Visitors to UHD’s O’Kane Gallery were transported halfway around the globe this summer by a colorful photo exhibit — “The Many Splendors of Taiwan.” The exhibit was organized by the Government of China and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston. Photos depict various aspects of Taiwan, ranging from natural scenery to cultural heritage.

At the opening of the exhibit, UHD Downtown community friends Don Wang, chairman, MetroBank, N.A. and Suzanne Hauser, gallery supporter, joined Charles Chen, director of the information division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

The exhibit celebrates the university’s new international partnership, the Bayou Connection, an exchange program between UHD’s criminal justice program and Chung-Cheng University (CCU) in Taiwan. The first group of CCU graduate students is expected to study at UHD in Fall 2004.

Great white egrets, rockets and kitchen chemistry were all part of the summer landscape at UHD. Each summer, UHD Downtown dedicates considerable faculty, administrative and student resources to educational enrichment programs and classes for kindergarten through high school students and teachers. Although varied in nature — from a professional jazz band experience for high school students to space science classes for educators — these programs are designed to enhance and inspire students who are traditionally under-represented in university settings.

Paper airplanes and mousetrap cars are more than toys in the Houston PREP program. They’re important tools for teaching science and math principles to middle and high school students from the Houston metropolitan area. The academically successful students learned about the engineering and science professions during the Houston Freshman Engineering Program (PREP) this past summer. The eight week program is currently in its fourteenth year, hosted by

Continued on page 4

Dr. Phebe Chen is UHD’s 2003 Alumna of the Year — an honor given to outstanding graduate of UHD who selflessly supports the university and the community.

In 2003, Dr. Phebe Chen returned to UHD Downtown as UHD’s Alumna of the Year, honored for service, leadership and commitment to the community, to UHD, and to family or work.

Continued on page 3

Things were a bit different back in 1981. Back then, UHD Downtown was called University of Houston Downtown College. Phebe Chen had just moved with her family from the Philippines to Houston, fresh out of her freshman year at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

Phebe had a number of adjustments to make as she began her sophomore year at UHD. Lucky for Phebe — she chose a university where faculty could give students ample personal attention, a tradition of caring that continues today.

In 2003, Dr. Phebe Chen returned to UHD Downtown as UHD’s Alumna of the Year, honored for service, leadership and commitment to the community, to UHD, and to family or work.

Continued on page 3

There’s more good news inside!

- Every scholarship helps ........................................ p. 2
- Alumni Notes ...................................................... p. 3
- From the ground up .............................................. p. 4
Scholarship Gifts from UHD Friends

BMC Software Supports Business Students

BMC Software, a leading provider of enterprise management solutions, donated $30,000 in scholarship funds to UH-Downtown. With the funds, six annual $1,000 scholarships will be awarded each fall for the next five academic years.

Students eligible for the BMC Software scholarships must be juniors or seniors pursuing a major or minor in administrative management, computer information systems, finance, or marketing at UHD. For the fall 2003 semester, the following students received the first BMC Software scholarships: Stephanie Jefferson, Benjamin Peak, David A. Plotz, Feryal Umrani, Vershonda Williams, and Monika Malgorzata.

Greater Texas Foundation Helps Remove Barriers

The Greater Texas Foundation gave $20,000 to UH-Downtown from their “Removing Educational Barriers Scholarship” fund. The scholarship is intended to help students overcome barriers to higher education. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Don Brown said, “Helping students pay for college provides a path to a brighter future — for them and for the state.”

Field Trip Chemistry

Members of UHD’s Scholars Academy (above) get an insider’s view of a research facility at ChevronPhillips Chemical Company LP in Kingwood. Dr. Eduardo Baralt (in dark shirt on right), lead research chemist for ChevronPhillips, greets Scholars Academy students and faculty member Will LeDoux as they visit with UHD chemistry student Nicole Olsen (on left). Olsen is getting valuable industry experience from a co-op program with the company. A number of UHD students have gone on to successful careers in the chemical industry as a result of their participation in co-op programs.

Bragging Rights

Fulbright Grant

Dr. Robin Davidson, director of UHD’s Learners Community, is the recipient of a grant from the prestigious Fulbright Program, the U.S. government’s premier international educational exchange program. Dr. Davidson will teach American literature during this academic year with a focus on poetry at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She has a Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing.

Ready for Hollywood

When Dr. Ann Jennings isn’t teaching students how to polish their proofreading skills or sharpen their syntax, she’s at her own computer writing award-winning scripts. An associate professor of English and coordinator of UHD’s professional writing program, Dr. Jennings has written mystery novels and took up screenplays a couple of years ago. Her screenplay, “Part-Time Czar,” won a Silver Award at Worldfest Houston, the biggest film festival in terms of submissions. Dr. Jennings’s entry was chosen from among 4,500 entries in all categories.
UHD Alumna of the Year

Continued from page 7

Dr. Chen is currently Associate Professor and Chief of Ultrasound of the Department of Radiology at the UT Health Science Center. Board certified in pediatrics and diagnostic radiology, her primary interest is women’s health. She teaches fourth-year medical students in radiology, focusing on the use of ultrasound.

She graduated from UHD in 1981 with highest honors — Summa Cum Laude — with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies, which has become UHD’s Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Phebe was able to use that “general degree” as a springboard for medical school, thanks to classes that created a solid underpinning of knowledge.

Dr. Chen graduated from Baylor College of Medicine in 1985, and did postgraduate training in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. Her postgraduate work in radiology was at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago, and at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

She belongs to several professional organizations, including the MRI Society of Greater Houston, the Texas Medical Association, and the Harris County Medical Society. Dr. Chen has a strong record of community volunteer service, including the Christian Community Service Center, Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry, and The Senior’s Place. The Alumnus of the Year is honored for leadership, service and commitment to the university, the community, and work or family life. Past alumni of the year have been Texas Senator Mario Gallegos, Jr., and Rick Hartley, executive director of The 100 Club.

Calendar of Events

O’Kane Gallery: Candace Briceno, drawing and paint with sewn felt, through Oct. 2, 713-221-8043

O’Kane Theatre: The Lion in Winter, Oct. 31-Nov. 8, 713-221-8104

Commencement: December 7, Minute Maid Park

Concerts Raise Funds for UHD Students

UHD students received a warm welcome as they staged a concert at Jones Plaza as part of the Bud Light Tu Musica en la Plaza series. Psychology major Robinson Arteaga thanked the audience for their support on behalf of the UH-Downtown delegation. Proceeds for the concert series, approximately $12,000, will be used for student support services. Sponsors are Anheuser Busch Companies and Silver Eagle Distributors, Inc.

ALUMNI NOTES

Bobbye Brown Donaldson (’91) has left Houston and Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. to join the Las Vegas law firm, Beckley Singleton Chrd., as a Trainer and Legal Assistant. She will be assisting the firm in the development and implementation of written and intranet training materials.

Rewa Marie Fyles (’99) has just fulfilled her dream of publishing a book of her poems. After many years of writing, she has published a collection entitled Feeling Poetic, A Book of Poetry.

Bishop Larry D. Leonard (’02) decided to finish his education at UHD after many years as pastor and family man. He has been in ministry for over 41 years and has pastored Morning Star Full Gospel Baptist Church for 25 years. He is launching an international ministry, Victory of the Word, as teacher and evangelist.

Lillian McKissick (’83) enjoyed a twenty-year career in accounting after graduation. This fall she will start her first year as a law student at the University of Tulsa College of Law with plans to pursue a career in public service. Her hope is to inspire others that it is never too late to pursue one’s dreams.

Mark Elliott Miller, MPH (’88) published his second book, Advice for Life: From the Mouths of Elders, One Hundred Ways to Grow Old Gracefully. He received his Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 2000.

What’s New? Send a Note!

Update your former UHD classmates on your life by submitting an item for the “Alumni Notes” in New Horizons. We’ll also post your item in the alumni section of UHD’s website.

You can e-mail directly from the website at www.uhd.edu/alumni/notes.htm. Or, send an e-mail to Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin at afanco@uhd.edu. Or, mail your item to Karen at UHD Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 9105, Houston, Texas 77002.

UHD alumni gathered at the Alumni of the Year reception sponsored by the President’s Alumni Society Council are (back row from left) Geri Lenued and Rick Hartley, (front row from left) Aliera Pena, Dolores Stawitz, Phoebe Chen, Janet Retennouer, Aaron Nave and Dennis Brooks.
The six-week summer programs for Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search prepared students from the Aldine and Houston Independent School Districts for college. This summer, the 1,205 students in these programs participated in cultural enrichment activities to supplement the college tours they made during the school year.

As part of the university’s six-week Summer Environmental Research Program, eight academically successful UHD students with an interest in natural science conducted full-time research under the close supervision of faculty mentors at UHD and Sheldon Lake State Park. Students in the program will present their research at UHD’s annual Student Research Conference.

Science teachers from HISD spent two days at UH-Downtown in the university’s Say Yes! workshops, which helped teachers learn to teach biology, chemistry, and physics with computers and new technology. The program is funded through a grant from the Shell Oil Company Foundation.

Houston Urban Learning Initiatives in a Networked Community (HU-LINC), a program that develops the proficiencies of elementary and secondary teachers in science, mathematics, and technology, met again this summer to practice teaching methods that these educators can apply to their classrooms in the coming academic year.