

STEPping Out!

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2
FALL 2006

BAER²

GATER²

HomeGrown

Pathway



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Sheila D. Melton

I remember sitting in Reliant Stadium on May 9, 2006 thinking back on the long road finally leading up to this moment. I tried to savor every minute, from the huge smiles and waves of my friends to the excited yelling from my husband and kids in the stands. We had all made this journey together and had finally reached the light at the end of the tunnel. It had been three years of essays, journal reflections, field experiences, projects, group work, team meetings, and more projects, but everything was well worth the time and effort to change us from students to teachers.

My internship was the highlight of my time at UHCL. Being in the classroom each day brought everything together that they had been teaching us in our classes, as well as a few things they can't teach you, such as what to do when a first-grader throws up during story time; or how to respond to a fourth-grader who comes to you crying when other kids have made fun of her for being so smart. These are true learning experiences, and not ones found in your standard textbook.

When I began at UHCL, I instantly became involved in a wonderful education organization, The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). Being a member of ACEI has given me so much. It taught me compassion for those less fortunate, and it showed me I had leadership skills I did not even know I possessed. I was elected secretary my second year and led the organization as president my last year at UHCL. We were



involved in donation drives for needy families, sending school supplies to Baghdad, and giving blood to help kids at Texas Children's Hospital. We also became involved with First Book, a national non-profit organization, whose own mission is to put books in the hands of children who may not have them at home. Through First Book and the Student Life Office, ACEI organized an event called the "First Book Reading Party" for Community Outreach Day. Over 300 children and their families attended, and we distributed hundreds and hundreds of books to children from all over the community. It was one of many rewarding experiences I've had here at UHCL.

I plan on continuing my education into graduate school this fall and wouldn't think of attending any other school. The School of Education staff has always been there to help with any questions or concerns I had while at UHCL. Being in the BAER² program gave me opportunities for scholarships and a chance to mingle and network with faculty and students in the program. Furthermore, the faculty and staff in the School of Education are wonderful, caring people who always go that extra mile to ensure the success of each of their students. After all, isn't that what being in education all about?

We thank you for sharing your story!
We're looking for success stories—want to share?
E-mail us or stop by our office



EXTRA! EXTRA!! It's SoE Scholarship Time!!!

It's that time again, time to apply for UHCL's School of Education (SoE) scholarships! Applications are available in the School of Education Academic Advising Office (Bayou 1231), on the SoE Web site (click on "Forms"), or electronically from your STEP advisor. The scholarships will be awarded for spring and summer 2007. You may be eligible if you are a *current or future UHCL student who plans to attend in spring 2007*. Carefully follow the Scholarship Application Instructions form. Your **two** application packets are due in the UHCL Office of Student Financial Aid by **noon, Friday, October 13, 2006**.

Who doesn't want FREE MONEY?!?!

If you have any questions, please visit:
Office of Student Financial Aid
Located at SSCB 1105, MC05
Leslie Wells, Scholarship Coordinator
281-283-2481



University of Houston-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77058

STEP Directory:
Jerricia Ulmer, STEP Coordinator & Academic Advisor
281-283-3600—ulmerj@uhcl.edu

Nancy Wright, Faculty Liaison & Lecturer
281-283-3579—wrightn@uhcl.edu

Althea Mackey, Senior Secretary
281-283-3597—mackeya@uhcl.edu

We are on the Web!
www.uhcl.edu/soe
Click on "Advising"

STEP Notes

REMINDERS

- Have you updated your phone number/e-mail address recently?
- Have you applied for scholarships this semester?



The purpose of primary education is the development of your weak characteristics; the purpose of university education, the development of your strong.
~Nevin Fenneman



KUDOS!

STEP's Spring 2006 Grads

JENNIFER CALLAWAY	DOLORES SERRANO
HERMINIA CANALES	CYNTHIA SIMMONS
ADRIANA GARZA	MARY SMOKE
EMILY HENDERSON	ANA URIBE
JESSICA ICKES	MAUREEN VYROAL
KAYCE PRATER	SHELBY WHITE
DIANE RIENER SULLIVAN	DORIAN WINTILL

STEP's Summer 2006 Grads

THEDA AIKEN
SARA DENIZ
CASSANDRA NIETO
ANGELA SHEARIN
THEODORE WATERMAN, III
TATRICIA WILKINS



STEP FALL EVENTS

STEP has a lot going on this year! Throughout the fall semester, STEP high schoolers from **your** alma mater will be visiting our lovely campus. So, whether **BAER² (Baytown Sterling or Lee)**, **GATER² (Ball High)**, **HomeGrown (Galena Park or North Shore)**, or **Pathway (Austin High)**, stop by and say "Hi!" Younger students traveling in your path need good mentors. Check your e-mail and the STEP bulletin board outside of the SoE Academic Advising Office (Bayou 1231) for calendar updates.

The STEP "Lunch & Learn" series kicks off this fall with "Getting to Know Your Campus" on **Thursday, September 7**. Bring your appetite! This event is for both new and returning STEP participants who want to know more about what our wonderful campus has to offer. We follow up with "TEXES Tips" on **Thursday, October 19**. Stop by and learn tips from the pros on how to overcome your Texas teacher state assessment and how it affects your graduation and certification. Both events will take place at **11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Bayou 1235**. The "Lunch & Learn" series will continue in the spring. Stay tuned!

Let's not forget our annual Fall STEP Scholarship Reception! Each year, UHCL STEP participants get together with family, friends, and colleagues to honor our STEP scholarship recipients for that semester. This is an opportunity to mingle and fraternize with administrators, faculty, staff, and peers *outside* of the classroom. This fall's reception, themed "STEPping into Your Future," will be held Thursday, September 21 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Bayou Building's Garden Room. **Look for your invitation in the mail, and don't forget to RSVP.**

Attend 4 or more STEP events during the 2006-2007 school year, and you may be eligible to win a gift certificate to the UHCL Bookstore!

ALUMNI UPDATE

Let's congratulate Kelley Campbell-Conner! She received the Amegy Teaching Excellence Award and has been awarded the 2006 Campus Teacher of the Year for San Jacinto Elementary School in Goose Creek Consolidated ISD. Kelley is a BAER² alumna and was featured in last Spring's "Alumni Spotlight." Keep up the good work!

University of Houston Clear Lake

2700 Bay Area Blvd., UHCL Box 188
Houston, Texas 77058-1098