

DATELINE

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UHD president delivers his first State of the University Address

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

On Sept. 8, UHD President Loren J. Blanchard, PhD., delivered his first State of the University Address following his inaugural listening tour he started five months prior.

In the middle of the spring 2021 academic year, UHD welcomed Blanchard as the university's seventh president.

His first order of business after receiving his new role, Blanchard embarked on a listening tour to further understand how UHD can best serve the Gator community.

The president said the listening tour was "integral for UHD going forward," to appreciate better the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and

community leaders.

Blanchard commenced his presentation by reporting to the Gators in attendance what was learned from the listening tour.

The three points that were picked up from the tour were that: UHD is needed, valued, and respected, throughout the community and all over Houston.

The university has always been committed to affordability and diversity.

Therefore, the institution has garnered considerable merits throughout the years. Blanchard emphasized that "UHD is ascending," and reaching new heights.

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From left to right: SGA President Shamika Jefferson, UHD President Loren J. Blanchard, and SGA Vice President Michelle Duvall pose at State of the University Address on Sept. 8. Credit: Shaheryar Khan

UHS alumni recount post-college job search experience

BY CAROLINA VALDEZ

Alumni across the University of Houston System recount their first year after graduation to illuminate Houston's competitive professional world. 2020 graduates are significant because they finished school when Houston's employment was at its lowest in recent years.

Despite the city experiencing a crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these recent graduates created paths for their success.

Surprisingly, these professionals had some controversial ideas about life post-graduation.

They described the college degree as a checkmark

on a to-do list for a successful career.

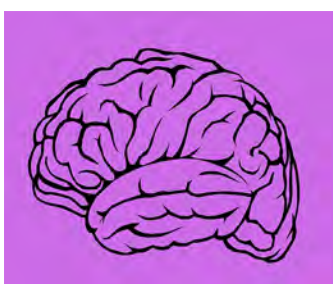
This is a crushing defeat for college seniors to hear but there are other key factors like job experience, instincts, and chemistry with a potential employer.

Christian Vazquez from Brownsville, Texas had his heart set on our beautiful city. He graduated from the University of Houston-Victoria with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. It took him a year and a half to apply for a teaching position here in Houston.

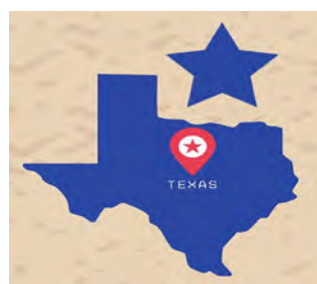
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Houston's construction sector decreased in employment. Credit: Indira Zaldivar



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FIND US ONLINE!

Heartwarming stories highlight impact of Alzheimer's on relatives

BY SASHA SMITH

The UHD Social Work Student Community Advocacy Network and Collaboratory for Aging Resources and Education hosted a summit on Sept. 16. on Alzheimer's disease.

The presentation informed on how the progressive, irreversible Alzheimer's disease affects the brain, listed the risk factors of Alzheimer's, and compared Alzheimer's with dementia.

This event offered attendees a chance to obtain more than a general sense of the disease and to familiarize themselves with the language and the symptoms. Furthermore, the speakers undressed updates in scientific research about Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

It was discovered that 5.7 million people have been diagnosed with dementia in the U.S. Meanwhile, 16.1 million Americans are providing unpaid care for those who have Alzheimer's disease and dementia themselves.

Alzheimer's disease is under the umbrella of dementia, as is vascular dementia, dementia with lewy bodies, and fronto-temporal dementia.

Contrary to popular belief, Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of the aging process. It progresses and has nothing to do with age. Current research has shown that Alzheimer's can affect people under the age of 65 and target specific groups, especially football players and soccer players because of common brain

injury factors. However, it also predominantly affects Hispanics as Hispanics are 1.5 times more likely than their white counterparts to develop Alzheimer's and other dementias. At the same time, Black people are twice as likely, and women at that same rate, if not more.

This presentation allowed a more personal understanding of the disease due to the firsthand experience that the two speakers had, Sheryl Mayers, bilingual educator in the Alzheimer's Association Program, and Angela M. Goins, DSW, LMSW, lecturer in the social work program at UHD, respectively.

The incorporation of these speakers who have personally been affected by this disease in response to a loved one, allowed participants and fellow staff to have a new appreciation for caregivers, and offered a sympathetic outlook on what this disease looks like from the outside in.

These speakers revisited stories of their overwhelming swarms of emotions, from finding out a loved one was diagnosed with the illnesses to seeing them slowly deteriorate in front of their eyes. These experiences showcased the different types of forgetting and the slow but painful wave of memory loss from gradual to expedient.

Different stories unfolded about the inability to read a book because of the lack of ability to transpire what was previously on the page before

this. Also, these stories give an insightful view as to why those who have this disease struggle with their vocabulary and even stop talking all together sometimes.

The magnetic and heartwarming meeting

showcased how understanding and connections on prevalent diseases are enhanced through open, honest, and informative conversations.

Multiple resources are available for people personally dealing with

this disease or who has a loved one with Alzheimer's; and who seek more help processing or taking the next steps.

The phone is available 24/7, and their helpline is 800.272.3900. Online, they can be

researched at alz.org, and generally have communities nationwide. Another page, alz.org/CRF, has a mission to eliminate Alzheimer's through advancing research too.

What is Alzheimer's?



Progressive brain disorder in the umbrella of dementia that slowly deteriorates memory & thinking skills

For the older population, Alzheimer's is

- More common
- Third leading cause of death



EARLY SIGNS

- Forgetfulness
- Repeating questions
- Struggling to handle money/ pay bills
- Personality or behavior change



@FilbertCartoons

Credit: Indira Zaldivar

Credit: Anthony Labonte

US representative visits alma mater

BY GEAN GARCIA

On Sept. 7, UHD's College of Public Service invited U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Houston, to speak to members of the community on important issues.

Nehls, a freshman Republican in the House of Representatives, comes from the 22nd district of Texas, Fort Bend County, where he served as sheriff for eight years. After patrolling the streets in the daytime, Nehls earned his master's degree in criminal justice by taking evening classes at UHD.

Speaking to a sparsely populated room of Gators, Nehls spoke about immigration and the negative impacts it has had on Texans. For example, he told a story about one man whose mother was ran over in Missouri City by an illegal immigrant who had already been deported eight times. Furthermore, Nehls claimed that the border wall is the reason that drove him to join the federal government, which he referred to as "the Swamp."

"It's a big, beautiful wall," Nehls said several times, claiming that former President Donald Trump did more to secure the southern border than former President George W. Bush did.

Nehls also warned



U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Houston, speaks to a crowd of Gators. Credit: Gean-Louis Garcia

against human trafficking, claiming that there are too many adult entertainment centers in Harris County. To be fair, Houston, with its residents receiving child abduction alerts often, is a hotspot for child trafficking.

He also criticized the George Floyd riots, calling them "civil unrest" and "destructive."

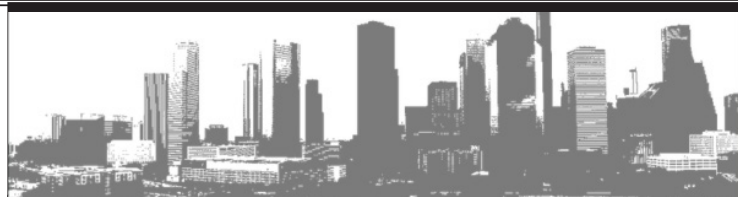
However, Nehls's message was not purely partisan. He also criticized the mob of Donald Trump supporters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, calling them "a black eye on our country" and claiming that "our adversaries are making fun of us," while "we are imploding from within" because of our hyper-partisan culture.

Nehls took no questions from the press, but he did answer a few questions from Elizabeth Gilmore, a professor of criminal justice at UHD. When she asked him about the biggest issues facing Americans today, Nehls responded,

"We are living in a divided house where people can't agree to disagree anymore because people are very emotional. It takes a national tragedy to bring people together. The love and respect for the military has faded. Mental illness in America is at a crisis point today. Everything is a crisis today."



UHD Professor Elizabeth Gilmore, of the College of Public Service, asks questions to UHD alum and U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls. Credit: Gean-Louis Garcia



THE DATELINE

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Submission Policy

The Dateline staff consists of students from UHD who complete all tasks required to produce the newspaper, which serves all UHD campuses. The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in The Dateline reflect the viewpoints of UHD, its administration, or students.

The Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. All submissions become property of The Dateline and may not be returned.

All paid writers must be currently enrolled students at UHD. All paid writers must also complete vendor registration with the University of Houston System prior to contributing.

Press releases, story ideas, news tips and suggestions are always welcomed. We encourage all students to contribute. Any student interested in joining The Dateline staff may request more detailed information sending an email to the editor Indira Zaldivar at editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com.

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State of the University

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Through the listening tour, Blanchard came across the many great attributes that shape up UHD and highlighted a couple of opportunities the institution can work on.

The president mentioned graduation and retention rate as an area we need improvement in.

“UHD must improve student retention and completion rates which will also result in improving campus public perceptions and external funding opportunities,” Blanchard noted. As UHD continued to grow, the university and its Gator inhabitants were faced with the struggles that were brought forth due

to the COVID-19 pandemic. Blanchard shed light on this challenge and brought up the fact that through Gator grit, students, faculty, staff, and the Gator community overcame all the challenges and continued to fight on.

Many promises were made by the new president in his efforts to make sure the university prospers. The first promise Blanchard started with was to ensure patrons of the institution receive “fast and efficient customer service.” The goal is to have no issues with anyone who has business in any area of UHD and for all issues to be resolved as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Another promise

that was made was to provide more amenities for the Gator community. Apart from the many services and facilities UHD offers, the university broke ground on the new Student Wellness & Success Center, which we can expect to open in 2022.

Blanchard also promises to get UHD on the map and skew away from the shadows of the University of Houston-Main Campus. By doing so, UHD must get under the radar of the state legislature.

The new president introduced the UHD Strategic Plan to “bolster” the university for 5-10 years. One of the university’s goals is to aim to achieve accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in time.

The plan also con-

sists of careful monitoring of the coronavirus. Blanchard explained that as an institution for higher learning, it is essential to respect the views of medical experts. Blanchard further elaborates by saying that the “greatest resource is campus community” and to “practice caution and courtesy.”

The plan aims to

support UHD’s journey forward and intends to navigate through “UHD’s Institutional Compass.” These are the four points that embody this compass: “embracing educational justice, strengthening student success and equity, supporting institutional success and infrastructure, growing as an anchor institution.”

Blanchard alludes to Alice Walker’s 1989 novel by stating, “I see UHD as a temple to my familiar.”

Blanchard concluded his speech by citing UHD’s new brand campaign: Determined. Dedicated. Downtown.

“It is not just a University in Houston ... but a university for Houston.”



UHD President Blanchard 's take on the state of UHD

Areas to improve on

- Retention rates
- Graduation rates

UHD 's Institutional Compass guided by

1. Embracing educational justice
2. Strengthening student success and equity
3. Supporting institutional success and infrastructure
4. Growing as an anchor institution.

Job search

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 1

Though he met the requirements on paper, his lack of experience was a wall he was hitting constantly.

He also recalls a frustrating interview where the hiring manager was unprepared and had obviously not read his resume beforehand. Through this disappointing experience he learned that hiring managers are human and interviews are just conversations between two people feeling each other out. This idea helped him get through further interviews. He is now a professor at Houston Community College and is moving to Houston in October.

“You have to listen to your instincts,” Vasquez said. “If you know you already don’t like the person you’re talking to, how happy do you think you’re

going to be working for them?”

UHD alum Helena Almendarez found a job shortly after graduating but was unhappy there for a year. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business management with a minor in human relations; and a master’s degree in leadership management but was working in accounting. She put in a lot of work in her studies and felt that she was not where she belonged.

She began asking within her social circles about any job opportunities in the human resources department and got her foot into the right door.

Almendarez highlighted the importance of networking as a valuable resource for jobs. She realized that if you stand still, nothing is going to change for you.

A simple move like asking can change

everything. She also acknowledges the harsh reality that jobs can often come down to who you know. She is now an HR specialist for the community bank of Texas.

“Networking is key. Make a LinkedIn profile. Add your professors on social media. Add all your friends. You never know who the person next to you is going to be.”

Jovana Amezcua, a University of Houston alumna with a bachelor’s in education, went directly into her field after graduation. Her

transition was smooth, thanks to her teaching program and preparation.

Amezcua describes her experience as stressful because she balanced her required unpaid work hours as a teacher’s aide with her courses and homework. It was a heavy workload, but she is grateful for the program because it made her job search easier than most others.

She also shared that she felt behind sometimes because it took her a while to figure out what she wanted to do. She took a gap

year after high school and started at HCC before attending UH, where she discovered that teaching was her passion.

Taking the time to figure herself out and researching the programs she was involved in was her key to finding her success. She is now a second grade gifted and talented teacher in Fort Bend Independent School District.

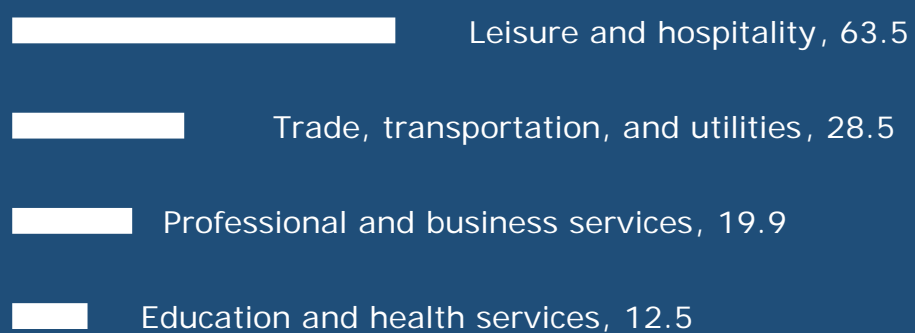
“Everybody has their own path so don’t stress out about what others are doing. You’re going to find your

way.”

The good news for 2021 graduates is that employment in Houston is better than last year. In the graphic provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is a slight increase at the end of July of this year, and the Greater Houston Partnership predicts that increase to continue.

“The [forecast] calls for Houston to add 35,000 to 52,000 jobs in [2021], with most of the growth occurring in the second half of the year.”

Leisure and hospitality industry saw its largest employment increase in Houston



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Gov. Greg Abbott pushes Texas to fund border wall

BY SERGIO PRESA JR.

Set to pay almost \$25 million, the Texas Department of Transportation is funding nearly two miles of concrete barrier along the Texas-Mexico border in Eagle Pass, Texas. Additionally, along State Loop 480, Texas envisions a temporary fence, estimated to cost \$280,000, to be built.

The Department of Public Safety has designated the area as a high-traffic area for illegal immigration, and in recent years, the area has seen an increase in illegal border-crossings.

The cost of the temporary fence is part of the \$25 million that Texas is set to pay for

the concrete barrier.

The rest of the money will go towards the concrete barrier.

The construction is set to be complete in December. Funding for the project is coming from the budget of the transportation department's maintenance division.

A spokesperson for the transportation department, Ryan LaFontaine, says that the department is expecting reimbursement for the project, but he was not clear on where the reimbursement money would come from.

The construction project is a part of Operation Lone Star initiatives, which is Gov. Abbott's effort to

secure the Texas border.

The effort includes "building a border wall, utilizing strategic barriers, and erecting temporary fencing," according to Renae Eze, a spokesperson for Abbott.

"DPS has also been working with Texas Military engineers to identify locations for temporary fencing, as well as a deterrent to illegal immigrants entering Texas," Eze, regarding the governor's border security plan, said.

Abbott has also launched a state fundraising campaign that has raised around \$936,000 from private donations in the last two months.



Unfinished border wall section in La Joya, Texas on July 1, 2021. Courtesy: Brandon Bell/Getty Images

Texas shares 1,000 miles of borderlands that do not have a barrier built with Mexico. Abbott has said the wall could extend hundreds of miles and cost the

state more than \$250 million in total. The border wall's construction is expected to take a while to complete. The governor ordered the Texas Facilities Commission to hire a

program manager for obtaining contracts with businesses. The application for a program manager position closes Aug. 20, and more than one program manager might be hired.

Texas Legislature will conduct new bills starting on Sept. 20th ★★★★★

The main topics that will be discussed in the upcoming meeting are:

- ★ Gov. Greg Abbott and lawmakers will deal with COVID-19 federal relief funds, as well as give the choice to either state or local governments if they want to enforce COVID-19 vaccines.
- ★ The topic of transgender athletes being placed on teams based on their gender given at birth, may cause many politicians to rile up and defend or oppose their stance.
- ★ As the new U.S. Census was conducted last year, Texas can now redistrict or reorganize the legislative and congressional districts.

★ Brought to you by The Dateline

Despite opposition, Texas enforces strict voting law

BY SERGIO PRESA JR.

The controversial Senate Bill 1 passed and is now a law in effect, placing new restrictions and rules for voting in Texas.

Texas is one of several Republican-led states to enact new voting laws. The new law also gives counties and local officials less control over how elections are conducted in the state.

Before the bill was passed, Texas Democrats left the state capital to break quorum to keep the bill from being passed, resulting in two special sessions being called by the governor to get the bill passed. The Democrats' walkout lasted 38 days before enough Democrats returned to the Texas House of Representatives for quorum to be met. Democrats are concerned that the new law could make it more difficult for people of color and people with disabilities to vote.

The new law should take effect three months after the special session. However, the law's future is still unclear because it could still be caught up in lawsuits in that three months' time. The law already has two federal lawsuits

filed against it, along with three other lawsuits in Harris County, with one of those lawsuits being filed in a state district court.

"One thing that all Texans can agree on is that we must have trust and confidence in our elections. The bill that I'm about to sign helps achieve that goal," Gov. Greg Abbott said before he signed the bill.

Texas's new law brings about a slew of new rules for the way elections are conducted in the state. The law makes it a felony for local officials to distribute applications for mail-in ballots, even if they are distributing the applications to voters who automatically qualify to vote by mail. The law also gives partisan poll watchers free movement inside polling places and sets new criminal penalties for voter assistance. The law also bans overnight voting, early voting hours, and drive-thru voting.

Also, under the new law, voters are required to provide their driver's license number, or, if they don't have a driver's license, they must provide the last four digits of their social security number, not only on their applications to

vote by mail, but also on the envelope used to return their completed ballot. The numbers that they provide have to match the information contained in the individual's voter record.

"SB 1 is an arduous law designed to limit Tejanos' ability to exercise their full citizenship," CEO of Voto

Latino Maria Teresa Kumar said.

Kumar also insists that it's not just the votes belonging to people of color that Voto Latino is suing to protect.

"Not only are we filing suit to protect the right to vote for all people of color, and the additional 250,000

young Latino Tejanos who will reach voting age in 2022, but to protect every Texan's right to vote."

The Harris County lawsuit filed in state district court says the law violates Texas's constitution, including its protection against racial discrimination. A group of plaintiffs in

one of the federal lawsuits, which was filed in San Antonio said: "These provisions will harm all Texas voters, but consistent with Jim Crow era tradition, the burdens will be disproportionately borne by Black and Latino voters and voters with disabilities."

Image courtesy of Tiffany Lashmet for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

STRICT VOTING LAW IN EFFECT

Here is an overview of the new law, in Texas

- The law makes it a felony for local officials to distribute applications for mail-in ballots
- The law also gives partisan poll watchers free movement inside polling places and sets new criminal penalties for voter assistance
- The law also bans overnight voting, early voting hours, and drive-thru voting
- Also, under the new law, voters are required to provide their driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number

Brought to you by **THE DATELINE**

Credit: Shaheryar Khan

A BOWLFUL OF COLLEGE



Credit: Jeremy Jones

Local man survives COVID-19, shares hospital experience

BY CAROLINA VALDEZ

Sitting in a living room on an old blue sofa is Francisco Perez. In the far corner of the living room is his oxygen tank that is supposed to help him breathe. He is a 31-year-old father of two who was in perfect health just several weeks before. As an arborist, he acclimated to a physically grueling daily regimen, but his current physical condition is something alien to him. The oxygen tank has been a new member of the household since his return from the hospital after battling a lung infection brought on by COVID-19.

On Aug. 17, Perez was rushed to the ER at Houston Methodist-Sugar Land, where

doctors found an infection in his lungs and placed him on oxygen and antibiotics to fight the infection.

With hospitals limiting visitations for COVID-19 patients, many people do not know what the inside of hospitals are like during these times. In an interview with Perez, he described his stay at the hospital as a confusing and frustrating experience. With lungs still in recovery, he struggled to talk through his story about the worst week of his life.

A full night's rest was impossible because his vitals were being checked regularly, so his concept of time altered. He was often confused about the medications given to him and the information

that the medical professionals went over with him.

All he could focus on was his fear of the restroom. Because he would become so winded, Perez dreaded the walk from his bed to the restroom. He called these episodes of tiredness "attacks." His fear intensified with every step, and all he wanted was to make it back to his bed as fast as he could.

On the third night at the hospital, Perez suffered a severe attack that he was certain would kill him. He remembers panic overcoming him as he gasped for air after a restroom trip: a nurse, equipped with breathing equipment he had never seen before, showed up in the room.

Hours passed before he could relax, and Perez was thankful for every breath afterwards. His brush with death and lack of sleep made his interactions with his doctor frustrating. Perez was scolded for walking without help, and he felt like a child who is always needing supervision.

He also described the fear in a nurse's face during a coughing fit. He was unsure if the reaction was from her fear of the virus itself or fear that she would wit-

ness a patient die. After six days in the hospital, Perez's weight dropped from 260 pounds to 226.

"Many COVID-19 patients are in a hyper-metabolic situation, meaning that it takes a lot of energy to breathe," Dr. Matthew Yotsuya, a writer for Hackensack Meridian Health, stated. "People who have COVID-19 spend a tremendous amount of energy just trying to keep themselves oxygenated. Because of that, people

tend to lose a lot of weight."

Perez is now home with his family and doing all he can to return to his previous health. It has been estimated that he would need an oxygen tank for three months, but he tries to use it as little as possible in hopes of being able to get better on his own. Perez's wife, Mariana Mora, jokes that he is doing better. "He just walks and talks like an old man now."



Francisco Perez poses with wife Mariana Mora and two daughters. Courtesy: Francisco Perez.

MEXICO BANS COSMETIC TESTING ON ANIMALS

41st

GLOBAL COUNTRY TO
JOIN IN THE BANNING OF
ANIMAL TESTING

1st

COUNTRY IN
NORTHAMERICA

The Humane Society of International (HSI) and the ONG Te Protego are two groups that have supported the #BeCrueltyFree Mexico campaign for years.

The HSI produced an animation film called "Save Ralph." In this film, there's a rabbit named Ralph who is being mistreated from the cosmetic testing.

The "Save Ralph" animation film became one of the motivators that influenced the Mexican government to take action against using animals for cosmetic testing.

Brought to you by

Credit: Giselle Oviedo

Why amazing Webb Space Telescope deserves more hype

BY ANN M. LUMMUS

Come Dec. 18, NASA's James Webb Space Telescope will launch into space. The launch of the ten-billion-dollar telescope would end a project 25 years in the making.

Webb will peer back in time over 13.5 billion years to see the first galaxies born after the Big Bang, according to NASA. Webb is the largest telescope ever placed in space.

The telescope is 100 times more powerful than Hubble.

In addition, NASA also claims Webb will show atmospheres of extrasolar planets, and maybe even building blocks of life elsewhere.

"The longer wavelengths enable Webb to look much closer to the beginning of time and

to hunt for the unobserved formation of the first galaxies, as well as to look inside dust clouds where stars and planetary systems are forming today."

Today, this may seem like a mere expectation because technology advances each year. Also, since NASA was established, the organization always continues thinking about how to reach the depths of space.

Ironically, even billionaires in their leisure time can pay for a single trip to space. Understandable, space is an interesting void with a lot of real-estate. But the thousands of scientists who worked on Webb have knowledge in mind, like to reach beyond Earth's solar system with time.

UHD Natural Sci-

ences Professor Heather Sartain explained that the position at Lagrange point 2 (Webb's launch) is 1.5 million km away from earth.

"Away from much light but in a good spot to receive communication from Earth," Sartain said. "We're going to get images of galaxies and objects from deep space and further back in time. The data we collect from Webb will help scientist make breakthroughs in our understanding of the universe. Possibly, even changes to our estimations of the age of the universe and beyond."

This is interesting to think about in terms of our societies' response to what NASA might unveil about space. As Sartain states the data can change the estimated age of Earth and

reveal more about the Big Bang theory.

Why talk about the telescope now when in December it launches? New information about space often trends. For example, in May NASA announced with the Hubble Space Telescope, astronomers have traced the locations of five deep space signals. Social media had created a trend discussing that other life forms in the universe has sent signals.

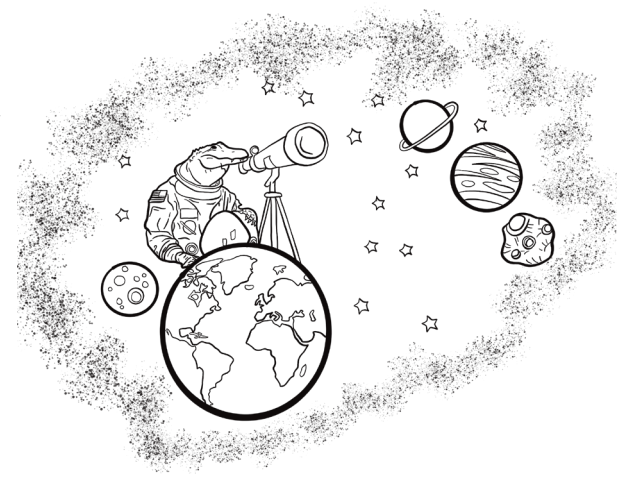
It's important to hype up this new device so people will know about Webb. How it is different from Hubble and hopefully provide new and astounding information. But, without the fanatic response about space which propels fear or iodization.

"Hubble gave us a better understanding

of galaxy formation, planet formation, the age of the universe, the rate of expansion of the universe plus more," Sartain added. "The Webb telescope will expand on this in a range of infrared wavelengths that Hubble cannot see."

UHD offers astronomy courses. Most students take them

to complete science requirements. However in the next decades, astronomy in academia could be of major interest based on what Webb will show us. Who knows, maybe people's increasing knowledge of the universe will diminish astronomy as a blow off class.



Credit: Gean Garcia

It's time to drug test baseballs

BY SAM KROH

In the history of baseball, there are three different eras of the game. The first era is what is known as the Dead Ball Era. No one was hitting homeruns except for players like Babe Ruth, Jimmie Foxx, Mickey Mantle, and Willie Mays to name a few.

The second of the three eras, roughly from the 1990s to early 2000s, is the Steroid Era. This era is credited to Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Both players were on track to hit 60 plus homeruns in a single season, a feat that had not been accomplished since Roger Maris in 1961 and Babe Ruth before him in 1927. Both players, McGwire and Sosa, were found to be using steroids.

The final and current era is the Juiced Ball Era. In the Juiced Ball era, balls are flying

out of the stadium at a record pace. In baseball there have been 45 times that a player hit 50 homeruns in a single season. Today, there are 6-7 players who could hit 50 plus homeruns in a single season at the same time.

To put this into perspective, a single season average amount of homeruns hit by a single player stands between 30-40 homeruns. In the 45 times a player has hit 50 plus homeruns in a season, it has only been one player per season who accomplishes that feat.

In this era, Mike Trout, Peter Alonso, Cody Bellinger, and Jorge Solar are four of those 6-7 players that could do it in the same season as the others. Multiple players hitting 50 plus homeruns in a single season is a ridiculous amount of offense for a game that is traditionally low scoring and slow.

So, this brings up the question of whether the players have that raw power, talent, and technique or is there something else going on here. Now I want to get one thing straight; I think these four players mentioned above are incredibly talented and most certainly deserve to be in Major League Baseball.

However, I do think there is something else going on behind the scenes. Especially in accordance with the balls being used. It's interesting to look at not the player, but the ball. The ball can be manipulated and reproduced in a way that can cause more homeruns to be hit.

For instance, Dr. Meredith Willis deconstructed baseballs to find out the measurements of the seams. She found thicker seams which allow the ball to be made smaller, thus causing the ball to

travel farther. The ball would subsequently have less drag. The 'equation' that can be used is 3% less drag = 5 more feet of distance = 10-15% more homeruns.

If those 5 feet were to be taken off all the homerun hits in 2019, 2/3 the homerun hit wouldn't clear the wall let alone make it to the wall. Another way the ball can travel farther coming off the bat is by the way the core of the baseball is made.

At the center of every baseball is the pill. The pill is a smaller red ball, like a small weighted bouncy ball. If this pill is centered in the ball, it travels straighter, longer and with less drag.

The Rawlings Baseball Company has made baseball for decades, now for the MLB, and it seems recently they have figured out how to center the pill at the core of a baseball.

What's even more strange and significant

for the idea that baseballs are juiced, Rob Manfred the commissioner of baseball, came out and expressed he wanted to see more offense in baseball to try shorting the game and have quicker play. This statement was expressed right before Rawlings began centering the pill of the baseball.

The change in ball caused an uptick in homeruns. In 2015, 4,909 homeruns were hit in the MLB but in 2016, 5,610 homeruns. The switch to a centered pill baseball came in 2016. That's a difference of 701 homeruns hit over the span of one offseason.

Not only have the homeruns increased, but from 2014 to 2019 the number of homeruns has also steadily increased. In 2014, 4,186 homeruns were hit and in 2019, 6,259 homeruns. From 2014 to 2019 a total of 2,073 homeruns were hit in between those years.

I don't want to take away from the talented players in the majors, but at the same time with the reproduction of the centered pill the ball is leaving the yard in a record fashion.

With this type of change to the game, are we truly experiencing the beauty that baseball has to offer? I say no. We are merely manufacturing beauty by juicing baseballs like McGwire and Sosa manufactured their athleticism by juicing their bodies.

A homerun is an amazing thing to see. It should be a treat and not something we see on a regular basis. With a non-centered pill, we can bring that athleticism back to the game. We can restore the awe-inspiring moment in combination of raw power, talent, and technique. We can restore the excitement and euphoria we feel when one sees a homerun hit.

My body seems like your choice

BY SASHA SMITH

We scream my body, my choice, as though it's true. Yet dictators and representatives tell us what to do. My period is gross, not to be undiscussed, yet my vagina and uterus are worth all this fuss.

I do wonder why there are those chanting, "you're killing babies,". When they don't bat an eye at the foster system, with over 400,000 children alone in the U.S. The foster system is overpopulated by 30 to 50% because of lacking foster parents or individuals to take in these children.

Abortion is the "deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy."

Though, something not stated in this definition is who will be carrying this collection of cells and matter until it actually can proclaim the name "baby" or "child."

However, if pro-choice individuals are "killing babies with abortion," then what if the mother decides to put the child up for adoption after she has conceived instead?

Seems like no one wants to adopt even though they say to. People will say 'no,' because they want a child who's their flesh and blood, or maybe they just have too many kids to undertake with such a responsibility.

If this matter is so concerning to these individuals who are against abortion or the right to choose, then they must also advocate for safe sex or sexual education implementation within schools.

What about advocating for different means of birth control?

Hypothetically, the mother of this unborn child carries out her pregnancy, despite the plausible occurrence of rape, incest, financial matters, pure lack of interest, motherhood, or simply that they just weren't trying to conceive at the moment. Will her child be safe from the influx of gun violence, poverty, climate change, socioeconomic differences, or other domestic problems?

The moment the decision is made for a woman to carry out a pregnancy against her will it is an automatic declaration of war on

her body. This insinuates a woman is no longer capable of making up her mind about a life-altering decision, that she is no longer in possession of her choices, nor her body.

Screaming "my body, my choice" doesn't mean you approve of abortion. Or that you even like the idea of it. However, it does mean that you believe in the right of choosing, of deciding, of simply making, a choice.

The right to an abortion should be of equal opportunity. Most importantly, a matter between her and those who she trusts not government officials or strangers. This decision is not only a private matter but one that takes time to process or fully execute.

For this decision to be merely taken away like in Texas. For the reason just because some individuals don't like it, is completely ludicrous and completely unconstitutional.

The idea of abortion cannot just simply think of the unborn fetus but of the individual possibly a child who may carry it. Pro-lifers scream, "stop killing

babies," yet allow young girls who aren't even 18 years old yet to navigate full-term pregnancies. All while they are still evolving into or out of childhood.

The lack of abortion rights allows for children born out of rape no autonomy.

Worse, it causes death to the mother whose body was not equipped to carry a full-term pregnancy.

If abortion rights are taken away, this doesn't mean abortions will vanish, it just means the safe ones will be.

It means there will be no medical nor professional help to navigate a safe and effective abortion, but unsafe, ineffective, more dangerous, and detrimental ones will take their place.

I want you more than anything else
 But I think I need to want myself
 Before you, I didn't know a love this strong
 But having you in been as been something I
 never knew I needed all along
 I've grown so attached to feeling you there
 But I can't begin to imagine or even bare
 Bringing you into a world like this
 Without a home or a good fix
 I'm not her
 I'm not the mother you need
 I can't do this I'm unfit, and so I plead
 That in the next life you'll find her but if you
 find me again
 Then maybe I'll be ready to take you in
 Seeing those two lines that day, made me
 smile
 But then I fell into disarray
 So I say to you, my unborn love
 I love you and I hope you find happiness once
 you are sent above
 Some may question my decision I fear
 But I know in my heart you're not meant to be
 here
 The decision is mine
 I hold firm to that belief
 But I'll never forget all the love I have earned
 You're mine forever, no matter what people
 say
 I love you forever, my baby
 The one that got away.

By Sasha Smith

Wheels in Motion: SpaceX opens doors to wonderful space tourism



BY MICHAEL KOWIS

In the late hours of Sept. 15, SpaceX made history by being the first company to offer four people the opportunity to go into Low Earth Orbit aboard a Dragon capsule.

This marks the first time since Challenger

Space Shuttle orbiter that a civilian has gone into space let alone four of them. I have been saying for years now that space tourism is coming. Space tourism is coming, and now it is here, sort of only if you have several million to burn. Or have some seriously good connections, but it is here in a way.

Now is the time to seriously put our hearts and minds to work on making and implementing the adaptations to intravehicular pressure

suits as well as making adaptive training regimes so people like myself can have the dream of going to space as well.

In saying that, I know the road ahead is hard. You don't have to tell me twice. But consider this, in over 70 years no space faring company nor space government entity that I am aware of, has even tried to send a person with different abilities.

This is a ripe opportunity for those willing to climb the steep aca-

demic mountain to get there.

I hope readers understand that though I speak about this openly, I do not intend to go up to the heavens alone. I intend and will make it possible using every resource to adapt existing technologies, so people like me can follow their dreams and build the academic infrastructure to support that kind of endeavor.

SpaceX was definitely the first company to offer such opportunities and I don't think

they will be the last, it is only a matter of time and effort until we the differently abled community have a chance to join them.

JFK spoke about the government's commitment to going to the moon at Rice Stadium. "We go to the moon not because it is easy but because it is hard, because that challenge is one in which we are willing to accept and the others to."

I chose long ago to accept the challenge of being the first person

recognized under the ADA to go into space. I realize and accept the magnitude of that challenge. Though I won't be able to complete it on my own, I am certain that my studies in the MBA program will put me in the right ballpark to further peruse this massive goal and the massive prize at the end.

To all my friends who have stuck with me as I push the boundaries of what is possible, thank you. Wheels in Motion, Rolling out.

Reviews

'Shang Chi and the Ten Rings'

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

On Sept. 3, Disney released "Shang Chi and the Ten Rings,"—the latest addition in the Marvel Cinematic Universe—onto streaming app, HBO Max. Shang Chi is the first Asian superhero in the MCU, with established Marvel characters making appearances in the film.

These appearances create a connection with upcoming Marvel film releases. They are joined by exciting new characters ready to continue what Disney calls "Phase Four" of MCU. A fantasy-action martial arts movie could be an appropriate label for the film.

The movie casts Simu Liu as the titular Shang Chi. Liu was tasked with delivering what advertisements have been billed as the newest Avenger. He is best known for his key role in the Canadian television show "Kim's Convenience."

Liu steps up in his largest role yet, as it is his first time starring in a major motion picture. He performs in the role of Shang Chi with strength and believability.

The character also has a tragic backstory different than that of typical superhe-

roes. Liu can rely early on that the character is hiding something from his best friend as well as the audience. The character in the film seems like a normal person at first though after an unprovoked attack on a train, however the audience then learns that he is far from it. This event is the catalyst for the adventure of the film's plot, about Shang Chi confronting the demons of his past.

The film was directed by Destin Daniel Cretton. Cretton is known for 2017's "The Glass Castle" with Brie Larson and the 2019 film "Just Mercy" starring Michael B. Jordan.

Writers Cretton and Dave Callahan helped create a world that is both beautiful and believable while fitting into the already set up universe. The characters all fit in well with the Marvel mythos. The swift pacing keeps the audience entertained with the two hours and 12-minute runtime.

Filming started in Sydney, Australia and spread out over New South Wales in February 2020. After shutting down due to the pandemic filming began again in Australia and was eventually

moved to California—specifically, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The digital effects are believable and visually appealing. The film is about family and about responsibility and closure. Shang's friend Katy (Awkwafina) accompanies him for the film's entirety.

Awkwafina plays Katy as a like-able and devoted friend. The audience can relate to the action through her character, while surrounded by formidable comic characters. We are introduced to multiple members of Shang's family.

His sister Xu Xialing (Meng'er Zhang) runs a sophisticated and complex underground fighting ring in Hong Kong. Xu is determined and serious and has obvious dysfunctional familial issues with Shang.

Tony Leung portrays Xu Wenwu, Shang, and Xu Xialing's father. Xu Wenwu is dangerous and is focused on reuniting with his lost wife. Xu Wenwu, also known as The Mandarin, is the leader of The Ten Rings, a dangerous international terrorist group.

It is later revealed to be the same group that kidnapped Robert Downey Jr's character, Tony Stark, in 2008's "Iron Man" film, which was the origin of the

entire Marvel Phenomenon.

One of the best parts of the film is the return of Ben Kingsley and his character Trevor Slattery. Slattery was a character in 2013's "Iron Man 3" posing as the real Mandarin. In reality, Slattery is an actor just posing as the head of a dangerous organization. Kingsley plays Slattery as vain and bumbling, yet lovable. The silly character makes his return to the universe after an eight-year hiatus.

A 13-minute short is now on Disney+ involving the real Mandarin kidnapping Slattery from a federal prison. The short is called "All Hail the King" in what Disney is labeling as a "One Shot."

Hopefully, Disney extends his character's role for future Marvel projects. The action is up there with some of the better Marvel films.

Martial Arts plays a large part in this movie, more so in comparison to every other Marvel Movie. Hand-to-hand fighting skills are a necessity to navigate through the world of Shang Chi.

There are also plenty of mythological beasts to enjoy, some helpful to the heroes with others to be avoided.

A scene that is similar to "Rush Hour 2" (2001), a well-known action comedy,

where the characters must try to navigate their way down bamboo scaffolding attached to the higher levels of a Hong Kong skyscraper.

The scene was memorable and exciting, and "Shang Chi" did it better. There is creativity to the plot that keeps the material interesting as a Marvel film. This is not a typical superhero movie and that is refreshing.

The settings change continuously throughout the film and new exciting characters are introduced. The continuation of the Marvel universe necessitates creativity in its future films to keep drawing an audience.



Courtesy: Marvel Studios

'Only Murders in the Building' series off to promising start

BY JEMA PANTOJA

The 10-episode Hulu comedy series "Only Murders in the Building" stars Selena Gomez as Mabel a condescending and mysterious young woman, Steve Martin as Charles TV actor, and Martin Short as Oliver a Broadway director, both past their primes.

The series is a charming take on true crime that brings both mystery and comedy together. The three neighbors' bond over their mutual love of murder mysteries on the same night as one of their neighbors was murdered in a New York

City's luxury apartment building. Tim Kono, a resident, was found dead in his apartment late at night. The police officers thought the incident as a suicide. However, the three neighbors suspect that a murder has happened.

The trio refuses to let the opportunity pass them by and decided to create a murder podcast "Only Murders in the Building," which presents the possibility of letting them level up from true crime fans to amateur detectives.

Their mischievous and foolhardy adventures or detective work make up the bulk of the series. The

series is both funny, strange, and empathetic as it finds its sweet spot somewhere in between a parody and a murder mystery.

Co-created by Steve Martin and John Hoffman, the series delights itself in plot twists, as well as in personal lives and the chemistry between the three neighbors.

As the series goes on, the trio develops their friendship, and the viewers are given a glance at the personal lives and history of each of the three neighbors. Oliver struggles to let go of his director ambitions,

Charles struggles to navigate new relationships, and

meanwhile Mabel is hiding some secrets of her own about the murder victim.

Short's character Oliver is the leader and the one who gives the show some comedic relief, making Charles and Mabel his charming sidekicks.

As the three neighbors conduct their detective work to solve the mystery that is Kono's death, while developing their podcast, they soon discover that not everything is what it seems.

With special appearances by actors Tina Fey, Amy Ryan, and Sting from The Police, the show is sure to be a smashing and witty

success. New episodes air every Tuesday on Hulu.



Courtesy: Marvel Studios



Reviews

Modern 'Cinderella' adaptation features business-driven female figure



Courtesy: Amazon Prime

BY JEMA PANTOJA

The 2021 Amazon Studios adaptation of “Cinderella” starring Camila Cabello portrays pop culture feminism into the classic fairytale.

The film stars actors and singers with an impressive repertoire, such as Idina Menzel as stepmother Vivian, Minnie Driver as Queen Beatrice, and Camila Cabello as Cinderella.

The modern adaptation is a musically-driven bold new take on the classic fairytale everyone grew up watching. The film is refreshing and ambitious, while

also being witty and comical. In the modern retelling, Ella (Camila Cabello) not only desires to leave her home but wants to start a business for dressmaking.

Determined to start and succeed in her business, she doesn't worry about marrying, let alone marry Prince Robert (Nicholas Galitzine), whose sole interest is to find love rather than rule as king. Although the film has some immediate problems, it also has well intentions.

For example, Ella wanting to be a dressmaker, the princess being made first in the throne, and offers diverse representation of body types

and skin color. The modernized fairytale teaches you to follow your dreams despite obstacles that might seem impossible to overcome. Ella becomes a girl boss who chooses to focus on building her dressmaking business instead of marriage.

But for all you hopeless romantics out there, do not worry— Ella may not have chosen marriage but she and the prince chose to enter a romantic relationship. Amazon's take on the film focuses on following your dreams instead of living up to society's expectations and norms.

For example, despite her stepmother's wishes, Ella is determined to break the glass ceiling and become a dressmaker to support herself and her family. Despite pressures from his father the King to marry for international boasting, Prince Robert steps down from being first in line for the throne in pursuit of finding love.

Feminism in the film proves that it is possible for women to become successful business owners and not just an object to be married and tamed. The film is now available on Amazon Prime.

Horror film juggernaut disappoints with weak plot

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

On Sept. 10, James Wan, an influential creator in the horror film genre, released “Malignant.” The film released into movie theaters and streaming service, HBO Max.

The “Saw” series originated in 2003 and is still releasing films in 2021, with “Spiral” and more promised in the future. He is also responsible for both the “Insidious” and “The Conjuring” series.

These three films are majorly influential film series in modern horror. It could be said that Wan is one of the most important and influential writers/director/producers today, a true Hollywood juggernaut.

Wan was also tasked with bringing “Aquaman” to life in 2018, the WB and DC Comics character will once again be portrayed by Jason Momoa in the 2022 sequel “Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom.”

This film had such a fantastically promising movie poster with a beautifully ambiguous trailer that is creepy enough to entice any possible viewers.

With a name like James Wan this is enough to

get horror movie fans excited about the possibility of another hit franchise. However, Malignant was a disappointment.

This is not the next James Wan led franchise, but a one-off horror film that used deceiving marketing to pull in an audience.

The trailer was intentionally vague to mask the film's ridiculous plot. This is different than Wan's recent entries because supernatural forces/demons are not the antagonists.

A genuinely surprising and creative twist is the delivery and the actual “science” behind the plot that is complete malarkey.

More fun could have been had with the story if Wan focused more on other plot elements rather than the repetitive grisly murders. Annabelle Wallis plays Maddie, a woman in an awful situation.

Her relationship consists of a physically and emotionally abusive husband (Jake Abel) who causes her a major injury at the beginning of the film, violently slamming her head into the wall.

Waking up the next morning after a nightmare of her husband being kil-

led, Maddie finds her husband dead. Her discovery kick starts the film's premise of Maddie experiencing the murders as they happen going into an unconscious trance through a psychic link.

The murderer in question is Gabriel, a raspy voiced, strangely postured man wearing an all-black outfit like he belongs to a Heavy Metal band.

Gabriel is silly not scary. His long black hair covers his entire face, a reminiscent look of Cousin Itt from “The Adams Family.”

Gabriel is also capable of speaking through electronics such as radios and televisions, a power never explained in the film. One cannot help but be reminded of another one-off James Wan film, “Dead Silence.”

There is an originality to that film that echoes into the plot of “Malignant.”

Rampant repulsive body horror combined with grisly murder scenes exist in both films stylized very similarly.

Both also have similar twist endings that surprise. This film was remarkably like David Cronenberg films 1979's “The Brood” and 1988's “Dead

Ringers.” Please watch these well-made films instead, do not waste your time with “Malignant.”

In “The Brood,” a woman develops her rage into manifestations or little troll-like creatures.

“Dead Ringers” consists of identical twins that have a truly bizarre relationship. The heavy elements of body horror and the tone are effective but the overall delivery of the plot flops poorly.

Wan was preoccupied with the production of the “Aquaman” sequel. That could be one of the only reasons for him missing the mark by so much with the film “Malignant.”

Wan does well with some elements of the film. There is great music in “Malignant” with a late 1980s creepy synthesizer sound.

The practical effects are done well and look fantastic.

Wan was also ambitious to deliver such an original and strange idea. Annabelle Wallis also does an admirable job with the heinous material of the plot. She delivers a satisfactory performance of a seriously troubled person.

The introduction to the film was fantastic and subverted audience expect-



Courtesy: New Line Cinema.

tations while also elevating them.

The research facility in the intro is where the writers should have spent more time on the plot rather than a few minutes. They also do nothing to explain the telekinetic and psychic powers the villain has. “Malignant” is a film that could be missed, and only recommended for horror fans.

Do not see this movie in the theater, save your money.

If you still wish to watch it, “Malignant” is available in theaters and on HBO Max through Oct. 10.

Top Latin American books to read during Hispanic Heritage Month

BY JEMA PANTOJA

Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to recognize the influence, contributions, and achievements Hispanic Americans have to the history and culture of the U.S.

One of the many contributions from Hispanic Americans is literacy. There are many bestselling Hispanic authors whose novels are heavily influenced by their Latin culture and heritage.

“The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho is an inspirational story about Santiago, a young Spanish shepherd boy, whose desire is to travel the world in search of a worldly treasure. Santiago sets off on a journey from Spain to the markets of Tangier and across the Egyptian desert that ends with a

fateful encounter with the alchemist.

The novel teaches you to pursue your dreams by following what your heart desires. During his journey, Santiago learns to listen to his heart and to follow the language of omens. With each obstacle, he learns a lesson.

“I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter” by Erika Sanchez is a coming-of-age story of 15-year-old Julia as she navigates the death of her older sister, the “perfect Mexican daughter” Olga.

After her sister’s death, Julia was desperate to learn more about Olga and what secrets she was hiding. Julia snoops into Olga’s room and hacks into her laptop to discover that her sister was not perfect.

The theme throughout the novel is that of

secrets and lies illustrated through Olga’s secret life discovered by Julia after her death.

As the novel unfolds and Julia digs deeper into Olga’s secrets she left behind, she discovers even more unsettling truths about her family’s past.

The novel teaches that nothing is as it seems, and it is not safe to assume one’s life based on appearances.

“Sabrina and Corina” by Kali Fajardo-Anstine is a collection of four short stories of Latina women of indigenous ancestry and the land they inhabit in the American West.

These women learn to navigate the land the same way they navigate their lives, with grace, determination, and quiet force. Each story is filled with feminine

strength and pride in one’s own culture, as well as the struggles Latina women face in America.

The novel explores the themes of abandonment, violence towards women, heritage, and a sense of home.

“Mexican Gothic” by Silvia Moreno-Garcia is an original approach to the gothic horror fiction genre.

The mystery novel is about socialite Noemi. She receives a frantic letter from newlywed cousin that married an English aristocrat, detailing the socialite’s impending doom.

Noemi travels to the countryside of Mexico, where the isolated mansion is located, not sure what she will find once she gets there. The novel is inspired by a real town in Mexico located in

the middle of the country in the mountains called Real del Monte or Mineral del Monte.

“Mexican Gothic” is a perfect read for the spooky fall season. The mysterious and chilling tale will leave you wanting more. Honorable

mentions include “Sin Tetas no Hay Paraiso” by Gustavo Bolivar Moreno; “Frida Kahlo in Paris” by Marc Petitjean; and “The Undocumented Americans” by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio.



Credit: Gean Garcia

Local Business Spotlight: Day 6 Coffee



Credit: Mckenzie Brewer

BY MCKENZIE BREWER

Finding the right studying spot is never easy. Most of the time places are too crowded and there are never any seats left. It is even harder to guarantee a table at a favorite café now

that the pandemic has left everyone itching to study or work anywhere but at home. With more people back on campus, Gators looking to study off-campus can count with this “go to” studying spot down the

street from UHD.

On March 7, 2020 Ricardo and Ian Wilson opened their very own family operated coffee shop, Day Six Coffee Co., right in the heart of downtown. The Wilson brothers started their business career in the plumbing industry.

After learning the skills required to run a successful shop, the brothers began working together to create a community that would help promote a synergistic environment for students, entrepreneurs, and creatives to convene together, providing Houston’s best customer service and high-quality specialty coffees and teas.

A Houstonian and current film producer for ‘FACES’ based in Cincinnati, Muhammad Khaerisma can attest to this calling Day Six Coffee Co. “an incredible Black owned busi-

ness with all incredible people.” Khaerisma thought the place was so perfect he flew down to Houston to shoot his current film “Closing Time,” right there in the shop.

“It’s the best coffee shop in the heart of Houston for artist to convene together and it’s perfect for studying”.

His favorite drink off the menu, is the Texas Latte, iced with oat milk.

“You’ll be good for a 9-hour shoot,” or even for a long study session.

To top it off they also serve breakfast foods, sandwiches, tacos, and even pastries. Of course, there are vegan options as well.

If that’s not convincing enough, one of the greatest aspects about Day Six Coffee Co. is their business hours. Baristas start serving coffee with

freshly made foods at 7 a.m. and they don’t stop until 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and even later until 12 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Best of all parking is free after 6 p.m. in downtown.

So not only do you have an early morning study spot, but you can also get in some late-night studying. Best of all, if you’re 21 and older looking for a relaxing late-night scene, the Wilson’s also added a list of alcoholic beverages. So not only can patrons come and study or work out their creative minds, but also unwind with a nice cold bottle of beer or a glass of wine.

There are lots of unique traits to this Black-owned business in Houston. There are books of all genres tucked away in shelves around the shop and even a book room in the

back of the shop.

Perfect for a more secluded study room and more appealing for larger study groups.

They also have a wall dedicated to other small and local businesses in Houston where entrepreneurs can set out their products and promote their business.

Art enthusiasts will appreciate this coffee’s shop love for the creative mind.

On every wall there are numerous paintings and art creations posted all throughout the shop.

Everything about this environment screams “Houston”, a perfect representation of the cultural melting pot that is this city.

So, start off your morning with a delicious kolache or croissant and a nice cold brew, all but just a short 8-minute walk from classes.