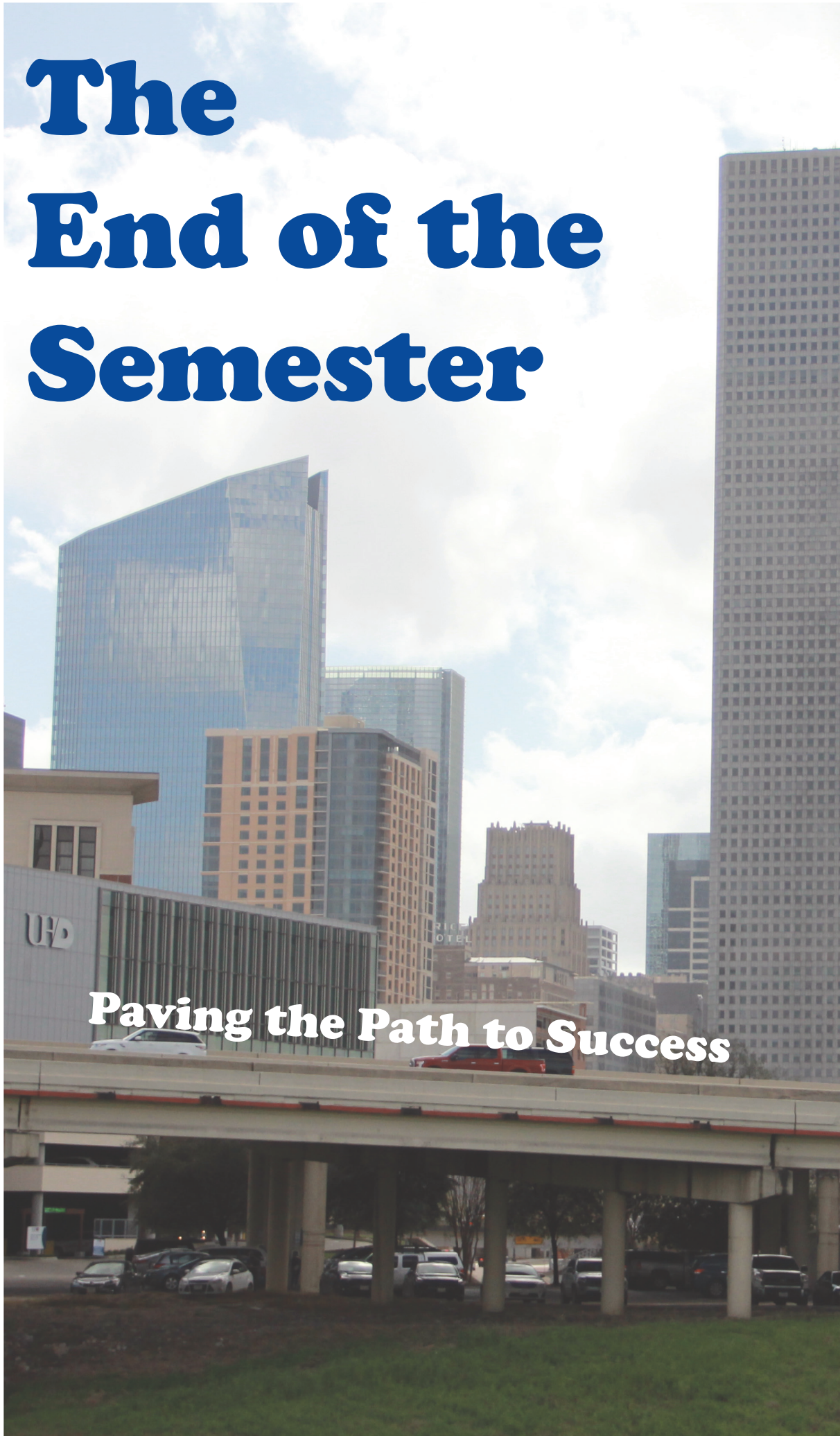


Volume 60  
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# DATELINE: DOWNTOWN

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# Goodbye UHD

## Goodbye Dateline

by Chris Joseph and Kara Moore

### From Chris Joseph

Well, the time has finally come. After roughly 4 years writing for dateline and working under two wonderful editors, my time on this team has come to an end. This May, I will be graduating, and I will be leaving my position as a staff writer and social media manager behind for the next generation. It is time for this old gator to swim down the river for his next adventure.

My time here at the University of Houston-Downtown and Dateline will be unforgettable. Even though I transferred here from Houston Community College, I found UHD to be my home. Back at HCC I didn't really do much around the school and I wasn't motivated to attend any of the school's events. In my last semester there, I was part of the writing staff, but I wasn't extremely pushed to unleash the potential that I had. But when I came here, all that changed. I changed.

Being here at this school and working with such great people at Dateline brought out a hidden passion that I didn't know I had back at HCC. There is something about working with such talented and wonderful people that made me work incredibly hard doing something I love. My friends at Dateline have become more than my friends, they have become family. They have proven time and time again that I can always rely

on them when I need help or if I am struggling with an article, they had my back. I honestly don't believe I could have made it this far without their support.

Even the great professors that fill this school I would consider my family. You will not believe how many times I have made the journey up to the tenth floor to speak with Dr. Moosally, Dr. Chiaviello, or Dr. Sample about something relating to an article or class related. They were always there and willing to help me in way that they can. I know it is odd to say, but I am going to miss them a lot.

With Dateline I have met so many great people of this school, one of which is my best friend Diana. As much as I annoy her, and I do annoy her, she has been there for me whenever I needed it during the late night writing struggles. She has become one of my biggest supporters and wealth of positivity ever since we took cultural criticism together, she is irreplaceable. I even got her sister, Lissette working for Dateline, and I couldn't be more proud of her. Seeing the new writers come in, reassures me that Dateline is great hands. They are seriously so talented, better keep an eye out for them because they are coming. Ed Helms from The Office once said, "I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them."

**That's it, my last article for Dateline.**

**Thank you, everyone.**

### From Kara Moore

I am going to get personal for a moment, the briefest of moments, before you go back to your regularly scheduled newspaper.

I did not think I would survive college. I did not think I would survive high school. I am incredibly surprised to find myself still breathing and somewhat successful at the age of 21. And by survive, I don't mean just succeed. I mean **survive**. Every great change in my life has been met with great internal conflict, that I have not always been able to manage. I have struggled with my anxiety and depression for nearly as long as I can remember. I started feeling this way when I was five and it hasn't stopped since.

**When the most consistent desire in your life is to not live it, how do you keep going?**

I have been trying to answer this question for a long time, and honestly, I am still not 100% sure how I have managed to wake up every day when that feeling sits so heavy. Some days are worse than others and I can't get out of bed. I can't check blackboard. I can't answer emails. I just need to be still. Other days are a little easier. It only takes me 30 minutes instead of an hour to get myself up and I manage to make myself look pretty on the outside, attempting to dissuade the ugliness on the inside. There are hardly ever days where I wake up happy. Those days are so rare, I barely trust them. I know they won't last.

This is not a triumphant piece on overcoming this feeling, it is a public acknowledgement of how much I have managed to do despite these feelings. I have written stories, managed a team of 10+ editors, edited their stories, and done the entire design of the paper while taking five classes and working another part-time job. I have been involved

in various organizations around campus, maintained a social life, and am planning my wedding. I am graduating summa cum laude. My plans for the future might be murky, but the possibilities are endless. I have made a life most people would be proud of. I have done it all despite being under consistent criticism, harassment, and feelings of worthlessness. I have somehow managed to make it here and that's an insane concept to me. I did not prepare my whole life to make it here and that is why it is so terrifying.

The time has come to take everything the University of Houston – Downtown and Dateline has taught me and use it towards a job in the shifting career field that is the media. I want to thank my friends for always listening to me and having the best chisme on campus. I want to thank my writers for (usually) getting their stories in on time and listening to my office ramblings for most of the meeting. I want to thank my supporting editors, Jesse and Chris, for texting me back quickly because I am always in crisis mode. I want to thank the managing editor, Mykal, for keeping the financials as far away from me as possible, I would have been hopeless with them. Finally, I want to especially thank my advisor, Dr. Mari Nicholson-Preuss, for convincing me to sign up for Dateline in the first place. Without her I wouldn't be here, in more ways than one.

**Thank you UHD and Dateline, here's to hoping for life after college.**

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**Editors  
Desk**



# New Year, New Name: Professional Writing Name Change

by Chris Joseph

“New year, New me.” A phrase that has been said by multiple people when entering a new year and they are seeking for a change in their life. So it makes sense that a 40 year old program has finally decided to change things up for 2018. The Bachelor of Science of Professional writing is changing its name to the Bachelor of Science of Technical Communication this fall.

For the past 40 years, the professional writing program has prepared UHD students for working/writing in the business world. Professional writing trains students to write documents and communicate in digital and print format. Effectively, helping students apply their writing talents into various types of genres. The program focuses primarily on writing, so students can take advertising writing, public relations writing, writing for the media, and social media writing. All of which will help aspiring technical communicators strengthen their writing skills and further their career as technical writers.

“The professional writing degree was designed for students who are interested in writing as a profession. These courses allows students to work within a wide array of genres and practice many styles of writing,” said associate professor Dr. Michelle Moosally.

Professional writing will change its name to Technical Communications. Nothing else will be changed about the degree itself or the courses this degree has to offer. However, with a new name like Technical Communications, there will be some obvious confusion with Communication studies, another program that is taught here at UHD. The Technical Communications program and Communication studies are two vastly different programs. As mentioned before, Technical Communications has a heavy emphasis on writing.

Communication studies’ primary focus is that on, well, communication. This program is more oriented towards oral

communication, interpersonal communication, etc. There is some writing when it comes communication studies, but to the degree that is found within the Technical Communications program.

Keith Valor, a Technical Communications major, said, “I feel good about the name change. I’ve found that people really don’t know what a professional writer is; yet when I tell them, ‘also known as Technical Communications,’ they get the idea.”

Technical Communication undergraduates who are looking to attend graduate school in Technical Communication will now have an easier transition to the Master’s program, the Masters of Science in Technical Communication. Coincidentally, just a few years ago, the Master’s program changed their name to Technical Communication. For the undergraduate program to do the same makes progressing a simple and easy stepping stone.

The Bachelor of Science of Technical Communication has a wealth of classes that are interesting and will prepare any student who is interested in writing in a very flexible and versatile career. Classes such as Video Game story writing, Legal writing, medical writing, film theory, and desktop publishing are just the tip of the iceberg at what Technical Communications has to offer.

“In some ways, the name change is a breath of fresh air to the degree, bringing it more in line with what we are seeing in the Technical Communication field today,” said Dr. Moosally.

Although the name is changing, students will have the option to change their diploma read as B.S. in Professional Writing or B.S. in Technical Communication. Also, when registering for classes this fall, the prefixes on some of the courses have changed. Instead of reading ENG 3302, the prefix will now read TCOM 3302. The CRN will remain the same, just some of the prefixes will change.

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## UHD Public Deliberation Event “Coming to America”: What Should We Do?

by Paula Cano



Dr. Lawrence; Photo Courtesy of uhd.edu

Hosted by Dr. Lawrence, the UHD Center for Public Deliberation held a public event to discuss immigration. The main theme “Who Should We Welcome, What Should We Do?” Enforced participants to reflect, inform and find a solution to the difficult problems that surround the currently broken immigration system. There were three discussion tables, and in each one there was a discussion leader. Their job was to keep the discussion going, and to make sure everyone in the table had the chance to participate and deliberate. Deliberation events helps those individuals who have a hard time speaking or those who struggle to listen to others opinion, to either take a chance at expressing your views or reduce the amount of talking and listen to the views of others. The leaders were also responsible for making sure the atmosphere of deliberation was a respectful and an open one, meaning that it was not environment of debate, and there was no right or wrong answer. There were three issues presented in front of the participants, for every issue there was a given time of 25 minutes for the group tables to discuss and work together on the different ways to approach this issue.

The first issue to be deliberated was “welcome immigrants, be a Beacon of Freedom”, particularly focusing on creating an im-

migration policy open to newcomers who are fleeing war and oppression. A positive action mentioned throughout the discussion would be welcoming immigrants who are willing to work in both low-skill jobs or high skill jobs, specifically those jobs in the labor market that are suffering from shortages. Two drawbacks that were also discussed included the chances of individuals bringing vile ideas of terrorism by taking advantage of the open immigration policy.

The second approach to the current immigration system was to enforce the law and be mindful of those newcomers who follow the rules. One of the participants mentioned that this approach reminded her of the current SB4 implementation, and that such an admired country for its democracy principles, and its foundation on freedom should not be the host of laws like SB4. SB4 pushes for local authorities to collaborate with ICE agents and question immigration status if there’s a reasonable suspicion. In the discussion there were no positive aspects mentioned in regards to this approach, there was a consensus that this would inevitably undermine local authority and create an irrational fear in immigrants to report crimes. It could also tear families apart with mixed immigration status.

For the third option, the suggestion to slow down and rebuild our common bonds for this one. A positive action mentioned for this approach was to rethink the measures that are being taken right now against certain groups who have been victimized by the current political narrative coming from Washington. The primary drawback was missing out future newcomers from around the world who can contribute to both cultural and economic sectors in the American society. The University of Houston – Downtown’s Public Deliberation Organization was able to bring together both faculty, and the student body and provided a space to listen and to understand different opinions regarding the current immigration system.

# Prayers for Bobby

by Helen Martinez

Hello Gator Community,

The Center for Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted a Film Screening event for Celebrate Diversity Month on April 26. One of the films shown was Prayers for Bobby, “an award-winning and moving film based on the story of Mary Griffith, a religious housewife and mother who struggled to accept her gay son. Bobby Griffith, her son, is a gay teenager searching for love and understanding from his mother who is torn between her love for Bobby and her faith, and moved by a tragedy that would change her life—and the lives of others—forever.” As this film does contain some stronger and tragic themes, I want to take a moment to please ask that readers take a moment to reflect on those, known and unknown, who lost their lives in the process of trying to accept themselves in the face of society’s cruelty towards those in the LGBTQ+ community. I, also, ask that if anyone feels at risk or alone to please seek help. I will place a few resources available below, and I also remind

UHD students that the Student Counseling Services in S445 appointments on top of accepting walk-ins for emergencies. Please take advantage of these resources.

To begin, I was not ready.

I came to this event for engaging discussion on LGBTQ+ rights in religious families. For some reason, I was expecting something similar to previous Film Screenings that Dr. Hudson hosted, perhaps a documentary exploring the topic of LGBTQ+ religious youth through one or more case studies with input by various experts. Instead, I found a story that brought tears to my eyes.

Prayers for Bobby opens with a look at the Griffiths: a devout evangelical Christian white family with one member who is hiding the fact that he is gay. His family does not tolerate homosexuality, believing that it is a sin for which the offender

will burn in hell. Bobby attempts to fit in with the heterosexual expectations his family puts on him and hides questioning his sexuality by having a girlfriend. Nowadays, this sounds like the setting to a typical coming out film, but at the time of this film’s release, 2009, it was rarer to see such a reality portrayed on tv. The film continues as Bobby struggling to understand and accept his feelings without revealing it to his “close knit” family. He breaks it off with his girlfriend when she wishes to become more physical in their relationship. He can’t help but notice the very fit and attractive football player at school. His depression and anxiety are made worse by the sense of guilt he feels because his family’s faith believe homosexuality to be a sin deserving of God’s punishment. His despair and fear of his family finding out leads to him contemplating suicide by aspirin overdose. Bobby comes out to his brother, who finds him with the bottle and later betrays his trust to keep it secret to their parents. His mother, Mary, is the most devout and fundamentalist of the family, so she resolves to save him by placing biblical quotes around the house and making him see a psychiatrist to “fix” him. Mary’s main motivation in curing Bobby in the family appears to not just be the pressure from society’s gender roles but also that Bobby will not join their family in heaven after death, something she stresses throughout the film. This misplaced attempt to help shows just one of the common mindsets for many religious families with children in the LGBTQ+ community. The fear of spending the eternity of the afterlife apart can blind parents to the suffering they are causing their children in the present mortal life, and this is Mary Griffith’s perspective. It in no way excuses their treatment of those in the LGBTQ+ community nor does this erase the consequences of their homophobia. According to the Trevor Project website, “LGB youth who come from highly rejecting families are 8.4 times as likely to have attempted suicide as LGB peers who

reported no or low levels of family rejection,” and this does not even include trans youth who have much higher rates.

So comes the turning point of the film. Bobby, having left his family to find a new home in Portland, Oregon, with an understanding cousin, new friends, and a boyfriend, David, who loves and accepts him as who he is, returns to his family only to have a final confrontation with his mother, who states she “will not have a gay son.” When Bobby replies that then she will not have a son, she just agrees. After this, Bobby falls into a depression so severe that it eventually leads to his suicide.

Somehow, the story does not end. Yes, Bobby is gone, and his family guilty and grieving. However, Bobby is kept alive by the very person who pushed him onto the highway bridge where he died: his mother. To my surprise, the film changes to Mary’s perspective as she begins questioning her interpretation of their faith. She discovers her son’s diary journal, and with his words starts her journey to accepting her part in her

son’s suicide. She realizes that “God did not cure Bobby because there was nothing wrong with him.” She becomes an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and marches with her family in a pride parade where she comforts a boy who looks like Bobby. The film ends with photos and facts of the real life figures that inspired the film.

We have seen so many examples of the same situation Bobby goes through that we can become susceptible to stereotyping the queer narrative and unless it actively affects us, become desensitized to it. However, it’s important to remember that these are real people and the LGBTQ+ community is incredibly diverse. Something this film does not quite address is the intersectionality that often comes with LGBTQ+ issues, such as being a person of color, woman, or disabled, not to mention the additional struggles

for undocumented or financially insecure queer people. We need to strive to continue pushing for more representation in the LGBTQ+ community. Contemporary films such as Moonlight and Love, Simon are great, but we should not accept it as enough. It is imperative that we do not become placated by what progress we have made. Prayers for Bobby shows only one very sad example of a middle class white boy who loves other boys and is thus driven by his mother’s homophobia to suicide.

Just because we personally feel safe especially in a place like UHD that constantly celebrates diversity that does not mean it is the reality. As Dr. Hudson pointed out after the film, it can become easy to forget that we are in a bubble in UHD. It is a nice bubble, sure, but it is a bubble nonetheless. We must educate ourselves as Mary Griffith did and become better allies, not just in terms of LGBTQ+ issues but over a variety of issues minorities face. This is how we reduce fates like Bobby, through compassion and understanding and kindness. Support organizations that are LGBTQ+ friendly. Advocate or vote for politicians are LGBTQ+ promote LGBTQ+ rights. Talk to friends or family and start discussions. Help one person out, even if that person is just you. Make sure you practice self care, talk to your family and friends, and remember to eat and sleep, especially during finals. Please take care of yourselves, Gator family. We need you.

## CRISIS RESOURCES

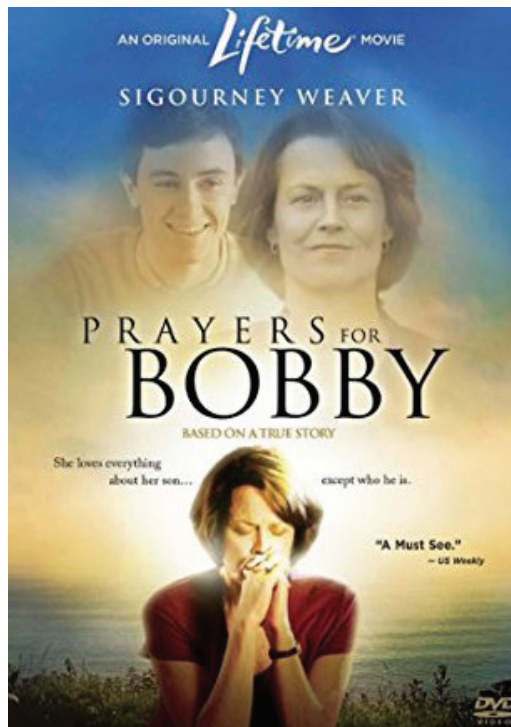
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and  
Veterans Crisis Hotline

1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

1-800-799-4889 (TTY)

LGBT Switchboard Houston 24 Hour Helpline  
(713) 529-3211



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# On the Road to Creating an Eco-Friendly Campus

by Jaida Doll

Boston College reports that the average college student produces 640 pounds of solid waste each year, 320 pounds of which is nothing but paper. In 2017, the University of Houston Downtown boasted 13,919 students who attended that year's fall semester, which brings our campus' waste to nearly 9 million pounds each year, not including the waste accumulated by faculty and staff. Furthermore, imagine the amount of paper a college student can go through in a year? This average piece of office paper can be recycled seven times before it is no longer usable, but most of our campus' recyclable trash ends up in trash bins and is eventually transported in landfills. This massive amount of trash is not only a large financial burden to our school, but it is also a massive environmental burden to our earth.

How long does it take you to find a recycle bin for your water bottle, while wandering around campus? And how many times do you have to waste paper drying your hands, rather than using an air dryer? Though the University of Houston Downtown is taking steps towards eco-friendliness, it has a long way to go until it reaches a decent benchmark. As mentioned above, UHD

is greatly lacking in eco-friendly opportunities such as recycle bins and hand dryers. Though there are four recycle bins located near the cafeteria and a few scattered around the rest of the campus, there are not nearly as many as there should be, especially for our large student body. They are also not separated by type of recyclable, like they should be. Our campus has standard recycle bins scattered about, while there should be bins for plastic, glass, cardboard, and paper in order to utilize a variety of materials in a variety of locations across campus. Even items like cell phones and ink and toner cartridges could be recycled if there was a drop-off location on campus. Furthermore, very few of the restrooms, if any at all, offer hand dryers, rather than the standard paper towels. This forces students to waste paper, a valuable resource, instead of simply using an air dryer, which are offered in most universities and commercial buildings. Not only is there a lack of physical eco-friendliness, but there is also a lack of the mindset of eco-friendliness among both our students and our faculty. This realization of

our campus' lack of eco-friendliness is what prompted me to talk to our upcoming Vice President of the Student Government Association, Armita Tajadod.

**Dateline: Downtown:** How do you view UHD's current eco-friendliness? Do you think our campus is substantially eco-friendly or do we need to improve?

**Armita Tajadod:** I think we can do a lot more whether it's the ambiguity of the random recycling bins or in the bathrooms where there's so much paper waste going on. It's kind of a half-hearted attempt at recycling because it's there but it is not as accessible as we want it to be. We have four [recycle bins] right now,

right there [outside of the cafeteria], but sometimes there's not even one on a floor, so if anything to start there needs to be a better way of positioning them. I think the dispensers are part of the problem too. If we had different dispensers, for example, that would just limit how much you could take at a time. And also the faucets, a lot of them are very drippy, sometimes people accidentally leave them on, and there's a lot of water waste in that. Knowing how big of a school this

is, and how many actual toilets there are, I think it would be great to use those eco-friendly flushers too.

**DD:** What do you think is our campus' biggest opportunity on the road to creating an eco-friendly campus?

**AT:** I think the easiest thing to tackle is definitely the recycling bins.

**DD:** Do you have any plans to further the eco-friendliness on campus? Part of our platform is to try to put in high powered hand dryers, to additionally put in those automatic sink faucets because it cuts down our water waste, so things like that. A lot of what I've noticed a lot about the bathrooms, it's something that is beneficial on both sides because not only does the bathroom get renovated and updated so it looks nicer to people visiting the university and its easier for students to use but also it cuts down the paper and water waste.

**DD:** When should we expect to see these plans put



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into action?

**AT:** So our administration starts in a few weeks, so once I'm inaugurated. I can solely focus on the next administrations responsibilities. I'm still part of an administration and I have to focus on the duties that we have set forth now. The thing about SGA is we can work with the administration, but Rome wasn't built in a day so we can't magically change everything, so it would be like, we would start with maybe three bathrooms and then add three more the next semester, and hopefully each administration would keep going with that trend. So as soon as the summer, but the changes will probably take a little while because you have to go through facilities, the president, the dean, so there are a lot of formalities when it comes to getting things done in the university through SGA, but you could expect solid changes by the end of the fall semester for sure, if anything by the administration. So it will be done within the year-long span.

**DD:** Have you or SGA been previously involved in any attempts to raise eco-friendliness on campus?

**AT:** I think this is the first solid thing that we're thinking about putting into action. In the past, we've always done Ed's Bayou Cleanup, which is a bunch of students going in around the Bayou area and cleaning up trash, so that is something, but it's a yearly annual event and it's not something that's always there; it's not physical. There have been slight events towards eco-friendliness, but it's never been something solid and tangible.

**DD:** My research shows that recycling can save our school thousands of dollars every year, as well as help the environment. What would you like to see those funds go towards?

**AT:** I think it should go toward just bettering the school in general. We pay tuition here as students, and I think the school can be improved so much more. I think it's only fair to get the best campus we can and campus life for the tuition we pay. So I'd like to see that put back into the university because I want students to enjoy it and take use of it.

**DD:** What can students do to get involved and further eco-friendliness on campus?

**AJ:** We have a gardening club on campus. They really help with the green spaces on campus, which is really difficult because we are an urban campus. There's concrete everywhere, but they have a little garden that they tend to, students can go help out with that or join them. We have our Ed's Bayou Cleanup. So just creating more of an awareness and because the more people who join an event, the more aware-

ness it brings and the more people want to join.

**DD:** I agree. I saw a lot in my research that one of the biggest portions of creating a successful recycling program is to raise awareness and get students involved. Is there else anything you'd like to add?

**AJ:** I'm going to make sure this happens during my term because it's something really important to me and I feel like the university could be doing a lot more than those few blue recycling bins.

By beginning an eco-awareness program, the University of Houston would not only benefit its environment, but also its budget. Just as citizens have to pay for trash pick-up, so do universities, businesses, and commercial buildings. With as many students, faculty, and staff that come through this building every day, trash begins to accumulate. The more trash a university has, the more they have to pay to get it transported to a landfill. Not only can our campus save money by recycling, but they can also gain money for recycling. The more that is recycled, the more money they make. For example, The University of Texas at El Paso recently implemented a recycling program which the team estimates will not only saves their campus \$72,786 every year, but will also create a stream of incoming revenue of about \$42,000 each year and even more as the program grows. Similarly, the University of North Texas has made \$20,000 of net profit within the last year thanks to their recycling program.

Though both campuses are larger than our own and likely generate more recyclable trash than UHD would, that does not mean implementing our own recycling program would not greatly benefit both the campus and our environment. For example, they could further campus activities, increase scholarships, or better yet, further increase environmental sustainability. UHD could further sustainability projects by purchasing more recycle bins, hanging posters to encourage students to recycle, fund our Environmental Club, or even offer scholarships to students who are making efforts to better their environment.

There are many online and print resources that serve to educate individuals who are hoping to implement a recycling program on campus, but the most important part of all of them is to encourage students to get involved. The University of Houston Downtown could spend all of their money on recycle bins, but if no one is willing to use them, then all those eco-friendly advances go to waste. We, as students, need to make the first step on the road to creating an eco-friendly campus.

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# Becoming a Graduate Student

by Lissette Perez

There are many benefits to continuing higher education even after graduating with a bachelor's degree. A master's degree can offer a deeper understanding of a subject, improve career satisfaction, and increase pay. However, there are also many intimidating aspects of becoming a graduate student, especially the most important part of the process – preparing for admission into the program. Fortunately, there are some steps you can take to start heading towards the right way.

One of the biggest concerns of people considering becoming a graduate student is whether they have what it takes or if they are prepared enough. Current UHD master's student, Sami Shahrokhi, says “anyone has what it takes, but depending on your desired graduate degree, some background and technical skills may be necessary... but a lot of it is mental preparation”. He also stated that with enough motivation and the willingness to study, any goal can be achieved. It is important to have confidence and resources to help you complete your degree.

Preparation is a key element when it comes to pursuing an additional academic degree. Moreover, the earlier you start preparing, the better. There are five major steps that must be followed for a smooth transition from undergraduate to graduate student. The first step is to maintain a high GPA. Master's programs require a GPA of at least 3.0 to so it is crucial to spend extra time studying during your undergraduate degree. Make sure to take advantage of the student resources UHD provides such as the career development center, library, or any of the tutoring services. Just like when acquiring a bachelor's degree, the higher the grades, the more grants and scholarships that are available.

The second step is one that is reiterated constantly throughout college; establish a professional relationship with your professors. Maintaining communication with them is paramount to finding your right career path. They are not only there to teach students, they are also able to provide clarity on their students' desired profession and they will gladly provide suggestions if needed. Professors are also ideal references and will be happy to provide a recommendation letter – one of the requirements to enroll in a master's program. Up to two or three recommendation letters are required (depending on the program).

The third step is to explore the possibilities; look for program information online or attend graduate interest meetings on campus. By browsing around, a clearer sense of what you are passionate about will develop. Any questions or concerns

should be addressed during this step – what is a GRE and do all programs require it? What are the qualifications? Any prerequisites? A great way to start is by checking out our own university's website. The University of Houston-Downtown offers eight highly praised master's programs that provide students with the necessary skillsets to further sharpen their education.

You should now be familiar with the general information regarding your intended program. The fourth step is to select the program that is most interesting and applicable to you. UHD offers the following programs: Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Master of Security Management, Master of Science in Technical Communication, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Business Administration, Master of Arts in Non-Profit Management, Master of Arts in Rhetoric Composition, and Master of Science in Data Analytics. Backtracking to Shahrokhi's comment, enrolling in a master's program takes mental preparation. Be sure to know what to expect. Ask current graduate students what they think of their classes, how the lectures are structured, or what type of work they do in class. One thing to expect is “a lot of lecturing, a lot of teamwork, and a lot of current events” according to MBA graduate, Justin Sarabia. Each program's requirements differ, however, all master level courses in the programs provide both a theoretical and practical approach to the targeted subject.

After deciding which program suits you best, it is time to start on the fifth and final step, the application process. Begin by writing a letter of personal interest. This letter is to include reasons why you want to join a graduate program and how it will benefit you in the future. It is highly encouraged to start writing the interest letter early, even before you graduate. At this time, you should also begin asking your professors for recommendation letters as these will further reveal information on why you will be a good candidate for the program. Finalize the fifth step by requesting your transcript for a fee of \$10. An off the record tip is to be confident in yourself and do not lose motivation.

These steps take time to complete, so be patient and stay positive. A master's degree is a tremendous milestone that not everyone gets to experience. Simply by being a university student, you are already on the right track. Remember that there is no limit to learning. Take the wise words of philosopher John Dewey, “arriving at one goal is the starting point to another.”

To learn more information about the graduate programs offered visit the UHD website.

## Gators Gaining Experience

by Delia Leal

The University of Houston Downtown is filled with talented gators and our faculty is constantly trying to highlight them. Dr. Ting Zhang, having a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, teaches a variety of computer science courses at UHD and enjoys supervising students not only in senior projects but research activities. Currently, she is encouraging a small group of students: Manuel Soto, Dara Rancifer, and Nguyen Phan to replicate an economical virtual reality smart glove. Although they are working with their own out-of-pocket budget, they strived to make the materials as durable as possible compared to the current pricey high-end tech on the market. The goal of the project is to create a working glove with various sensors being able to monitor the movement of each individual finger within the glove itself.

The data provided from the glove's sensors can be used to interact with objects within virtual environments, operating advanced machinery remotely, and recognizing gestures to perform remote actions. Such as turning off a light switch, picking up a pencil, and many other endless possibilities. Being able to link the human and digital worlds with a wide-ranging application of virtual reality, intelligent algorithms, accelerometer data, and augmented reality. Ambitiously unlocking creativity with teamwork,

although each comes from a different background they put their best ideas to create the best outcome. A time-consuming project of hours spent researching, coding, building, and testing it to perfect it to life. Since the goal is for the glove to be as versatile as possible with human-like movements. From being used by gamers to an architect developing a building, or artists and engineers. The experience can go to show how commendable the students are to be passionate enough to dedicate their time and resources to a fun project.

Manuel Soto gave feedback on the experience, “It's a learning experience... we don't know what we are doing in the sense of we have never done this before so it's new to us...” Having the opportunity to obtain great experiences is what UHD hopes to always bring to the table for students in all fields. Gators, do not be scared to approach professors with neat project ideas, they can only do so much. Without communication, they have no clue on what to support. UHD is an environment that wants to help the students thrive but that cannot be done without networking of some sort. Although networking might be out of the comfort for most it should be quickly adapted in order take advantage of all the opportunities UHD has to offer.



Photo by Delia Leal



# UHD Literary Magazine Continues to Support Incarcerated Writers

by Archie Gayle



Photo Courtesy of Bayou Review

On April 28th at 6:30 pm, the editorial team for the Bayou Review arrived at Under the Radar, a local outdoor brewery, for their annual spring reading. Normally, writers who were published in the literary magazine's fall and spring issue read their works, as well as writers in the crowd who have the urge to perform their pieces. This year, however, was a little different. This year's spring issue featured works exclusively from incarcerated individuals, and the editors, interns, and crowd were given the opportunity to read and empathize with experiences that are normally unheard-of by individuals who are outside of the prison industrial complex.

At 7:30, the UHD community began to arrive at the brewery. The English department's faculty, students, and their associates greeted one another and received a copy of the 2018 spring issue. The cover of the issue was a collage made from all of the prisoners' submissions and was designed by the chief editor, Michelle Laird, and intern Mariana Cano. Among the crowd was Ray Hill, a gay rights activist, prison and law enforcement activist, UHD alumni as well as an ex-convict. In 1980, Hill created The Prison Show on KPFT-FM, a radio show that reported prison news—including executions—and invited people who had incarcerated friends and family members to call in to the show and talk to inmates who were listening; this show has connected hundreds of Texas families, and continues to be on air to this day. Without Ray Hill listing the Bayou Review as a literary magazine that accepted prison submissions, this 2018 issue wouldn't have been possible; once the Bayou Review was ready to receive submissions for this 2018 spring issue, the editors went on The Prison Show to request the literature of incarcerated individ-



Photo Courtesy of Bayou Review

uals; after the submissions were chosen, the editors went on the show once again to inform the inmates who was accepted.

At 8 pm, the event began with the musical stylings of Josh Brown, a folk/blues singer and musician. After that, Ray Hill gave some inspiring words to the crowd. He wrote the foreword to the 2018 issue, so it was only natural that he spoke before the reading of the pieces. He talked about the unimaginable horrors and experiences that go unseen by general public; "This volume before you today," Hill said, "goes behind the bars and captures those emotions and the reactions to all of that. This is very rich and treasured material." Then the readings began: the editors and interns of the Bayou Review each picked a poem or section of a prose piece to read. Among the incarcerated writers' works being read was Edward B. Lyon, incarcerated in Rosharon, TX, who contributed a memoir detailing a run-in with the Arian Brotherhood, historical fiction centering on slavery, as well as poems in metrical verse and free verse. Another contributor is Richard E. Smith, incarcerated in Huntsville, TX, who wrote heartbreaking narratives about his times before he was incarcerated and fears that prisoners have about what they will do when they get out of prison. There were



Photo Courtesy of Bayou Review

two submissions in this volume that came from free individuals. However, these submissions dealt with the prison system. The first came from Christopher Miguel Flakus, the fiction editor of the Bayou Review, about his brief stint in county jail. The second came from Racheal Ann Preston, whose piece focused on the trails and troubles of being in a relationship with an incarcerated individual. Both pieces, like the rest in the volume, were immensely brave and presented a different side of the prison system that, when put together, tell a larger story about the country's treatment of its citizens.

The night ended with music from Wes Degroot, another folk and blues singer who captured the tone of the night. Both he and Josh Brown gave marvelous covers of Jonny Cash songs and other outlaw-blues music. Every person walked away enlightened: they got a glimpse into a world that is so often ignored by the general public; and if they learned at least one thing, it was that the prison system should be given much more attention.

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# Houston's Deadliest Museum Exhibit

by Lissette Perez

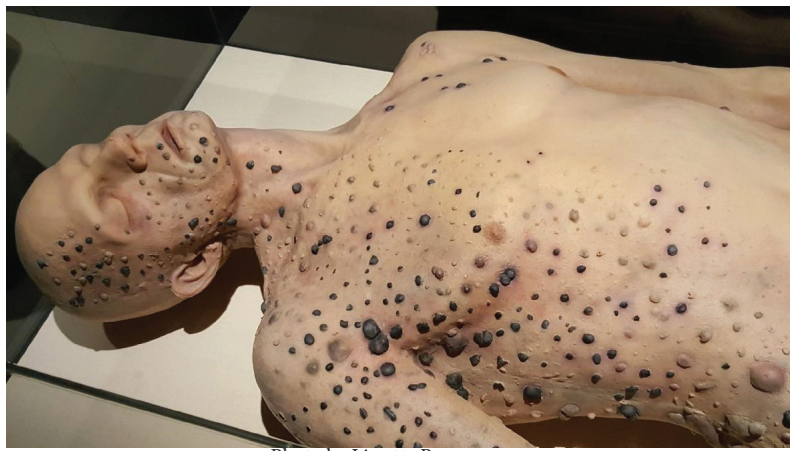


Photo by Lissette Perez

The Houston Museum of Natural Science has curated one of the most disturbingly fascinating exhibitions in the city. "Death by Natural Causes" is a unique and interactive exhibit compiled by David Temple and Nicole Temple. It opened on March 9 to museum members, March 12 to the public, and will remain open for all until September 4. The exhibit's purpose is to educate visitors on various ways that death may occur by showcasing a plethora of dangerous and lethal things that could be encountered in everyday life. This exhibit is not for the faint of heart, as it deals with phobias, diseases, and death. However, as dark as it seems it is both enjoyable and informational; from flora and fauna to foods and chemicals, much of the information provided may come as a surprise and a sense of uneasiness is to creep up on those who dare to enter.

The entrance of the exhibit greets visitors with a vintage brass arch leading to a dimly lit hallway with two black walls, left and right. On each wall are four elegant baroque-style, oval frames. Each frame contains a photograph of a person and their cause of death. Some of the deaths were tragic while some were outright odd. In the center of the hall, a similar-styled frame is placed – this one however, is a mirror– symbolic for the inevitable fate of all. Instantly, visitors become intrigued, luring them deeper into the exhibit. Take a left and a large, dark room is revealed. In this room, there are many displays to look at.

There is a selection of real death certificates along with an overview of what they are, what information they contain, and what classifies a death as natural, accident, suicide, homicide, or undetermined and pending investigation. In that section is a very difficult to miss taxidermized brown bear, as it stands on its hind legs at approximately nine feet tall. The bear is just one of the many lifelike displays of once-living animals.

In the center of the room is an array of ordinary items that may seem harmless, but in extreme cases can kill – cher-



Photo by Lissette Perez

ries, almonds, lima beans, and more. To the left of this display is an interactive fortuneteller machine where the player answers a few questions about their lifestyle through a touch-screen monitor. After submitting the responses, the approximate lifespan of the player will be calculated and shown on the fortuneteller's crystal ball. Further into the room is a cluster of paired objects ranging from real to sculptured representa-

tions. There is a meteorite and a selfie stick, a car and a bicycle, a lawnmower and a can of food, along with others. Under each pair of objects is a cylindrical wheel that asks the viewer which object they think is more likely to lead to death. Depending on the person's choice, by pushing the cylinder either up or down, the real answer – according to statistics, is revealed.

The exhibit not only focuses on death. As it goes on, it also touches on a variety of other topics including irrational fears, dangerous animals, deadly substances, and illnesses. A stand of several rectangular wooden pages with different bizarre phobias is located on one of the walls. When the pages are flipped over, the phobia names are shown. On the opposite side of the room is the area where venoms, toxins, and poisons are explored. In the wall, safely stored behind glass tanks, are live animals including the venomous Gila monster, Western Diamond rattlesnake, and centipede. A description is provided for each animal as well as their respective scientific name.

Many hazards that were present and popular in history are also observed. For example, Radium Girls – female workers who inadvertently ingested radium, painter's colic – caused the toxic pigments that could cause blindness and brain damage, the dangerous Victorian era dyes that were used in children's toys, soap, wallpaper. The effects of the notorious bubonic plague as well as other diseases are shown on a lifelike sculpture of the human body.

"The dummy corpses where you stick your hand in the box to light up the cause of death was my favorite part of the exhibit. I'm a visual person so being able to see how the disease affects the body and seeing the symptoms was freaky, yet interesting." Said UHD student, Chris Joseph.

One of the most capti-



Photo by Lissette Perez

ivating parts of the exhibit is the greenhouse. It is beautifully adorned while calming sounds of nature are played. Although the plants, fruits, and vegetables inside are not real, they offer a representation of what characteristics they have. With placards noting which plants are medicinal, and which can cause hallucinations or death if eaten, visitors can know what is safe and what to stay away from. After the greenhouse, comes the final part of the exhibit which includes viruses, animal skeletons, and much more.

Whether the exhibit leaves you feeling paranoid of the dangers that may be hiding at every corner or gives you a new look on life by preparing you with the tools to avoid certain things. Death is the only thing that everyone who is alive has in common as it is inescapable. The exhibit gives its visitors an experience they would not find anywhere else, as UHD student Diana Perez says, "it was interesting to learn how mundane objects can be lethal in some cases." If interested in visiting the exhibit, tickets can be purchased seven days a week online or in person for \$12 for members, \$30 for nonmembers, and don't forget to show your school ID to receive a \$10 discount.

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# It's (Almost) Texans Time

by Michael Case

The 2018 NFL Draft went underway in Dallas, TX on April 26-28. In past years, the Houston Texans have chosen elite talent in the first round with guys like JJ Watt, Jadeveon Clowney, and, just last year, Deshaun Watson. However, the Texans traded picks to sign Watson, leaving the Texans without selections in the first and second round this year.

Head Coach Bill O'Brien and new General Manager Brian Gaines had eight picks, none in the first 67 spots, but the organization feels confident with the direction of the franchise. "The two of us come together and we blend our vision for the player and prospect", said Gaines in a press conference after the draft concluded. This is Gaines' first year as Texans GM, as he previously managed the Buffalo Bills. The relationship between O'Brien and Gaines is important as the previous GM Rick Smith didn't have a great relationship with Coach O'Brien.

These are the Houston Texans 2018 NFL Draft picks:

| Name              | Position       | School            |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Justin Reid       | Safety         | Stanford          |
| Martinas Franklin | Center         | Mississippi State |
| Jordan Atkins     | Tight End      | Central Florida   |
| Keke Coutee       | Wide Receiver  | Texas Tech        |
| Duke Ejirofor     | Defensive End  | Wake Forest       |
| Jordan Thomas     | Tight End      | Mississippi State |
| Peter Kalambayi   | Linebacker     | Stanford          |
| Jermaine Kelly    | Defensive Back | San Jose State    |



Gaines drafted multiple weapons on offense, including line help, and depth for last years' injury-riddled defense; free agent signings filled holes on the offensive line, and the defense signed a star with Tyrann Mathieu.

Recently acquired safety, Mathieu, brings big play capabilities and swagger to the secondary, though he is recovering from injuries. Defensive Coordinator Mike Vrabel now coaches the Tennessee Titans, Assistant Coach and former DC Romeo Crennel replaces him. Linebacker Whitney Mercilus suffered a season-ending chest injury, in the same game Watt broke his leg. While the stars of the defensive unit return from injury, the offense is getting a whole new look.

The offense averaged 34.7 points per game with Watson as the starter, despite a lack of Tight End depth due to injury, even playing a full game without one. The team looked to fix that issue by drafting two tight ends, and a small, quick wide receiver. Atkins, Thomas, and Coutee all have the ability to succeed at the pro-level, but each has their own weakness. Whether it's blocking or route running, these rookies may get a chance to play with Watson and help elevate a potentially potent offense.

The 2017 season may have been disappointing for Texans fans. The best players got injured and the team only won four games. But the 2018 season looks promising for Houston. The defensive unit boats Watt, a 3-time defensive MVP, Mercilus, Clowney, and now Mathieu. The offense sees the return of its leader in Watson, it's two explosive receivers in Deandre Hopkins and Will Fuller, and now has some young athletic talent to build a successful team. The rest of the league better take notice of the new-look Texans.

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## Yeezus by Jesse Uppal

Twitter, the social media built for individuals to voice their quick opinions and join onto trending hashtags and current events. One person in particular has enjoyed the utilization of Twitter since coming into the limelight, Donald Trump. The constant and consistent maelstrom of tweets coming from the man's tiny fingers have regularly been met with public scrutiny and support in equal measure. One of the most recent and surprising supporters of the President's tweets is Kanye West.

West, who in the past has ridiculed and attacked conservative politicians through various forms of media, such as the news and social sites, has not shown support to any specific political movement in recent months. Just this past month, West posted a tweet that specifically read "When you hear about slavery for 400 years ... for 400 years? That sounds like a choice." The ensuing assault on West's feed was merciless, with many celebrities chiming in. West, instead of backtracking as is common in these types of situations, tried to defend his statement by tweeting what he claims is a quote by Harriet Tubman reading "I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves." The quote was regarded widely as false and was first utilized by Senators in the 1980s and 1990s to suppress the African American activist groups that existed following Civil Rights.

West was widely known for denouncing former President George W. Bush for his response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He even went as far interrupting a news cast and charity event to state "George Bush does not care about black people,"

a quote that has been repeated throughout YouTube and Vine for years following. The claim was that George W. Bush did not respond with FEMA quickly enough to properly save the city of New Orleans, primarily the dominant African American communities that live there. The hurricanes caused a combined \$150 billion in damage and over 2,000 dead with countless displaced in nearby states such as Texas and Mississippi. FEMA was not able to prevent the riots that decimated the Astrodome due to the terrible living conditions that followed the hurricane.

West further voiced his outrage at the new \$20 bill, which features Harriet Tubman on the front instead of Andrew Jackson. His belief is that modern African American communities are using slavery as scapegoats and an excuse and that the \$20 bill should feature modern African American heroes, such as Michael Jordan. Adidas has not cut ties with West for his statements, as they believe that he has the right to speak his mind no matter how controversial. They do not publicly support his statements and are very public on their stance on human rights worldwide, condemning sweatshops and slavery in many third world countries.

Celebrities regularly join in the public opinion of politics on social media and are constantly scrutinized for their opinions. Whether they lean left or right, celebrities have an image or a brand to maintain in the public view or they can suffer some form of profit loss. West's comments are no doubt going to cause a dip in his clothing lines and his music sales even though he has not released an album since 2016.

## Marveling at the Marvel's Cinematic Universe

by Jesse Uppal

The Marvel Cinematic Universe released another cinematic movie this April that followed a very different trend than most of the movies in the series. While I will not give any spoilers in this review, I will point out ways that the movie differed from the previous additions to the universe. Following the hype of Black Panther and falling conveniently before the second Deadpool movie, Marvel and Disney built a solid four months of content for their very well-developed universe.

A considerable number of the movies have followed the same storytelling pathway; hero fights villain, hero loses at first, hero then beats villain in the end. This movie did not follow that trend at all and is one of the few in the series to have a unique storyline and an extremely cliff-hangered ending. The movie did follow the trend of Captain America: Civil War by incorporating the largest number of primary and supporting characters of any other Marvel Cinematic movie. Each of the heroes had their own roles throughout the movie, with scenes that amplified their abilities on screen.

Following the hype built by Chadwick Boseman in Black Panther, The Avengers had a lot to live up to so that the preceding movie did not drown out its noise. The movie cost nearly \$320 million, making it one of the most expensive movies ever made. Despite the sheer cost, the movie has made nearly a billion dollars just up to the date of publication.

The movie was a cinematic masterpiece as far as superhero movies go, featuring equal parts action and equal parts plot. The story was designed to

flow dynamically between three different plot lines, with separate groups of heroes in each of the storylines.

The cast featured returning members from previous Marvel installations such as; Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, Chris Evans as Captain America, Mark Ruffalo as the Hulk, Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow, Benedict Cumberbatch as Dr. Strange, Chadwick Boseman as Black Panther, Chris Pratt as Starlord, Elizabeth Olsen as Scarlet Witch, Paul Bettany as Vision, Don Cheadle as War Machine, Anthony Mackie as Falcon, Zoe Saldana as Gamora, Dave Bautista as Drax, Bradley Cooper as Rocket, Vin Diesel as Groot, Tom Hiddleston as Loki, Danai Gurira as Okoye, Letitia Wright as Shura, Sebastian Stan as The Winter Soldier, Tom Holland as Spiderman and featuring new star Josh Brolin as the antagonist Thanos.



Upcoming movies within the Marvel Universe include Captain Marvel and Antman and the Wasp, with the first being a completely new IP and the latter being a sequel to Paul Rudd's first iteration into the series. The Netflix branch of the Marvel Cinematic Universe is moving forward with their own stories as well, with the second season of Jessica Jones marking the eighth addition to rated R TV series. The Netflix Universe was permitted to develop a rated R version of the heroes that they have licensed, on the specific condition that the heroes will never be featured in the main series of movies that are being developed.

The Sequel is already set for May 3, 2019.



# Bill Cosby

## Guilty on All Charges

by Angel Lopez

American comedian Bill Cosby's sexual assault allegations date all the way back to 1965, with many women accusing him of not only sexual assault but of: rape, sexual battery, drug-facilitated sexual assault and even child sexual abuse. Cosby, considering the heavy and growing accusations, was dropped from many organizations and had various awards revoked. Cosby denied all accusations and refused to speak on it, maintaining his innocent image since there was no actual evidence. Since the allegations surfaced and companies refused to work with him anymore, there have been many lawsuits filed against Cosby in an attempt to hold him accountable. In November 2015, eight lawsuits became active against him with Georgia Allred representing 33 of Cosby's victims.

Though several battles have been fought for years to try and get Cosby to pay for his actions, on April 26th Bill Cosby, at the age of 80, was convicted on three felony counts for drug-ging and molesting a woman in his home 14 years ago. Andrea Constand, Cosby's accuser, stated "I stand here in the spirit of Martin Luther King, who said that the arc of the moral universe is long but today it has bent toward justice" allegations against Cosby first surfaced in 1965 and have been continuously been made through 2008. In 2005, Constand's lawsuit against Cosby released his records to the public resulting in his admitting to having "casual sex" with a series of young women and the use of the recreational and sedative hypnotic drug methaqualone. He also acknowledged that his use of the drug was illegal, however, this was just one of the many lawsuits in which Cosby was not convicted, rather he simply has to face the public and

the media. Cosby's first trial in June 2017 ended in a mistrial, making this a long and seemingly endless battle for his victims.

On April 26th, Cosby was finally charged and is facing up to 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine for EACH count. Andrea Constand, along with many other women who were present in the court on the day of his trial, were the given the chance at reprieve knowing that their pain was finally being acknowledged. "Today, this jury has shown what the #MeToo movement is saying, that women are worthy of being believed. And I thank the jury, I thank the prosecution" Lily Bernard was one of the women present on this day and was able to share her relief for having her voice heard. District Attorney Kevin Steele also stated "we have shown from our record that money and power or who you are will not stop us from a criminal investigation or prosecuting a case" after finding Cosby guilty on all charges. Although Bill Cosby was accused for years and refused to speak on his actions, it has come time for him to finally take off the mask of "Everyone's Favorite Dad" and come to terms with who he really is. Cosby's attorney, along with many of his supporters, have voiced their disappointment with the court's decision, stating it will be appealed. The court emphasized Cosby's abuse of power, fame and money to get what he wanted, however, the continuous silencing of women when it comes to dealing with sexual assault is finally coming to a stop and holding predators accountable, no matter how powerful, has become the forefront of change with the help of movements such as #MeToo.

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## Opinion: Waffle House Shooting

by Chris Joseph

Seems like America is never going to wake up from the ever-growing nightmare that is domestic terrorists gunning down innocent people. Whether it is in a church, school, or movie theater, many Americans are dying due to gun violence. With so many deaths caused by gunmen in this country, people have been questioning: "Where are we safe?" One brave man gave the people their answer.

On April 22nd at 3 am, a man - his name will not be mentioned in this article, he does not deserve the attention - wearing nothing but a jacket walked into a Nashville, Tennessee Waffle House. He pulled out a semi-automatic rifle and began shooting at the customers.

During the vicious assault, the gunman shot and killed two victims outside of the restaurant and killed two more inside, while also wounding four others. Luckily, just before the shooter could take more lives a patron inside the Waffle House, James Shaw Jr, tackled and disarmed the shooter, saving everyone else.

"I have to do this now. He is going to work for this kill," recalled Shaw in an interview with Anderson Cooper.

After the scuffle, the shooter fled the scene. Police reported that the suspect ran back to his apartment to put on his pants and continued to run from law enforcement. Just a day later, police reported that they had captured the shooter.

This was not the first time that the shooter had issues with law enforcement. Back in July of 2017, the gunman managed to breach a restricted area of the White House. When confronted by the secret service, they noted that he was combative towards them and had a specific goal: to meet with President Donald Trump.

After the incident with the White House, he was charged with unlawful entry. He agreed to deferred prosecution

with community service. Afterwards, he went back to his hometown of Morton, Illinois, the FBI and the secret service worked alongside the Illinois police department to confiscate his guns and give them to his father. However, at some point after this incident, the father gave the guns back to his son, including the AR-15 that was used in the Waffle House shooting.

Numerous police reports state that the gunman had mental problems, which his family confirms as "delusions." In May of 2016, the delusions were so bad, that he believed that pop superstar Taylor Swift was stalking him. During this episode he threatened to kill himself. Although he made no moves or plans to harm or kill Taylor Swift, he lamented that he just wanted the stalking to stop.

"He is hostile toward police and does not recognize police authority. He also possesses several firearms," an officer said in an incident report.

After the Waffle House shooting, Shaw, who suffered minor injuries, does not call himself a hero. Shaw claims that he was acting selfishly to save his own life so he could be there for his daughter. He further stated that he wished that he could have acted sooner to save the four who died that morning.

In honor of the victims, Shaw started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for the funeral expenses for the families of the victims. Initially, a goal was set for \$15,000, however, the campaign has raised more than \$180,000. Supporters of Shaw's heroism have even started a GoFundMe campaign in his honor for his hospital fees and his 4-year-old daughter's college fund.

As for the shooter, he is currently in police custody waiting to be sentenced. It is unknown if the attack was racially motivated, investigators and Shaw believe that it was not racially charged. No bail or court date has been set for the shooter.

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# Advice From Your Typical Student

“Hi, this summer I will be taking two classes. Do you have any advice for balancing fun activities with summer school? I don’t want to waste the summer away sitting in class.”

Thank you for the question! Summer school requires intense concentration, especially since the classes are much shorter than a regular semester. So, I would first like to commend you for deciding to pursue more education while on break because a lot of students reach the end of finals and say deuces until August. Second, the best way to balance fun with summer school is to contemplate what you normally do for fun. Do you binge watch different Netflix series? Do you play with animals? Do you go to lunch with your friends? Do you run after your nieces and tell them to bring back your highlighters because you need them to highlight your notes? Maybe that last one is just me (it’s not very fun).

These small activities might seem a little underwhelming compared to friends who might have summer plans that are on a larger scale, such as traveling out of the country or attending a concert in a different state. However, these small tasks can function as self-care as you knock out your summer assignments. You might not have time to take a two-week trip, but you can make time over the span of two weeks to finish that show that you have been planning to watch. If you want to do something on a semi-larger scale, then you could potentially plan a day or weekend trip to your favorite place (as long as your coursework is finished before leaving). There is no rule that says that you should be doomed to an uneventful summer just because you signed up for summer classes. The challenge is just to be realistic in your expectations about what you can do while juggling school work. It is also important to think outside of the box because activities that do not seem fun during a regular semester could end up being a lot of fun during summer. For example, maybe you volunteered some-

where during the semester because it was mandatory, but then you decide to go back during summer because you realized that you had a great time. The possibilities for how to have fun are endless. You just have to find what is most fun to you.

**Concluding Note:** Just Your Typical Student here. It has been an honor serving as your advice columnist for the 2017-2018 school year. I would like to thank everyone that either submitted questions or took the time to read my column. I truly hope that I was able to provide some insight with each question that I answered, while also providing readers with the tools to be able to personalize the situation to themselves. As much as I like sharing my knowledge about different subjects and my way of tackling obstacles, I prefer to inspire others to find their own way of dealing with things. As I sign off for the final time, I just want to remind everyone that:

- Life is the ultimate balancing act, remember to practice self-care
- In order to grow we must actively work towards where we would like to be because otherwise we will remain stagnant
- Friends and family can be valuable support systems
- Mastering the concept of time management and productive anticipation will save you a lot of worrying as you continue your college journey
- Getting involved on campus can open the door to opportunities both on campus and in the community
- If you did not have a role model that you looked up to, then you can officially be your own role model and be the one that others look up to
- You are amazing and have many accomplishments, including a new one where you are almost officially done with the semester

Signing Off,  
Just Your Typical Student

## Want to Run Dateline: Downtown?



The University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of **Business Manager** for *Dateline: Downtown*, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper.

This **paid position** begins summer 2018 (start date flexible), and applicants must commit to the position for the full 2018-19 academic year. **The job involves both advertising sales and managing the business and financial operations of the newspaper.**

The successful candidate will have a strong orientation toward personal selling and developing advertising revenue as well as effective budgeting and management skills. Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and expanding the sales of advertising space in the paper, including to businesses in the campus neighborhoods of NoDo and Washington St. Typical commitment is 20 hours per week; salary is **\$800 per month**, plus 15% commission on ad sales. Training on the accounting system for payroll and accounts will be provided.

**Minimum qualifications** include at least sophomore standing or higher, the completion of at least one semester at UHD, successful completion of basic business courses, and a 2.5 GPA.

**To apply**, contact the *Dateline: Downtown* faculty advisor, Joe Sample, Associate Professor, at [samplej@uhd.edu](mailto:samplej@uhd.edu). Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until position is filled.



The University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of **Editor** for *Dateline: Downtown*, the student-run, bi-weekly newspaper.

This **paid position** begins summer 2018 (**\$425/issue**; start date flexible), and the applicants must commit to fill the position for the entire 2018-19 academic year. **Duties include responsibility for the overall editorial operation of the paper. Editors assemble and manage a team of student writers and sub-editors and assign them to cover news and events on campus and in the campus neighborhood.**

Position requires some familiarity with the use of Adobe InDesign page-making software as well as online posting skills to manage the online portion of the paper and maintain the *Dateline: Downtown* website.

The paper runs stories anticipating campus events as well as reviewing them, including student activities and organizations, academics, athletics and lifestyle, university administration, and student government; also cultural coverage of activities in the theatre, film, music, sports and arts communities, particularly as they are of interest to UHD students.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing, at least one semester in residence at UHD, successful completion of basic writing and communications courses, and a current 3.0 cumulative GPA. Applications accepted until position is filled.

**To apply**, contact the *Dateline: Downtown* faculty advisor, Joe Sample, Associate Professor, at [samplej@uhd.edu](mailto:samplej@uhd.edu). Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until position is filled.



# Research Volunteers Wanted

- Are you at least 18 years old?
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# Study Tips From Your Typical Student

- Attend review sessions (whether they are hosted by teachers or students)
- Form study groups of two or three if you prefer to study in groups
- Start studying in advance (all nighters don't help with long-term retention, which will be beneficial in your actual field of study)
- Don't be afraid to email/message your teacher or a classmate if you don't understand something. The last thing you want to do is learn the incorrect information
- Know that sleep and health is more important than your grade. You cannot perform as well on a test if you are tired or sick (Take care of yourself)
- Review your notes and personalize them as needed (color code, draw pictures, make flashcards)
- Relate concepts to real life when possible
- Set realistic goals for the test (do not try to turn a D into an A using the final)
- Study where you feel most comfortable (some people prefer to study at school, others prefer to study outside of school)
- Discover your learning style (are you an auditory learner, a visual learner, or a tactile/kinesthetic learner?) and make

study aids corresponding to that style (auditory learners prefer to learn by listening, so you could read your notes out loud or discuss them with other people; visual learners prefer to learn by seeing the material, so you could draw visual diagrams to represent concepts or color code your notes using different highlighters and pens; tactile/kinesthetic learners prefer to learn by practicing something that is hands on, so you could build models using blocks if applicable or act in role plays)

- Bonus Tip: Take a deep breath and remember that at the end of the day it is just a test and does not capture the essence of your very being



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