Thanks to outstanding efforts by volunteers and a tremendous outpouring of support from the community, Red Rose Ball 2003 raised $500,450, a 51% increase over last year. Funds from the ball support a variety of scholarship programs at UH-Downtown.

The event honored Lynn and Mark J. Weikel, chairman of Foley’s. Co-chairs were Tom Harper, chairman, The Procurement Centre, and Don Wang, chairman, MetroBank, N.A.

Early in the evening, Harper and Wang announced to the more than 500 guests that the total raised was $488,000. In a spontaneous burst of generosity, three guests donated the $12,000 needed to reach the half-million mark: Paco Bendaña and Bobbie Nau, Budweiser/Silver Eagle Distributors, gave an additional $6,000, matched by Lupe Fraga, Tejas Office Supplies, and Rod Crosby, Avion, who each added $3,000.

All Stars in Varsity Sport of the Mind

Don Dahlberg, a professor in UHD’s English Department

UH-Downtown was one of four teams of students left standing in the finals at the recent regional College Bowl tournament in San Marcos. Called the “varsity sport of the mind,” College Bowl is something like the TV game show “Jeopardy” played at championship levels.

Based on tournament results, the UHD team can rightfully claim to be first in Houston and second in Texas. Teams from Rice and the University of Houston also competed among the 17 universities from Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

It was an especially sweet win since UHD played against teams that have been competing for decades. “We’ve only been around about four years, but our members showed real dedication and commitment this year, practicing regularly and vigorously,” said coach and advisor Dr. Sandra Dahlberg, a professor in UHD’s English Department.

Continued on page 7
Stars in Their Eyes

UHD is helping young people think beyond the horizon in a program that couples the university with NASA. The Partnership Initiative in Space Science is a two-part program — one part teaches space science to middle and high school teachers and the other part engenders enthusiasm about space science in kindergarten through high school students.

“Most UHD students don’t have a very good foundation in science,” said Dr. Penny Morris-Smith, the program’s director and UHD assistant professor in the Department of Natural Science. “They’re afraid of it. The only way you’re going to change this is by strengthening the science programs in schools and reaching out to students.”

In any given year, the Initiative’s space science student ambassadors — paired duos of high school and college students who learn space science experiments that they can teach to their peers — reach over 5,000 individuals. Also, the Initiative hosts two three-week intensive enrichment programs for kindergarten through high-school students and their parents at the Raul Yzaguirre School for Success in southeast Houston. “In the Raul Yzaguirre program, the students’ parents are coming in and learning about space science, too,” said Dr. Morris-Smith. “We’re educating the entire family.”

A final component of the program involves internships at Johnson Space Center, where UHD and Texas Southern University students will conduct research experiments with space scientists from NASA.

Science Fair Encourages Young Scientists

Gene therapy, algebraic invariants and nanoscopic protein organization were just a few of the award-winning entries at the 44th Annual Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH), co-hosted by UH-Downtown.

More than 1,500 junior high and high school students from over 175 schools in a 16-county area competed for recognition and prizes. The grand winners will represent Houston at the national competition in May. SEFH is the fourth-largest science fair in the world and has more than doubled in size since UH-Downtown became the principal sponsor in 1985. It is one of the largest providers of scholarships for science and engineering students in the greater Houston area.

Dr. Larry Spears, chair of UHD’s Department of Natural Sciences, is SEFH’s executive director. UHD’s partner sponsors are the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Engineering, Science & Technology Council of Houston.

Computers, Robots and Rockets for Kids

This summer at UHD, your kids could learn how to make 3D computer animation, design a computer game, and build a robot or a robot. Each summer, UHD’s Applied Business Technology Center partners with other institutions to coordinate CompuCamp for kids ages 10-17 and ScienceCamp for ages 6-12. One- or two-week sessions are offered in June and July. For information on fees and registration, visit www.uhd.edu/kids.
“One of the most gratifying aspects of this work is the knowledge that our efforts translate into scholarships for deserving UHD students,” said Wang, who noted that one way in which the ball has grown is through the number of endowed scholarships. “I commend our endowment donors for leaving this heritage.”

Four new named endowments were established this year, including Crown Mark, Inc.; Sue Hsiao, Carol and Tom Harper, Hong Kong City Mall; Hai Du Duong; and MetroBank, Ming and Don Wang. Each year, the $60,000 endowments will generate funds to underwrite the cost of one scholarship.

“The increased financial support over the past several years has enabled UHD Downtown to significantly expand its Red Rose scholarship program,” said Harper. “In fact, the program will help nearly 90 students.”

Scholarships will be awarded to 25 Red Rose Scholars. 50 transfer students will receive the Dean’s Scholarship; freshmen in the Learners Community, an academic support program for first year students, will receive laptop computers; and, students will be able to participate in an exchange program with Chung-Cheng University in Taiwan.

Linda Peña, chosen to speak on behalf of the 25 Red Rose Scholars who were introduced at the ball, voiced their gratitude: “This scholarship will enable us to concentrate on our goals and achieve our dreams while easing the financial burden of a college education. As we walk across the stage to receive our college degrees, our hearts will be thanking you for believing in us.”
Professional Writing Alum Samuel Johnson Has Career in Words

Samuel Johnson felt he knew how to write. After all, he was forty-one years old and had served in the Army as a technical writer, as an editor for its headquarters in Europe, and as a public affairs officer.

Yet when Dr. Bartholomew returned Samuel’s first paper, he saw that she had covered it with corrections and comments. “She showed me I wasn’t as good as I thought,” Samuel said. “She really, really trained me. I give all the credit to where I am today to her.”

Today, Samuel works as a technical writer and editor for the U.S. Department of State office of investigations in Washington, D.C. He is writing a book about his experiences in his life so far, Samuel said; “UHD is one of them.”

UHD Alumna Helps in Fight for Justice

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Thanks for Giving to UHD’s Annual Fund!

—Don’t Forget to Mail Your Check—

Your gifts of $50, $100, $250 or more to the Alumni Annual Fund will make a difference in the lives of UHD students.

Scholarships: Did you have to worry about how you would pay for your education when you were a student at UHD? Then you can understand how much a scholarship can mean. It could be the extra financial boost that allows an individual to work fewer hours and have more time to study. Your gift will support students with high academic merit and financial need.

Student internships and service learning: UHD Downtown provides its graduates with practical, relevant experience in their chosen academic or career fields. Thanks to partnerships with corporations, government and nonprofit agencies, students can participate in academic conferences and gain experience in field-based internships that sharpen their understanding of the workplace.

Faculty and staff professional development: Conferences and seminars can be real skill sharpeners for any professional in this rapidly changing world. Your gift to the Alumni Annual Fund could help UHD faculty stay current in their academic disciplines, which will translate to even better classroom experiences for their students.

Here’s How Your Annual Fund Gift Will Be Used:

UHD Downtown alumni are responding with generosity to phone calls inviting your participation in the Annual Fund Campaign. At this printing, you have pledged $32,553, or 93% of the goal of $35,000 in fully-filled pledges.

The students of UHD are counting on you to follow through on the next step — sending in your pledge. Proceeds will support scholarships, student internships and service learning opportunities, as well as faculty and staff professional development.

After you make a pledge by phone, you’ll receive a reminder in the mail. Payment may be made by check or credit card. It’s important to send in your gift as soon as possible so that the funds can be processed.

“The benefits we have received as members of the UHD family are immeasurable,” said Debbie and Bill Taff, who graduated in ’94 and ’79, respectively. “Donating to the Annual Alumni Fund is our way of expressing our gratitude and maintaining the relationship we have established with the university.”

If you’re a first-time giver, you can double the value of your gift. Thanks to an anonymous donor, new gifts will be matched dollar for dollar.

You can give online or make an electronic funds transfer gift at www.uhd.edu/alumni.htm. You can also mail your gift to: University Advancement Office, UHD-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.

If you haven’t received a phone call yet, stand by! Phone calls will be made through June.

For additional info, contact Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin at 713-221-8045, or alfaro@uhd.edu.

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Remembering Red Roses

UHD alumni Alex Hristov (on left) flew from his home in Boston to celebrate with his cousin, Gergana Anguelova, when she was honored as a scholarship recipient at Red Rose Ball 2003. Alex was awarded a Red Rose Scholarship in 1995. He graduated in 1996 with a BBA in Computer Information Systems and now works as an information technology consultant. Gergana plans to graduate in 2004 with a degree in purchasing and supply chain management.

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 Allarco-Chamberlin at alfarok@uhd.edu. Or, mail your item to Karen at UH-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.
New Horizons introduces you to a UHD scholarship recipient and the organization that made the scholarship possible.

In the spring 2000 semester, Marisol Morelos dropped her four UHD classes for personal reasons. With her financial aid in jeopardy, Marisol feared she would never get back to school. Monica Willis in UHD’s Scholarships and Financial Aid Department came to Marisol’s rescue. She told Marisol about the Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters (HADC) and their scholarship program. Founded in Houston in 1924, HADC is dedicated to intellectual enrichment, social enhancement, and philanthropic endeavors. Thanks to HADC, Marisol attended college full-time for the first time and became an A student. “The Delphians are wonderful. They are very supportive and always available. They’re interested in what your plans are and how they can help you to keep going,” Marisol said.

In spring 2003, at thirty years of age and after six years in college, Marisol will graduate with honors with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies. She plans to attend a master’s program in Spanish and ultimately, become a Spanish professor. Marisol knows the value of a helping hand. “I plan to keep in touch with the Delphians, because I would like to pitch in,” Marisol said. “When you have that financial support and the encouragement, it makes a big difference.”

Scholarships: Value for Life

Bragging Rights
Top Recognition for UHD Business Professor
Dr. Anisul Islam, a professor in UHD’s Finance, Accounting, and Computer Information Systems Department, has a lot to be proud of these days: his goals for UHD are coming to fruition — and his peers are noticing.

Having founded UHD’s international business degree (IBD) program in 2000, Dr. Islam has seen it grow to more than 100 declared and intended majors. The program has 33 graduates so far. Also, four IBD students have won internships with local businesses, thanks to Dr. Islam’s relationship with the Greater Houston Partnership.

Dr. Islam received the acclaim of his peers in national business societies. He is president of the Southwestern Society of Economists (SSE) and a board member of SSE’s parent group, the Federation of Business Disciplines (FBD). The FBD elected him program chair for the Academy of International Business, for which he will organize the next annual meeting in Orlando.

Dr. Islam sees these honors as steps to greater recognition for UHD. “The international business degree program is the reason I wanted to be the program chair,” Dr. Islam said. “It will bring our program recognition.”

Students Awarded Prestigious Internships
UHD faculty routinely encourage students to get as much practical experience as possible to enhance their classroom knowledge in preparation for entry into the workplace or graduate studies.

At least ten UHD students from the Natural Sciences Department have been accepted into a variety of summer undergraduate research programs with guidance from Dr. Joan Abramowitz, associate professor of microbiology. Among the program locations are Kraft Foods, NASA, UTHouston, UTMB, Baylor College of Medicine, and NYU. The students are Rukayat Adelugan, Courtney Bock, Imene Bokhetache, Tim Davies-Bolugun, Carmen Galvan, Melinda Harkness, Jeeba Kuriakose, Diana Leal, Dipal Patel, Vidanti Sample, and Tek Williams.

T-Tapp at UHD

Health and fitness guru Teresa Tapp will bring her exercise program to UH-Downtown. Known as T-Tapp, the program uses basic movements with no equipment such as weights.

Tapp offers a free lecture and workout for UHD students, faculty and staff on Thursday, June 5, 4-7 p.m., starting at the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium. The same format will be offered free to the general public on Friday, June 6, 6-8 p.m. Two workout sessions are offered on Saturday, June 7, from 9-11 a.m. and 2:30-4:30 p.m. Tickets are $100 per session. A lunch seminar is also offered from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Proceeds will be used for a scholarship for a student who is involved with UHD’s sports and recreation program.

All workout classes will be held in UHD’s Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center, a health and fitness facility that houses two gymnasia, workout and weight rooms and a dance studio.

For ticket information, call 713-221-8225, or visit www.ttapp.com.
A local campus contest is held in the fall to establish team composition and raise awareness of the academically astute group. The 2003 team challenged UHD faculty to an exhibition duel to help promote the activity. Recently, faculty in the natural sciences hosted the second Microbial or Science Jeopardy for its students, giving more students a taste of the nail-biting battle.

Will Bateman, senior accounting major and first year college bowl competitor, became a Regional All Star Team Member at the tournament by placing fifth overall in scoring out of 75 participants.

Team members include: Captain Vedengi Sample, senior chemistry major; Bateman; Amy Sweptson, postbacacolleluate in teacher certificaion; Florencio (Armando) Gallegos, senior computer science major; and Tek Williams, sophomore biotechnology major. Team support members were Terea Sanders and Brandon Plunkett.

Said Dr. Dahlberg, “We have exceeded our initial expectations and hope to continue improving as the team continues to grow.”

Meet Dr. Michele Sabino

Dr. Michele J. Sabino has been appointed interim executive director of university advancement at UH-Downtown. Dr. Sabino assumes fund development and communications and marketing responsibilities for the institution.

As an administrator who also teaches, she instructs graduate students in the Master of Arts in Teaching program in the Urban Education Department.

“I look forward to working with my colleagues to forward the mission of this outstanding institution,” said Dr. Sabino. “UH-Downtown faculty and staff cultivate a quality learning environment that emphasizes excellence in teaching and student success.”

Dr. Sabino’s connection to the university began when she was an assistant professor of English, director of the English language Institute, and assistant vice chancellor for special programs from 1982-86.

A deep believer in community involvement, Dr. Sabino helped found and currently chairs the Greater Houston Collaborative for Children. Internationally, she is president elect of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, a global association with 14,000 members from 127 countries.

UHD + NHMCCD = Two-for-One Education

from both institutions better achieve their academic goals through increased course options and access to student services.

To enroll in the program, students must meet both institutions’ admissions requirements. Students who qualify may enroll simultaneously in both institutions or may transfer credits between the two.

NHMCCD students enrolled in the joint admissions program will be eligible for several UHD scholarships, including those for urban teacher education, criminal justice administration, the dean’s scholarship, and the undergraduate transfer scholarship.

The North Harris Montgomery Community College District, which has served Houston area students for thirty years, has experienced exponential growth in recent semesters, expanding from just under 25,000 enrolled students in fall 2000 to over 35,000 students in fall 2002. In the past two years, NHMCCD has reported the largest percentage of enrollment increases among all fifty community colleges in Texas, at 41.2%.

The joint admissions agreement helps UHD and NHMCCD meet the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s goal for increasing enrollment in the state’s universities and community colleges.
Thank You, HAL!

HAL Incorporated, a Houston-based company that creates logistics software and information systems for supply-chain management, has donated software, installation, and training worth $170,000 to UH-Downtown.

The university will use HAL’s software to create a joint supply chain management and computer information systems class tentatively titled “The Use of Information Systems on the Supply Chain” for the spring 2004 semester. The class will be held on a regular basis.

HAL Incorporated’s software tracks the offshore shipping of projects and oil platforms for major oil companies, including ExxonMobil, Chevron, and Texaco.

“The importance of energy and oil in the market means that students trained in HAL Incorporated’s software will be very employable,” said Dr. Gary Stading, the UHD professor who orchestrated the donation.

At UH-Downtown, the emphasis is on excellence in teaching and student success. Each year through the Faculty Awards program, UHD faculty honor peers who take that commitment to heart. The award for Excellence in Teaching is given to a professor who demonstrates passion for the academic success and welfare of students through exemplary classroom instruction and attention to their individual needs.

This year, the awardee is Dr. Joan Abramowitz, professor of microbiology in the Department of Natural Sciences, who received accolades from colleagues and students.

“As a mentor, Dr. Abramowitz was able to ease my trepidation,” said student Caroline Daigle, in a testimonial. “I have met many seasoned professors at the University of Houston-Downtown... But, I have not met another professor who takes the same personal interest in his or her students’ success.”

The award for Scholarly/Creative Activities recognizes faculty who have exhibited excellence in serving the profession through scholarly activities such as research, publications, performances, exhibits, and presentations. Co-recipients this year are art professor Floyd Newsum in the Department of Arts and Humanities and Dr. Shishen Xie in the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences.

During the awards ceremony, Newsum was praised for his accomplishments as an artist, citing his exhibitions and commissions for public art, including two stations on METRO’s light rail line and sculptures for the Main Street Square project.

Dr. Xie’s pioneering research of the techniques and application of fuzzy set theory to differential and functional equations were cited, along with his success in involving students in his projects.

The Professional/Institutional Service Award is presented to faculty members who practice excellence in serving UH-Downtown, the community and the profession. Dr. Poonam Gulati, Department of Natural Sciences, is the recipient. Although this is only her fourth year at UHD, she has an impressive record of involvement through service to students and to the university community as a whole.

These individuals represent the many caring, dedicated faculty members at UH-Downtown.

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Excellent Faculty. Excellent Recognition.