Partners in Excellence chair Ann Earnest (second from right) with friends who shared kick-off: (from left) UHD President Max Castillo, S Scholars Academy student Miriam Morales, and alumnus Jason Fedak.

UHD Helps Track Serial Criminals

Law enforcement agencies will soon have a new tool to close in on serial criminals thanks to the creation of UHD’s Geographic Profiling and Crime Analysis Center. As the first such program in the world, the center also will offer certification and training in geographic profiling and crime analysis.

Geographic profiling is a system used to investigate serial crimes. Because of the value to the Houston area law enforcement community, a consortium of local agencies will partner with the center. This will allow them to access the technology and send officers for training on how to gather and input data for serial crime analysis. The center complements the recently developed masters degree in criminal justice.

Recognizing that UHD Downtown is a potent source for future employees, members of Houston’s business community are mobilizing to reinforce UHD’s efforts through a new campaign — Partners in Excellence.

Chairing the campaign is Ann Earnest, of AT&T Concert, who got the campaign rolling with a $25,000 donation from AT&T.

Partners in Excellence plans to raise $1,500,000 to support an endowed professorship in computer information systems, faculty and staff development and increased enrollment in UHD’s math, science and computer sciences programs. The campaign is inspired by a $250,000 challenge grant from the Marian and Speros Martel Foundation requiring UHD to raise $125,000 in matching funds. At the same time, five government agencies are providing $3.4 million in challenge grants. For this, UHD must raise $1 million in scholarship funds for math and science students in the Scholars Academy over the next five years. The potential for success in these areas multiplies with the good news inside!

20th Annual Red Rose Ball

Planning is underway for the 20th Annual Red Rose Ball, UHD’s premiere scholarship gala, on March 30, 2001, at the Westin Galleria. Honorees are Jonathan Day, managing partner of Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, LLP, and his wife, businesswoman and former UHD professor, Barbara Day. Ball cochairs are David Mendez, vice chairman, and Yolanda Landoñoa, senior vice president, both of Chase Manhattan Bank.

Proceeds will provide $3,000 scholarships for deserving students who demonstrate academic excellence, community service, leadership ability, and potential for contributing to the future of Houston.

There’s more good news inside!

• Learning in Community ................. p. 2
• Academy for Scholars .................. p. 3
• Shell says YES! ......................... p. 6
• The (Your Name Here) Scholarship .... p. 7
The Face of UHD

A single mother with a full-time job. An 18-year-old high school graduate. A police officer studying for a master's degree. A 35-year-old professional seeking a more rewarding career. A community college student working on a four-year degree.

Together, these individuals make up the face of UHD — the face of the future.

"I am excited about the future that awaits UHD downtown," said UHD President Max Castillo, at the annual President’s Report to the Community. "The new century is bringing wonderful new opportunities to broaden our reach and extend the impact of UHD on the lives of our students, and in the community."

Proof of UHD’s success in extending its impact is the number of students who complete their degree programs and move into careers or postgraduate work. Over the last five years, enrollment has gone up nearly 13%, but the number of graduates has increased by more than 56%.

At the breakfast event, Dr. Castillo summarized the year’s successes and challenges, and outlined plans for expanding academic programs and facilities.

During the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature, Dr. Castillo will address one of UHD’s greatest challenges — the serious deficit of instructional and faculty space. UHD will request $30 million in tuition revenue bonds to build a new structure. "During the past 25 years, our student body has doubled, but our space has not increased proportionately," Dr. Castillo noted.

The most dramatic growth is in UHD’s off-campus programs. Just five years ago, UHD offered its first distance learning class. Today, there are 73 different courses, including 11 offered entirely through UHD Online.

UHD’s “virtual” expansion includes the newly remodeled website, www.uhd.edu. The site has been completely overhauled to be more user-friendly, with a look that represents UHD’s tradition of academic excellence.

Also new this year are baccalaureate degrees in international business and safety and fire, and a master’s degree in criminal justice.

The criminal justice program has been enhanced through the opening of the Geographic Profiling and Criminal Analysis Center (see related story, page 1). Final approval is expected this year for new baccalaureate degrees in political science, communications and sociology, as well as UHD’s second graduate degree, a master of arts in teaching — the M.A.T., supported by a $3.9 million gift from the Gordon and Mary Cain Foundation.

The first year in college can be a real challenge — navigating through a new environment, filling in paperwork, finding classrooms, carrying around books, adjusting to a new schedule, and making new friends.

To make the first-year experience a positive one, UHD Downtown is building a program to promote the success of entering college freshmen, called the Learners’ Community.

With funding from a $1.9 million federal grant, the project helps create a sense of community for first-year students by encouraging peer and mentor relationships, providing classes tailored to freshmen needs, grouping students by interest and preventing and addressing poor performance.

"By building camaraderie, providing academic support mechanisms, addressing scholastic performance and training faculty to better serve this particular student body, UHD is providing a safety net to get college students off to a good start," said Dr. Dan Jones, dean of UHD’s University College, which houses the learners’ community.

University College is the entry point for all new UHD students — whether they’re just beginning college for the first time, transferring from a community college, or otherwise launching a UHD Downtown experience.

University College serves as the home base for these students until they declare a major.

By implementing the Learners’ Community, UHD is providing the academic tools and peer support every freshman requires to succeed.

Through the program, they can develop strong study skills, forge positive relationships and graduate with a well-learned university degree.

UHD Addresses Shortage of Bilingual Teachers

UHD Downtown’s Department of Urban Education will be able to produce more teachers who are certified to serve as bilingual education teachers, with the help of a $1.1 million federal grant. The funds will provide student scholarships and professional development as part of the Bilingual Teacher Career Induction Project.

UHD has pursued scholarship funding for students in teacher education to directly address the local teacher shortage, especially in bilingual classrooms. Over the next five years the grant should help 130 bilingual education majors complete their degrees and become certified teachers.

The grant also provides for professional development in the teacher’s first year on the job.

UHD’s urban teacher education program is widely recognized for successfully preparing instructors for the unique challenges of the urban classroom.

Student teachers spend their last three semesters training in local classrooms, realistically preparing them for teaching in an urban environment.

Overall, UHD urban education students mirror the ethnic diversity of the greater Houston community. Students take courses in cultural sensitivity. Thus, UHD graduates are prepared for the diverse 21st century classroom.

More than 80 percent of teachers trained at UHD are still on the job after one year in the profession, compared to 50 percent nationally.

Safety Net for Freshmen

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“By building camaraderie, providing academic support mechanisms, addressing scholastic performance and training faculty to better serve this particular student
A n enthusiastic and select group of students is begin-
ning a new scholarship pro-
gram in the College of Sciences and Technology this fall. TheScholars Academy provides a community of academic excel-
ence for undergraduate students in science, mathematics, engi-
neering and computer science.

UHD’s pioneering graduate students are finishing up their first semester in the new master’s in criminal justice program, and they’re making a number of discoveries. “I’m literally living in the library,” said Deno Stamos, who was surprised by the amount of research required in graduate-level classes.

Dr. Barbara Belbot, coordinator of the degree program, notes that it’s been a real frontier for the UHD’s master’s in criminal justice program in the history of UH-Downtown. “Everything we do is new for all of us — for students as well as faculty,” said Dr. Belbot.

The first cohort of criminal justice master’s degree students has nearly two dozen indi-
viduals, about two-thirds of them women. Nearly a third of the group comprises police officers. About half received their bachelor’s degrees at UHD. Most are enrolled with the expectation that a master’s degree will help advance their careers.

Stamos, 33, received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from UHD in 1998, and returned for the master’s program. He has worked in corrections for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Stamos is taking two classes, while working fulltime in purchasing for the bureau. He also serves as program manager for the bureau’s Native American/Asian Pacific Islander recruitment efforts.

His goal: get a master’s in three years, and move to Washington, D.C., to work in the federal bureau’s research and evaluations department.

UHD’s Second Graduate Degree to Make Expert Teachers

One of the most precious resources in America is the classroom teacher. Even more precious are teachers who devote themselves to excelling in their profession.

UHD-Downtown expects to receive approval this year for its second graduate degree — the master of arts in teaching, a natural extension of UHD’s teacher education program.

The master of arts in teaching (M.A.T.) is perfectly named. M.A.T. students will learn to master the art of teaching through a program that will emphasize advanced class-
room techniques in mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies.

Elementary, bilingual and secondary teach-
ers will be trained through a 39 semester credit hour (SCH) program that provides 30 SCHs of work in education and nine in aca-
demic content. To enhance an under-
standing of best practices for teaching urban children, the curriculum will provide opportu-
nities for teachers to conduct classroom-
based action research.

M.A.T. students will be able to complete their degrees by attending UHD over a period of three years. The majority of the courses will be held in the summer, with some seminars and courses in the long semesters.

For the younger students who are just entering college, “I tell them that success is not just a matter of being smart. It’s about being dedicated and persistent.”

The academy receives a unique blend of funding — from NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, the U.S. Army Research Office, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Wole has been selected as a research assistant for UHD’s Center for Computational Sciences and Advanced Distributed Simulation, sponsored by the Army Research Laboratory. As one of the few upperclassmen in the Scholars Academy, Wole finds himself serving as a mentor for the younger students who are just entering college. “I tell them that success is not just a matter of being smart. It’s about being dedicated and persistent.”

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Generous Friends

Friends

Graduation from UHD by the following corporations, foundations and individuals between May 10 and August 31, 2000. Please note that names follow a naming anniversary pattern (year of graduation from UHD). $250,000 or More

Sponsor and Marian Matland Foundation

$25,000 to $50,000

Robert A. Welch Foundation

$5,000 to $24,999

American Society for Industrial Security

El Paso Energy

$1,000 to $4,999

El Paso Energy

American Society for Industrial Security

Katherine A. Cavanna, ‘93

Cheryl D. Meekins, ‘93

Eva Gutierrez

$25,000 to $50,000

Robert A. Welch Foundation

$25,000 goal by the end of the university’s 25th anniversary celebration year has ended. All contributions received for the Silver Anniversary Scholarship Fund drive was a real success, exceeding its $25,000 goal by the end of the university’s 25th anniversary celebration year.

Thanks to the support of many generous alumni and other friends of UHD, the Silver Anniversary Scholarship Fund drive was a real success, exceeding its $25,000 goal by the end of the university’s 25th anniversary celebration year. All contributions to the anniversary fund drive went into a newly created endowment for scholarships. Since the principal remains intact — and only the income earned by the fund is available for distribution annually — the endowment will provide scholarships for deserving students year after year. The first scholarship underwritten by the fund is to be awarded in fall 2001. Anyone who may not yet have fulfilled his or her pledge to the Silver Anniversary Scholarship Fund is encouraged to do so, even though the 25th anniversary celebration year has ended. All contributions received for the fund will be added to the endowment, so that it produces even more income for scholarships each year.

Matching gifts possible.

Chase Manhattan Foundation

Patricia Dominguez, ’82

Ava Marie Holland, ’83

Thomas R. Faye, ’85

Carlyn Melissa Rath, ’90

Conoco

Gerald M. Pinto

Corning Incorporated Foundation

Nyu A. Deshpande, ’85

ExxonMobil Foundation

Connor C. Shannon, ’86

PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation

Deanne D. Ciohan, ’92

Roger Alay, ’93

State Farm Companies Foundation

James L. Saunders, ’80

Texas Foundation, Inc.

Karen J. Hill, ’95

Bragging Rights

UHD’s expertise in first-year student success is receiving global recognition through a project that will establish a new university in the Middle Eastern country of Qatar.

Dr. Dan Jones, left, dean of UHD’s University College, is working with colleagues from other Texas universities to create a program that will help high school students in Qatar make a successful transition into the planned new university — much like the function of UHD’s University College. The project is being coordinated by Texas International Education Consortium.

“This is an exciting and visionary project,” said Dr. Jones. “We are helping to create the infrastructure, using the best American models, for a world-class system of higher education for a country with abundant resources but limited experience in building universities.”

Qatar’s Academic Bridge Program will begin offering programs in the fall of 2001, with the new university scheduled to open in phases over the next five years.

At the endowment for scholarships. Since the principal remains intact — and only the income earned by the fund is available for distribution annually — the endowment will provide scholarships for deserving students year after year. The first scholarship underwritten by the fund is to be awarded in fall 2001. Anyone who may not yet have fulfilled his or her pledge to the Silver Anniversary Scholarship Fund is encouraged to do so, even though the 25th anniversary celebration year has ended. All contributions received for the fund will be added to the endowment, so that it produces even more income for scholarships each year.

Corporate Matching Gifts

Listed beneath the company names are the donors whose contributions made
Alumni Notes Update Form

Home Address: 
City State Zip Home Phone:

Employee:
Business Address:
City State Zip Bus Phone:

E-mail address:

Notes for the “Alumni Notes” page in the next publication:

Please submit a recent head-and-shoulders photo (black-and-white or color) with your news, if possible.

“Alumni Notes” Update Form

Name: ____________________ Student Name: ____________________

Graduation Year: ______ Social Security # ______

Home Address: 
City State Zip Home Phone:

Employee:
Business Address:
City State Zip Bus Phone:

E-mail address:

Notes for the “Alumni Notes” page in the next publication:

Please submit a recent head-and-shoulders photo (black-and-white or color) with your news, if possible.

ALUMNI NOTES

Joe Berkel ('82) is a partner in Townsend & Associates, a financial strategies and planning practice providing statewide corporate ERISA financial education services, as well as individual and business asset and risk management. He and his wife Jill have four children, including identical twin boys born in March 2000.

Vera Gates ('84) is happy to report that she’s currently working in Houston at the U.S. Postal Service in Finance. Her major was psychology, specializing in statistical research.

Lawrence Mark Howell ('96) relocated to Scottsdale, Arizona, has been promoted to Senior Sales Agent at Prudential Insurance.

John Roth ('98) is a Lieutenant in the Dear Park Police Department but is currently attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, until December. Attending the academy is considered a high honor.

Rita Ann Lalone ('99) is continuing her education as a graduate student at UH-Clear Lake in the master’s program in behavioral science psychology, specializing in statistical research.

Oralia Castillo Ramirez ('99) lives in Houston and is working as Vice President-Compliance Officer at U.S. Trust Company of Texas.

Jennifer Myers ('00) works in Houston at Edison Middle School teaching sixth-grade English.

Vincent C. Solis ('00) is using his B.S. in Computer Information Systems as a business associate at National Heritage Insurance Company, an EDS subsidiary, in Austin.

Let other alumni know where you are and what’s happening in your business and personal lives by submitting an item for the next Alumni Notes column.

Socializing with my friends when I wasn’t working, and traveling a lot. The old M & M building; 2nd floor student “lounge” and student center in the basement. I will always have a place in my heart for UHDC. I took some courses at UH-Central, but you cannot match the community spirit evident at UHDC.

Robert Garcia, Houston, 1983, Purchasing & Material Management: The old M & M building; 2nd floor student “lounge” and student center in the basement. I will always have a place in my heart for UHDC. I took some courses at UH-Central, but you cannot match the community spirit evident at UHDC.

Roderick Arnich, Houston, 1988, BCS: Socializing with my co-students. My experience at UH was invaluable. In addition, the professors and students were great.

Luz Maria Gasco, M.D., Houston, 1989, BS in Applied Microbiology: “Hanging out” in the Science Dept. office, trying to memorize the anatomy of the cat in Dr. Avenoso’s class (Comparative Anatomy); this class was difficult, but helpful in med school.


Margaret (Margie) Ortega, Houston, 1994, Accounting: Upon graduation, I took the Becker CPA Review course in the summer of '95 and passed all four parts on the first sitting in November '95! Thanks to the great accounting professors at UHD.

Brenda E. Rodgers, Lubbock, 1994, Biological & Physical Sciences: Graduation day: I was the first in my family to obtain a college degree. My daughters were there to cheer me on. Benjamin J. Leach, Amarillo, 1995, BS Computer Science: Sitting on the south deck working on a computer program with classmates from Lebanon, Vietnam, Nigeria, Mexico, and U.S. — a world of diversity.

Miguel Marenco-Gongora, Washington, D.C., 1996, B.S.S: Small classes that allowed close interaction with my professors. Thanks for all.

Always happy to hear from you. Please submit your news and photos. Thanks for all of your support over the years.

EXPANDED BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEADS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION


The board was expanded after those attending the annual meeting approved a bylaws amendment to increase the number of appointed board members by four.

UA downtown wrapped up its 25th anniversary celebration this past summer with the Silver Connection, its farewell reunion for all alumni. Whether or not UHD alumni were able to attend the event, they were all asked to send in their favorite memories of days at UHD (or at UHDC — University of Houston Downtown College — as the university was known until 1983). Following is a sampling of ramblings:


Danny Ng, Stafford, 1981, BS Data Processing: Study full time and work full time to support myself. UHDC prepared me well in practical knowledge that allows me a wide choice of opportunity.

Phoebe Chen, M.D., Belleaire, 1982, BS General Studies: Small class sizes, accessibility of professors.

Robert Garcia, Houston, 1983, Purchasing & Material Management:

Luz Maria Gasco, M.D., Houston, 1989, BS in Applied Microbiology: “Hanging out” in the Science Dept. office, trying to memorize the anatomy of the cat in Dr. Avenoso’s class (Comparative Anatomy); this class was difficult, but helpful in med school.


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Miguel Marenco-Gongora, Washington, D.C., 1996, B.S.S: Small classes that allowed close interaction with my professors. Thanks for all.

Last chance: Just a few copies left of the new UHD alumni directory

Going, going, soon to be gone. That’s the story of UHD’s first alumni directory, which was published this past summer. If you want to purchase one of the remaining copies — in either hard-bound or CD-ROM form — don’t wait too long or you may be disappointed.

The directory is more than 300 pages long and contains information on alumni who graduated between 1975 and 1999. It includes an introductory section with current information about the university plus lists of alumni in four categories: biographies listed alphabetically, class rosters listed by year, geographical listings, and professional listings. Cost is $59.95 for either the book or CD-ROM, or $69.95 for both, plus $6.95 for shipping and handling.

Directory sales order forms are available by calling 713-221-8045 or writing to Alumni Relations Office, UH-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 621-S, Houston, TX 77002.
Student Motivated to Succeed and to Help Others

If you have been to a UHD student event, you have probably met Melody Almogabar. And once you see her winning smile, you can never forget her.

Almogabar is a psychology major, with a minor in theater. She is the president of the Campus Activities Board, interim president of Psi Chi, an honor society for psychology majors and an active member of the Latin American Student Service Organization.

She was recently chair of the Student Leadership Conference. She researched and invited Donna Cole, president and CEO of Cole Chemicals, to speak at the conference luncheon. Cole spoke about perseverance, a good attitude and keeping priorities in order — similar qualities you find in Almogabar.

Almogabar is also committed to a part-time job at Moody Community Center and volunteers at her son’s school almost every week. The community center youths often test her and yet the work gives her the greatest job satisfaction she has ever had. “This is my community center. It’s in my neighborhood,” said Almogabar.

“I feel I can really contribute here and make a difference. I tell people if they want to make a difference in the world, start in your own home, your own back yard. By being here I can serve as a role model for my kids to pursue an education and reach for their goals.”

Family is a major part of Almogabar’s success. She receives a great deal of encouragement and support from her parents, sister, and brother. “I feel my family is my strength and enables me to be a good parent and pursue an education.”

Of course, the center of Almogabar’s world is her six-year-old son, Steven. She was 15 years old when she gave birth and it has not distracted her from her goals. “I want to be a role model for my son, too. I am not going to stop pursuing my goals because I have a family — I am going to pursue my goals because I have a family,” said Almogabar.

Almogabar hopes to continue her education and pursue master’s and doctorate degrees. Research, clinical and abnormal psychology interest her the most.

Say YES! to Science

White boards, cranberry juice, Alka Seltzer and computers were the ingredients for learning at UHD this past summer for 60 teachers from 16 Houston Independent School District campuses. Under the guidance of UHD science faculty, the teachers spent two days learning new ways to use technology in their classrooms through the Say YES! to a Youngster’s future program. Designed by the National Urban Coalition and funded by Shell Oil Company, the program prepares school children of color and females for success in math, science and technology. Parents are included, so that they can reinforce the program through involvement in their children’s learning process.

UHD was chosen to host the Say YES! summer learning institute for teachers. UHD Science Learning Center Director Scott Slough and Dr. Phyllis Griffard, lecturer in biology, took the lead. Dr. Slough believes teachers have to get comfortable with computers well before they walk in their classrooms. “If they’re not using technology for their own learning, then they won’t understand how to use it for kids.”

In one experiment, he showed the teachers how to use computer-linked lab equipment to monitor chemical changes when a tablet of Alka Seltzer was added to cranberry juice. Meanwhile, in another lab, Dr. Griffard demonstrated concept maps, a computer-based learning model.

Participant Valerie Butler Harris, a physical education teacher at J.R. Reynolds Elementary, incorpo-

rates science instruction in her classes. “The use of technology will be the standard for teachers in the new millennium. I’m excited about the opportunity to learn the latest techniques.”

Sharpening the Technical Edge

Computer skills are essential in order to be competitive in the job market, but many inner city communities are short on the technology resources they need to compete. A new technology initiative at Wheatley High School will help bridge the “digital divide,” thanks to a collaborative effort that combines the creative energy of UHD’s Department of Urban Education with the powerful resources of IBM.

The project is coordinated by UHD’s Dr. Jerome Middleton, assistant professor of urban education.

Other partners in the project include Houston Mayor Lee Brown and the Houston Independent School District. At the unveiling of the project, HUSD technology chief Ann Meyn highlighted the critical need for technology instruction and access: “Currently, 65% of all jobs require skills in technology. That will increase to 95% by 2005.”

The Partners in Education initiative will bring parents, teachers and students to the computer table to learn how to use technology in learning and communication. Dr. Middleton explains that the program will offer free e-mail to Wheatley students and their parents, in addition to training in family website development and other computer literacy help.
**UHD Welcomes New Director for O’Kane Gallery**

Mark Cervenka is the new director of the O’Kane Gallery. Cervenka was attracted to the O’Kane because of the downtown atmosphere and the thought of becoming a part of the art scene in a major metropolitan area.

“The urban environment, diversity and community collaboration that UHD is known for felt like a good fit after having been in L.A.,” said Cervenka. “The gallery is ripe for success with the downtown setting and renovation of the exhibition space,” he said.

Cervenka was previously with First Street Gallery Art Center in L.A. The gallery exhibited artwork of individuals who are developmentally disabled.

**Giving Back to UHD through Scholarships**

Large corporations and foundations aren’t the only source of scholarships. Many UHD scholarship funds are established by community groups or individuals...in some cases, by people who have happy remembrances into financial help for current students. She donated a total of $2,000 to set up "Sharon’s Scholarship," designed especially for students who are actively involved in extracurricular student activities.

Matthews graduated in 1996 with a degree in General Business, and now lives in San Angelo. She understands that scholarships are the key to a college degree for many students who couldn’t otherwise afford to pay for an education. Anyone can establish a scholarship for UHD students. Gifts in any amount are welcome. The recommended amount for a named scholarship is $500 or more. An endowed scholarship must be at least $10,000. Income from the endowment account will be used annually to support a named scholarship. For further information, contact Diane Olson at 713-221-8045.

**Facility Win Special Grants**

UHD faculty are distinguishing the university on state and national levels as recipients of special grants.

Three UHD faculty members are recipients of Eisenhower Higher Education Grants, awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This is the second year that UHD faculty have received such recognition.

Dr. Evelyn Brown, assistant professor of education, was awarded $74,979 for a math education project in partnership with North Forest Independent School District (ISD). Dr. Philip Lyons, assistant professor of biology, received $74,861 for a science education project in partnership with Houston ISD, and Dr. Tyra Montgomery, associate professor of chemistry, will use $62,944 in partnership with HISD to explore the chemistry of environmental issues such as acid rain.

The director of UHD’s Civic Jazz Orchestra, Robert Wilson, is the recipient of a grant from the Smithsonian Institute and the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. The funding provides a complete set of the original arrangements recorded by the Duke Ellington Orchestra from 1933-1974, to be used for both study and performance.

**“HIGH ART” EXHIBIT FEATURES LOCAL STUDENT TALENT**

High school students from ten high schools around Houston participated in this year’s “High Art 2000.” Foley’s sponsors the exhibit to encourage pre-collegiate students in the arts and give them an opportunity to exhibit in a university gallery.

Jim Seigler, retired vice president of store planning and design, awarded cash prizes to the winners in front of about 125 guests and supporters at the opening reception. "Helping young artists in our community is a central part of life,” said Seigler. “Foley’s is proud to be a part of the community through UHD’s ‘High Art’ program,” he said.

First prizes were awarded to Keith Howard, Sterling High School; Martin Casper and Aleisha Bayron, Carver High School and Gabriel Alanis from MacArthur High School. They received $200 each. Second, third and honorable mention prizes were also awarded. This is the first High Art exhibit in the renovated gallery since the Main Street floor improvements have been completed.

“The show is unique for us in that all the students are exhibited and the best work is rewarded with prize money,” said Mark Cervenka, new director of the O’Kane Gallery. “I am encouraged by the techniques and style the students are practicing. It’s a positive beginning for emerging artists,” he said.

Eighty-one pieces from the 10 schools were entered and judged by Michael Collins, professor of art at Houston Baptist University.

**The Face of UH-Downtown**

In Houston this coming February, UH-Downtown’s focus on student success is reflected in the newly-renovated third floor of the One Main building, which opened as the One-Stop Student Service Center, centralizing all student services in one location.
UHD will play a significant role in education about America's space program. Dr. Penny Morris-Smith, assistant professor of biology and geology, received a $675,000 grant from the NASA Office of Space Science, Minority University Education and Research Partnership Initiative in Space Science. The funds will be used over three years for a number of programs. Four UHD students will serve as interns at Johnson Space Center. The internships will provide a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to do advanced research, giving them an edge in a highly competitive field.

A portion of the grant will fund "Space Science for Everyone — A Student Ambassador Project," involving college and high school students in sharing space science information in various community settings, such as the Houston Museum of Natural Science and local day camps. Another key aspect of the grant will be in-service courses for middle and high school science teachers at UHD and TSU.

"The size of the grant is significant, and it indicates the high rating it received from the evaluators," said Dr. Morris-Smith. "It will allow us to strengthen our already good relationship with NASA Johnson Space Center."

Welcome to www.UHD.edu!

You’re invited to visit www.UHD.edu, UHD-Downtown’s new website. The homepage has been retooled to be more user-friendly, with an updated look. The main links feature "pop-out" listings of additional links to take the user anywhere they want to go.

The new website offers online services especially designed to make life easier for UHD students. Student e-services allows individuals to check their own grades, class schedule, and payment status. Few public universities in Texas currently offer a comparable service. The feature is so popular that more than 800 completed transactions for personalized information were recorded in just one week’s time.

In the next year, students will be able to apply, register and pay for classes online. In addition, UHD is expanding its list of online courses.

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