OSCAR HERNANDEZ BECOMES U.S. CITIZEN

Oscar Hernandez of the Grounds Department, along with his wife, took the oath of allegiance during a recent naturalization ceremony in Houston. Oscar has been working toward this goal for many years encouraged by friends at COM. Congratulations to Oscar and his wife on becoming American citizens.

DENISE PARRISH HAS A BANNER YEAR AT UH

Denise Parrish from Purchasing is completing her bachelor’s degree at the University of Houston College of Technology this month and Denise was recently asked to be the Banner Bearer at UH’s upcoming commencement.

The designation recognizes the person with the highest GPA among the graduating students in the College and in her department. One of the duties of the banner bearer is to lead the procession line of her department during the ceremony. Denise will also be recognized at the ceremony. Congratulations, Denise!

IKE RELIEF CUT-A-THON/ FACE-OFF

Congratulations to Jamie Powell for organizing the Cosmetology Department’s Ike Relief Cut-a-Thon/Face-Off. Her efforts, along with the help of the cosmetology students, staff and support of the community raised $150 for the COM Foundation student support fund and $150 for the Ike Gulf Coast Relief Fund.

The winners of the Car Wash are Nunzio Arcidiacono, Maryann Urick and Eileen Scanks. They will have their cars washed by the president and the vice presidents on Friday, Dec. 5.

COM employees have exceeded the United Way goal of $5,500. The total contributions and pledges amount to $6,474 or 118 percent of the goal. If you have not completed your contribution form, do not let this good news stop you. United Way agencies still need as much help as we can give to rebuild and provide services for their clients.

The winner of a $25 gift card to Gringo’s was Gina Castro.

Thank you for your United Way donations!

Photograph by: Arlinda Billington, Nursing Dept. and Wendy Martinez, student

Student Support Services (TRIO) and the Counseling Department showed appreciation to departments who supported the Early Warning System geared to recognize students who may be in danger of failing. They asked for continued assistance to help students in achieving their goals by playing a positive role in their education. Departments received a small gift from Student Support Service Department, SSS (TRIO), Counseling Department and the Upward Bound (TRIO).

Photo: Jeff Oakley displays his awards for district and regional safety engineer of the year. He now competes for national honors.

Sparks Koerner plays the National Anthem at this year’s Veterans Day program. Guest speaker Anna Edwards of the Ohkay Owingeh Tribe (bottom of photo) spoke about Native Americans in Service to Country.
December 2008

President Larry Durrence and the Board of Trustees
invite all College of the Mainland Employees
to a

Holiday Reception
Thursday, December 18, 2008
4 - 6 p.m.
Administration Building Lobby
Donation of “one bag of groceries” per person to the Jesse Tree is greatly appreciated.

SPRING 2009 CREDIT CALENDAR

COLLEGE SPRING 2009 CLOSING DATES
Dec. 20 - Jan. 4 Winter Holidays
Jan. 19 MLK Day
March 16 - 22 Spring Break
April 10 - 12 Spring Holidays
May 25 Memorial Day

COLLEGE SPRING ’09 DATES TO REMEMBER
Jan. 6 Registration fee payment deadline (fees due at time of registration after this date)
March 23 Deadline to submit Graduation Application
April 6 Summer 2009 campus/online registration begins
May 5 Fall 2009 campus/online registration begins
May 15 Commencement Ceremony, Moody Gardens 7:30 p.m.
May 19 Fee Payment deadline for Summer 1 session (fees due at time of registration after this date)

Spring ‘09 16-week Session:
January 16 Last day to register
January 17 Sat. classes begin
January 20 Mon.-Fri. classes begin
February 4 Census date
April 27 “W-Day”
May 9 Last day of Sat. classes
May 15 Last day of Mon.-Fri. classes

Spring ‘09 1st 8-week Session
January 16 Last day to register
January 20 classes begin
January 27 Census date
March 4 “W-Day”
March 13 Last class day

Spring ‘09 2nd 8-week Session
March 13 Last day to register
March 23 classes begin
March 30 Census date
May 6 “W-Day”
May 15 Last class day

Spring ‘09 12-week Session
February 13 Last day to register
February 16 classes begin
February 26 Census date
April 30 “W-Day”
May 15 Last class day

Spring ‘09 Mini Session:
May 15 Last day to register
May 18 classes begin
May 19 Census Day
June 2 “W” Day
June 5 Last day of class

COM STUDENTS AND STAFF HELP GALVESTON CLEAN UP FROM IKE

Biology professor Tracy Orr and College of the Mainland biology and Phi Theta Kappa students helped clean up an eight-block area of Galveston Island on Saturday, Nov. 29 as part of the Great Galveston Garbage Gobble. Orr and other faculty members and COM students have also helped Mainlanders clear out debris from the aftermath of Ike since the hurricane came ashore September 13.

PRINCIPLES TO LIFT BY

Did you know that last year lifting, straining, slipping, tripping and falling were the most frequent types of injury accidents reported on campus? Safety Officer Bill Roy offers this advice on preventing back injury:

1. SIZE UP THE LOAD
   Use a hand truck if possible.
   Get help if you need it.
   Check for exposed sharp objects (nails, staples)
   Make sure you have a clear path to where you are moving the load.

2. LIFT
   Bring the load as close to you as possible.
   Lift with your legs, not your back.
   Keep your head up, your back straight and bend at your hips.

3. MOVE
   Keep the load close to your body.
   Look where you’re going.
   Shift your feet to turn, don’t twist your body.

4. LOWER
   When setting a load down, let your leg muscles carry it down.
   Make certain your fingers and toes are clear before setting the load down.

Make it a habit to follow the above steps when lifting and you’ll improve your chances of being injury free.
Cosmetology students provided monster makeup for the Guitar Ensemble for its Monster Musik concert.

RUBY SUNRISE RISES AGAIN DEC. 4

The Ruby Sunrise resumes performances Thursday, December 4 at the College of the Mainland Community Theatre. The play runs through December 14. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. For ticket information, call ext. 345.

JERRY ANDERSON REJOINS THE NAVY

Our media services director, who retired from the Navy Reserves several years ago, is the father-in-law of a sailor aboard the U.S.S. Pearl Harbor. So when Jerry Anderson heard about a Navy program called Operation Tiger where ships returning from deployment are permitted to embark relatives and guests of crewmembers (“Tigers”), for the final leg of their transit home, he booked passage.

Jerry was able to board the ship in Pearl Harbor and sail with the crew on its final leg to Camp Pendleton in San Diego. The ship was coming back from a six-month deployment to the Middle East.

“I was very fortunate to have this opportunity and meet many of the exceptional young men and women who proudly wear the uniform of our US Armed Forces,” Jerry said. “We came ashore on the beach at Oceanside, CA via LCAC landing craft (Landing Craft Air Cushioned) for a special conclusion to this unique adventure as a Navy Tiger Cruise Member. Reflecting on the experience I realized that this is actually the second time I have celebrated my birthday afloat, on a commissioned ship. My first time was as a crewmember of the Tall ship Elissa of the Texas Navy.”

Jerry is back on dry land in Media Services. Stop by and he will tell you all about this most excellent adventure.
COM VOCAL ARTS GROUP TO PERFORM DEC. 9

The two COM Vocal Arts groups, the Mainland Chorale and the Mainland Singers, under the direction of James Heffel, will present a free Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. December 9 at St. John’s United Methodist Church in Texas City. The show is titled “Christmastime is Here!” and will feature a variety of songs of the season. The public is invited to this free concert.

IKE STORIES SOUGHT BY GALLERY DIRECTOR

Janet Hassinger invites people with hurricane stories to come to the gallery in the Fine Arts Building to be interviewed for an upcoming project. Call Janet at ext. 354 to set up an interview. Janet is also looking for photos from Ike.

GEOLOGY CLUB GARAGE SALE

The Geology Club is sponsoring a big garage sale for Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. until noon in parking Lot A on Amburn Road. This event will be a fundraiser for several clubs. Come do some early Christmas shopping or “donate” one of last year’s gifts.

STEVE SEWELL AND COLLEAGUES PRESENTING AT A&M CONFERENCE

Steve Sewell, Pam Millsap and Michele Betancourt have been invited to make a presentation at the ninth annual Texas A&M University Assessment Conference to be held February 22-24, 2009, at the College Station Hilton. Their presentation is titled, From the Ground Up: Establishing an Integrated Process to Assess All Levels of the General Education Curriculum. Once again, COM is recognized as a leader in education.

DID YOU KNOW?....

COM has an online Classified Ads listing? Employee Classifieds are securely contained inside a Public Folder in Outlook that can be accessed either in the office or over the web. Check it out at Outlook:\Public Folders\All Public Folders\Employee Classifieds. It’s easy to post to and a great resource if you are selling a car, looking for furniture or cleaning out the attic.

How to Read Classifieds

This Public Folder acts just like your Inbox - you can see who posted each item, its subject and its posting date. Because this is a Public Folder, all Outlook users can read the contents of the folder. This Public Folder is available only through Outlook and Outlook Web Access. This Public Folder is not on InfoCentral, not on the COM web site and not accessible to just anyone with Internet access.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

• What activities are you involved with outside of COM? Other than wearing a caped body suit, driving a Batmobile or fighting crime in Gotham City, tell us about any unusual hobbies you have or what you do to unwind on weekends. We just might use it in our After Hours section. We will watch for the Bat signal.

• Please send suggestions for future employee newsletters to marketing @com.edu and put “Newsletter Suggestions” in the subject line.