

THE UHCLIDIAN

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Fox News interviews student



JOAQUIN SOLIS: UHCLIDIAN

LIGHTS, ACTION, CAMERA: Fox 26 Reporter Melinda Spaulding (front left), interviews Josephine Tittsworth, an undergraduate student in social work at UHCL. Tittsworth has been working for more than two years to include the transgendered community in the UHCL Non-Discrimination Policy and Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy. The Transgender Law and Policy Institute defines the term transgender as “an umbrella term encompassing: pre-operative, post-operative, and non-operative transsexual people; cross-dressers; feminine men and masculine women; and more generally, anyone whose gender identity or expression differs from conventional expectations of masculinity or femininity.”

Tittsworth is a member of the university’s student organization, the Unity Club, and a spokesperson for the Houston Transgender Unity Committee, Inc. She is a certified mediator, facilitator and transgender educator for the HTUC. Arch Erich, professor of sociology, is the faculty adviser for the Unity Club. Like Tittsworth, Erich has been working diligently for almost three years to fight discrimination, comparing the omission of transgendered people from non-discrimination policies to minority groups that have historically experienced discrimination.

The UHCL policies currently state that the university prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, veteran status and sexual orientation. The amendment, if passed, would change the current definition of sexual orientation, “gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual,” to include transgendered people on the list. Tittsworth recently issued a statement via e-mail to UHCL faculty urging them to support the policy revision and asking them to help support the elimination of potential barriers to transgender students, faculty and staff.

Pictured in the background (left to right) are: Kim Case, assistant professor of women’s studies and psychology; Linda Bullock- director of International and Intercultural Student Services, Arch Erich, and a student worker for IISS.

Teacher evaluations suspected of influencing class content

By ROGER ROBERTS
THE UHCLIDIAN

Whether students realize it or not, their opinions matter at UH-Clear Lake. They matter so much, in fact, that for non-tenured faculty, they can literally make or break a career.

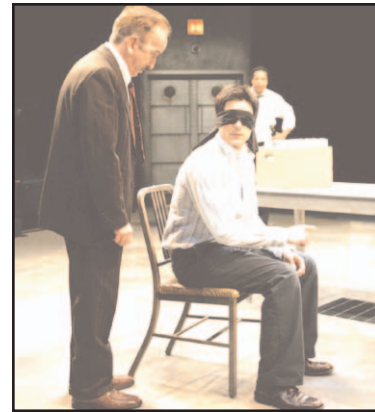
The university primarily relies on one method in gathering student sentiment- teaching evaluation forms. At the end of each semester, instructors at UH-Clear Lake distribute these mandatory questionnaires to every class they teach. The forms contain a multiple-choice Scantron section and a space reserved for written comments. Questions range from how a student felt about the overall class content to whether or not a teacher encouraged student input.

“There are a variety of things that enter into the overall assessment of teachers, but the student eval-

uations of teaching is a major component,” said Dennis Spuck, dean in the School of Education. “I can remember cases where an adjunct has not been re-employed due to poor evaluations over a period of time. I can also think of an instance when a faculty member was not tenured based upon the student evaluations in his or her classes.”

To appreciate the effect evaluations have on teaching careers, one must first understand the fundamental differences between being a tenured, tenure-track or adjunct faculty member. Unlike adjuncts, tenured professors possess a special type of job security that provides protection from being summarily dismissed without cause.

Professors earn this privilege after serving a probationary period, typically five years, during which time the university evaluates them on three basic areas: research, teaching and service. In comparison, adjuncts, or non-tenured faculty, are judged



The Pillowman
Dark satire about an author whose “fictional” crime stories are being imitated in real life.

STORY ON PAGE 4



Amadou Baidou Diallo
Slain young man’s life depicted in New York art exhibit.

STORY ON PAGE 6, 7

Students will pay more to park



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROGER ROBERTS: UHCLIDIAN

PARKING FEES: Photo illustration of sign in front of Student Services and Classroom Building.

By MATT FOURCADE
THE UHCLIDIAN

Beginning this fall, everyone utilizing UH-Clear Lake parking lots will be required to pay increased fees to cover a ten-year roadway and parking lot maintenance plan. The rates will go up progressively over a three-year period.

Starting September 2006, the beginning of the 2007 fiscal year, the cost of student parking permits will be increased to \$35 for term parking, \$70 for annual permits, \$20 for summer semesters, and \$10 for a secondary-vehicle motorcycle sticker. September 2007, the cost will increase to \$40 for term parking, \$75 for annual, \$25 for summer, and the motorcycle sticker will remain at \$10. In September 2008, the last year of planned increases, students will pay \$40 for term parking, \$85 for annual, \$25 for summer, and \$15 for a motorcycle as a secondary vehicle.

Employees who park in lot A will pay \$115 for annual per-

mits the first two years of increases, then the rate will settle off at \$120. Annual rates for other employees will be \$60 the first year, \$65 the second year, and will go up to \$70 the last year of planned increases.

Part-time employees will pay \$20 for term parking and \$15 for summer parking the first two years, then the fees will go up to \$25 for term, and \$20 for summer.

Along with permit fees, the parking meter rates will be doubled, and visitor parking will be increased to \$.75 an hour, not to exceed a \$4 maximum.

“Chief of Police Michael J. Herbst brought the proposal before the SGA during a special meeting held Nov. 29, 2005. The SGA voted in support because they understood and agreed with Herbst’s presentation,” said Lynn Lenert, SGA president.

The Financial Resource Committee and the University

See EVALUATIONS, page 10

See PARKING FEES, page 10