

# INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - CLEAR LAKE

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*Spiritus Mundi*, by the Spanish sculptor Pablo Serrano

## **SPIRITUS MUNDI, DO WE HAVE IT?**

By Ingeborg Hayes-van Zanten

How are we, University of Houston-Clear Lake, emerging internationally? How are we embracing and integrating the knowledge of international students, faculty and staff in the university environment? Are UHCL students graduating with a worldview? Are the students, faculty and staff creating a planetary thinking — a global story? Are we giving a voice to those left behind? This *Spiritus Mundi*, spirit of this planet, worldview, do we have it?

At the main entrance of the Bayou Building, a fabulous work of art, *Spiritus Mundi*, by the Spanish sculptor Pablo Serrano, emanates the potential world spirit of University of Houston-Clear Lake. The sculpture, consisting of two bronze pieces, was purchased in the seventies when UH-Clear Lake already expressed its international perspective.

A closer look at the art piece reveals hands that are inverted as if those thousands of pounds of the huge Spirit of the World were manually pushed

towards UHCL. Other hands with shells, bones, twigs and various shapes on top of the two parts of the world evoke diverse cultural imprints left by students, faculty and staff from around the world for future generations. These hands, fossils, bones and leaves seem to express "Here in this university, embraced by nature, we feel like as human beings our input counts."

The setting of *Spiritus Mundi* on university grounds with alligators, possums, snakes and bayou radiates respect for an environment that is closely linked with sky and the universe. At the same time that UHCL's integral relationship with NASA links community with the sky and universe beyond, faculty and students explore social, cultural and spiritual linkages with colleagues and peers from around the planet. In the midst of such an environment, Serrano's *Spiritus Mundi* nourishes human reflection and inner harmony as it invites us to connect our large inner world with global

perspectives to enrich our intellectual tradition.

At UHCL, the Office of International Initiatives was formed in 1990 and now in 2004 UHCL pulses with a presence of students, faculty and staff from more than 55 countries, thus contributing to increased possibilities and solutions for a global brain of humanity. *Spiritus Mundi*, we have had it from the very beginning. Embracing this spirit continues to move many toward a future of choice and prosperity, to unfold dreams and beautiful expansions of a world in the making. Every time we integrate cross cultural learning, every time we enroll an international student, every time we encourage study abroad, every time we hire international faculty and staff, every time we connect with the community, every time we give a voice to those who otherwise might be left behind, every time we further international components in the curriculum and in our relationships we say "yes" to the emergence of that *Spiritus Mundi*.



# University of Houston-Clear Lake Evolving *toward a* Worldview

By  
Ingeborg  
Hayes-van  
Zanten

Expanding  
the present  
capacity of  
our collective  
adaptive intelligences  
to deal with the complexity of  
the challenges that confront us  
will require new insights, new  
programs and a new educational  
policy. This concept was explored  
and researched at significant depth in

the 1960s, 70s, and 80s by the late Dr. Clare W. Graves (Union College, New York) who created a model to measure and monitor human capacities and adaptive intelligences, including that of individuals and cultures. This comprehensive, academic research project resulted in what is now called Spiral Dynamics — the charting of thought structures, life priorities and the design of systems across many domains. Spiral Dynamics is the creation of Dr. Don Beck, who will be the featured speaker for International Education Week at UH-Clear Lake. Dr. Beck has worked directly with Professor Graves since 1975 in the extensions and field-testing of this conceptual framework.

How does UH-Clear Lake plan to switch gears internationally? How can we create a tipping point in international education that could increase and engage the interdependence of scholars and students around the globe? How can UH-Clear Lake respond to the new challenges in the global marketplace? What is UHCL's international consciousness level and where and how could we apply this concept of Spiral Dynamics to UHCL's international present and future? To begin to answer these questions, the Office of International Initiatives researched four different areas: 1) the functions of the Office of International Initiatives, 2) the degrees of international learning of UHCL students compared to other universities, 3) how UHCL is viewed in the community, nation and the world, and 4) UHCL's internal culture of international relationships, boundaries and worldviews.

Listening to Dr. Graves, we will only embark on new challenges when our own problems of existence become more pressing, and our current educational "wineskins" are unable to contain

the "new wine" that are represented in potential students. This "need" could be created by changing enrollment patterns, a change in the international environment on campus, changes in government regulations, demand by students to expand study abroad opportunities, international research, or changes in corporate requirements of international learning of new hires. Of course there are more factors that could create a need for international change.

UHCL has invited Dr. Beck, internationally renowned president and CEO of Spiral Dynamics, to be the featured speaker for the International Faculty and Staff Award luncheon program in November 2004. As a highlight of UHCL's International Education Week, sponsored by the Office of the President and Office of International Initiatives, Dr. Beck will conduct a daylong executive seminar.

**Dr. Beck** has worked for over thirty years with such entities as Prime Minister Tony Blair's policy unit, former president Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, the World Bank, airlines, energy companies and various government agencies. His clients have included Southwestern Bell, Amoco, Conoco, the New Orleans Saints (with Coach Bum Phillips) and a host of other organizations. He specializes in large-scale interventions, change and transformation. In May, 2004 he launched the Copenhagen Center for Human Emergence to focus on problems associated with globalization and terrorism. Dr. Beck made 63 trips to South Africa from 1981 until 2003 to play a major role in the transformation out of apartheid. He taught at the University of North Texas in Denton for two years before resigning to work in South Africa. He was invited to work with President Vicente Fox's cabinet and administration in Mexico City; has designed Future of Germany and Future of the Netherlands summits; and will focus on the future of Brazil in a project with the Chamber of Commerce in Sao Paulo in August.

His executive workshop will consist of multimedia presentations, assessment systems, case-studies, and practical "natural design" activities, all focused on the opportunities that face UH-Clear Lake. You can read about his work at [www.spiraldynamics.net](http://www.spiraldynamics.net), [www.globalvaluesnetwork.com](http://www.globalvaluesnetwork.com) and [www.coche.dk](http://www.coche.dk). He is a close associate of Ken Wilber and the entire Integral movement, located in Boulder. He is on the faculty of the Adizes Graduate School in Santa Barbara.

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# UHCL *in...*

## Turkey and the Netherlands

Spring 2004, Kevin McNamara, associate professor of humanities, gave the keynote address and a plenary lecture in Izmir, Turkey, at Ege University's annual Cultural Studies Symposium. The trip was underwritten by the U.S. Department of State's Office of International Information Programs and co-sponsored by the U. S. Information Services.

In addition, his essay *Southern California In and Out of History* was published in the Netherlands as part of the collection, *Dreams of Paradise, Visions of Apocalypse: Utopia and Dystopia in American Culture*, edited by Jaap Verheul and published by the Free University.

## Mexico

Kelly Rogers studied at the University of Veracruz, Xalapa during the 2004 academic year.



Kelly Rogers (right) and her colleague, Myra (left), a dance student at the opening of Kelly's art exhibition

## Mexico and Slovakia

For the fall semester 2004, UHCL will have two visiting foreign exchange students. One is from Slovakia, Peter Mikulak, and the other is from Mexico, Roberto Gonzales Lozano. Peter is in transportation design and Roberto is a printmaker.

The visual arts program has invited Prof. David Carsky from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia as Artist-in-Residence for April 2005. David is a painter/printmaker and the former vice rector for foreign affairs at the academy.

## Vietnam

During the last week of July, Dr. Ted Cummings, dean of business and public administration, Dr. H. Van Tran, professor of management information systems, and Jerry Rhodeback executive director international initiatives visited the Hanoi University of Technology (HUT) and Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh (VNU-HCM) as part of the semi-annual program review with these collaborating universities in Vietnam, a linking that began with a first exploratory visit in 1999. During the visit, Dr. Cummings was the keynote speaker at VNU-HCM's annual opening ceremony and was noted both in Vietnam's newspapers and on national TV. Dr. Tran and Mr. Rhodeback also conducted annual compliance reviews at both institutions.

"The Vietnam linkage has been an important event for UHCL in the development of our international environment on campus," notes Rhodeback. "Back in 1999, UHCL had two students enrolled from Vietnam. This fall, UHCL will enroll approximately 120, with our first five arriving from HUT. This has been a win-win proposition for all involved. Over the past four and a half years we have enjoyed unprecedented support from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. consulates, and the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), all aimed at opening doors between our two countries."

More good news from this trip included meetings with the National Electric Company of Vietnam who will be sending approximately fifteen students a year through the HUT collaboration, a commitment from MOET to fully sponsor five to seven students a year, and receiving expressed intentions that both HUT and VNU-HCM will continue program expansion with UHCL. Capping off the kudos was news that two students in the HUT program are in the finals of a three round scholarship competition for the coveted Vietnam Education Foundation scholarship, an award previously restricted to only the top twenty universities in the United States.



Peter Mikulak, Roberto Gonzales and Sandria Hu

# Alphabet Soup Trade Agreements?

## Who *can make sense out of the*

By: Ingeborg Hayes-van Zanten

NAFTA, CAFTA, AGAO are just a few of the increasing acronyms floating around in the economic political world of agreements, affecting each one of us.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement also known as CAFTA is a proposal Congress is likely to vote on this year. CAFTA is about the economic engagement of the United States and the five Central American nations Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The CAFTA agreement promotes deregulation of key public services, much as we have seen in the United States where, for example, the electrical power privatization in California caused many companies to close down or to move. It will also introduce subsidized corn, which will put small farmers out of business in these countries and replace them with subsidized mass production of genetically modified crops.

Where does CAFTA fit in the chain of the other agreements and acronyms?

Before CAFTA there was NAFTA, The North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA linked to the World Trade Organization now is reviewing the Free Trade of the Americas Agreement (FTAA), a negotiation by 34 countries of the Americas including Canada, thus ruling agriculture, investments, environment and most ingredients for life in the western hemisphere.

Where international trade and investment activities could advance the common good and be evaluated in the light of their impact on those who are most vulnerable (principles developed by the Interfaith Statement on International Trade and Investment) reports by Human Rights Watch found workers in El Salvador working in export processing factories denied overtime pay and deprived of social security contributions. Local laws governing overtime and working conditions are very difficult to implement. The countries lack sufficient infrastructure to assure that they will be in compliance. The movement of capital is swift and many people fear losing their jobs if they complain, or seek higher wages and conditions

The ever growing puzzle would not be complete without AGOA, The African Growth and Opportunity Act to promote U.S. corporations to have access to the economics and natural resources of Africa.

What are the track records of agreements like NAFTA and the impact on agriculture, democracy and jobs for the countries involved? How can the public in the United States and in the countries involved be part of these processes that are affecting our daily lives be it health care, freedom, job security or voicing a vote in the ways of these economic powerhouses? International trade agreements have dire

consequences for all on this planet. Let's get them understood; let's write the stories, so together we may discover and integrate new patterns for planetary change with mutual respect and leaving no culture behind. Could universities lead the way in economic thinking and systems that honors humans wherever they are? Could universities with the minds they attract from around the globe create a sustainable economic model that is open, honors and includes each person emergence on this planet? What an opportunity!

## State of Texas Fair Schedule Fall 2004

Study abroad fairs will be held throughout Texas this fall. Many fairs are by invitation only.

### September

7	Tuesday	University of Texas at San Antonio	San Antonio
8	Wednesday	University of Texas at Austin	Austin
27	Monday	open	
29	Wednesday	open	
30	Thursday	University of Texas at Dallas Austin College	Dallas Sherman
1	Friday	Texas Tech (tentative)	Lubbock

### October

4	Monday (AM)	Trinity University	San Antonio
	Monday (PM)	Our Lady of the Lake	San Antonio
5	Tuesday	Southwestern University	Georgetown
6	Wednesday	Texas Lutheran St. Edwards University	Seguin Austin
		Incarname Word University	San Antonio
		University of Texas at Arlington	Arlington
7	Thursday	Texas State (fka: SWTX)	San Marcos
8	Friday	Stephen F. Austin	Nacogdoches
11	Monday	open	
12	Tuesday	University of Houston	Houston
13	Wednesday	University of North Texas	Arlington
14	Thursday	Texas A & M University	College Station
15	Friday	Rice University	Houston

### Locations with no fairs:

University of Texas at Brownsville	Brownsville
St. Mary's University	San Antonio

Compiled by Heather Thompson at UT Austin Updated: August 4, 2004

[www.educationabroadfairs.info](http://www.educationabroadfairs.info)

# UHCL *in...*

## Houston's Central American community

Interested in communicating with people from Central America? UHCL's cultural immersion program on April 23 did just that when sixty UHCL faculty, staff, administration and community guests focused on friendship with our Central American neighbors: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Adopting a Mayan name for the day and greeted in the Mayan Kekchi language with "Ma Sa Sa La Chol" (How are you in your heart?) each participant had the opportunity to communicate with experts of the region. These included Maya elders, consular officials from Guatemala and El Salvador, the Rev. Gerry Kelly, and Michelle Hollaender from HELPS International. UHCL students Orlando Martinez from Belize and Oswaldo Cancinos from Guatemala each presented Mayan stories about their country. Casa Juan Diego opened its doors for the afternoon program in the Houston community.

The movie "El Norte," recommended in preparation of the immersion, depicts the life of people ending up at a place like Casa Juan Diego. Mark and Louise Zwick serve immigrants and refugees founded Casa Juan Diego in 1980. "The biggest secret of Casa Juan Diego is that everyone who works here works without a salary. This includes the clinic with physicians, dentist and students from different universities. Casa Juan Diego is completely supported by the community," says Zwick.

While groups interacted with people from Central America, they pondered what challenged them in what they saw and heard during the immersion. A Mayan group from the mountain region Totonacapan visited the program and spoke in their local language, Quiche. Mam and Quiche are two of the more than 22 different Mayan languages.

In preparation for the immersion the Vice Consul Beatriz Fontana-Schiozzi and Benito Juarez from the Office of the Mayor of Houston stepped out in assistance and networking for the event. Guatemala is a country of immense beauty and which people experienced deep terror during the war in the eighties. Fontana shared Guatemalan history and the legend of their national bird "the Quetzal." Vice Consul Ana Silvia Gallo from El Salvador painted a picture of history and identity of her country



*Vice Consul Beatriz Fontana-Schiozzi and Benito Juarez from the Office of the Mayor of Houston*

The Maya are common throughout Central America and known for their ancient knowledge of science, architecture, math, spirituality and deep relationship with the earth and the cosmos. Felipe and Elena Ixcot, fluent in three languages, Mam, Spanish and English represented the Maya. The Ixcots visit universities throughout the United States educating and building bridges. In

Guatemala, they established a hospital built by the Mayan people. It includes a learning center for midwives.

"We are all immigrants," repeated Felipe while Elena prepared a Mayan altar for an experiential dawn earth ceremony. Honoring the four directions, each participant added a handful of cornmeal to the fire built on the footsteps of the Bayou Building at UHCL. During the ceremony a hawk landed on top of the building voicing its presence and curiosity while looking down on this extraordinary event. Sharing her prayer of deep gratitude and request for forgiveness of pollution and wars, Elena speaks to the Heart of the Sun and the Heart of the Earth.

"The Mayan culture is not a souvenir or folklore, it is a sacred culture – the essence of our life" says Felipe and Elena adds, "Our education protects the life of the environment. No one can live without water, the earth, the sun, the clouds, the rain. I am so sad when I hear people say, I hate the rain or I hate the heat, yet we continue to be blessed by these even when we speak against it."

The blessing ceremony — celebrating immigrants and earth day — revealed just a sparkle of their cosmic knowledge and harmony.

The Rev. Gerry Kelly, Maryknoll missionary took a critical look at the implications of the Central American Foreign Trade Agreement to the people of that region. "The Central American Free Trade Agreement that is in the process of being sent to Congress for a vote is based on a fundamentally flawed model of trade and investment, one that punishes workers, the poor, and the environment. It would be difficult to modify or improve it. We fear that this agreement would destroy the agricultural sector in Central America. It would still include Chapter 11 provisions that give power to corporations to sue states for loss of potential profit. It would still consolidate an unsustainable model of development that punishes small-scale, local businesses and producers."

Yet, what is a cultural immersion without food and music of that region? It is important to begin the day in the way people of that region do. Maria, a Maya from Guatemala, served a typical Guatemalan breakfast of tamales de papa, platanos, arroz con leche, and atoll de elote from their Quetzal Bakery. Twenty years ago arriving in the United States, Maria Chanaz Ordonez and her husband began working at Randalls, a grocery chain. She now owns three Quetzal bakeries in Houston. Maria maintains strong ties with the people in San Cristobal, Guatemala. "Becoming Legal," a UH-faculty written book, describes the Guatemalan community from San Cristobal living in Houston. A superb Central American lunch, catered by La Pueblito Place in Houston, while dining with house guests of Casa Juan Diego.

An education abroad program is offered through HELPS International, a 501C3 nonprofit and registered as a legal

*Continued on Page 8*

*"Ma Sa Sa La Chol"  
(How are you in your heart)*

# International Cultural Immersion Central America Honors <sup>The</sup> Mayan Culture

Photos courtesy of Debra Rueb



Rev. Kelly, (in black shirt) Exec. Dir. of Maryknoll in conversation with Harry Stenvall (both seated)



Executive Director Jerry Rhodeback and President William A. Staples



Eduardo Lopez owner of El Pueblito, catered the lunch



UHCL student Orlando Martinez



Elena and Felipe Ixcot in ceremonial



El Quetzal Bakery catered a Guatemalan breakfast Group from Tonicapán, Guatemala receive an award



Michelle Hollaender, HELPS International



Dr. Carlos Monsanto, Marimba expert

Participants do a dance of thanksgiving as part of the Mayan earth/immigrant ceremony





Mark and Louise Zwick tell participants about Casa Juan Diego



Celebration of the four virtues



Elena Ixcot



UHCL Student Oswaldo Cancinos



Vice Consul Guatemala Beatriz Fontana



Mayan mathematical astronomy scroll from the 16th century



Recognition of Vice Consul El Salvador Silvia Gallo

prayer



The Ixcots receive a thanksgiving from UHCL



Mayan group share a lunch blessing in three Mayan dialects

Participants receive a blessing with flowers



Typical Guatemalan ware for sale



NGO in Guatemala. HELPS has been working in Guatemala as a development organization for the past 25 years. Through volunteer efforts of surgeons, doctors, dentists, construction experts and teachers as well as a staff in Guatemala, the organization is dedicated to assisting the people of Guatemala and Latin America. HELPS home office is in Dallas. "We are determined to break the cycle of poverty and offer medical outreach, education and economic development. Our "top down" and "bottom up" approach focus has a goal of including 14,0000 villages for sponsorship, while implementing respect for culture and language of the people," says Michelle Hollaender, public relations.

Don O'Neal, a graduate of Texas A&M University, designed a "state of the art" wood-cooking stove. Because the stove has a chimney, indoor air quality is much improved which reduces respiratory impairment, the leading cause of death for children in Guatemala. It provides burn prevention and has a positive environmental impact. Hollaender brought superb Guatemalan coffee. The sale of the coffee assists in economic development.

The delicate and festive music of the Marimba acquainted participants with that music. Dr. Monsanto, born in Guatemala and director of international programs at the University of Houston, created a true Central American atmosphere with his songs and expertise of the Alma/Soul of the Marimba. With a passionate presentation, all in Spanish, he requested a minute of silence in honor of the first Guatemalan soldier who died in Iraq. He accompanied the reflection by a fitting piece of music on the Marimba.

The international cultural immersion received glowing remarks from participants and presenters. The conversations with people from Central America could encourage study abroad, enhance understanding of students from the region in the classroom and increase cultural empathy and curiosity.

For further information on HELPS international and the Ixcots, visit their Web site at [www.helpsintl.org](http://www.helpsintl.org). To view the Web site of the International Mayan League, choose [www.rovers.net](http://www.rovers.net)

## **A message from the International Mayan League** by *Elene Ixcot*

Mayan culture, the Mayan cosmo vision and the respect that exists between Mother Nature, humanity is a delicate balance between all living things. Today people are worried and alarmed by all of the natural disasters that are devastating the world. On the news, we hear more and more about natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, droughts and floods destroying entire communities and killing people in its wake. People are looking for explanation to these natural disasters and especially how it will affect the future of the planet and humanity. In some cases, people are going as far as to believe that the end of the world is coming and even offering heaven as a reward for those who are willing to repent for their sins.

There are many ways of looking at these natural phenomena. Some people look to technology to try to explain and prevent these evils. But they nor others will be able to explain these natural disasters if they do not take the time to study the ancient life of those who originally inhabited these lands and compare their way of life with that of today. I look at the things we have learned from these early civilizations, especially the Mayans.

In the Mayan thought, we are taught at a very young age to live in union with nature and the cosmos. Our history tells us that we were created from corn and that we are people of corn. From white and yellow corn our ancestors were created. It is said four animals: the bobcat, the coyote, the crow and the parrot showed our ancestors where this corn was kept; this place was called Paxil and Cayal. Our sacred book the Pop Wuj, states that for the corn to exist, it needed Grandmother Earth, Grandfather Sky and Grandmother Moon, the stars, the wind and the rain and clouds; elements which are crucial to all living things.

But many ask, well, what does this have to do with what is happening in the world. This is where we find some of these explanations and perhaps, help for the future of the cosmos and Mother Nature to detain these natural phenomena.

The philosophical thoughts of our grandparents have many times been ignored and rejected. Often it has been called pagan, superstitious and witchery, as a way to discredit and put European thought in the front page of many anthropological and archeological books.

We are not saying that the life of our grandparents was the best because they were practicing a way of life in accordance with their time, but we cannot compare it with this life today; the special era or modern life.

From the beginning of our civilization, which dates back more than 100 centuries ago, our grandparents structured a balanced life between humanity and nature. Every boy and girl born was connected to nature and the cosmos. The child was taken to the community elder, expert in reading the Maya calendar, so that the parent's would know the spirit protector of the child. This reading served to mark the future of the baby. Every day is important in the calendar of our ancestors. Each day is marked with something special, negative or positive. For example, there is a special day for those who belong to the fauna and flora, animal kingdom, and the mineral kingdom. Therefore, the calendar was used to determine which day belonged to the child. Lets say that the day was marking the day of the pine tree. This meant that when the child grows up, he or she has the task of taking care of the pine trees because the tree is his/ her spirit protector; in this way many pine trees are protected. The same goes for the rabbit, many rabbits are protected and the same applies for the water. This way everyone had the task to keep the water, the trees, the animals, and the cosmos clean.

But what happened with the arrival of the Europeans to these lands? Everything changed. A foreign culture was imposed on us. The Catholic Bishop Diego de Landa burned our sacred and scientific books in 1560.

Furthermore, the elders and guides of our people were hung and burned alive, and the survivors were enslaved. The land that was

### *Mayan Message Continued*

of communal service became private property of the Spaniard descendants. The invaders profaned the ceremonial centers.

The scientific studies done to protect the cosmos, nature and the earth were cut short. The new people from Europe began to implement a new way of living that was foreign to our way of living and doing things. They began to cut down trees, kill the animals, and contaminate the air and rivers. In the process, the delicate balance between humans, the natural environment and all living things was lost.

Based on research done by our ancestors, there are certain cosmic changes that take place in space more or less every twenty-five thousand years. These changes take place five times within the cosmic cycle of 5,126 years. During these changes, the magnetic field of Father Sun changes direction and it affects the circular motion of Mother Earth. Because of this, floods, storms, fires, earthquakes and hurricanes take place. However, our ancestors knew ways of calming Mother Earth so that she would not suffer because of these cosmic changes. Their method was keeping the water, air and earth clean. Our ancestors believed that if the sun and earth were in crises or suffering, humans should not worsen the situation. On the contrary, it is our responsibility, they would say, as part of that delicate balance to help and maintain that equilibrium so that there would be fewer natural disasters. Along with keeping the earth clean, our ancestors held ceremonies to the creators and makers by fasting, burning incense, and dancing.

Their way of thinking and visualizing the existence of the universe is different from what we see today. You are all witnesses as to what the "civilized" world is doing in the world especially in promoting wars, in which bombs are used. Guatemala, for example, is one of these countries that experienced 36 years of war. In the highlands of the country, Napalm bombs were thrown which sterilized many acres of land, burnt many mountains, contaminated many rivers and killed off many animals. This was an attack that was not only directed at human lives but also at all living things.

It is unthinkable that humans are attacking the very bases of their existence. Many of us believe that the earth does not feel any thing and that it is not alive. If this is the case, where do the fruits, vegetables and the grains that we consume come from? Even cars and machines run with the blood of the earth in the form of petroleum.

If we include tons of rubber tires, and plastics burned, and oil spills in the ocean, this has contributed to the contamination of the earth, the water, and the cosmos. This did not exist in the times of our ancestors. But let us not go way back. For example thirty years ago, when we were younger, in our town we did not know plastic bags, because everything that was sold in the market was wrapped in banana leaves, sugar, salt, meat, soap, coffee, rice, beans, chili, etc. Everything was wrapped in a leave called maxan. When the mother arrived home from the market, she used the leaves to cook tamales by wrapping corn dough in the leaves and steam it or give the leaves to the horses to eat. Therefore, nothing was left to dirty the earth, much less to contaminate. But when we went to Guatemala to visit in March and April of 1999, we had a tremendous surprise. We saw mountains of trash in the outskirts of town, and the majority of the trash was plastic. We thought it was only in our town but it was the same in the neighboring towns.

We saw how the contamination is having a negative effect on the lives of the people, especially on the lives of the children. The children are fragile and are easily exposed to all kinds of diseases. When the sun gets hot, it evaporate the contents of the bags and mosquitoes carry germs from the garbage into the homes. The mountains of garbage cause many children die from diarrhea, cholera, fever and many other diseases.

All of this is called, "modern life," the new era of technological advances. But the thought of the first habitants of these lands are categorized as a life that is backwards and old. Nevertheless, our ancestors breathed pure air, drank clean water, and ate healthy food. Not like you hear and read in the newspapers that the Japanese have started selling pure air in Mexico. Water has been sold for many years. Now we only have to wait for someone to sell us the sun and moon.

In the times of our ancestors, the guides educated the community to take care of everything around them. They said, everything that happens to Mother Earth, the same will happen to the children of the earth.

That is why in the Mayan vision; the prediction of the apocalypse does not exist. The future of our existence is connected to the care of the environment. That is why it is important to go to the past to understand the present. Those who do not want to go to the past will not have a future because the present that we live in does not offer much for what is to come. It is the present that cut the development of one of the biggest civilizations, of men and women who were scientists. The West brought the present that we live in.

You will notice all the disasters that we are suffering, happenings of the present brought to us 500 years ago. The humans of today will have the last word, will we continue with the present or will we fight together to save the air, the rivers, the earth, and the trees so as not to hurry the cycle of the cosmos with the contaminations.

This is what is happening with the universe and the world. The sun for the Mayas is like the cosmic head that goes around guiding the astrals that is why they used it in the ball game. When the ball is in action it means the cosmos in constant movement, at the same time it means the movement of the world around the sun. Therefore, all that exists in the world and in the cosmos moves, including humans. The human brain, the heart and all parts of the human body move. This is the greatness of the cosmos the world and life. If there were no movement, there would be no evolution, the world and the cosmos would be paralyzed and humans would not have evolution in life. This is what we have learned from our ancestors.

*Translation by: Alicia and Marta Ixcot*



## Shenzhen *Fastest* Changing City *in* China

Strengthening our links with China through faculty and student exchanges

Two million people with an average age of 28 and highly fashioned are creating a high-speed growth and change in Shenzhen, China. Situated in the southern coastal area of Guangdong province Shenzhen is located just 35 kilometers from Hong Kong. Shenzhen is one of the sixteen Sister Cities of Houston and has strong ties with the Houston community.

In July, Ms. Wang Yue, Deputy Chief of Shenzhen Copyright Bureau elaborated in Houston on Guangdong's provincial efforts to eliminate intellectual property rights violations. Ms. Yue was invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State and toured various cities in the U.S. Houston-Shenzhen Sister City, the Asian American Bar Association, US-China Lawyers' Association and Chinese Association of Professionals in Science and Technology sponsored the Houston event.

Shenzhen and Houston, are engaged in amazing opportunities to each learn about education and business. Chinese leaders in Houston offer business, history and culture focused trips to China. Expanding collaborations are in the planning with community colleges and universities. Ms. Nancy Li, vice president of Easton Resource Development Inc. in Houston, has a wealth of connections with education, the government and the petrochemical industry in China. She could assist UH-Clear Lake to deepen our scholarly exchanges with China. Li also has a strong association with the chairman of Shenzhen, Mr. Dan Nipp. Nipp a long standing leader of behalf the Shenzhen Sister Association in the Houston community is eager to strengthen scholarly links and exchanges for faculty and students with Shenzhen University.

## UHCL Research Relationship with Alumna *from* Mexico

"We are what we eat, I'm cheap, fast and easy" reads a slogan on a bumper sticker. For the sake of longevity with quality of life, it might be thoughtful to dig a little deeper. Regular intake of berries could help keep the brain sharper later in life because of their antioxidant action. This intriguing research project on diet, nutrition and the nervous system has encouraging findings about blueberries having the potential to improve memory and delay the neurochemical aging processing in the brain.

Ms. Pilar Goiyaru, UHCL graduate in psychology, performed most of her doctoral research project on antioxidant (blueberry-enriched) diets and brain aging at the UHCL laboratory. The research on blueberry supplemented diet and its effects on object recognition memory and nuclear factor-kappa B levels in aged rats are published in Nutritional Neuroscience coauthored with Dr. Malin and a number of UHCL students and graduates. The international flavor of the product includes co-authors Dr. Frances Lau, UHCL alumnus in computer science born in Hong Kong and Dr. Tagliatela from UTMB, born in Italy.

Dr. David Malin, professor of psychology and neuroscience, and Ms. Pilar Goiyaru formed a research relationship before she started her doctoral program at the National Autonomous University (NAU) of Mexico. Casting for a dissertation topic involving memory, Dr. Malin suggested the effect of blueberries on age related memory failure. Since UHCL's laboratory was set up to do so and Goiyaru had the necessary research skills and academic background, the investigation began three years ago. Dr. Selene Cansino at NAU provided helpful guidance on the project.

Malin serves on the doctoral committee of Pilar Goyaru, a Ph.D. in neuroscience "I find it very interesting to observe both the similarities and difference between doctoral programs in Mexico and the United States" The dissertation is written both in Spanish and English.

## Houston Community College *and* UHCL

The Houston Community College System's global studies programs has completed its inaugural year.

"The program requires completion of a 15-hour interdisciplinary academic certificate and provides for participation in HCCS sponsored enrichment activities including speakers and cultural presentations, and affords access to external speakers, exhibits, and presentations. For faculty and staff, the program makes available the same enrichment possibilities with additional encouragement for faculty to engage in the development of new courses, incorporate new

materials in existing courses, and take part in professional development opportunities."

Included in the foundation courses are Global Issues and Social Change, Economic Geography, Cross-Cultural Psychology, Environmental Science and a choice of foreign languages.

Dr. Peter Bishop, UHCL's master's program, studies of the future and Ingeborg Hayes, International and Cultural Program Director, are members on the HCCS Global Studies Advisory Board.

# Internationally & culturally-conscious

movies/reading/music for educators

## Movies/Videos

### "What the Bleep do We Know"

A quantum fable. Dramatic story and interviews with leading scientist and mystics. Not available in stores for locations check [www.whatthebleep.com](http://www.whatthebleep.com).

### "Girl with a Pearl Earring"

American film, filmed in the Netherlands and Belgium. Historical novel brought to the screen depicting the friendship and understanding between the Dutch painter Vermeer, his perceptive model and his manipulative patron. (Subtitled)

### "Mondays in the Sun"

Spanish film. Drama about the lives and relationships of a number of workers in a shipbuilding community who have lost their jobs due to a combination of modernization and their own strikes. (Subtitled)

### "Lagaan"

Once upon a time in India, 1893, Indian villagers under British rule try to avoid paying taxes.

### "Not One Less"

Chinese film. Young girl from the city is sent by the government to be the teacher of a "one room school house" in rural China. (Subtitled)

### "Nowhere in Africa"

Internationally funded film. Drama depicting the life of a Jewish family who has fled Nazi Germany to create a new life in Africa. (Subtitled)

### "My House in Umbria"

Italian-English film. Drama about the relationships among a group of victims of terrorism in Europe. (Subtitled)

### "Rabbit Proof Fence"

Filmed in Australia; Australia's "Stolen Generations" aboriginal children and government policy.

### "The Way Home"

Korean film. Young boy from the city is sent by his destitute mother to be raised in a rural environment by his deaf grandmother. (Subtitled)

### "Derrida"

Documentary about the French, Algerian born philosopher.

### "Skins"

Filmed on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

### "Leap into the Future: Leadership for the 21st Century"

With Dr. Don Beck and Andrew Cohen (Video and DVD available at [www.wie.org/leap25](http://www.wie.org/leap25))

Movies and videos are available from Blockbuster.com, Amazon.com and local video stores unless noted differently.

## Nonfiction Books

### "Arctic Dreams" by Barry Lopez

Imagination and desire in a northern landscape

### "Among Believers" by V.S. Naipaul An Islamic Journey

"Ark of the Broken Covenant: Protecting the World's Biodiversity Hotspots" by John Charles Kunich

### "Business 2010 Trends and Technologies to Shape Our World" by Ian Pearson and Michael Lyons

"Clash of Fundamentalism" by Tariq Ali  
Crusades, Jihads and Modernity Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism and New Forms of Colonialism

### "Executive in Passage" by Donald Marrs

Career in Crisis — The Door to Uncommon Fulfillment

"Genesis of the Cosmos" by Paul A. LaViolette, Ph.D. The Ancient Science of Continuous Creation

### "Global Brain" by Howard Bloom

The Evolution of Mass Mind from the Big Bang to the 21st Century

"Out of the Blue" by John Petersen How to Anticipate Wild Cards and Big Future Surprises

### "A Nation of Immigrants" by John F. Kennedy

A book for anyone who wants to understand the soul of America's perceptions and practices of democracy. It should be considered both for what it includes and for what it omits.

"The End of Internationalism or World Governance?" by J. Ostrom Moller

"The Field: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe" by Lynn McTaggart

"The Future Just Happened", by Michael Lewis  
A "fun" book that describes the democratizing influence of the Internet upon fields as diverse as law and finance.

### "The World in 2020" by Hamish McRae

Perhaps Europe's most respected futurist discusses 21st century global issues of politics, economics, technology, demography and the environment.

### "Promise Ahead" by Duane Elgin

A vision of Hope and Action for Humanity's Future

"The Guide to Successful Short-Term Programs Abroad" by NAFSA at [www.nafsa.org/theguide](http://www.nafsa.org/theguide)

### "The Inner Journey Home" by A.H. Almaas

"The Living Company" by Arie de Geus  
Organizations as living entities, system dynamics, the process of decision making and commitment to develop all individuals.

### "The theory of Everything" by Ken Wilber

An integral Vision for Business, Politics, Science and Spirituality

"To America" by Stephen E. Ambrose  
Personal reflections of a historian

### "To See and See Again" by Tara Bahrapour

A life in Iran and America. A memoir written by a woman whose mother is an Anglo from the United States and whose father is Iranian

"Spiral Dynamics" by Dr. Don Edward Beck and Christopher C. Cowan Mastering Values, Leadership and Change (Developmental Management)

### "What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response" by Bernard Lewis

Astute observations by perhaps the world's most respected scholar of interactions among the Middle East, Islam and the Western World.

"Where God Lives: The Science of the Paranormal and How Our Brains are Linked to the Universe" by Melvin Morse, M.D. with Paul Berry

Working with children who have had near-death experiences, Morse and Perry have a scientific approach to understanding our relationship with God by focusing on the brain's right temporal lobe.

"Sacred Fireplace: Life and Teachings of a Lakota Medicine Man" by Pete S. Catches Sr. Edited by Peter V. Catches.

"Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight" by Alexander Fuller. An African childhood

### "Honeymoon in Purdah" by Alison Wearing

The author, a journalist, and a male friend pose as a married couple in order to travel throughout Iran

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## Magazines

"International Journal of Islamic and Arabic Studies and Periodica Islamica" Dr. Munawar Anees, Pakistani-American writer

"?What is Enlightenment" founder Andrew Cohen

"Paste" Signs of life in music and culture

"Spirituality and Reality" The SGA Journal/Our Global Future

"ODE" The magazine to change y(our) world.

## International Publication of UHCL

Bell, L.G., Dendo, H., Nakata, Y., Bell, D.C., Munakata, T., and Nakamura, S. (2004). The Experience of Family Japan and the United States: Working with the constraints inherent in cross-cultural research. *Journal of Comparative Family studies*, 35 351-373.

Vivian Atwater, Pierre Michel Alix in *The Dictionary of Art*, Jane Turner, ed., 37 vols. London and New York: Macmillan Publishers and Grove's Dictionaries, 1996, I, p. 645.

Vivian Lee Atwater, Les Graveurs et la vogue néerlandaise dans le Paris du XVIIIe siècle: Le Bas, Teniers et l'idéalisation de la vie paysanne, *Nouvelles de l'Estampe*, nos. 142-143 (October 1995) 3-12 [lead article].

Vivian Lee Atwater, Les Graveurs et la vogue néerlandaise dans le Paris du XVIIIe siècle: I. La Revanche des Magots: Moyreau et la sentimentalisation de l'expérience militaire, *Nouvelles de l'Estampe*, no. 141 (July 1995), 3-10 [lead article].

Sharon Hall, Parental functioning and preschool outcomes: A multivariate analysis of a maltreating and a control group." *Irish Journal of Children and Youth Service Review*, Elsevier, Shannon, Ireland.

Caroline Crawford, Nonlinear instructional design model: Eternal, synergistic design and development. *British Journal of Educational Technology* [35(4)].

Goyarzu, P., Malin, D.H., Lau, F.C., Tagliatalata, G., Moon, W.D., Jennings, R., Moy, E., Moy, D., Lippold, S., Shukitt-Hale, B., Joseph, J.A. Blueberry supplemented diet: effects on object recognition memory and nuclear factor-kappa B levels in aged rats. *Nutritional Neuroscience* 7: 75-83, 2004.

Christine Kovic and Christine Eber, "Women of Chiapas" Routledge 2003

UHCL contributors Raj Chhikara, Ingeborg Hayes, Jeff Lash, Charles McKay, and Laurie Weaver We welcome your suggestions. Please contact the Office of International Initiatives, 281-283-2531.

# Editorial: Weaving the web of "Oneness"

Editorial by Ingeborg Hayes-van Zanten

Last month a yellow spider made its home in front of my kitchen window. I daily observed the spider and the happenings to the web. It wasn't long thereafter that the huge intricate web with the 2-1/2 inch spider in the middle was surrounded by at least fifteen little spiders, and one, after mating, ate them all. I learned that millions of spiders are migrating at 30,000 feet all over this planet, simply drifting on the right winds.

The spiders reminded me of the economic web of "oneness" the world is spinning. While spreading western ways of economics throughout the world we also pass on our present relationship with mother earth and self-esteem based on material possessions. Yet, how can we grow together and express an integral intelligence that advances our entire planet?

Do universities promote ethical economics? Should they? Are students being prepared to be at ease in the often-chaotic challenges of international business? Do we teach population biology — the variations between populations — adaptation of organism — consequences of change, social commitment and foreign language as part of the international evolution taking place?

Sebastiao Salgado, a famous photographer from Brazil, documents the global human migrations in pursuit of jobs. Salgado relates the poverty of the world with the structure of the environment and the population growth. He recommends rather than gift giving that we could get involved, discussing and figuring out what's really going on and why people are in need. "We do not protect our own environment and we have destroyed the forest in most of the tropical countries. In Brazil, for instance, by deforestation, by cutting and exporting wood, by the cattle ranches, by exploiting the mines, we are killing the forest, which is the Indian civilization, and the Indians are dying."

Does the western way of democracy include decision making by the low-income classes? Is it important to keep cultures alive? I look at one of our neighbors, Guatemala, and know that the income of the mostly indigenous workers has not risen over 20 years; in fact economic interest of the west has

lowered their income. Migration for survival becomes necessary when they are removed from their land by multinationals that use it for massive food productions. While Indigenous never grew hungry in the past their jungles continue to disappear making place for tobacco fields, agriculture and ranches. In supermarkets of the United States and Europe, I can buy Chiquita Bananas from Honduras and Guatemala for \$.33 per pound. How friendly a neighbor are we? The bananas were planted and harvested by the men in Central America. They are washed and packaged by the women before they are transported to the capital of these lands. From there they are moved by air, where they end up at supermarkets for the \$.33/lbs. It doesn't take a mathematician to realize that the workers in Guatemala and Honduras are working and delivering at far below livable wages. The biggest gains are made by the business involved in air cargo and at the western supermarkets.

Are we in our schools preparing the next crop of stockholders indifferent to living and working conditions of our sisters and brothers around the globe?

Yes, the 2-1/2 inch spider in front of my window is a metaphor of world's destiny as we weave our web of global economics and planetary destruction. The huge spider in the middle died. The web now hangs destroyed in thick cluttered strings dangling in the wind, and what happened to its offspring - all the little spiders? — Well, I just don't know, they're gone too.

Yet, I'm an optimist and believe in the good work being done by many to not let it come that far...for the sake of our children and grandchildren. How can we gather in groups worldwide and create a positive web of emergence for all? We certainly wove a web of technology that could facilitate this. How are our academic institutions stepping out to create and celebrate a new world thinking? Could some of our creative ideas catch that upper flow and change our destiny?

Please direct thoughts, comments, questions and opposing views to the editor. Ingeborg Hayes at [hayes@cl.uh.edu](mailto:hayes@cl.uh.edu).

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