RED ROSE RECORD-BREAKER

A 20-year investment in human capital. That’s the Red Rose Ball — UHD-Downtown’s premier fundraising gala, held each year to generate scholarships for high-performing UHD students.

The scholarship funds raised through the 20th Annual Red Rose Ball exceeded all previous events — a total of $270,000, all thanks to the outstanding generosity of corporations and individuals.

Twenty-five students will receive $3,000 awards for the coming academic year, and additional proceeds will provide scholarships to transfer students and the Scholars Academy.

The ball celebrated its twentieth anniversary by honoring Jonathan Day, managing partner, Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, and his wife, businesswoman and former UHD professor Barbara Day. Ball co-chairs were Yolanda L. Londoño, senior vice president and...
Commencement ceremony.

Hundreds of UHD graduates took the plunge into the “real world” as they celebrated the awarding of their degrees at the spring commencement ceremony.

UHD: The Governor’s Choice

Texas Governor Rick Perry chose UH-Downtown for a news conference outlining the results of the 77th Session of the Texas Legislature. Similar news conferences were held in other cities.

Media outlets turned out in force, including television, radio and print journalists and camera crews. The event was held on the second day of summer classes, so political science and other professors were able to take advantage of the opportunity to bring their students to see the governor.

UHD President Max Castillo introduced Governor Perry to the assembled group, which included members of the UH System Board of Regents — Gary Rosenthal, chairman, Eduardis Aquire, Suzette Caldwell, Theresa Chang, Morgan Dunn O’Connor, and Thad “Bo” Smith, and UH System Chancellor Arthur K. Smith. Also in attendance: Beth Robertson, former regent and member of UHD’s President’s Advisory Council.

Two years ago, then-Lieutenant Governor Perry visited UH-Downtown to tour the campus and meet with students.

Springboard

Dr. Don Brown, commissioner of higher education for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shared his wishes for the Spring 2001 graduates. First, he wished that they would leave UHD with a sense of obligation to “give back,” or contribute their talents and personal resources for the benefit of the community or for the world at large. And second, he hoped that they would have fun along the way.

Speaking for the students was Miriam Morales, who graduated with a bachelor of science in applied mathematics through the College of Sciences and Technology. Miriam is the first in her immediate family to graduate from college. She’s a former Red Rose Scholar, a Shell Scholar and a member of the Scholars Academy, with plans to pursue a graduate degree.

Writing the Professional Way

Dr. Madeline Johnson, associate professor of marketing, has received a prestigious honor, chosen as a Piper Professor of 2001 by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

Only 11 university professors in Texas were selected, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the teaching profession in higher education. The honor includes a $5,000 award.

Ask Dr. Johnson what motivates her in the classroom, and she’ll tell you that it’s seeing students master the material. “I like to see people learn and build up that sense of ‘I can do it,'” she notes.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

The changing face of marketing holds special fascination for Dr. Johnson. A new course on e-marketing explores the impact of information technology on the strategies and techniques used by marketers to understand their customers. Dr. Johnson is eager to give her students the latest information so they will have an edge when searching for a job.
College Bowl:
The Varsity Sport of the Mind

Think “Team Jeopardy.” That’s one way to describe College Bowl, a competitive battle of wits between teams of mental athletes. UHD joins universities across the country in fielding teams of students who represent a variety of academic disciplines. During competition, they essentially try to answer more questions than the other team, racking up both higher team and individual scores in the process.

UHD’s College Bowl effort is relatively new — only four years in competition at this point, and it’s shaping up to be a formidable contender. During this past year, the UHD team improved its standing by double. One team member was in the top ten regional individual scorers.

“We’re now a well-respected team, and our students feel that and are proud of it,” says team sponsor Dr. Sandra Dahlberg, an assistant professor of English. Dr. Dahlberg puts her team of brainiacs through the equivalent of mental sprints to prepare for each competition, drilling them on current events and specific academic topics. It gives Dr. Dahlberg special pleasure to note that UHD’s team, like the university’s population, is ethnically diverse — which makes the team unique in comparison to teams from most rival universities.

UHD Faculty Awards 2001

Excellence in teaching. Creativity and scholarly activity. Service to students and to the mission of UH-Downtown. These three qualities describe outstanding UHD faculty members who were recognized this spring by their peers through the annual faculty awards program.

Dr. tyra Montgomery, associate professor of chemistry, was recognized this year for Excellence in Teaching, which qualified her for a $5,000 award through the Enron Teaching Excellence program. Enron similarly awards professors from other UH System campuses each year.

“The fact that the selection of the recipient of this award is made by colleagues makes receiving the award more meaningful,” said Dr. Montgomery. “Every faculty member knows how much time, effort and dedication go into teaching.”

Lorenzo Thomas, professor of English, is no stranger to the faculty award circle. In 1993 and this year he received the Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activity. Thomas’s expertise is in literature and poetry. He teaches a variety of classes including multicultural literature, African American studies and Composition.

Thomas is active in the arts community locally and nationally, and directs activities at the UH-Downtown Cultural Enrichment Center. (see related story on this page) will help provide operating costs.

“The Cain Scholarships are a great help to students,” explained Dr. Key. “Qualified students receive $1,300 per semester in addition to help with purchasing textbooks.”

Four different degree programs are offered under the M.A.T.: curriculum instruction, open only to teachers who are already certified, and three programs that can also be combined with an undergraduate certification program — for secondary, elementary and bilingual teachers.

Teachers can earn an M.A.T. degree in three years, with classes scheduled to accommodate the public school schedule.

Most of the course work is done during the summer, with a few classes offered each fall and spring in the evenings or on weekends.

Mary Oldham went back to school when her youngest child was in middle school, enrolling in North Harris Community College, and then transferring to UH-Downtown. She relished every moment. “I enjoyed my experiences at UHD. Everyone works so hard to help you and there are so many resources to help you if you get stuck in math or another subject.”

The urban teacher education program was a draw for Mary. “I wanted as many opportunities as possible to get in the classroom before graduating, and UHD offered that.”

The M.A.T. also focuses on practical experience. Throughout the program, students like Mary Oldham will be expected to design and conduct classroom-based action research targeting improved academic achievement of children in their classrooms.

provide scholarships for urban teacher education students. A $390,000 gift this spring from Houston Endowment will cover first year faculty salary and preparation of curriculum for the new graduate-level courses.

Funds to Grow On

Houston Endowment, Inc., is providing the startup costs for UHD’s new Master of Arts in Teaching program. A $390,000 gift from Houston Endowment will cover first year faculty salary and preparation of curriculum for the new graduate-level courses.

UHD is uniquely positioned to address the severe shortage of teachers in urban areas. Master’s degree programs in Education are offered at several other universities in Texas, but they differ significantly from UHD’s program.

The Houston Endowment funds will complement scholarship funds from the Mary and Gordon Cain Foundation.


developers and students and opening doors to many who might not otherwise be able to pursue a college degree. We greatly appreciate the generosity shown by UH to the following corporations, foundations and individuals between February 1, 2001 and May 31, 2001. Please note that numbers following a name signify the year of graduation from UH.

$1,000,000 and Above

Houston Endowment Inc.

$500,000 to $1,000,000

Texaco, Inc.

$250,000 to $500,000

Mary and Jim Henderson

$100,000 to $250,000

Pappas Restaurants

$50,000 to $100,000

Gloria Kay Morse, '87

$25,000 to $50,000

White Spectrum, Inc.

$10,000 to $25,000

University of Houston Alumni Association

$5,000 to $10,000

SouthTrust Bank

$2,500 to $5,000

Richard W. Weekley

$1,000 to $2,500

Carolynne Abrams McDonnell, '85

$500 to $1,000

United Methodist Church

Under $250

Global DocuGraphix

$100 to $250

Dr. & Mrs. Albert Abrams

$50 to $100

3M Co.

$25 to $50

Theodore V. Sotos

Generous Friends of UH

ALUMNI ANNUAL FUND

$500 and Above

Carmella, 91, and Robert Pearce, III, '95

$250 to $499

Theodore V. Sotos

$200 to $249

Anne M. Rodgers, '87

$150 to $199

Karen J. Hill, '95

$100 to $149

Linda L. Otto, '96

$50 to $99

Russell B. Grubbs, '86

Under $50

Leslie A. Woodard, '96

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

In Memory of Lucy McDaniel

In Memory of Joy Anderson

In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Albert Abrams

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Listed beneath the company names are the donors for whom this matching gift is intended.

Illuminatio International

John Jay Eicher '92

Michael Abrams Corporation

Foundation

Carol A. Ramirez '99

Texaco, Inc.

H. E. Raue College

UHD Class Schedule: Summer II Session classes begin July 9, Fall 2001 begins August 22, Fall 2001 registration begins October 1

Alumni Association General Election: August 15, at UH, time to be announced. Ballots will be mailed to members of the UH Alumni Association in mid-July. For information, call 713-221-8993.

President’s Report to the Community: 7:30 p.m., August 22, Special Events Center at UH-Downtown. UH President Meta Castillo welcomes friends of the university for the annual banquet and celebration of UH successes.

Silent Auction Donors

Pete Benchley, '96

UH: The Student Magnet

More students are choosing UH-Downtown. Spring enrollment figures took another jump this past academic year. The official count was 8,733 students, a 5.6% increase from a year ago. Compared to a 2.6% increase from spring to spring the year before.

Summer school is more popular, too. The first session had an enrollment increase of 6% over the summer of 2000.
Jim Pierce ('92) works as security operations director for I.G. Gold, Inc., the largest gold manufacturing company in the south-west United States.

Linda Flores-Olson ('91) joined the Greater Houston Partnership as director of membership services in April. Before that, she had worked in alumni and constituent relations at UH-Clear Lake for nearly seven years.

James McCabe ('94) is currently court liaison officer for the 179th District Court in Harris County and recently became a father for the first time.

Eric S. Lane ('95) plans to receive his master's degree in hospitality management this spring. He lives in Vicksburg, MS and is currently employed as corporate manager of food and beverage operations for Isle of Capri Casinos, a casino company with 13 properties.

Boma Onumodu ('99) is now a full-time student in the MBA program at UH-Clear Lake. She was very pleased to receive a scholarship to help her pay for graduate school.

Paramy Philavanh-Graff ('98) is pursuing her master’s degree at UH-Clear Lake. She is now married and has one daughter, Elizabeth Lindsay. She still continues to travel throughout Europe and Asia.

Martha De La Paz ('99) is now in her second year as a bilingual teacher at Gallegos Elementary. She is also Vice President of the “Ballet Fusta Mexicana” the newest adult folkloric dance group.

David Worsham ('95) recently led technology efforts for real estate software startup in Indianapolis and will be returning to Houston.

Monica Lima ('00) is engaged to Marlon Sanchez, current computer science student at UH-Downtown. They are to be married in the Fall of 2001 and just bought their first house.

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Well-equipped, Thanks to the Army

Students who use a UHD science laboratory have access to additional state-of-the-art equipment. The U.S. Army Research Laboratory donated $144,000 in laser lab equipment that will become the core of a laser spectroscopy laboratory being developed by Dr. Larry Merkle, assistant professor of physics. The lab will provide one of the many opportunities for undergraduate research offered by UHD.

Red Rose Record-Breaker

The 20th Red Rose Ball!...the presentation of the deserving students to the community...the presentation of the Red Rose Scholars was simply a Given Life. The women range in age from 27 to 54 and even included a mother and daughter. Their vocations are varied: lawyer, minister/teacher, health care provider, photographer and graphic artist. The visiting experts led three panels for UHD audiences and helped wrap the month’s activities. Above, from left to right: Ida Hoeck, Lisbet Miiller, Anne Maller, Gine Janner, Sisse Janner and Pia Deleuran. Dr. JoAnn Pavletich and Dr. Jane Creighton, both assistant professors of English, chaired the Women’s Month Committee.

Women’s Month

A group of women from Denmark added an international perspective to UHD’s annual Women’s Month celebration. They are part of a collaborative group called “Women in the Visual and Literary Arts” who have published two books: A Given Life and Periods. The women range in age from 27 to 54 and even included a mother and daughter. Their vocations are also varied: lawyer, minister/teacher, health care provider, photographer and graphic artist. The visiting experts led three panels for UHD audiences and helped wrap the month’s activities. Above, from left to right: Ida Hoeck, Lisbet Müller, Anne Maller, Gine Janner, Sisse Janner and Pia Deleuran. Dr. JoAnn Pavletich and Dr. Jane Creighton, both assistant professors of English, chaired the Women’s Month Committee.

Diversity in Philanthropy

The national Council on Foundations’ Committee on Inclusiveness chose UHD as the site for a gathering chaired by Rosie Zamora with Telesurveys Research Associates (pictured below, center), a member of UHD’s President’s Advisory Council. Flanking Zamora are (left) UHD President Max Castillo and Milton Carroll, chairman of Houston Endowment, Inc. The Council on Foundations is a nonprofit membership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations.

Can We Prevent Another Columbine?

An overflow crowd of educators, social scientists, students and other specialists poured into UHD’s Willelmmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium in April to hear social psychologist and author Dr. Elliot Aronson at the annual Social Science Alumni Lecture.

An internationally recognized expert on the prevention of adolescent violence, Dr. Aronson wrote Nobody Left to Hate: Teaching Compassion After Columbine.

“Dr. Aronson’s lecture is a good example of how relevant research is to social progress,” said Dr. Linda Vaden-Good, chair of UHD’s Department of Social Sciences. “In describing his career path and how research works for positive change, he addressed how social scientists sometimes don’t see immediate results from the research they conduct. His work, however, proves that diligence can result in social good.”

Dr. Aronson’s research highlighted the need for disenfranchised high school students to feel human respect in order to prosper and learn, an issue highlighted by the school shooting tragedy in Columbine, Colorado. The UHD Department of Social Sciences includes seven academic areas: anthropology, geography, history, philosophy, political science, psychology and sociology.

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The High School-University Connection

Too many students drop out of universities and colleges because they didn’t get the preparation they needed during the high school years. UH-Downtown is proactive in addressing that issue through a number of pre-collegiate programs, as well as support services that help students after they’ve enrolled.

In addition to reaching out to students, UH-Downtown is bringing together high school teachers and university professors who can talk directly to one another about how to help their students make the transition to higher education.

At a recent symposium, directed by UHD English Lecturer Dagmar Corrigan, teachers and professors gathered for a day of learning and interaction. Keynote speaker was Dr. George Otte, on the faculty at Baruch College in New York and an expert on high school outreach programs. Dozens of representatives from a number of area universities and schools attended.

Professor of English Lorenzo Thomas is helping METRO move hearts and minds while they’re moving people. He’s one of the poets featured in METRO’s new Poetry in Motion program, which places verse inside buses for riders to see.

Thomas’ poem, “Sugar Hill,” was displayed in May and June. Eighteen poems in all will be seen through April 2002.

“It’s very important that poetry not just sit on a shelf,” said Thomas. “Poetry is a living art intended to travel with people.”

Poetry in Motion is a national program first developed in 1992 by the Poetry Society of America (PSA) and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of New York for its subway commuters.

Thomas is a widely published poet and critic whose scholarly articles and works have appeared in a number of journals and books. His books include Chances Are Few, The Bathers, and Es Gibt Zeugen, collections of poetry, as well as “Sing the Sun Up: Creative Writing Ideas from African American Literature.”

The O’Kane Gallery at UHD Downtown, located on the third floor of the One Main building, is preparing for the summer and fall art season. Participants of the Jesse H. Jones Academic Institute exhibited works they produced as part of the college preparatory program. Jones Institute participants are Jefferson Davis High School students who take either science, general academics or English as a Second Language programs on the UHD campus. At the end of the term, general academic and ESL students produce a piece of art. August 23 through September 20, The O’Kane Gallery features a women’s show, “Signs of Life.”

The opening reception is set for 6 p.m., August 23. The exhibit features two confirmed artists: Lydia Bodnar-Balahutsk and Kate Breakey. Bodnar-Balahutsk makes art that often references her Ukrainian roots at times depicting some of the hardships that the Ukrainian people have faced.

Breakey is originally from Australia, and now lives in the Southwest United States. The work is large, approximately 3 feet by 3 feet, and incorporates hand coloring of black and white images celebrating the lives of small living things that are often overlooked.

“High Art,” an exhibit featuring high school artists from the greater Houston area, is scheduled for September 27 through October 18. Opening reception is September 29.

For additional information, call 713-221-8043.

O’Kane Theatre

Take a look through the window of Monk’s Place (left), the setting for Small Craft Warnings by Tennessee Williams, presented by UHD’s University Theatre under the direction of Dr. Thomas J. Lyttle. The cast and crew included UHD students, alumni and friends. The play recounts one night in the lives of a group of derelict characters searching for comfort and support from each other. It was first performed off-Broadway in 1972.

Poems On the Bus, for Better or Verse

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When Tropical Storm Allison dumped record amounts of rain over downtown Houston, UHD’s campus became an island, as White Oak and Buffalo Bayous spilled out of their banks to completely surround the campus. About 12” of floodwater poured into the university’s first level, which houses the UHD Police Department and Facilities Management departments, as well as building utilities systems. The Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center was not damaged. After the rain stopped, UHD was without power, phone systems and running water. Thanks to quick work by police, facilities and information technology staff, UHD was closed for only one day, open again for classes and routine business on June 12.

An Outpouring of Generosity from Students
A number of UHD students, faculty and staff were affected by Tropical Storm Allison, and the university community responded. There’s just one example, from UHD’s English Language Institute, a continuing education program offering English proficiency instruction for international students. An ELI student escaped from his home, which was filled waist-deep with floodwaters, to seek safety in the second story of a friend’s home, where he was then trapped for a day before being rescued by the Houston Fire Department. After the floodwaters receded, he discovered that all of his books and clothes were ruined. Fellow ELI students sprang into action, collecting enough money to purchase new books, while others donated clothing. The international students enrolled in ELI are from other countries, most without a great deal of discretionary funds. Their generosity reflects the sense of community that is fostered by caring, dedicated people throughout UHD.