

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

DEAN OF STUDENTS

COUGAR PARENT connection

vol 3 :: September 2006

Calendar of Events

See "Cougar Parent Connection Spotlight" column for Arts Calendar

:: Oct 1 - Concert - Cyndi Lauper

:: Oct 2 - College of Architecture Exhibitions - "Designing Domesticity: Industrial Design For Modern Living 1930-1960"

:: Oct. 5 - Choral Artists, Concert Chorale, Concert Women's Chorus, University Men's/Women's Chorus - "Choral Showcase"

:: Oct. 6 - Play - "Miss Julie"

:: Oct. 7 - LA-Lafayette 6pm

Dean of Students Spotlight

The 1998 Higher Education Act requires colleges and universities to distribute voter registration form to their students. To comply with this legislation, voter registration form are available on campus in the Student Information and Assistance Center and the Dean of Students Office located in the University Center and at the Towers and Oberholtzer service desks located in the residence halls. Voter registration forms can also be requested on-line through the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office at www.tax.co.harris.tx.us. As a reminder, please be aware that the deadline to register in the upcoming elections is Tuesday, October 10, 2006.

Students who reside in counties

Message from the Assistant Dean

Welcome to the third Cougar Parent Connection and the beginning of fall. Now that your student is in the fifth week of the semester I would like to feature two very important offices on campus that provide vital services to your students. Please encourage your student to take advantage of the support and encouragement offered by the wonderful staff in The University of Houston Wellness Office and the Learning Support Services. [Click here for their Schedules to learn more.](#)

Liz Frederick
Assistant Dean of Students
713/743-5470

Message from LSS

The transition from high school to college, or from community college to a four year institution, is a significant one. Students are competing at the highest academic levels while at the same time learning the boundaries of independent living. At the University of Houston, every effort is made to create an environment where both can be accomplished. There are many academic support programs on campus, one of which is Learning Support Services, or LSS, located on the third floor of the Social Work Building.

The mission of Learning Support Services (a unit of Learning and Assessment Services) is to increase graduation rates by improving student retention at the University of Houston.

Students can take advantage of tutoring in most subjects, workshops on learning, and multi-media resources for academic support. They can also make an appointment with a Learning Strategies Counselor to identify their own personal learning styles and learning strategies that will assist them in being more successful in the classroom.

There are some stumbling blocks that students should be aware of as they prepare for the semester on campus. The most important one for now is time management. It is important to set aside enough time to study and prepare for classes. Students should be spending anywhere from two to three hours outside of class each week for each hour in class. That means taking a full college load is the same as working a full time job. The mistake most students make is not setting up that schedule each week, making the first few weeks of class easy, and the next few an "overload" as they struggle to make up the study time. There are also intensive outside reading assignments for some classes, so it is important for students to stay on target.

The good news is that many new students are already stopping by the learning center, taking advantage of services. Encourage your student to do the same. Tutoring hours for specific subjects are on our website, www.las.uh.edu/lss. In general, tutoring is available from 9 am to 8 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 am to 6 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 9 am to 12 pm on Fridays. Students can also check out the workshop list and the other services offered by going to the website, or they can call 731-74-5411 and ask to make an appointment with the Learning Strategies Counselor. These services are free of charge, supported by their student service fees.

Dr. Gail Gillan
Learning and Assessment Services
731-743-5461

other than Harris County may wish to contact the tax assessor/collector's office in their home county to facilitate registration.

For more information, please visit the Dean of Students website.



Chili's Too Opens

Whether it's 11 a.m., noon or 1 p.m., the question is still the same. Where to go for lunch?

With the beginning of the Fall 2006 Semester, the University of Houston offers a new answer to this timeless query as Chili's Too opened on Monday, Aug. 14 in the University Center Ground Floor. The addition of this restaurant represents a \$1 million investment from the University Center and UH Dining Services (ARAMARK).

"The arrival of Chili's Too brings an added dimension of quality and convenience to UH faculty, staff and students," said Keith T. Kowalka, director of the University Center (UC) and Associated Facilities. "The campus community will have another great reason to stick around campus during lunchtime and for students living on campus, it offers a place to hang out with friends, study during dinner or simply unwind."

Although slightly smaller menu than the traditional Chili's restaurants, Chili's Too still offers a casual, colorful environment to enjoy lunch, dinner or an after work cocktail. Counter service allows customers to order promptly, and for those really in a hurry, call-in take out orders can be placed by calling 713-743-4947. Menu items consist of appetizers, sandwiches, salads and Chili's familiar favorites such as Big Mouth Burgers and Baby Back Ribs.

Food is obviously a primary reason to visit Chili's Too, but the fun factor will also be a draw for the campus community. Equipped with six 42-inch plasma televisions, the restaurant will serve as a prime spot to watch events, particularly Cougars football and basketball games, while having dinner and drinks.

"This will be one of the hottest dining spots at UH, but it will also enhance campus life," said Kowalka. "It offers students, faculty and staff a cozy place to meet on campus and socialize." This will be the third Chili's Too on a university campus and the first to be located in a student union facility.

Its hours of operations are as follows:

Monday - Friday	10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday	4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

"The arrival of Chili's Too is an indication of the university's commitment to consistently improving itself," said Francisco Zelaya, president of the Student Government Association. "This is another positive step taken by UH to be a better university for faculty, staff and students."



Cougar Parent Connection Spotlight

There is so much more to do at the University of Houston than just go to class! Research indicates that the more a student is engaged in the campus community the more likely the student will persist in college and attain a degree. Encourage your student to some of the exciting and educational extra-curricular events on campus. Below is information about the cultural events happening NOW. Attend one with your student.

[A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad](#)

September 9-November 11, 2006

A Fiction of Authenticity presents new work in painting, photography, sculpture, installation, video and performance by a selection of the most prominent African Africa Diaspora artists working in Europe and the United States. These artists represent an important generation of artists born just before or during the postcolonial era in Africa, between 1956 and 1975. Their work, creative strategies and formal vocabularies considered within this context challenge prevailing notions about Africa and the largely Western desire for an authentic African art. The exhibition seeks to analyze the construction of criteria surrounding the formulation of ideas about authenticity - within the African continent and abroad. It considers how such fictions have skewed the understanding and meaning of Africa in a global contemporary culture. All the artists in the exhibition have chosen to practice abroad, calling into question their Africanness as a fixed notion of identity. Instead they produce new histories composed of fractured geographies that embody ideas of multiplicity and hybridity. Their migration involves complex choices, forging relationships with places and cultures, and requiring a perpetual reassessment of self and practice within constantly fluctuating parameters.

[The Inprint Studio Series 2006-2007, Tomorrow's Great Writers Today](#)

presented in association with DiverseWorks, The Honors College and the Creative Writing Program (CWP) at the University of Houston

This year, Inprint launches a new studio series featuring some of the most exciting emerging voices in the literary arts. In addition to bringing in writers from around the country, the Studio Series also showcases former CWP students and alumni who got their start here in Houston.

All readings are free and open to the public.

[Bob Hicok](#)

Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 7:30 pm

DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, Houston 77002 (just north of downtown)

Hicok is poet and author of *Insomnia Diary*, *Plus Shipping*, *The Legend of Light* and *Animal Soul*.

[Farnoosh Moshiri](#)

Thursday, October 19, 2006, 6 pm

The Honors College at the University of Houston, entrance #1, in the M.D. Anderson Library

Moshiri is a fiction writer and author of the novels *At the Wall of the Almighty*, *The Bathhouse*, *Crazy Dervish* and *the Pomegranate Tree*, and *Against Gravity*

[Pimone Triplett and Andrew Feld](#)

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 6 pm

The Honors College at University of Houston, entrance #1, in the M.D. Anderson Library

Triplett is a poet and author of *The Price of Light* and *Ruining the Picture*. Feld is author of the poetry collection *Citizen*.

[Emily Fox Gordon](#)

Thursday, March 22, 2007, 6 pm

The Honors College at the University of Houston, entrance #1, in the M.D. Anderson Library

essayist/memoirist and author of *Mockingbird Years: A Life in and out of Therapy* and *Are You Happy?: A Childhood Remembered*

[Laura Kasischke](#)

Thursday, April 5, 2007, 7:30 pm

DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, Houston 77002 (just north of downtown)

fiction writer and author of *Be Mine*, *The Life Before Her Eyes*, *White Bird in a Blizzard* and *Suspicious River*.

Get Involved!

Located in the University Center Underground, the Department of Campus Activities provides leadership and involvement opportunities for students at the University of Houston main campus.

The University of Houston's diverse population ensures that there is a place for everyone, and Campus Activities helps each student find it. Over 300 student organizations are registered with CA, including Greek fraternities and sororities, fee-funded groups, and organizations with hugely varied foci. Full-time advising staff assist groups with development and event coordination, and regular leadership programs offered by the department cultivate skills that will be useful for a lifetime.

Mission

The Department of Campus Activities emphasizes the holistic development of students through cocurricular experiential involvement.

The professional advising staff provides support and resources for a broad range of student organizations.

Location

Department of Campus Activities
51 University Center
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77204-3031

Phone: 713-743-5180
Fax: 713-743-5170
Email: cafrontdesk@uh.edu

Office Hours

M-F 8-8
Activities Advisors On Call
MWF 9-5
TR 1-5

Student Services

The Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES (CSD) office provides accommodations and support services to University of Houston students who have any type of temporary or permanent health impairment, physical limitation, psychiatric disorder, or learning disability. Students are assisted in developing independence and self-reliance so they can function competitively with others in both the college setting and the campus community. CSD staff serve as liaisons between students and faculty, administrators, and outside agencies. Advocacy services are also provided.

Women's Resource Center

- To provide a comfortable place where all faculty, staff, and students can go to seek information on a variety of topics, obtain confidential referrals to appropriate campus and community resources, and discuss issues of concern to them.
- Through partnerships with other UH organizations as well as independently, to educate the UH community on subjects that affect women, and to promote community awareness.
- To identify and research issues that affect UH women; to serve as a liaison between women on campus and the system administration.
- To celebrate the achievements of UH women.

Academic Issues

Fatyn Khawaja ('06) has been named one of two Texas Student Teachers of the Year by the Texas Directors of Field Experiences. She was a student teacher in Galena Park Independent School District during the spring.

Vincent H. Tam, assistant professor of pharmacy, recently received the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) 2006 Young Investigator Award. Tam will present a lecture on his research into infectious diseases and microbial resistance to antimicrobial agents at the 2007 ACCP Spring Research and Practice Forum.

Steven Chiara, intramural supervisor in the Department of Campus Recreation, was named one of six All-American officials at the 2006 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association National Intramural Basketball Championships.

Click [here](#) for a PDF version of this newsletter

