

DATELINE

The University of Houston-Downtown

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STUDENT NEWS

Student Government Association fails to hold elections, organization ceases to exist for Fall 2022 semester

BY THE DATELINE

The Student Government Association disbanded before the start of the current semester as an election was not held before their term ended on May 31, and they have no provisions for a fall election in their constitution.

SGA is a student organization established to maintain a democratic system of student governance, act as the student body's voice, and be involved in the university's decision-making processes. As the fall 2022 semester progressed, the campus lacked the presence of SGA, considering how active they have been in campus engagement throughout the years.

The spring 2022 cabinet was active in student engagement and campus activities.

Most notably, the SGA was one of the most active organizations on campus throughout February, which is Black History Month. They hosted an event to kick off Black History Month and ended it with a solidarity rally and candlelight vigil. Throughout the month, they helped educate Gators on the importance of the month and the social injustices the country faces today.

As of now, there is zero presence of SGA on campus. Their mural on the third floor of the academic building has since been replaced, and their office on the second floor remains empty as new first-year students walk by wondering what SGA is.

"I wouldn't even know about them [SGA] if I never walked the second floor,"

says UHD Freshman Cristina Ambrosio. "I thought they were supposed to help students with problems, but I have never seen anyone in there."

Since the previous SGA failed to hold elections, the organization's advisors reached out to UHD students to be part of the SGA Student Review Committee to write a new constitution since the last constitution expired in spring.

According to the Director of Student Life, Eugene Bernard, the student body responded with great interest in reviving the SGA.

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SGA Office is closed until further notice. Courtesy: The Dateline

LOCAL NEWS

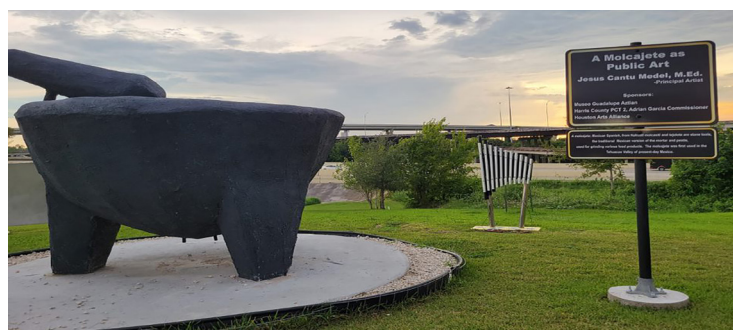
Massive old school kitchen tool erected

BY CHANDLER GRIVETTI

A giant sculpture "A Molcajete as Public Art" appeared close to UHD, outside of the Leonel Castillo Community Center this past summer.

The sculpture sits on the south side of the building, giving a perfect view of the highway and the lush green, White Oak Bayou Greenway Trail.

A molcajete, Spanish for mortar and pestle, is a tool used to grind vegetables, spices, and grains that can be used for different recipes.



Giant molcajete statue. Credit Chandler Grivetti

The ancient kitchen utensil is a necessary part of every Latino home. Seeing the art on display brings back memories of the smell of a home-cooked meal.

"The molcajete is very important to our culture."

Abelina Saenz said.

"It was the most essential tool I used growing up and was a big part of my families kitchen."

MOLCAJETE continued on page 12

SCHOOL EVENT

Scholars give talks on importance of Hispanic Serving Institutions

BY DIANA AMBROSIO

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month and Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week, the first installment of the President's Lecture Series was dedicated to discussing HSIs' past, present, and future.

From fall 2015 to fall 2019, UHD had an upward trend in Hispanic undergraduate student enrollment. HSI's are universities that are "not-for-profit institutions of higher learning with a full-

time equivalent undergraduate student enrollment that is at least 25% Hispanic at the end of the award year preceding the date of application," according to the Department of Education.

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Credit: G.O.

Queen's Passing

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Credit: G.O.

Social Gators

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Credit: S.K.

Daddy Yankee

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FIND US ONLINE!

UHD Alum Armond Rainey appointed new Chapter Advisor of Omicron Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

BY ISIAH ARCHIE

UHD Alum Armond Rainey was appointed as the new Chapter Advisor of the Omicron Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

In 2022, UHD alum Armond Rainey was appointed as the new Chapter Advisor role of the Omicron Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc.

Rainey was excited to have received this role on campus, where his Greek life started. In 2002, Rainey was one of the first pledges of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc., on the UHD campus, which makes him a historic charter member of the Omicron Xi chapter.

“I pledged because some of the friends that I made during my time at the University of North Texas introduced me to the Greek life and were also members of the fratern-

nity,” Rainey said why he pledged to join Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Another factor in his engagement with the organization was how the men carried themselves and their conspicuous swag. The organization was prevalent. Whenever they had events, many interested and even uninterested people came out in large numbers to witness their mission to become better men and role models.

Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc. is one of a kind. It was formed within an environment where racism prevailed during the early 1900s. There was a lot of prejudice and discrimination during that time, which made it even more difficult for minorities.

In the school systems during those times, less than 1% of Black students were in the entire school. That made their day-to-day life difficult.

With two decades of research on HSIs, Nunez has addressed equity in science and has collaborated on several National Science Foundation grants to build inclusive environments in geosciences and computer science disciplines in HSIs. She wrote the “Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Advancing Research and Transformative Practice,” which is the first book to ever focus on HSIs as organizations.

“It is important to realize the potential of HSIs,” Nuñez stated. “The emerging research on HSIs clarifies and refines practice, policy, and understanding on how to provide equity in educational attainment.”

According to the speakers, building inclusive cultures in these higher education institutions is essential. These institutions should not reach for the minimum enrollment just to be classified as an HSI because the continuous use of the same strategies will not work to keep these students on their campus.



**KAPPA ALPHA PSI
FRATERNITY, INC**



Credit: Isiah Archie

Blacks weren't allowed to participate in school activities apart from other sports.

The main objective of forming the group was to ensure equal unity within the school. The fraternity had a well-stated purpose of promoting achievement in every field of human endeavor. They also aimed to unite men of culture, patriotism, and honor in the bond of

fraternity. In addition, they emphasized their members' spiritual, social, intellectual, and moral welfare.

As the currently appointed chapter advisor here at UHD, Rainey focuses on becoming a mentor, supervising, and teaching leadership skills to undergraduate and future members. He will instill and build influential, solid, and enthusiastic men to

achieve their best.

For those interested or seeking more information, you can email them at their current email, wallstreet-nupes@omicronxichapter.com. You can also reach out to the organization on their social media accounts. Their social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn will be listed under OmicronXiChapter.

HSI

CONTINUED From Pg 1

“It is one thing to be a Hispanic-enrolling institution and a Hispanic-Serving Institution,” UHD President Loren Blanchard stated. “I am thrilled that our guests will be able to help us understand our responsibility of our work and our success centering around all our students.”

Patrick Valdez, board chair of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, and Anne-Marie Nuñez, executive director of Diana Natalicio Institute for Hispanic Student Success University of Texas at El Paso, spoke about the importance of HSIs.

Valdez gave the history of HSIs to show where the roots of HSIs came from. He went on to show that these Hispanic/Latino-led groups were individually testifying in front of Congress. These groups formed a coalition to help testify for funding from Title III.

Psychology Club plans workshops on mental health awareness

BY BRIJANET FIGUEROA

The Psychology Club in UHD was founded in 2018 by a psychology major named Christi Corpus, who wanted to get to know more students who were also psychology majors like her.

The main goal was to connect with other students who had the same interest in learning about psychology and the different topics about mental health.

According to Yajaira Cruz, now the psychology club president, there are many benefits to joining this club. One of the benefits is learning about different disorders and seeing and understanding people on why they tend to act and respond as they do. Not only can one learn about people mindfully but also how they tend to act in a society with different cultures.

“Sometimes you just want to learn on how to take care of your mental health and that is something we

provide by doing events and giving tips on how to deal with that,” shared Cruz.

The psychology club is open to every student at UHD.

If Gators want to know more about mental health and awareness, then this club is ideal.

When joining the psychology club, there will be an application that every student needs to fill out and a \$10 fee that will cover two semesters at UHD. This fee will go towards graduation cord in the color gold and blue.

The mandatory requirement for a student to stay in the club is a minimum GPA of 2.0, and students must attend a minimum of two meetings, one academic/social event, and one community event each semester.

The psychology club plans for this semester to help seniors who are graduating this year to help them apply for internships and get seniors to schedule appointments

with advisors.

They are also scheduling new events that will go into depth about positive psychology, depression, and the different types of ADHD.

During mid-terms, the club will also host a “no stress” event that will be talked about so students can mentally prepare for finals.

Cruz mentioned how officer positions would be available starting next semester for the president, vice president, and treasurer.

For a student to qualify for an officer position, the GPA requirement is to maintain a 2.5.

Students can connect with the psychology club through their Instagram page [@uhdpsychclub](https://www.instagram.com/uhdpsychclub), or they can join through campus groups on the UHD webpage.

Meetings are primarily hosted on Zoom. The club polls meeting times to increase the chances for members to attend.

New club celebrates Indian culture, heritage through Bollywood dances

BY ALLISON NOLASCO

The Bollywood Dance Club is a new organization at UHD devoted to sharing and celebrating Indian culture.

Ashna Abraham, a senior at UHD, decided to start the Bollywood Dance Club when she realized that UHD did not have any Indian-related clubs. She wanted a club that got students together to celebrate Indian culture.

“I came from India three years ago, and when I started going to UHD, I was looking for a Bollywood Club or any Indian-related club,” Abraham said. “It would have been comforting to see an Indian club, but there was not any.”

As a diverse institution that pledges inclusivity, UHD encourages students to share their culture. Abraham said the Bollywood club is a way for Indian students on campus to feel represented and have a safe space to socialize.

In addition, clubs like the Bollywood club help people learn about a new culture and gain insight into different cultures to promote inclusion.

The club does not exclude students who are not Indian. On the contrary, it welcomes all students who want to learn about Indian culture.

Whether people want to learn Bollywood dances or the Indian culture, the club welcomes new members.

“My Bollywood club is

for everybody, not just for Indians,” Abraham said. “I am trying to introduce Indian culture.”

While Abraham’s time with the club will be short as she is graduating this semester, she wanted to start the club for other student members to build upon.

“I wanted to lay the foundation so that the students who come after me have less work to do and are interested in keeping it going.”

The club plans to host dance practices at the Student Life Center.

Besides dancing, other club activities and events include showing Bollywood films, and serving Indian snacks.

THE DATELINE

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The Dateline is the official student newspaper of the University of Houston-Downtown. Since its first issue in 1982, The Dateline is proud to be “Student Run since Volume One.” We strive to meet the needs of a growing university as well as the growing metropolitan city that surrounds us.

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.

Always hiring!
Scan QR code to apply on our website.

No experience required



SCAN TO JOIN UHD BOLLYWOOD DANCE CLUB GROUP CHAT



ALL MAJORS/ETHNICITIES WELCOME
OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES OPEN

Credit: Indira Zaldivar

SGA

CONTINUED From Pg 1

Bernard states that in the meantime, “students selected for the committee have agreed to lead events and initiatives that were usually hosted by the SGA.”

The committee and advisors have partnered with the American Student Government Association to rewrite the constitution and provide professional guidance.

“The goal is to have SGA active on-campus as soon as possible following the confirmation of the new constitution,” says Bernard.

Students will not lose any privileges without a student government, assures the Dean of Students team.

“The Dean of Student Life office has an open-door policy and will work diligently to have an SGA organization soon and to address any concerns brought forward by the student body,” says Bernard.

A former member voiced their concerns stating there was harassment and mismanagement within SGA. Overall, they said that they were “thoroughly disappointed.”

“I joined SGA because I wanted to make a difference. I didn’t even know that it was a paid position, and ultimately, money was a factor that corrupted some of the other members,” said the former member. “Instead of helping the students, they [the SGA members] wanted to help themselves.”

Four UHD professors receive prestigious Fulbright awards

BY SONIA SANCHEZ

Four UHD faculty members are among the Fulbright Scholars of 2022-2023. Each faculty member's Fulbright will have research and teaching components specific to their proposed projects.

"The Fulbright raises the international, scholarly profile of UHD," Professor Edmund Cueva of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences said.

Cueva will use his Fulbright to travel to the University of Murcia in Spain to complete a project about the use of the Greco-Roman classical literature in the Andean countries before, during, and after their wars of independence from Spain. So far, his research shows an exchange of ideas and influences between classical and South American texts.

"My Fulbright in Spain will allow me to examine the European side of this dialogue," Cueva said.

In addition, Cueva will teach two graduate courses for the teaching component of his Fulbright. Cueva told UHD News that he would teach on the reception of great tragedy in Latin America and Latinx translations of Greek drama. Cueva's Fulbright will start in late January 2023 and continue through May 2023.

Assistant Professor Natacha Poggio of Graphic Design in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences will head to the Universidad de las Artes in Guayaquil, Ecuador, to work with local students and community members on supporting environmental advocacy for their region.

With this award, she aims to develop her "Blue Marble" ocean literacy project further.

"I am excited to represent the United States and UHD as an ambassador and will hope to bridge a cultural exchange between Houston and Guaya-

quil," Poggio said.

Poggio's Fulbright is happening this semester, and she is currently teaching undergraduate design courses by "conducting lectures and workshops on visual communication for environmental awareness," Poggio said on LinkedIn.

The research component of Poggio's Fulbright engages students with their local community.

"Part of my Fulbright proposal is also to develop a #communityengaged environmental campaign directed to inform and educate adult and young audiences based in #Guayaquil and the #Galapagos Islands," said Poggio on LinkedIn.

According to Poggio's LinkedIn account, Poggio will collaborate with Ecuadorian organizations to raise environmental issues awareness. Her students' assignments will be part of the campaign.

Another winner is Lecturer and Assistant Director of Field Education Shahnaz Savani of the social work program. Savani's Fulbright is happening this semester at the University of Central Asia in Khorog, Tajikistan. Savani will teach courses and conduct community research about mental health, and suicide prevention and intervention.

"This award brings recognition to UHD as a strong academic institution that seeks to make an impact and improve the lives of people around the world," Savani said.

According to UHD News, Savani teaches three undergraduate courses: Understanding Suicide in the Global Context, Global Mental Health, and Research Methods. The research component of Savani's Fulbright is about attitudes and barriers to seeking help for mental health.

Lastly, Professor of Finance in the Marilyn Davies College of Business Rahul Verma will travel to Ajman University in the United Arab Emirates.

According to UHD News, Verma will research the relevance and value of environmental, social, and governance investing strategies before and after COVID-19.

"I feel proud that I am the only U.S. Fulbright scholar in the UAE this year," Verma said. "I am hoping that my work will be impactful, and I will be able to bring global perspectives to my lectures at the UHD."

According to the Department of State, the Fulbright program is led by the government in partnership with over 160 countries. The program offers international, educational, and cultural exchange programs for students, scholars, artists, teachers, and professionals of various backgrounds.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS



Dr. Edmund Cueva



Dr. Shahnaz Savani



Natacha Poggio



Dr. Rahul Verma

Credit: S.K.

LatinFest returns, seeks volunteers for cultural celebration

BY OSIRIS CORDOVA
-TORRES

UHD presents its second annual LatinFest. Hosted by the Center for Latino Studies, this marquee event will be held Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 4 to 8 p.m. in room A300 in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Come one, come all to enjoy and experience what Latin America has to offer. Taste delectable Hispanic treats ranging from elotes and pan dulce to salsa and agua fresca. While simultaneously witnessing the beautiful traditional dances and brilliant performances of Ballet Folklórico MECA, Calpulli Danza Azteca, Baile Flamenco, UHD's Mariachi Band "Los Caimanes," and Tango

Argentino.

The Center for Latino Studies promotes this festival to celebrate what it means to be Hispanic.

In addition, it hopes to inspire future generations of Latino students in their pursuit of higher education.

The center shows what higher education has to offer and that Latino students will be accepted as they are.

All are welcome to attend and join us for a fun-filled day with cultural appreciation as we celebrate and embrace the many wonders of inclusivity.

UHD Professor Alberto DeJesús, the organizer in charge, describes LatinFest as an "opportunity for collaboration, bringing together sup-

port" from the Department of Histories, Humanities, & Languages, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, faculty, staff, and others.

"As a testament to the spirit of unity and sentiment of celebrating the immense contribution the Latinx community makes to UHD's mission of determination and dedication, student volunteers will come together to help present this marquee event," DeJesús said.

UHD student Shaheryar Khan attended LatinFest the previous year and found the event insightful.

"It is amazing to learn and immerse in the rich cultures of the Hispanic com-

munity, especially considering where we live," Khan said. "Houston is a melting pot full of different cultures."

Current and former students are welcome to volunteer and sign up until the day of the event. Any organiza-

tions who would like to host a booth must reserve one.

Do not hesitate to contact DeJesús at DeJesusa@uhd.edu or use the link below if interested.

LATINFEST

Wednesday,
October 19
4-8 p.m.

A300
(next to
Starbucks)

SIGN UP TO TABLE OR VOLUNTEER

Credit: Indira Zaldivar

College of Business celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

BY DIANA AMBROSIO

On Sept. 15, the Marilyn Davies College of Business held an event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The event was sponsored by the Power On Heels Fund and Association of Latino Professionals For America.

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Deborah E. Bordelon started the event with a speech. Bordelon spoke about the importance of the event.

“Key is serving, making sure our students are successful and achieving their academic, career, and professional goals,” said Bordelon. “We want to be that institution of choice and destination. To be able to support our students to achieve those goals. We are proud to be a Hispanic-Serving institution.”

The audience was then introduced to state Rep. Christina Morales and coun-

cil member Karla Cisneros.

The university gave them gifts and certificates.

“I am proud to have UHD in my district,” Morales said.

She recognized Gators for their many contributions. She said she was delighted to start her day attending the celebration.

Cisneros presented a certificate of recognition from Houston City Council District 8 to the Marilyn Davies College of Business for forging a partnership with Power on Heels and other organizations.

“Diversity is crucial to any university’s success,” stated Cisneros.

Rhode Villareal, a UHD business student, was thrilled to see prominent Latina women speaking at the event and recognizing the university’s accomplishments. The successful Latina women inspired her.

Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 through Oct. 15



Credit: Giselle Oviedo

“Seeing Hispanic women make it to where they are now...gives me the courage to keep on working towards my goals,” Villareal said.

After the speeches,

students were given authentic Latin food such as tamales and aguas frescas. While students ate, Grammy-winning singer Leslie Lugo performed live.

This event highlights the diversity within the university and how each culture has a place here,” Villareal said.

Students’ achievements highlight Geoscience degree

BY RYAN PRICE

Geoscience students at UHD have found success outside campus in internships and permanent positions in their respective careers.

Among several other degree programs sampled, geoscience students were the happiest and most content in their chosen field, according to a 2018 article published in Forbes by Senior Contributor Trevor Nace. In addition, geoscience students left college to find a booming and varied job market that offered rewarding and well-paying positions. While no official study has been conducted on UHD students, the trend appears to be the same as many UHD geoscience students have already found success outside of the classroom,

Two geoscience students have already discovered jobs and internships while in UHD’s geosciences program. Yunued Sotelo, for example, was just hired by Schlumberger as a rock analysis specialist. In her role/position, she aids in operating a CT machine rock cores and plugs

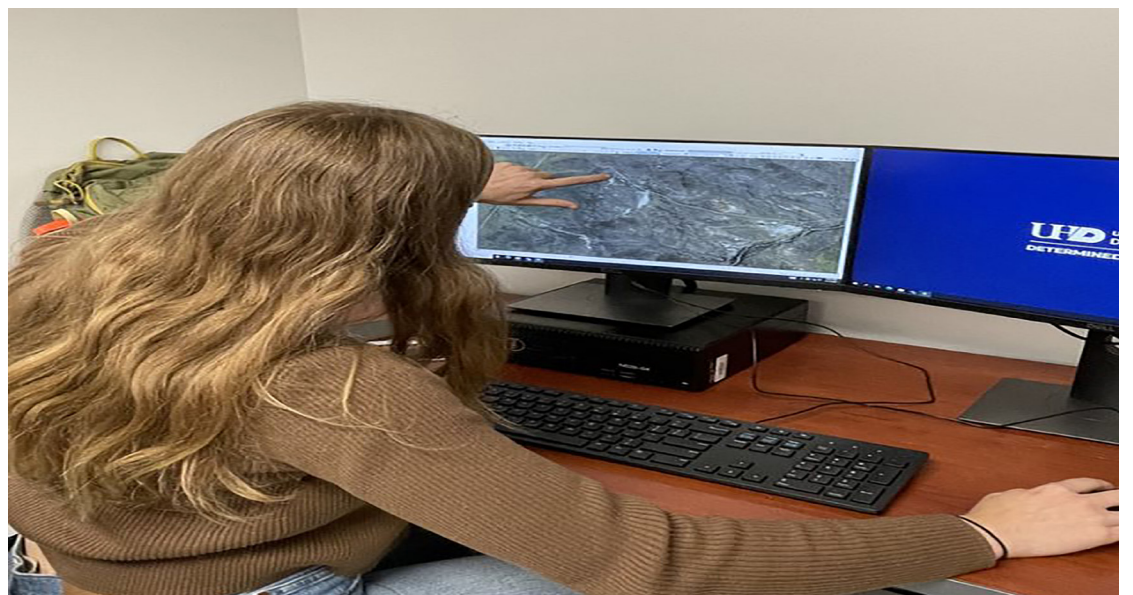
worldwide. Upon completing her degree program in spring 2023, she will be promoted to head of CT and Photography at her Schlumberger campus.

Christina Sterna, an environmental geology major, was able to attend a Research Experience for Undergraduates Internship this last summer, one of three that she was accepted to. This internship, which took place at North Carolina State University, allowed Sterna to experience basic and environmental soil science training and learn new skills that will aid her in the coming semester.

“I have a deeper understanding of sedimentary stratigraphy,” Sterna said when asked how her internship experience could help her in the coming semester.

“I can now go into that class with a broader perspective.”

Sterna also pointed out how other classes at UHD helped her find success in her internship, including classes on environmental geology and the fundamentals of sustainability. Her most



Geoscience student Christina Sterna preparing for her job after college ends. Credit: Ryan Price

beneficial class was structural geology, which introduced terminology that she would not have known.

Despite it all, Sotelo and Sterna had one major thing in common, great instructors. One professor, Sarah Heinlein, Ph.D., seemed to stand out the most.

“Heinlein kept me motivated,” Sotelo said. She continued explaining that Dr. Heinlein spoke to her and convinced her that she could be successful in her chosen

career. It was Dr. Heinlein who found the job posting for Sotelo and pushed her to apply for it.

Dr. Heinlein also assists in student research. Sterna and several others have used research to show that they are committed and able to succeed after UHD.

“Faculty is very involved with students and want to see more than just an undergrad,” Sterna said. “They’re thinking about your future and want to see your career

moving forward.”

Several other students involved in the geosciences program have also succeeded because of UHD, with jobs ranging from commercial mineral sales to museum collections. With dedicated students, involved faculty, and ample undergraduate opportunities, UHD is proving itself to be a powerhouse in the world of a growing geosciences job market.

Harris County changing how COVID-19 threat level is assessed

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

The threat level that assess the threat of COVID-19 to the public is being replaced with a new threat level system.

Harris County's new threat level system will place more emphasis on new cases, and not so much on hospitalizations. The change is due to Harris County not seeing a spike in hospitalizations, even as COVID-19 infections saw a surge over the summer.

According to Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo,

the new system will allow people to make their own choices about the risk that they are comfortable taking, especially if they know that the chance of having a severe infection is low if they have been vaccinated and boosted.

"We're turning a page on a phase of this virus, and I'm very hopeful that we won't have to go back to a time when surge hampered the entirety of the community" Hidalgo said, speaking about the new level system.

The threat level system

has been a heavily used tool during the pandemic to gauge the public's risk regarding COVID-19. There have been some past updates to it, but the county judge says that the latest changes are a "wholesale redesign."

Under the new system, three colors are used to denote different risks of contracting an infection. Green is a low risk, yellow is a medium risk, and orange is a high risk. The previously used system used four levels, with green being low, yellow

being moderate, orange being significant, and red being severe.

Harris County is currently in the yellow level but Hidalgo believes the community level could go to orange due to the possibility of increased transmission rates with school being back in session. While the new system focuses more on new case numbers, it still will also consider how many people are being hospitalized or admitted to the ICU with COVID-19.

The county's public health website has guidance for each threat level and includes recommendations for wearing a mask, traveling, and social gatherings based on the level that the county is in.

"The reality is COVID is something we are going to continue to live with for some time, the new normal we experience we hope will remain as a new normal, because of our commitment to taking these vaccines and these boosters" Hidalgo said.

Metro spends record \$1.76B on infrastructure changes, largest since 2013

BY SERGIO PRESA JR

Metro's spending is expected to hit a new record due to rising costs and several upcoming large-scale projects.

The transit authority hopes to rebound on ridership and attract new riders aboard. Of the money Metro is spending, \$1.4 billion is going towards their capital and operating needs.

Metro is expected to reach around \$355 million more than their previous record high spending in 2013 when the Purple and Green light rail lines were under construction. Metro's board of directors voted to approve the budget on Sep. 22. The new fiscal year for the transit agency will begin Oct. 1.

Officials with the agency blamed rising fuel and maintenance costs and expanded services such as on-demand routes in the Kashmere and Hiram Clarke areas. They also blame the restoration of the park and ride services after months of reducing them due to COVID-19.

Despite Metro spending more money, ridership has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. Daily ridership is around 70 percent lower than what it was before 2020. Officials say that ridership numbers varies



UHD student waits for the METRO rail. Credit: Indira Zaldivar

day by day.

Lower ridership has not impacted Metro's plans for their major projects. New stops and shelters will be constructed to serve better elderly and disabled riders who use the bus system. The agency will also focus on getting more money from federal sources that will allow them to have funds for later projects such as rapid transit bus service along Interstate 10 and the University Corridor. That project would stretch

from northeast Houston to Westchase.

Metro's spending could slow down depending on the local and national economy, or if projects stall, that could also result in Metro putting a clamp on spending.

"All the major funding coming to Metro can only help the program, some riders already see it with the new luxury buses they get to ride in," said David Byrne, a former bus driver for Metro. other countries."

Borrowers in public service have until end of October to apply for loan forgiveness program

BY SONIA SANCHEZ

The U.S. Department of Education encourages borrowers working in public service to apply for a limited student loan forgiveness waiver before it expires on Oct. 31.

According to the Department of Education website, the Limited PSLF Waiver program is a temporary expansion of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program designed to help public service workers receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for the program.

"I encourage everyone – even if you have been denied before or used other benefits – to apply." Education Secretary Miguel Cardona tweeted.

According to the Department of Education website, past repayment periods will now count whether you made a payment in full or on time. This change applies to the total amount due or to a qualifying repayment plan.

The Department of Education will also count specific periods of deferment and forbearance toward PSLF. If you have not already applied for the program, you must submit a PSLF form and consolidate



your non-Direct federal student loans by the due date to get the benefit.

According to the Department of Education website, the qualifying employment requirement has not changed. Borrowers in public service still need to verify that their employers qualify for the PSLF program.

This change will apply to borrowers with Direct Loans, those who have already consolidated into the Direct Loan Program, and those who consolidate into the Direct Loan Program by submitting a consolidation application on or before 11:59 p.m., Eastern time on Oct. 31.

Once the limited PSLF waiver ends at the end of October and beginning Nov. 1, the regular program requirements for the PSLF program will resume. Borrowers can check if they qualify for the PSLF Waiver and apply for the program at the Department of Education website.

President Biden signs Inflation Reduction Act 2022

BY JA'MEAH THOMAS

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was signed into law on Aug. 16 by President Joe Biden, which contains several provisions that may have a significant impact on many Americans.

Several provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act will allow families to obtain resources they need but cannot afford, such as extending Affordable Care Act subsidies and lowering prescription

drug prices.

Under the Affordable Care Act subsidy extension, individuals have until 2025 to purchase their own personal health coverage. Due to rising premiums, families will have the opportunity to find another health insurance plan during the grace period.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "approximately three million Americans could lose their health insurance if these sub-

sidies weren't extended."

In addition, prescription drug price reforms will decrease the cost of prescription drugs, making them more affordable for many families. According to statements made by the White House Briefing Room, "Today, Americans pay two to three times what citizens of other countries pay for prescription drugs."

Medicare could, however, negotiate lower drug prices with prescription drug

providers under the Inflation Reduction Act.

"Medicare recipients will have a 2,000 cap on annual out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, starting 2025," according to Forbes Advisor in Personal Finance Kelly Anne Smith.

As for Texans, Al Green, Houston Congressman, believes residents will benefit from Biden's Inflation Reduction Act in the following years.

"Now, I don't claim that this is a panacea that's going to cite all of the problems in society right away," Congressman Green stated regarding the bill.

"But the best time to plant a tree is 25 years ago. Well, we've got to plant this tree now."

These provisions have been fought for by Democrats for so long to reform society; now, change may be on the way.

City shelter raises the alarm, asks Houstonians to foster or adopt

BY BETTY CRUZ

As Houston continues to grapple with a stray animal crisis this year, BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions seeks help from the public using social media, strengthens relationships with local organizations, and focuses on rebuilding its volunteer program to increase live release rates.

"When the pandemic started, we were impacted by a drop in our fosters and volunteers," BARC Public Information Officer Cory Stottlemeyer said. "We have seen a 26% decrease compared to pre-pandemic adoption rates and a 39.8% drop in the number of animals being transferred to fosters and/or rescues."

BARC is the city's only municipal animal shelter and adoption center. It offers many services to Houstonians, including pet licensing, microchipping, and spaying/neutering pets at a low cost or for free.

The law requires the shelter to accept every animal regardless of breed, temperament, health conditions, and circumstance.

Because of this, BARC often finds itself overflowing with animals and having to euthanize healthy, adoptable pets.

The pandemic exacerbated the animal overpopulation problem in the city, with

many pet owners finding themselves in economic hardships and struggling to make ends meet.

Some resorted to abandoning their pets on the streets.

Loose animals pose a public safety problem. In August, stray dogs mauled and killed a man in Channelview.

The shelter has teamed up with the City of Houston and nonprofit organizations to reduce unwanted animals in the community, transfer animals up north, and assist pet owners.

In July, Mayor Sylvester Turner set aside \$1 million of the American Rescue Plan to fund BARC's spay and neuter services over the next four years. Since January, BARC and Houston PetSet partnered to offer free spay and neuter surgeries for Houston pets.

Rescued Pets Movement rescues animals from the shelter and sends them to Colorado to be adopted.

The shelter also distributes pet medicine, food, and supplies to the Houston community in collaboration with local partners.

The City of Houston Municipal Code requires anyone who owns or possesses a dog or cat four months old or older to register the animal with the city, vaccinate them against rabies, and microchip them.

Starting in January 2023, the city will enforce the

microchip requirement and fine pet owners if they violate the law.

Animals continue to suffer due to neglectful pet owners and prevailing social issues, even with all these efforts.

BARC needs the help of the community. The enforcement team brought in over 800 strays in August alone.

The shelter needs local fosters and volunteers.

Fosters save lives, open space for more animals to be saved, and increase an animal's chance of getting adopted.

Short-term fosters can provide a break from the stressful environment of the shelter in the form of a sleepover or weekend retreat.

BARC implemented safety protocols for people interested in volunteering. Right now, they need volunteers to take pictures and videos of the animals, network them via social media, socialize them, or help organize the shelter's enrichment program.

"We welcome creative ideas [to promote our shelter and animals]," Stottlemeyer said. "We are willing to work with [volunteers and student organizations] to think outside the box to get more people on site and adopt [our pets]."

To learn more about the shelter, visit <https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/>.



Credit: Axel Miranda

Houstonians react to Queen's passing

BY MADIHA HUSSEIN

Following 70 years of service, the world said goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II after she passed on Sept. 8. Queen Elizabeth, who died at age 96, was one of the longest reigning monarchs in recorded history.

"Honestly, I was shocked. I thought she would live forever," joked Damilola Afolabi, a student at UHD. "In all seriousness, I thought she would live longer. She became the queen even before my mother was born."

While she was famous during her reign, the British royal family's relevance has declined since she became queen. Her death transferred the crown to her son, the now King Charles III.

King Charles was the subject of salacious gossip and rumors due to his turbulent relationship with ex-wife Princess Diana and troubling public image. He has already faced calls to abolish the monarchy.

"I think that the British royal family is more of a tour-

ist attraction for Britain rather than actual political leaders." Reesha Najam, a student at UHD, offers an interesting perspective regarding Britain's monarchy.

"So, I think that it should be up to the British citizens to decide if they want to still have a monarchy. They still have a prime minister and a parliament to handle political matters."

"I don't know how monarchy specifically affects British people, but if the majority of English people want the monarchy removed, then it should be removed." Professor Damaris Cortez has a similar mindset.

"But no, monarchies overall should not exist. Monarchies exist off stolen resources through colonization. They came to be through the oppression of the masses." Professor Cortez adds.

"She could have not taken the charge and pushed to end colonization of many countries. She's an imperialist that wore pretty dresses and jewels that she stole from other countries."

Horror film 'Barbarian' is grotesque, scary and hilarious

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

"Barbarian" begins with Tess driving to her Detroit-area rental home; in the pouring rain, she arrives at the house at night. There is no key in the realtor-style lock box in front, and the rental company is not answering her call.

What makes "Barbarian" fun is the minimized marketing and synopsis released by the filmmakers. The plot explanation given to the audience is that the woman arrived at her rental house, which happened to be double booked with a young man around her age.

There is supposed to be a dark mystery in the house, which is the extent of the studio plot description. Giving away too much would only spoil the bizarre surprises the film director Zach Cregger has in store.

The movie also leans into a characteristic that can make a horror film so much fun, not taking itself too seriously. This is one of the more ridiculous horror films of the past decade.

Justin Long makes an appearance at about the halfway point in the film, portraying an actor named AJ. The character owns the rental house and is shown to be an awful

person.

Long plays a similar character to the one he played in the 2014 Kevin Smith horror film "Tusk." AJ is a self-centered narcissist and a Hollywood actor. Facing a sexual assault charge in Los Angeles, he intends to sell the rental property for legal expenses.

The original soundtrack is fantastic. The opening scene has a creepy song featuring what sounds like people wailing in agony, setting the perfect tone for the film. The musical number pairs marvelously with the heavy rain-storm the audience is greeted with in the beginning.

Another song with heavy bass is played during the film's tense scenes, and the soundtrack would be right at home in any 80s horror film. The 80s-style soundtrack and bizarre plot are reminiscent of James Wan's 2021 horror film "Malignant."

There are some genuinely disgusting scenes in the film, accompanied by jump scares and a quality claustrophobic, low-lit set, quickly building audience tension.

It was challenging to figure out the underlying message in "Barbarian" and what the film was trying to say. There are critiques on toxic masculinity, police emergen-

cy response time, and one of the first horror films to use an Airbnb rental property.

The film was enjoyable, although people who dislike horror should just skip it—the true definition of extreme horror is a hard R with gruesome practical effects and some disturbing scenes.

Featuring a sickening room with the floor covered in filthy rags, this is a horror film that makes the viewer want to bathe afterward. Most definitely recommended to horror fans, even some comedy fans too. "Barbarian" is now playing in cinemas.

Viola Davis leads strong women warriors in 'The Woman King'

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

"The Woman King" is a 2022 historical action war drama starring Viola Davis and Thuso Mbedu.

Set in the 1823 West African Kingdom of Dahomey, an elite group of female warriors is known as the Agojie. The film follows a young woman training to join their ranks.

While Davis may have top billing, the film is told from the perspective of Mbedu's character Nawi. Given to the Kingdom after refusing to marry an abusive suitor, Nawi is instead turned into a fierce warrior.

Nawi joins their newcomer ranks, showing the audience the intense training regimen. The free-spirited young woman questions authority and even begins a slightly romantic friendship with a man associated with the slavers. Any association with men is prohibited for the soldiers.

Agojie is shown to be the elite fighting force of the Dahomey Kingdom, women warriors who use flat rocks to sharpen the blades of their Gubasas. They use the same stones to keep a pointed razor edge on their fingernails, also used in battle.

Upon discovering Dahomey's slaves in a neighboring Oyo kingdom, King

Ghezo (John Boyega) declares war. Slavers aligned with the enemy have also started up businesses on the shores of Dahomey.

Viola Davis offers an intense portrayal of General Nanisca. As the leader of the Agojie, her character is more important to the Kingdom of Dahomey than the King himself.

The film was directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, who also made "The Old Guard" for Netflix in 2020. The fantastical movie is delightful and entertaining. Prince-Bythewood instead takes a serious and grounded approach for her most recent release.

"The Woman King" is a fantastic loosely based historical action film. The movie's scenes of warfare rival films with twice the budget (\$50 million).

Intense battle sequences and violence are prevalent throughout the film, which is very bloody. The severing of limbs and decapitations are not shown onscreen, as the camera usually cuts away from the intended gore.

The film received a PG-13 rating, but the action is as intense as any R-Rated film. "The Woman King" runtime is 135 minutes, and the film is now playing in cinemas.

Magic clashes with technology in 'Three Thousand Years of Longing'

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

The 2022 fantasy film was released on Aug 26. It was directed by George Miller, the father of the Mad Max film franchise. There are only two main stars in the film Tilda Swinton and Idris Elba. Amito Lagum portrays the Queen of Sheeba.

A Professor named Alitheia (Swinton) releases a Djinn (Idris Elba) from an antique bottle purchased at a market in Istanbul on a work trip. She is told that she has three wishes then the djinn would then be freed or released.

Approaching the situation with the caution of a scholar, she holds off on any wishing. Because as a professor specializing in stories, she knows about the chance of the wishes backfiring.

Alitheia instead asks the Djinn to tell her stories of his past, deciding to take her time. The movie shows flashbacks to the Djinn's adventures, focusing on three stories of how the Djinn's bottle traveled the globe.

Miller and Augusta Gore wrote and adapted the screenplay. It was based on the short story "The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye" from 1994. The story was written by A.S. Byatt, also known as Dame Antonia Susan Duffy.

The film incorporates



Courtesy: FilmNation Entertainment

mythical creatures and beings, making "Three Thousand Years" a lot of fun. It is also nice to see an original story adapted into a film.

These past few years, the box office has been dominated by sequels and remakes. Audiences can take only so many iterations of the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." Sorry for the dated reference.

An interesting juxtaposition in this film is the spirituality/magic versus science/technology. Cell phones and radio towers as well as radiation are shown to influence magical beings.

Miller wrote and directed every "Mad Max" film in the series. Including the most recent, 2015s "Mad Max: Fury Road" as well as 2024s upcoming film "Furiosa"

"Three Thousand Years" holds major "Mad Max" echoes, it was not a surprise to find out that he used the same team as "Fury Road." Instead of a violent post-apocalyptic future, the film depicts a bloodthirsty yet developing world. The Djinn mentions that he had spent over 3,000 years stuck in the bottle.

Watch this film, it was highly enjoyable in theaters but would be just as good at home. Three different periods of ancient civilizations are brilliantly displayed onscreen.

The vibrant colors of the costumes and the deeply stylish sets are unique and visually pleasing. Three Thousand Years of Longing" is now playing in cinemas.

Social Gators continue to trend entering third semester of activity

BY DALILA JUAREZ

Going into their third semester, or “season,” UHD’s Enrollment Management’s Social Media Influencer Program, Social Gators, continue to educate students on the power of social media.

The university’s Digital and Social Media Manager, Antrechelle Dorsey, created Social Gators to allow students to promote the campus’ information, news, and concerns on TikTok and Instagram.

Dorsey has now welcomed new members Britney Smith, January Katsugi, Irene Nunez, Martey Prakonkham, and Thaly Vences

into the program, along with returning students Irving Solano and Jesus Nieto.

“The message is coming from the students to the students,” Dorsey stated. “We know [Social Gators] have the student’s attention, they are the student’s voice, and they need to answer students.”

Students from different degree-pursuant and diverse demographic have joined Social Gators who have a creativity trait. During the interview process, Dorsey searches for students who are passionate about promoting the university and creating content with trending social media themes.

Social Gator Katsugi credited the program for influencing them to enroll in UHD and have the freedom to express themselves using the social media platform.

Dorsey praised creativity and freedom for the program’s success as long as the students are themselves. It led the Social Gators to show leadership and be independent if Dorsey became absent. The freedom also consists of all members accessing its social media platforms.

The Social Gators is a source of employment as students may earn up to \$2,000 per semester. Social Gators have weekly meetings known

as “Media Mondays,” where students pitch their ideas, and Dorsey provides advice. The skills learned while Dorsey’s guidance transfers as a Social Media Specialist on their resume.

“As a [communications] profession, feedback is important, and [Dorsey] is willing to help us,” Nunez described.

Smith praised Dorsey for her talent of detecting when a Social Gator may not be providing the content or idea that was shown in previous posts.

“Everything is content,” Dorsey reflected, as the program does not allow excuses for students not to post

daily. “If you do not feed the [Social Media] machine, you will lose [followers].”

Several Social Gators receive their inspiration to create videos, whether in the moment or from peer suggestions.

The success of the Social Gators motivated other organizations to create social media content to promote their services throughout the UHD. The program currently has 2.7 million views on TikTok, with an increasing demographic. Follow @UHDSocialGators on Instagram and TikTok.



Credit: Diana Ambrosio

New app to increase student engagement, connect students

BY DIANA AMBROSIO

As many are stepping foot on Gator territory for the first time, UHD launched an app that helps navigate campus. Clubhouse is an audio app available on IOS and Android devices to help students create their or find their own community.

The app is a collaboration between administration and student work to increase student engagement and help connect students to the resources available to them at the university.

For many people university life can be stressful so within the app you can always ask what is going on around Houston so you can get a break from the stress, said Porsha Belle, who helped create the

group.

“I would like to let students know, there are so many resources afforded to them,” Belle said. “Clubhouse is not only easily accessible, but it would allow for students to gain access to resources that they may not know the school has to offer.”

The group was started in August to allow students to find a place where they can ask for help whether academically or personally.

Since, this is the first semester that the university has been fully reinstated it made sense to create this group.

The app can also be used for out of school activities. There are no requirements for joining the group. All students are encouraged to join and enjoy the platform.

BY AMY NGUYEN

The Psychology Club hosted the discussion series about Social Dilemma: social media and mental health on Sept. 15 in person and on zoom. A video discussed digital depression and how platforms contribute to social isolation.

Advertisers spend a fortune on “getting you to keep your eyes” on screens and “give them your attention,” according to English Professor Paul Fortunato.

“They have billions of dollars of engineering power acting on you, so you have to fight back by placing limits to protect your inner life, your own attention, and this protects your ability to think, to contemplate, to consider what your deepest desires and concerns are, not some little passing desire,” Fortunato said.

Fortunato gave a mini-lesson while a short clip from an interview of Tristan Harris with Ellen DeGeneres played.

“We’re worth more when we use the products in certain ways because outrage, narcissism, addiction, and polarization, disinformation are all profitable,” Center of Humane Technology co-founder Tristan Harris said.

“That means we have been successfully influenced

to use these products and to be successful for advertisers.”

Students discussed how to resolve “ongoing negative effects from social media use” in small groups. Excessive phone usage can have a negative impact on lifestyles by affecting students’ performance on their work and mental health, leading to being vulnerable to depression.

It is often possible to see similar posts across social media apps and feel disconnected from our peers when we compare ourselves with one another from an unhealthy perspective.

Fortunato went on to suggest ways to spend time without a phone. Some of his examples included: having a one-hour reading session in a book club, putting the phone away while being with

family, finishing tasks using a timer, and taking a reflective class.

The class would be intensive for learning more about one’s mental and emotional processes and less reading for students to think and discuss related topics.

During the discussion, several students suggested leaving phones in their cars while spending time with others. When we feel that we are not meeting our goals efficiently, we become frantic.

“Leisure time can trigger someone in minutes, and we would miss the humanistic values of being face to face,” UHD student Nicole Fisher said.

Technology may be used for connecting with others, but it may also be a barrier to connecting with others.



Dr. Fortunato leading the presentation on social media awareness. Credit: Amy Nguyen

Older students return to college to finish what they started

BY CARLIS HENRY

Returning students aged 31 and over have increased in university enrollment since 2017. A report from UHD Data Analytics reveals that non-traditional students are as likely to pursue degrees as post-secondary students.

Older students are renewing their commitments and pursuing their education; they realize that continued learning is within reach and achievable; gone are the days when obstacles stood in the

way of furthering education for older people.

“Although just over 0.3 percent of university students are over 65, [this is] a clear indication that seniors are going back to school,” according to the Elder Guru.

“As the 71.6 million baby boomers grow older, that number is expected to rise.”

The growing demographics of more senior students on university campuses indicates that young and old students can coexist in classrooms

and obtain the skills that will allow them to compete side by side with their younger counterparts.

Earning a degree at any age is an accomplishment and should be commended, but older students have an advantage when returning to school; they can benefit by enriching their existing careers with degrees or certificates.

“An attractive option for most older students is to obtain a graduate certificate to increase marketability to

employers,” Mikayel Yegiyan said. “An advanced degree or certification in a specialized field can increase the chances of a promotion in that individual’s career.”

The advantage of going back to school for some older students is not the money or the adventure but to fulfill a goal.

Sometimes finishing the task is more personal than reaping the monetary benefits of a long-anticipated plan.

“I want to close the door to a long-anticipated project,”

Shanta Harris said, an older student employed with Veterans services at UHD.

“You know, check off the box.”

Harris has no immediate plans to find a job or pursue a career once she obtains her degree.

She wants to prove that she can finish what she started, and what better time and place to prove this to herself and others than now.

New Dragon Ball movie has best opening in anime history, grosses \$10.8M

BY CHANDLER GRIVETTI

The next feature length film of Akira Toriyama’s acclaimed Dragon Ball series, “Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero” was released nationwide to audiences for a limited release on Aug. 19.

Limited releases increase the opportunity for Japanese animated films to succeed in the cutthroat industry of American cinema. The latest addition to the saga grossed over \$20 million alone in its first weekend stateside.

The previous movie, “Dragon Ball Super: Broly,” depicted the return of the fan favorite monster—Broly. This movie grossed over \$30 million in sales in the U.S. and Canada and over 116 million worldwide in its own limited release.

The steady increase of box office numbers for subtitled and dubbed mainstream anime movies provides a bright future for future releases.

“Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero” focuses on the ancillary characters Gohan (American voice Kyle Hebert), Piccolo (American voice Christopher Sabat), and Videl (American voice Jeannie Tirado) as fan favorites Goku (American voice Sean Schemmel) and Vegeta (American voice Christopher Sabat) are elsewhere involved in more trivial matters.

The story brings back one of the original “Dragon Ball” series’



Credit: Funimation

antagonists Red Ribbon Army and introduced two new androids, Gamma 1 (American voice Aleks Le) and Gamma 2 (American voice Zeno Robinson), who depict themselves as modern day superheroes.

This new movie is also the first in its franchise to use 3-D computer animation style rather than Retas Suite style of animation that Toei Animation has used since the releasing of the “Dragon Ball Super” series.

“The animation was notice-

ably different and took some time to get used to.” Fellow student and anime enthusiast, Danny Moltisanti commented about the latest movie.”

However, it went back to its roots showing more than just the main characters and reintroduced old storylines in a newer fashion.”

Fans old and new will find themselves easily entertained during the movie’s runtime of an hour and forty minutes while enjoying a drink and large popcorn.



Massive Molcajete on display outside the Leonel Castillo Community Center Credit: Amy Nguyen

MOLCAJETE

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The molcajete originally had artificial guacamole within the basin of the gigantic bowl.

Still, it has been removed recently to avoid damage to the exhibit due to the incoming hurricane season. Today, viewers will find the bowl empty with a drain at the bottom.

Museo Guadalupe Aztlan, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, and the Houston Arts Alliance sponsored and commissioned Jesus Cantu Medel to create the piece.

Medel founded the Museo Guadalupe Aztlan in Houston in 1994. The museum’s mission is “to promote folk arts of the Americas, to include the Chicana/o

and Latino communities.”

The art helps promote awareness of Latino culture. The molcajete is set in a heavily populated Latino neighborhood facing rapid gentrification.

“They tried to bury us, they didn’t know we were seeds,” UHD alumna Rachel Contreras shared regarding cultures and communities being uprooted.

“It’s something my mom would say whenever there were hard times.”

Installations like the molcajete inspire communities to unite to eliminate the destruction of their rich history in cities.

The park and open area give families the space to enjoy each other in different festivities. The giant molcajete is also surrounded by playground instruments for children to play with.

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Credit: Indira Zaldivar

Halo: Infinite plagued by COVID, greedy ownership, poor community response, flooded with spaghetti code

BY RYAN PRICE

Despite the Halo franchise's success over the years, video game developer 343 Industries has struggled to find critical success in any of its mainline title releases.

At the end of 2010, Halo developer Bungie Studios left their most successful franchise behind and handed production reins to their sister studio, 343 Industries. Since then, 343 Industries has produced three mainline games: Halo 4, Halo 5: Guardians, and Halo: Infinite.

While these games were financial successes, they have all fallen victim to split community responses regarding many of their features.

Halo 4, 343 Industries' first independent feature in the franchise, was met with widespread praise for its single-player story, but its multiplayer, a feature that helped Halo stand out, was considered a poor direction to go in.

As a result, 343 Industries' overcorrected Halo 5: Guardians and created a

well-received multiplayer experience, loot boxes notwithstanding, but a disappointing single-player experience both in story and mechanics.

This led to Halo: Infinite, a title released in Nov. 2021, which despite a great initial release, has suffered from poor management and a severe lack of transparency regarding its future.

Infinite had a tumultuous development cycle as the developers were forced to deal with game engine problems, management shake-ups, and the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Halo: Infinite was delayed an extra year to polish the game, totaling six years of development time. However, when it was released, the game was full of bugs, the multiplayer servers refused to work for several days, and many features found in previous titles were absent.

Due to the new free-to-play model introduced to the game's multiplayer, the game included microtransactions.

It has been 10 months since Halo: Infinite's release, and communication is still a significant problem.

During a live stream announcing new content and updates for the game, it was casually mentioned that the team would no longer be continuing development on split-screen co-op, a long-awaited feature and franchise staple.

This was a deal breaker as split-screen co-op had been promised at every event 343 had held in the last six years. Many fans feel as though they were lied to. The compromise was that this would free up developers to work on additional promised content.

Content that would only be released in spring 2023, with a small update coming this November of this year introducing the long-awaited Forge Mode.

Despite an additional year of development, Infinite was plagued by a rushed coding process due partly to Microsoft's new strategy of hiring temporary coding



Courtesy: 343 Industries

employees.

This led to accumulated technical debt, which has made their game engine buggy and more difficult to patch. Multiple senior directors and several minor directors quit the project during its development as they felt the workload was unreasonable and the tasks given to them were impossible in the time-

frame they received.

Recently, 343 General Manager Bonnie Ross turned in her resignation, citing an ongoing family medical emergency.

With the loss of their General Manager and the new update almost half a year away, it seems that Halo: Infinite will remain "buggy" and incomplete state.

UHDPD plan to host community outreach event for NNO

BY ASTI PHEA

On Oct. 4 UHD Police Department is hosting a National Night Out.

NPO is an "annual community-building campaign to promote camaraderie with the police department, neighborhoods, surrounding areas around the campus such as businesses," Lt. Delafance said.

There will be food, a DJ, student organizations, games, raffles, and a dunking booth.

"If you ever wanted to dunk a police officer in the water, here's your chance," said Lt. Delafance. "There will be staff at the event cooking and greeting attendees. I will be in the dunking booth."

"This is not just an event by the UHDPD, it's a team effort with other campus staff," Lt. Delafance said. Other campus staff facilitating the event include the Student Life Center. They will serve ice

cream.

Three female RAD instructors will attend to talk about the UHD self-defense workshop designed for female students only. The workshop is a three-week class held in the SLC.

Distinguished attendees at UHDPD's NNO include Senator Christina Morales, the state representative for District 145 and the current UHD President. UHD cheerleaders will be attending as well.

"The biggest hit last year was when the kids came out to the second floor to play in the arcade," Lt. Delafance said.

UHDPD's NNO is for "businesses, staff, and student organizations," Lt. Delafance said. They can set up a table and "share what they do".

"The bank on North Main participated last year and now they are getting students opening up accounts there,"



said Lt. Delafance.

Lt. Delafance explained this event is an opportunity to "promote safety and for the UHD police department to connect with the community."

"The news only shows negative things about the police," said Lt. Delafance. He shared a story about a recent interaction with a woman on the UHD campus.

"We helped push her car to safety. You will not hear these stories on the news about law enforcement," Lt. Delafance explained.

"This is an opportunity for the students and community to come meet with the UHDPD and get to know them."

UHDPD encourages student organizations to set up a

table at the event to promote their clubs.

UHDPD's NNO will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4. The event will be on the South Deck of UHD's One Main Complex, One Main Street.

For more information about the event will, contact UHDPD at 713-221-8446 or delafancet@uhd.edu.

One last lap, “El Rey del Reggaeton” Daddy Yankee crowns legendary career with best work during farewell world tour

BY INDIRA ZALDIVAR

Daddy Yankee lit Toyota Center with the gasolina that is his incredible energy and charisma as part of his farewell world tour “La Ultima Vuelta” (the last lap).

For many of his Houston-based fans, that Sept. 15 night was the last chance to see the 45-year-old artist perform live before he retires from music after a legendary 32-year career.

The two-hour concert was a dynamic expression of the Latin icon’s profound influence on local and international fans. He delivered the promise of hosting “un rumbaton” from start to finish. “La Ultima Vuelta” encompasses his best work in one night.

The Houston tour was a long-awaited opportunity that UHD alumna and native Houstonian Saida Rios could not miss. Rios watched the Puerto Rican rapper from floor-level. All the videos and photos she took of the unbelievable experience are now treasured memories.

“Daddy Yankee’s concert was phenomenal [and] a dream come true,” Rios said. “If I could relive the moment, I would.”

“El Big Boss” arrived on stage via airplane (LED-screen displayed) singing hits from “Legendaddy,” his newest album titled in honor of his pioneering contributions to the genre. His first attire from four was a gold and black suit appropriate for the introduction song “Campeon.” As the champion of the genre, the multiplatinum-recording artist is credited for coining the term reggaeton in 1994 and for paving the way to artists such as Bad Bunny, J Balvin, Ozuna, Karol G, etc.

The set list then turned to

“la vieja escuela” (old school) with hits from “Barrio Fino,” the best-selling album of the 2000s decade, including Rios’s and other fan favorites, “Rompe,” “Machucando,” “Lo Que Paso, Paso,” and “Yo Voy.” The crowd’s appreciation of the “rumba” before them was evident on screen through smiles, dancing, flag-waving, and singing along.

Reggaeton veterans such as Wisin y Yandel and Zion y Lenox to rising stars such as Lunay participated in the concert via a video recording, highlighting how reggaeton artists succeed at any experience level.

The union of Latin American and Hispanic countries were also loud that night, paying a beautiful tribute to Hispanic Heritage Month. Flags from various Latin American countries such as Puerto Rico, Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador, and Colombia waved proudly in the venue and on screen.

“When it comes to Latinos, it’s all about love,” Daddy Yankee said and eventually called out various countries by name many times throughout the concert.

Marie Zaldivar, music student at Sam Houston State University, felt seen because Daddy Yankee recognized her native country of Honduras even though it is “not popular” among Latin countries.

“Honduras isn’t typically recognized, so seeing someone so legendary and important for Latinos, recognize [Honduras] feels special,” Zaldivar said.

With the LED powered Puerto Rican flag waving on screen, Daddy Yankee also took time to recognize his love for his native “isla del encanto” during “Despacito.” “Born from the heart” of Puerto Rico but proliferated

worldwide, “Despacito” holds second place as the most-viewed YouTube video of all time, (first from August 2017 to November 2020), and one of the most recognized Spanish-language songs of all time.

Two of his most recognizable songs, “Con Calma” and “Dura” made way for the “infinite” song. “Gasolina,” the song that started the worldwide sensation culminated the concert leaving fire on stage and an infinite flame in our hearts. The charismatic singer did not leave the stage before thanking fans for his incredible trajectory.

The King of Reggaeton will crown his legendary career following the culmination of the world tour in Miami, Florida on Dec. 22 after touring 15 countries in a five-month span.

“I say goodbye, but my music stays in your hearts,” he rightfully said in Spanish about the infinite flame that is his legacy. “Ha sido increíble esta trayectoria; les debo mucho familia.”

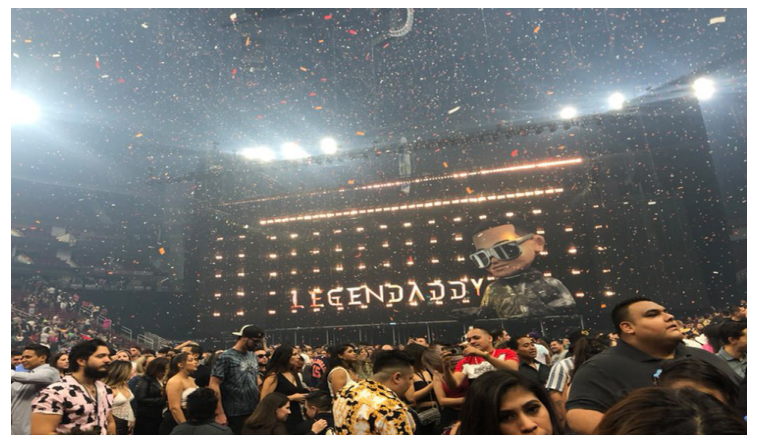
The humble Daddy Yankee sets an example of discipline in the music industry. While reigning charts, “El Maximo Lider” remained unproblematic and down-to-earth. He crosses the finish line producing his best world tour and musical work.

Nothing makes fans happier than seeing Daddy Yankee get to enjoy years of blissful downtime with his family after three decades of legendary work.

“Daddy Yankee inspired everyone throughout his music and by being such a humble and kind man despite the success and fame,” Rios added. “He worked very hard and was very dedicated to his passion. After all, I’m glad he gets to enjoy the fruits of his labors.”



Daddy Yankee superfans Indira Zaldivar (left) and Marie Zaldivar (right) show off Daddy Yankee merchandise in Toyota Center on Sept. 15. Courtesy: Indira Zaldivar.



Confetti blast culminates Daddy Yankee’s farewell concert “La Ultima Vuelta” in Toyota Center on Sept. 15. Courtesy: Saida Rios.



“El Rey del Reggaeton” Daddy Yankee performs in Toyota Center on Sept. 15 as part of his farewell tour “La Ultima Vuelta.” Credit: Indira Zaldivar