The Red Rose Ball: Support for Student Success

Ask Red Rose Scholars what it means to receive the Red Rose Scholarship, and you’ll hear recurring themes: Acknowledgement of achievement. Fewer sleepless nights worrying about how to balance a job and family responsibilities with study time. The sense that someone cares about your success, my future.

Thanks to generous contributors, Red Rose Ball 2004 raised a total of $250,000. Proceeds support 25 Red Rose Scholarships of $3,000 each. In addition, the ball supports Dean’s Scholarships for highly qualified transfer students and Scholars Academy Scholarships for students in science, technology, engineering and math.

Honored this year for dedication and commitment to education was Eugene H. Vaughan, founding chairman of the Center for Houston’s Future and founding chairman of Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, L.P.

Gene is a longtime supporter of the Red Rose Ball, calling it “the single most uplifting and moving event that I have attended in Houston.”

Joe Hafner, president and CEO of Riviana Foods, Inc., a previous ball honoree, and George Martinez, chairman of Sterling Bank, co-chaired the ball.

Diana Leal – a two-time Red Rose Scholarship recipient – spoke on behalf of the 24 other scholars who were presented at the ball. “Being a part of this group means a lot to me and serves as a reminder that hard work does pay off,” Diana told ball guests at the Hilton-Americas Hotel. “The Red Rose Scholarship is making it possible for me to accomplish my goals.”

As the first person in her family to go to college, Diana faces great challenges. She says positive experiences at UHD motivate her to persevere.

See More Red Rose Photos on page 6

There’s more good news inside!

• Business looks good.......................... p. 2
• ExxonMobil alumni come home.......... p. 4
• Peerless excellence........................... p. 8
UH-Downtown: 30 Years Young

In a span of only three decades, a little college nestled inside an old commercial and warehouse building has blossomed into the second largest public university in Southeast Texas.

Since UH-Downtown’s origin in 1974, enrollment doubled. Facilities expanded. The number of degree programs mushroomed — including the addition of master’s degrees — as the university developed a national and international reputation for outstanding faculty and exceptional opportunities for students.

What’s New at Age 30?

The university’s 30th anniversary comes during a year that holds great promise. For the first time, the completion of two new buildings will expand UHD’s facilities beyond the two bayous that frame the original campus.

The Commerce Street Building lies just across Buffalo Bayou. Faculty and staff in UHD’s newest college — the College of Public Service — will move into the building and begin classes in the fall. A public grand opening is scheduled for September 14.

Directly to the east of campus, on the other side of White Oak Bayou, the lovingly-restored Willow Street Pump Station stands as an example of UHD’s commitment to historic preservation and adaptive reuse. The facility is available for community use as a conference and exhibition space.

A Diamond Anniversary for One Main

Part of UHD’s 30th anniversary celebration is observing the 75th anniversary of the university’s original home at One Main Street, first known as the Merchants and Manufacturers Building. The M&M Building opened in early 1930, a striking structure with state of the art features. Despite its great promise, the building never achieved its full potential as a thriving center for commerce. But it did evolve into a flourishing center for education, eventually becoming the home of UH-Downtown.

The More Things Change...

While many things have changed, UHD’s values remain rock solid at this primarily undergraduate teaching university, where academic success of students is paramount.

UHD’s College of Business: Cream of the Crop

The College of Business will maintain elite company among the one-in-four U.S. undergraduate business schools that achieve accreditation from AACSB International — the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The lead accrediting agency worldwide, AACSB reaffirmed UHD’s accreditation this summer.

Following their site examination, the AACSB accreditation team praised UHD’s College of Business for its commitment to students. “The mission…places emphasis on preparing students for career success with a clear focus on teaching and scholarship expectations that support the teaching mission.”

College dean Dr. Bobby Bizzell and his colleagues had to meet a variety of quality standards in order to achieve reaffirmation of the accreditation first earned in 1994. The next assessment will occur in 2010.

“I think we can all be justifiably proud of our accomplishments and the programs we have developed at UH-Downtown,” said Dr. Bizzell. AACSB experts look at strategic management of resources, interactions of faculty and students in the educational process, and achievement of learning goals in degree programs. The college was also commended for being in tune with the needs of the multicultural population of Houston and surrounding communities.

In 2003, the College of Business awarded degrees to 665 individuals, 1.3% more than the previous year. The Bachelor of Business Administration in General Business is offered completely online. In addition, UHD has become a leader in delivering undergraduate business degree programs through distance education at teaching centers in Sugar Land, Cinco Ranch and The Woodlands.

A recent addition to the college is the Entrepreneur and Venture Development Center.

College goals are to position UHD as one of the most diverse universities in the world, Beauchamp told graduates that their experience in UHD’s multicultural environment would serve them well in the workplace.

UH-Diversity a Bonus for Grads

“The most powerful universities are those that understand the power of diversity,” said Bob Beauchamp, president and CEO for BMC Software, Inc., as he addressed a record number of May graduates at UH-Downtown commencement ceremonies in Minute Maid Park. Referring to UHD as one of the most diverse universities in the world, Beauchamp told graduates that their experience in UHD’s multicultural environment would serve them well in the workplace.

UH-Downtown: 30 Years Young

The new Commerce Street Building opens in time for fall classes, with 25 classrooms and state-of-the-art computer labs. The facility is home to the College of Public Service, which comprises the criminal justice and urban education departments. A public grand opening is September 14.
UHD’s students joined a select group of highly qualified participants in a program that creates a bridge to medical school. Tiffany Chatman, a biology major, and Viv Lam, a chemistry major, were chosen for the Joint Admission Medical Program, or JAMP. Both began their sophomore year this fall. Students receive undergraduate scholarships, stipends for summer internships and special mentoring to prepare them for medical school. JAMP also provides for admission to Texas medical schools for students who satisfy both academic and nonacademic requirements.

UHD’s summer community outreach programs touch over 1,000 individuals and their families.

Ketelsen Institute Paves the Way to College
Each summer, Houston’s Downtown University extends its mission to prepare college students of the future. The largest pre-collegiate program is the Ketelsen Institute for Academic Excellence, renamed this year in honor of James L. Ketelsen, former executive vice president and chairman of Tenerrico. Ketelsen initiated the Jefferson Davis Educational Collaborative and later founded Project GRAD, a nonprofit K-12 school reform model that is currently underway in ten school districts across the country.

Students who participate successfully in the program for at least two summers receive a scholarship of $1,000 a year to attend college. If a student chooses to attend UH-Downtown, the university matches the scholarship for up to four years. In partnership with Project GRAD and HSD, UHD hosted almost 500 students this year for intensive academic enrichment. “Students in the Ketelsen Institute for Academic Excellence are provided an opportunity to become immersed in the culture of higher education,” says program director Branden Kazmick. “They study with university faculty, supplement their college preparatory curriculum, and work within a technologically-enriched academic environment.”

Summer Learning for Students…and Teachers
Programs that focus on the sciences and math include Houston Pre-college Enrichment Program, or Houston PREP, which prepares traditionally under-represented middle and high school students for higher education. UHD collaborates with Baylor College of Medicine to expose high school juniors from the DeBakey High School for Health Professions to biomedical research projects, funded by the National Institutes for Health.

The Urban Outreach in Space and Science, funded by NASA, concentrates on attracting young people to space science with the help of University student ambassadors. Houston Urban Learning Initiative in a Networked Community (HU-LINC) brings in eighth and ninth graders for a three-week summer camp, thanks to a Department of Defense Army Research Office grant and the National Science Foundation.

Teachers in HU-LINC schools come to UHD to learn how to better teach science and math through two programs: Target 2004, sponsored by HISD through the Texas Education Agency, and Technology-Enhanced Science and Math in the Elementary School.

UHD’s ongoing programs include Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search, which work in public schools year-round, encouraging the college-going rates of students traditionally under-represented in higher education. Middle school students participate in a summer program:

High school students in the Ketelsen Institute for Academic Excellence, the summer arms of UHD’s partnership with Project GRAD, combine academic work with creativity in an art project reflecting the nation’s 2004 London theme, “Under the Sea.”

UHD’s continuing education department offered its annual Computer and Science Camp for kids. Animation, computer programming, dinosaurs and robotics keep kids interested and excelling in the subjects.
Five years ago, if you asked Tamika Jones-Scott what her goals were, she would have given you the standard answer: Good job and a nice home. Today the goals of the recent UH-Downtown graduate are dramatically different. Life-changing events have put “peace of mind” at the top of her list.

Tamika graduated from UH-Downtown with a Bachelor of Science in Professional Writing. Four years ago Tamika was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. At the time, she was working full-time and going to school part-time. “It was always my mother’s dream for all of her children to graduate from college, so in a way, I was just going for her,” says the 31-year-old mother of three. Tamika’s father died suddenly six years ago and her mother’s wish became especially important.

Before she got sick, Tamika said her life was about money and possessions. Since she was diagnosed, her priorities have changed. “I’ve learned that life is about having compassion for others. It’s true that in the end, you can’t take it with you when you go.” She also learned to ask for help, mostly from her family. “I realized the importance of ‘family’ and am glad we were already close-knit,” she says. “Most people don’t have that. I am truly blessed.”

Last year, Tamika’s oldest son, 10-year-old Devanté, contracted a cancer known as Wilms Tumor, the most common form of kidney cancer. It was devastating, but instead of weakening Tamika, it gave her strength. “I told him by going through this he can be an inspiration to other kids with health problems,” says Tamika. “He is a special person. He tries to please everyone and has always been a great support for me.”

Thankfully, surgery on Devanté’s tumor was successful and he is showing no signs of remaining cancer tissue in his kidneys. He has gone back to school, keeping up his A average, and is getting back into regular activities. When he grows up he wants to be either a basketball player or an accountant, like his Uncle Victor, Tamika’s brother and also a UHD graduate.

Tamika Jones-Scott
Meet UHD Alumna:
Tamika Jones-Scott

Tamika Jones-Scott overcame personal and family health crises to earn her B.S. in Professional Writing, and aims for a career as a grant writer. Eventually she hopes to open an after-school program where young people can be safe, get tutoring and nurture their own dreams.

Calendar

Fall classes begin: August 23
Commerce Street Building grand opening and 30th anniversary celebration: Commerce and Main Streets, September 14, 6-8 p.m.; 713-221-8001
University Theatre: Black Coffee, O’Kane Theatre, Oct. 29-Nov. 6, 713-221-8104
Willow Street Pump Station grand opening: 811 North San Jacinto, November 16, 6-8 p.m.; 713-221-8001
Commencement: Minute Maid Park, December 19, 2 p.m.
T-Tapp sessions: February 17-19, 2005; 713-221-8225

Alumna and Husband Establish $10,000 Endowment

UDH alumna Christina Axtmann and husband Terry believe so strongly in UH-Downtown that they set up a $10,000 endowment that will continue to generate support for the university. They hope their contributions will help other students reap the rewards of a college education.

Christina graduated in 1996 with a B.S. in Applied Mathematics. She’s a business development consultant working both international and domestic projects. Terry is a senior explorationist with ConocoPhillips, currently working North Africa.

Like many UHD students, Christina was in her 30s when she first enrolled at the university. She has special memories of UHD faculty, particularly Dr. Erin Hodgess, associate professor of mathematical sciences, who served as her advisor.

Another influence was Dr. Richard Aló, executive director of the Center for Computational Sciences, with whom she could converse in Italian, a language Christina used while living and working in Italy.

Christina and Terry are passionate animal lovers and have four dogs.
Show Your College Spirit
with a Gift to the Annual Fund

UH-Downtown alumni are pulling out checkbooks to contribute to the Annual Fund. Thanks to your generosity, the campaign is close to the halfway point. With this momentum, the $25,000 goal is in sight.

Alumni from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are running neck-and-neck in making contributions with College of Business grads. All of you grads from the College of Sciences and Technology and the College of Public Service (which now includes all alumni who majored in criminal justice or urban teacher education) can still catch up!

Gifts to the annual fund will support major new initiatives that are vital to UHD:

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

All gifts earmarked for the Distinguished Faculty Endowment will be matched by Houston Endowment – that’s a 100 percent premium on the dollar amount you decide to contribute! Your gift, combined with the gifts of many others, will help us reach the $250,000 mark, and combined with the Houston Endowment pledge, will result in a total endowment of $500,000 to support faculty development activities at UH-Downtown. Gifts can be made in honor of or in memory of a favorite faculty member.

Every penny that you contribute will go to the targeted programs. And your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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

What’s New? Send a Note!

Update your former UHD classmates on your life by submitting an item for the “Alumni Notes” in New Horizons. We’ll also post your item in the alumni section of UHD’s website. Visit www.uhd.edu/alumni/notes.htm for instructions.

In a company with nearly 90,000 employees worldwide, it takes real effort to find fellow alumni from any given university. But that didn’t stop Rebecca Lopez, an ExxonMobil computer analyst, from looking for fellow UHD graduates. She organized a breakfast with President Max Castillo for ExxonMobil’s UHD alumni and was delighted with the response.

Alumni from a number of ExxonMobil locations in Houston gathered at UHD — representing company offices at Greenway Plaza, the North Loop, Greenspoint, and three different locations in downtown Houston. Understandably, many of the alumni had never met before and were pleased to make the connection.

Rebecca graduated in 1988 with a major in computer science. She serves on the UHD President’s Alumni Society Council, a group that offers advice and the alumni perspective to the university.

The ExxonMobil alumni are eager to “plug in” to the university again. They offered to represent UHD at student recruitment fairs at local high schools, and speak to classes and student groups on career-related topics.

If you’re interested in forming a similar group at your own company, contact Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin at 713-221-8402.

Form an alumni group for your company by phoning 713-221-8402

ExxonMobil Alumni Return to Alma Mater

A group of UHD alumni from ExxonMobil visited UHD for breakfast with President Max Castillo, including (standing, from left) Kyle Herrenbruck, Reza Mulligan, Donald Blued, Rick Sparrand, Javier Rodriguez, Charles Wilson; (seated, from left) Connie Sharrow, Delia Ramirez, Yvonne Hernandez, and Rebecca Lopez, a member of the UHD President’s Alumni Society Council.

What’s New? Send a Note!
Thank you! from UHD, for supporting
Red Rose Ball 2004

Longtime and new friends of UH-Downtown donned their tuxedos and ballgowns for the annual Red Rose Ball, UHD’s signature scholarship fundraising gala. Held at the Hilton Americas-Houston, the evening included a salute to Gene Vaughan, founding chairman of the Center for Houston’s Future and founding chairman of Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, L.P. Co-chairs Joe I. president and CEO of Riviana Foods, Inc., and George Martinez, chairman of Sterling Bank, led a committee that generated $250,000 for the university. Proceeds benefit Red Rose Scholars, transfer students and students in the UHD Scholars Academy.

In Sincere Appreciation

Many thanks to the generous donors who helped make Red Rose Ball 2004 an outstanding success for the UH-Downtown scholarship program!

Endowments

Generous friends of UHD ensure the success of the Red Rose Ball for years to come by setting up permanent scholarship funds. Each year, these $5,000 endowments will generate funds to underwrite the cost of one $3,000 scholarship.

Endowments for 2004 – $40,000

Touch Salon and Spa

Previous Endowments

Carol and Tom Harper

Crowd Mark, Inc., Sue Hsiao

Hong Kong City Mall, Ha Du Duong

Warren & Special Schools Foundation

Metropolitan, Ming and Dan Wang

Ralph S. O’Connor

Gold Underwriters – $10,000

Anadarko

Deloitte & Touche, LLP

Sterling Bank

Sí, musica en la Plaza/Arzala Inc., Union Pacific Railroad Company

Silver Underwriters – $5,000

Stanford and Joan Alexander

Andrews Kurth LLP

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Blanken, Sr.

Burlington Resources

Tracy’s

Carol and Tom Harper

J/Morgan Chase

Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP

George and Kathryn Martinez Trust of the Greater Houston Community Foundation

Marcanda B. O’Connor, Ph.D., Riviana Foods, Inc.

Belt Robertson

University of Houston Chancellor’s Office

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Vaughan

Bronze Underwriters – $3,500

Barnes and Noble Bookstores

Badweiser/Silver Eagle Distributors, CenterPoint

Ann and Alan Earnest

Goldman Sachs & Company

H-E-B

Hines

The Houston Chronicle

J. W. Stewart, BJ Services Company

Syrus Corporation

University of Houston

Vinson & Ellin, LLP

John L. Wortham & Son, LLP

Special Contributors

Nancy and Mark Abendshein

Nancy Beach

Roy H. Cullen

Eaton Mobile

Arle Hinds

Hovak Financial Group

William R. Hunt

Elizabeth and Sam Hwong

Kathryn and Jim Keishian

Molly Woods

The Houstonian

Charles Foster, Consul of Thailand, and Lily Foster

Thank you!

from UHD, for supporting

Red Rose Ball 2004
Final Farewell to Beloved Professors

The ‘03-‘04 academic year had its moments of sorrow, due to the death of two respected longtime members of the faculty – Dr. Elias Deeba, professor of mathematical sciences and assistant chair of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences, and Dr. Bill Brigman, professor of political science and chair of the Department of Social Sciences.

Dr. Deeba passed away in February following a brief illness. Dr. Brigman died one month later.

While the two professors were valued as unique and influential individuals, they shared similar histories at UHD.

Dr. Brigman and Dr. Deeba both came to UHD in 1983. Both had shown their dedication to the university’s mission as active participants in university activities; and, they had been honored by their peers as recipients of Faculty Awards.

The two professors were honored posthumously at the Faculty Awards ceremony for exemplary dedication.

“Tapp”ing into Education

“Generous people like you have helped me pay for my education,” wrote UHD student Sabrina Ramos in a thank you letter to internationally-known fitness expert Teresa “Tapp” Tapp. Sabrina is a recipient of the T-Tapp Scholarship, made possible through Tapp’s scholarship endowment for UHD students.

Sabrina is majoring in urban teacher education. She’s a first-generation high school graduate born in El Salvador and the first in her family to attend college.

Tapp travels extensively to share her exercise regimen directly with others, including a stop at UH-Downtown each year to generate proceeds that will increase the endowment. Her next visit to UHD is scheduled for February 17-19, 2005.

Taking a “less is more” approach to wellness, Tapp used her knowledge in exercise physiology to create an exercise program that combines specific sequences of movements designed to work with muscles.

Sabrina works as a certified personal trainer and fitness supervisor in UHD’s Student Life Center. And she’s strong – a two-time champion in the bench press.

Midsummer Night

UHD was inhabited by woodland fairies and sprites for the UH-Downtown University Theatre spring production of William Shakespeare’s enduring classical comedy, A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

The cast and crew of University Theatre productions include UHD students, alumni, faculty, staff, and university friends – bonded by their mutual enthusiasm for performing arts.

Oil Rigs in Focus

While energy experts gathered for the 2004 Offshore Technology Conference in May at Reliant Park at the south end of the MetroRail line, conference-goers were attracted to UH-Downtown on the north end to visit the O’Kane Gallery. They came to see a photo exhibit called “Life on a Rig,” featuring the work of well-known oil field photographer Mieko Mahi. Sponsoring UHD’s Energy Management Program in the College of Business, the exhibit was designed to show the technology, beauty and challenges faced by energy experts in the field. Energy management coordinator Gary Junco brought in the exhibit to introduce industry professionals to the program, which is currently available to students as a minor that complements a number of business degrees. The exhibit has gathered a powerhouse of industry professionals as advisors to assist in development of the program and to provide UHD business students with cutting edge advantage for greatest career success. Courses are designed to give students a working knowledge of the energy industry from the wellhead to the consumer.

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UHD Faculty Awards: It’s About Excellence

“To be recognized by one’s peers provides the highest sense of validation a person can receive.”

That sentiment is expressed by recipients of the 2004 Faculty Awards, chosen by their fellow academicians to be honored for excellence in three areas: teaching, creativity and scholarly activity, and service to students and to the mission of UH-Downtown.

Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Anisul Islam, professor of economics, tells his students that there are no stupid questions. “We have discussions on current issues in my classes,” says Dr. Islam. “As the teacher, I try to moderate the different viewpoints and discuss things from an economic perspective, not on an emotional level. I encourage students to look at both sides and take part in debates without being confrontational.”

As recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award, Dr. Islam is recognized for his dedication throughout 20 years in academia. “We coordinate the international business degree program, which took flight under his watch. "We started out with four declared majors in 2001. Now we have 110, and we’re graduating 15 to 20 per semester."

Dr. Islam is writing a book on economic development from a global perspective. “We live in a global village. We can’t live in isolation,” says Dr. Islam.

Finalist for the Excellence in Teaching Award is Dr. Jane Creighton, associate professor of English. She believes that the best faculty find ways to learn from their students and listen to them. “It goes into the classroom for a conversation, not a lecture,” says Dr. Creighton. “Students bring tremendous things from their own life experiences that enrich the classes.”

Excellence in Service

Dr. Larry Spears, professor of chemistry, is a 22-year veteran of UH-Downtown. Until this past academic year when he stepped down as chair of the Department of Natural Sciences to resume a full-time faculty position, Dr. Spears was exempt from consideration for the faculty awards. “So it was nice that at the first opportunity to be considered for it that I received it. It’s good company to be in.”

Dr. Spears is proudest of his leadership in establishing the Scholars Academy, a nationally-recognized program for high-performing students in science, technology, engineering and math. “The program requires a lot of extra time and work for faculty, and it’s producing the results that we’d like,” says Dr. Spears. “The number one result is that students are excited about what they’re doing.”

The annual Science Engineering Fair that Dr. Spears directs provides the highest sense of emotional level. I encourage students to learn from their students and listen to them.”

Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activity

UHD faculty chose co-recipients for excellence in scholarly and creative activity – Dr. Sandra Dahlberg, associate professor of English, and Dr. Janice Nath, assistant professor of education. Dr. Dahlberg recently co-authored a book that describes her personal experience in academia – Reclaiming Class: Women, Poverty, and the Promise of Higher Education in America. “My research means a great deal to me and I feel like it’s having an impact on the way we talk about poverty, and poverty and higher education,” says Dr. Dahlberg.

Finalist in the service award category is Dr. Viola Garcia, assistant professor of education. She was recognized for building relationships between UHD and area public schools so that UHD’s urban teacher education students can get practical experience in the classroom. In addition, Dr. Garcia is a 12-year member of the Aldine ISD school board. “Service experience enriches the academic work that I do,” Dr. Garcia has been a classroom teacher and an elementary school principal.

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