Red Rose Ball 2004

Lisa Delafuente wants to be a guidance counselor. Jeeba Kurisakase hopes to do biomedical research. Daniel Wibel aspires to teach literature. Sandra Glover, now working at Shell Chemical L.P., dreams of operating a conference center.

Thanks to the Red Rose Scholarship, these UHD students will be closer to realizing their dreams. The Red Rose Ball, UHD’s signature scholarship fundraiser, powers a variety of such scholarship programs for deserving students at Houston’s Downtown University.

Red Rose Ball 2004 is Saturday, April 17 at the new Hilton Americas-Houston, one of many features in the revitalization of downtown Houston.

Meet Red Rose Scholars on Page 8!

Each year, the ball honors an individual for dedication and commitment to education. The 2004 honoree is Eugene H. Vaughan, founding chairman, Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, L.P.

Making Progress

UHD’s new Commerce Street Building is on schedule for an early July move-in date. When this issue went to press, the contractors were installing the building’s glass – the precursor for sheet rock, paint, and finishing touches. On the exterior, the contractor is finishing the steps at the front of the building and a plaza at the back of the building.

New College, New Opportunities:
UHD’s College of Public Service

This year, UHD-Downtown inaugurates the university’s fifth college, the College of Public Service which combines two community-focused academic programs: criminal justice and urban teacher education. The college will be housed in the university’s new Commerce Street Building when it opens this summer. Both programs were formerly a part of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. Beth Pelz is the interim dean of the new college, with approximately 620 students currently enrolled – and more students on the way once the college moves into new quarters. Both academic programs within the college have community advisory boards, and Dr. Marilyn McShane is the director of the college’s new Center for Education and Community Justice. The new center, which is currently seeking funding, will conduct research and provide professional support for community organizations.

And university watchers should take note: the College of Public Service isn’t the only new thing on the UHD academic horizon. For information about the university’s two newest graduate programs, turn to page two.

Continued on page 6
UH-Downtown Adds Two New Master’s Degree Programs

UHD builds on its centers of excellence. The term describes well-established, well-regarded academic programming with strong community and professional ties. Beginning in Fall 2004, two new master’s degree programs will enhance UHD’s strong programs in criminal justice and urban teacher education.

A Secure Future: Master of Science in Security Management

It’s a case of meeting a need: When the security community in Houston asked UHD professor Frank (Trey) Williams for a master’s degree in security management, he listened. Corporate security companies and the Houston chapter of the American Association for Industrial Security expressed interest in the new program, who noted that professional writing graduates from UHD’s professional writing program are in high demand. Students will study advanced techniques in security analysis and risk management.

The Write Stuff: Master of Science in Professional Writing and Technical Communications

UHD’s professional writing program offers courses designed for the Houston area’s large and small security companies and the Elkins Foundation. The program is led by the university’s faculty and professionals from a variety of institutions, ranging from medical to educational. The program is designed to give students the skills to help them move into management positions.

Courses for the new degree will be led by the university’s faculty of skilled and experienced professional writing experts from a wide variety of academic, industry, and service-provider backgrounds.

Bragging Rights

Serious about Fairy Tales
Assistant Professor of English Kathryn Laiy is pleased that her 2003 novel “Pelzmantel: A Medieval Tale” received accolades. The book has been nominated for the Aesop Prize of the Children’s Folklore Section of the American Folklore Society, the International Reading Association’s Children’s Book Awards and a John Newberry Medal.

De-stigmatizing Poverty
Dr. Sandra Dahlberg, assistant professor in the English Department, co-edited the book “Reclaiming Class: Women, Poverty, and the Promise of Higher Education in America,” which focuses on the role that class plays in American society, particularly related to the obstacles that poor women face in getting a college education. Dr. Dahlberg is actively involved with other scholars who explore the unique experience of academicians who grew up in poverty.

Take It to the School Board
Dr. Kurt Stanberry, associate professor in the Department of Management, Marketing and Business Administration, is serving as an officer on the Montgomery Independent School District Board of Trustees. He offers expertise in issues related to higher education and has a history of involvement in legislative issues.

A Sea of Mortarboards

Family and friends enthusiastically sported signs and cameras in the stands of Minute Maid Park during UHD’s winter commencement ceremony. History was made in both the stands – with 15,000 guests – and on the stage, where more than 760 graduates processed, making it the largest group of UH-Downtown grads.

As UHD’s semi-annual commencement ceremonies grow — so does evidence that the university succeeds in helping students attain their educational goals.

“You graduates are the true reflection of the growth of our university,” said Dr. Max Castillo, president of UH-Downtown. “It gives UHD’s faculty and staff tremendous pleasure to see you succeed.”

Two landmarks at the ceremony included the first graduates to earn baccalaureate degrees in biotechnology and the graduation of the first cohort of students in UHD’s Master of Arts in Teaching.
Undergrad Researchers Prepare for Bigger Challenges

UH-Downtown offers undergraduate students a unique opportunity: participation in hands-on research usually reserved for graduate-level students and above. At UH-D’s third Student Research Conference, students expanded their experience when they publicly presented research findings to their peers, faculty, and representatives from the community.

Students in diverse disciplines participated: behavioral and social sciences, computer science, engineering technology, mathematics and natural sciences. The conference was sponsored by the UH-D Scholars Academy, a rigorous, science, technology, engineering and math program that promotes academic excellence and student success.

Students prepared their projects through their participation in internships, independent or directed study, upper level research-oriented lab courses, or undergraduate research on or off campus. Presentations included work from internships at Baylor College of Medicine, NASA, New York University, Rice University, Sam Houston State University, UH-Houston Health Science Center, and UT Medical Branch at Galveston.

Keynote speaker at the conference was UH-D 2003 Alumnus of the Year Phoebe Chen, M.D., associate professor and chief of ultrasound in the Department of Radiology at the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center. She told students that their undergraduate research opportunities will help them advance to graduate and doctoral degrees.

Brains over Brawn: Super Bowl Event at UHD

UH-Downtown helped “kick off” Super Bowl XXXVIII with the Super Quiz Super Challenge, the National Football League’s academic showcase. The death-defying, science-styled event focused on academics, NFL trivia and physical skills. UHD students mixed with students from other universities and high school seniors on teams that did everything from answer science questions to tossing footballs. NFL players, community leaders and volunteers served as coaches.

In the end, the ‘Colts’ won the Super Quiz Super Challenge. UHD 2004 Red Rose Scholar Tim Davies-Balogun played on the winning team. Included in the prizes were $250 book scholarships and NFL paraphernalia.

The Houston Hispanic Forum, a UHD community partner, served as the main sponsor for the event. The forum is a non-profit organization that promotes awareness, understanding and communication about issues affecting the Hispanic community.

Learning at a Distance

Seven percent of UH-Downtown students rarely set foot on campus, and that’s okay. They’re earning their degrees from teaching centers that UHD shares with other universities in areas far from downtown Houston.

For example, Cheston Syma, a Stafford resident, is earning a finance degree from UH-Downtown by attending classes at the UH System at Sugar Land. UH-D accounts for 43% of total enrollments at that location. Cheston plans to use his business education as he pursues career goals that range from entrepreneur to financial analyst.

Altogether, more than 1.5% of UHD students take convenient distance education classes. At the teaching centers, these can be taught by UHD professors who are “live” in the classroom, or through interactive voice/video technology that utilizes TV cameras and microphones for two-way communication. In addition, UHD faculty are teaching 45 classes online this spring.

UHD offers complete degree programs at UH System teaching centers at Sugar Land and at Cinco Ranch, in addition to a multi-institutional facility at The University Center at The Woodlands.
Alumni Annual Fund:  
Help Your Alma Mater Grow

Keep your eye on your mailbox. You should get a letter soon inviting you to participate in the Alumni Annual Fund.

The university is hoping for a particularly warm response in order to support major new initiatives that are vital to UHD.

- the new Master of Science in Professional Writing and Technical Communications;
- the Distinguished Faculty Endowment that will enable faculty members to engage in research, field observation, internships, and other academic activities to enhance their professional effectiveness, especially teaching;
- an accounting lab so that faculty members have the latest available teaching tools in a fast-changing academic discipline;
- and scholarships for promising students interested in science technology, engineering and math fields.

A very special feature: all gifts earmarked for the Distinguished Faculty Endowment will be matched by the Houston Endowment – that’s a 100 percent premium on the dollar amount you decide to contribute! Your gift will help UHD reach the $250,000 mark and result in a total endowment of $500,000 for faculty development activities.

What’s more, all expenses associated with the fund drive have already been covered, so every penny contributed to the Alumni Annual Fund will go to the targeted programs. And your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Additional information about the Alumni Annual Fund is available from Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin from the University Advancement Office, UH-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, TX 77002, 713-221-8402.

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-Chamberlin at alfarok@uhd.edu. Or, mail your item to Karen at UH-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.
service project required for his degree. He found his niche almost immediately, helping sexual assault victims, utilizing his previous training as a veterans benefits counselor. He hopes to use these skills as he transitions into a career in law enforcement.

Growing up in a military family, Madison graduated from a high school in Virginia. He has lived in a number of states and overseas. He saw military action in Panama and Grenada. “I love UHD because it has the same cultural diversity as the military,” Madison observes. “You meet people from all over the world in the classroom, in the hallways, wherever you turn. I think it will help me in my career, as I get out into the community. I’m glad I chose UH-Downtown.”

Madison is passing on his appreciation of quality education to his eleven-year-old daughter, Malana, who lives in California, and a grown daughter, Malana, graduating this year from law school at Pepperdine University.

For a university that’s only 29 years old (and counting), UH-Downtown has great alumni! Each year, one outstanding alumna or alumnus is recognized for service, leadership, and commitment to the community, to UHD, and to family or work. The Alumnus of the Year award spotlights UHD grads who serve as role models for current students and reinforce the university’s reputation for academic excellence.

The 2003 Alumnus of the Year is Phebe Chen, M.D., associate professor and chief of ultrasound in the Department of Radiology at the UT-Houston Health Science Center. Previous awardees include State Senator Mario Gallegos and Rick Hartley, executive director of The 100 Club of Houston and a member of the UHD President’s Advisory Council.

Do you know a fellow UHD grad whose hard work, devotion, and enthusiasm deserve recognition? If so, please take a moment to complete the Alumnus of the Year nomination form available at www.uhd.edu/alumni and send it in by March 31.

The Alumnus of the Year will be announced at an evening reception on May 19. All alumni are invited. December 2003 and May 2004 graduates will be welcomed into the UHD Alumni Society. For details, call Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin at 713-221-8402.

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The 2003 Alumnus of the Year is Phebe Chen, M.D. (left), 2003 Alumna of the Year, shared advice and encouragement with students attending UHD’s Student Research Conference. Dr. Chen talked with Imene Bokhetache, a member of UHD’s Scholars Academy, who presented findings from a summer internship at the UT-Houston Medical School.

UHD Alumnus of the Year: Loyal and True

Continued from page 1

Among the dignitaries were U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Congress members Sheila Jackson Lee and Nick Lampson, State Representative Garnet Coleman and Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia.

Even with foggy weather, UHD was in top form as UHD president Max Castillo welcomed everyone to Houston’s Downtown University. He shared news of UHD’s growing list of academic programs and the upcoming opening of the Commerce Street Building. Dr. Castillo referred to MetroRail as a metaphor for UH-Downtown’s connections with revitalized downtown venues, the arts community in the museum district, expanded internships for students and research opportunities in the medical center. UHD artist-in-residence Floyd Newsum created abstract sculptures for the Main Street Square Station, as well as artwork for two Midtown stations.

MetroRail Grand Opening at UH-Downtown

Continued from page 1

Student cultural and service groups participated in the MetroRail grand opening day activities.
Generous Friends of UHD

Continued from page 1

Ball co-chairs are Joe Hafner, president and CEO of Riviana Foods, Inc. – a previous ball honoree, and George Martinez, chairman of Sterling Bank. The 23rd annual ball will raise funds for a variety of scholarship programs, including $3,000 Red Rose Scholarships for 25 UHD students with strong academic records and demonstrated involvement in campus and community activities, as well as Dean’s Scholarships for highly qualified transfer students and Scholars Academy Scholarships for students in math and science.

Volunteers: Backbone of the Ball

The secret to the success of the Red Rose Ball is tireless support by corporate and community leaders who serve on the ball committee. With co-chairs Hafner and Martinez, the committee provides a combination of know-how and where-with-all.

Committee members include: Joe Adams, Union Pacific Railroad Company; Geary Broadnax, Doavari, Inc.; Ann Earnest, Community Volunteer; Lupe Fraga, Tejas Office Products, Inc.; Tom Harper, III, Resources Connection, Inc.; Elizabeth Hwang, ExxonMobil U.S. HR Services; Larry Jones, Deloitte & Touche, L.L.P.; Anges Quijano, McDonald’s; Deloitte & Touche, L.L.P.; Angeles Resources Connection, Inc.; Tom Harper; II, Railroad Company; Geary & Sapp LLP, Maconda B. O’Connor, Ph.D.; Riviana Foods, Inc., and Beth Robertson.


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Contribution to UHD downtown are with a fulfilling experience in a setting quality educational exposure to all students and earning status to those who might not otherwise be able to pursue a college degree. The group is open to the generally known to $3,500 for the honoree foundations, hometowns and noted arts and culture.

Please note that names following a name signify no prior graduation from UHD.

GENERAL GIFTS
Above $90,000
The 100 Club, P. O.
$60,000 – $89,000
El Paso Corporate Foundation
$10,000 – $59,000
Tu Musica/Azartiza, Inc.
Consumer Guide, Inc.
Estate of Melvin M. Engel
Fiesta Mall
Memorial Foundation
$5,000 – $9,999
American Society for Industrial Security
Center for Energy Law, HMA Consulting, Inc.
The Lerner Law Firm, P.C.
Fidelity Energy Corporation
$1,000 – $4,999
Geary Broadcasting
Brown Flowers Company
Freddy Guidry, ’96
April Gilbert, ’01
Chester B. Benge, Jr.
Conrad C. T. Lee
Sandra L. Adekiya, ’01
Diane D. Dean
Lee K. Ezell, ’83
Sandi L. Thomas, ’00
Michael A. Rivera, ’90
Tammie L. Quinn, ’84
Richard A. Rutkow, ’77
Michael A. Rivera, ’90
Russel W. Shown, ’77
Rachel Watkins, ’83
Billie L. Turner, ’81

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS
In Memory of Jay Anderson /Joan and Charles Anderson
In Memory of Donald Bonham /James and Ruby Evans
In Memory of Nancy Holder Rich /Indra S. Glickstein, ’99
MATCHING GIFTS
Grinnell based the company names are the donors who made these matching gifts possible.

AIG Matching Gifts Program /Russell A. Palmer, ’87
Chewon/Texaco /Ivy T. Gracie, ’90
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Fidelity Investments /David N. Weldon, ’84
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JPMorgan Chase Foundation /Sail E. Ramirez, ’04
Micron Technology Foundation /Russell W. Shown, ’77
The Williams Companies Foundation /Orlando Alejandro, ’93

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Fluid History: Water Under the Big Sky, March 12 – April 12, photographs by Marcy James

From Butte, Montana, Marcy James’s photographs are very mysterious and often devoid of actual human beings, but depict the remnants of human activity. The exhibition will focus on mining and the Berkeley Pit in Montana, steadily being filled with water. She plans to explore mining on a human scale, examining the relationship between the industry and how the refinement of raw materials is connected to everyday human need. The exhibit is part of Houston’s FOTOFEST 2004.

The O’Kane Theatre is at it again: Challenging UHD students, faculty, and staff with productions of classic and acclaimed plays from across the globe. This spring, the O’Kane Theater is launching Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” on April 2 at 8 p.m. The production will run for ten shows, ending April 10. Each performance will cost only $3, and tickets will go on sale at the university cashier’s office on March 29. More information and directions are available by calling (713) 221-8104.
Red Rose Scholars: UHD’s Best and Brightest

The 2004 Red Rose Scholarships recognize twenty-five UHD students for their outstanding academic achievement, leadership potential, community service, and commitment to higher education. Many UHD students work to support their families and to pay for their educations. For this reason, the Red Rose Scholarships are one of the most valuable honors the university provides: $3,000 to cover costs for the next academic year. Each scholarship recipient will be honored at the Red Rose Ball on April 17. Here are just a handful of this year’s amazing Red Rose Scholars:

**JB Bobbit**, age 24, is a political science major. JB’s ultimate goal is to teach at the university level. In keeping with his passion for politics, JB spent countless hours in 2002 volunteering for Harris County in an effort to increase voter turnout. At UHD, JB has served in the Student Government Association as president and senator and has competed as captain of the Student Government Association’s College Bowl team.

**Charisse Cossey**, age 42, is a single mother who works full time as a marketing system manager for Foley’s Department Stores. At UHD, she is studying social sciences. A cancer survivor for fourteen years, Charisse hopes to establish and manage an outreach center for cancer patients and survivors. Charisse is the president of the Houston chapter of the Sisters Network, a breast-cancer support organization, and she volunteers for the American Cancer Society’s Reach to Recovery program.

**Chau Hoang**, age 44, is an interdisciplinary studies major at UHD who plans to attain his Ph.D. in clinical and basic science research. Losing family members and friends to terminal and chronic illnesses has inspired Chau to join the ranks of researchers working to improve the quality of human life. In addition to serving as his disabled mother’s caretaker, Chau is a member of the UHD Leewenhoek Society and was the first student in seven years to win the UHD 2003 Excellence in Calculus-Based Physics Award.

**Patricia Azucena Ramón**, age 20, is a biology major at UHD Downtown who ultimately hopes to serve the Houston community through research and education initiatives that enhance environmental awareness. Patricia spent the summer of 2003 in UHD’s summer research program in environmental science and ecology, evaluating mycorrhizal fungi in three different soil types. At a southwest regional student research conference in 2003, Patricia won second place in the poster category.

**Li Wen Su**, age 29, is an interdisciplinary studies major at UHD who plans to become a bilingual teacher in the Hispanic community after graduation. Fluent in three languages – Taiwanese, Spanish, and English – Li feels she has the potential to educate and communicate without making children feel a sense of culture shock. At KTMD Channel 47, Telemundo Houston, Li works as an intern in the public relations and community affairs department.