30th Anniversary:
Countless Reasons to Celebrate

Thirty years of UHD is 60 fall and spring semesters (not to mention the summer sessions); 42 academic programs; 36 commencement ceremonies; and, 17,287 graduates.

But numbers only hint at UHD’s impact over its three decade history. Ultimately, the most significant measure of UHD’s success can’t be calculated – specifically, how lives have been changed through education.

“UHD Downtown holds a special place in this community as a place of access and opportunity for all who seek to fulfill their dreams of a university education,” said Beth Robertson, former chair of the UH System Board of Regents and a member of the UHD President’s Advisory Council, at the 2004 President’s Report to the Community. “We all look forward to the many great things that will be accomplished here in the next 30 years.”

“UHD’s mission positions us as a new generation institution,” UHD President Max Castillo told breakfast guests. “In the truest sense, we represent the inevitable direction that higher education must take in the future. UHD Downtown students reflect the world in which we now live, and even more so, the world of tomorrow.”

It Begins with a Brand New Building...

UHD’s 30th anniversary celebration centered on the grand opening of the new Commerce Street Building, “a beautiful facility that gives us a more visible presence and solidifies our standing as Houston’s Downtown University,” said Dr. Castillo.

The building houses the College of Public Service, comprising the departments of urban teacher education and criminal justice. Each floor has a large mural by UHD art professor Floyd Newsum. Another aesthetic feature at the front steps of the building is a 25-foot lighted architectural structure that is referred to as a beacon. A pair of beacons will be added on either side of the One Main Building later this year.

For the first time, students at UHD’s downtown location are no longer “under one roof.” UHD’s campus now spans Buffalo and White Oak Bayous.

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College and Boxing, Hand in Glove

This past summer, UHD student Juan Diaz went up against Lakva Simm of Mongolia for the World Boxing Association Lightweight Title. Televised on HBO from Reliant Arena, the match made Diaz the first Houstonian to compete for his first world title in his hometown, and the first to win. Two days later he registered for full classes.

Juan fits the profile of many UHD students – maintaining a hectic schedule of work and school, except he just happens to be a world class boxer. Juan maintains a 3.0+ grade point average and is focusing on a pre-law degree. He doesn’t cause a big stir in class, listening intently to his professors, sitting at the front of the room, attracting attention only when the occasional television crew wants to film Juan in his academic environment.

Juan enrolled at UHD under Savannah’s guidance. Early on, overwhelmed with school and boxing, Juan approached Savannah about dropping out of college to concentrate on his profession. The veteran manager told Juan it was okay if the young pro wanted to temporarily step out...of boxing. He wanted Juan to understand that education lasts a lifetime – boxing is a short lived sport. When Juan speaks to groups like the Houston Texans and in local schools, without boasting he is living proof that working hard, and following your dreams with confidence is the perfect combination for success.

In the spring, The 100 Club will hit the million dollar mark in scholarships donated to UHD Downtown, a sign of a longstanding relationship according to Dr. Beth Pelz, dean of the College of Public Service. “The Criminal Justice Department at UHD appreciates the strong support that The 100 Club has given to its majors, both undergraduate and graduate, and looks forward to nurturing this relationship in the future. We particularly appreciate the advice and counsel of executive director Rick Hartley.”

“By helping peace officers to go back to college and receive their degrees, our scholarship program invests in the future,” said Hartley, a UHD alumnus. “Hopefully that will be an inspiration for them to achieve higher ranks in law enforcement in our community.”

Jimmy Taylor, a police officer with the Houston Police Department, is a scholarship recipient. “To me, the scholarship meant a lot. It took a high financial burden off my entire family.”

Officer Taylor notes that the criminal justice program allowed him to explore issues in his profession in depth. “It gave me the ability to see all sides of the puzzle.”

Founded in 1953, The 100 Club now has 21,500 members and has given over $6,652,000 to families in its service area.
An Empty Seat in the Dean’s Office

Dr. Bobby G. Bizzell, dean of the College of Business since 1989, led efforts that greatly impacted the quality of the college’s academic programs and responsiveness to student and community needs. Among his many accomplishments was leading the college to attain the initial accreditation by the prestigious AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) in 1994 and the extension of that accreditation in 2004. The honor is awarded to only one in four U.S. colleges of business and requires rigorous academic strategy and implementation. Bizzell established the college’s first business advisory board made up of prominent corporate and community leaders who have greatly contributed to the excellence demonstrated in the college.

Changing the Face of Science

Are the faces in America’s laboratories, high tech companies and engineering firms representative of our country’s demographics? The answer is most certainly that they are not. UHD is taking the lead to change that with innovative programs targeting underrepresented minorities and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), including the Scholars Academy and the Scholars Academy and the Scholars Academy.

UHD in the World Spotlight

UH-Downtown STEM students attended an international conference without leaving campus when UHD hosted InTech ‘04, a world conference on intelligent and fuzzy technologies. Thailand’s Assumption University partnered with UHD to coordinate the event. Participants came from as far away as Korea and Australia to discuss topics ranging from homeland security to data mining. Dr. Richard Aló, executive director of UHD’s Center for Computational Science, served as the conference chairman. This is the first time the event took place in the United States.

Bragging Rights

Much Ado About Shakespeare

Dr. Merrilee Cunningham, associate professor of English, was invited to give a seminar on Shakespeare at the annual Houston Teachers’ Institute for select teachers from the Houston Independent School District. The institute is a partnership between HISD and the UH System, working with 120 HISD educators each year to encourage stronger teaching methods and to hold students to higher standards.

Teaching English Around the Globe

Dr. Michele J. Sabino, executive director of University Advancement, is serving a term as president of the international organization TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). She convened the organization’s symposium on social responsibility in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and represented TESOL at the annual United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization Conference at UN headquarters in New York. The UN/NGO conference attracted 2,000 participants representing 79 countries.

Forceful Advice

Assistant Professor Bob Walsh, interim chair of the Criminal Justice Department, was appointed by the Community Service Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to serve on a multiagency panel that will make recommendations on use-of-force policies for local law enforcement agencies. Dr. Walsh worked with representatives from the Houston Police Department as well as the Harris County Sheriff’s Office to develop a common proposal for current policies of all metro Houston agencies.

The Houston-Tampico-UHD Connection

UHD’s longstanding tie to Tampico, Mexico, is coming in handy as Houston strengthens its relationship with the Mexican municipality. In 2003, the City of Houston established a sister-city relationship with Tampico to facilitate initiatives between the two cities. UHD-Downtown already had an academic exchange program with Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Tomalipas in Tampico, which made UHD President Max Castillo a perfect advisor for Marco Bracamontes, president of the Houston-Tampico Sister City Association. UHD will host the second annual Houston-Tampico Lay Health Workers’ Training Seminar on preventive health for women in mid-December. The seminar will be conducted in Spanish by clinical workers from Mexfam, as well as Mexican students in the Houston LSAMP student research conference, the Houston PREP (PRE-freshman Enrichment Program). UHD’s efforts have received national and international recognition, as well as significant funding. Based on proven success, the National Science Foundation awarded a second five-year grant to Houston’s Lewis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), which includes UHD and seven local higher education partners. “The goal of the first grant was to double the number of STEM graduates during a five year period. UHD tripled ours,” said Dr. Richard Aló, executive director of the Center for Computational Science. During the next five years, Houston’s LSAMP will focus on increasing opportunities for undergraduate research and transitioning more students to graduate school. UHD faculty continually seek ways to encourage and retain STEM students through targeted activities that enhance what they learn in the classroom. For example, students have participated this fall in the Houston LSAMP student research conference, the national conference of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, and the Hispanic Engineers National Award and Achievement Conference. Next spring, Dr. Aló plans to take 15-20 students to Cartagena, Colombia, for the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions. Other significant opportunities include internships in research settings such as Baylor College of Medicine and UH-Houston Health Science Center. Last summer, 15 UHD students were placed in off-campus internship programs.
Alumnus Lawrence Spence: 
**Birds on the Bayou**

Alumnus Lawrence Spence is using his UH-Downtown education to teach science to students at Crockett Elementary School — and to spruce up the environment at his alma mater. While still an undergraduate student in interdisciplinary studies, Lawrence worked with a professor to write a government grant titled “Birds on the Bayou” that would improve the habitat for local and migratory birds along the bayous that sandwich UHD’s campus.

“Birds on the Bayou” has planted native trees, shrubs, and plants in the more wild areas of the UHD campus with the help of student volunteers from the Scholars Academy, the Environmental Club, and the Student Government Association. The project received a 2004 Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor’s Proud Partner Award.

“By participating in this project, our students see the immediate impact in transforming UHD into a mini-ecosystem,” said Dr. Lisa Morano, assistant professor of environmental biology and microbiology. “We hope to expand our plantings into a native landscape which becomes the model for urban ecology in the middle of downtown Houston.”

The grant falls under the Urban Migratory Bird Conservation Treaty. Harris County Flood Control and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership have also pitched in, donating time and money.

**Alumni: Creating a Career Path**

Alumni often return to campus to talk with students at UHD’s semi-annual Career Expos. This fall, ExxonMobil employees Wole Olugbenle (center), B.S. in Computer Science ('04), and Rick Solis (right), new operations development group, advised computer science major Anand Shukla (left) about career options with their company.

**30th Anniversary Memories**

“I had a counselor who...found a scholarship for me at the University of Houston-Downtown.... I jumped at the opportunity, as I knew my mother could hardly afford the day to day expenses.... After graduation from UHD, I attended...medical school in Dallas.... Since then, I have been a rural physician in Orofino, Idaho. I would like to think that with out UHD, this community would be without one dedicated physician.... I know many more dreams have and will be realized by the excellent work you are providing to your community. Congratulations on your 30th anniversary.”

—Michael G. Meza, M.D., Class of 1989

“...twenty-nine years after my high school graduation, I was graduated from UH-Downtown summa cum laude.... Even though I was a much older student than the majority of my classmates, I never felt out of place. UH-Downtown welcomed students of all ages and I have fond memories of my teachers and experiences there.... Our six children saw and experienced how much their mother enjoyed her studies.... My husband and I are proud that all six went on to college and graduate school.... We are the proud parents of two DDS’s, one MBS, one PAC, one Ph.D., and one MD.”

—Oralia Cantu Sarabia, Class of 1983

**Calendar**

- **Winter Commencement:** Minute Maid Park, December 12, 2 p.m.
- **O’Kane Gallery:** Hsien-Ya Wang: Works on Nature, through December 16; The Development of Editorial Cartoons in the Southern African American Press Following Emancipation, January 17-February 24; Brian Ransom: Ceramic Sound Works, March 1- April 7, 713-221-8042
- **T-Tapp Wellness Weekend:** Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center, February 17-20, 713-221-8225 or 1-800 TAPP FIT
- **University Theatre:** The Mandrake by Niccolo Machiavelli, O’Kane Theatre, April 1-9, 713-221-8104
- **Red Rose Ball:** Hilton Americas-Houston, April 20, 6:30 p.m., 713-221-8563
- **Spring Commencement:** Minute Maid Park, May 8, 2 p.m.
Friends

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

$50,000 to $49,999
El Paso Corporate Foundation

$20,000 to $49,999
The Cullen Foundation

$10,000 to $19,999
Consumer Guide, Inc.

$5,000 to $9,999
AGC

$1,000 to $4,999
Evehant Partners

ALUMNI ANNUAL FUND

$200 to $600
Pamica, '04, and Jack Levine

$100 to $199
Veronica A. Serrano, '91

$99 and below

On January 1, 2004 and August 31, 2004, please note that names following a name signify the year of graduation from UHD.

What’s New? Send a Note!

Update your former UHD classmates on your life by submitting an item for the “Alumni Notes” in New Horizons. We’ll also post your item in the alumni section of UHD’s website.

You can e-mail directly from the website at www.uhd.edu/alumni/notes.htm. Or, send an e-mail to Karen Alfaro-Chamberlain at alfarok@uhd.edu.

You may also mail your item to Karen at Alumni/Notes, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.

What are matching gifts?

Matching gifts are unique because company names are the donors whose contributions match those matching gifts possible.

AIG

Alphonse A. Cohen Foundation

Amerada Hess Companies

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Conoco/Phillips

ExxonMobil Foundation

Heuwelt-Packard Foundation

Houston Exploration Company

JP Morgan Chase Foundation

What’s Next?

Update your former UHD classmates on your life by submitting an item for the “Alumni Notes” in New Horizons. We’ll also post your item in the alumni section of UHD’s website.

You can e-mail directly from the website at www.uhd.edu/alumni/notes.htm. Or, send an e-mail to Karen Alfaro-Chamberlain at alfarok@uhd.edu.

You may also mail your item to Karen at Alumni/Notes, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.

Generous

Friends

Commodities to UHD-Alumni are

Taxable educational opportu-
leaders and friends endorsed the university’s mission of educational opportunity and uncompromised quality for all.

“All along the way, for all of these three decades, we have been blessed by community partners and friends who are in harmony with our goals,” said UHD President Max Castillo. “They grasp the import of UHD’s role in educating one of the most diverse student populations in the nation.”

Thanks to steadfast community support over these many years, UHD has flourished through new academic programs, additional scholarships for deserving students, enhanced technology, enriched library resources and more. Following is a sample of friends who have provided consistent support.

Cullen Foundation

When it came to being in 1974, UHD was a continuation of the vision put forth by founders of the University of Houston System who understood the need to provide working Houstonians with educational options. Principal in this group was the Cullen family, which has long maintained a tradition of support for education.

Starting in 1988, the Cullen Foundation has backed projects that have enhanced UHD’s effectiveness as an institution of higher education. As one of the lead donors to the UH System’s Creative Partnerships campaign of the early 1990s, the foundation established The Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Endowment at UH-Downtown. Interest income earned from this endowment provides seed money for startup projects at the University.

With a major gift in 1996, the foundation made it possible for UHD to assemble large groups of people for lectures and performances through construction of the 400-seat Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium. Gifts also supported creation of the Technology Teaching and Learning Center, which trains UHD faculty and staff on how to make best use of computer technology in the classroom setting.

The most recent gift from the Foundation supports the Cullen Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The program promotes interdisciplinary activities that examine student learning styles so that strategies can be developed to enhance teaching effectiveness.

Welch Foundation

The Welch Foundation is a legacy to the world from Robert Alonzo Welch, a self-made man with a strong sense of responsibility to humankind, an enthusiastic respect for chemistry and a deep love for his adopted state of Texas. Mr. Welch came to Houston as a youth and later made his fortune in oil and minerals. The foundation is one of the United States’ oldest and largest private funding sources for basic chemical research.

The foundation recognized the important role that UHD plays in developing young scientists. In 1994, the foundation began supporting UHD’s Department of Chemistry through research grants that have been used in large part to fund the Center for Applied Polymer Science Research.

“Much of the money has been used for student research scholarships,” said Dr. Byron Christmas, center director and associate professor of chemistry. “Some funds have also been used to acquire important instrumentation that we use in our research.”

El Paso Corporate Foundation

Beginning with its first gift in 1985, the El Paso Corporate Foundation has given unstinting support to UH-Downtown.

One program with particularly high impact has been El Paso’s funding of the Jefferson Davis Scholarship Program. Targeted toward students from the near Northside high school with limited ability to pay for a college education, the program has contributed to a profound increase in the numbers of college-bound graduates during the past decade from Jefferson Davis High School.

Over the years, El Paso Corporate Foundation also has funded departmental grants, campus development and library development, a lecture series, student service programs, and Red Rose Scholarships.

Shore Oil Company Foundation

The Shore Oil Company Foundation has been deeply involved with the College of Science and Technology at UH-Downtown.

The Foundation was a significant partner in launching the Science Learning Center and the Science and Technology Demonstration Laboratory at the University. Both facilities are heavily used by students and faculty. Teachers from area school districts routinely come to UH-Downtown for specialized instruction in these labs that will update and improve their skills in science education. The labs also have been instrumental in leveraging other major gifts for the university from federal agencies and other funding partners.

The Shell Mentor Scholars Program established a structure of peer mentors within the College of Science and Technology. The program was an important precursor to the University Scholars Academy, a comprehensive learners community for students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at UH-Downtown.

Donor Recognition

UHD’s Life-long Friends

For thirty years, UH-Downtown has played a significant role in developing Houston. Through education, it has added in creating baskets, safe models and influential voices for our community. Working downtown, I have witnessed the growth of this university into a successful ‘institution of excellence,’ and I hope it continues building dreams and establishing opportunities for its students and our society.”

Houston City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Carol Alvarado

The endowed Jesse H. Jones and Mary Gibbs Jones Scholarship has provided financial resources for qualifying UHD students since 1980. Through a series of major gifts since 1995, Houston Endowment has enabled an important land purchase for the University, construction of the Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center, restoration of the Willow Street Pump Station, and startup funding for the Learners Community and the Master of Arts in Teaching degree program. The most recent grant from Houston Endowment Inc. will help establish a university-wide Distinguished Faculty Award.

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The O’Kane Gallery hosted exhibits this fall ranging in interest from the historical to the eloquent. Walter Cotton: Painting Histories featured a rare one-person exhibition by Texas artist Walter Cotton, 1892-1978.

In Hsien-Ya Wang: Works on Nature, former Taiwanese Air Force pilot Colonel Hsien-Ya Wang’s Chinese landscape and floral paintings reflect an uplifting style often focusing on ethereal subjects. After retirement in the 1970s, Wang began developing his drawing talent and moved into traditional styles. He currently teaches and exhibits his works extensively. This is Wang’s first U.S. show and it will be in the gallery through December 16.

The O’Kane Gallery has provided the university and downtown community with diverse offerings of artistic expression since 1974. The gallery is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday and is located on the third floor of the One Main Building.

Tapp-ing into Fitness

Fitness both for the body and the mind. That’s the inspiration for fitness expert Teresa Tapp’s annual visit to UH-Downtown to generate funds for the T-Tapp Scholarship endowment for UHD students.

Internationally known, Tapp travels extensively to share her exercise regimen based on principles of exercise physiology, a high aerobic workout with no jumping or use of weights. The program focuses on inch loss, rather than weight loss.

T-Tapp is a physical therapy, “less is more” approach to fitness that delivers muscle density rather than bulk. The exercise movements appear very simple but are quite complex.

A T-Tapp Wellness Weekend is scheduled for February 17-20, including a variety of workouts and seminars. Tapp will share health and wellness information at a free “Yes You Can” seminar on Thursday, February 17, in UHD’s Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium. While attendance is free, you’re asked to preregister.

More information is available at www.Tapp.com, or at 877 TAPP FIT.
Another landmark in UHD’s anniversary year is the grand opening of the Willow Street Pump Station. Built in 1902 as part of Houston’s earliest municipal utility system, the facility is a striking example of historic preservation and adaptive reuse. UHD has made it available for community use as a conference and exhibition space.

Barry Mandel, president and CEO of the Houston Downtown Alliance, booked the facility for the annual Pinnacle Breakfast sponsored by HDA’s Emerging Leaders program. “As an organization that promotes downtown Houston, we were delighted to hold our event in a location that represents a significant chapter in the development of our city,” said Mandel. UHD’s commitment to Willow Street’s historic integrity has earned a place on the National Register of Historic Places.