

Student lounge possible for UHD



CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer

The Student Lounge Committee (SLC) met with President Flores and four other officials on Friday, Aug. 27, to discuss the need for a student lounge, the items and activities that the committee believes to be necessary and an interim solution to the school's need for additional student space.

The SLC believes the presence of a student lounge can act as an anchor for the student body to center around and identify with.

"We need a student lounge to establish student life outside of academia. Inside the words university & community you find the word uity. We need to unite and create a UHD community that will embrace the vision of what UHD should be," said SLC member Nick Danger.

The project has been labeled the Gator Union Project: Students for Gator Union, and members have been meeting since 2008 to work out details and conduct research concerning why UHD needs a student lounge and where it could be built.

The reasons for a student lounge are to increase retention, provide students with a place to eat and relax between classes and to create a better college experience and quality of life for students.

Having a student lounge can help improve the school's low retention rate, which is based on the number of students who begin at UHD as freshmen and attend classes here until they graduate. The one-year retention rate of returning full-time freshman has consistently increased since 2005, but was only at 60.9 percent in 2008.

Students that transfer from larger universities that offer amenities such as a student lounge, may find UHD less appealing if it does not encompass some of the same student life perks that are offered at other universities.

"We need a student lounge to establish student life outside of academia. Inside the words university & community you find the word uity. We need to unite and create a UHD community that will embrace the vision of what UHD should be."

> *–Nick Danger Student Lounge Committee*

"UHD is growing and it only makes sense to have more space for students to enjoy," said UHD senior Natlie Reyes.

There is also the problem of class attendance. If a student has hours of downtime between classes, they are likely to leave without wanting to return for their last class. Having a student lounge may be an incentive to keep students on campus and near their classrooms.

The lounge would have late hours that would accommodate the majority of the student body who only have night classes and those students with a mix of day and night classes. There would also be food available later in the day, which is important to night students because the food services offered in the cafeteria close earlier in the day.

The point has been made that a student lounge would improve the students' quality of life at UHD while creating a newer and more interactive space for school organizations to hold events and fundraisers. It is possible that the new space for the lounge will have student offices and meeting rooms for the various organizations and childcare, which would help students as well as faculty and administration.

The SLC suggested five locations for the site of a student lounge and parking: Allen's Landing, the post office, the fields by White Oak Bayou, the Spaghetti Warehouse parking lot and Washington Street lot. These all involve steps of purchasing and developing the area to accommodate building on the site, especially since the fields by White Oak Bayou are considered flood zones.

"There should be a place where students can congregate for socializing that is not the main hallway/entrance of the University. It just looks bad and makes it difficult to get business done during the busiest times of the year, namely registration," said Jaime Puente, a 2009 UHD graduate.

The final resolution made by the SLC and the officials in attendance is to rearrange the Student Activities and Events center in S204 so there is space for a temporary game room. The suggested date for its completion is the end of September, but none of the plans have been made official.

News

Sept. 6-19, 2010 Dateline : Downtown www.uhd.edu/dateline

New law brings changes to financial aid, loans

More funding, less hassle makes loan process easier

AMANDA WHITE

Staff Writer

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The Federal Government made changes to federal loan programs that went into effect this fall. This past spring, the U.S. Senate passed a new bill called the Student Aid & Fiscal Responsibility Act.

This law will change how federal loan programs function, how much students will pay for loans, and the amount of money put towards the Pell Grant program. Before the bill passed, most students could only receive loans through the Family Education Loan Program (FELP). In the FELP program, banks would act as the middleman between the government and borrowers. Students and their families also paid higher interest rates and were not notified of exactly what types of loans that they were eligible for under the FELP program.

Now that the Student Aid & Fiscal Responsibility bill has passed, the FELP program will be discontinued and the Direct Loan Program will take its place. Under the Direct Loan Program, students can obtain their loan directly from the Department of Education. Students will also pay lower interest rates, more families will become eligible to receive loans, and lenders will be more straight-forward with students regarding the types of loans that they are eligible for.

The Student Aid & Fiscal Responsibility law will also bring changes to the Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR). The IBR program is a new program that was launched last year. The program is particularly useful to students who have high debt relative to their income, students who are in a financial hardship, and married students. Most people in the IBR program will use less than ten percent of their gross income to make monthly payments towards their loans for as long as twenty- five years. Any debt that is left after twenty-five years is forgiven.

Since the IBR program is new, there are some mishaps in its functioning. Before the student loan bill was passed, the IBR program used a married couple's joint income as a basis to assign monthly payment plans. Under the old IBR plan, married couples ended up paying twice as much as two single people. The old IBR program failed to consider the possibility that both spouses could have federal student debt. In other words, one person paid their loan and their spouse's loan (if the other spouse had a loan). With the passage of the new bill, a couple's joint income as well as both spouses federal debt, will be considered before calculating a monthly payment plan. By considering both spouses federal loan debt and their joint income, a couple ends up paying less, because each person will pay towards



their own federal loan debt. Existing IBR members will have to contact their lender if they want to switch to the new IBR plan.

With the new student loan bill, there are many students who do not know about the bill and its procedures.

"Students should check their gatormail accounts regularly for updates from the university," said UHD's Executive Director of Financial Aid Robert Sheridan. "The financial aid office has been sending students information about financial aid and the new bill through Gator Mail for since March."

While students can expect to receive more money

through the Pell Grant, students should also be aware that UHD is changing the Pell Grant eligibility criteria this year.

"Starting this year, the Pell Grant will be awarded year round," said Sheridan. This means that students can receive money during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. In the past, a student only received money during the fall and spring. To receive money in the summer however, students must earn a minimum total of twenty-four hours during the fall and spring semesters. Sheridan also stated that Pell Grant awards would be limited to five years. This rule was enforced to improve Texas graduation rates.

Sept. 6-19, 2010 *iewpoints* Dateline : Downtown www.uhd.edu/dateline Legislation would give necessary muscle to FDA

–Uwire Last week, more than 500 million eggs were recalled from Iowa because of a severe scare that the eggs may have carried salmonella. As a result, an outbreak of more than 1,500 cases of salmonella poisoning has been reported.

This outbreak may have been prevented if the Senate had passed a food safety bill passed by the House in July 2009.

A Senate bipartisan group released a compromise amendment to the bill on Aug. 12 — the day before Wright County Egg, one of the two egg farms involve in the recent salmonella scare, announced its first recall.

The bill would impose stricter rules on inspections, increase the frequency of inspections and grant the Food and Drug Administration the power to authorize recalls and allow access to company records.

What regulators need are "more tools, and probably better tools, to prevent these events from happening," said Craig Hedburg, a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, who thinks the legislation would provide just that, Fortune Magazine reports.

The current law, which has been in force for more than 70 years, does not allow the FDA to authorize recalls.

This means that the FDA can only ask those responsible to remove the products, but the responsible party does not have to obey the request.

Thus, the recall does not always come in a timely manner because the company is afraid of losing profits as a result of the recall.

That delay results in more people being affected by the problem associated with the recall.

If the proposed legislation passes, the



FDA would be able to quickly issue a recall, forcing the responsible party to withdraw the product without first worrying about how the recall would affect the company.

An FDA report initiated after the contamination found that Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms were filthy and had poor sanitation in the areas where the hens were kept.

The report even detailed instances of rodents, wild birds and hens escaping from their cages, which could have contributed to the salmonella.

At Hillandale Farms, laboratory tests confirmed there was salmonella in water used to wash eggs before they were packaged.

A report on Wright County Egg described pits that had chicken manure piled 4 to 8 feet high.

According to The Washington Post, the FDA had never previously inspected the two farms.

One of the more obvious solutions to this problem is to enhance and increase the oversight powers of the FDA.

If the proposed legislation passes, the FDA would impose stricter rules on inspections so that problems could be caught well before more than 1,500 people in the country suffer.

Furthermore, if a problem were discovered, the FDA would be able to access company records and issue a quick recall, if necessary.

The proposed legislation should be passed when the Senate returns this month. With the new legislation, the FDA would have more power to avoid another salmonella poisoning episode.

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Information

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Writers, photographers and graphic artists

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Sept. 6-19, 2010 4 On Campus Dateline : Downtown www.uhd.edu/datelin Chemistry student will stay in Poland Dateline : Downtown www.uhd.edu/dateline

Summer research program gives UHD student a chance to continue studies through 2011

TANU UPPAL

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Managing Editor

Melissa Chan, who participated in the Poland Summer Research program last year, retuned to Poland this summer to continue her biochemistry research. She plans on staying in at the Technical University of Lodz for the next year as part of a student-exchange collaboration, funded by a National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Scholarship.

"I participated in the 2009 summer research program in Poland on a recommendation from my research mentor, Dr. Mian Jiang," wrote Chan via web interview. "More than anything, I wanted a chance to experience full-time research work, to be certain of the career choice I am making."

"It's easy for Americans to make Polish friends because young Polish people are so warm and curious about us."

-Melissa Chan

Dr. Jiang is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Houston Downtown.

Chan's trip to Poland last summer was not her first study-abroad experience. She also participated as a high school exchange-student in Russia and worked in Germany as part of a Fulbright scholarship.

"Not only did I leave Poland last year convinced that a career in research lay in my future, but I was also impressed at the rigorous approach to the STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics] fields offered by my host university, the Technical University of Lodz. I didn't just benefit from a cultural exchange in Poland; there was a real exchange of knowledge," wrote Chan.

After her trip last year, Chan applied for the competitive Boren Scholarship, funded through the NSEP. The scholarship provides up to \$20,000 to undergraduate students who express a desire to learn about the language and culture of less commonly studied areas of the world. She will conduct research at the Technical University of Lodz

from June 2010 until July 2011. She was selected for this scholarship due to her academic performance in addition to her research experience.

According to Chan, "applicants typically show strong academic performance, have foreign language experience and experience living abroad, and must be able to show how their program of choice can contribute to American national security, in a broadly defined sense." Chan's project, a continuation of her work last year, combines aspects of biology, chemistry and physics.

"The motivation behind my return to Poland was my desire to take advantage of the tough courses offered at TUL, as well as the opportunity to work full-time on a research under the supervision of Professor Stanislaw Wysocki at the Biotechnology department of the university," Chan said.

Chan also has the opportunity to be immersed in the Polish culture and learn the customs and language of an

> Scholars Academy Natural Science Tutors

Fall 2010 Schedule

Course (including related lab)	Tutor	Days and Times				
Geology 1307/1308	Brandy Bell					
Geology 1405	Brandy Bell	Mon/Wed 1:15pm-3:45pm				
Geology 3411	Brandy Bell					
Physics 1307 and 1308	Victor Martinez	Mondays 11:30am-1pm Thursdays 4-5pm				
Physics 1307 and 1308	Jackie Nguyen	Mondays 10-11:15am Wed. 10-11:15am; 1-3:30pm				
Physics 1307 and 1308	Desiree Wilson	Mondays 4:30-6:30pm Fridays 10am-1pm				
Chemistry 1305	Anabel Fay	Fridays 10am-12:30				
Chemistry 1305, 1307, 1308	Dulce Guevara	TBA				
Chemistry 1307, 1308	Alex Weston	Mon/Wed 4-5:15pm Tues/Thurs 1-2pm				
Quant. Analysis (Chem 3310)	Elda Rueda	Tuesdays 9am-12pm Thursdays 7-9pm				
Biochemistry I (Chem 4340)	Elda Rueda	Tuesdays 9am-12pm Thursdays 7-9pm				
Biochemistry I (Chem 4340)	Tanu Uppal	Tuesdays 4-7pm Fridays 1-3pm				
Biochemistry I (Chem 4340)	Desiree Wilson	Mondays 4:30-6:30pm Fridays 10am-1pm				
Organic Chemistry I & II	Tanu Uppal	Tuesdays 4-7pm Fridays 1-3pm				
Organic Chemistry I & II	Alex Weston	Mon/Wed 4-5:15pm Tues/Thurs 1-2pm				
Biology 1301 and 1302	Audrey Gonzalez	Tues/Thurs 10-11am; 2-4pm				
Biology 1301 and 1302	Jackie Nguyen	Mondays 10-11:15am Wed. 10-11:15am; 1-3:30pm				
Biology 1301 and 1302	Christine Varghese	Tuesdays 10am-1pm Thursdays 10am-12pm				
Biology 1302	Alex Weston	Tues/Thurs 1-2pm				
Anatomy & Phys. I (Biol 1303)	Anabel Fay	Fridays 10am-12:30				
Genetics (Biol 3303)	Audrey Gonzalez	Tues/Thurs 10-11am; 2-4pm				
Histology (Biol 4310)	Audrey Gonzalez	Tues/Thurs 10-11am; 2-4pm				
Cellular Biology (Biol 4320)	Elda Rueda	Tuesdays 9am-12pm Thursdays 7-9pm				
Cellular Biology (Biol 4320)	Desiree Wilson	Mondays 4:30-6:30pm Fridays 10am-1pm				
Microbiology 2305	Anabel Fay	Fridays 10am-12:30				
Microbiology 2305	Christine Varghese	Tuesdays 10am-1pm Thursdays 10am-12pm				

entirely different way of life. Apart from her research, she spends much of her free time outdoors, running, walking, and going for horseback riding lessons.

"While Poland is so centrally located in Europe, it's surprisingly culturally isolated. So, any 'exotic' visitors to Poland will find themselves to be the center of attention, in a pleasant way," Chan wrote. "It's easy for Americans to make Polish friends because young Polish people are so warm and curious about us."

After Chan returns to the United States, she plans on finishing her degree in Chemistry. Although she already holds a degree from City University New York, she believes that her degree from UHD will only help her in her future goals.

"By finishing this degree, I want to show my support for UHD's STEM programs and the Scholars Academy, which make possible opportunities like this amazing research program in Poland," Chan said.



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n Campus

Student Government Association holds first meeting for Fall 2010 and second Welcome Week

CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ

Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) held their first meeting of the Fall 2010 semester on Friday, Aug. 27.

Few new items were on the agenda; however, a new advisor, Michelle Falcon, was introduced and the newly elected senators and chief justice were sworn in.

A suggestion to provide vending machines that dispenses basic school supplies in all UHD campus buildings was discussed at the meeting.



Photo from SGA Facebook page

SGA President Ali Abedi swears in Jimbo Herrera, the new chief justice of the SGA. Also pictured is Jose Uribe.

Vending machines would provide a solution for students in need of emergency supplies, such as scantrons and blue books, after bookstore hours. Students in the Shea and Commerce buildings would greatly benefit from the machines because they do not have easy access to the campus bookstore unless they are in the One Main or Academic buildings

The SGA also held its own Welcome Week from Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, and President Ali Abedi stressed the importance of volunteer work for the week and discussed the various events and giveaways.

One scheduled event was a student survey to find out what students wanted in a proposed student lounge. Students who filled out the survey received promotional items and pizza at the Sept.1 event.

SGA has spoken to as many as 80 incoming freshmen about joining SGA and participating in training courses to help them learn about what SGA does and how they operate.

If you would like to join SGA, please contact the organization at sga@uhd.edu.

Student Veterans Organization Call for service

The main focus of SVO is to promote the success of Veterans through creating a Veteran's network among students attending UHD. There are approximately 500 veterans and dependents of veterans that utilize Veteran Affairs (VA) educational benefits at UHD. However, several of these students will not complete their academic goals with only monetary assistance. Transition from military life to civilian to student is difficult and may create a steep learning curve. Through the commonality of serving in the United States Armed Forces, SVO will provide a familiar environment promoting a constant flow of knowledge/experience to its members. SVO's ideal outcome is providing a means to lifelong friendships that are able to encourage the success of Veterans in all aspects of life. If you would like to become a member, please stop by the Veterans Services Office (S-244) to fill out a membership application.

Community Involvement Center Upcoming Events

Campus safety seminar with UHD-PD Wed. Sept. 8, 11 a.m.- 12p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Library Special Events, Room N-420

Fall Heath Fair

Wednesday, Sept. 22 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) Special Events Center, Room A-300

Photo Club Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 7, 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, 4p.m. Library Special Events, Room N-420

Constitution Day Thursday, Sept 16, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. One Main Building, 3rd Floor

Arts & Leisure

Hispanic Film Festival

Crónicas

ADN

6

Directed by Sebastián Cordero Starring John Leguizamo

Leguizamo stars as a television reporter who travels to Ecuador to cover the story of a serial rapist-killer known to the locals as the Monster of Babahoyo. But, Leguizamo's thirst for glory to uncover the true killer carries tragic consequences.

Free showing Thur., Sept. 9, Room A-405 6:30-9:30 p.m.

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Arts & Leisure Professor/student twist revealed in "Oleanna"

CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ

Staff Writer

The O' Kane Theatre presented a four-day run of the student-directed play "Oleanna: The Story of a Student and Professor Caught in a Compelling Drama of Power and Betrayal," from Aug. 26-29, as part of the Welcome Week activities for the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD).

Director Miguel Roman, a recent alumnus of UHD, has been working on different forms of the play since last fall, although the woman who played the student has only been on board with the project since early July.

Every scene of the play is centered on a meeting in the professor's office with one of his students. The point of the play is to watch how their relationship begins with polite indifference and professional attitudes and transforms throughout the three acts into a standoff in which the audience learns that the professor is being taken to court for attempted rape.

In the opening scene, student Carol (Whitney Cummings) is in a meeting with Professor John (Andrew Maddocks), who is busy taking incessant phone calls regarding the new home he is purchasing. The audience soon learns that John is up for tenure at the university where he teaches. Carol has come to the professor's office because



Actors Andrew Maddox and Whitney Cummings (above and below) give outstanding performances in director Miguel Roman's (not pictured) "Oleanna," at O'Kane Theater.



she is having trouble in his class and wants to speak to him about her grade, but is constantly interrupted by John's conversations, which are conducted wonderfully considering there is not anyone on the phone.

Carol is portrayed as a girl who seems bright but cannot understand very broad concepts or complex words. She is meek and is even afraid when John tries to pat her shoulder to comfort her and assure her that he will work with her so that she will understand the class material.

In Act II, John is reading a report when Carol walks in. John has asked her to meet with him to discuss the report she has submitted to the tenure committee stating that he sexually harassed her and discussed sexist and pornographic topics. They both understand that if this report is not recanted, he will not attain tenure, and will lose the home he is trying to buy. Carol refuses to discuss the report until the tenure committee hearing.

The physical aspect of this play had the most shock factor. The accusations that Carol brings to John are made by an oversensitive, even hallucinatory person, and are cause for a certain level of shock. The problem with this is that John can only respond calmly for so long. At the end of Act II he shakes Carol by the shoulders to try to keep her in his office to negotiate.

By act III, Carol has transformed into a woman able to not only speak her mind, but to stand up for her beliefs, which are shared with an anonymous 'group' that is often referred to. The first assumption is that this is a feminist group, and that the sexist remarks that John makes has led them to want to make an example out of him.

Carol's self righteous attitude with regards to how John speaks to his wife, along with the accusations of attempted rape and the loss of his job, causes John to physically beat her and throw her on the ground. The play ends when John stops himself from throwing a desk chair at her, and realizes that this woman whose accusations were, to him, completely unfounded, has affected his entire life. At the same time, the play demonstrated the power shift from the professor to the once meek and timid female student.

Moderately Confused by Jeff Stahler

8



SUDOKU

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HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repitition.

> Look for the solution to the Aug. 23 Sodoku on the Back Page (12).



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Arts & Leisure

Today's Crossword

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86	Flash of lightning	11	Bark or yelp			take				81		rateg	·		solutions to the puzzles from the Aug. 23											
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Sept. 6-19, 2010 Dateline : Downtown www.uhd.edu/dateline

Coach Rivas has high hopes for 2010 UHD soccer teams

TEKE MONO Contributing Writer

10

Beginning his fourth year as the head coach for University of Houston (UHD) men's and women's soccer coach, Coach Josh Rivas is looking forward to another winner season for his teams.

Sports

Since his days as an outside midfielder on the Stephen F. Austin High School Varsity Soccer Team to his present-day desire to see soccer enter a bigger arena at UHD, Rivas' passion for soccer shows in his career.

"It has been challenging at times, and truth be told, very rewarding and fulfillstate championships.

With the sudden surge of popularity from the World Cup, Coach Rivas wishes more UHD students will become interested in the sport. Soccer is the fastest growing sport in America, with over 20 million youths endeavoring to dribble like Ronaldo or Kaka, both of the Brazilian national team.

An offense-minded coach, Rivas seeks smart, fast, and team-oriented players who are consistent, trust-worthy and dependable. His lineup of (4,4,2) or (3,5,2) elaborates his reliance more on the tactics and ball-passing skills of the midfielders for victory.

A winning streak of 11games since Oc-



2009 UHD Women's Soccer team player Andrea Duran teaches the competition a lesson with quick moves on the field.



Fourth year UHD soccer coach Josh Rivas hopes to continue winning streak in 2010.

ing," he said.

After an 11-0 loss during his coaching debut, he made up his mind to be better, and after 16 years, he still aims for higher heights. Both teams started with losing streaks due to unfamiliarity between coaching schemes and new players; however, last year ended with the men almost leading their Houston Club Sports Conference by a goal difference of -1 in their standings.

This new season, his aspirations are even higher. He hopes his teams will lead both conferences, and hopes that the university will move into a Division I or II program where they could compete for tober 2008, and an overall record of 14-1-1 from 2008-2009, the men's team proves the efficiency of his program over the long run, and leads Rivas into this new season with soaring hopes.

Rivas has coached the Houston Dynamo Youth Academy since 2006, coached the Houstonians Futbol Club from 1995 to 2008 and served as a state scout for the Olypiam Development Program from 2005 to 2006.

For more information on Coach Rivas and the UHD men's and women's soccer teams, visit the sports and fitness page at http://www.uhd.edu/sportsandfitness/ clubsports.

Sports





Healthy Workshop Sept 8, 2010 12noon – 1pm S998

Free to UHD Students, Faculty & Staff

Studies show that people who write down or log everything they eat are better at weight loss and maintenance than people who don't keep such records. This workshop will introduce participants to the MyPyramid Tracker online nutritional and physical activity log that can analyze what they are eating and compare that to USDA recommendations as well as measure their fitness level. Workshop participants will create their own MyPyramid account and learn more about the benefits this service offers. This class has a maximum capacity of 15. Register now to hold your place!

Snacks and giveaways provided. To reserve a spot for this seminar call 713-221-8481 or email schererr@uhd.edu. 11

¹² Back Page

Solutions to last edition's puzzles

Last Edition's Crossword



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