Red Rose scholars, their families and the community celebrated the 24th Red Rose Ball in April. This year, the ball honored Ralph S. O’Connor for his leadership and belief in UH-Downtown. O’Connor was the first UHD supporter to endow a Red Rose Scholarship. And he will help the university reach its goal of endowing all 25 scholarships by providing the final endowment in celebration of the ball’s 25th anniversary in 2006. He made the announcement on April 20, to surprised hosts UHD President Max Castillo and his wife, Dr. Rosario Martinez-Castillo, scholars and invited guests. O’Connor’s family joined him in celebrating his generous support of Houston’s Downtown University.

Twelve scholarships have been endowed to date with individual gifts of $60,000. “A gift of this size ensures annual scholarships of $3,000 will be awarded in perpetuity,” said Dr. Max Castillo. “Generating scholarships for UHD students is more critical now than it has ever been. Endowing all 25 scholarships will allow us to strengthen and increase scholarship programs university-wide.”

The 100 Club and UHD Equals Million Dollar Partnership (See page 3)

Roses smell sweet at 24th Red Rose Ball

See page 8 for highlights of the Red Rose Ball
Faculty Leadership Program

UHD’s University College, the entry point for all students at the university, and Houston Community College System are partnering on a federal grant called the Title V Cooperative Arrangement, aimed at improving the college-going experience for incoming freshmen, new transfer students, and counselors, particularly for those who work with those entering college at a disadvantage, and first-generation minority college students.

Working with the Houston Independent School District (HISD), the partnership examines the alignment of curriculum between high schools and colleges and universities. Administrators of the federal grant will find ways to capitalize on mutual guidelines to prepare at-risk high school students for higher education.

This year, the Faculty Leadership Program held professional development workshops in the fall and spring for faculty in the targeted subjects of English composition, reading, math, and the sciences — areas where incoming freshmen show the greatest need for academic support. The collaboration will help the state “close the gap” between high school and college by contributing to professional development among public school teachers, counselors, and college faculty.

Through preparation of instructors and counselors, particularly for those who work with those entering college at a disadvantage, the new program is designed to help students achieve their greatest potential.

UHD’s University College is no stranger to the effort, having formed the Learners Community from a startup grant under Title V. The federal initiative to prevent a national crisis of needed skilled workers, provided funds to offer a cooperative learning environment for incoming freshmen, new transfer students, and counselors.

Recipient of last year’s Teaching Excellence Award, Dr. Anisul Islam, professor of economics, chaired the university-wide faculty committee. During the yearlong process the committee reviews nominations, selects and interviews finalists and determines the winners. This year, an additional award, in the name of Elias Deeba, was bestowed upon a faculty member who has received all three distinctions. Dr. Deeba was professor of mathematical science and assistant chair of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences. The Deeba family helped fund the award.

This year’s finalists are: Dr. Nell M. Sullivan, Service; Dr. Kathryn Laity, Scholarly and Professional Activity; and Dr. Jane Creighton, Teaching. Dr. Anisul Islam received the Elias Deeba Award. Recipients of the 2005 Faculty Awards received a plaque, a medallion, and a cash prize as recognition for their accomplishments. The acknowledgment contributes to the high standards among UHD faculty who work to maintain the university’s mission of excellence and opportunity.

BMC Software Scholarship

Recipients of the UHD/BMC Software Inc. Scholarship were recognized recently by Ashley Fields, director of organizational development and diversity, and Cindy Sterling, director of identity management solutions with BMC.

The software company added four scholarships this year in honor of the late Dr. Bobby Bizzell, who served as dean of the college of business from 1989 to 2004.

“Bobby was an exemplary man of business and unceasing advocate for the opportunity UHD offers the Houston community,” said Fields. “BMC is proud to honor Bobby in this way — by rewarding the students he so believed in.”

BMC also partners with UHD on professional internships for business students, affording valuable experience for undergraduates. Collin Fletcher, Yixun Cai, and Neha Bhatia were commended for their performance at the company.

Students were selected for the scholarship based on grade point average and academic activity. They include: Gloria Dowski, Tara Hadash, Alexey Kurochki, Michael Le, Cesar A. Ramirez, David P. Raymond, Robert M. Snyder, Ping Tang, Nancy D. West, and Vicki J. Zohland.

Every student who is a UHD alum and is an assistant professor or professor at another university is eligible to apply for the Dr. Bobby Bizzell Award.

Hard Work Rewarded!

Outstanding UHD students from the Colleges of Business, Public Service, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Sciences and Technology were recognized for excellence and achievement at the 2005 Academic Awards Ceremony. The ceremony is held annually to recognize students who have exceeded academic expectations or achieved scholarly goals beyond the classroom. The event is open to all undergraduate students.

Emad Horani was recognized as the outstanding International Business Student for 2005. He is a full-time international student with a minor in Economics and Finance. Emad maintains a 4.0 GPA and has appeared consistently on the UHD College of Business Dean’s List. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an honors society for business students, the U.S. Achievement Academy — All American Scholars; and the National Chancellor’s List.

Emad transferred to UHD from North Harris Montgomery Community College. There he earned his Associate of Arts in Business and graduated summa cum laude. He also took advantage of the seamless transition program articulated between UH-Downtown and the community college.

Following his graduation from UH-Downtown, Emad plans to work on a master’s degree. The UHD College of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB-International), a certification awarded to only one-fourth of U.S. colleges of business.
The 4th Annual UHD Student Research Conference highlighted research performed by UHD undergraduate and graduate students. For the second year the conference included work by students across disciplines in the Colleges of Business, Humanities and Social Science, Public Service, and Sciences and Technology. Projects could include work performed as part of coursework or in internships both within and outside the university. “The most exciting part this year was the collaboration among faculty, administrators and students which brought to fruition the diversity of disciplines represented at the conference,” said Dr. Ermelinda DeLaViña, associate professor of mathematics and conference chairperson. “This annual student research conference showcased a flourishing tradition of excellence in undergraduate student research across the university."

Keynote speaker, Dr. Christopher Matranaga, a research scientist for the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Technology Laboratory and a UHD alumnus, said, “Undergraduate participation in research programs is critical in enhancing the college experience for students. It prepares them for post-baccalaureate education, and trains undergraduates for careers in the work force.” Following the keynote address, eight participants presented their work. These students either conducted independent research or worked in a group. All were mentored by UHD faculty. Over 64 posters were displayed in the open poster session. Members of the Houston business community, faculty, students, and staff from UHD and neighboring universities attended the conference.

Alumnus brings clean energy focus to Houston

“Think Clean,” say participants of the Texas Environmental Leadership Conference: The Promise of Clean Energy. University, college and high school students participated in the free community symposium on environmental responsibility, hosted by UHD Downtown’s Scholars Academy and brought to Houston by Texas Public Interest Research Group.

UHD alumnus Lawrence Spence, a teacher at Crockett Elementary School, helped bring the awareness-building summit to UHD Downtown because of the city’s efforts to improve the quality of life in and around downtown. Spence also works closely with the Scholars Academy, a program for high-achieving UHD students, on urban environmental improvement projects. Recent graduate David Lang, a former Red Rose Scholar and Scholars Academy mentor, partnered with Spence to bring the forum to Houston. Lang is outgoing president of the Environmental Scholars Academy, a program for high-achieving UHD students, on urban environmental improvement projects. Recent graduate David Lang, a former Red Rose Scholar and Scholars Academy mentor, partnered with Spence to bring the forum to Houston. Lang is outgoing president of the Environmental Scholars Academy, a program for high-achieving UHD students, on urban environmental improvement projects. 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Spring 2005
Commencement

Community Support
$100,000 to $400,000
The Gordon and Mary Cain Foundation
Houston Endowment Inc.
The 100 Club, Inc.

$50,000 to $99,999
El Paso Corporate Foundation

$10,000 to $19,999
The Simmons Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
Charles B. Scotters

$1,000 to $4,999
Asia Chemical Corporation, Inc.
Chantel Foundation
E & M Foundation, Inc.
International Hotel Supply
Weiz H. & Catherine C. Lee
Pearson Education
Southwestern National Bank
Emily and James, ’90,
Stafford
The Woman’s Club of Houston

$100 to $999
American Marketing Association-HD Chapter
Timothy C. Andrade, ’95
Anacapas Inc./+ Tuscanas
la Plaza

$99 and below
Diane Fuller, ’94
Robert Robertson, Jr.

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Vicky Estera
William Gilbert
Jay & Susie Gogue
University of Houston
Patricia Coleman
Becky M. Gorman
Greenwood-King Properties
Antonia R. Gregorio
Julia Guerra

About 35 percent of the graduates are from the College of Business; 32 percent from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; 25 percent from the College of Public Service; and about 8 percent from the College of Sciences and Technology.

Gerry Broadax, president of Dovari, Inc., a business-productivity optimization software company, addressed over 600 graduates and their families at the university’s 38th commencement ceremonies last month in Minute Maid Park.

Broadax currently serves on the UHD President’s Advisory Council and has served as a member of the Red Rose Ball Committee. He is a recipient of the Crystal Eagle Award from the Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Houston.

Student representative Diana Leal received a Bachelor of Science in microbiology. She told fellow graduates “to live your dream.” Leal started her UHD experience as an eighth grader in Houston PreP, a summer preparatory program in mathematics, science, engineering and technology. She was accepted as a freshman directly into UHD’s Scholar’s Academy. The program for high achieving students exposed her to undergraduate research and a multitude of career opportunities. She later qualified for two professional internships at Kraft Foods – first in Chicago, then in New York City. Leal will continue her education in a master’s program and currently works at Dovari, Inc., a business-productivity optimization software company, with a bachelor’s degree in microbiology.

Leal received a Bachelor of Science in microbiology. Leal graduated from UHD in 1999. She started her UHD experience as an eighth grader in Houston PreP, a summer preparatory program in mathematics, science, engineering and technology. She was accepted as a freshman directly into UHD’s Scholar’s Academy. The program for high achieving students exposed her to undergraduate research and a multitude of career opportunities. She later qualified for two professional internships at Kraft Foods – first in Chicago, then in New York City. Leal will continue her education in a master’s program and currently works at Dovari, Inc., a business-productivity optimization software company, with a bachelor’s degree in microbiology.

Diana Leal

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ENDOWMENTS
Distinguished Faculty Endowment
Chris Birchak
Memrie Cunningham

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS
In Memory of Bobby Bizzall
Chris Birchak
Ulpal Bose
Goi & Roger Evans
Debbie Francis
Madeline Johnson
Gary Junco
Jack & Brenda Lord
Duane Neal
Kathleen Amer (. . .)
Robert & Lucile Pointer
Carl R. Ruthram
Dr. Margaret F. Shipley
Dr. Shelley McIntosh
Elisa Dolores
Dr. James Edward Stafford
Vicki L. King
Carolyn Andrews Lightfoot

UHD Image Awards

UHD Image Awards were presented at the J. Don Boney Luncheon in February in celebration of Black History Month. Each year, individuals at the university are recognized for their professional excellence. The event is named after Dr. J. Don Boney, the chancellor of UH-Downtown from 1975 until his death in 1979. Recipients this year are: (left to right) Linda Gilbert, Computer and Mathematical Sciences; Denise Delahaye, Police Department; Dr. Stanley McNeil, Urban Teacher Education; and Diane Pearson, Academic Affairs.

In Memory of Donald Bonham
Brinda Bonham Geisland
Nancy Bonham Holt & E.M. Holt, Jr.
In Memory of Robert Browne
Paquette & Gordon Purdy
In Memory of Alicia S. Castillo
Elizabeth D. Rockwell
In Memory of Pankitrel (Tipp) Deshpande, M.D.
Gail & Roger Evans
In Honor of Carol & Thomas Harper III
John Kirksey
In Memory of Bette Marron
L. Lorraine Ross, '95
In Honor of Ralph S. O'Connor
Gail & Louis Acker
In Honor of Dr. Lisa Read
Ann Golden Schmidt, '02
In Honor of Dr. Michele J. Sabino
TESOL
In Honor of Harrell L. Shefton
Tommy R. Shelton Jr., '03

MATCHING GIFTS
Listed beneath the company names are the donors whose contributions made the matching gifts possible.

BASF Corporation
Clyde D. Miller, '96
Boeing
Mary Lou Kenney, '88
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Nancy & Walt Abashdine
Thomas I. O'Connor III
ConocoPhillips
Christine, '96, & Terry Avram
Halliburton
James Edward Stafford, '90
Hewlett-Packard
Christopher Olson, '00
Chun-Young Chen, '88
Houston Exploration Company
Donneta Stewart, '99
Microsoft
Matthew & Desiree, '94, Woodruff
Verizon Foundation
Dale Lee, '92
GIFTS IN KIND

Chris A. Beavers
Houston Symphony

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 email directly from the website at www.uhd.edu/alumni/notes.htm. Or, send an email to Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin at alfarok@uhd.edu. Or, mail your item to Karen at UHD-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.
InTech: Technology Tools for Society

An exciting seminar in March introduced participants to the new UHD internship program, “Information Technology Tools for Society.” The event featured the Digital Virtual Innovations Laboratory, a collaboration between UHD’s Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences (CMS), the Center for Computational Sciences and Advanced Distributed Simulation (CCSDS), and NASA/Quest Innovations Laboratory. Dr. Richard Alo, executive director of CCSDS, and Dr. Ongard Sirisaengtaksin, professor of computer and mathematical sciences, organized the event. Featured at the seminar was NASA/Quest Lab’s Anthony Bruin, demonstrating current research and stimulating involvement with the project. “Anything we can do to inspire [young people] means planting seeds for future generations,” said Bruin. “I love supporting NASA’s outreach program.”

Internship sponsors include Quest Laboratory at NASA Johnson Space Center, the National Science Foundation, Pain Care of America, Houston Museum of Natural Science, U.S. Army Research Office and the Technology Division of Continental Airlines.

The UHD-based laboratory houses such equipment as high-end graphic PC’s, helmet gloves, tracking device hardware and PHANTOM Omni Haptic devices. Student lab research projects include virtual reality applications—UHD virtual model, intelligent implants for pain management, physics engine for space simulations, and computational biology for the 8th grade.

The audience watches as a virtual computer demonstration, created by a UHD student in a NASA laboratory, is projected onto a large screen. The project will help astronauts perform in unearthly conditions.

Science and Engineering Fair of Houston

More than 1,500 young scientists from 145 Houston-area middle and high schools took part in the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. Now in its 47th year, the event has more than doubled in size since UH-Downtown became the principal sponsor in 1985. This year the top winners in the poster and essay contests are eligible to travel to South America for the international competition in July.

The fair is the largest provider of scholarships for science and engineering students in the greater Houston area, recognizing over 600 students and providing over 50 scholarships. The exhibits and essays, amazingly sophisticated, cover topics from DNA manipulation, Buckminster Fuller nanotubes, to rockets and robots.

Dr. Larry Spears, professor of natural science, has guided the fair’s growth since 1985. With him, more than 1,600 volunteers from UHD, other local colleges and universities, and private industry manage the event’s judging and logistics. Primary sponsors are UH-Downtown, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and the Engineering, Science & Technology Council of Houston.

The Missing Story of Ourselves

The Missing Story of Ourselves, a photographic exhibit featuring 40 men and women who overcame poverty and changed their lives through higher education, launched its nationwide tour at the Willow Street Pump Station, March 9. Dr. Sandra Dahlberg, associate professor and assistant chair of the English Department, helped gather stories for the project and was featured in the exhibit. Eight of the participants are alumni, students, faculty or staff of UHD.

New Vice Presidents

The Office of the President, Max Castillo, is pleased to announce the appointment of three new vice presidents at UH-Downtown. David Bradley, MBA, vice president for administration and finance, previously held the assistant vice president position. He has been with UHD since 1986 and has served with Mr. Chaney Anderson, who is joining his wife Jo Jean for an active retirement.

Ivonne Montalbano, MBA, takes on the position of vice president for employment services and operations. Montalbano has been serving as executive assistant to the president and executive director of constituent relations for the past six years.

Dr. Geneva Hagedorn is retiring as the head of human resources and will continue to serve the university as ombudsman.

Ed Apodaca, MSA, vice president of student services and enrollment management, comes to UH-Downtown from our sister institution, the University of Houston. He spent nine years at UH as assistant vice president of student affairs.
Who would think of connecting Houston, Texas and Bordeaux, France by light rail? Add a prestigious art exhibit to the mix and “violà,” you have the start of a meaningful relationship.

A photographic and video display titled MeTRAMorphose was exhibited in April at the Willow Street Pump Station, representing works by 13 emerging art students from the City of Bordeaux’s light rail, inaugurated in 2004 at the same time as Houston’s METRORail. The display concept began as a conversation with Dr. Susan Ahern, dean of the college of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), and Houston’s French Cultural attaché Joël Savary. The idea escalated when O’Kane Gallery’s Mark Cervenka was enlisted to curate the innovative space into a unique exhibit that was described as “clean, sophisticated, modernistic and enigmatic.”

The exhibit was the culmination of a joint effort between UHD, The Cultural Offices of the French Embassy and the French Consulate, Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership. Helping defray the costs were the cultural offices of the French Embassy and the French Consulate in Houston, UHD Cultural Enrichment Center, CHSS and an anonymous alumna who secured a matching grant from her employer.

“In developing projects of this sort and sharing them with the public,” said Dr. Ahern, “we are creating an awareness of UHD, not only locally, but worldwide.” Present at the opening was the director of the Ecole Beaux-Arts, noting Houston as the first American appearance of the exhibit, which was called a “gift from French students to Houston.” Houston and Bordeaux have other collaborations in mind for the future.

The games that people play

The Mandrake

The cast of The Mandrake poses before the opening of the O’Kane Theatre spring production. The comedic play, written by Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), is about relationships and mind games in the Italian urban life of his day. O’Kane Theatre invites students, faculty, staff and others to take part by performing on stage or working backstage. The “hands-on” involvement in theatrical productions has provided participants with a true sense of accomplishment and belonging for over 20 years.

Bordeaux Light Rail stops at Willow Street Station

W

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Finance and world travel: Mixing business with education

This year, the College of Business at UH-Downtown offered a travel and study course for the first time. The course, called FIN 4390: Foreign Country Study Experience, open to all students – both graduate and undergraduate – included a trip to Shanghai, China. Organizers were banking on the fact that travel and study programs help students gain a unique perspective on different cultures and economies.

The group attended two weekends of daylong classes in May before embarking on the 11-day overseas trip to Shanghai, China. While in the Far East, students visited companies, educational institutions, and cultural sites. Upon their return, students began intensive course work until June 30, the end of Summer Session I.

“China is the largest country in terms of population and the second largest country in terms of economy,” said Dr. Anisul M. Islam, professor of economics and organizer of the course. A travel study course is very relevant to our global market and to China’s growing importance in the world. The course has given students a better knowledge of China’s economic, investment and international relations, and trade policies.”

In all, 19 students and four faculty members participated in the inaugural trip. Students with a 2.5 GPA or higher were eligible to apply for the UHD Study Abroad Scholarship, which covers up to 40 percent of the travel expenses.
Friends, donors, supporters and community leaders joined UH-Downtown at the 2005 Red Rose Ball. Proceeds from the ball are used to fund scholarships for Red Rose scholars, outstanding transfer students and students in the Scholars Academy, a program for high performing students. This year, endowments were solicited to fund the Red Rose Scholarships in perpetuity. The goal is to endow all 25 scholarships by the 25th Anniversary of the Red Rose Ball in April 2006.

Roses smell sweet at 24th Red Rose Ball

Roses smell sweet at 24th Red Rose Ball