Back and forth he swims. As the laps pile up in the Jewish Community Center’s indoor pool, he sees in his mind’s eye a boxing opponent crumple in the ring from a perfect right cross.

It is 7:30 in the morning and University of Houston-Downtown junior Juan Diaz – the lightweight boxing champion of the world – has begun to work out.

That he appears to be following a training regimen more akin to Olympic swimming champion Mark Spitz than the prototypical boxer immortalized in Sylvester Stallone’s “Rocky” doesn’t seem strange to him at all.

“I relax in the water and think of what I’m going to do in my next fight,” he says. “I don’t think any stereotype fits me.”

What he thought about for his July fight with Randy Suico at MGM Grand in Las Vegas obviously worked. In a fight seen by millions on HBO, he scored a technical knockout in the ninth round over the Philippino boxer.

The only thing that went wrong during his stay in Nevada was dropping his cell phone in the pool so he couldn’t return messages from fans in Houston.

Continued on back page
Kauffman Retires from the College of Business

Ralph Kauffman, an internationally renowned supply chain management expert who has been on the faculty of the University of Houston-Downtown since 1999, officially retired August 31.

Recently retired Dr. Ralph Kauffman taught supply chain management at UHD since 1999 and was a prominent volunteer with the Institute of Supply Management (ISM).

“One of the main reasons for my retiring at this time is to enable me to spend more time with my six grandchildren,” Kauffman said, adding that he also hopes to travel and do some research and writing in the supply chain management field.

Kauffman’s work for the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) and as former chair of the Manufacturing ISM Report on Business, brought him into frequent contact with recently retired Chairman Federal Reserve Board Dr. Alan Greenspan, who has been widely praised for keeping the American economy robust.

Greenspan wrote to Kauffman upon learning of his scheduled retirement: “As you know, I have been an ardent user of ISM for decades. I have especially enjoyed working with you over the years and appreciated your many courtesies.”

Supply chain management affects everyday life because it is the facilitating link that manages the movement of materials from their origin through to the final consumer,” said Kauffman.

“For example, it is the application of supply chain management that determines when, how, and how much Wal-Mart orders merchandise for each of their stores,” Kauffman said. “It is also supply chain management that determines how the merchandise flows from the manufacturer to Wal-Mart’s distribution centers and then to the individual Wal-Mart store.”

Kauffman’s relationship with Greenspan evolved from the monthly business activity data reports he supplied to the chairman and his staff.

Frequently meeting with Greenspan and his staff in Washington, D.C., Kauffman also provided special analyses of the ISM data to assist the Federal Reserve Board in analyzing business conditions. On one occasion, he addressed the entire Board.

Alan Greenspan, who has been widely praised for keeping the American economy robust.

Greenspan wrote to Kauffman upon learning of his scheduled retirement: “As you know, I have been an ardent user of ISM for decades. I have especially enjoyed working with you over the years and appreciated your many courtesies.”

Supply chain management affects everyday life because it is the facilitating link that manages the movement of materials from their origin through to the final consumer,” said Kauffman.

“For example, it is the application of supply chain management that determines when, how, and how much Wal-Mart orders merchandise for each of their stores,” Kauffman said. “It is also supply chain management that determines how the merchandise flows from the manufacturer to Wal-Mart’s distribution centers and then to the individual Wal-Mart store.”

Kauffman’s relationship with Greenspan evolved from the monthly business activity data reports he supplied to the chairman and his staff.

Frequently meeting with Greenspan and his staff in Washington, D.C., Kauffman also provided special analyses of the ISM data to assist the Federal Reserve Board in analyzing business conditions. On one occasion, he addressed the entire Board.

One Main Street, 1017 N. 1133 Connecticut Avenue NW • Suite 810 • Washington, DC 20036
March 13, 2006
Dear Ralph,

I would like to extend my best wishes for your retirement. Whatever fortune has given you to provide unique intellectual stimulation to us, it is well earned. As you know, I have been an avid reader of ISM reports you have supplied, and deeply appreciate your many courtesies.

Sincerely,

Greenspan Associates LLC

Bragging Rights

UDH Professor Wins Entrepreneur of the Year

Jacqueline Baly Chaumette, adjunct social sciences professor, was recently recognized as 2006 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Women’s Business Initiative. Chaumette was honored by the Women Business Owners to recognize the contributions of women entrepreneurs in the region. Chaumette is president and CEO of BalyProjects, a public affairs consulting firm specializing in transportation, environmental and land use projects. She is also Director of the Brazos River Authority. She teaches U.S. Government and introduction to public administration.

Dr. Pedrana Gets First Place for Her Dissertation

Dr. Angela Pedrana, an assistant professor of education at UHD, was recently awarded first place in the Seventh Dissertation Competition of the Bilingual Research Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association. Her dissertation examined how the personal practical knowledge of heritage language speaking bilingual teachers affects their performance in the classroom.

UDH Professional Writing Program Gets $30K Grant

The Master of Science in Professional Writing and Technical Communication program was recently granted $30,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will fund the study of four local, widely known ethics disasters: the collapse of Enron, the 2005 explosion at the British Petroleum plant in Texas City, the destruction of the Columbine and the Challenger space shuttles; and the continuing controversy over stem-cell research growing out of the human genome project.

Scholars Academy Students Take High Honors

This year, two UHD Scholars Academy students took home high honors from the American Society of Microbiology Spring Conference. Jasmine Diller took first place honors with her poster presentation on “Analysis of Bacterial Biofilms.” Leslie Cook received Honorable Mention for her work on “Basidiomycetes Fungal Populations at Sheldon Lake State Park.”

In total, nine other UHD scholars represented UHD in the conference: Moriam Ojelade, Arbelia Roman, Shireen Naqvi-Awad, Arlene Baptiste, Keen Syng, Shahnaz Naseem, Yian Lam, and Nguyen Lam.

UDH’s Star Coordinator

During its 2006 awards event, the State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC) presented Dr. David Fairbanks, UHD associate vice president for planning and analysis, the “Star Coordinator” award. According to Holly Caughron, the SECC’s local campaign manager, participation doubled at UHD during Fairbanks’ 2005 tenure as coordinator.

“While most campaigns were dropping due to donor fatigue and a shift in focus in the majority of departments, Dr. Fairbanks was able to roll up his sleeves and get his colleagues involved and invested in the community,” Caughron said.

RadTech Honors Dr. Christmas

Dr. Byron Christmas, professor of chemistry and director of the Center for Applied Polymer Science Research, received the 6th annual RadTech President’s Award for his substantial contributions to RadTech and the advancement of ultraviolet and electronic beam technology. He was honored at the RadTech meeting in Miami, Fla.

Business Dean placed on Economic Development Committee

Dr. Donald Bates, dean of the College of Business, has been appointed to the Greater Houston Partnership Economic Development Advisory Committee. The committee directs and supports efforts to market Houston, recruit and expand business, create new jobs and improve Houston’s business image.

Real-World Learning

Three College of Business students are interning at BMW Software, Inc. This calendar year, Tara Hadad, Cesar Ramirez and Alise Le will start their paid internship in the fall and were chosen from the 2005-06 recipients of the College of Business BMW Software Inc. ’Bobby Bizzell Memorial Scholarship. The 2006-07 recipients are Elysia Chavarro, Nicole Eudy, Dan McConnell, Brandon Hancock, Robert King, Linda Montantes, Kimberly Murphy, Sadhelita Patel, Alana Mendez, Dania Lainez, Roxanne Simpson, William Striley, and Altona Turner.
English Professor rescues canine evacuee

UHD English professor Sara Farris knew that the dog she nursed back to health for a month in the wake of Hurricane Katrina would never win any dog shows. In fact, she says, the 14-year-old Shar-Pei she called “China, China,” would likely yowl. They would bark in the distance, but not China’s. Then, as luck would have it, a rescue worker who was listening to their tale of woe immediately realized she had seen the dog when they described China’s cork-screw tail. A search of the Internet found China’s picture among rescued Shar-Peis don’t live to 14 if they’re not taken care of and loved.

Though the couple left New Orleans for a few weeks—she’s a sheriff’s deputy and he’s a welder—they came back and frantically searched their neighborhood for weeks—she’s a sheriff’s deputy and he’s a welder. They learned China was alive. Arrangements were quickly made to transport China back to the loving arms of her owners, courtesy of Southwest Airlines. “I knew the anxiety I would feel if I had to evacuate without my dog,” she says. “I would want somebody to take care of my pet until I could find it.”

Yes, she had a good idea that somebody undoubtedly loved the dog that was rescued by a disaster response team from the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Shar-Peis don’t live to 14 if they’re not taken care of and loved.

And, oh, as it turned out, was the homely Shar-Pei ever loved by a married couple in New Orleans. Cynthia Golini and Mario Frazzela, the New Orleans couple that owned the dog, were heartsticken after a surge of water swept the dog they called China out of Frazzella’s truck as they desperately drove to higher ground. Though the couple left New Orleans for a few weeks—and she’s a sheriff’s deputy and he’s a welder—they came back and frantically searched their neighborhood for weeks.

With so many negatives, why did Farris offer to provide foster care for the dog in the aftermath of the August 2005 hurricane?

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

“I knew the anxiety I would feel if I had to evacuate without my dog,” she says. “I would want somebody to take care of my pet until I could find it.”

Although the world she and Dr. Byron Christmas work in while conducting research at the University of Houston Downtown Center for Applied Polymer Science Research. What she found in that world was presented at the 2006 RadTech e/5 International Ultraviolet and Electronic Beam Conference in Chicago. Her work was so compelling that she won the 2005 Excellence in Teaching faculty award. And now she has received one of the highest awards in academia — the Fulbright Scholarship — a distinction that not only brings honor to her, but also prestige to UHD.

As a little girl, Jane Creighton dreamed of swimming to a gold medal in the Olympics. But later, when her need to reach out to others became stronger than her need to finish first in the 50-meter freestyle, she saw herself working with children or in social services. Helping people help themselves sounded good to her. But then came a poetry class where she discovered how powerful words can be.

She learned to read between the lines of poems and understood her mission in life was to share the beauty and power of words.

And the UHD community is glad she did.

Her teaching is so compelling that she’ll be staying in Madagascar for another academic year. “It is a life-changing experience,” said Robin Davidson (Poland), Patricia Golemon (Republic of China), and Joanna Pavletich (Madagascar). The Fulbright experience has been so meaningful to Pavletich that she’ll be staying in Madagascar for another academic year. “It is a life-changing experience,” said Robin Davidson. “One that makes you look at your place in the world.”

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, the Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary, and secondary schools.

It is an understatement to say that Creighton is excited. “I feel like a little kid again, heading out into a new world,” Creighton said. “I’ve always loved literature and stories. I think they are a way of understanding how the world works. I want to be engaged in the world, and I think the Polish students will give me new ways to do that.”

Undergraduate tops other researchers at national conference

Van Lam works in a world so small it has to be viewed through an electron microscope. At least that’s the world she and Dr. Byron Christmas work in while conducting research at the University of Houston Downtown Center for Applied Polymer Science Research. What she found in that world was presented at the 2006 RadTech e/5 International Ultraviolet and Electronic Beam Conference in Chicago. Her work was so compelling that she won the 2005 Excellence in Teaching faculty award. And now she has received one of the highest awards in academia — the Fulbright Scholarship — a distinction that not only brings honor to her, but also prestige to UHD.

For the last couple of years the UHD junior has been incorporating “single-walled carbon nanotubes” into liquid formulations that can be turned into polymer films using ultraviolet light.

What does that mean to the everyday person? It means this “green” technology provides funding for students, scholars and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary, and secondary schools.

It is an understatement to say that Creighton is excited. “I feel like a little kid again, heading out into a new world,” Creighton said. “I’ve always loved literature and stories. I think they are a way of understanding how the world works. I want to be engaged in the world, and I think the Polish students will give me new ways to do that.”

What does that mean to the everyday person? It means this “green” technology could use less time to cure polymers on surfaces used in drink cans, milk cartons and the like. The reduction in curing time would significantly decrease the amount of pollutants generated by conventional methods.

As a little girl, Jane Creighton dreamed of swimming to a gold medal in the Olympics. But later, when her need to reach out to others became stronger than her need to finish first in the 50-meter freestyle, she saw herself working with children or in social services. Helping people help themselves sounded good to her. But then came a poetry class where she discovered how powerful words can be.

She learned to read between the lines of poems and understood her mission in life was to share the beauty and power of words.

And the UHD community is glad she did.

Her teaching is so compelling that she’ll be staying in Madagascar for another academic year. “It is a life-changing experience,” said Robin Davidson (Poland), Patricia Golemon (Republic of China), and Joanna Pavletich (Madagascar). The Fulbright experience has been so meaningful to Pavletich that she’ll be staying in Madagascar for another academic year. “It is a life-changing experience,” said Robin Davidson. “One that makes you look at your place in the world.”

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, the Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary, and secondary schools.

It is an understatement to say that Creighton is excited. “I feel like a little kid again, heading out into a new world,” Creighton said. “I’ve always loved literature and stories. I think they are a way of understanding how the world works. I want to be engaged in the world, and I think the Polish students will give me new ways to do that.”

Undergraduate tops other researchers at national conference

Van Lam works in a world so small it has to be viewed through an electron microscope. At least that’s the world she and Dr. Byron Christmas work in while conducting research at the University of Houston Downtown Center for Applied Polymer Science Research. What she found in that world was presented at the 2006 RadTech e/5 International Ultraviolet and Electronic Beam Conference in Chicago. Her work was so compelling that she won the 2005 Excellence in Teaching faculty award. And now she has received one of the highest awards in academia — the Fulbright Scholarship — a distinction that not only brings honor to her, but also prestige to UHD.

For the last couple of years the UHD junior has been incorporating “single-walled carbon nanotubes” into liquid formulations that can be turned into polymer films using ultraviolet light.

What does that mean to the everyday person? It means this “green” technology could use less time to cure polymers on surfaces used in drink cans, milk cartons and the like. The reduction in curing time would significantly decrease the amount of pollutants generated by conventional methods.

As a little girl, Jane Creighton dreamed of swimming to a gold medal in the Olympics. But later, when her need to reach out to others became stronger than her need to finish first in the 50-meter freestyle, she saw herself working with children or in social services. Helping people help themselves sounded good to her. But then came a poetry class where she discovered how powerful words can be.

She learned to read between the lines of poems and understood her mission in life was to share the beauty and power of words.

And the UHD community is glad she did.

Her teaching is so compelling that she’ll be staying in Madagascar for another academic year. “It is a life-changing experience,” said Robin Davidson (Poland), Patricia Golemon (Republic of China), and Joanna Pavletich (Madagascar). The Fulbright experience has been so meaningful to Pavletich that she’ll be staying in Madagascar for another academic year. “It is a life-changing experience,” said Robin Davidson. “One that makes you look at your place in the world.”

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, the Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary, and secondary schools.

It is an understatement to say that Creighton is excited. “I feel like a little kid again, heading out into a new world,” Creighton said. “I’ve always loved literature and stories. I think they are a way of understanding how the world works. I want to be engaged in the world, and I think the Polish students will give me new ways to do that.”

Undergraduate tops other researchers at national conference

Van Lam works in a world so small it has to be viewed through an electron microscope. At least that’s the world she and Dr. Byron Christmas work in while conducting research at the University of Houston Downtown Center for Applied Polymer Science Research. What she found in that world was presented at the 2006 RadTech e/5 International Ultraviolet and Electronic Beam Conference in Chicago. Her work was so compelling that she won the 2005 Excellence in Teaching faculty award. And now she has received one of the highest awards in academia — the Fulbright Scholarship — a distinction that not only brings honor to her, but also prestige to UHD.

For the last couple of years the UHD junior has been incorporating “single-walled carbon nanotubes” into liquid formulations that can be turned into polymer films using ultraviolet light.

What does that mean to the everyday person? It means this “green” technology could use less time to cure polymers on surfaces used in drink cans, milk cartons and the like. The reduction in curing time would significantly decrease the amount of pollutants generated by conventional methods.
HOPE sparkles for tiny treasures

By PreSha Holloway

On the east side of Houston, there stands a home for homeless children called the House of Tiny Treasures.

It is a home that the University of Houston-Downtown and SEARCH (Service of the Emergency Aid Resource Center for the Homeless) are trying to fill with hope and love.

UHD’s College of Public Service is using its expertise in child development and criminal justice to combat the devastating effects of homelessness.

“Many of the children have not known what it is to have a nice home setting, consistent warm meals and safe places in which to play,” said Dr. Beatrice Villarreal, one of the UHDS professors working with the children.

Dr. Katherine Jenkins, assistant professor in the Department of Urban Teacher Education, received a grant from Harris County Department of Education to conduct a research study at the House of Tiny Treasures. The study, which addresses social and cognitive play, is so meaningful that Dr. Jenkins has been able to solicit matching funding from two additional donors.

Jenkins is hopeful that UHD’s study, fueled by the university’s collaboration with SEARCH, will help the youngsters “develop language, problem-solving capabilities, socialization skills, and increased interest in interacting with each other in supportive, caring ways.”

Last summer, the college developed an eight-week summer “Fine Arts Program” for the home. The program, which included movement to music and drawing, was directed by UHD professor Dr. Joyce Dutcher, criminal justice graduate interns, a high school volunteer, and a UHD graduate student from Chung-Cheng University in Taiwan.

Currently, Jenkins and Villarreal are engaging the tots in outdoor play-oriented lessons designed to build the developmental maturity of the toddlers and preschoolers in fine motor movements, social interaction and creative release.

Student teachers interact with the youngsters and create children’s books for use in the project.

“Our ultimate goal is to address the myriad of elements within their life situations that contribute to the at-risk status of these children and their adolescent siblings,” said Dr. Beth Pelz, dean of the UHD College of Public Service.

As the program grows, UHD and SEARCH anticipate developing parenting workshops, social communications, and a family literacy program for the children’s siblings and parents.

The partnership will include a Center for the Study of Homelessness at UHD to address the impact of incarcerated or drug-addicted parents on a child’s development and education. UHD interns will be integrated into the program and be eligible for semester credit hours and scholarship opportunities.

UHD’s involvement with the House of Tiny Treasures began through the interest of Paulette Purdy, past president of the Criminal Justice Honor Society at UHD.

Purdy started out by delivering clothes and toys to the children year-round in addition to the holidays.

“I decided to get UHD involved with the House of Tiny Treasures, because I felt that the children should be remembered all year long, not just at Christmas,” said Purdy.

“Many people are very generous around the holidays but get detached the rest of the year,” said Mitzi Bartlett, director of the House of Tiny Treasures. “Paulette is our angel and doesn’t forget about us the rest of the year.”

Agreement eases access for future teachers

By Paul Harasim

Nikki Rounsavall will never forget the teacher who really turned her on to reading in the fifth grade. “She was so enthusiastic,” the 24-year-old elementary education major says. “She pushed reading so much, but you didn’t mind because she made it fun. I’ll never forget how she had me read this true story of a woman and her poodles. I know it may sound goofy, but that teacher opened up a whole new world for me. I read everything now and I want to make other children feel the same way I did in the fifth grade – that learning is a joy.”

So goes the mindset of one of the first students to take advantage of a new collaboration that begins this fall between the University of Houston-Downtown and Cy-Fair College. Under the partnership agreement, students at Cy-Fair College can complete their Associate of Arts in Teaching, then continue their studies towards Early Childhood through fourth grade (EC-4) teacher certification while completing their bachelor’s degree from UHD. All courses will be offered entirely at the Cy-Fair College Campus in northwest Houston. Teacher education students will conduct field work within the Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District. “I’m so lucky to have this program open up here now,” Rounsavall says. “It’s only 10 minutes from my apartment, compared to an hour drive or more downtown.”

According to UHD President Max Castillo, the program is yet another way that UHD serves as an educational bridge connecting communities across the city. “Our mission is very outreach oriented and we’re addressing a pressing need for more teachers,” Castillo said. UHD has long offered bachelor’s programs in partnership with the UH System at Sugar Land, the UH System at Cinco Ranch and the University Center in the Woodlands.

For 38-year-old Stacie Shadle, the new program at Cy-Fair College means her dream of becoming a teacher will become a reality. “I have two girls, five and 12, and there’s no way I could make an hour and a half drive one way to school and take care of them,” she says. “There’s no question what kind of teacher she is going to be. I’m going to be passionate about teaching children,” Shadle says. “If we can get children enthusiastic about learning, so many of our country’s problems will just go away.”
Every year the University of Houston-Downtown faculty members pause to recognize excellence among their own. Chosen from a committee of their peers, these faculty members exemplify the dedication to excellence in educating our students that makes UHD a premier university. “You’re a great group of people to be working with,” said Dr. Jane Crichton, mistress of ceremonies at the honors function. “You make me very proud to be a part of this institution.”

This year’s award winners are

Dr. Carolyn Ashe for Excellence in Teaching
Dr. Jacek Turski for Excellence in Scholarship/Creativity
Dr. Viola Garcia for Excellence in Service

Award for Excellence in Teaching
Dr. Carolyn Ashe, Professor of Administrative Management, is assistant chair of the Management, Marketing and Business Administration Department and Director of the Institute for Business, Ethics, and Public Issues in the College of Business. Dr. Ashe considers her teaching philosophy a work in progress, constantly developing to serve the diverse student population at our university.

She has received numerous awards, such as the Information Technology Award as Online Teacher of the Year, Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers (student nominated) as well as being nationally and internationally recognized regarding her work in ethics. As the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award, Dr. Ashe is now eligible for consideration for the 2007 Minnie Stevens Piper Award.

A former student commented, “I was lucky enough to take multiple classes from Dr. Ashe during my time at UHD. From the beginning, I could see that she was a teacher who not only wanted to pass along the contents from each course, but also one who wanted to impart useful life lessons along the way. She truly cares that her students learn to seek their full potential, whatever that may be.”

“My overall teaching philosophy is to create a learning experience that allows for flexibility in learning strategies in order that each student’s individualized abilities can be developed and enhanced,” said Ashe.

Award for Excellence in Service
Dr. Viola Garcia, Associate Professor of Education, has served as the Director of Field Studies and now serves as Assistant Chair and Director of Undergraduate Programs in the Department of Urban Education, College of Public Service. She has been with the university since 1999 and received her EdD and MEd from the University of Houston.

Dr. Garcia has been an Aldine ISD board trustee for more than 10 years and currently serves the district as board president. In addition, she serves as president of the Mexican American School Board Members Association and is a member of Kappa Delta Phi, Association for the Study of Higher Education, American Educational Research Association, Texas Directors of Field Experiences, Near Northside Management District Board, Greater Inwood Super Neighborhood Board, Saint Matthew’s Catholic Church Women’s Club and the Greater Inwood Partnership.

Nadine Kujawa, Alief ISD superintendent, stated “Dr. Garcia has unselfishly devoted her time, energy, and talents to helping others, accepting as pay nothing more than the satisfaction of knowing that students, employees, and parents have benefited from her service.”

— Fall Calendar —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Faculty and Staff Reception</td>
<td>September 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Kane Gallery – Young-Min Kang</td>
<td>September 7 – October 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities Day</td>
<td>September 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Involvement Day</td>
<td>September 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Leadership Conference</td>
<td>September 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Career Expo</td>
<td>September 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemah Jazz Festival</td>
<td>September 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Information Fair</td>
<td>October 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Kane Gallery – Deborah Roberts</td>
<td>October 22 – November 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselor Conference Day</td>
<td>October 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Festival</td>
<td>October 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Kane Theatre</td>
<td>October 27-November 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activities &amp; Events</td>
<td>October 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Sciences &amp; Technology</td>
<td>November 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate School &amp; Internship Fair</td>
<td>November 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman Open House</td>
<td>November 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Day</td>
<td>November 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS Kids’ Day</td>
<td>November 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Center</td>
<td>November 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>November 30th – December 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Kane Gallery</td>
<td>December 1 – December 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Commencement</td>
<td>December 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Alumni Society News**

**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, send an e-mail to alumni@uhd.edu or mail your item to Alumni Relations at UH-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.

---

**40th Commencement Celebrates Freedom**

By Paul Harasim

Take advantage of the freedom you have. That message came across frequently at Minute Maid Park in a speech by Leila Mamytbekova to her 800 fellow graduates during the University of Houston-Downtown’s 40th commencement.

Chosen as the student speaker for the May graduation ceremonies that were attended by thousands of friends and family members of UHD graduates, the finance major remembered her days in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, a part of the Soviet Union until its independence in 1991.

“When I was growing up as a little girl in a communist society, my dreams were limited to what the government said they were,” Mamytbekova said. “Today, when I see those skyscrapers in Houston or New York, I can envision myself sitting in the executive suite. Why not? I live in America, where everything is possible.”

Houston City Councilman Michael Berry, the keynote speaker, urged the new graduates to make the country Mamytbekova has come to love an even more just society.

Tackle one of society’s ills not because it will be easy, but for the very reason it is hard,” he said.

Among the graduates congratulated by UHD President Max Castillo were 18-year-old Justin Adam Schwaush, who earned a bachelor of science in psychology, and 61-year-old Patricia Minsterman, whose bachelor’s degree is in interdisciplinary studies.

“I knew I could do it,” Minsterman beamed as reporters from area newspapers and TV stations asked her about her accomplishment.

A training administrator at Chevron in Baytown, she dropped out of college in 1963 because of family considerations.

Graduates Robert and Stacey Boehmke, who were also celebrating their first wedding anniversary, truly enjoyed the festivities.

His degree is in criminal justice while his wife earned hers in business management.

“Graduation and a wedding anniversary,” Robert Boehmke said as he hugged his wife. “How can we ever forget this day?”

---

**Save the Date!**

2007 Red Rose Ball

Friday, April 13

Honorees:
Mayor Bill and Andrea White
Hyatt Regency Hotel
1200 Louisiana St.
Houston, Texas
Visit www.uhd.edu/community or call 713-221-8563 for more information.

---

Long-time supporter and UHD establish new scholarship for teachers

by PréSha Holloway

The Tenneco Teacher Scholarship Fund makes it possible for graduates of Jefferson Davis High School to pursue teaching careers at UHD.

Recently, representatives of the fund presented UHD with a $290,000 gift.

“We designed the scholarship to encourage more Jefferson Davis alumni to consider teaching as a career, and give them the means to complete a four year degree program,” said JoAnn Swinney McLaughlin, former program administrator of the Tenneco Presidential Scholarship Program.

Recipients can use the scholarship to pay for tuition, fees and books at UHD.

Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible and the scholarship covers up to a whole semester of university costs for undergraduates.

Tenneco has had a longstanding corporate engagement with UH-Downtown dating back to the early 1990’s. The collaboration between the corporation, the university and the Houston Independent School District targeted Davis students and combined efforts to prepare them for the rigors of a university curriculum.

UHD will partner with HCC to identify potential candidates from Jefferson Davis who are transferring to the teaching program at UHD.

Jefferson Davis High School is located a few miles north of UH-Downtown in Houston’s near northside neighborhood and serves a predominantly minority enrollment traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Once challenged by low graduation rates, over the past ten years, Jeff Davis has increased the number of its students who enroll in college.

It is anticipated that the scholarship will serve as an incentive to continue the path to college by placing Jeff Davis graduates, now certified teachers, as role models to make the country Mamytbekova has come to love an even more just society.
MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

In Honor of Fatimah Noman
Beth Muffalino McConnell

In Memory of Jean S. Abramowitz
Helen Abramowitz

Marian Anderson
Bradford and Franiece Beckman

Barbara A. Minz
Suzanne James Montgomery

Angelica Mosher, '96
Gary Patmgust, '93
Richard Peskaras, '82
Julia C. Piesz, '97 & '04
Najee M. Perkins, '07
Tom Porter, '92
Eric A. Rodgers, '05
Michael S. Smir, '04
Maryann K. Stenke, '05
Toni Stewart, '83
Tanya Sutton, '94
Tamarra J. Taylor, '94
Karla Veasy, '02
Carlos S. Windom, '01

College of Sciences

Gladwin C. Aduba, '06
Desta M. Amsa, '06
Raymond J. Anderson, '98
Anonymous

Jann C. Caruso, '02
Braun, '92
Jennifer L. Schell

College of Arts and Sciences

Gwen O. Aduba, '06
Desta M. Amsa, '06
Raymond J. Anderson, '98
Anonymous

Jann C. Caruso, '02
Braun, '92
Jennifer L. Schell

College of Business

Goodwin C. Adaubs, '06
Desta M. Amsa, '06
Raymond J. Anderson, '98
Anonymous

Jann C. Caruso, '02
Braun, '92
Jennifer L. Schell

College of Science and Technology

Gwen O. Aduba, '06
Desta M. Amsa, '06
Raymond J. Anderson, '98
Anonymous

Jann C. Caruso, '02
Braun, '92
Jennifer L. Schell

ENDOWMENTS

Jean S. Abramowitz Research Scholarship Endowment in the Department of Natural Sciences

Helen Abramowitz
Marian Anderson
Bradford and Franiece Beckman
R. George Johnson

Barbara Calderon

Mahbub Esmailian, '97 & '01

David J. Fardonski
Shelley K.橘子, Jordan, and Robin Fleischer
Roberto Garza, PhD

William H. Gilbert and Patricia E. Cower

Toni Greene, '03

Bruce Greer

Dr. Douglas Ivan Galut and
Al Doloha
Shahreh S. Hashemi
Chau Hoang, '02
Winnie and William Isaacs

Miao Jiang
Raymond and Leida Kahrs
Richard Frank King

Leon and Beverly Levinson

Marc and Max Shar

Glen K. and Sins M. Mirrill
Ellen Murphy and Roy Smith
George and Donna Pincus
Mr. and Mrs. Razo
Ellen and Michael Shaw
Ruth Sherman, PhD
Theodore and Ronolee Solow
Swanstein, '07

In Memory of Jay Kevin Anderson
Cheyan and Jo Jean Anderson

In Memorials of
Gerhard O. W. Mueller
Beth Muffalino McConnell

In Memory of Elaine Paige
Poulette, '01 & '03, and
Gordon Pundy

In Memory of Albert R. Reiss
Beth Muffalino McConnell

In Memory of Jim Williams
Poulette, '01, and Gordon Pundy

MACHING GIFTS

Global benefit: the company reruns the donation value contributions made through matching gift programs.

ExxonMobil Foundation
Rox McCracken, '89
Virginia Lozano, '91

The Williams Companies Foundation, Inc.
Thomas E. Porter, '92

Alumni Fund

In Memory of 10 Alumni Unprecedented Support for UHD Students

UHD alumni have risen to the challenge of the 2006 Alumni Annual Fund objective to raise scholarship dollars for UHD students. Achieving unprecedented success this year, UHD alumni are quickly approaching $30 million in fulﬁlled pledges.

The President’s Alumni Society Council was able to match contributions up to $10 million using accrued alumni fund programs. The 2006 Alumni Annual Fund activity winds down August 31, but alumni can give year-round.

Once the $30 million goal has been reached, alumni will have successfully contributed more than to any other annual fund in the history of UHD.

To contribute to the 2006 Alumni Annual Fund, visit www.uhd.edu/alumni or contact the office of University Advancement at 713.221.8045.

Assistant Chief John P. Trevino
(334, criminal justice, has been promoted to Houston Police Department’s South Patrol Command, and is responsible for several areas in the city’s Southeast Division, which has had a high recent crime rate.

"John Trevino has prepared him-
ally, and he has earned the re-
respect of his peers and com-
ment, so said Houston City

Councilman Adrian Garcia
Trevino earned his undergraduate degree in criminal justice at UHD and master’s in business at UHD.

Dr. Bryan Williams, (334, applied mathematics) recently acquired his doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Massachusetts. His thesis dis-
cussed the Matroid Theory, a study of independent and depend-
ent number sets which have commonalities with graph and other combinatorial mathematics theories. He is one of an unprecedented four African-

American students earned Ph.D’s in mathematics this year.

In comparison to UHD, only six male and eight female African-American students earned Ph.D’s in mathematics around the nation in 2006.

Sanaya Heath, (334, ‘05, account-
ing), a proud mother of two boys, has enjoyed her 20-year career as a legal secretary in the Houston area. She attended evening classes at UHD, ultimately earning degrees in accounting and administrative management.

This fall, Sanaya will start her first year as a law student at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.
During his workouts that have kept him undefeated (30 wins, 0 losses, 15 knockouts) 4.5 laps of swimming are followed by weight training, five or six hundred sit-ups, a couple of hours on a stair-step machine and, then, sparring at Houston’s Savannah Boxing Gym. Located in the middle of one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Houston, the gym, he says, has been a harbor from the violent streets.

Shortly after lunch, he starts his classes at UHD. In the early evening he studies and, after studying, is in bed no later than 10 p.m.

“When I tell people I am a boxer, they automatically think I am a violent person or some other stereotype,” says Juan. “I want to be a professional boxer and go to college. I want to end up as an attorney helping the unfortunate. I’ve seen people in my life who need the kind of help a good attorney can bring.”

His greatest role models are not other boxers. His parents are. “I saw my parents work two and three jobs so my brother (José) and I had what we needed growing up,” reflects Juan. “They believe in working hard and that rubbed off on me.”

Education was something his parents stressed. “They put education first because they knew it would improve our lives,” the 135-pound, 5-foot-6-inch Diaz says. “If I wasn’t doing well in school, I wasn’t allowed to box. I love boxing, so there was no way I was going to fail at either one.”

It was tough when Juan first started classes at UHD, two years before he won the World Boxing Association title at age 20. At one point, he approached his manager, Willie Savannah, about dropping out.

Savannah replied, “Sure you can drop out – of boxing.”

Savannah smiles when he remembers Juan beginning boxing at the age of 8. Even back then Diaz was focused. “He is the most focused individual I have ever met,” says Savannah. “He wants to do his best – at boxing and in his education.”

Diaz says the discipline required for boxing has made him a better student. And, the government major says, the discipline required to become a “B” student has made him a better boxer.

“Both require me to work hard and be focused, and that really helps,” he says.

After winning the WBA belt on a Saturday in July 2004 – he’s tied with Mike Tyson as the second youngest winner of a world boxing title – he returned to the university the following Monday to register for fall classes. He will graduate in 2007 and then head to law school.

Though he doesn’t belabor the point, Diaz’s early family life wasn’t easy. “I remember riding the bus before we had a car and living in a mobile home before my dad could afford to build us a house,” he says. “My dad would be so tired from his work. And the whole time my parents were saving up to send me and my brother to college.”

Known as the “Baby Bull” for his aggressiveness in the ring, Diaz is so quiet outside the ring that many UHD students don’t know he’s a boxer.

“I get a CAT scan every year, because I know my brain is getting knocked around,” he says. “When my body tells me it’s time to stop competing, I will.”

And then his fights will take place in the courtroom. “I want to be remembered as a great boxer who used his mind to do even greater things outside the ring.”

Continued from page 1

Diaz has no plans for ending up punch drunk. "I want to be remembered as a great boxer who used his mind to do even greater things outside the ring."