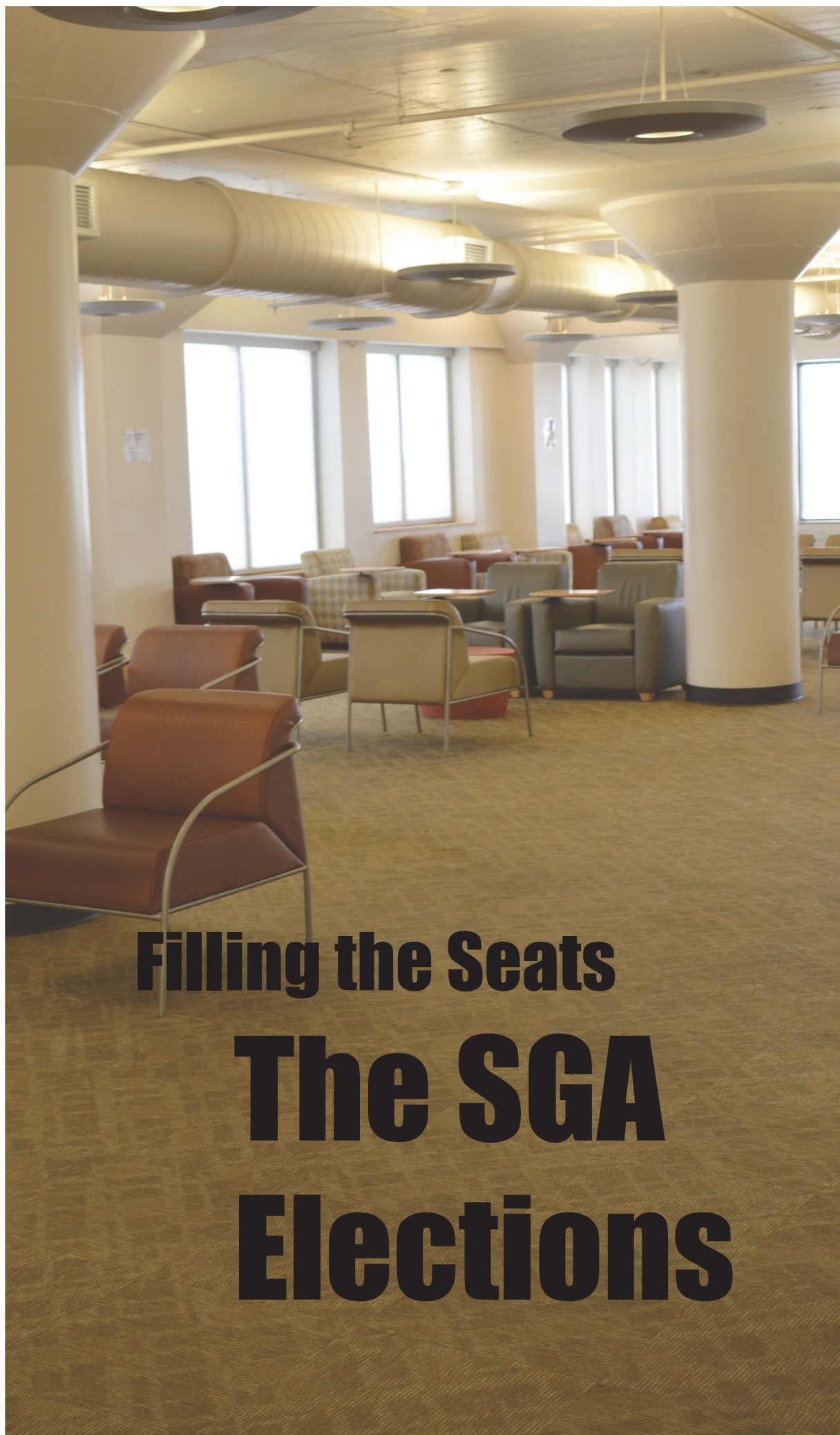


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**Contact
Dateline:**

*Newsdesk
713-221-8192*

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or

EMAIL:

editordatelinedown-
town@gmail.com

*Sales
&
Advertising*

*Sales Desk
713-221-8275*

EDITOR- IN- CHIEF

Kara Moore

editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com

713-221-8192

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jesse Uppal

uppalj1@gator.uhd.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Chris Joseph

cwjoseph93@yahoo.com

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mykal Peterson

peterstonm11@gator.uhd.edu

713-221-8275

STAFF REPORTERS

Angel Lopez

Archie Gayle

Delia Leal

Helen Martinez

Jasmine Major

Michael Case

Naomi Cardwell

Paula Cano

ADVISOR

Dr. Joseph Sample

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Dateline Downtown welcomes submissions to the editor from any member of the UH system. Submissions should be no more than 800 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Writers Guidelines are available on the UHD/dateline webpage or Dateline-Downtown.com. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Deliver submissions to room S-260, email them to editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com or fax them to (713) 221 8569. Letters to the Editor and reader submissions may be edited for space, content, spelling, grammar and malicious, vulgar, or hateful statements. Submissions must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. All submissions become property of Dateline: Downtown and will not be returned.

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Homage to Dr. Chiaviello, Dateline's Former Advisor

by Chris Joseph

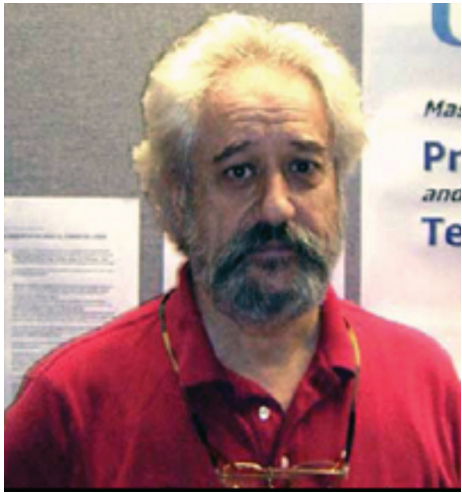


Photo Courtesy of uhd.edu

Spring is a time where the flowers start to bloom, newborn birds begin chirping and fresh green leaves brighten up the once dead trees. Springtime is definitely a time for rebirth and rejuvenation, leaving behind the old and opening up a path way for the new. As spring is the season for new beginnings for many, Dr. Tony Chiaviello will be on a new journey of his own. Retirement.

Dr. Chiaviello has been teaching for over 30 years. Any student that has ever had the privilege of studying under Dr. Chiaviello could tell you how much of an influence he has been. But what they cannot tell you is the incredible journey that led Dr. Chiaviello to UHD.

"We will miss him, I will miss him a lot because we came in together, so I will be by myself again," said University of Houston-Downtown professor Dr. Moosally.

When Chiaviello was younger, he was not the most ambitious student. The nuns at his Catholic school wanted him to better, but he was a rowdy one and had a bad habit of not getting along well with authority. Chiaviello's father took notice in his academic performance, as he criticized Chiaviello whenever he brought home subpar grades.

Despite being an underachiever, Chiaviello started college to earn a higher education. Chiaviello still retained the underachiever personality in higher Ed. After a year, his father stopped funding his tuition because Chiaviello's grades did not live up to his expectations.

During the Vietnam War, Chiaviello enlisted and chose journalism. Chiaviello already had some experience and interest in journalism which led to his decision. After spending a year in Vietnam, he came back to the states and became an editor for an Army newspaper. During his time with the army, Chiaviello found his calling to journalism writing.

Chiaviello and his commanding officers did not get along well. His rebellious streak from his childhood carried over to the army with him, and his tour in Vietnam fueled his anti-authoritarian nature. Unbeknown to his commanding officers, Chiaviello started an underground GI newspaper and joined the GI antiwar movement.

After serving in the army, Chiaviello bounced around a lot. During his constant moving around, he met his wife, got married, had a child, and moved to Hawaii. Now, his move to Hawaii wasn't strictly out of pleasure, no, it was so that he could go underground.

During the period of Chiaviello bouncing around, he continued working with underground newspapers. He began to get involved with a political revolutionary group that was a direct action that grew out of the resistance of the war. So, to avoid the police, Chiaviello had to go underground.

"It was time for me to go underground...go somewhere and not do anything, not attract attention to myself. We just got farther and farther away from civilization because in 1973 Kauai, there was no radio,

no television, barely any newspapers, and I got Time magazine every week in the mail," said Dr. Chiaviello.

At this point in his life, Chiaviello was ready to be a student again. Chiaviello continued his college journey at Kauai Community College, where he brushed off his journalistic talents and earned his associates degree. From Kauai, he found himself attending an outdoor college in Arizona, unfortunately it went bankrupt, but during his short time there, Chiaviello found another love: the environment. Soon he transferred to one of the oldest liberal arts colleges in Ohio, Oberlin College. Chiaviello graduated from Oberlin and was accepted into graduate school at the University of Denver.

While working to get his master's degree at DU, Chiaviello had developed an interest in film. Chiaviello found a deeper understanding when it came to film, leading him to write a screenplay and a filmography that focused on all the films (at the time) that centered on the Vietnam War for his thesis.

Chiaviello's professor was impressed with his screenplay that he showed it to someone who worked for Warner Brothers, and had some eyes interested in the screenplay. However, the deal fell through as do most screenplays, and wasn't produced into a feature film.

After getting his masters, Chiaviello started editing for a few technical trade journals (Satellite communication and Microwave Journal), however, he didn't stay editing trade journals for long. Chiaviello started working in PR, but when his wife died, leaving behind their 15 year old son, he left the PR business and returned to Cincinnati, Ohio, and started teaching.

With the push of his Godfather, Chiaviello enrolled into college for the last time to obtain his PhD. In 1998, he obtained his PhD in rhetoric and professional communication at New Mexico State University. Shortly after getting his PhD, Dr. Chiaviello was a visiting teacher in Savannah, GA, until finally coming to UHD.

"I'm going to retire before I hit twenty years... I value my time more. I want to have time to do my writing," Dr. Chiaviello said.

Dr. Chiaviello's journey getting to UHD was a long one. When he made landfall in 1999, he didn't know that he was going to stay here for 2 decades. Interviewed by the head of Professional Writing department, Rob Jarrett, and hired by the chair of the PW department, Susan Ahern, Dr. Chiaviello found himself at home for 19 years.

For the last 10 years, Dr. Chiaviello focused on helping students hone their writing talents, by co-authoring the student's environmental encyclopedia articles and getting them published. Chiaviello was even using journalistic experience to help shape Dateline: Downtown to what it is today.

His guidance, wisdom, humor, and teaching will be missed here at UHD, but his journey is not over as he plans to continue writing and quite possibly do some part time teaching. But for now, he's moving on to his next destination, which could be Arizona, New Mexico, or Colorado.

"I think Tony is ready to go, he has other ideas, and I think it's right for him... as a colleague, he's fun to have around, but feel its time," said University of Houston-Downtown professor Dr. Joseph Sample.

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**Editors
Desk**

Say Whose Name? Her Name!

by Magge Nunez

Women empowerment has been a major theme in the past couple of years. From the #MeToo movement to the Women's March, women are becoming more vocal about their wants and need in pursuit of equality. To continue this empowerment, the University of Houston-Downtown held its own event to make sure women of color know their self-worth and value. On March 28, 2018 over 500 female high school students and transfer students attended the very first #SayHerName conference. This conference was created as feminist approach to help women of color pursue higher education especially at the University



Photo Courtesy of Magge Nunez

of Houston-Downtown. The conference consisted of several panels, guest speakers, and even an award reception for one of UHD's very own alum, Fran Watson for her amazing activist work. Special guests included: Dr. Robin M. Boylorn (co-author of The Crunk Feminist Collection), Dr. Sheri Davis-Faulkner Program Director for WILL Empower (Women Innovating Labor Leadership), and Dr. Rachel Raimist (award-winning filmmaker). Many of the panels consisted on what it means to be a woman of color in academia, the injustices women of color face and what can young women do to overcome these obstacles. Many students were intrigued by the discussions being offered at the conference, that led them to ask questions on the basis whether fear ever fades. Faulkner gave an uplifting answer, claiming "the fear never goes away. We live in this

world as black women, and we know we are targeted. At my age, I still fear for my life, but using that fear to implement social change is the answer. Fear makes you do things in order to survive, I let my fear guide my pathway to social justice."

Students and professors from the University of Houston-Downtown were also able to present their previous research and experiences on campus at the conference. Professors from the social sciences, humanities and STEM related departments were able to provide information on what their programs consists of. In addition, UHD students held their own panel in which they were able to express their

own experiences and opportunities found at our campus. One of the panelists, Keila Ramon, an English major mentioned, "We are here to teach these upcoming high school students about college, of what it is like to be here, and women empowerment." Several students were intrigued by this panel and were looking forward to hearing more about the panelists. Further questions involved financial aid, LGBTQ+ rights, and scholarships for undocumented individuals. Faculty, and admissions counselors were provided to help students enroll as well.

The conference was a first at the University of Houston-Downtown, it provided young women of color a say, a sense of belonging at our campus, and a venue to hold such crucial conversations of the development of women of color. With more dialogues like this, we will be stating their names more often.

Upcoming Arts and Comm Festival

by Delia Leal

The arts and communications program are hosting their annual festival to lighten the mood for students. The festival will be a free for all with fun filled activities with a student art exhibition all day in the 3rd floor mural area on the 11th and 12th. Returning this year are festival favorites such as the Arts & Communication Internship Fair, with over 20 different arts and communication organizations. It will take place in room A300 on April 11 at 11:30 am to 1 pm. The Gator Chalk Drawing day will make a comeback on April 12 at the South Deck from 10 am to whenever. As in year's past, the end of the festival will be the opening of the O'Kane Theatre's new production, this year it will be "Lone Star" and will premiere April 12 at 8pm. A mini-reception with drinks and snacks to celebrate the current O'Kane Gallery exhibition known as the Student Show will be held the day before at 5pm. New to this year's festival is the Communication Studies Panel Presentation, "Heroes of Harvey" on April 11 from 6 to 8pm. The panel will consist of communication professionals in PR, media and social media, discussing how they used their skills during Harvey. Communication Studies will host its annual Communication Studies Pitch Tank, a way for students to pitch their research ideas and win prizes! This will be held in the Milam/Travis room (welcome center) from 6 to 8 pm. Other events include a Story/Poetry/Speech Open Mic, Stage Combat workshop and karaoke, among many more.

2018 ARTS & COMMUNICATION FESTIVAL

Arts & Communication Festival 2018		
Wednesday, April 11 2018		
When:	What:	Where:
10 am - 12 pm	Arts & Communication Festival Kick Off With Sports & Recreation, Fandom, Campus Activities Board (CAB), ASA and more...	3rd Floor Mural Area, Academic
11:30 am - 1 pm	Arts and Communication Internship Fair	A300
1 pm - 3 pm	The O'Kane Theatre Presents: Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind	3rd Floor Mural Area, Academic
2 pm - 3 pm	Stage Combat Workshop with Prof. Fidell	A300
5 pm - 6 pm	O'Kane Gallery Student Exhibition, Reception	O'Kane Gallery
6 pm - 8 pm	Communication Studies Panel Presentation and refreshments, "Heroes of Harvey,"	A300









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HERA Conference

by Helen Martinez

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Chicago saw an increase in gator sightings this past month, specifically of UH D Gators. A group of UH D students and faculty, myself included, represented UH D at the Humanities Education and Research Association (HERA) conference and presented on a variety of diverse topics from race to gender to social justice. Our group of scholars consisted of UH D students Galleryy Martinez Reyna, Lindsay Ware, Magge Nunez, Yadira Gamez, Kelia Ramon, Angel Lopez, and myself. In addition to this were still more UH D presenters, Patrick Graham whom we met at the conference, as well as UH D English professor Dr. Paul Kintzele. In all, UH D had 11 presenters at the conference this year, including Dr. Edmund Cueva, UH D's Chair of Art and Humanities, and Assistant Dean Crystal Guillory of UH D's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It was thanks to Dr. Cueva, who is actually the President of the HERA conference, as well as Dean Guillory, for helping to recruit students and organize the group that we were given this opportunity to present and explore what Chicago had to offer.

Right away, our group arrived in Chicago Wednesday morning, March 7th, just in time for a quick bite to eat at a nearby pub before our first panel, which happened to be mine. I presented first on Queen Eliza-

beth I and the influences her family had on England during her time by reading and analyzing a short historical fiction I wrote from her perspective. Alongside me was Lindsay Ware who presented on the topic of disability within society's constant yet impossible desire to achieve the Ideal Body, Galleryy discussed the real life plight of migrant workers against the unforgiving elite white in capitalism within the text *Under the Feet of Jesus*, and finally Keila who presented on the importance of translation in scholarly research by sharing her own research and translations of the *Popol Vuh* from Nahuatl to Spanish to English. The panel in general revolved around one's agency in society, particularly when disadvantaged, and the relationship between that agency and the perception held by society.

The other half of our group presented the next morning, and all three panelists had the theme of defying social norms set by society in terms of either gender or class. Angel presented an original piece, "Little Red Fabulous Boy," that rewrote the fairytale *Little Red Riding Hood* to showcase the heartbreaking difficulties young gay men have in modern society. After him, Yadira examined how the construction of family, specifically a family that is "white trash," affects the creation of self-identity as seen in Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina*. Last but not least, Magge used the novel "I Like Guys" as a point of reference for her exploration of the limitations of using sexual binary terms, the benefits of reclaiming "queer," and the important distinction between sexuality and gender. After each panel were questions and animated discussions on identity, agency, and the conflicts that arise from society's norms. These discussions are necessary to identifying to the intersectional

issues plaguing our society and crucial to the advancement of progress and equity for all. Of course, these are not problems that can be solved overnight, but by bringing the issues to the forefront, these panels offer one more step forward.

Besides simply presenting and supporting our fellow UH D presenters at panels, we made sure to explore Chicago as much as possible. To start, Yadira and I were able to go see the revolutionary musical *Hamilton* at the Broadway In Chicago Theatre, which was spectacular in the way few things in life are, as well as another play at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on the navy pier titled *Mary Stuart*, which had to do with a fictional meeting between Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Elizabeth I. This play was on a much smaller scale, but the emotions exuded by its actors left more than few audience members in tears. Both plays were fantastic and were an excellent way to wrap up the night.

During the day, there were more than enough adventures to embark

on. There were popular tourist sights to take selfies with, including the Cloud Gate, also called The Bean by locals, and the Skydeck, a mostly glass observation deck on top of the Willis Tower, which is the tallest building in the western hemisphere. Personally, I stayed on the ground and cheered my



Photo Courtesy of Helen Martinez

companions from there, but I did visit a couple museums and Chicago's Cultural Center, which included some inspiring local artwork. Although I am a history major and huge nerd, I have to say my favorite museum was not the Chicago History Museum but rather the Art Institute of Chicago. It had marvelous exhibits such as the Thorne Miniature Rooms and the collection of works in the exhibit titled "Shockingly Mad: Henry Fuseli and the Art of Drawing." I do not exaggerate when I say I spent over 6 hours in this museum and only left because we had bought tickets to the *Mary Stuart* play. We did not visit the entire museum's exhibits, but we tried, even as I muttered that I was doing an injustice as a future historian by rushing through the sections I could not provide adequate attention. It took an enormous amount of self-restraint to tear myself away.

Finally, there was the food. The Food. We were advised to try Giordano's, which is famous for its deep-dish pizza and for good reason. We were not disappointed. The individual 6-inch pepperoni and cheese creation had a flaky crust with a layer of pepperoni under a thick covering of mozzarella cheese topped with sauce and your choice of parmesan cheese or pepper. It was amazing, but that was not surprising. What was surprising was where I found the best drink of the trip. As someone who by choice does not drink alcohol, it was a bit odd to discover that the best drink I tried was actually from the Potter's Chicago Burger Bar inside our hotel. It was just a chocolate milkshake but also much more than a chocolate milkshake. It was the perfect sweet treat to dip our staple Chicago steak fries into. It's been weeks, and I am still thinking about it.

Legislative Branch

Public Service

Jesse Uppal - Hello Gators! I am Jesse Uppal and currently I am running for the position of Senator for the College of Public Service. I am a double-major in Criminal Justice and Political Science and will be a Junior starting in the fall. I served as the senator for this college last semester and was the host of a multitude of events and the passage of several bills. I have chaired two committees within SGA and am a proven and highly disciplined parliamentarian. I am an officer in two other organizations and serve as an ambassador to the University Honors Program. I have seen the ins and outs of SGA and I believe that I will be able to accomplish significant changes in the way that it operates while simultaneously making UHD a more fun and safe campus for the student body to enjoy. I am an extremely direct and forward-thinking individual and I know that I am the best bet for representing the student body in both my college and the university. I will not beat around the bush or pretend to make changes while sitting back and doing nothing. My efforts will be directly geared towards making as much of an impact as possible for the benefit of the students. Safety and diversity amongst the student body are my top concerns and I will continue the splendid work that SGA has accomplished this year well into next year. Vote for your best option students, I will not let you down.

Citlaly Rubio - I am Citlaly Rubio, and I am running for SGA's Senator of the College of Public Service. I am a Social Work major, minoring in Spanish and Philosophy, and plan on graduating in May of 2019. In my time at UHD, I have become a member of various organization on campus, which include: UNA-UHD, LULAC, and the University's Honors Program. I devote a lot of my time to the university because I have a passion to make lasting changes. Although the organizations I am in have helped, I feel that the senator position will give me a platform to be your voice and allow me to expand the amount of changes I can make in this college. Although the College of Public Service is small, I will use my position to voice the students concerns and see changes being implemented. Some of the issues I'd like to tackle would be increasing security for students taking evening classes and broadening the food options available in the Commerce Building. I am a very active student within the university and I look forward to representing the College of Public Service in this upcoming election.

Davies College of Business

Ryan Hashem - My name is Ryan David Hashem and I am running for the position of Senator for the college of business. I come from a family of entrepreneurs and teachers. At the age of 8 years old I learned the value of arduous work by working for my father and learned the value of education from my mother. My inspiration to run came from a man I saved from drowning. Two years ago, I managed the city pool. There was a man who had an asthma attack in the water. Instinctively I jumped in and pulled him out of the water. A couple of months later he would run for mayor for the city of Pearland with the intention to renovate my facility. This inspired me to run because the people we help end up helping, help us in some way. This is reflected in my goals. When I was 16 years old I began to take my future more seriously. I transferred from a traditional high school to a college and career high school. I began working as a lifeguard. Within three years I graduated with my Associate's degree before getting my high school diploma, I climbed the ranks of my lifeguard company and went through six promotions before becoming the area supervisor of 3 cities, managing 60 employees, and 9 facilities. Now I am involved with the Honors College and I am a member of Alpha Lambda Delta. Now I would like the privilege of serving my classmates.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Shay Tatum-Hopper - I am an incumbent Senior Senator of the College of Humanities and have dedicated my time and resources to make sure that my college is represented in the Student Government. I have consistently been on campus and I am always willing to help support other organizations as well as students to be successful at their events and in their classes. I am a constant reminder of the true meaning of a non-traditional student and I make sure that not only am I committed to what I do, but I also make sure that it is done successfully. I have been active in Student Government for 3 semesters and some of these events I helped to create were, "Around the World", this event is where students from different cultures interact and get to experience a culture and will hopefully understand their difference. I also created events like "Know Your Status", where there is on campus STD/HIV testing for all and "Times Up" this event focused on campus sexual assault. My presence here on campus has been positive and encouraging to all. I hope to be the voice of the Graduate Student Body in SGA, when you vote for me, you are voting for visibility and reliability, I am always here for you.

Diana Platas-Vega - My name is Diana Platas, candidate for the CHSS senatorial position, and a current senior, Political Science major with minors in International Politics, History, Spanish, and Spanish-English Translation (legal track). For the past 2 years I have been an active member of SGA where I have had the pleasure to serve in multiple positions such as Student Defender Assistant, Community Outreach volunteer, and currently I am a senator at large and chair of the Student Affairs Committee. I have also been part of various organizations and shared governance committees such as Walk2Vote, Wellness, Equity and Diversity, among others. I spend a lot of my time doing volunteer and community service, but I am also a civil rights activist in and out of campus. Though my focus is currently in advocating for immigrants, minorities, and underrepresented communities, I also engage in activism against unjust laws and current practices that harm our community. As a dreamer (beneficiary of DACA), I know the struggle is very real, and my hope is that one day we will all be treated equally regardless of class, gender, preferences, culture, religion, and ethnicity. My passion also extends to the classroom and campus environment. I aspire that students in our campus feel safe, welcomed, and relevant because that is what they are. All students here at UHD matter, their voices matter, their concerns matter, but most of all their future matters, and that is why we must assure that UHD is providing the best environment for their success. If elected I want to guarantee that your concerns are being heard and that your ideas are being implemented. I also hope to encourage more student involvement/engagement and a more transparent and visible administration. Furthermore, I want to make sure that all my decisions are based on your interests which is why I will strive to facilitate communication between the student body, the elected officials, and the administration. I hope I can count on your vote. #ProudGator.

Cristal Pena - I am Cristal Pena, and I am seeking a seat as SGA's Senator of College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). I am a political science major and plan on graduating in December of 2018. In the time that I have attended UHD I have had the privilege of being able to engage with students through my participation in organizations like the Honors program. I am continuously seeking to expand my involvement at UHD and find the most effective way to get the job done. I look forward to making my last few semesters at UHD valuable to my fellow students and make lasting changes.



I encourage that incoming students become more involved in organizations at UHD and seize opportunities that can fast forward scholarships, GPA, and much more. I am proud to have the opportunity to represent my fellow Humanities majors as a Senator. My plans with SGA are to provide an exceptional amount of opportunity and communication from our advisors and CHSS team. Through collaboration with our administrators I will be able to use my senatorial position and implement your values into SGA. It's important to hear everyone's voice as well as implement as many solutions as possible. We are the voice of UHD and I want to make sure YOUR voice is heard. A vote for me is a vote for getting your voice heard and resting assured I will devote as much time as I can to having SGA hear the voice of the Humanities college.

Sciences and Technology

Tristian Arroyo - My name is Tristian Arroyo I am currently a sophomore at UHD. My major is Biology with a concentration in Molecular and Cellular Biosciences along with two minors in Chemistry and Microbiology. Born and raised in Ventura, California but moved to Houston to further my education. My two years here at UHD have been remarkable due to all the opportunities this university has to offer. Through my college, I have built connections with professors, started research, join amazing organizations, and so much more. I can say that UHD has helped mold me

into the person I am today. That is why if elected as senator of the College of Science and Technology I want to work with my colleagues to create more opportunities and make sure we are well represented. I believe I am a suitable fit for the position of senator because I am dedicated, charismatic, and responsible, and I know I will try my hardest to represent my college and UHD to the best of my abilities.

Aileen Sanchez - Hello all, my name is Aileen Sanchez. I am intending to graduate with a degree of Chemistry and a Concentration in Forensic Science. I am planning to get a second degree in criminal justice with a minor in Communications. I am running to be your 2018-2019 senator for the college of science and technology. For the previous year, I was already one of the two senators for this college and it would be an honor to be your senator once again.

Dionesia Bardwell - My name is Dionesia Bardwell, I'm a biotechnology major. I'm running for a senator position of the college of science and technology. Some of my goals for the school is to have a more comprehensive budget for the school that favors students. As senator I hope to represent the students of CST well enough that they're interested in what's going on in SGA. As a STEM major, I feel that CST students aren't informed well about SGA and I hope to improve that.



Judicial Branch

Chief Justice

Miguel Sanchez - My name is Miguel Sanchez. I am a sophomore and a philosophy major. I am a member of our university's Honors Program, the United Nations Association, and the Student Government Association. I am currently the secretary for the Student Government Association. The Student Government Association is to serve the student body and when those running the organization fail then they ultimately fail the students. My goal as Chief Justice for the Student Government Association is to keep the organization efficient and hold officers accountable. I am the best fit for the position because of the experience I obtained as secretary. Furthermore, as the secretary, I have an unbiased perspective on the workings of the organization. Therefore, this makes me a perfect fit for a position such as the Chief Justice, that demands an unbiased and objective lens when making decisions. Finally, I am running for this position because I am deeply committed to the mission of the Student Government Association and if elected I plan to ensure the organization runs as effectively as possible.

Ramiro Ojeda - Hello, my name is Ramiro Ojeda. I am currently running to represent the UHD student body as the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association. I am a senior, double majoring in Political Science and Philosophy. I currently serve the student body as a Peer Mentor, VP of the Speech and Debate Organization, and Senator for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. I made UHD my second home in the Fall of 2014 as a Freshman. I have a passion for helping others and doing what is just. I hope to bring more structure to our Student Government. I am an advocate for the improvement of programs and processes that aid in having

students' concerns heard and addressed by administration. I plan to establish clear language within our governing documents, so that students will not hesitate to reach out and help us take the steps to make the changes we and our University deserve. I promise to represent the student body and do what is ethically sound, regardless of those who do not approve. Integrity, an ability to communicate, civic, and professional responsibility are all things I hold dear. I have the upmost respect for my fellow students and will work hard to make sure that each and every one of you is represented properly. Vote for me, Ramiro Ojeda, and the justice you can count on.

Student Defender

Nathan Villarreal - I am Nathan Villarreal and I am running for SGA's Student Defender position. I am a Communications major minoring in Political Science and Gender Studies. I am a freshman and plan on graduating May of 2021. In my little time at UHD, I have become an involved member in various organizations on campus such as Stand-Out, Texas Freedom Network, and the University's Honors Program. Being in these organizations has only made me want to work harder for this university, and as your Student Defender, I promise to work tirelessly and endlessly for you. I will also give the students a platform to voice their opinions allowing for more changes to be made for the better. I look forward to working hard and representing the University of Houston-Downtown and its wonderful students.

Attorney General

Angela Dawson

President and Vice President Elections

Armita Tajadod and Ignacio Hernandez

Armita Tajadod - Hello Gators! My name is Armita and I am a third year Honors student majoring in Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice, running to be your Student Government Association President. As this year's SGA Vice President, I managed to get six new free charging stations (with three more on the way), work on campus safety by securing more emergency call boxes, increased security, and better lighting in isolated areas, focus on student mental health, and worked to increase Gator pride. If elected as your President, I will make it my priority to take a strong stance on and bring about campus safety, improving student services, handicap accessibility, student mental health, creating a greener campus, and fostering Gator pride. Before serving my fellow Gators as Vice President, I served as an Associate Justice for two years, and have been consistently involved in SGA. I am also involved in the Model United Nations Association, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, and am an active member of Kappa Delta Chi sorority on campus. My passion and pride for our university is what fuels me to continue serving as a representative of the students, and I hope to have the honor of serving my fellow Gators as President, so I can continue to enhance the quality of campus life for students.

Alan Modrow and Irene Nunez

Alan Modrow - My name is Timoteo "Alan" Modrow. I am a sophomore studying Political science and I want to be your Student Body President. I have two years of experience serving UHD's student body in Student Governance Committees, student task forces, and working with the university administration. I am passionate about connecting people to the resources they need to achieve their goals. I want to empower your voice as a student and foster a better student experience. Have you:

- a) Seen your SGA representatives around before this election season?
- b) Attended an event hosted by SGA that you wanted to go to and brought you value?
- c) Been asked what you would like to see on campus to improve your student experience?

If the answer is No, let's fix that. If I am elected as President of SGA, I will:

- 1) Make sure you know what SGA is and what it can do for you.
- 2) Host events that you will remember and want to talk to your friends about.
- 3) Create channels for students to voice their interests and concerns in a way that empowers the student and the student body.

Let me be your voice. Let's make SGA a force to represent the diversity and experience of the student body. Vote for "A New Leadership for a Brighter Future."

Ignacio Hernandez - My name is Ignacio Hernandez and I am running for Vice President. The three years I have been a student at UHD has given me the chance to see a world of opportunity. Examples of this would be having the ability to study abroad in Sweden/Finland with the Honors Program, learn the flow of debate with Model Arab League, help students as a Supplemental Instruction Leader in a variety of math courses, volunteer to help the homeless at The Beacon, be a member of Scholars Academy, and be a part of a 8-week long summer research program to study solid mechanics. All of these are opportunities I earned with the skills and experience I developed over time at UHD. A lot has been done for me, so I would like to spend my senior year giving my time to make sure other students enjoy it as much as I did. I feel that being Vice President will help me do this as I will work with the President and our administration to check off our goals to help the university. Being a UHD - Ambassador, Gator Crew member, and SGA - Senator gave me the chance to see areas in safety, school resources, reusable resources available on campus, student health/life, and traditions the university could use some work with. These goals, along with streamlining the way SGA functions, are what I would like to see done in the 39th SGA Administration if given the opportunity to do so.

Irene Nunez - Hello, my name is Irene Nuñez. I am currently running to become your Student Body Vice President alongside my Presidential running mate Timoteo "Alan" Modrow. I am a senior Communication Studies Major minoring in Spanish/English Translation (Legal Track). I currently represent the UHD student body in a few leadership positions. I am also a member of Sigma Kappa Omega and hold the title of 2018 NCWA All-American Women's 191Lbs Wrestler that only two women at UHD have been privileged of holding. I have worked with administration on Shared Governance Committees and several task forces. I came to UHD as a transfer in 2015 and have since made UHD my home. As a transfer student I understand the struggle of working, studying, and being the head of a household. I am proud to be a Gator and represent this institution as a whole. If we are elected, the three major target areas of focus will be; advocating for students on all levels, student engagement, and visibility. First off, advocating students concerns is supporting and caring about the wants/needs of our fellow peers. Secondly, student engagement is creating events that are valuable to students and as well as enjoyable. Lastly, visibility is letting students know SGA is here for them. Excellence without compromise, we will strive to represent every Gator in the highest degree.



VOTE

MODROW/NUÑEZ

Student Body President &
Vice President



Under the Page of Viramontes

by Archie Gayle

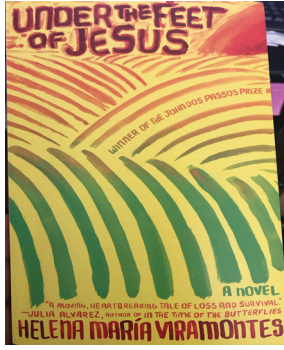


Photo by Archie Gayle

The lemon-colored light of the afternoon sun filtered through the tour room in the Girard street building; as the light shined on the faces in the crowd, the words of a prolific Chicana writer enticed their ears. The writer was Helena María Viramontes, a major contributor to contemporary American and Mexican American literature. She gave a reading on March 29th in the Girard Street Building. After reading an excerpt from one of her most popular novels, and then a book that she was currently working on, Professor Viramontes talked with the crowd in a Q&A session and signed copies of her books. It was an ethereal event. The crowd included UHD students, faculty, Houstonians, as well as close friends and family of Viramontes.

Helena María Viramontes is the author of two novels, *Under the Feet of Jesus* and *Their Dogs Came with Them*, and a short story collection titled *The Moths and Other Short Stories*. Her literary themes derive from her childhood experiences growing up in East Los Angeles; many of her works feature strong Mexican-American characters, and vividly depict the challenges they face as they navigate through the world. Her writing puts the reader into the minds of these characters and describes their world in such detail that the reader fully understands the characters' trauma and why that trauma is important. Viramontes writes in a stream of consciousness and not only navigates through the complex thoughts of her characters, but also connects those thoughts with their outside world. This creates a unity between the people and their surroundings, something that is important in Viramontes' literary work as well as her everyday life. When asked about her choice to connect the outside world with her characters' inner thoughts, she said that "it's all about getting to know your characters. We are all connected with the world and each other. We are all one. My story is your sto-

ry, and your story is my story. I'd like to hear your story."

The event began with words from Dr. Jane Creighton, Professor of English and Creative Writing as well as the Director of the UHD Cultural Enrichment Center. After that, Professor Daniel Peña gave a heartwarming introduction to Helena María Viramontes, who was his professor at Cornell University in the graduate program. Professor Peña noted how touching it was to see his former professor with his current academic peers and students all in the same room. Then, Helena María Viramontes read an excerpt from *Their Dogs Came with Them*, a novel that vividly depicts the struggles of being lower class and Latino in the 1960s and speaks on the problems of highway construction in areas of East Los Angeles. Afterwards she read an excerpt from *The Cemetery Boys*, a novel that takes place in 1940s Los Angeles and is currently in the works.

After the reading, and a thunderous wave of applause, a Q&A session was held. UHD students and faculty asked the writer about her prose style and how her childhood had influenced her work. The event concluded with the crowd forming a line up to Viramontes sitting with a pen at a table in the front of the room; each person had a copy of one of Viramontes' work. After the book signing, we asked her how it felt to inspire so many future writers and push the American narrative forward. "I am always humbled" she said, "by the way literature transform readers' lives in very real and intimate ways. That I can do this with words that render an invitation to readers to become a partner in the completion of the artistic act. The writer's work would not be complete without the reader. Here this is the best of all possible worlds. To touch someone and be touched by such an awesome connection.

"I am always inspired by young writers... who work hard at their craft. I know what it takes to make books and the life of a writer is a difficult one, often lonely and frustrating. And yet, if you simply do not give up, if you believe in your own stubbornness, you will get your stories and poems down. You will write. And I am waiting to read you."

Awards in the Webb

by Jesse Uppal

History, by definition, is the story of what was rather than what is. In Texas, this history is taken more seriously than some nations, with total regards being paid towards the rich cultures that have populated it over the years. The Texas State Historical Association commissions a multitude of historical societies that range from the hundreds of Museums in the state to University campuses. One of the most prominent of these organizations is the Walter Prescott Webb Society, which spans across virtually every public University in the state. The Webb Society was named for the former director of the TSHA during World War II. The society meets twice a year with a range of presentations by students and faculty showcasing prominent and obscure positions within the deeply historical state. At the University of Houston – Downtown, the Garna Cristian chapter is the oldest organization at UHD and is currently run by Dr. Mari Nicholson-Preuss and Dr. Gene Preuss. Dr. Nicholson-Preuss is an --- professor in History and director of the University Honors Program and Dr. Preuss is an --- professor in History and the advisor to LULAC, another historically steeped organization.

The TSHA hands out two awards each year, one to the college chapter of the year and one to the university chapter of the year. UHD decided to go for the three-peat by winning the University Chapter of the Year award for the third time in the last 10 years, first in 2012 and again in 2015. Dr. Preuss also won the advisor of the year award, beating out schools such as University of Texas and Texas A & M.

"Webb society is not just for History majors or groups that are interested in the subject to conduct projects or presenta-

tions within it. Webb society is a stepping stone for history interested students to pursue their interests without having to study the topic formally within a classroom." Dr. Nicholson stated.

Dr. Preuss followed up with, "With the directed study course being expanded to the East Management Side, we are hoping to turn this directed study into a fulltime course that will continuously record the stories around the Houston area."

Dr. Preuss is currently leading a directed studies course to develop knowledge of the Northside and Near Northside areas of Houston. The studies course will showcase the individual stories that populate the neighborhoods in North Houston, with some of these families having been residents since development. The project has been conducted before, by Jason Rivas in 2015. The project started with Avenue CDC, a nonprofit community building organization based in Houston, Texas. Avenue CDC began the project in 2015 with a team from a number of high schools. The project results had somehow been deleted, destroying an entire year's worth of work. Avenue CDC reached out to the University to reestablish the program and it has continued forward since. The current team of students include Diana Sanchez Ayala, Jamie Guzman, Carlos Guajardo and Katy De La O. De La O, Guajardo and Sanchez Ayala are all History majors, with Guzman being an Interdisciplinary Studies major with a concentration in History. The students meet once a week to practice interviews before heading out to video the prospective story-tellers in the region. The project is expected to expand to the east side in the future to incorporate as much of Houston as possible.

Latin American Politics: Peru, Brazil, Columbia

by Paula Cano

11

Peruvian president Pablo Kuczynski resigned on Wednesday, March 21st after a video leaked showing Kuczynski's colleagues bribing a congress member from the opposite party for their support in exchange for a state contract in his district. One of the persons showed in the video buying the support of the policymaker is Kenji Fujimori, who worked along the Kuczynski's administration to come up with a pardon deal agreement for Fujimori's dad who was serving a 25-year sentence. The imminent decision to withdraw from office after two years came about when the Kuczynski's administration realized there were no good chances on their side to make it through the impeachment trial. Previous events were scaling up to Kuczynski's resignation; just last year former Peruvian president was accused of grafting in which he accepted money from Odebrecht. In addition to being involved in the Odebrecht scandal, he was criticized for the pardoning of Alberto Fujimori, a former Peruvian president who served Peru for almost ten years, 1990 through 2000. Kenji's decision to work with Kuczynski's was denounced by Keiko Fujimori, the marking point of what is now a sibling feud after Keiko tweeted how regretful she was for her brother's actions that have imperiled the stability of Peru and the Fujimori family. The previous Peruvian leader Alberto Fujimori, father of Keiko and Kenji Fujimori, is known for human rights violation and embarking Peru through a trail of unconstitutional actions that solidified Fujimori's authority in the Lima's legislative chamber through repressive actions against those who dissented his authority. Keiko Fujimori has also played an important role in the political realm of Peru, she was the youngest first lady during her father's administration, and was also a candidate for Peru's presidency against Kuczynski's. During her campaign for office, Keiko alienated herself from her father's shadow, vowing to not let history repeat itself and not mirror the brutal leadership her dad made Peru undergo. In a discussion with International Politics expert Dr. Linantud, Chair of the Department of Political Science, shared his intake of what's going on in Peru's political arena is that "as long as the Fujimori family is still alive it will play as a distraction" a distraction in which he explains is a deterrent of Peru's industry growth, taking into consideration their strategic geographical location in the pacific coast that could easily enable Peru to trade with key Asian allies, slow down their selling of raw materials and instead adopt manufacturing jobs and introduce the produced materials into the allied Asian economies. Dr. Linantud also remarks that Peru's tendency to live in the past debilitates any chances that Lima could enter the grounds of economic prosperity. The deeply hated President of Brazil Michel Temer is now considering running for a full term in the upcoming Brazilian elections. Temer came into power after leading the efforts to have former female president Rousseff impeached for wrongly manipulating funds around different government budgets. Mr. Temer boastfully believes his administration deserves a second full term having helped Brazil's economy grow by one percent. "I'm proud of what I've done and I need to show what's being done, if I'm not in the fray, what's going to happen is that all the candidates will go after me" said Temer to the New York Times. During the last years, Temer himself has also been a victim of corruption allegations, defaming Temer for supposedly taking money from a meat packing company worth millions of dollars. Winning a new term would help Temer gain legal immunity that is given to veteran politicians. This way, he can avoid a corruption trial for the bribe money his administration allegedly received. The person who is leading this corruption trial against Presi-

dent Temer is general attorney Rodrigo Janot. Sadly, the Brazilian political scandals do not stop here, as presidential candidate Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva could be going to jail before he can officially register for Brazil's presidential candidature. In a poll conducted by Colombian National Consulting Center puts Ivan Duque in a lead over the left wing and former Bogota candidate Gustavo Petro. Ivan Duque holds 45% of voter intention while Petro falls behind with a 26%. These campaigns have been one of the most disruptive in terms of political harmony among Colombian voters. The public in Colombia witnessed the aftermath the peace referendum carried out with rebellious Marxist forces, RAFC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) that would legitimize peace accords with the faction but it did not pass. Despite its failure, the Colombian Government led by Juan Manuel Santos decided to follow through and sign a peace accord with rebellious faction RAFC. The referendum further polarized the voting public in Colombia and seeing the current political turmoil in Colombia that a left-wing government has caused might be one of the reasons why Ivan Duque is leading in the polls. After a failed referendum and the Government's decision to go ahead and declare peace with RAFC, leftist candidate Gustavo Petro has faced some serious scorn from the media and those who believe a right-wing – government should win again. Through his years of leadership, Gustavo Preto has taken it upon him to unveil illicit right-wing government actions especially during the presidency of Alvaro Uribe Velez. Petro contributed to unmask the wrongdoings of government agency DAS who were wiretapping and spying on government opponents during the Uribe presidency. Uribe's political machine is now working closely to the right-wing coalition to make sure Petro does not become the president of Colombia and have centered their campaign to use the current state of political instability in Venezuela and provide this as an example of why a left-leaning government could possibly take Colombia on the same path as Venezuela. During the conversation with Dr. Linantud, he mentions the reoccurring theme that drives Latin American politics those being populism and military rule, and that countries are "heavily fixated on a strong man" almost like an enlightened dictator. Dr. Linantud states that in Brazil and Colombia "They are trying to combine regular elections with that strongman legacy". He also refers to Latin American rule of law as one that constantly seeks to elect a strong enlightened dictator. According to the Pew Research Center in Peru, 44% of the public is in favor of a strong leader to oversee fixing the countries problems, this explains why figures like Fujimori are still able to influence political affairs in Peru. Brazil echoes the belief that a strong leader should oversee fixing the countries problems rather than a democracy by 39%, the latest corruption scandals from Temer assert this finding. Colombia doesn't fall behind, although its number is not as high as Brazil's and Peru's it holds that 32% of the Public is also willing to put the faith of their country in the hands of a strong leader rather than a democracy. You can trace this hostility against the masses and their ability to handle their countries faith to the days of Simon Bolivar during the 1800's; who also believed that power couldn't be vested in the masses and emphasized the necessity for South America to have a strong central government. If Latin America doesn't leave the state of continuity they have admonished themselves to, democracy is never going to be a smooth path.

The Boycott of Anime Matsuri

by Chris Joseph

Every year around the end of March, one of the biggest anime conventions comes to Houston, and thousands of people come dressed up as their favorite anime characters. On the outside, Anime Matsuri is a dreamscape for all anime fans to come and bond over their favorite anime. However, it seems that there is a fowl stench coming from behind the curtains of this convention.

Anime Matsuri is one of the largest anime conventions in the state. Matsuri is a place where cosplayers, fans of anime, and Japanese culture come together for four days and just bond on their shared similarities. From March 29-April 1, the George R. Brown Convention Center will be flooded with thousands of flashy and colorful Japanese/anime inspired outfits.

As lighthearted and friendly Anime Matsuri is, a Facebook group called Boycott Anime Matsuri would say otherwise. With the rise of the #Timesup and #Metoo movement, Boycott Anime Matsuri is using their voice to speak up out about the mistreatment that goes on at Anime Matsuri.

“AM is definitely still drawing a crowd despite the reported problems with guest mistreatment, sexual harassment, and generally shady business practices. A large part of this is a lack of public knowledge of these issues, which we are working to correct,” said “GG” one of the people behind Boycott Anime Matsuri.

Back in 2015, Anime Matsuri’s CEO and event manager, John Leigh, was accused by multiple women sexually harassing and sending inappropriate messages to young women and mistreating Japanese Lolita designers and models.

In the same year, Nina Reijnders, who is a German model and wig maker that is popular with the Lolita community, was one of the many women who spoke up about Leigh’s inappropriate sexual misconduct. In a Tumblr blog post, Reijnders said that on one evening in London, Leigh and his friend shared a story about someone from an unknown company, performing oral acts in exchange for favors at Anime Matsuri.

Reijnders also posted receipts of a Facebook exchange she had with Leigh where he asked her to send nude photos of herself, and how he thought about Reijnders during a trip to Victoria’s Secret.

FandomUHD member, Eliseo Villanueva said, “Consent is consent, no matter who are or what anime character you dress up as. Not, everyone is comfortable with certain topics or jokes, so don’t assume it’s ok to talk about things like that with people you don’t know.” Within the same month of Reijnders’ confession, Stephany Thai, another member of the Lolita community, came forth to tell her experience with Leigh. On Thai’s post, she mentions inappropriate touching and unwanted attention from Leigh.

Thai goes on to mention that Leigh tried to lift up her jabot, which is a decorative fabric neckwear that goes over the chest, “to see what was underneath.” Thai says that she often wears a jabot over a tank top because of the heat in Houston, and when Leigh attempted to “peek” under her jabot, she slapped his hand away.

These are just two of the women who have spoken out against Leigh’s actions. According to Boycott Anime Matsuri’s Facebook page, they have many more testimonies from con goers about the sexual misconduct at Anime Matsuri.

In an email sent to NextShark, GG said, “We’ve spoken to several of the people who provided these accounts, but oth-

ers were posted online anonymously, thus we had no way to contact the victim.” GG continues, “The [rest] were messaged directly to us at some in the last two months.”

In a blog post that was posted back in 2015, Leigh addressed the sexual harassment claims, not by saying that they were not true, but that he was joking. Stating, “If you are offended by sexual innuendos, dirty talks, or comments about boobs and orgasms, you should not be my friend.”

However, since Leigh’s sexually harassment history has been brought back up again this year by a Lolita fashion vlogger, Tyler Willis. In the two videos posted about Leigh, Willis echoed the same sexual harassment claims that many others brought up, but also mentioned that Leigh has acted inappropriately with girls under the age of 18. In January of 2018, Willis received a cease and desist letter from Leigh’s lawyers asking Willis to make a public apology on social media.

Leigh took to the Anime Matsuri blog to make a public apology to those he hurt and offended. “At the time, I didn’t realize that I was being hurtful or harassing, and I was shocked to learn that my messages has been so hurtful to their recipients,” the remainder of the post is Leigh apologizing for his actions and that he is taking steps to better himself. He acknowledges that he has done wrong, and encourages those who have been a victim of sexual harassment to speak out.

However, the damage has been done. Due to Leigh’s controversial history, J-pop singers FEMM, voice actor Johnny Yong Bosh, and the entire cast of Blizzard’s hit game Overwatch have cancelled their appearances, alongside many more.

Despite the controversy surrounding the CEO of Anime Matsuri, roughly 30,000 people are still attending the event. As it currently stands, Anime Matsuri is expected to grow even bigger with the John Leigh remaining his position as CEO.

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Education Dept. No Longer Backing up Trans Students

by Angel Lopez

13

Recently, the Education Department decided to no longer investigate civil rights complaints from transgender students about being allowed to use the restroom that they feel best fits their gender identity. The decision was made by the current head of the Education Department Betsy DeVos, who decided to take back president Barack Obama's requirement of public school systems to allow transgender individuals to use their preferred restroom despite what gender they were assigned on their birth certificate. Transgender students have voiced their concern for essentially being barred from using their preferred restroom as it makes them a target for further discrimination and bullying. The decision to no longer investigate civil rights complaints from transgender individuals sent a message to these students that they will no longer be protected by their schools simply because there is a majority that feels as though allowing them to choose their preferred restroom causes concern for safety.

DeVos stated that individual states and school districts should be given the freedom to choose how to handle the complaints brought forth by transgender individuals despite Title IX clearly stating that no public school that is federally funded should be allowed to discriminate based on sex. The semantical difference between sex and gender is the key wording used to pass this type of legislation. To justify the validity of their decision, the Education Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Hill stated, "Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, not gender identity" making this their only loophole in allowing this decision to take place. Title IX, under president Obama's presidency insured the safety and protection of transgender students, however, since

Donald Trump's induction to the white house various civil rights concerns and complaints by transgender students have been largely dismissed. Despite the dismissal of these complaints, the Education Department stated that although they will no longer investigate civil rights complaints, they will continue to investigate other forms of discrimination against transgender students who feel vulnerable. DeVos, however, ensured those concerned for the safety and protection of transgender students that although there will no longer be an attempt to end the barring of students from restrooms, they will continue protecting them from any other form of discrimination and will most importantly not tolerate bullying.

Despite the Education Department's attempt to establish this decision as a just one, it is difficult, especially for transgender individuals themselves, to feel safe knowing that it will essentially allow public schools to tell them what restroom they can and cannot use no matter what gender they identify as. It is important to also note that Betsy DeVos had no prior experience interacting with the public-school system before being chosen to be head of the Education Department. She has only been known to have been involved with private schools as her own children attend high-end and wealthy private schools. This fact alone is worrisome given that public schools are largely populated with low-class and LGBTQ+ students who might already struggle with gender-identity. These schools then are no longer backing up transgender students in their fight to be able to freely express their gender-identity while also not having to fear being harassed in the restroom.

Douma Chemical Attack

by Jesse Uppal

President Bashar Al-Assad was accused again on Monday for conducting a chemical attack on the small town of Douma. President Assad's troops had recently begun withdrawing from the area per Russian cooperation to strategically reorient their resources elsewhere. The attack resulted in roughly 70 deaths within the blast region with at least 1,000 more wounded in the surrounding zones. The Syrian Army has been accused for regularly utilizing chemical weapons against civilian and military installations in the ongoing civil war. In recent events, the United States has responded to these attacks on the populace by conducting bombing campaigns and Tomahawk missile launches against the air bases in which many of these attacks have originated.

Russia has denounced the accusations as a hoax by western media to attack the government currently in power in Syria. The west has vocally announced their support for the Syrian National Coalition, the primary rebel forces in the area. Russian forces have been actively financing, militarily supporting and strategically supporting the Syrian Government in the 4-way war that has been brutalizing the area for the past few years. The assistance from the Russian Federation remains as the primary scrutiny of various na-

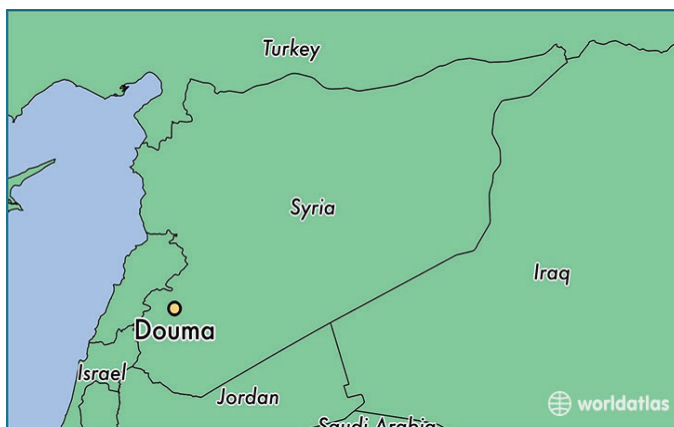
tions around the globe who believe Assad to be in violation of the Geneva convention and forfeiture of Syrian Sovereignty.

The attack casualties have been disputed, as some sources are recording no attack at all while others are reporting over 150 deaths. Much of the scrutiny revolves around

the confusion placed by the Assad attack on a region he planned to leave and where few foreign elements were detected after the fighting that has taken place there. The nerve gas has also not been identified, as symptoms are still being investigated and the similarity to the previous Sarin gas have not been detected. Hospitals and non-profits in the area are vigorously working towards treating those

that are affected and creating an estimate of lives lost.

While the S.N.C. has taken a massive beating in the recent months of the war, Assad still faces threat from the Kurdish rebels who are aiming to establish an independent nation in the region and ISIS, an extremist terror organization that has wreaked havoc in both Syria and Iraq. The United States continues to back the S.N.C. alongside Qatar and Turkey despite their seriously losing fight. The United States has slowly started to pull its ground troops out of the region, while air strikes and missile launches continue unabated.



Autonomous Vehicles

by Jaida Doll

Imagine a city filled with driverless cars. It sounds like a scene from a futuristic science fiction movie, but the future is now upon us. Self-driving cars are quickly becoming a reality. The industry of these autonomous cars has progressed immensely with the most remarkable milestone being Google's self-driving car, which by the end of 2017 had driven over two million miles. These vehicles have been in development for years, but companies like Google and Uber have begun testing their own versions of driverless cars on approved public streets with permits approved by the DMV. Fortune.com states that these autonomous cars will not make a noticeable impact until 2020, but by 2040, self-driving cars will encompass 95% of new vehicles sold. Like any new development, this one comes with its benefits as well its disadvantages. One of the major hesitations with this new scientific development is that of safety.

This specific drawback has been brought to light recently when on the evening of March 18, Elaine Herzberg, 49, was hit and killed by one of Uber's self-driving cars in Tempe, Arizona. Herzberg was attempting to cross a dark street with her bicycle when the crash occurred. She was transported to a hospital where she eventually passed away. There are many possible causes for the incident, which are currently being investigated. Some sources say that it was too dark for the car to register and react to Herzberg, while others blame the self-driving vehicle's attendant for not paying attention and responding to Herzberg. Fox News even speculates that a safety component in the car was turned off before the crash. The dash camera video of the car at the was released and shows both the interior and exterior view of the car at the time of the crash. Uber is cooperating with the investigation and may not even be at fault for the situation since Herzberg crossed the street without using a crosswalk. In response to the incident, Uber has halted testing their autonomous cars in all four cities in which they were engaged and have declined to renew their testing permits.

The time spent driving is necessary for the cars and its systems to learn roads, surroundings, hazards, construction zones, and every other obstacle it will face in a real-world situation. As the car drives, it learns to identify these obstacles and respond to them. The more the car drives, the more it learns, and the better it can respond to obstacles. So, from this point on, self-driving cars can only improve. Furthermore, the automated computer system of these cars would

outperform any person behind the wheel because its reaction time would be much shorter than that of a human. The introduction of self-driving cars could increase safety on our roads because there would be no such thing as a car that does not follow the law. There would be no one speeding, running red lights, or driving under the influence.

If developers can control these safety issues, self-driving cars would revolutionize the way we live and work. The American Automobile Association states that Americans spend an average of 2,933.33 hours driving each year. Self-driving cars would free up this much time for the already busy American. You could finish an essay, work from your car, or converse with a friend, all while being driven to your destination. The interior layout of cars could even be changed to accommodate any number of activities.

Autonomous vehicles would not only impact society's safety and free time, but also their economy. The transportation industry would be changed forever, which would have a variety of effects on the economy. Although these cars cost more, it would eliminate the need to pay a driver an ongoing salary, which would ultimately cut costs for the company. Furthermore, it is possible that cities would take advantage of this new development and make autonomous buses, trains, and trams its main form of public transportation. All these changes, though revolutionary for the company, would eliminate a massive amount of jobs from the market. Once these cars are released to the public, it will also reinvent car insurance companies because they would be forced to transition from covering individuals' user error to covering manufacturers' technical errors. It will also have an impact on the police force, because many of the offenses they deal with are traffic violations.

The introduction of self-driving cars would also influence the environment. Ride sharing is a concept that is becoming increasingly popular, and self-driving cars will only further such a trend. These cars could pick up employees on the way to the office without the confusion of a carpool schedule or the frustration of the single driver. The progression of ride sharing, encouraged by the self-driving car industry, would greatly reduce the amount of pollution in our air. Although self-driving cars have their disadvantages, as well as their benefits, it is a revolutionary development that will change our roads forever.

Houston Dynamo Begins 2018 Season

by Michael Case

The 2018 season began for the Houston Dynamo on March 3 with a bang. The Dynamo scored 4 goals against Atlanta United and the excitement of another championship run was buzzing throughout Houston. The team had a surprisingly successful season in 2017, making it all the way to the Western Conference Championship just a year removed from missing the playoffs. In 2017, Playoff hopes were not high, but after a successful run, expectations soared coming into the 2018 season. Dynamo Coach Wilmer Cabrera looks like the real deal and has sped up the 'rebuilding' process, and with help from General Manager Matt Jordan the future looks bright for the Dynamo. A huge season opening victory had fans and media excited, were the Dynamo back? Three games later, and not one win among them, expectations have quieted down.

The playoff appearance last season was the first in 4 years. The franchise won back-to-back championships in 2006 and 2007 and played in the championship game (again with 2 consecutive appearances) in 2011-2012. That makes 4 MLS Cup Final appearances in 7 years, the Houston Dynamo were a franchise to be feared. The last few years, however, have brought new challenges to the Dynamo. They have lost

players, poached from other teams, or young players moving over to European or South American leagues. Another issue was the coaching, after losing long-time coach Dominic Kinnear, the Dynamo failed find a suitable, stable coach. It appears the team has found that coach in Cabrera, where the front office has extended his contract for 2 years on March 29.

After scoring 4 goals and allowing none, the team and its fans were feeling confident about the season, yet a month later, and 4 regular games in the books, the team looks like it has the last few years. A week after the Atlanta opener, Houston fell to Vancouver 2-1 in a close, tough match. Vancouver has been an improved team in the short 2018 season, but still a game the Dynamo should not have lost. Following the loss, the Dynamo then pulled out a draw against D.C. United, a bottom-dwelling team. Having a 2-goal lead at halftime and allowing 2 goals to earn a tie was a hit for the Dynamo. This past Easter weekend, the Dynamo fell 2-0 to the New England Revolution, losing consecutive home games at BBVA for the first time since October 2016. There are tons of games left in 2018 (28 to be exact), so anything can happen, but the Dynamo need to find some of the winning magic other Houston sports team have found.

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Advice from Your Typical Student

“Hi, I was wondering if you had any advice on essentials to carry in my backpack? During my first year in college here, I was not prepared. Although I am better prepared now, I could still use some help with deciding what I should bring.”

Thanks for the question! I feel like questions about school supplies and what to bring to school are underrated in college, especially when you are first entering college. Many individuals underestimate the importance of what to bring because they just default to bringing what is generally assumed to be necessary (e.g. pens and paper). However, I would like to make the argument that settling on which school supplies to bring say a lot about you as a person and how you prefer to tackle school. For example, I am a pen and paper kind of gal. Sounds like the kind of things that you would definitely need in your backpack, right? However, I am also a keep a mini stapler and a Houston map in my backpack kind of girl. Some individuals might raise their eyebrows at the thought of keeping mini staplers and maps in their backpack, but for me, they complete backpack essentials. I keep the mini stapler because I like to staple my class lecture notes together and the map was initially put into my backpack because I am not from Houston and needed to know how to get around. Three years later and I have a better understanding of my surroundings, but it serves as a reminder of how I have grown throughout my college journey (starting with the fact that I know that if I ever get lost in downtown Houston, then all I have to

do is find Main St. and I can navigate from there). In addition to these two items, I also keep other items that I deem essential such as a compact mirror for when I need to check my eyeliner, a calculator for when I need to do some spur of the moment complex math, and small packets of Kleenex for allergy season. One could say that these items represent my preference for being prepared. So, I would like to challenge you to think about what items you currently carry in your backpack and how they aid you in school. I cannot tell you exactly what you should bring because it is a personal decision, but I can mention that you should gravitate towards items that will help you succeed. Common school supplies that I see people carrying around are pens and pencils if they like to take traditional notes, laptops if they prefer electronic notes, highlighters for color coding, and planners for organizing. Some other supplies that are not as common include stress balls, citation style manuals, hole punchers. However, the one thing that everyone should carry in their backpack is an umbrella. In the unpredictable world of the South, this is an absolute must. Questions? Comments? Do you carry any oddball supplies that the average individual would not think to put into their backpack? Let me know at typicalstudentadvice@gmail.com.

Signing Off,
Just Your Typical Student



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