

## Castillo's Celebrations

UHD sends off one of its most influential leaders  
FRONT PAGE

## You vs. WPE

Find out how you can be a winner when up against  
the WPE  
CAMPUS NEWS

## Monkey Plays Wii

Capuchin Monkey Saesha helps advertising  
students fund-raise  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Dateline: Downtown

S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E V O L U M E O N E

NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

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## UHD Celebrates Castillo's Final Days

By Jennie Orellana and Wilbert Chinchilla

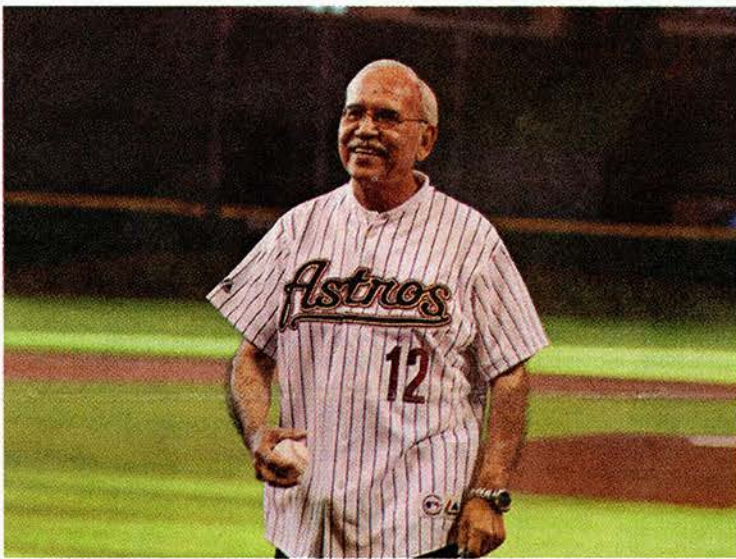
### The Students Celebrate Dr. Castillo

Students, faculty and staff gathered around the South Deck to enjoy free food and music in recognition to UHD president, Max Castillo on June 4, 2009. Castillo was present the entire time greeting over 500 people and taking a few moments to converse with individual students. The UHD community feasted on fajitas, chips and salsa provided by Pappas, while listening to the melodies played by Los Gallitos mariachi. The successful event was well organized thanks to Student Activities and Events, and the Community Involvement Center. Those present were also given the opportunity to Build-A-Gator wearing commemorative shirts and take funny pictures with a Max Castillo replica board. Towards the end of the celebration Castillo was presented with a chef jacket and hat for his future endeavors. He will be stepping down from office on July 31, 2009.

### Throwing the First Pitch; Last for UHD

Where hundreds of UHD students graduate, Minute Maid Park is where Dr. Castillo's commencement had also taken place; in front of students, faculty

see MAX on page 3



## Out of Four, Flores Wins

By Wilbert Chinchilla  
MANAGING EDITOR

On Friday, May 29, 2009 Chancellor Renu Khator recommended Dr. William Flores as the new president of UHD. With this gesture from the Chancellor, Flores was solidified to his current position which he started on July 1. The race for the job was met with one of the four candidates dropping out, and the other two waiting for the final result of Khator and the UH-System. "I knew about the University of Houston a long time ago" states Flores in regards to finding out about his current position.

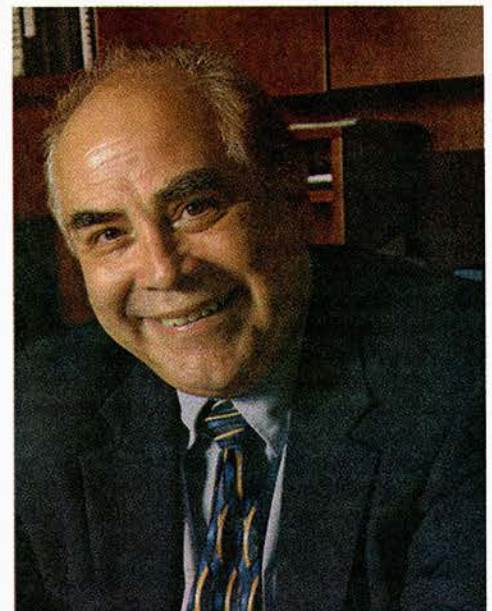
This seems to be one of the many criterions that Regents

Wilson, Wise and Monty had in mind when they had an opportunity to meet and interview Flores. Regent Monty said that "This is an exciting day for UHD, as we have found the right fit for the giant shoes of President Max Castillo." With accolades from the Board of Regents, Flores has migrated to the greater Houston area and has begun to fill President Max Castillo's position during this state of transition. Castillo will be stepping down on July 31 officially

Currently, "It has been very good," said Flores as he overlooked the skyline facing UHD. "Although I started last week, this

week has included my first full day on Monday. It's been a whirlwind because Wednesday I came in and signed papers, and made sure the boxes had arrived [from New Mexico]. Thursday, I had to fly in early into Austin during the special session." At this special session, Flores introduced himself to over 20 representatives of the Houston area.

As the summer sessions come to a close and the fall semester is quickly approaching, Flores has to be just as prepared as any student by becoming accustomed to the changing faces, changing cities and (possibly) changing names.



# STUDENT LIFE

## Which Candidate Should Become the New UHD President? Polling Results

By Wilbert Chinchilla  
MANAGING EDITOR

Over the course of releasing the online copy of the first summer issue, a limited number of students cast their votes on our first online poll. Each vote showcased reasons why a reader would vote for one candidate instead of another. As each mouse click linked to the polling site, we came to understand that they have had a chance to "know [their] candidates," and surprisingly, there were two sets of ties for both losers and winners.

The outcome has become clear and Dr. William Flores is the new president of the University of Houston-Downtown. Here are some of the highlights from the previous article regarding our new president.

### Flores' Points

- Appointed by Governor Bill Richardson for the New Mexico Higher Education Department
- From 1996 to 2001, Flores was the dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science at California State University

Jeff D. Senese 30.00%

William V. Flores 30.00%

Howard C. Johnson 20.00%

Robert D. Sanborn 20.00%

As students also dropped off their ballots (located on the back of the last issue) into the Dateline mailbox, the same outcome has occurred. The total votes were tabulated and placed into the online version of the poll. This poll is viewable any time: <http://www.acepolls.com/polls/908165-which-candidate-should-become-the-new-uhd-president/results>

## Online Sound-Bites



Fans - 54 (Currently)

Come join the discussion on our fan page to answer questions that could be featured in The Dateline Downtown.

The Dateline Downtown wrote

on July 3, 2009

What should the Dateline Downtown ask Dr. Flores?

Marlyn Dav wrote

on July 4, 2009

If he feels he can live up to Dr. Castillo's past accomplishments like the commerce and shea buildings.



Followers - 52 (Currently)

Come join the discussion on twitter and possibly be featured in The Dateline Downtown. Follow @TheDateline or search #UHD



SassyTonya: @lasandraobb: Congrats on starting UHD. I started in the Spring Semester in January and I love it. What are you studying?

3 days ago from web Reply View Tweet



KevinKer: The UHD catalog & degree plans need some serious review by a tech writer. That'd be a great senior project for someone.

10 days ago from web Reply View Tweet



arcday2: on deathrail. I hate that visitor parking is so scarce @ uhd #atracoferryite

1 day ago from JerryTwitter Reply View Tweet

**Letters to the Editor:** Dateline welcomes letters to the editor from any member of the UH system. Letters should be no more than 250 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deliver letters to Room S-260 Main Bldg; email them to [dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:dateline@gator.uhd.edu); fax them to (713) 221-8119. All submissions are subject to editing.

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# Know Thy Enemy! Conquer the WPE

By **Rebecka Black**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Lurking behind all degree plans at UHD is the often dreaded Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE). It is the formidable foe all students, no matter what discipline, must conquer. This task is proving more than a worthy writing adversary and for many students, the WPE comes out of battle with victory. Why is this exam required for all students and what is it about this test that brings UHD students turmoil? The first issue is (possibly) the most upsetting to students who have fallen victim to the WPE.

Students who are pursuing degrees in business, science, or criminal justice fields find the WPE requirement unnecessary. A finance student who recently fell victim to the test claimed, "I'm a finance major, I work

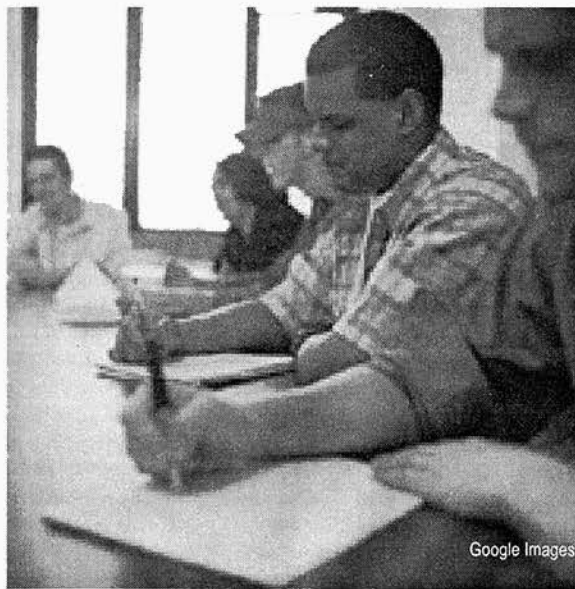
with numbers and I don't understand what this has to do with my degree!" The answer is simple – "All students, regardless of their major, need to be able to write well," states Dr. Lucille Pointer, professor of Marketing in the College of Business at UHD. Dr. Pointer also feels that "the WPE is an excellent tool to gage the students' writing abilities. If a student finds out now that they have a serious problem, it is easier to seek help."

A fellow professor and a master of numbers, Professor Mary Sykes, who holds both a CPA and a MBA in accounting, strongly re-emphasizes Dr. Pointer's words. According to Prof. Sykes, in any industry "you will be dealing with many different levels of professionals and no matter what level you are, corporate will want you to be able to be effective and organized in your writing."

Effective writing and passing the WPE seem to be two different issues for many UHD students. Students in several disciplines taking the WPE falter, not just those in the colleges of Business, Criminal Justice, or Sciences and Technology. Many students in the Humanities disciplines also find this test to be antagonistic.

The intent of the WPE is not to torment non-English majors; it is to show UHD administrators their students effectively organize and present their ideas in written format. This skill certainly proves critical when considering scholars and industry experts like Prof. Sykes and Dr. Pointer "cannot think of any professional field that does not require some writing." To combat the WPE, the WRoCk (Writing Center) holds free WPE workshops and one-on-

see **WPE** on page 8



Google Images

With the help of the Writing Center – otherwise known as the WRoCk – any student can attain the skills needed to pass the mandatory writing proficiency exam (WPE). Regardless of your major, every student needs to pass the WPE to graduate. In the month of June alone, thirty students received an "IP," or failing grade.

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## MAX

Continued from page 1

and staff. Tickets were sold to all of the gathers to support Dr. Castillo as he threw the first pitch for an Astros game. With an amazing view of the field, students viewed their president pitch, and their home teams lose.

### Administration and Houston Officials

"A Salute to UHD's Superstar" seemed befitting for the longest active president of the UHD's history. During his time here at UHD, the attempts of advancements varied from new buildings, degrees, and names. Dr. Castillo is certainly leaving UHD knowing successful advancements have occurred. Under Dr. Castillo's leadership, UHD and the surrounding community has seen the progress UHD has made in regards to its skyline.



In total, Dr. Max Castillo had three celebrations on his behalf that commenced his tenure as UHD President. (Above) Esteemed Houstonians gather to send off Dr. Castillo. (Right) Faculty, administrators, and students enjoy the stuffed gators at the first white tent event.

On June 26, the surrounding community attended the white tent event for the retiring president where guests included Dr. Castillo's family and esteemed Houstonians like Sheriff Adrian Garcia.





# CAMPUS NEWS

Do you have tips? Contact us at [Dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:Dateline@gator.uhd.edu) for any tips, events, or story ideas to cover.

## Yale Classes at UHD?

**By Sara Hood**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This may come to fruition all thanks to Associate English Professor Dr. Merrilee Cunningham. It seems Dr. Cunningham has her fingers in not just many, but every pot available to her. This summer she is instructing two Summer I English courses, serving as a faculty member for The Capital One Institute for Financial Literacy and Academic Excellence, teaching in the Yale-New Haven Initiative, and traveling to Macedonia for the State Department to teach creative writing seminars to middle and high school students. What is the Yale-New Haven Initiative?

It is part of the Yale National Initiative committed in targeting the serious educational problems

associated with low-income ethnically diverse communities. Houston has a daughter institution, the Houston Teachers Institute; Dr. Cunningham has been a board member for four years and has taught at this institute. The Houston Teachers Institute is directly affiliated with the University of Houston Honors College. This is how she came to be invited to the original Institute in New Haven. Dr. Cunningham plans to use several of the textbooks she has edited to help teachers in New Haven develop curricula that are interesting and stimulating for high school students.

How does this relate to UHD? While Dr. Cunningham will be attending seminars and collaborating on Yale curriculum, she will also be returning with notes and ideas for our classrooms here. She plans on trying

to simulate seminars and aims at instituting a similar curriculum for our English students. After all, she says, "Why try and reinvent the wheel?" This is not a bad idea; after all, Yale has the number two undergraduate English program and the number one doctoral program in the U.S. This is also a joint effort between a UHD professor and the Main Campus, which after the name-change fiasco of last year, seemed to be irreparable.

UHD was made to seem more like Cinderella (the unwanted step-child) than an equally esteemed sister institution. In a way Dr. Cunningham's recognition extends to the University. It is our professor and only our professor, who was chosen by Yale to be a part of their program. And as the Houston Institute is the domain of the UH Honors College, this is what Dr.

Cunningham referred to as "green shoots" of good faith on the part of the Main Campus. After Yale for Dr. Cunningham, is off to the Balkans to attend award winning creative writing workshops. She will be right back to UHD for the fall semester and the implementation of all of the Yale curricula she has constructed that can make UHD classes better and bring more recognition to our campus. She will be in the Balkans during Freshman Summer Success—an orientation for incoming UHD Freshman in which Dr. Cunningham loves to participate.

## The Jaundiced Eye



Opinion Column

**By Brookston Fowler**  
A SQUINTING OBSERVER

As you might have heard, tuition is going up again: seems like a regular, annual event since the state legislature deregulated tuition so every public college in Texas can decide what bills it most needs to pay and then let the students pay them. According to the

see **EYE** on page 7

## UHD Student Meets Obama

By UHD Public Release

University of Houston-Downtown student Vanessa Nuñez helped President Obama launch the Office of Social Innovation Tuesday (June 30) at the White House and explained how Houston non-profit Genesys Works helped her decide to attend college. Nuñez, 19, and six others were President Obama's special guests as he called on foundations, philanthropists and the private sector to invest in community solutions. Nuñez finished her freshman year at UHD in the spring and is considering a career in computer science. Yesterday's event highlighted innovative approaches and programs that make a difference.

Nuñez grew up in a single-parent home. She has worked to help support her family since she was 13.

"At 17, my life was on a course typical for many of my friends in high school. I went to school, babysat my little sister and worked a night job at the Aquarium (a local restaurant) to help my Mom pay the bills," she said. "I was so tired that I slept through many of my classes." She said that at the time her minimum wage job made her feel "rich enough." Then her high school yearbook adviser encouraged her to apply to the Genesys Works program.

The program provides technical, part-time jobs in medium and large companies with the goal of changing students' lives.



"Wow" is the introduction to Nunez's epiphany. "If anyone would have told me four years ago, that I would be standing here in the White House, I would have thought they were crazy."

Nearly all (95 percent) of the students who are accepted into the program go on to college. After finishing training, Nuñez got a job doing technical desk-side support at Marathon Oil, a Fortune 500 company in Houston.

President Obama thanked Nunez and others for telling their stories as he announced that his administration has designated \$650 million of Recovery Act Funds for the What Works Fund in the Department of Education. Money will help fund proven, non-profit initiatives such as Genesys Works.

"I want to thank Richard and Vanessa (Nuñez) for sharing their stories with us today. Thank you very much. You both

see **OBAMA** on page 5



# Special Election on the Horizon

**By Peyton Davis**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A special election is on the horizon and Houston's own Mayor, Bill White is in the running. A special election occurs when a seat is vacated between regularly scheduled elections. Current Senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison is expected to relinquish her seat in order to run for Governor against current Governor Rick Perry. This is where Mayor Bill White comes in. In December of 2008, Bill White publicly announced that he would be campaigning for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's Senate seat. With Bill White's success

and popularity as Mayor, he is considered one of the top contenders. When Mayor White ran for his second term as Mayor of Houston, he was reelected with a record 91% of the vote and again for a third term with 86% of the vote. But due to term limitations, he will not be able to run for Mayor so he is attempting becoming a representative of Texas in the United States Senate. Despite his popularity in Houston, the Senate race is a much bigger campaign with more at stake. Mayor White has a lot of ground to cover since Texas is the second largest state in the U.S. Mayor White has already begun to take his campaign

on the road from Rio Grande Valley to Denton to Bryan to Nacogdoches; Bill is attempting to make his mark across Texas in hopes of being heard.

If you would like more information on the Bill White for Texas Campaign, you can visit his website at [www.billwhitefortexas.com](http://www.billwhitefortexas.com) or if you would like to get involved with UHD Students for Bill White, contact [peytoncd20@gmail.com](mailto:peytoncd20@gmail.com).



Mayor Bill White may now have the title of Senator Bill White if he runs a successful campaign to relieve Kay Bailey Hutchison as Texas Senator.

*Yearbook*

FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON DOWNTOWN  
WILL HAVE A YEARBOOK.

This is a unique and important yearbook for the University of Houston Downtown. It is the only yearbook of its kind in the state of Texas. It is the only yearbook of its kind in the state of Texas. It is the only yearbook of its kind in the state of Texas.

The yearbook will consist of 100 pages and will be published in 2010.

*Other Activities: Family, Golf, Bowling, and Other Fun Things (UHD)*

The yearbook will also include a section on the University of Houston Downtown's history and its role in the community. It will also include a section on the University of Houston Downtown's future and its role in the community.

If you are interested in submitting articles or photos to the yearbook, please contact the yearbook committee at [yearbook@uhd.edu](mailto:yearbook@uhd.edu). The yearbook committee is currently accepting submissions and will be pleased to receive your contributions.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.uhd.edu/yearbook](http://www.uhd.edu/yearbook).

Thank you to all who have supported the yearbook and to all who will continue to support it in the future.

The University of Houston System Student Organization  
The University of Houston System (The Alumni) Association  
Alumni Organization (BSA) UHD

Need an organization to join? Why not try the HSF Scholar Chapter here at UHD!



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## OBAMA

Continued from page 4

clearly have very bright futures ahead of you," President Obama said. "We'll be investing in the most successful, highest-impact initiatives in our school districts and communities," Obama said. "It's not just going to be the usual formulas here. From pioneering teacher training programs and efforts to bring new technologies into our schools, to early learning

programs and programs to help at-risk kids – these are the kind of initiatives that (U.S. Department of Education Secretary) Arne (Duncan) and his staff at the department are looking to support," he said.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Dateline Downtown accepts unsolicited music, film, and video game reviews from students. Have an event to promote or cover? Contact us at [Dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:Dateline@gator.uhd.edu).

## USA's Bittersweet Defeat

By Will Orellana  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER




Brazil didn't have to wait long for their equaliser though, as Luis Fabiano headed home from close range.

The disappointment in the United States player's eyes was evident this past June. They made it to the 2009 Confederations Cup final and placed runner-up against the powerful Brazil team. In the qualifying round the United States pulled a miracle when moving on to the semi-finals where they faced the number one ranked team in the world, Spain. The goal keeper along with the defense played an incredible game. The goals scored by Jozy Altidore and Clint Dempsey sealed the deal giving them a 2-0 victory over Spain. USA was a force when they placed a spot in the championship game.

On the other side of the groups, Brazil demonstrated its dominance over every team they faced. They were

unbeaten and pulled through in the semi-final match against South Africa winning 1-0. The United States would face Brazil once more in the tournament. During their first encounter, Brazil challenged USA by scoring 3-0. The USA team knew they would need to make changes to have a chance at

see USA on page 7



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# EYE

Continued from page 4

Chancellor's office. "there will be a system-wide increase of 3.98 percent – the lowest percentage in nearly a decade." Oh, joy!

The worse news: UHD's tuition is going up 4.8 percent, "costing \$101 more." Better check that math. Seems like we'll see the biggest increase, as Clear Lake's rate will go up 3.3 percent, Victoria's 3.4 percent, and at the "flagship university" (central, main, whatever) 3.95 percent. So it looks like we are the poor relation in the UH system; which I guess is appropriate, as we are the most needy students. Too bad financial aid is not keeping up with the tuition; I had one classmate jerked out of class this summer because the aid he was relying on didn't come through

We have a new president: Flores. As we are a Hispanic-serving institution, did somebody not expect him (only men considered) to be Hispanic? It would be nice if we had more than one Hispanic candidate, so we could compare their credentials. Seems like we had one other candidate with no apparent relevant background, and one that was very impressive; I'll leave it to you to guess who was who. It was revealing that in his presentation Flores kept referring to UHD as "this campus," making it clear that he sees UHD as a branch of UH (Central? Or is that Main?).

As Chancellor Kator indicated the new president is her choice for the job, we can expect Dr. Flores to re-animate the name-change campaign in 2009-10, as this seems to be the Chancellor's latest mission in life. Makes sense to change our name somewhat to clarify where all those millions in donations are going, which Dr. Castillo said was the rationale for the change. But the rule seems to be that any

see EYE on page 8

# Play to Win by Joining Advertising Students

By Eric J. Roberson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This summer students in Robert Williams' advertising and public relations classes had a unique opportunity to participate in a real marketing campaign to design materials for a fundraiser. The fundraiser will benefit a non-profit organization called the Avian and Primate Institute (API). API is an animal rescue organization with a niche market that helps exotic birds, monkeys, and their owners during times of need. The fundraiser is much like walk-a-thons that were popular in the past, but with a special twist. Participants will compete in a bowl-a-thon with Nintendo's Wii Bowling game.

Craig Blaylock, an advertising student who worked on the marketing campaign said, "It's not just kids that play video games today; everyone loves Wii games because the motion controller puts you in the action."

# USA

Continued from page 6

winning; they did just that.

The first half of the championship game is where the United States took an early lead with a goal scored by Clint Dempsey at the tenth minute. As many know, one goal lead doesn't guarantee much against a powerful team like Brazil. Shortly after, Landon Donovan scored a goal of his own for USA. The world was a possible witness to a possible historic upset. The first half ended and the score read 2-0 in favor of USA. Unlike the first half, the second half was completely dominated by Brazil.

Seconds into the game Luis Fabiano shot the ball into Tim Howard's net. The fans hadn't seen much of Fabiano during the game until then and also in the seventy-fourth minute where he would tie

the game with another goal. The United States' final blow came when Lucio headed a ball inside the net with minutes remaining to end the game. The final score read was 3-2 making Brazil Confederations Cup Champions. They put up a fight but "We're at the point where we don't want respect, we want to win," said Landon Donovan.

The United States knew the win slipped away and it hurt to admit it. Aside from the lost, this tournament placed the USA team amongst the top in the world. They will now take their experiences and knowledge into the next tournament which is the Gold Cup. They will be returning home to play in Washington DC where the American fans will be ready cheer for the home team and show gratitude for their international accomplishments.



Photography by Benita Dryden

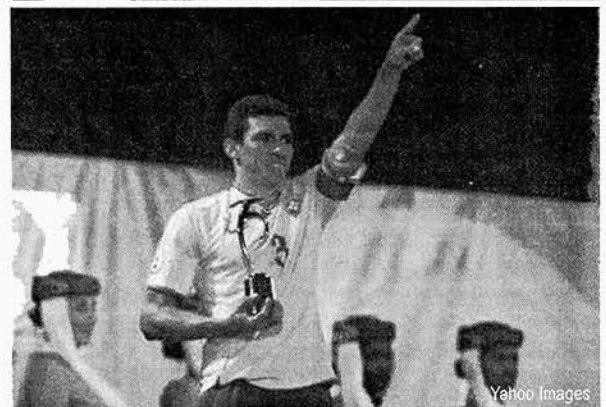
There is a \$10 entry fee for participants who must find sponsors that will donate money based on the number of pins knocked down, per game played, or a flat donation to API.

API's fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 6PM. The Westside Tennis Club, located at 1200 Wilcrest Drive in Houston, will host the event. Students who participated in the marketing campaign were given an objective to attract the largest number of participants from UHD to raise funds for API's mission. To encourage people to participate, prizes will be given away. If the winner of the competition is a student at UHD, API will pay tuition for one class during

see API on page 8



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# CLASSIFIEDS

Contact us at [Dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:Dateline@gator.uhd.edu) for all your classified needs. Free for students, faculty, and employees.

**Do you have a green thumb?**

**Are you interested in cultivating one while helping to cultivate our community garden?**

**UHD Garden Club is now forming!**

**For additional information contact the Community Involvement Center at [sustainability@uhd.edu](mailto:sustainability@uhd.edu)**



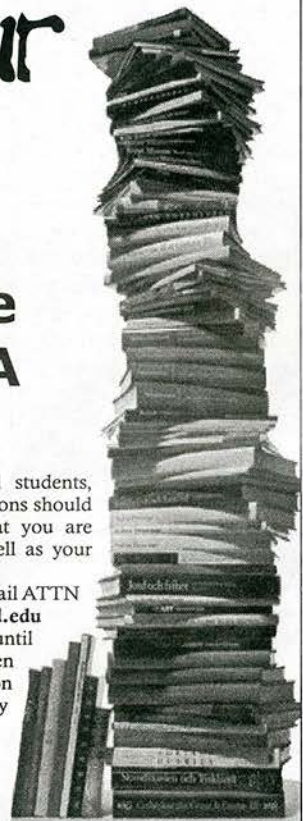
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All ads will remain in print until notification is received that it has been successful. All ads will be published on a first come, first serve basis, so hurry up. **Deadline: April 16, 2008**



## EYE

Continued from page 7

new name can't have either the word "Houston" or the word "Downtown" in it. Scuttlebutt is that this is so we won't seem like we are competing with main (or is that central?). Might be advisable to actually research the issue of college names and changing them before deciding, rather than just leaving it up to whoever shouts loudest.

And when are they going to tear down that nasty parking garage for the privileged and put in that volleyball field we have been waiting for all these years?

## WPE

Continued from page 3

one tutoring sessions in order to help students with their writing skills. These workshops focus on grammar issues, expected format, and tips for success on the WPE exam.

The workshops occur during fall and spring semesters only, but the free one-on-one tutoring with faculty or peer tutors is available throughout the year. These free tools help students identify issues that could not only hold them back from passing the WPE, but could also impact their future career goals. As Dr. Pointer explains, "[Students] do not want to wait until they are on a job to determine they have a [writing] problem because it could be a reason for being fired or not promoted."

## API

Continued from page 7

Photography by Benita Dryden API's fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 6PM. The Westside Tennis Club, located at 1200 Wilcrest Drive in Houston, will host the event where you will see Sasha the pet capuchin monkey.

the Spring 2010 semester. Participants also have the chance to compete for gift cards or antivirus software.

There is a \$10 entry fee for participants who must find sponsors that will donate money based on the number of pins knocked down, per game played, or a flat donation to API. While the goal is to raise money for API, people will also learn about API's mission and objectives. You could also take a picture with Sasha the pet capuchin



monkey. So get your forms, find some sponsors, and come join this event. For more information about participating in the event, visit API's website at [www.avianprimateinstitute.org](http://www.avianprimateinstitute.org).