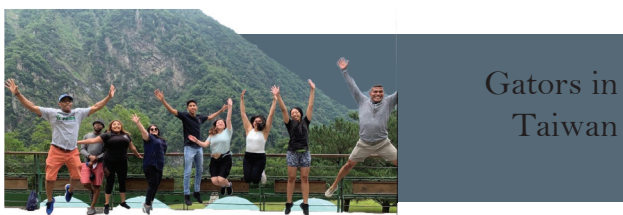




UHD baseball team set to start strong



Gators in Taiwan



Coach Ana Diaz, UHD women's soccer team confident

# The Dateline

University of Houston-Downtown's Newspaper  
Volume 63 Summer Issue

Student Run Since Volume One  
August 2, 2019

## Community project creates children's books from neighborhood stories



Lorena Marquez, Susanna Miranda de Leon, Galleryy Martinez Reyna, Andie Martinez Reyna, and Nalani Ortiz presenting their work for Northside Stories  
Photo courtesy of CCESL

By Emily Conrad

A collaborative project between UHD and the Northside community to publish iconic neighborhood stories in the form of children's books is set to distribute the books to local elementary schools this fall.

Nalani Ortiz, a former Program Advisor for Educational Talent Search at UHD, first developed the idea for Northside Stories in 2018. Ortiz received a grant from UHD's Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning. The CCESL awards grants each semester to UHD students

and staff to fund projects that have a positive impact in the community.

The director of the CCESL, Dr. Poonam Gulati explained why the center thought Northside Stories would benefit the community.

"This project is an engaging way to inform children in the community about programs and heroes they can be proud of," Gulati said. "The Center is happy to see this project come to fruition."

Ortiz set up meetings with community members to discover which stories were important to them. She heard the

same stories over and over. These were the stories of the Huelga Schools, La Casa Bakery, and Josue Flores.

Ortiz approached Dr. Brian Flores, Director of UHD Educational Talent Search, to write the story of Josue Flores. Josue was 11 when he was murdered on his way home from an afterschool Science Fair. The shocked and grieving Northside community created A Safe Walk Home Program, a group of volunteers who make sure neighborhood children get to and from school safely.

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## New Student Wellness Facility approved by Texas Legislature

By Aansa Usmani

This past Texas legislative session proved to be successful for UHD, as it obtained funding for a new student wellness facility, with construction beginning possibly as soon as summer 2020.

The student referendum held in fall 2018 that overwhelmingly approved the dedicated student fees to fund the new facility was a result of a strong collaborative effort between the Dean of Student's Office, Sports and Fitness, Student Activities, Student Government Asso-

ciation and other Student Affairs departments. UHD administration then submitted the student fee for approval to the University of Houston-System Board of Regents. After Board approval it was submitted as a bill to the Texas State Legislature for consideration.

The students and faculty members traveled to the State Capitol late February, legislating the University's needs to Texas politicians. Regardless of individual partisan leanings, the students eloquently elaborated the needs of the University, convinc-

ing various members to support this bill. Although this bill had taken several months to pass, its passing signifies a bright future ahead for the University and its attraction towards future Gators.

This bill— known as HB 1277—was written by Texas Representative Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston) and sponsored by Texas Senator Borris Miles (D-Houston), and enacted a fee for UHD students to create and maintain the Wellness and Success Center.

The bill allows  
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## Gators in China: From Shanghai to the Great Wall

By Grant McFarland

When one thinks of China, they may think of Mulan, unique architecture, the Great Wall, and dragons. But as a group of students and professors from UHD's Nonprofit Management graduate program found during a 10-day trip to the country, China is a rich, modern, vibrant nation that combines elements of its long, ancient history with dazzling modernity. Spending five days in the capital city of Beijing and five days in the city of Shanghai, these students were able to experience firsthand the diversity and culture of modern China.

"I went in with an open mind hoping for the best, but I was unsure what to expect with such a different culture" said student



The Great Wall of China on the recent China study abroad trip  
Photo courtesy of Nely Sanchez

Jazmin Osoros.

During the trip, students from UHD visited a series of nonprofit organization and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout Beijing and Shanghai, seeking to identify differences in the American and Chinese methods of NGO leadership.

"The major difference that stood out to me

was in China the leadership appeared to be more subservient to ensure that they are within the guidelines of the government," said Drucessa Ireland, a student on the trip. "In the United States, organizations lobby for change in policy and governmental guidelines".

These NGOs and  
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## Northside Stories continued from page 1

Flores was initially apprehensive about writing this story in a way that an elementary school student could understand. However, he decided to join the project and helped create “A Spiritual Gain”.

“I chose to author this story because I have been in education for over 25 years and I am passionate about educating our children, parents, and community,” he explained.

UHD graduate student Fabian Ramirez illustrated “A Spiritual Gain” and described why he volunteered for the project.

“I did it as a labor of love for Josue Flores, his family, and the children of the Northside community,” Ramirez said. “As a member of the community, I was honored to have the opportunity to illustrate a book that will have such a strong sentimental value for current and future generations.”

Both Flores and Ramirez spoke about the respect they have for the community after working on the book.

Flores said, “I learned from having the opportunity to author this amazing book that the residents of Northside in Houston, Texas are proud of who they are, committed to their children’s education, have the ability and

strength to come together as ONE voice and demand justice for not one, but all children!”

The story of how La Casa Bakery was saved by a tweet is well-known throughout the Northside. After Hurricane Harvey, Trinidad Garza was planning to close his local bakery. His daughter Jackie tweeted a video of her father preparing pan dulce and a plea for customers to come to the bakery. The tweet quickly went viral. Business picked up in the following days and Garza was able to keep his bakery open.

Lorena Marquez, a UHD alumna, wrote about the bakery in “Saving Mi Casa” and Kelsi Rios illustrated it. Rios explained that she was happy for the opportunity to gain exposure as an artist.

Marquez worked closely with the Garza family during the writing process and found that she had quite a bit in common with them.

“Jackie and I both cared about using La Casa’s story to inspire new generations of Mexican-American children in the area,” Marquez said. “We wanted to present the story with a mix of the English and Spanish language in a way that encouraged these kids to be proud of their culture. Even if kids weren’t

specifically Mexican-American, we wanted to present the story in a way that empowered them as well.”

Marquez added, “Our biggest goal was to teach kids that no matter if things seem to be working against you, you should always find a way to persevere.”

In the early 1970s, the Huelga Schools were founded in the Northside to protest the school district for not properly integrating the public schools. The volunteer-run schools taught over 3,500 students for two years before the school district began to integrate the schools. This movement had support from activists across different communities.

“Los Fighters of Tomorrow” is the story of the Huelga Schools. The book was written by UHD student Galleryy Martinez Reyna and illustrated by Andie Martinez Reyna and Susanna Miranda de Leon.

Galleryy Martinez Reyna described the effect of this history.

“Many have forgotten the hardships, battles, and community effort of the Huelga School activists, yet their work made waves across Houston,” she said.

Galleryy Martinez Reyna had a difficult time with

the Los Fighters of Tomorrow because many of the people involved with the Huelga School have moved away, passed away, or cannot remember. Yet she knew how important it was to preserve this story for younger generations in a language that honored the community and the time.

“It was important to maintain the integrity of the community and the history and write a story that highlighted the beauty of bilingual writing and dialogue,” Martinez Reyna explained. “The community, most importantly, the youth that reads the story can recognize words or phrases significant to the Hispanic community of the north. The older generations that read this can enjoy the same language that is part of their lives or was part of their parents.”

Andie Martinez Reyna enjoyed working on this story and was able to use her talent with collage work to add more depth to the story.

“My collages focus on the messages at hand, bringing to life words that are hidden, and using that in the form of art,” she said. “Although it was important to help the readers envision the characters or scenes, collectively my sister and I wanted to bring the messages to life.”

The books are available for all Northside elementary school libraries for free.

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## Sports and Fitness continued from page 1

UHD to charge its students depending on the semester in which they are use the Wellness Center. The new fees will be \$50 to \$75 in the summer semester, while regular semester sessions would be \$150.

HB 1277 was signed into law June 14 by Governor Abbott, making it an effective measure in promoting wellness at the University.

According to the official UHD Legislative Day Pamphlet, “The availability of a new Wellness and Success Center is critical to accommodating students on campus between classes, where they’ll be able to meet with classmates, study, exercise, and become more connected to the culture of the University.”

The mission of the new facility strives to create a wider, unifying culture of students, faculty members, and others, making it a common area for socialization and decompress between students’ hectic schedules.

According to the University’s president, Dr. Juan

Sánchez Muñoz, “the appropriated four million and Wellness and Success Center are critical to our University’s growth and will yield many benefits to both our campus and our students.”

The president agrees that the new Wellness and Success Center is crucial to students’ success, helping their physical and mental health, while balancing the day-to-day schoolwork/activities at the University. The new addition will create a robust environment suitable for socialization, team-building, and a stronger school spirit.

In addition, separate funding from the state will also tackle other important projects around campus, ranging from hurricane damage to an eventual Student Center in a renovation of the current Student Life Center. That renovation will take place after the completion of the Wellness and Success Center.

The new facility could begin construction sometime in 2020, with the goal of finishing the project sometime in 2021-22.

## Gators in Taiwan: 2019 President’s Global Scholars trip

By Jorge Mendoza

Ten students and four university administrators traveled 8,000 miles from Houston, Texas to Taipei, Taiwan, as part of President Munoz’s 2019 Global Scholars trip.

Two students from each college were chosen based on distinguishable awards and recognitions, among other factors. After traveling through three time zones and flying over the Pacific Ocean in a nearly sixteen-hour flight, the Gators touched down in Taipei, a city home to vivid scenery, a culture rich in ancestral history and nuances in its unique, distinct territory.

Most of the students on the trip were new to one another, including myself. I had not met some of my peers prior to the

information session and brunch arranged before the trip. However, it wasn’t long before the Gators started socializing and sharing their excitement with one another. Upon the first day in Taiwan, the group became a small family. We were all motivated and shared a notion of joy, the notion of being in a foreign country, and representing our university.

The first morning in Taipei was phenomenal. I made my way up to the hotel rooftop on top of the seventh floor to see the sunrise. The sun hid below the summit of several mountains in the distance, creating a gleaming aura as the sun’s rays blended with the light blue sky, which was accompanied by the soothing noise of the wind and the whooshing noises of airplanes.

The essence of this

scenery would later be amplified when we rode a gondola up several mountains in Taipei in the evening, which allowed us to admire the beautiful city of Taipei during the daytime and nighttime. The view we had at the end of our gondola ride was breathtaking, I had not witnessed a view of that nature ever in my life. The nightlights of the condensed city paired well with the lights of Taipei 101, a towering building composed of 101 floors that can be seen practically anywhere in Taipei.

Besides the vivid scenery, the food in Taiwan was also one of the highlights of our trip. Breakfast in the Riviera Hotel usually consisted of fresh fruits, local fish and a variety of natural juices. However, there’s a

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### Submission policy

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Nonprofits represented a variety of causes, from the Capital Animal Welfare Association in Beijing, which focused on animal welfare and ethical treatment of animals, to the Adream Foundation, which addressed a variety of social issues from education to care for the elderly.

One unique presentation was from Veronica Hernandez, an American citizen and Boren Fellow who chose to live in China after experiencing a study abroad program while pursuing her undergraduate degree. Through years of rigorous study, Hernandez had learned to speak and read Chinese to a point of near fluency and was certified as a level III advanced speaker by the US State Department.

Hernandez works as a part time professor at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, and

during her presentation describes several key differences between her interactions with Chinese students. Hernandez particularly noted a difference in maturity, describing how Chinese parents will often shelter their children and leave them with woefully underdeveloped when these children reach college.

Despite the numerous presentations and interactions with NGO leaders, the trip also made time to visit numerous cultural sites throughout Beijing and Shanghai.

In Shanghai, students were able to visit the Shanghai Financial center, and see the famous city from 100 stories above the ground. While there, the local guide explained that while Shanghai used to be farmland and a city run by the British and French after the 1848 Opium

War, Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping sought to develop the city into the financial and economic hub that it is today. Rife with bright, flashy shopping centers and manicured freeways, this transformation seemed nearly complete.

In Beijing, students visited several widely recognizable and world-renowned sites including the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square, where the infamous protests occurred in 1989, resulting in the Tank Man photograph. "I had seen the famous picture of the man standing in front of the tank but being in the same plaza brought in a new experience," said Osoro.

At the Great Wall, students were able to walk upon China's most famous structure and marvel at its length and design. Visiting the Mutianyu

section of the wall, students were able to see the most well-preserved section, with the bricks, towers, and walkways dating back to the 1400s.

As the students returned to the United States, they found that despite the political and cultural differences between the two nations, it seemed that both Americans and Chinese citizens sought the same things: a simple, quiet, prosperous life with a better future ahead. As China comes to dominate the headlines in the US, often with a negative connotation, it was increased human to human interactions and cultural experiences like this trip that stand the best chance of making those dreams of a shared future a reality.

# SGA initiatives focus on accessibility for students

By Emily Conrad

The incoming SGA administration's initiatives involve making the college experience more accessible to students by addressing textbook affordability, parking and crosswalk issues, minority male retention rates, and making student resources more visible.

The SGA plans to address textbook affordability. Shay Tatum, SGA president, said there are several ways they are going to work on this issue. One way is to create a scholarship fund for students who cannot afford their books.

Tatum also explained how the SGA could work with the faculty senate to make textbooks more affordable.

"We can make sure there is a moratorium on the book usage," she said. "So, if you have a book, you are using it from one to three years."

Tatum added, "Or a professor could switch to having no books and make everything online. Many schools are using online books and resources these days."

Another of the initiatives is to improve the retention and graduation rates of minority males.

Tatum explained how they will address this issue by working with the Center for Critical Race Studies, the College of Public Service, and the Men of Legaci.

## University of Houston - Downtown



### STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

"The Male Minority Initiative is a collaboration with the Men of Legaci sponsored by Dr. Wallace, assistant dean of the College of Public Service, and Dr. Vida Robertson, the director of Critical Race Studies," she said. "It is about creating a connection on campus and improving the recruitment and retention of our minority males on campus with programs and event that gives them a sense of pride to attain graduation. We will work with Dr. Wallace and his team to create a positive conversation and a holistic approach to establish a connection that will improve the low representation of the male minorities in our graduation numbers."

SGA vice-president Jason Lillie explains that minority males often stop attending school because of financial hardships and lack of holistic support.

"Cultural misguiding has men not asking for or seeking the help they need," he said, "thus many drop out and fade away."

Resource visibility is

another initiative important to the SGA. According to Tatum, UHD has many resources such as counseling, opportunities for Study Abroad, and free tutoring of which many students are not aware.

Christina Glenn, the senator from the College of Public Service, explains that the SGA wants all students to be able to use the resources they need to successfully complete college.

"It's extremely important for all students to know all the resources available to them on campus," said Glenn. "The incentive for resource visibility will be beneficial because the more the student knows how much help there is on campus and where to get it then the student can get the best college experience UHD provides."

The SGA also wants to encourage students to be more connected on campus. Tatum explained that all students, but especially incoming ones, are more likely to stay at UHD if they are involved with some activity or organization at school.

"People find a connection with things they have ownership in," Tatum said. "So, we need to create that sense of ownership. Everyone here is an ambassador, creating pride and tradition, and things that students can be a part of."

Another area the SGA is working with is to create viable parking solutions. Tatum noted there are new buildings going up and the present parking lots have limited parking. She said that one option is to have an arrangement with local parking garages to save a set number of spots for the University. They are working with the city to make the metered parking spots under the freeway to be free after 6 p.m. as well as on weekends.

Accessibility for deaf or blind students as well as students

with special needs is another area the SGA is working with the school. They would like more doors with push buttons. The SGA also wants to improve the crosswalks to the Shea St. building and the Commerce Building. They want the visual and auditory prompts at these crosswalks to be louder and more visual.

In addition to these initiatives, the SGA will host their usual annual events such as Know Your Status and Walk-2Vote.

Tatum explained how the SGA will make their events more accessible for all students.

"The SGA is committed to all students so we will be hosting most of our events at night as well to better accommodate students who miss out on the day events," she said.

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## Center, director focus on importance of sustainability in Houston

By Emily Conrad

Dr. Lisa Morano has learned over the years that food is a perfect introduction to help people learn about the complexity of environmental problems.

Morano, the director of UHD's Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability explained, "If you start from deforestation or climate change and people are not bought into why this matters to them, they will tune out." She added, "I realized that if I start with food and people come to understand that to grow food, we need water, we need pollinators, we need stable temperatures, then we can get to the kind of bigger environmental pieces that we need for all of that to work."

It was in this spirit Morano began CUAS soon after she became a full professor at UHD. Morano started at UHD as a biology professor in 2001 with a background in plant ecology and agriculture. She explained that she eventually became interested in an intersection of research questions.

These questions concern how people can make the planet more sustainable, continue to

grow food on a planet that will have nine billion people in 20 years, and conserve water. She wondered how this can be done while having a minimum impact on the environment. Morano also questioned how Houston, one of the wealthier cities in the world, can have such bad food deserts.

Morano explained how all of these questions are connected in the sustainability triangle.

"In one corner of the triangle we have the environment," she said. "In another corner is economics and the other corner is social stability. So, in order to save the environment, we need to create social stability in an economic model. If these sides stay separate, we won't actually solve any problems"

She started CUAS to address these issues and get students involved. Many schools have some sort of sustainability program which often only involves recycling. Morano, however, wanted to take UHD's efforts a step further so she included urban agriculture in the center. Her goal is to create leaders in the students.

Roshani Malla, the sustainability coordinator for

CUAS, explained the mission of the CUAS as including the whole community.

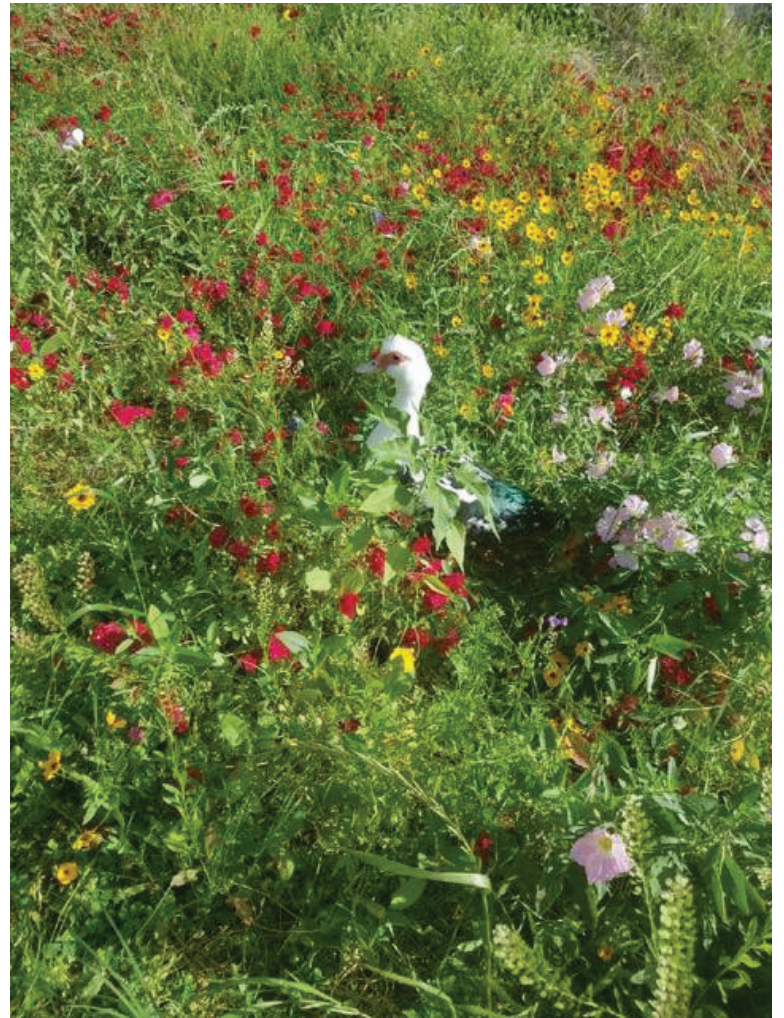
"CUAS is committed to developing sustainable solutions and raising student awareness in sustainability to create stable urban ecosystems, engage community participation in sustainability, and increase urban food production," Malla said.

CUAS uses a three-prong approach to achieve this: research, teaching, and community service.

For the teaching portion, CUAS offers a minor in sustainability, which is open to students in any discipline. Morano feels this opens up sustainability to a broader range of students who might not otherwise be exposed to this field.

In addition to the minor, CUAS engages in community education classes such as collaborating with Urban Harvest to offer classes on campus. CUAS also partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program to host the Houston Urban Food Conference this June for the second

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The native plants in the Pocket Prairie in full bloom on the south side of UHD  
Photo courtesy of CUAS

## Global Scholars' Taiwan trip continued from page 2

vast variety of food in the streets of Taiwan that gives visitors a unique taste of the unique culture around Taipei. So for that, many people visit the several night markets situated around the city. Raohe Street Tourist Night Market is one of the most sought-after night markets to visit, as it offers a wide variety of food, stores and souvenir stands.

During my visit, I had a taste of some of the foods recommended by my peers. Caramelized tomatoes, stinky tofu and sweet potato balls were on my menu that night. I enjoyed each bite I took. They enhanced the experience of walking through the night market, an atmosphere filled with distinct chattering in Chinese, laughter, smiles, a sense of joy and awe overwhelmed me each and every moment.

I was accompanied by a group of students which we met earlier in Ming Chuan University, one of the academic institutions we visited whilst on our trip. The students and staff were very welcoming; they



The 2019 President's Global Scholars Trip in Taiwan  
Photo courtesy of Jorge Mendoza

showed us around their campus and made us feel at home. It was a learning experience for all of us. I was amazed when learning about their campus and enjoyed answering the questions the students asked me about American culture.

I can safely state that

going to Taiwan was the best trip I have ever taken thus far. It has gifted me with lessons and wisdom that exceed the prize of any souvenirs or material objects I brought back home. It gifted me with new friendships, a new perspective on life, it opened my mind to new horizons.

The kindness given to us by the people of Taiwan became instilled within me even further. The students and environment served as a reminder to enjoy small things in life, which we often overlook making us realize the beauties and moments that can only be experienced on

our home, which we call Earth.

On the last day of our trip, there was heavy rainfall in the city of Taipei. Our tour guide had been extremely passionate about helping us and answering our inquiries about the country. Upon arriving to the airport in which we would board the plane to Houston, she stated that in their culture they would say that, "the sky was crying because we were leaving". I released a warm smile and looked out the window, taking in the last moments of our trip on this amazing country as we made our way to board the plane.

I want to thank President Munoz, Dean Santos, Dr. Gengler, Dr. Harrison and Dr. Tamez for making this trip such a wonderful experience. The trip would have not been the same without them.

## ‘Strong’ season awaits UHD baseball

By Chris Charleston

Summertime means baseball and here at UHD, Coach Nick Strong is looking to build upon an already impressive first season as the Gators Head Coach. Strong, 36, is excited about the potential to build a Houston-area powerhouse, primed to compete with the best of the best.

“This season expect excitement,” says Strong. “These Gators will be ready to get over the hump.”

UHD’s head baseball honcho, a former collegiate player himself at Texas Southern University, is no stranger turning programs around. From 2012-2014, he was the head coach at Jack Yates High School, resuscitating a winless organization into a respectable club. Entering his second campaign at UHD, he hopes to work a bit of that same magic on the Bayou.

“The problem at UHD has always been [the] lack of depth. Students were not inter-

ested in playing,” says Strong. Fortunately, that’s no longer the case. And after recruiting upwards of 30 incoming students, there is now a plentiful pool of talent for Strong to choose from.

“I feel we will have [the players] needed to make a world series run,” Strong said.

Strong, who spent a season as a recruiting coordinator at Houston Community College, knows that the development of his players goes beyond the baseball diamond.

“With my experience in college baseball, I’m able to work with the players and teach them how to run an intercollegiate baseball program,” he explained. “How to schedule games, budget for travel, amongst other operational areas of a team.”

Players who join UHD baseball can step onto the field knowing that they will learn how to be much more than an athlete.

“We are not only building student-athletes...” Strong

says. “But maybe there is a career in the front office for some of my guys.”

While UHD sports has long been written off as an afterthought in such a large market, there seems to be one reason in particular why Strong sees the University as such an enticing job. *Potential.* UHD—whose sports teams compete in the National Collegiate Baseball Association—is smack-dab in the mix of one of the biggest cities in the country and is growing fast. With enrollment increasing, the University’s notoriety has done the same, and the period of time in which UHD has played the role of “little brother” might soon be in the past.

“This isn’t a resume builder for me,” Strong said. “We have plans to build this program into two intercollegiate base-



The Spring 2019 UHD Baseball team  
Photo courtesy of Sports and Fitness

ball teams that compete in the NCBA, D1 [or] D2.”

For UHD students who wish to be a part of the growth, opportunity is soon approaching.

“During tryouts, expect a lot of intersquad games and conditioning,” Strong said. “We

will find out who really wants to be a UHD Gator this season.”

Tryouts begin August 27.

## Women’s championship soccer team begins season with confidence

By Emily Conrad

The 2018 UHD’s women’s soccer Houston Club Sports Conference championship team is set to begin their 2019 season on a strong note with returning head coach and alumna Ana Diaz.

The team made UHD history by ending their fall season with the club’s first ever conference championship. All players and their coaches worked

hard throughout the fall to achieve it.

“Winning the championship in 2018 was a historic event and the results of all the hard work the team put together,” Diaz said. “The practice and chemistry on the field was shown during the penalty shoot-out in the championship game.”

Club president Shelby Long described how dedicated the team was to achieving their

goal.

“The season leading up to the championship game was a huge rollercoaster! We definitely had our low lows and of course the high highs,” Long exclaimed. “I mean at one point we literally had to play a team when we were short three players! But I think that season showed us all that if we really wanted to win then who could stop us?”

Diaz explained that the spring season was more challenging because of participation. Many of the players not only need to balance school and practice, but also work.

For the players that work to maintain that balance, the payoff is worth it. Diaz believes that soccer, or any sport, teaches unique life skills. She says soccer provides a place to meet new people and stay active and it also

encourages players to display ownership and responsibility.

Long said that being on the soccer team has benefited her greatly.

“Getting out there on the field and running until you can’t anymore or kicking that ball as far as you can is the best stress reliever that I know of,” she explained. “The club also benefits the team by presenting us with a family. I have been a part of the UHD Women’s Soccer Club organization going on five semesters now and each semester is like coming back to a big party with my sisters.”

Usually players commit to staying with the team throughout their time at UHD and only leave upon graduation. The team has 11 returning players and has already noticed a lot of interest from incoming freshman.

Diaz played on the team for four years before graduating with a degree in criminal justice in 2014. She loved her time playing soccer and the lifelong friendships she made, and wanted to find a way to continue. She became the assistant coach in 2015 and two years later, the opportunity to become head coach came up.

“I was honored to be the coach of the sport, and school that helped me get through my best years in college,” Diaz said. “I was able to take lead of practice, changes, and also be a support for the players that came to learn soccer and practice it.”

After her first season as head coach, Diaz knew that they needed someone else with experience and training on the coaching staff in order for the team to succeed. Sandra Dominguez began as the assistant coach the next season. Diaz said Dominguez has been a valuable addition in teaching the team new ideas, workouts and plays.

Diaz described the team’s focus for the upcoming season.

“The goal for this fall season is to go to Regionals again and maintain the championship title,” she said. “In addition, we plan to have more involvement in the high schools to bring in more members and work on recruiting.”

Tryouts for the UHD women’s soccer team begin August 6 for the first time on the new UHD Sports & Fitness field.



The Fall 2018 UHD Women’s Soccer team  
Photo courtesy of Sports and Fitness

## The Downtown Dollar Is college too early to start investing?

By Chris Charleston

Many people might assume that college is exclusively a life of day-to-day minimalism. One where young students and scholars, devoid of the rudimentary necessities in life, lack a basic diet of proper nutrients and are barren of the fundamentals that allow the average human being to live a comfortable lifestyle. All of this running parallel to the constant pursuit of passing grades, relationships and cheap booze. Those who assume that this is the norm for college students would not be entirely incorrect. Personally, my favorite flavor of ramen noodles is Hot & Spicy Beef, and I possess a secret recipe that turns a 30 cent pack, into a five star dish one could order at Nobu.

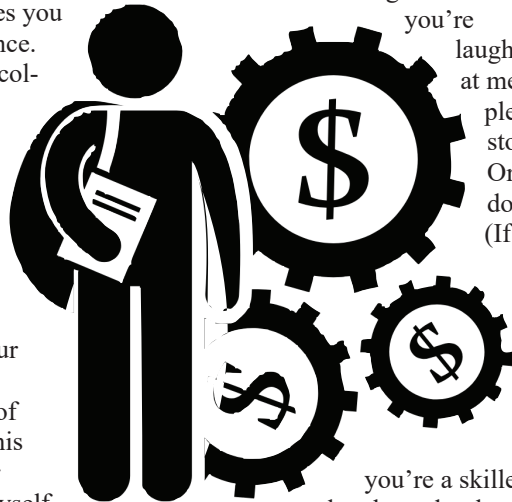
But what if I told you that being in college is the perfect time to lay the groundwork for financial independence? That right now, as you eat that ramen, and count that change for that

dollar menu burrito, you could, at the same time, have an entire side hustle that makes you money and teaches you the basics of finance.

That the life of a college student does not necessarily have to start or stop in line at the financial aid office. OK, fine. You're still likely to spend most of your on-campus time there, regardless of what the rest of this article says. After all, most of us, myself included, receive some sort of assistance paying tuition, and we're only able to continue our studies at UHD because of it. Still, what many college students, and young adults overall, cease to fully understand while in the midst of their college career is the simple concept that now is as good of a time as any

to begin your career as a financial investor.

I'm being serious. If you're laughing at me, please stop. Or don't. (If



you're a skilled laugh-reader that is.)

I promise I don't plan on turning you into *The Wolf of Wall Street*. I'm not going to ask you to sell me a pen, buy a bunch of Steve Madden or Apple stock or sign up for a 30-day Webinar course. What I will tell you is this: The best time to take risks is always right now. Better than that, the best time to *learn* about

financial risks is always now. Let me elaborate. By financial investing, I don't mean spending your overpayment on expensive stocks, or loaning your cousin \$3,000 to start her Instagram boutique. I mean *the basics*.

As a college student, your primary focus should be finishing school, getting a job and then paying off your loans. Period. At the same time, it's important to realize that there are ways of simultaneously learning and teaching yourself the world of finance before you even graduate. College is NOT too early. Take an app like *ACORNS* for example. This is a financial services company that connects to your debit card/bank account and invests your spare change at every purchase. Additionally, *ACORNS* offers various tools to increase your financial literacy and knowledge. After a few months, you could have as much as a few hundred dollars saved, the perfect amount of change to put towards your textbooks or supplies for next semester.

As with any investment or financial decision, you should always weigh the risks compared

to where you stand financially at the moment. Grow your knowledge and do your own research. Just because you might have only a few dollars in the bank doesn't mean you can't start your career as a financial investor. It cost \$0.00 to take the first steps. Read. Learn. The internet is plentiful of sources. Half-Price books and Barnes & Nobles have shelves and shelves full of material. Then, when you're ready, start with a little. Invest your change and research new ways of saving your money like *free* online savings accounts with a high annual percentage yield.

These techniques might not make a huge difference in your life as a student, but you'll take pride in knowing that while you're working towards your degree, you're also working towards a life of financial freedom.

## CUAS continued from page 4

year in a row.

Morano and CUAS encourage student research. Each year CUAS awards about 10 grants to students who have submitted proposals through the Student Green Initiative program. The students have used these funds to develop projects such as garden boxes, glass recycling, and the pocket prairie.

Another research component is the summer experiential program. After taking a spring course, the students spend 40 hours a week during the summer on cross-disciplinary teams to develop renewable energy-based projects. These projects include the solar-powered composter in the sustainability garden and an automated drip irrigation system.

UHD alumna Yarmilla Reyes participated in the first summer program in 2016. She described what she learned from that project.

"Completing the internship that summer opened my eyes to the importance of incorporating sustainable practices in our local communities to support a global change," Reyes said.

Reyes explained how

she went on to create another project the next year.

"Through CUAS and the UHD Green Initiative, I received a grant and was able to build a unique aquaponics system at the Monarch School and Institute, a therapeutic school for individuals with neurological differences," she said. "While building this system at the school, I was able to educate and build the interest of many children in sustainable practices. The teachers and students saw it as an example of humans' instinct to love nature and preserve it with its different aesthetic attractions."

Community service is an important part of CUAS. CUAS has adopted three garden beds at Target Hunger in Kashmere Gardens. All of the food produced at the gardens goes to feed the homeless. Morano and UHD associate professor Vasilios Tzouanas also participate with faculty at the University of Houston to help make mushroom production easier for urban farmers to create a sustainable source of protein. This project has been funded with a Synergy grant to encourage faculty from UH and UHD to work together.

Morano is excited about the future of CUAS. Soon, they will be housed in the new Gold LEED certified Science and Technology building. The CUAS offices will be adjacent to two solar-powered environmental labs and will have access to a new photosynthesis machine. Outside, CUAS will have eight new garden beds for experiments and demonstration purposes.

Morano explained the benefit of the building's design and landscaping.

"It is a really nice example of collaboration between faculty and the architect," she said. "The new building shows how to be part of an urban environment. The outside demonstrates that you can have areas of a property for growing food and surrounded by native plants. You don't have to pick one or the other."



The solar powered composter in the CUAS sustainability garden  
Photo courtesy of CUAS

# Eight guys and a Saab

By Mike Duncan

Twenty years ago in a Boston winter, I walked down an icy sidewalk after dusk, and something halfway magical happened.

It was January. A foot of snow from the night before had rendered the streets a muddy slush that would last another month. I was trudging home in a too-big coat, trying not to fall in the ice. I refused to risk my tiny car in the snow, so I'd just walked a mile to hit up a thrift store for a better-fitting ensemble, hoping the walk back would be warmer, but no such luck.

A woman stood crying on the sidewalk, in front of a row of small shops. It was Allston, a neighborhood of students and immigrants, on a busy street well-lit even at night, but for a moment, I was the only one who saw her.

She was middle-aged, well dressed - her coat looked warmer than mine - and her car was stuck. The tires were deep in that slushy goo well past the hubcaps, and she had given up on traction. She was talking to herself and not in English.

The car was a new Saab 9-3. Two door, front wheel drive. A clue. German? No, too pleasant. Swedish? More likely. Irrelevant, I didn't know German or Swedish. I paused, because I was 125 soaking wet then and there was no way I could push

that car out of that mess, even if I could demonstrate that I was not attempting to rob her.

This is when the half-way magical moment happened.

I counted seven other men - emerging from storefronts, other cars, and across the street. We saw each other, and immediately, by unspoken agreement, we all converged on the Saab and its owner at once.

Now you might not think that particularly remarkable. But let me add one other detail.

We looked like that Norman Rockwell painting, you know the one, Do Unto Others, where every nationality and ethnicity Rockwell could fit into the frame were represented. Except this was the lost Rockwell where eight guys, only two of which spoke English, decided to dig a Saab out of a snowdrift.

Snow shovels materialized, and we went to work. I heard Cantonese, Arabic, and several other languages I couldn't identify. The other two I was certain about was the burly Russian guy that took the Saab's wheel; he was arguing (in Russian) through the window with an elderly gentleman barking orders to the rest of us in Spanish. The other English speaker, an African-American fellow, indicated with hand gestures to the woman what we were attempting.

When the Russian gunned the engine, the remain-


ing four of us without shovels grasped the trunk and the bumper and leaned into it, everyone falling hard and getting back up several times as there was almost no way to get footing on that crusty gray ice. The Saab's front wheels spun like mad and the rear did squat. From my position by the taillight, it felt like pushing a tank. I contributed the muscle power of several hefty butterflies to this endeavor as the Swedish woman stood transfixed, as if she was watching the televised execution of her children by an international gang of maniacs.

An energetic argument, completely incoherent save in spirit, ensued, and only with much pointing and drama everyone was repositioned, this time with both the driver and passenger doors opened and used for leverage. Another huge grunting effort.

Nothing. Absolutely nothing. More shouting and confusion. I fell on my ass for the third time. Her eyes were wider than the Saab's tires.

And then the front left tire skittered an inch, then two, and then bounced over the ring of ice. We fell forward, clinging, as the little car's rear hopped through onto the clear street.

The tears started up again. Relieved, sure, but she may have been uncertain if we were now going to make off with her car, which probably cost 30K new twenty years ago. But we



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smiled and laughed and made sure she pattered away.

Later, I realized that individually, we might all have walked on by and let a tow truck handle it. But collectively, we activated. Who hadn't gotten their car stuck in the snow in that neighborhood? I once woke up to go to work to find that it had rained late at night, frozen an inch-thick, and then snowed my encased car roof-high, to then be buried further when the snow-

plow cleared the street.

Sometimes, when I start thinking half of everyone I meet is a lousy bastard, I think of the seven guys that stepped forward that night to help a total stranger. Maybe we needed a bit of simultaneous shame to get moving, but we did. Isn't that how a community works, though?

# UHD'S Animal Rescue Club: Working to save Houston's cats and dogs

By Aaron Gillette

UHD is a unique college—that's why so many students choose to study here. For example, very few colleges have an Animal Rescue Club (ARC). UHD ARC is a community service organization that saves cats and dogs from the streets who otherwise would suffer from disease, starvation, or needless euthanasia in over-crowded animal shelters. These beautiful creatures are just as precious as any other pet. To save these "fur babies," club members volunteer at local shelters such as BARC and the Harris County Animal Shelter. ARC also holds monthly on-campus training meetings,

sponsors its own animal rescue-related events, and hosts several annual social events which have become special traditions (such as "Pet Valentine's Day"). Every semester the Animal Rescue Club holds a "Pet-a-Pet Day," when it brings immediately-adoptable cats and dogs to campus for all students, faculty, and staff to meet, play with, and perhaps even adopt.

Because of the popularity and success of UHD ARC over the years, Dr. Aaron Gillette of the Department of History, Humanities, and Languages is investigating the possibility of creating a new Animal Welfare Studies (AWS) degree at UHD, which would be one of the first

in the country. The degree would train students to work with animals or animal welfare causes in a number of professions. Anyone in the UHD community interested in ARC, or in the possible development of an AWS degree, should contact Dr. Gillette at gillettea@uhd.edu for more information.

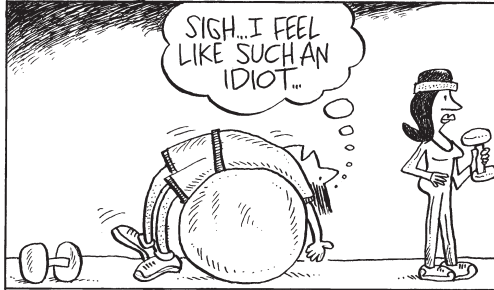


A group of students enjoys petting dogs at an ARC event  
Photo courtesy of Student Activities

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



## GRIN and BEAR IT



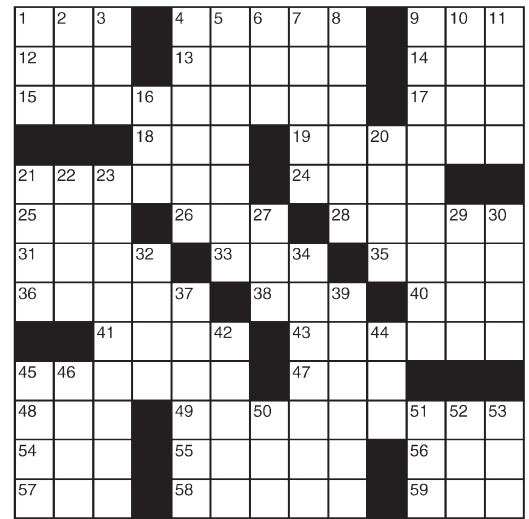
## Just Like Cats & Dogs



## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Mouth part
- 4 Uses an old phone
- 9 Taxi
- 12 Lemony drink
- 13 "Snowy" bird
- 14 11-Down cousin
- 15 Woodworker
- 17 Fish eggs
- 18 Parisian pal
- 19 McCormick's invention
- 21 Tennis need
- 24 Palm starch
- 25 — Khan
- 26 Morning moisture
- 28 Phobos and Deimos, to Mars
- 31 "— Your Enthusiasm"
- 33 British rule of India
- 35 Merriment
- 36 Military caps
- 38 Wrigley product
- 40 Listener
- 41 Heidi's range
- 43 Piece of pasta
- 45 Half a dime
- 47 Ailing
- 48 Jimmy Kimmel's network
- 49 "Seize the day" in Latin
- 54 Half of XIV



- 55 Elbows' counterparts
- 56 Dove's call
- 57 Tokyo's old name
- 58 Begin
- 59 Conclusion
- 8 Rill
- 9 Used the HOV lane
- 10 Lotion additive
- 11 Brewery output
- 16 LPGA's Se Ri —
- 20 Quite enthusiastic
- 21 Poolroom item
- 22 Chills and fever
- 23 Thin-sliced raw meat
- 27 Witty one
- 29 Patricia of "Hud"
- 30 Withered
- 32 Defraud
- 34 Gin flavoring
- 37 Motes
- 39 Harass
- 42 Point of view abbr.
- 44 Antiquated
- 45 Church section
- 46 Footnote
- 50 Actor Stephen
- 51 Hockey surface
- 52 A billion years
- 53 Chic, in the '60s

### DOWN

- 1 Fond du —, Wis.
- 2 Actress
- 3 Apiece
- 4 Considered
- 5 Pilot light, e.g.
- 6 Illustrations
- 7 Lecherous looks

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## Strange but true

by Samantha Weaver

\*It was one of the most influential directors in the history of cinema, Alfred Hitchcock -- also known as the "Master of Suspense" -- who made the following sage observation: "The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder."

\* In Murfreesboro, Tennessee, it is illegal to keep indoor furniture outdoors.

\* The town of Llanfair in Wales is also known by its Welsh name, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwillllantsiliogogoch. Roughly translated, this means, "Saint Mary's Church in a hollow of white hazel, close to a whirlpool and Saint Tysilo's Church and near a red cave." The sign at the railway station that has the town's name is 20 feet long.

\* Those who study such things say that cockroaches can run as fast as 3 mph.

\* You probably don't realize it -- and you

certainly don't notice it - but experts claim that the Atlantic Ocean is getting about 1 centimeter bigger every year, and the Pacific Ocean is shrinking by the same amount. It's due to continental drift, they say.

\* Linguists say that American English has roughly 20 swear words (depending, of course, on how one defines swearing). In contrast, residents of ancient Rome had a lexicon of about 800 so-called "dirty" words to draw upon.

\* The tuatara is a lizard that can be found in New Zealand. Its claim to fame? It has a third eye, located on the top of its head.

\* If you counted up all the McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts, Pizza Hut, Burger King, Domino's Pizza, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wendy's and Taco Bell locations in the United States and added them together, you still wouldn't reach the number of pharmacy locations across the country.

\*\*\*  
Thought for the Day: "I am free of all prejudices. I hate everyone equally." -- W. C. Fields

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		8		4		6		
	7		5					3
3					1			5
2				6		8		
		9			3			1
	6		8					2
	4			2				9
8					9	3		
		7	1					5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## MAGIC MAZE ● — CREDIT

M B Y V T F Q O L I G D T B Y  
 W L B T O R O P M K I F F D B  
 Y W A E X P O R T U A S Q O M  
 K G N I V L O V E R I F D B D  
 Z I K X (C H I L D T A X) W Y E  
 L U S Q O R N R C E T L J G C  
 H F D C A Y E E W S V E E R N  
 T S Q P N V R M L R K L L E A  
 I H F E O I C B M U L Z Y N V  
 W V U S D A B T R O P M I E D  
 R R E M U S N O C C C Q P N A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- Advanced
- Bad
- Bank
- Child tax
- College Commercial Course Direct
- Energy Export Import Letter of
- Line of Overdraft Revolving

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.

		+		×			13
+			÷			+	
	×			-			11
÷			+			+	
	×			-			20
5			11				10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8

**DIFFICULTY:** ★

- ★ Moderate
- ★★ Difficult
- ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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## Solutions to last issue's puzzles

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

T	S	P	G	E	M	S	A	B	E	T
H	O	E	R	I	O	T	N	E	R	O
O	U	R	A	G	R	A	E	A	S	T
U	P	T	O	T	H	E	M	I	N	U
			P	E	T	M	A	T		
J	O	K	E	R	M	E	N	O	D	E
O	W	E	N	B	U	R	S	H	O	E
Y	E	N	J	A	M	C	L	O	C	K
			S	E	Z	C	U	E		
D	O	W	N	T	O	T	H	E	W	I
A	L	O	E	O	I	L	S	D	O	G
N	I	K	E	K	N	O	T	L	A	G
G	O	E	R	A	S	E	A	E	M	S

### Go Figure!

answers

3	+	6	×	2	18
×		×		×	
4	×	4	+	7	23
+		-		+	
9	÷	1	+	8	17
21		23		22	

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	7	9	5	3	6	2	1	8
2	6	3	4	8	1	7	5	9
8	5	1	7	2	9	4	6	3
1	2	6	9	7	4	3	8	5
7	3	8	2	6	5	1	9	4
5	9	4	3	1	8	6	2	7
9	8	7	6	4	2	5	3	1
3	1	2	8	5	7	9	4	6
6	4	5	1	9	3	8	7	2