Another Capital Improvement

Houston’s home of “Reality-Based Business Education” is on the move

See article on page 2
Starting in late August, classes will be held for the first time in the new Shea Street building, located north of the Interstate-10 overpass and along North Main Street. Students will benefit from high-tech classrooms and lecture halls, computer labs, and enhanced student services areas.

The building will also ease the pressure on available instructional and faculty office space campus-wide, and enable the College of Business to more vigorously expand and grow over the next decade.

“The college has reached a point where a new building will make a huge difference. In one sense, it will put the College on the map in Houston and make it more easily recognizable to the public. In another, it will allow us to increase our engagement with the business community and produce more graduates for real-world careers,” says Donald L. Bates, dean.

The College of Business has been an important driver in the development of UH-Downtown over the years. It is one of the top two largest colleges at UHD in terms of enrollment and employees. Key benchmarks include:

- 850 graduates per year, or
- 45% of UHD graduating class per year, and
- 5% enrollment increase in Fall 2006

With the new building, the College is poised to grow along with Houston. Dean Bates and the faculty leadership have a vision for the College that has something for everyone -- students and alumnae, faculty, and the business community -- including:

- Niche academic programs to serve the Gulf Coast region
- Stronger faculty recruiting and retention
- Endowed professorships in Finance and other niche areas
- An Honors program to hone student leadership skills
- Regional magazine-style publication of applied research
- Improved marketing and branding of the College

One niche academic program – the Institute for Financial Literacy (www.ifls.org) – is already in place. The Institute’s mission is to educate and equip mature youth and adults with the knowledge and awareness they will need to effectively manage their personal financial resources over a lifetime.

With enrollment growth and increasing demand for its graduates, the UH-Downtown College of Business has proven that “Reality-Based Business Education” is good for Houston. With an ambitious vision for the future and a new building on the way, it’s about to get even better!
The Contemporary and the Classic

Fine Art and Passionate Drama

Stretch the Imagination

Kane Gallery patrons were treated to the talents of emerging artists at two shows in the O’Kane Gallery in May. Works by university students in studio, painting, drawing, figure drawing and design classes were submitted for the UHD Student Art Exhibit annual show. Mark Cervenka, director of the gallery, said, “The opportunity for people to understand the process of making and creating works of art is an important option for students at UHD.”

UHD offers a minor in art for students studying other disciplines or planning to complete undergraduate art studies elsewhere. Immediately following the UHD student show, pre-college students from up to 20 area high schools participated in the High Art Exhibition. This exhibition has been an annual show at UHD for many years and traditionally attracts more than 100 submissions from 9th-12th grade students. The exhibition was juried by artist Mari Mori with winners receiving cash awards and the experience of exhibiting in a university gallery.

The 2007-08 academic year has much in store for gallery patrons. You will see works by Houstonians Ellen Orseck in September and Mari Mori in October. Orseck’s exhibition of paintings, “Storms, Sumos, and Sweets,” will open in conjunction with the annual fall arts kick-off, “Downtown Stomp Around.” Mori was born and raised in Japan and plans an installation that incorporates hundreds of tea bags in reference to the ancient beverage. In the spring, look forward to another collaboration with FotoFest, the international non-profit photographic arts and education organization based in Houston.

In other arts happenings, Romeo and Juliet had a successful run, selling out almost every performance at the O’Kane Theatre. Performers Christian Briones and Constance Washington created the roles of Shakespeare’s most famous romantic couple. Briones is a current Bill and Ann Stokes Drama Scholarship recipient and Washington is the recipient of a new drama scholarship this year, the So-Mee Productions Scholarship.

The drama trip this spring took UHD students, faculty, staff and their friends to Athens, the birthplace of theatre. Their itinerary included stops at ancient Greek and Roman theatre sites, a cruise of some Greek islands and a tour of the National Theatrical included stops at ancient Greek and Roman theatre sites, and their friends to Athens, the birthplace of theatre. Their itinerary included stops at ancient Greek and Roman theatre sites, a cruise of some Greek islands and a tour of the National Theatre among other archeological and cultural sites. Next year’s drama trip (May 11-18, 2008) will return to New York City.

The gallery featured student works of (clockwise from top left) Raphael Cruz Ortiz (figure drawing, charcoal on paper); Jose Cardenas (design project, acrylic on paper); Tram Cindy Nguyen (design project, acrylic on paper); and Brenda Valdiva (painting, oil on canvas).

(Left) Christian Briones and Constance T. Washington (right), portray star-crossed lovers in the O’Kane Theatre’s spring production of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

The Contemporary and the Classic

Faculty Excellence

Salute to Excellence

Annually, UHD faculty members have the opportunity to acknowledge excellence among their colleagues in teaching, research and service.

Teaching

Leigh Van Horn, Ph.D., Department of Urban Education

“She has inspired me to do better than I thought I was capable of doing.”
—Cele Calderon, student

Students of the students who study under Dr. Leigh Van Horn will be the real beneficiaries of Dr. Van Horn’s excellence in teaching. Her courses in reading and language arts help her students—who will be teachers themselves—understand the processes of language acquisition, reading and writing. Dr. Van Horn’s goal for each of her students sounds deceptively simple: to synthesize what has been learned at UHD and create an effective classroom environment, curriculum and lessons. Her colleagues and students cite her as knowledgeable, caring, organized, and inspirational.

Much of Dr. Van Horn’s reading curriculum focuses on designing class work for children who may be struggling. She asks her own students to develop a “literacy profile” for each of the children they work with in classroom settings, and then to adapt materials and methods to meet individual needs. She utilizes children’s literature in her writing courses, and, again, the focus is on developing ways of instructing children at risk of doing poorly. She has developed courses on writing and the teaching of writing with emphasis on multi-genre writing and writing about social issues.

She is advisor to the Urban Educators’ Literacy Society, and works with UHD students involved in service and research at House of Tiny Treasures pre/primary school for homeless children. Dr. Lisa Morano, assistant professor of biology and microbiology, was the finalist for excellence in teaching. See page 5 for more.
One Crystal Ball that is Never Occluded

When Larry Sabato offers a conclusion about current affairs of state, politicians stop to listen.

Director of the University of Virginia (UV) Center for Politics, Larry Sabato, as well as Robert Kent Gooch Professor of Politics at UV, has an amazing track record with political predictions, founded as they are upon his deep understanding of today’s politics. Larry J. Sabato’s Crystal Ball website (www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball), which forecasts all national and gubernatorial election contests, is critically acclaimed and free to the public. Sabato determined long ago that the Senate is about talking while governors are about doing. Feeling that Washington, D.C. politicians make a mistake by not being more responsive to gubernatorial races, Sabato emphasizes gubernatorial elections in the Crystal Ball and as fodder for his predictions.

Sabato, who spoke to a fascinated audience at UH-Downtown in late February 2007, pushed a simple agenda: make government more meaningful, understanding, and accessible to the average American by improving civic education (www.larrysabato.com). UHD students, staff, and faculty became part of that process and left the auditorium closer to espousing Sabato’s oft-quoted motto: “Politics is a Good Thing!”

Spurred by his passion for the efficacy of the political process, Sabato opened the Center for Politics at UV (www.centerforpolitics.org). This interdisciplinary, non-profit organization is dedicated to teaching the citizens of this country about U.S. political ideas, events, issues, and figures. The belief is that an informed citizenry makes politics work, and effective politics is what keeps our democracy alive and well.

Sabato channels his prodigious energy into making the Center a free source of nonpartisan information and analysis. This requires monetary as well as cerebral support. He has raised over $7 million to support the center’s work. As an educator, he also knows that young people are the key to the future. Thus, he has designated as the Center’s signature program the National Youth Leadership Initiative, which reaches out to over 300,000 middle and high school students in every state. Educated young people grow into vibrant, responsible voters and participants in this country’s political processes, keeping our government healthy and responsive.

A former Rhodes scholar and Danforth Fellow, Sabato never at a loss for words, as can be witnessed in the more than twenty books he has written along with his many essays. (His latest book, Divided States of America: The Slash and Burn Politics of the 2004 Presidential Election, offers an analysis of the 2004 presidential campaign.) The winner of many awards, scholarships, and grants, he has participated in a great many scholarly activities and has appeared countless times in media. The Wall Street Journal surmises that Sabato is “probably the most quoted college professor in the land.” Yet Sabato is the first to say that his most important activity, and his greatest honor, is to have taught over 13,000 students. Who at this university does not resonate to the sentiment and dedication behind those words? UHD thanks the Political Science group at the UHD Department of Social Sciences for the opportunity to hear the ideas of Larry Sabato.

Acknowledging the Light that Shines

The J. Don Boney, Sr. Book Scholarship and Image Awards Luncheon

February, Black History Month, brought a time of celebration to UH-Downtown. Two UHD students, Jacqueline Boone and Marcus Christian Schwartz, won book scholarships through a competitive essay. Both students were pleased to have the extra help in purchasing their books and materials for the year. Schwartz felt that God had provided needed help. Boone, who has had to wait sometimes several weeks after classes start to buy her books, was relieved, saying, “Now I won’t have to worry about getting behind.”

The scholarships were presented at the J. Don Boney, Sr. Book Scholarship/Image Awards Luncheon, with keynote speaker Astronaut Stephanie Wilson. Also at that luncheon was the presentation of the Image Awards to three UHD employees who were honored by their colleagues for their contributions to the advancement of African-American culture and history at UHD.

Winner Ashlyn Williams, manager of accounts payable, was delighted to be nominated after two years at UHD. She tries to help everyone as much as possible in her position at UHD.

“I’m trying to get more involved. I’ve recently joined Staff Council,” Williams says.

Winner Willie Mae Dawson, accounts payable technician II, left UHD once, but, when she saw how the corporate world treated people, vowed, “If I ever get back to the university again, I won’t be leaving.” And 30 years later, she is still here. Her 77-year-old father came to see the ceremony.

Winner Dr. Chynette Nealy, assistant professor of Management, Marketing and Business Administration, sees the Image Award as helping her represent the African American faculty at UHD, especially as UHD has a strong diversity focus.

“The award is all about the light that you shine. I want to make sure that what people see on the outside reflects the deep light within me—like a lighthouse,” Nealy says.

Willie Mae Dawson, Chynette Nealy and Ashlynn Williams were recognized for their professionalism.

Scholarship recipients Jacqueline Boone (left) and Marcus Christian Schwartz (right) with astronaut Stephanie Wilson.
Meet a few of the Red Rose Scholars

Nicholas Gaytan is an Accounting major who plans to complete his degree in three years. A decorated ex-Navy man, he spent four of his five service years aboard the USS Columbia, a nuclear powered fast-attack submarine. He is a veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He was inducted into the all-discipline Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi the fall of 2006, and is a member of the board of directors in UHD’s Professional Accounting Society. He plans to attain his CPA and an MBA or a law degree.

Maria G. Hernandez is majoring in Finance, with a minor in Accounting. She is a full-time mom to one-year-old daughter, Melissa. She also manages to do volunteer work at her church and help her parents with their lawn service business. She is a recipient of the Mary Gibbs Jones Scholarship for the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters. She is striving to graduate with honors and eventually would like to have her own financial consulting business or a real estate business.

Nguyen Lam is a Chemistry major. He is president of the UHD Environmental Club and vice president of the UHD Health Professions Organization. He works in the chemistry stockroom, does math and science tutoring and is a supplemental instructor for a variety of math courses at UHD. He belongs to the Joint Admission Medical Program and to the Scholars Academy, where he is a member of the Honor Corps. He is a recipient of the Jesse H. Jones scholarship. His goal is to become a doctor and work in rural areas where help is needed the most.

Andrea Lewis is following a family tradition by attending UHD where both her mother and sister graduated. During the week she works at Wesley Community Center and on Saturdays at The Rock School day care. She also volunteers with a group called Girls in Action at her church and participates in community service projects with her sorority. She is a member of Tau Sigma National Honor Society. She plans to teach in the Klein or Spring Independent School Districts.

Megan Murray says that she chose UHD because the school understands and works with students who juggle work, school and family. Her mother is her greatest inspiration because she went back to school and graduated from college at the age of 38. Megan is a freelance writer, a mother, a wife and a political volunteer. Her greatest accomplishment to date is having the courage to return to school. She hopes to work in the communications/public relations field when she graduates.

Additional scholars: David Adeyi, pre-law, minor in accounting; Michelle Aiello, education; Adolfo Aranzales, structural analysis and design; Damaris Chavez, criminal justice; Emily De La Garza, computer science; Maria Garcia, accounting; Lauren Gracia, applied mathematics, minor in accounting; Christopher Paul Graves, psychology; Sadia Lunsford, communication studies; Jimmy G. Mai, English; Janna Delyce McKeehan, accounting; Shafeeq Noorudeen, chemistry; Lauren Perlman, biology; Nick Spampinato, accounting; Angelia Sheppard, education; Damaris Chavez, English; Michelle Aiello, communication studies; Nicholas Gaytan, Accounting; Maria G. Hernandez, Finance; Nguyen Lam, Chemistry; Andrea Lewis, Interdisciplinary Studies; Megan Murray, Professional Writing.
It seems that nothing can stand in the way of Araceli Garcia’s belief in herself and determination to achieve her goals. Garcia (‘05, English) knew when she was an elementary student that she wanted to be a lawyer. She chose to get an English degree at UHD, work a few years, and then enter law school to study immigration law.

“I want to be someone who helps those who need help – an advocate for those who don’t have the education or resources that others might have,” she says.

Garcia is the youngest of eight. Two older sisters also graduated from UHD and another is presently a student. UHD will not see the last of this ambitious family any time soon; Garcia still has nephews who will be upcoming UHD students.

While at UHD, Garcia affirmed her goal of helping people. She was a supplemental instructor and Peer Tutor in UHD’s Learner’s Community for three years where she was an instructor and Peer Tutor in UHD’s Learner’s Community.

After graduating, Garcia interned at the Houston Chronicle in 2003 while finishing her coursework for a degree in professional writing. She completed her senior portfolio last summer, and graduated summa cum laude and was inducted to Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Today, she enjoys the work and the high levels of government. “If you are an avid participant, your voice will be heard,” she says. “There are legislators here who are willing and wanting to help.”

Above all things, Garcia believes in determination and possibility. She sends an urgent communication to fellow students, and that message is to apply for every possible internship, fellowship and scholarship.

Alumni Notes

Shante Aranda (BA, ‘05) is teaching third graders at R.P. Harris Elementary School in east Houston. Shante wants to tell her friends at Lambda Pi Eta (honor society of the National Communication Association) and other UHD students, “to continue to work hard! The rewards are never ending!” Shante has always felt the education from UHD assisted in her professional development.

J. Paul Druvy (BSIS, ‘00) was elected this month to Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing. He is currently a graduate student in the California State University, Dominguez Hills nursing program.

Sara Mendiola (BBA, ’05) graduated with a double major in International Business and Accounting. She was recently promoted to a Corporate Tax Accountant from a Tax Associate after two years with the Southern Union Company. Sara has completed her Becker Certified Public Accountant Review and hopes to take her sections within the next calendar year.

Gracie Ochoa (BS, ‘04) started working for the Houston Chronicle in 2003 while finishing her coursework for a degree in professional writing. She completed her senior portfolio last summer, and graduated summa cum laude and was inducted to Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Today, she continues writing entertainment pieces, including the weekly Hot Ticket and Que Pasas? pages in the Preview, an entertainment magazine found in every Thursday’s newspaper. She has also interviewed and written stories on such notable comics as Lewis Black, D.L. Hughley, Wanda Skies, Dave Attell and the late Mitch Hedberg.

Shannon Starkweather (BS, ’04) graduated at the top of her class from the Houston Police Department Basic Academy in November, and has become an HPD officer at the age of 23. She took the “Highest Accomplished” award for overall academics, driving and shooting; only the second time a woman has taken the honor. She is currently studying for her Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and hopes to enroll in law school upon completion of her Field Training Officer certification.

Joe Stiles (BBA, ’99) has become a Branch Manager for Network Funding, a residential mortgage lender. His particular focus is being a resource to homebuyers, whether they are buying their first homes or buying their last. He has developed short one-hour educational programs “Understanding your credit scores” and “Stolen IDs - Prevention and Cure.” As one who completed his degree late in life, Stiles says, “I am grateful to UHD with the very accommodating night and weekend class schedules. I am especially thankful for the mentoring by Dr. Madeline Johnson, who acts as one of my all-time favorite college professors.”

Alumni Anna Szary (BBA, ‘06) and Hai Han (BBA, ’06) were honored at the 2007 International Business Association (IBA) Banquet. Szary is working as a Refined Products Movement Analyst at Shell Trading (US)
Robert Walsh Soon Bids Goodbye to UH-Downtown...

There are two main ways to survive 31 years of service at the same institution: the cultivation of selective attention or the cultivation of a sense of humor. Professor Bob Walsh, associate dean of the College of Public Service, chose Door Number Two.

“I tried to retire two years ago,” he says. “The Dean dragged me back to serve as chair for one year until we completed a search. And we got a good chair! So just as I was about to retire at the end of that year, she dragged me back for one more year to serve as associate dean until we completed a search. Trust me, I don’t care if there has to be a search for the President — I’m retiring at the end of this year!”

Walsh came to UH-Downtown in 1976 to help build the Criminal Justice (CJ) program and deliver quality education to a field in great need of it. Formerly a Michigan police officer, he saw the need for changes in this country’s criminal justice system. One of his UHD tasks was to establish a police academy, which he accomplished in 1980 with the opening of the Criminal Justice Center (CJC). Now the CJC has graduated more classes than the University of Houston Police Department, which started counting its graduates in 1937.

CJ was the first degree offered at UHD. To support it, Walsh forged strong connections with area community colleges because 85% of UHD CJ majors are community college transfers. Walsh has put in his time with committee work. He has not only sat on but served as president of every CJ committee in the state.

“I got to meet all the experts and textbook authors,” he says. “In fact, I taught Criminology for so many years that it started to get depressing — all the experts in the field were dying off!”

The excellence of the UHD CJ department attests to Walsh’s consistent contributions and direction over the years. UH-Downtown salutes this active, effective professional who has done so much for the institution.

Master’s Program Adapts to Modern Crime

The Master of Security Management for Executives (MSME) is an innovative program developed and delivered in collaboration with industry leaders in security management. The MSME is designed to provide security executives with the knowledge and expertise necessary to meet the global challenges of tomorrow.

Program faculty include industry leaders in security management, business and higher education. The admissions requirement of at least three years of supervisory experience ensures that students in this two-year weekend cohort program will learn not only from their instructors, but from the experience of the class as a whole.

“The Master of Security Management for Executives is a groundbreaking program of collaboration between academia, the business community and corporate security leaders,” says Kevin Swailes, Chairman & CEO, Swailes & Company, Inc.

While other institutions have offered online courses at the graduate level, the University of Houston-Downtown is quickly establishing its leadership role in corporate security management by creating the first in-class MSM program for Executives. Superior faculty coupled with industry professionals, the MSM for Executives degree will quickly become the de facto standard in recruiting global security leaders,” Swailes says.
One of UH-Downtown’s own has been appointed to the University of Houston System Board of Regents by Texas Governor Rick Perry. Computer Science major, Christopher Sharpe, will serve on the governing body until February 2008.

Sharpe is one of nine students who will serve as regents in the state. In 2005, the governor signed legislation directing each public university board of regents to include one student member. These regents will have the same powers and duties as the members of the board of regents, with the exception of voting and being counted to determine a quorum.

“We’re pleased to welcome this young student from the University of Houston-Downtown into our ranks,” said Leroy Hermes, chairman of the University of Houston System Board of Regents. “His predecessor was a productive member of the board, and we know that Sharpe will continue to make an important contribution representing the student perspective.”

Sharpe, who is from Houston and was home schooled, is the president and former vice president of the Student Government Association at UHD. He is a member of the UHD Scholars Academy, an academically competitive program in the College of Science and Technology that promotes scholarship and student success for undergraduate students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“As a regent who is also a student, I can provide a vehicle to address issues common to all campuses within the UH System—and school—but he is ready to take it on as a service to UHD.

“Also, it’ll help me in future jobs,” says Hernandez, who plans to teach at UHD after getting his doctorate.

Brandy Hinojosa got involved in APS because the activities suited her, such as working with the DePelchin Children’s Center. She never dreamed she would end up secretary of the national APS. Her night job at the Houston Police Department affords daylight hours to do the work on the APS conferences that will be required of all the officers.

“I want to become a positive leader at my job,” Hinojosa says. “This experience will help.”

Dr. Barbara Belbot, associate professor and faculty advisor to the UHD APS and, now, faculty advisor to the national APS, couldn’t be more proud of a group of students.

“This is a real honor for our university. They saw that we were doing a great job on the local level and thought we’d be great national leaders for the chapter,” Belbot says.

On March 16, 2007, UH-Downtown received a singular vote of confidence. Three members of the UHD Alpha Phi Sigma (APS) chapter, a criminal justice honor society, ran unopposed for (and won) national offices in APS. Jeff Watts, presently president of the UHD chapter, is now the president of the national organization which governs 350 local APS chapters around the United States. His main job will be planning and running two national conferences.

“I feel like I am standing on the shoulders of preceding officers who have worked hard to make this organization what it is today,” Watts says.

Antonio Hernandez was honored to be elected as treasurer for the national organization. He knows it will mean a lot of work—and he already deals with a family, a Precinct 1 Constable law enforcement job,

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How often do students apply abstract theories to real-world projects before they graduate? Students in two supply chain classes and one quantitative decision-making course taught by Dr. Gary Stading had a chance to apply theory directly to a thriving business environment this spring.

The project with ReStore, the retail arm of Habitat for Humanity-Houston, needed the group to develop an inventory and loss prevention program. The storefront sells materials left over or donated to the home-building non-profit.

In 2006 ReStore cleared $2 million in sales and added profits to the bottom line which go back into the organization. Habitat builds and rehabilitates houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families through volunteer labor, and donations of money and materials.

“I love working with non-profit projects,” said Stading, “It gives me a chance to teach theory and practical classroom lessons using a benevolent project that adds value in the community.”

On a field trip early in the semester to the ReStore warehouse and storefront, UHD business students interviewed store director, Joelie Shay. She said there were glitches in the system which was updating incoming materials overnight from the day before. Some inventory was sold off the floor before being accounted for. Students went right to work outlining the materials flow process. By the end of the semester they made recommendations and offered the store real-time inventory solutions.

This story really began four years ago when Stading was approached by Habitat for Humanity to create a business plan for the new retail concept being used around the country. The class’ professional proposal met the high standards behind Habitat for Humanity’s widespread success, was accepted, and ReStore-Houston was born.

UHD senior Jason Ayala is thinking about how he will use the experience in his next job interview. “The practice of fixing something real is like getting on-the-job training,” he said. “You can’t beat the experience.”

**Community College partnerships fill critical gap**

Kingwood College and UHD are making it easier for students with associate’s degrees in teaching to get a bachelor’s degree and become teachers in their communities. Through an articulation agreement between the institutions, students who complete their Associate of Arts in Teaching (EC-4 early childhood specialization) at Kingwood College in north Harris County can seamlessly apply their credits toward a UHD bachelor’s degree.

UHD’s Department of Urban Education is known as an innovator in developing proficiency-driven field-based teachers. This agreement provides fertile ground to grow the number of quality teachers in the Houston area and help address a state and national teacher shortage.

Dr. Linda Steagall, president of Kingwood College, called the signing of the agreement a great occasion. “We are excited to foster such a partnership with a four-year institution such as UHD and to bring this important transfer opportunity to our students,” she said. “Faculty and staff at both educational institutions have worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth transition.”

An agreement signed last year with Cy-Fair Community College has gone beyond expectations, says Dr. Myrna Cohen, chair of the urban teacher education program at UH-Downtown. Enrollment has grown from 70 to 117 students from fall 2006 to spring 2007. Both Kingwood and Cy-Fair Colleges are part of the North Harris Montgomery County Community College District, among the largest and fastest growing community college districts in Texas.
Opening Doors through Pre-College Programming

Experts suggest that K-12 and post-secondary institutions need to be better connected. According to the 2005 Congressional report, “Rising Above the Gathering Storm,” the United States is in danger of losing its edge in science and technology worldwide.

UH-Downtown engages in a variety of programs to improve the skills and understanding of higher education expectations.

Many UHD pre-college programs take place in the summer.

- Houston PREP gives extra training for disadvantaged and disabled middle and high schoolers in science, math, computer science, and engineering, and they get career counseling on resumes, SAT preparation, and college preparatory expectations.
- Houston START Summer Program lets strong 9th-11th graders interested in technical careers, explore science, engineering and math concepts.
- CampuCamp gives middle and high school students opportunities to investigate computer science.
- JumpStart Camp helps middle and high schoolers improve language arts and math skills.
- Science Camp allows elementary school children to improve science skills through fun activities.
- Jazz Camp gives musical students one week at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas where they learn theory, practice, rehearse and perform.
- BOUNCE is a 2-week camp where middle school girls learn healthy lifestyle choices.

These programs are sometimes supported through grants and sometimes provided by tuition, but all of them strive to widen the horizons of K-12 students while improving skills that contribute to college readiness.

Programs for pre-college students are not confined to summer only.

- The Science and Technology College runs Saturday Academy, where students study math, science and engineering.
- University College offers the Educational Talent Search Program which aids college-bound middle and high school students from certain schools through an array of services.
- Young Sounds of Houston is a year-round youth jazz orchestra at UHD where 11- to 18-year-olds learn, rehearse and play in public venues.
- The Applied Business and Technology Center, in partnership with Duke University’s Talent Identification Program, offers Scholar Weekends for gifted 8th to 11th graders.
- College readiness programs and enrichment opportunities occupy an important niche at UH-Downtown. Through mentoring, family counseling and programming, academic programming and special activities, UHD forges a strong connection to K-12 education.

UHD believes precollege programs are a proactive approach to enrich education.
Generous Friends & Alumni of UHD

Contributions to UHD-Downtown are vital to fulfilling our mission, to provide quality educational opportunities to all students and open doors to many who might not otherwise be able to pursue a college degree. We appreciate the generosity shown to UHD by the following individuals, corporations, and foundations between January 1, 2007 and March 31, 2007. Please note that numbers following a name signify the year of graduation from UHD.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
100 Club Scholarship Fund for Criminal Justice Program
The 100 Club, Inc.

Bobby Bizzell Scholarship Fund
Gary Janus
Jock Lrud

Drama Scholarship Fund
Charles and Beth Saunders
House of Tiny Treasures
Project
R. W. Butler Family Limited
Partnership
Irma Ches, ’05, and Luisa ’05, Dewey Butler and Michelle Eaton
Michelle Falcon, ’02
Paulette, ’01 & ’05, and
Gordon Purdy

Institute for Financial Literacy
Foundation for Financial Literacy

Library Development Fund
Tommy Grembrey, ’04
Michael Edwards R.’06
Gail S. and Roger R. Evans

O’Keane Gallery
Otto and Michael Schmidt
Eileen and Jim Seiger

Scholars Academy
The Brown Foundation

UHD General Scholarship Fund
Richard ’87 and Karen Gray
Karen C. Jones, ’96
Nancy A. Lavelle
Robert M. Murray
Carlyn Melissa Rath, ’98
Latrice Verdez, ’00
Aileen Moreau Ziola, ’88

ALUMNI ANNUAL FUND
College of Business
Kara Bredonholt, ’04
Loretta Donohoe, ’99
Carla J. Hill, ’90
Thomson R. Lao, ’85
Irma Warden, ’89
Geronda Koss, ’97
Henry A. Vogel, ’91
Adrienne Booker Wilson, ’86

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kyra R. Allen, ’05
Therese L. Lyon, ’98
Alan K. Wilson, ’85

College of Public Service
Eric Chen, ’03
Emmanuel Meghna, ’98

College of Sciences and Technology
Philip Stackle, ’01
Vanessa Bowman, ’92

UH-DOWNTOWN ENDOWMENT FUNDS
The university wishes to recognize endowment and estate gifts that ensure academic excellence and long-term financial well-being for UHD.

100 Club Criminal Justice Scholarship Endowment Fund
The 100 Club, Inc.

Jay Kevin Anderson Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund
Olynn Brewer ’73

GIFTS IN KIND
Jack Plunkett

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS
In Memory of Vernell Archie
Paulette, ’01 & ’05, and
Gordon Purdy

In Memory of Morris and Lucille Crawford
Michael Edwards R., ’06

In Memory of Andre De Kervin’s Wife
Gail S. and Roger R. Evans

In Memory of Francis Falcon
Paulette, ’01 & ’05, and
Gordon Purdy

In Memory of Erin Hodges’ Father
Gail S. and Roger R. Evans
Paulette, ’01 & ’05, and
Gordon Purdy

In Memory of Heide Helbinger’s Father
Gail S. and Roger R. Evans
Paulette, ’01 & ’05, and
Gordon Purdy

In Memory of Margaret Shelton’s Mother
Gail S. and Roger R. Evans
Paulette, ’01 & ’05, and
Gordon Purdy

Gifts expand Scholars Academy International exchange program plan of part

The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston has authorized a grant to The University of Houston-Downtown in the amount of $4,000,000 to be used toward the College of Sciences and Technology Scholars Academy.

The Scholars Academy was created in 1999 as an academically competitive program in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Since then, it has grown from 12 participants to about 180, each eligible for scholarships ranging from $3,200 to $5,000 per academic year.

Over a two-year period, The Brown Foundation award will bolster undergraduate mentoring, tutoring, research, scholarships, professional development, recruitment efforts, and the establishment of a Poland international exchange program in geosciences and biotechnology. Dr. Larry Spears, professor of Chemistry is the grant manager.

Why is the Scholars Academy so important to UHD and to Texas? In 2005, the Scholars Academy was recognized by the governor’s office for contributing to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s “Closing the Gap” initiative, making it possible for more Texans to get a higher education.

Support for the Scholars Academy ensures continued success in preparing undergraduates for advanced degrees and research, and particularly careers in STEM disciplines. Recipients of these degrees contribute to the economic and social success of Texas.

The Brown Foundation, Inc. was founded in July 1951 by Herman and Margaret Root Brown and George R. and Alice Pratt Brown. It distributes funds for public charitable purposes, principally for support, encouragement and assistance to education, the arts and community service. The current emphasis is in the field of public education at the primary and secondary levels. The Foundation will focus on supporting non-traditional and innovative approaches which are designed to improve public education primarily within the State of Texas.

Study abroad is hailed around the world as one of the best ways to educate students about the world and about themselves. A whopping 65% of European students study abroad. In Korea, 40% of the students pursue at least part of their secondary or post-secondary education abroad. Sadly, there is a 10% drop in the United States — only 1% of our students gain an understanding of the global environment they must compete in by experiencing it firsthand.

At the recent International Conference, hosted by University of Houston-Downtown, by the University Faculty Excellence Council (UFEC) of institutions in the UH System, Chancellor/President Jay Gogue described a shift in U.S. policy. He and other university presidents around the U.S. had recently attended a meeting where they were addressed by President George Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell on the importance of language studies. The message of the policy was clear: universities need to increase outreach in programming for international students. Gogue saw this as an exciting opportunity, especially in study abroad, student and faculty exchanges, and hybrid courses.

Race emphasized the need for skilled diplomacy. When international students study here and later take up significant positions in home-country government and society, their policies toward the U.S. are friendlier because they know our culture and better understand our attitudes and intentions. When our students go abroad, they begin thinking about what it means to be an American (not always a positive reflection) and how they can be more proactive in the world.

The Bush administration suggests that universities encourage more of this type of interaction through educational programs — for example, offering more foreign language courses with cultural components, UFEC planetary speaker Louis Nigro, diplomat in residence at UH, underscored America’s lack of second language speakers with a joke: a person who speaks three languages is multilingual; a person who speaks two languages is bilingual; a person who speaks one language is an American. (Ouch!) How we expand and improve our study abroad and exchange programs to meet this need was the driving inquiry of the conference. Our eight faculty from all four institutions in the UH System discussed funding sources, abroad model programs, brainstormed incentives for faculty and students, discussed technology available for hybrid programming, and shared previous experiences, successes and ideas.

The conference spurred determinations to expand programming and draw more students into study abroad. It also renewed the passion of faculty committed to the belief that one never experiences the same after an educational experience abroad. Such adventures make meaningful changes in the ways we see and interact in the world.

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Two UHD students won the undergraduate poster and oral presentation awards at the Texas Branch of the American Society of Microbiology conference in March. Henia Abid won first place in the poster competition for her work on Biofilm Formation of Staphylococcus aureus In Vitro and Inhibition with Antibiotics. Mesias Pedroza won first place in the oral presentation for his research on The Structure of Basidiomycete Communities on Roots and Rhizospheres of Native Coastal Prairie Grasses. Abid works with Dr. Poonam Gulati, associate professor of biology and microbiology, while Pedroza works with Dr. Phillip Lyars, associate professor of biology.

Fullbright Professor Dr. Jane Creighton is winding down her teaching assignment at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Creighton has become an international favorite among dignitaries such as Anne Hall, the Consul General of the United States in Krakow, Poland. Creighton has been featured on the consulate website for her presentations on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and African American poet, writer, journalist and political activist June Jordan (1936-2002). Creighton has also connected with China/US writers in eastern Europe on Fulbrights, Carlos Montes in Lublin, Poland, and Roberta Fernandez in Prague. They were members of a panel discussing Mexican-American literature last April at Maria Curie-Skodowska University in the Department of American Literature and Culture.

Communications major, Schivonne Cunningham, has accepted an extended internship with the Toyota Center after a successful performance leading up to the Harden Globetrotters’ basketball game in February. Cunningham graduated in May and hopes to continue with the Center and use her experience in promotions, marketing and media relations to embark on a successful career.

Dr. Robin Davidson has been selected to host “The Disparities of Health in America: Working toward Social Justice,” beginning in 2008. The academic course will educate undergraduates and graduate students on health inequalities, and will involve students in a creative cross-campus discussion to reduce and ultimately eliminate gaps in health care. It is sponsored by the Center for Research on Minority Health and the Health Disparities Education, Awareness, Research and Training Consortium and will be coordinated by Dr. Vicky Estrera, director of the UHD Scholars Academy.

You can now call Isidro Govea, director of the Academic Support Center, Doctor Govea, as he recently completed work for his PhD in instructional technology from the University of Houston. The Academic Support Center provides students, in particular those enrolled in core courses, with support towards improving individual writing, reading, and mathematics skills.

UHD friend, Artie Lee Hinds received the Legacy Award from the OMBritisUS Foundation for Healthcare in March. A long-time supporter of the UHD Red Rose Ball, she and her late husband, Jackson C. Hinds (1921-2001), served as honorary chairs in 1984. In 2005 Mrs. Hinds established a Red Rose Scholarship endowment named for her late husband.

Dr. Anisul Islam, Professor of Economics, was honored in March for his outstanding service as President of the Academy of International Business US Southwest Chapter during the annual meeting of the organization in San Diego, CA. Dr. Islam organized the meeting of the association involving professionals and practitioners in the field of International Business from various countries of the world. Dr. Islam also served as co-editor of the organization’s annual publication “Southwest Review of International Business Research.”

Dr. Anne Jennings, director of the AS in Professional Writing program, was recognized in the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing Bulletin for the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded workshops titled “Ethics in Technical Communication.” The workshops brought together scholars on rhetoric, ethics, philosophy, and technical writing and communication from across the nation and are among the first of the ethics workshops to be funded by an NEH grant.

The Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center celebrated 10 years of operation in March. The center is directed by Rick Salazar. Since its opening in 1997, the fitness facility has served thousands of students, faculty, staff and alumni by providing opportunities to incorporate exercise, nutrition and sports into their lives, and cultivating a sense of belonging to the university.

Dr. Madeline Johnson, professor of marketing, along with the Marketing Management and Strategy class, was invited to participate in the 2007 EdVenture Partners competition, a Berkeley-based marketing company providing unique industry-education partnerships. This year’s competition was sponsored by the Bausch & Lomb LASIK Learning Program. Students conducted research, and developed, implemented and evaluated an integrated marketing campaign for the client that promotes LASIK and its benefits to a key target market – fellow college peers. In addition to UHD, four other universities were selected to participate: University of New Hampshire, California State University-Fullerton, San Jose State University and University of South Carolina.

Scholars Academy member, Blythe Parham has been accepted to the College of Veterinary Medicine Texas A&M University and will begin studies in fall 2007. Dr. Joseph Westfall’s book, The Kierkegaardian Author, was recently released by the Walter de Gruyter publishing house. The work examines Kierkegaard’s literary and dramatic criticism. Westfall is an associate professor of philosophy in the Social Sciences Department.