days before the Metrorail, so many students were dropped off and picked up curbside, right in front of the building. This was a practice that is a senior majoring in Electronic-Creative writing. By graduation, she hopes to become an English teacher and continue writing. She has been a Staff Reporter for Dateline for two semesters and is also a Student Supervisor at UHD Sports & Fitness. During her free time, she enjoys drawing, playing video games, watching movies or documentaries, and reading comics.

Lissette Perez is a senior majoring in English-Creative writing. After graduation, she hopes to become an English teacher and continue writing. She has been a Staff Reporter for Dateline for two semesters and is also a Student Supervisor at UHD Sports & Fitness. During her free time, she enjoys drawing, playing video games, watching movies or documentaries, and reading comics.

With this said, I have to mention that these were the days before the Metrorail, so many students were dropped off and picked up curbside, right in front of the building. This was a practice that is preferred to walk, except in heavy rain or snow, but this therefore every experience is a great experience.

Check out Texas Heat on Instagram: @TexasHeat. Finds where you can also find their Depop link in their bio.

Student creates business con’t from page 6

nostalgic look on a customer when they see a Looney Tunes t-shirt or a basketball jersey from the player they watched growing up.” Moments like those make him realize that “sometimes it’s not about just looking good in the clothes, it’s about what clothes means to the person.”

With Leonardo being a full-time student, a part-time employee, and a member of Texas Heat, it can only be expected for him to run into trouble with time management. Leonardo states that what has been most challenging about his journey has been trying to be consistent, he says, “sometimes Robert and I are tied up with school and work so we somehow still have to manage to squeeze some time in the week to go thrift and find some good pieces.” Beside working with a tight schedule, Leonardo’s other challenge is trying to grow as a business. All of the students at Texas Heat has gained popularity over the months in the Houston vintage community, he hopes to gain more visibility.

Despite the challenges, Leon-

Student creates business con’t from page 6

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Despite the challenges, Leon-

International Studies Board, Knowledge Exchange Institute Board, SIT Study Abroad, Sol Education Board and University Studies Abroad Consortium.

UHD has several courses which are linked to study abroad opportunities. One of the courses is ENG 3340 Cultural Criticism with Professor Vida Robertson. It is a study abroad trip to France during spring 2019. Another course is ENG 3310 with Professor Crystal Guillory which is a study abroad trip to France. The courses HUM 3310 Cultural Criticism and COMM 3340 - Communication and Leadership will take a trip to Ghana with Professor Creshena Murray. There is a scholarship available for all students who have a 2.5 UHD GPA and at least 15 UHD credit hours; they are eligible for scholarship money from the UHD study abroad office.

If you are still not interested in studying abroad then you should read more about the benefits of it. The benefits of study abroad include personal development, graduate school admissions, life experience, finding new interests and career opportunities. Some other benefits include improved language skills, enhanced network and will help you become more independent. Studying abroad is a great way to enrich your education and your life.
IT WAS BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINS顿 Churchill who made the following sage observation: “All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.”

IN WASHINGTON STATE IT ONCE WAS ILLEGAL TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON THAT WAS MORE THAN 6 FEET IN LENGTH.

DOMINIQUE BOUHOURS, A FRENCHMAN WHO LIVED IN THE 17TH CENTURY, WAS A PRIEST, AN ESSAYIST AND A GRAMMARIAN. THE LOVE OF LANGUAGE MAY HAVE BEEN CLOSEST TO HIS HEART, THOUGH; IT’S BEEN REPORTED THAT THE FINAL WORDS HE UTTERED ON HIS DEATHBED WERE, “I AM ABOUT TO -- OR I AM GOING TO -- DIE; EITHER EXPRESSION IS USED.”

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT ITALIANS SPEND MORE TIME ON SOCIAL MEDIA THAN PEOPLE OF ANY OTHER NATIONALITY.

ENGLAND’S VIRGIN QUEEN, ELIZABETH I, WENT BALD AT THE AGE OF 29. SMALLPox was the culprit.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: “WE MAY NOT IMAGINE HOW OUR LIVES COULD BE MORE FRUSTRATING AND COMPLEX -- BUT CONGRESS CAN.” -- CULLEN HIGHTOWER

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Solutions to last week’s puzzles

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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: *

Moderate

GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

10 Games

THAT THERE ARE TWO GAMES THAT
ALSO DON’T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND
THE GAME OF THRONES!

AND THE GAME OF

LACROSSE.

YOU’RE THE WORST!

by Dave Foster

“Alice’s Cheshire cat looked

up at her as if thinking, ‘If

I were you, I’d keep my

eyes open.’”

тин THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

by Stan Newman

12

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

12

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2

1

“Your wife shared vacation pics of you

with the 2nd floor on Facebook. Let’s

just say happy hour started a bit early.”

This is it!}

by Stan Newman

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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1

“Think, then do. But do not do without

thinking.”

by John White

The Weekly SUDOKU puzzle was designed by Linda Thistle. The King Crossword puzzle was designed by Richard Garvin. The Go Figure puzzle was designed by Linda Thistle. The cartoons were provided by King Features Syndicate.
Insightful awareness

By Aansa Usmani

This issue’s edition of Insightful Awareness focuses on Bipolar Disorder. Bipolar disorder, also known as manic depressive illness, is a mental disorder that causes dramatic changes in mood, energy, and carrying out day-to-day activities. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, this disorder affects 2.6% of the population, or five million individuals, aged eighteen and over annually. Although bipolar disorder is seen in both sexes, it is more common for women to develop “depressive episodes” compared to their male counterparts.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, there are a few factors that may be attributed to bipolar disorder: structure/function of the brain, genetics, or family history. Individuals who have this disorder may have a different brain from those who do not; this theory gives scientists a better insight into those with bipolar disorder and the positive/negative effects of various treatments on their cerebral structure/functioning.

A family history of bipolar disorder may play a role in developing this; more than two-thirds of people with bipolar disorder have at least one relative with the illness or any related type of major depression. However, having a family member with bipolar disorder does not necessarily mean that it will develop in another; it can also be attributed to genetic factors as well. Research suggests that individuals who have certain genes are more likely to develop bipolar disorder. Genetics, like family history, may attribute towards this disorder or other related manic or depressive disorders. A combination of these factors listed above may create appropriate conditions in developing this disorder.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the moods stemming from this disorder range from being euphoric and excited to being depressed and hopeless. Although these “episodes” vary from person to person, the side effects may affect one’s sleep, appetite, judgment, health (physical, mental or emotional) or cognitive ability. Mania also ranges from person to person; severe mania can cause extreme abnormal hyperactivity and energy along with alternating depressive episodes; this type of mania often requires hospitalization. Hypomania is a milder form of mania, yet still has a higher form of energy; unlike severe mania, there is no need for hospitalization.

There are four types of Bipolar Disorder, affecting mood energy and activity levels; the different “episodes” can range from experiencing “up” periods (energized, happy) to “down” periods (hopeless, reclusive, depressed). The different types of bipolar disorder can result from having manic conditions ranging from two weeks to a year or more.

The National Institute of Mental Health lists the different types of bipolar disorder:

- Bipolar I Disorder — defined by manic episodes that last at least 7 days, or by manic symptoms that are so severe that the person needs immediate hospital care.
- Usually, depressive episodes occur as well, typically lasting at least 2 weeks. Episodes of depression with mixed features (having depression and manic symptoms at the same time) are also possible.
- Bipolar II Disorder — defined by a pattern of depressive episodes and hypomanic episodes, but not the full-blown manic episodes described above.
- Cyclothymic Disorder (also called cyclothymia) — defined by numerous periods of hypomanic symptoms as well as numerous periods of depressive symptoms lasting for at least 2 years (1 year in children and adolescents). However, the symptoms do not meet the diagnostic requirements for a hypomanic episode and a depressive episode.
- Other Specified and Unspecified Bipolar and Related Disorders — defined by bipolar disorder symptoms that do not match the three categories listed above. According to the Mayo Clinic, it is a chronic condition that can be treated with a treatment plan consisting of therapy, medication, and other coping skills. Substance abuse is more common for people suffering from bipolar disorder, requiring substance abuse treatment or other related treatment. Hospitalization may also be required, depending on one’s manic episodes.

Why travel?

By Mike Duncan

In the Middle Ages in Europe, it was not uncommon to live and die without going more than 20-50 miles from the place of your birth. The reason was simple: there were few roads, much danger, and people tended to be tied to the land by their socioeconomic status.

I have a 45-mile round-trip commute to get to work, and I drive over 1000 miles round-trip twice a year to visit relatives. But I’ve never left the United States, though when younger, I visited every state save the Dakotas, Hawaii, and Alaska — and other than my commute and those trips (which happen to be to the city where I was born), I’m very predictable. I don’t drink, so no bars or clubs. Too broke to eat out, so restaurants are rare. Grocery, Target, pet store, gas station, rinse and repeat. Occasional academic conference in some distant city, sure, but I am infamous for avoiding those.

I avoid most travel because I like my old cranky house and my family. Going to a conference might mean not seeing my wife and sons and dogs and cats for several days, and I don’t like that. I like sleeping in my bed, and using my bathroom, and cutting my lawn, and chasing my kids around. A man’s house is his castle, as the saying goes, though a few knights from the Middle Ages would make short work of this ill-maintained dump - too many windows and not enough parapets. But I think I’m relatively safe as Houston is more than 50 miles from Europe.

It’s a stereotype that after a long professional career, retiree Americans buy an RV and finally do all the traveling they couldn’t do when they were tied to a job. Screw that. I have house maintenance to do, which should occupy any remaining time until death. Why backpack through Europe when I could be cleaning gutters and painting ceilings and rebuilding fences? All I’m going to see is a bunch of sleepy towns where all the inhabitants and their ancestors never went more than 50 miles and did fine.

The 50-mile radius is perfect. You could spend your entire life exploring just Houston and its suburbs and still find places you’ve never been by the time you’re too frail to adventure. The key is not wanderlust but finding the right center. When I was an undergrad, I ranged all over Tucson, Arizona, where my alma mater the University of Arizona is, and developed a deep knowledge of its streets and shops and neighborhoods and people over six years without ever using a car. Tucson proper is barely 10 miles square, but I could have spent a lifetime there, trying to figure it all out.

My mom’s parents were long-haul truck drivers and so were every highway in the continental U.S. in all seasons. They’re not alone - there are currently more truck drivers in the U.S. than any other occupation. But the highways are little slivers cut through a huge country, and at almost every stop, or off the beaten path, is a place to make a life. And that’s not a bad thing, either way. The same thing that makes you want to wander is the same thing that makes you want to stay.

It is common to mistake freedom for the use of freedom. I could, if I wished (and could) persuade my family, to drive to the Dakotas tomorrow to pick up two more students for my collection. But what will I see or experience there? More land. More people. Plenty of those right here. The money I spend on gas and food and whatnot could be used more profitably here on car repair or medical bills or some books I need for research. I can think of two good reasons to travel, though, but they have nothing to do with sightseeing. First, sometimes you can travel to help people. Perhaps a relative or a friend needs assistance, or a natural disaster has struck a region, or skilled people are needed to fix a political or community problem. Then, if only temporarily, you can make the world a little better.

Second is finding appropriate work. Houston’s a good town for employment these days but going to the work rather than sitting and waiting for it is a flexible necessity for building a career. Jobs disappear quick in this brave new economy, so you probably won’t be there forever, anyway.

I know, you probably thought my argument was going to be “See the world! You’ll get a clearer picture of American privilege once you’ve seen the planet.” Well, I’ve already got the cynicism. Why buy the plane tickets? Books are cheaper, and talking to people that have travelled is even cheaper than that.

Aansa Usmani is a first-year college student attending the University of Houston-Downtown. She is a Political Science major with plans to run for political office. She identifies herself as a social justice warrior, advocating for women, LGBTQ, immigration, and other liberal causes. Alongside politics, her passions include photography, writing, and debate. Although relatively young, she has demonstrated literate competency, writing about topics ranging from mental health to current events.
O’Kane Gallery displays, celebrates Latinx art

By Syneetra Williams

The University of Houston-Downtown is the nucleus of art, culture, and education in Houston. The O’Kane Gallery, nestled in the Girard Street Building on the third floor, is the heartbeat and soul of Latinx Art and Identity from now until April 11, 2019. If you have not had the opportunity to behold the richness and beauty depicted from artists such as Patssi Valdez, Cesar Martinez, Raul Caracoza and more, please make haste before this grand display of creativity leaves our home for their next destination. A work of art is more than an image before you. The pieces give you a glimpse into the artist’s heart and soul. It is akin to a powerful connection that creates a lasting bond between the spectator and artisan. If passion displayed through brush strokes of vivid colors, intrepid and subtle lines and depth move you, allow Latinx Art and Identity to take you there.

The prints and paintings in this exhibition assert Latinx identity as specific, powerful, and ancient in origin. The artists declare their pride in who they are, a people descendant from ancient indigenous civilizations, connected to their land, nurturers of their children, but also creators of iconic images serving as potent standard bearers to any outsider. Bold colors and graphics are unapologetic, as they celebrate familial customs, legends, and rituals. Revered historical figures, such as Frida Kahlo or César Chavez, are offered as equal to any other cultural or political hero. The abstract patterns of ancient civilizations persist, as do the modern forms of Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros, as a testament to the preeminence of heritage within this world. The personal struggles of Latinx peoples caused by migration and immigration, abuse of foreign powers, poverty, and violence, are part of that identity and are not overshadowed.

April is fast approaching. Do not let this chance to see and learn about Latino artistic history up close pass you by. Appreciating the various historical events and stories given to all people from this vibrant community is the beginning of open-mindedness, knowledge, and wisdom. When we face history, we face ourselves.

Syneetra A. Williams is a native New Englander and now a Houston resident who read the dictionary for pleasure while growing up. She is a candidate for the Master of Science in Technical Communication at The University of Houston-Downtown. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Professional Writing at UHD, and an Associate of Applied Science, AAS, in Digital Communications with a graphic design specialization at Houston Community College. As a graduate writing tutor at the Writing & Reading Center at UHD, she is passionate about teaching.

Famed UHD art professor holds solo art exhibit

By Kelsi Rios

Floyd Newsum is an art professor here at UHD. Professor Newsum has taught for 42 years. He is also a well-known artist in the art community. In 3rd grade, at the age of 9, is when he discovered he had a real talent for art. He has a permanent collection in the Smithsonian National Museum of African History and Culture. Professor Newsum has showcased all over the world, from Cincinnati to Russia.

This past weekend, on February 23rd, Newsum had a solo art exhibit at The Nicole Longnecker Gallery, who he is represented by, called “Past, Present, and Future.” The exhibit showed the metamorphosis of his art development throughout the decades. Newsum mentions that some of the art displayed are never before seen.

His paintings depict about life, folklore, different cultures, and remembering his late father. Newsum elaborates, “My symbols, on my paintings, suggest playful forms dancing across the visual space in concert with graphic marks arranged in free flowing gestural rhythm, the ladder that is depicted in most of my artwork represents the yin and yang in life.”

Professor Newsum wanted his UHD students to know that he loves each and every one of them, and he wants to teach the students how to contribute in the real world, so that they can succeed in life.