

UHD magazine

Fall/Winter 2014

1974

2014



UHD
40YRS!

Brick by Brick

Alumni Share Their
Major Opportunity

Timeline

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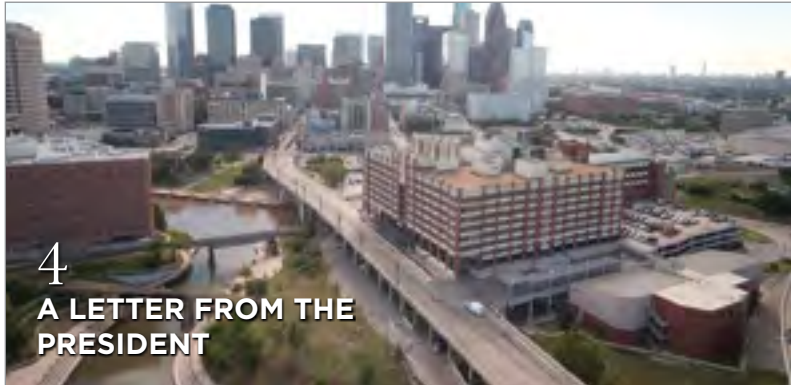
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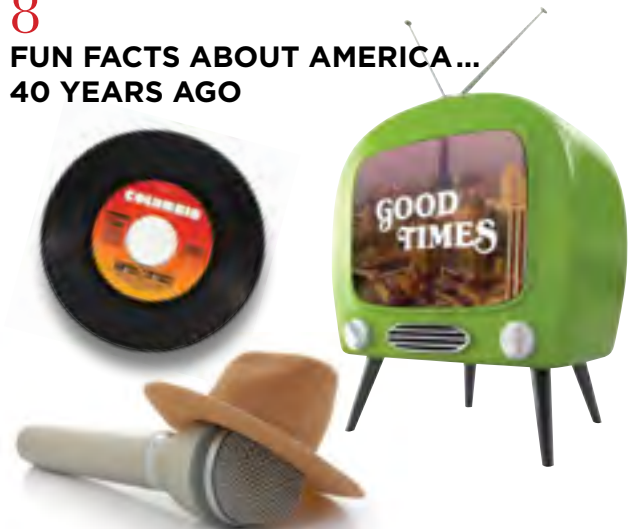


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DID YOU KNOW?

The agreement that declared South Texas Junior College, later UHD, a fourth campus of the University of Houston System was agreed upon by just four administrators with no outside consultation.

UHD40YRS!

ISSUE UH 40 YRS!



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At the outset of our 40th year, it is my great privilege to reflect on the University's foundation – built program-by-program by many administrators, legislators, faculty, staff, donors and alumni – and look forward to the next chapter of student success at UHD.

This year marks a major milestone in the life of our University. For four decades, UHD has provided a Major Opportunity for our student body, composed of working professionals, adult learners returning to college to enhance their careers, parents juggling multiple responsibilities, first-generation college students and first-time-in-college freshmen. Despite our students' varied backgrounds, ethnicities, ages and career goals, one thing has remained constant – the passion for student achievement displayed by UHD faculty and staff each day.

This support for students exists inside the walls of our classrooms and extends to our downtown neighborhood and communities throughout Houston. I'm pleased that our region is taking note, not only of the excellent education UHD affords to students, but also the community-service mindset our graduates take with them following commencement.

This year, UHD will serve as a primary sponsor of Citizenship Month Houston for the sixth consecutive year. As a leader of this citywide civic engagement initiative, we demonstrate to students and the community that UHD is not a 22-acre island, but a representation of the entire city. Our campus is the city, and the city is our campus! Moving forward, we will continue to work as a laboratory for change, constantly working to shape a better city.

A few years ago, we developed a strategic plan for the University through the year 2020 that addresses ambitious goals for enhanced community service, increased enrollment and graduation rates and additional high-impact experiences for students, among other initiatives. This plan outlines our mission to further align curriculum with industry needs and add 10 new degree plans – including six additional master's degrees – to grow student options and success.

Together, we have created a home of possibility and opportunity for students, and the University is just entering its "adulthood." I applaud the many individuals who have made UHD the great University it is today. And I thank the countless more who will carry on this mission for the next 40 years.

Building on the foundation first laid in 1974, UHD is poised to continue to mature into a university that provides academic, research and civic rewards to the Houston region.

Working as one, we will accomplish this goal. Keeping student success as our ultimate aim, we cannot fail.



Dr. William V. Flores
President
University of
Houston-Downtown



Dean DoVeanna Fulton and Matthew Teutsch, interim director of the Ernest J. Gaines Center at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, led UHD's inaugural "Read Out!" to encourage 120 high school students to read for pleasure.



Limelight on Literature

By: Claire Caton



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**

NEA Selects UHD – One of Three Institutions in Texas – for National Big Read Grant

Reading is the foundation of lifelong learning, and this fall, UHD will have the opportunity to help lay that foundation for thousands of Houston-area residents.

Beginning in September, UHD will lead the region in a national, month-long initiative to ignite and foster a love for literature as one of three institutions in Texas selected by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Big Read grant, under the Center for Public Service and Family Strengths.

The Big Read, managed by Arts Midwest, is an NEA program designed to revitalize the role of reading in American culture by exposing citizens to great works of literature and encouraging them to read for pleasure. The Big Read in Houston will focus on the classic novel, "A Lesson Before Dying," by Ernest J. Gaines – a former distinguished visiting professor at UHD – and will coincide with the UHD-sponsored Citizenship Month Houston throughout the month of November.

"We are delighted that UHD will serve as the only Houston institution in 2014 to lead and share Big Read initiatives in our region," said Chris Birchak, dean of University College, who served as co-principal investigator of UHD's Big Read project along with co-principal investigator Dr. Noël Bezette-Flores, executive director of the UHD Center for Public Service and Family Strengths. Birchak states, "Students and community members will gain a new or renewed appreciation for literature by reading and analyzing important themes from "A Lesson Before Dying," such as race, education, the role of extended families, food in the family setting, crime and prison."

To celebrate the Big Read, the University will host more than a dozen community events that

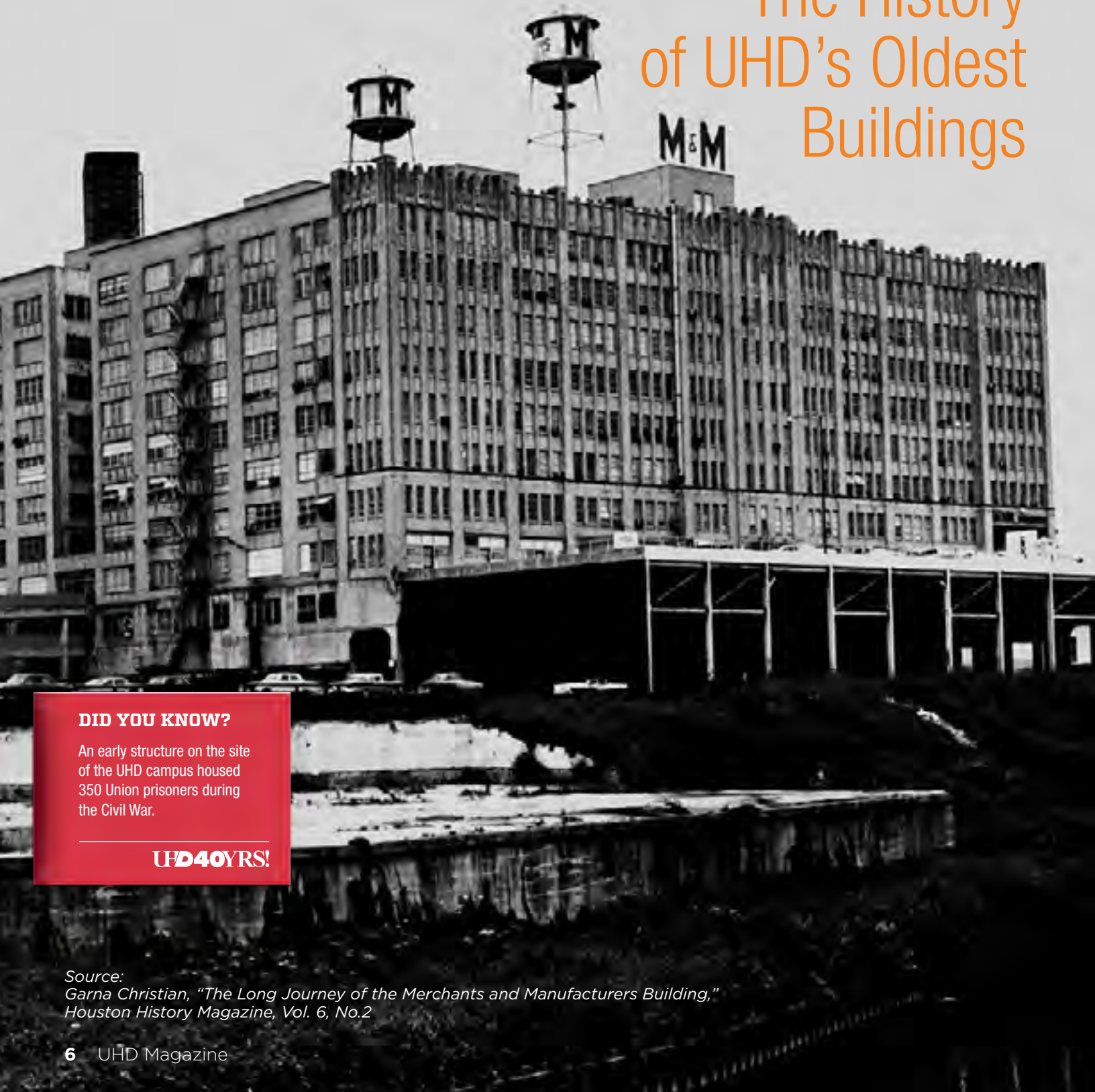
highlight the importance of reading. Among these activities, students from Houston Independent School District will participate in group readings on the UHD campus, facilitated by UHD student leaders. College of Public Service Interim Dean Leigh Van Horn will provide professional development for more than 100 teachers for Citizenship Month and engagement for the Big Read with teachers from Harmony Charter Public Schools, from Houston, Beaumont, College Station and San Antonio. The University will collaborate with the Houston Cinema Arts Society, which will host a screening of "A Lesson Before Dying" during its annual film festival at Sundance Cinema, to be followed by a discussion exploring the film's literary, social and artistic implications. UHD criminal justice students will work with Harris County Reentry Services in the Harris County Jail by leading inmates in group discussions of the book and pre- and post-surveys on the role of reading as a powerful tool in reentry to society. Urban education students also will compile a recipe book for homeless families at SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures that includes meaningful times in the families' lives centered around food and eating. Other partners include the Texan-French Alliance for the Arts, the Houston Center for Literacy, and the UHD Center for Critical Race Studies.

NEA Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa said, "While the act of reading is a solitary one, through the Big Read, it will become a social one." And by involving the entire region in the initiative – especially in the analysis of "A Lesson Before Dying" – Houstonians will experience the transformative power of the written word to unite cultures and shape broad social issues.

BRICK by BRICK

By: Mary Ann Cozza

The History
of UHD's Oldest
Buildings



DID YOU KNOW?

An early structure on the site of the UHD campus housed 350 Union prisoners during the Civil War.

UHD40YRS!

Source:
Garna Christian, "The Long Journey of the Merchants and Manufacturers Building,"
Houston History Magazine, Vol. 6, No.2

“A modern miracle of architectural genius” which “no single term can fully describe,” exclaimed a reporter upon the opening of the Merchants and Manufacturers Building on April 17, 1930.

Merchants and Manufacturers Building

Now known as UHD’s One Main Building, the M&M Building has stood as a stalwart guardian over Houston’s downtown district for nearly a century. Through the Great Depression, the rise and fall of economic conditions, and the growth of suburban culture, the building has housed many tenants and weathered many financial storms. Today, it serves as an educational home to UHD’s diverse student body and continues to be a local landmark.

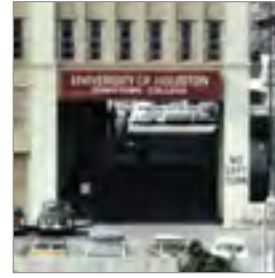
At the time of its completion in 1930, the colossal structure was a marvel in size, design and cost. It stood 11 stories tall, alone against the Houston skyline, and boasted a 600,000 square foot capacity, the largest floor area of any building south of St. Louis. The building cost a remarkable \$6 million, the equivalent to more than \$73 million in today’s currency, and housed unique features for patrons, including a convenience store, offices, wholesale and retail displays, distribution and warehouse areas, clubs, lounges, restaurants and garage space for more than 400 cars. An automatic telephone recording device, the first of its kind in the area, and special parcel post chutes were also available.

Unfortunately, the M&M Building’s grandiose appeal was stunted with the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930’s. Operational costs required full occupancy of the building, and with tenants unable to sustain rentals, the building owners filed for bankruptcy in 1934.

Glory eluded the former architectural wonder until the building was purchased by local businessman H.H. Coffield in 1948 for only \$2 million. After improvements and renovations that included air conditioning and a parking garage, the building was again offered for office, storage and rental space. However, the post-World War II expansion of Houston saw the construction of new freeways, suburban shopping and housing centers, and a decline in the appeal of the downtown business core.

Salvation for the M&M Building didn’t come until 1966 and followed several unsuccessful business ventures by Coffield. South Texas Junior College (STJC), located just one mile south, was looking for space to expand and found the perfect solution in the struggling building. A lease of 30,000 feet was agreed upon in 1966 and just two years later, after a surge in the student population, the College purchased the building for \$4 million.

The University of Houston took over the assets of STJC in 1974 without a break in the academic schedule and in 1975, the University of Houston Downtown College became a separate operational unit in the UH System. In 1980, the Texas Historical Commission recognized the building’s importance as a local landmark and awarded it a historical marker.



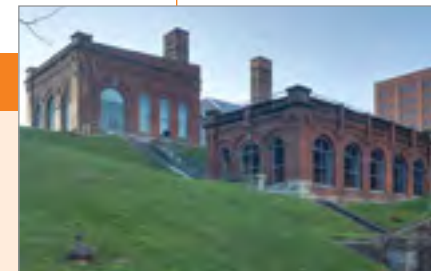
Willow Street Pump Station

The M&M Building is not the only historic structure on the UHD campus. The Willow Street Pump Station, located at 811 N. San Jacinto St., was built in 1902 as part of the city’s first effort to clean up its bayous. Houston’s founders, the Allen brothers, located their first sawmill on this site and in 1915, it became the location of a city crematorium for solid waste. After years of abandonment and decay, the University purchased the building in 2003 and proceeded to salvage the architectural artifact.

The red brick structure was extensively updated for contemporary use, but the original architectural elements are beautifully preserved and integrated with modern

technology, air conditioning, lighting and plumbing. The building has found new life as additional meeting and event space for the University.

Today, these two architectural artifacts serve as the core of UHD’s modern, 1 million square foot campus. Extensive renovations and responsible stewardship have made it possible for them to successfully accommodate the University’s growing population for years to come.



FUN FACTS **40** Years Ago!

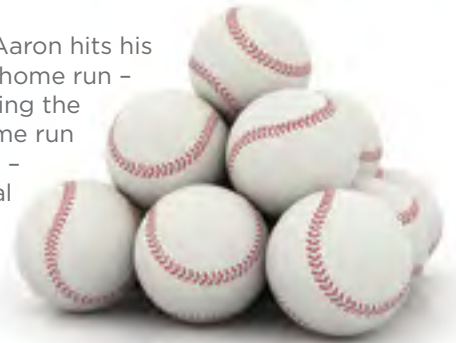
To put the University's 40th birthday into perspective, here are a few facts and events from 1974.



The historic Watergate trial begins.

President Richard Nixon resigns the presidency and vice president Gerald Ford becomes the 38th president of the U.S.

Hammerin' Hank Aaron hits his **733rd** career home run – furthering the MLB's all-time home run record at the time – on his last National League at bat.



The Journal of Emergency Medicine publishes the Heimlich maneuver for rescuing choking victims.

Marsh Supermarket in Troy, Ohio scans the first Universal Product Code (UPC) to sell a package of Wrigley's chewing gum.



Jefferson Starship begins its first tour.



Dorothy Hamill wins the U.S. Figure Skating Championship.



"Good Times" premieres on CBS and "Happy Days" begins its 11-year run on ABC.



"People" magazine begins sales.



Barbra Streisand achieves her first **No. 1** hit with, "The Way We Were."



Elvis Presley plays live at the Astrodome (March 3, 1974).

ECONOMIC FAST FACTS

Average price of a gallon of regular gas: **53¢**

Average cost of a new home: **\$39,000**

Median household income: **\$11,197**

Price of a dozen eggs: **78¢**

Price of a gallon of milk: **\$1.57**



The renowned **HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO** adds its **World Championship Bar-B-Que Contest** nicknamed "The Cook-Off" to its line-up of activities.



Oil magnate George Mitchell launches The Woodlands, a master-planned community north of Houston.



Past PRESIDENTS of UHD

The legacies of UHD's past presidents are evident today across the University's dynamic campus, from the academic programs to the physical structures. These men provided outstanding leadership and guidance for the University through its transition from a small satellite campus to the city's second largest public university. They set the stage for the university's continued growth and development into the 21st century.



J. Don Boney
1975-1979

J. Don Boney came to the newly created University of Houston Downtown College (UHDC) as president in 1975. Before UHDC, Boney served as president of the Houston Community College System, acting general superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, and on Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby's Special Committee on Human Services Delivery. He remained in his position as UHDC president until his untimely death in 1979. He earned a bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Texas and was particularly interested in the way integration affected education and understanding how disadvantaged students learned.



Alexander F. Schilt
1980-1987

Alexander Schilt was chancellor of Indiana University East before coming to UHDC as president in 1980. During his time with the University, UHDC was renamed the University of Houston-Downtown and became the fastest growing campus in the state. Schilt was appointed chancellor of the University of Houston System in 1989. He remains on the UH faculty as a professor of educational psychology. His bachelor's degree is from the University of Wyoming and his master's and doctorate degrees are from Arizona State University. His scholarly interests include philanthropy, and university governance and organization.

DID YOU KNOW?

The M&M Building was completed in a single year without the loss of a single worker's life.

UHD40YRS!

"The decision to leave the University of Houston-Downtown was difficult because I believed that UHD was a unique institution. Nowhere else in the country could students with such stunningly varied educational and personal backgrounds come together to acquire a first rate undergraduate educational experience that allowed students to compete favorably with graduates of any other university. It was a pleasure to be involved in facilitating such success and it had a strong influence in my own conviction that successful educational experiences could be provided for all highly motivated students."

- Manuel Pacheco

"During my 17 year tenure as President of UHD, I was fortunate in having been part of the University's evolutionary development from what was a single purpose academic institution to what it is today - a comprehensive general academic university. I was blessed and privileged to have served as president of UHD and been part of its evolution."

- Max Castillo



Manuel T. Pacheco

1988-1991

Manuel Pacheco held various faculty and administrative positions before accepting the UHD presidency, including serving four years as president of Laredo State University. Under his leadership, UHD's two academic divisions were expanded into three colleges: business; science, math and technology; and humanities and social sciences. After leaving UHD, he became the president of the University of Arizona, president of the University of Missouri System, and director of Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. He earned a master's degree in Spanish and a doctorate in foreign language education from Ohio State University.



Max Castillo

1992-2009

Max Castillo was president of San Antonio College for ten years before coming to UHD. During his 17-year tenure, his leadership resulted in the expansion of UHD's physical campus, rapid enrollment growth, and the addition of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Enrollment increased from 8,092 students to 12,283 students; the UHD budget grew from \$32.3 million to \$100.5 million; full-time faculty increased from 168 to 311; construction was completed on four new buildings; and he secured UHD's federal designation as a Hispanic-Serving and a Minority-Serving Institution. He actively pursued community partnerships, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recognized those efforts with its Community Engagement classification, a recognition given to select universities for community involvement. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and a doctorate in education from the University of Houston.

On the Fringe

Resurrecting Shakespeare at World's Largest Arts Festival

By: Claire Caton



UHD students perform Shakespeare's Julius Caesar in the O'Kane Theatre prior to performing the play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland over the summer.

DID YOU KNOW?

The M&M Building cost \$6 million to build, the equivalent to more than \$73 million today.

U/D40YRS!

Bringing the Bard's plays to life is no easy task, but doing so in original Elizabethan English at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival – the world's largest arts stage – takes “mastering Shakespeare” to a whole new level.

This is exactly what a group of talented UHD theater students accomplished this summer when they traveled to Scotland to perform “Julius Caesar” in early modern English, the dialect first spoken in the historic Globe Theatre. The undergraduates, under the leadership of Kate Pogue, lecturer of drama and communication studies, joined thousands of international artists, actors and musicians on hundreds of stages in Scotland's capital city to represent both Texas and UHD.

Performing the play in a 400-year-old accent creates a more authentic experience for the audience. While certain vowel sounds are changed or elongated, and consonant sounds are more guttural, theater patrons quickly and easily adjust to Elizabethan English.

To prepare for the event, UHD hosted renowned British actor, producer and linguist Ben Crystal, who trained the students on original practices from Shakespeare's time, including the more vigorous, tangible pronunciations popular from the mid-16th to the early-17th centuries. Crystal provided the students with the same pronunciation, body language and interpretive guidance he regularly shares with distinguished actors at the new Globe Theatre, renamed Shakespeare's Globe in London.

“So many aspects of our language and mannerisms have changed since Shakespeare's time,” said Pogue, who has written four books on Shakespeare, directed two dozen Shakespeare plays and for 18 years served as the artistic director of the Shakespeare by the Book Festival. “These gradual changes over time have made a tremendous difference in the way we hear, understand and enjoy Shakespeare's words. In fact, many of the puns and wordplays so indicative of Shakespeare's creative genius are lost completely with modern English.”

While at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the students enjoyed a variety of arts experiences, including theater, comedy, dance, physical theater, circus acts, musicals and exhibitions.

“Being part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival was exciting beyond our expectations,” said Pogue. “Literally thousands of events filled every corner of the city every hour of the day from 8 a.m. to midnight. We were thrilled to be both audience for other events and actors in our own “Julius Caesar.” More people than ever now know about this great school where everything is possible.”

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was equally as inspiring for participating Gators.

“I feel like we traveled back in time from downtown Houston to Scotland by performing our rendering of this tragedy in original pronunciation from 44 B.C. Rome,” said James Pendleton, a senior who represented UHD at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. “Being amongst people from all over the world who are so deeply involved in and supportive of the arts created an electric atmosphere that made for an unforgettable experience for which I am eternally grateful.”

In “Julius Caesar,” Shakespeare wrote, “Men at some times are masters of their fates...” After such an impressive performance on such a prestigious, international stage, the fates of UHD's theater students are surely as well-defined as their pronunciations.



UHD 40





1974

University of Houston Downtown College Established

The University of Houston Downtown College (UHDC) was established in 1974 when the University of Houston (UH) acquired the assets of South Texas Junior College (STJC), which was housed in the Merchants and Manufacturers Building, in order to maintain a downtown location. W.I. Dykes, president of STCJ, was named interim president.

First Degree

The first four-year degree awarded at UHDC was a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, setting the stage for the program's now prominent status. Alumni of this program have gone on to hold significant leadership positions in police and sheriff's departments around the state. The College also began forming partnerships with the downtown business community to develop additional programs to fill employment demands - a legacy that continues today.



1983

340

1984

1985

UHD Established

In 1983, the University of Houston Downtown College officially shortened its name to the University of Houston-Downtown. UHD was the fastest growing campus in the state and boasted a student population of 6,400 students. As such, considerable academic, faculty and facilities expansions were proposed.

Largest Class

During UHD's ninth commencement exercises, 340 students participated in graduation. In recent ceremonies, between 1,500 and 2,000 students graduate each term.



1995

1996

1997



First Distance Learning Courses

During the 1995-96 academic year, the UH System and UHD began offering distance education courses, including off-campus and instructional television courses.

Distance Education

Starting with UH Fort Bend (now UH System at Sugarland), and expanding to include a location at North Harris County Community College (now Lone Star Community College), UHD began offering distance degree programs in addition to distance learning. Today, the University has four distance education sites across Houston and multiple collaborations with Lone Star College, Houston Community College, San Jacinto Community College and others in the region.



2005

2006

2007

11,793

Shea Street Building

The Shea Street Building, home to the College of Business, was dedicated in 2007. It featured 150,000 square feet of space, a grand four-story atrium, and University-commissioned artwork by Jacob Hashimoto, entitled Cloud Deck.

Enrollment Reaches New Heights

Fall enrollment hit a new record in the 2007-08 academic year, reaching 11,793 students. Minority students accounted for nearly 80 percent of the student body and 48 percent of students were non-traditional. Today, UHD is a nationally designated Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution and continues to support a large population of non-traditional students.



1975

1976

1977

1978

J. Don Boney Named Chancellor

J. Don Boney, an educator and former head of both the Houston Independent School District and Houston Community College, becomes the second chancellor of UHDC after Dykes retired. Under Boney's direction, the College added degrees in general studies, business management, business services and engineering technology.

Rededication

The Merchant and Manufacturers Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places when the Main Street Bridge was reconstructed in the late 1970's. The M&M Building was originally constructed in 1930 and boasted the largest floor area of any building south of St. Louis at the time.



1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

Manuel Pacheco Appointed President

In 1987, Manuel Pacheco became the third president of UHD. Under Pacheco's leadership, the University's two academic divisions were expanded into three colleges (business; science, math and technology; and humanities and social sciences) in order to enhance existing degree offerings.



1998

1999

2000

2001

First Master's Degree

In the 2000-01 academic year, UHD was authorized by the State of Texas to offer graduate degrees. The first master's degree adopted was the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. Today, UHD boasts graduate degrees in seven disciplines: the Master of Business Administration (MBA), the Master of Science in Criminal Justice, the Master of Science in Professional Writing and Technical Communication, the Master of Security Management, the Master of Arts in Teaching, the Master of Arts in Non-Profit Management and the Master of Arts in Rhetoric and Composition.



2008

2009

2010

2011

William V. Flores Assumes Presidency

Recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Hispanic leaders in America, Flores became president of UHD on August 1, 2009. His research interests in community empowerment and higher education policy made him well-positioned to take leadership of UHD, which was growing as a non-traditional and forward-thinking institution of higher learning in Houston.



1979

1980

Four-Year University

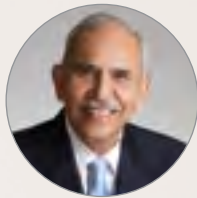
In 1979, the Texas Legislature approved UHDC as a distinct university within the University of Houston System and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools awarded the College full accreditation.

Alexander Schilt Assumes Presidency

In 1979, Alexander Schilt assumed the position of UHDC president, which he held until 1987. He later served as the chancellor for the UH System. The College adopted more majors, including applied mathematics, petroleum land management, and structural analysis and design.

The Pits

Tired of waiting for lounge space to be built, the student body took it upon themselves to construct and decorate a new student lounge on the third floor of the M&M Building and nicknamed it The Pits.



1991

1992

1993

UHD Welcomes Max Castillo

Max Castillo was named president of UHD in 1991. He is the longest-serving president in UHD history.

Fourth College

In fall 1991, UHD added a fourth college to the existing three academic units - University College. Today, University College houses two bachelor's degrees and several academic enrichment programs.



2002

2003

Minute Maid Park

In 2002, UHD moved its commencement ceremonies from Hofheinz Pavilion to Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros, to accommodate the growing number of graduates and attendees. Approximately 850 grads, including UHD's first master's students, participated in the December 2002 commencement exercises, while in May 2014 more than 15,000 guests packed Minute Maid Park to watch approximately 1,000 grads walk across the stage.

Willow Street Pump Station

UHD purchased the Willow Street Pump Station, one of the oldest buildings in Houston and located at the confluence of White Oak and Buffalo Bayous, in 2003. The Pump Station was built in 1902 as part of the city's first effort to clean up its bayous.



2012

2013

National Recognition

UHD was named to the 2012 U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll With Distinction by The Corporation for National and Community Service in 2012. The only public university in Texas to earn this accolade, the honor roll recognizes outreach efforts and thousands of hours UHD students devoted to community service.

Masters of Business Administration

Responding to the needs of the student body and surrounding community, UHD created an MBA program. The program, designed to incorporate UHD's student-centered, career-focused model of education, enables working professionals to continue their careers while earning an advanced business education. The first MBA class graduated in 2013.



1981

1982

A Dormitory for UHDC

Operating at full capacity, the College looked across Buffalo Bayou for additional space to expand. UHDC bought and renovated the nearby Harley Hotel and changed the name to the University of Houston Downtown Center. The nine-story building had a colorful past, including operating as a dance hall, but was large enough to be converted into the College's first dormitory, which included 110 rooms, television lounges, laundry facilities, computer and typing labs, and a cafeteria.

Red Rose Ball

The Red Rose Ball, a scholarship program for UHD students, was established in 1981 and eventually became the largest fundraiser at the university. It has provided scholarships to more than 100 students over the years and continues to support students today.



1994

Academic Building and Jesse Jones Student Life Center

In 1994, UHD expanded its physical location for the first time, breaking ground for two new buildings near the Merchants and Manufacturers Building: the Academic Building and the Jesse Jones Student Life Center. These buildings included updated gym facilities, large meeting and classroom space, and a new cafeteria. The South Deck was also added and artists were commissioned to design pieces for the both indoor and outdoor spaces. The construction of these buildings allowed UHD to provide additional instruction and services to the 8,000 students on campus.

Weekend College Program

In its 20th year, the University instituted the Weekend College Program, which provided students the opportunity to complete a Bachelor of Business Administration degree or a Bachelor of Science degree by taking courses on Saturdays or Friday evenings. Today, UHD continues to support working professionals and non-traditional students with flexible scheduling and course options.



2004

Houston METRORail

The City of Houston opened its first light rail on New Year's Day 2004, running from UHD to Reliant Park along Main and Fannin Streets. The light rail continues to expand and provide UHD students and employees with additional public transportation opportunities to campus, work and home.

Commerce Street Building

Realizing the demand for present and future space, UHD expanded onto the site of the razed University of Houston Downtown Center at the corner of Main and Commerce Streets. It was the first UHD structure built apart from the original campus and would house the newly created College of Public Service, 25 classrooms, departmental offices and computer labs.



2014

Citizenship Month

Mayor Annise Parker invited UHDC to serve as the lead institution for Citizenship Month, founded in 2009 to celebrate Houston's diversity and encourage civic participation. Over 200 organizations and thousands of participants join together for events held in November throughout Greater Houston.

40th Anniversary

In the 2014-15 academic year, the University of Houston-Downtown celebrates its 40th anniversary. Starting with one renovated industrial building in 1974 and just 2,700 students, UHDC has grown to a 24-acre, one-million-square-foot campus with a student population of 14,000 students.

40YRS!



Alumni Share Their **MAJOR OPPORTUNITY**



Trazanna Moreno

Chief Marketing Officer for YMCA of Greater Houston - Master of Science in Professional Writing and Technical Communication

Trazanna Moreno boasted two bachelor's degrees and an 11-year career as a television reporter when she decided to change fields and enter the public relations industry. She knew a graduate degree would allow her a smoother transition into a competitive market and discovered UHD was the perfect fit for her needs.

In addition to classroom knowledge that was immediately applicable to her profession, Moreno also cites the credibility, respect and networking opportunities that have come since earning her master's degree.

She calls earning her graduate degree from UHD, "one of the smartest things I ever did."



Evelio Fernandez

Executive Vice President of Goya Foods of Texas, Inc. - Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management

Evelio Fernandez transformed his interest in supply chain management into a 30-year career with food giant, Goya. After graduating UHD in 1979, Fernandez began working with his father-in-law, who owned a restaurant and grocery store. A good relationship with Goya Foods was fostered and Fernandez eventually went to work for the company.

"The purchasing, accounting and finance classes I took at UHD were very beneficial when I began my career," he said. "I used that knowledge every day and can remember looking through my textbooks for answers to questions that would arise."

Fernandez rose through the ranks with the company, which is now the largest Hispanic-owned food company in the United States, and today serves as a vice president for the Texas division.

Through the award-winning "Major Opportunity" marketing campaign, the University highlights the personal and academic successes of its outstanding current and former students. This summer, the University prepared for the next installment of the campaign by photographing and interviewing accomplished alumni who have maximized the effects and benefits of their UHD degrees.



Claudia Jimenez-Lopez

Research Fellow with UT Health Science Center - Bachelor of Science in Microbiology

An international student from Peru, Claudia Jimenez-Lopez was enrolled at UHD by her uncle when she moved to the United States. She soon fell in love with the close-knit environment of the campus, as well as the challenging curriculum.

Jimenez-Lopez graduated UHD in 2008 and recently completed a doctoral program at the University of Texas Health Science Center in microbiology and molecular genetics. She hopes to begin doing research in pathogenesis, the study of disease development.

"My experiences at UHD, including doing interesting undergraduate research and meeting people from different cultures, really helped me in both my academic and personal life," she said.



Zamir Rauf

Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Calpine Corporation - Bachelor of Science in Finance

Zamir Rauf started at UHD with a plan to study computer science. When a professor encouraged his interest in finance, Rauf changed his major and today serves as a top executive for the largest independent power producer in America.

"UHD provides its students with a great start for entering the job market," he said. "Students have a greater work ethic and a hunger to succeed."

Rauf, himself, worked full time while attending UHD and graduated in 1988 after only three years. He credits the University's flexible scheduling and his professors' passion for education as the keys to his academic success.

Continued on next page...

ALUMNI SHARE THEIR

DID YOU KNOW?

In the late 1970's, resident students attended the University of Houston Downtown College for \$4 per credit hour.

UHD40YRS!



**Darrin
Straughan**

*President of
James Coney Island -
Bachelor of
Business Administration
in Accounting*



**Laquitta
DeMerchant**

*Founder of Fuzion Apps, Inc. -
Bachelor of Business Administration
in Computer Information Systems*

From a football star to a fast food giant, Darrin Straughan's path to professional success has been unique. Straughan began his college career playing football, but eventually found himself on the UHD campus and soon realized the benefits of attending the University.

"I encountered many students who were working industry jobs and had vast life experience to share," he said. "My classes were filled with these mature people who took me under their wings and made me become a better student."

Straughan graduated UHD in 1984 and went to work for Arthur Andersen, the largest accounting firm in the world at that time. He later became the CEO of Kettle Restaurants, Inc. and president of James Coney Island.

"The educational foundation I received at UHD absolutely helped me successfully start my career," he said.

Tech-savvy is one word to describe Laquitta DeMerchant, who graduated from UHD in 1997. She enjoyed a successful career in IT before starting her own tech company.

DeMerchant recently won the grand prize in the Equal Pay App Challenge, a tech competition sponsored by the Department of Labor and the Equal Pay Task force, and was able to meet President Barack Obama at the White House.

In addition to her dedication and hard work, DeMerchant credits her alma mater for her professional success. "I loved my time at UHD," she said. "My career in IT is built on a solid foundation of knowledge and experience that I learned while in school."

MAJOR OPPORTUNITY



**Rick
Hartley**

*Executive Director for
The 100 Club -
Bachelor of Science in
Criminal Justice*

Convenience was the reason Rick Hartley began attending UHD in the late 1970's, but confidence in the quality of the University's professors and education keep him involved today.

"There is a tremendous amount of opportunity at UHD," he said. "I personally learned a lot while a student there - it broadened my horizon and gave me a wider peripheral view of my field."

Hartley has served on numerous search committees for academic leadership positions at UHD, is an active donor, a distinguished alumni award recipient and connects to students and faculty through his work with The 100 Club.

Over the years, the nonprofit, which supports the dependents of Houston's fallen heroes, has provided more than \$3 million in scholarships to criminal justice students at UHD. As executive director, Hartley stays involved in the process and enjoys seeing criminal justice professionals earning college educations from his alma mater.



**Claudia
Chavez-Pinto**

*Principal of
Crockett Elementary School -
Bachelor of Arts in
Interdisciplinary Studies*

Claudia Chavez-Pinto has come full circle professionally. This UHD alumna recently finished her second year as principal of the same school where she completed her student-teaching assignment.

According to her, UHD creates strong teachers. "This university really facilitates the road toward leadership for its education graduates," she said.

As a first-generation college student, she valued UHD's small class sizes, diversity and especially the accessibility of her professors.

"The faculty at UHD is very approachable and always available," she said. "They absolutely provided me with all of the tools I needed to be successful, both personally and as a teacher."

UHD Legacies: A Family Affair

By: Claire Caton and Mary Ann Cozza

The student body and alumni of UHD often considered themselves a family. The intimate campus environment fosters close relationships amongst students and professors. Many graduates, who appreciate the high-quality education they receive, go on to recommend the University to friends and family members. As such, UHD boasts several families who have strong connections and lasting legacies with their alma mater.

Finding



at UHD



Former students Carmen and Antonio Marin met and became engaged at UHD.



car wouldn't start in the UHD parking lot. Carmen and Antonio soon began dating and were inseparable on campus.

The UHD computer lab would continue to play a role in their love story as time passed. On Valentine's Day, more than a year later, Antonio developed a computer program that would scroll an image of a person kneeling and the text 'Will you marry me?' He proposed to Carmen in the same lab where they met many months before and their bond with each other, and the University, was sealed.

The happy couple was married in 1990. In December 1991, Carmen became

the first person in her family to earn a college degree. Antonio also graduated in 1991 with a degree in computer information systems and today serves as vice president of information technology for WCA Waste Management and on the advisory board for a software company, BrixBits. The Marins now have three children, including a son who is a current UHD student.

More than 20 years after they graduated, the University continues to hold a special place in the hearts of Antonio and Carmen.

"My husband and I both loved our time at UHD," she said. "It is special to us for personal reasons, but also the quality of education we received there was truly excellent."

Many alumni say that earning a college degree from UHD helped shape their future, but few can boast they found their "happily ever after" on campus as well.

When Carmen Marin enrolled at UHD, she never imagined she would later become engaged to the love of her life in the University's computer lab.

Carmen transferred to UHD from a larger school looking for a more comfortable academic and social environment. Also, she was interested in studying purchasing materials management, now supply-chain management, which was a unique degree not offered anywhere else in the region at that time.

The first class Carmen enrolled in was computer-based systems, which required her to complete her assignments in the UHD computer lab. Hoping to get ahead in her studies, she spent an entire day in the lab completing the coursework for the whole semester. But when it was time to print and review her work, she encountered major technical problems.

That's when Carmen was introduced to Antonio, her future husband, a computer information systems major who worked part time in the lab. Not only did he help her resolve the printer problem, he later came to her rescue when her

DID YOU KNOW?

With 600,000 feet of capacity, the M&M Building boasted the largest floor area of any building south of St. Louis, Missouri when built.

UHD 40YRS!

The Diaz family, pioneers of the Red Rose Scholarship at UHD, gathered for the first Red Rose Ball at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in 1981 (left) and were presented with the University's first Outstanding Alumni Award by former UHD President Alexander Schilt (right). Left photo: Ricky Sr., Belen, Ricky Jr., Albert and Armando.



Family Leaves Legacy of Scholarship for Fellow Gators

What once began with a door-to-door fundraising campaign by a first-generation UHD freshman has evolved into the University's premier scholarship award program.

Armando Diaz, aged 18 in 1981, longed for a way to extend the gift of education to his fellow students in the Latin American Student Services Organization (LASSO). Hailing from a family that had always raised money to serve others, Armando knew that he could apply those same principles to build a scholarship program for less fortunate Gators.

Along with his brothers Albert and Ricky Jr. - also UHD students at the time - and other LASSO members, Armando walked from company to company in downtown Houston to share his philanthropic mission and encourage corporate support for undergraduate scholarships. They quickly realized that their initial success could reap much larger dividends than a small LASSO tuition fund. The Diaz brothers recruited their parents - active leaders in Houston's Hispanic community - to help build a university-wide fundraiser to change the lives of potential UHD students.

Diaz's father - nationally renowned jazz pianist Ricky Diaz, Sr. - and his mother, Belen, tapped into their extensive network in Houston, based on the patriarch's prolific music career playing for Hollywood elite, including Bob Hope, Judy Garland and Jack Benny. The ambitious family decided to host the inaugural Red Rose Ball and sell tables to launch UHD's Red Rose Scholarship, which has made the dream of a college degree a reality for UHD students since its inception. That first ball attracted more than 800 Houstonians and raised approximately \$25,000 to birth the endowment.

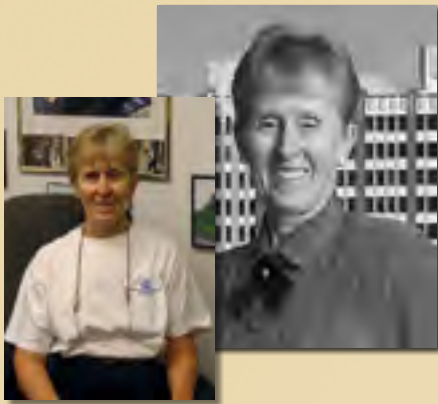
"Though neither of my parents attended college, they always emphasized the great benefits of a university education," said Armando, who earned a law degree following his UHD graduation. "My parents appreciated the affordability and opportunity of UHD and sent my two brothers, Albert and Ricky, Jr., and me to the University to expand our life and career options."

All three Diaz brothers graduated with dual bachelor's degrees in petroleum land management and accounting. And because of their contributions to the University's enduring Red Rose scholarship program, the brothers jointly earned UHD's first Outstanding Alumni Award, granted by former UHD President and University of Houston System Chancellor Alexander Schilt in 1985.

"UHD provided us all with great lives," said Armando. "Because of the educational foundation we received, we've all had rewarding, fulfilling careers in finance with leading companies and organizations. While I'm proud of the enduring scholarship fund my family helped to establish, I'm equally proud of the education my brothers and I received."

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Following that premise, the Diaz family has earned its place in UHD history for the hundreds of lives they've touched and enhanced throughout the years.





Carol Vobach | *Associate Professor, Mathematics*

For 45 years, Carol Vobach has been teaching students, first as an instructor at South Texas Junior College (STJC) and later as a faculty member at UHD. During her tenure, she has seen the student body evolve and the University grow physically and academically.

“When I first started at STJC, the students weren’t as driven as they are now,” she said. “It amazes me to see students today graduate, because they’re not just coming to school; they have jobs, families and many more distractions, but somehow they manage their lives very well.”

And Vobach predicts that many more students will be looking to UHD for that balance between personal, professional and academic life.

“My dean in the 1970’s predicted that STJC would have 18,000 students by 1981,” she said. “It was not a very good prediction in many ways, but the idea is accurate. I believe UHD will continue to grow and will reach that number by 2020.”



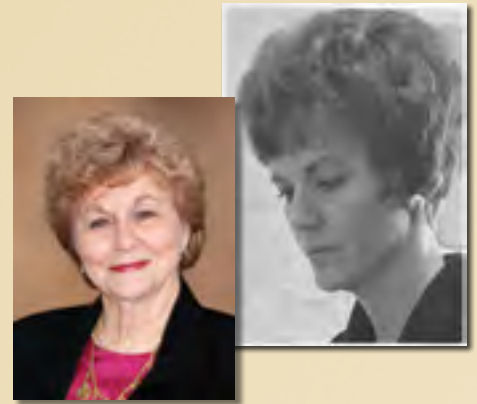
Garna Christian | *Professor, History*

The expert on all things related to UHD’s history is Garna Christian, who first began teaching at STJC in 1962.

“You could say I was present before the creation (of UHD),” he said. “And I’m very proud to be here.”

Christian has been present for all of the University’s important transitions – from STJC to the University of Houston Downtown College to today’s University of Houston-Downtown, the move into the M&M Building, desegregation and more. He was instrumental in getting the historical markers for the M&M Building through the National Register of Historical Places and the Texas Historical Commission, served on the University’s first Faculty Senate and has held every rank from instructor to professor.

“One of the strongest aspects of UHD is its collegial atmosphere between students and faculty,” he said “I have enjoyed the continuity of energy from South Texas Junior College to UHD and I hope that isn’t lost in future generations.”



Molly Woods | *Professor, Emeritus*

The journey of Molly Woods through UHD has been as varied and interesting as the University’s past itself. Woods began teaching at STJC in 1961 and became a full-time business faculty member in 1964. After several years in the classroom, Woods was hired as the College’s registrar and director of admissions and was in that position when STJC became the University of Houston Downtown College in 1974.

She returned to the faculty in 1983, as was her goal, and served as president of the Faculty Senate from 1987 to 1989 and as vice president for Academic Affairs and provost from 1990 to 2010. When appointed, she was one of three females to hold this position in the state and at the time of her retirement from the position, was the longest serving.

Woods believes that UHD’s ability to attract high quality faculty and staff and the institution’s willingness to work to turn ideas into reality are some of the greatest assets of the University.

As for why she remained at UHD for more than 40 years, she said, “I enjoyed the challenge of helping to move the University forward, the friendships and relationships I cultivated here, and the opportunity of being part of a strong and respected administrative team.”

DID YOU KNOW?

The first bachelor’s degree awarded by the University of Houston Downtown College was a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

UHD40YRS!



Kenneth Oberhoff

Chair, Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

When Kenneth Oberhoff started teaching at the University of Houston Downtown College in August 1974, the school was housed only in the Merchants and Manufacturers Building. In the last 40 years, he has seen tremendous growth, both in the student population and the physical footprint of the University.

“The greatest changes I’ve seen during my tenure include the construction of new buildings on campus and student growth – going from about 3,000 students when I first started to 14,000 students today,” he said.

Oberhoff has served the University as a full-time math faculty member; assistant, interim chair and chair of what is now the Department of Mathematics and Statistics; and assistant and associate dean of the College of Sciences and Technology. Today, Oberhoff is the chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology.

Through his many professional positions and the changes he has seen, he remains at UHD because of his colleagues. He said, “The dedicated faculty, staff and administration, who have been wonderful to work with, are the University’s greatest assets and are the reason I’ve remained here for 40 years.”



Merrilee Cunningham

Associate Professor, English

In 1974, the University of Houston acquired South Texas Junior College and eight days later, Merrilee Cunningham was hired as an adjunct English professor. Cunningham has been with UHD for the past 40 years, serving in various positions and numerous committees across the University.

“Some of my greatest out-of-the-classroom victories were serving on search committees that hired really great faculty members,” she recalls.

She also fondly remembers helping to start a “UHD institution” – the “Summer in England” study-abroad trip through the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the early 2000’s. For nearly 15 years, Cunningham and other faculty have taken students to tour England’s most famous sites while teaching them English history, literature and culture. She is also widely known for her involvement as the faculty advisor of UHD’s successful Model United Nations.

Today, Cunningham especially enjoys being in the classroom with her students and her involvement with the U.S. Department of State, teaching and promoting international education primarily in the Balkans.

**FA
CU
LTY**

now & then

By: Mary Ann Cozza

UHD's “Incubator for Scientists” Celebrates 15th Anniversary

By: Claire Caton



As UHD celebrates its 40th anniversary, Scholars Academy, an academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology, has its own significant milestone to toast – 15 years of grooming tomorrow’s scientists, engineers and mathematicians.

Since its inception in fall 1999, the program has awarded more than \$6 million in scholarships to more than 3,000 undergraduates. With the average annual Scholars Academy scholarship worth \$4,000, the program’s value to aspiring science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals is truly remarkable.

In addition to the one-on-one training Scholars Academy students receive from dedicated faculty members, they also work alongside their professors in cutting-edge research and learn to present their findings both orally and in written poster presentations, practices which are essential to their success in graduate school or their future workplaces.

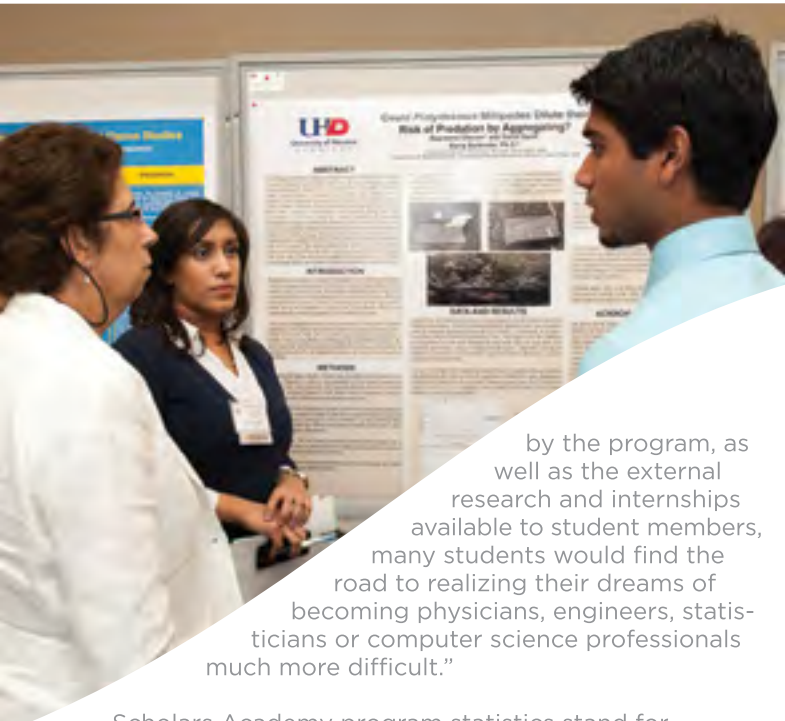
The students frequently participate in off-campus STEM-related seminars, as well as paid internships with leading hospitals, medical schools and corporations, including Google and Microsoft. Scholars Academy partnerships with Baylor College of Medicine and UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, among other institutions, allow UHD undergraduates to conduct research in medical labs, while gaining critical skill-sets needed for success in their graduate studies.

This summer, Scholars Academy students interned at some of the nation’s premier research institutions, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md. and Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

Scholars Academy students gain exposure to major graduate research programs throughout the U.S. and Europe, travel to graduate school and internship fairs across the country, and receive training prior to graduate school exams, such as the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

“Since Larry Spears and Richard Alo created Scholars Academy 15 years ago, the program has been instrumental in exposing undergraduates – including minorities and women – to high-paying, rewarding STEM fields and careers,” said Mary Jo Parker, director of Scholars Academy at UHD. “Without the training and mentoring afforded



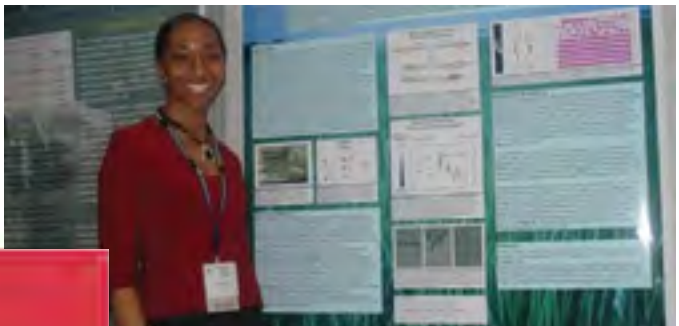


One alumna's perspective

The influence of Scholars Academy is best relayed by one of the program's outstanding graduates, who recently earned a doctorate in microbiology and molecular genetics at U.T. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The first in her family to attend college, Jennifer Abrams was an active member of Scholars Academy before graduating from UHD in 2007. She notes that the support system she found, both in Scholars Academy and UHD's Department of Natural Sciences, was instrumental to her academic success.

Currently, Abrams is completing post-doctoral training and working as a microbiologist at the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). After studying human prion disease in the UCSF laboratory, she plans to take this knowledge directly into the pharmaceutical industry and work to develop the next generation of drugs to combat the disease.

"I probably wouldn't be here at all without Scholars Academy," said Abrams. "The program helped me get into the lab as an undergraduate so that I could start doing research. At the time, I wasn't even aware of the opportunities before me, and my UHD professors and Scholars Academy leaders played a major role in mentoring me through my transition to graduate school."



Jennifer Abrams, who recently earned a doctoral degree in microbiology and molecular genetics at UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, is pictured with her research poster as an undergraduate at UHD.

by the program, as well as the external research and internships available to student members, many students would find the road to realizing their dreams of becoming physicians, engineers, statisticians or computer science professionals much more difficult."

Scholars Academy program statistics stand for themselves and demonstrate the value the program brings to UHD. In 2013, Scholars Academy awarded more than \$1.2 million in scholarships to students. Currently, 93 percent of program graduates leave UHD and directly enter graduate school or the competitive STEM workforce. And, nearly 70 percent of first-time-in-college freshmen in Scholars Academy remain with the program and matriculate at the University.

While students' academic success is the primary aim of Scholars Academy, it is equally important for program graduates to develop a commitment to community service. For this reason, students regularly volunteer in the community, applying their classroom knowledge to help others in service-learning projects that benefit both students and regional non-profits and school districts.

"The success of Scholars Academy - UHD's incubator for future scientists - rests firmly on the foundation of professors' belief in and support of the program, as well as the committed donors and organizations that fund the scholarships and field trips we are able to offer students," said Parker. Scholars Academy exists and prospers with grants from The Brown Foundation, NIH, National Science Foundation, U.S. Army Research Office, U.S. Department of Education, Welch Foundation, and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, among many others, including institutionalized UHD program components."

DID YOU KNOW?

UHD's Willow Street Pump Station was built in 1902 to clean the bayou and later became a municipal crematorium for solid waste.

UHD40YRS!

Circus Life, Avant-Garde Art and UHD History on Display at



O'KANE GALLERY

If a picture is worth a thousand words - UHD's O'Kane Gallery will have much to say this academic year. During the fall and spring semesters, the Gallery will present several unique shows, including an exhibit that will feature original design and costume drawings from the Ringling Brothers Circus in the late 1950's, as well as a show dedicated to the legacy of UHD through photographs and artifacts. An exhibit highlighting the avant-garde art of Houston in the 1930's will kick off the fall semester.

The 'Left Bank' on the Bayou: Avant-Garde Art and Theater in 1930's Houston

Sept. 4 - Oct. 16, 2014

In 1930, Houston was home to less than 300,000 people but was attracting progressive Texans who believed that avant-garde performing and visual arts had a place in the Bayou City. A key figure in that early arts scene was Margo Jones, a theatre director and innovator who is credited with creating the first professional theater-in-the-round in the United States. She spent time in Houston during the 1930's and 1940's with her troupe called the Houston Community Players. Jones went on to earn credits on Broadway and around the country.

Inspired by Jones' passion, a group of visual artists sought to bring modern and abstract art to Houston, including Carden Bailey, Gene Charlton, Nione Carlson, Maudee Carron, Forrest Bess, Robert Preusser and others.

The Seigler Chronicles Life as a Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus Designer, 1956-1959

Oct. 23 - Dec. 18, 2014

In the late 1940's, Jim Seigler attended the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida. He graduated in 1956 after taking a break to serve in the Korean War. He was later hired by Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus in a position that would lead to major contributions to the design of the Circus' annual spectacles as it toured the United States.

1956 was the last year for the circus to use the big top before moving to indoor arenas and Seigler's sideshow banner designs and paintings were the last to be done for Ringling Brothers. While the spectacles inside the indoor arenas continued, different design parameters required Seigler to engineer floats and central motifs that could fit within arenas' smaller openings. Seigler worked closely with Tony Award winner and Academy Award nominee Miles White, as well as Parisian designer Max Weldy.

The O'Kane Gallery exhibit will feature original design and costume drawings from 1956-1959, as well as period photographs depicting many of the finished products. The exhibit will expand on the process of creating spectacles for the circus and some of the stories of those who designed and performed during the late 1950's.

UHD in Retrospect An Exhibition Celebrating the First 40 Years of the University of Houston-Downtown

Jan. 22 - Feb. 5, 2015

In 1974, the University of Houston-Downtown began as South Texas Junior College in the M&M Building. From its inception, UHD has charted steady growth to its present state of 14,000 students and six buildings covering more than 1 million square feet. The exhibit at the O'Kane Gallery will feature photographs and artifacts focused on the beginning of UHD and its growth to the second largest public university in Houston.

DID YOU KNOW?

The M&M Building housed the City of Houston's first automatic telephone recording device, in operation before general use.

UHD40YRS!

2014-2015 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

To commemorate the 40th year of providing quality educational opportunities to the Greater Houston area and fostering lasting partnership with industry leaders, UHD is proud to host the following academic events and campus activities during the fall 2014 and spring 2015 terms. UHD alumni and the surrounding community are invited to enjoy any of the events below.

For more information on these events and UHD's 40th anniversary, visit uhd.edu/40th.



ARTS AND THEATER

SEPT 4 - OCT 16, 2014

The 'Left Bank' on the Bayou:

Avant-Garde Art and Theater in 1930's Houston

O'Kane Gallery

OCT 23 - DEC 18, 2014

The Seigler Chronicles:

Life as a Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus Designer, 1956-1959

O'Kane Gallery

OCT 31 - NOV 8, 2014

**LITTLE SHOP
of
HORRORS**

O'Kane
Theatre

JAN 22 - FEB 5, 2015

UHD in Retrospect:

An Exhibition Celebrating the First 40 Years of the University of Houston-Downtown

O'Kane Gallery

FEB 12 - MAR 17, 2015

Annel Livingston Paintings

O'Kane Gallery

MAR 26 - APR 23, 2015

Las Sor Juanas de Tejas:

Santa Barraza, Tina Fuentes, Kathy Vargas and Delilah Montoya

O'Kane Gallery

APR 3 - 11, 2015

The Diary of Anne Frank

O'Kane Theatre

COLLEGE EVENTS

NOV 4, 2014

Social Work Person of the Year

Angela Blanchard, president and CEO of Neighborhood Centers, Inc., will be honored by future social workers as their "Person of the Year."

College of Public Service
5:30-10 p.m.

DEC 2, 2014

MBA Start-Up Idea Competition

The culmination of an MBA capstone course, teams of students enter a "Shark Tank" environment to pitch their start-up venture plans to entrepreneurs who serve as judges.

College of Business 5:30-10 p.m.

JAN 29, 2015

Center for Critical Race Studies Scholar in Residence Lecture with Jimmy Santiago Baca

Jimmy Santiago Baca is an American poet and writer of Apache and Chicano descent. Overcoming a difficult childhood of abandonment and homelessness, he taught himself to read, write and compose poetry while in prison.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences 6 p.m.

FEB 20, 2015

Meet the Industry

Alumni and students meet representatives from a variety of industries and attend niche panel discussions focused on industry-specific career paths and growth trends.

College of Business
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

FEB 25, 2015

Alumni Panel Discussion

Graduates with degrees in interdisciplinary studies and applied sciences gather to discuss career opportunities for graduates.

University College
1-2:30 p.m.

APRIL 2015

Community Engagement Luncheon

Discussions with community volunteers, non-profit and public service leaders, faculty, alumni and students focused on collaborations and service learning.

College of Public Service

APRIL 8, 2015

Student Research Conference

Students will present their research projects and hear from esteemed guest Bowen Loftin, chancellor of the University of Missouri System, former chancellor of Texas A&M University and previous UHD faculty member.

College of Sciences and Technology

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

OCT 22, 2014

UHD Alumni Downtown Social Series

Alumni are invited to reconnect with faculty and friends

St. Arnold's Brewery
6 - 8 p.m.

OCT 25, 2014

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

One of UHD's largest on-campus traditions, the festival features a day of games, rides, a craft show, food and more for students, faculty, staff and alumni.

UHD
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CULTURE ON THE BAYOU &

BAYOU BASH

MAR 25, 2015

The richness and diversity of UHD are celebrated with entertainment, live music, food and fun while registered clubs and organizations raise awareness and funds for their groups.



NOV 2014

Houston's Annual Citizenship Month

UHD serves as a sponsor of the sixth annual Citizenship Month. Events celebrating Houston's civic diversity occur throughout November.



Celebrating 40 Years

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

JW Marriott Houston Downtown 806 Main Street 7 p.m. 713-226-5261 uhd.edu/40th

January 23, 2015 - Save the Date!