A Changing UHD
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ABOUT THE COVER

UHD’s versatile and diverse programs continue to attract students from all walks of life. Many students arrive at UHD right out of high school, while others return to their studies later in life, as they pursue new dreams and careers. Our cover showcases students who represent the many faces of UHD.

Rodney Ardoin has a successful corporate career and is a partner in a sports management company. It became his personal goal to earn a bachelor’s degree to advance his career and fulfill his dreams. In 2007, he transferred his college credits to UHD and hopes to finish a degree in interdisciplinary studies this fall so he can participate in UHD’s 45th Commencement in December.

John Presley is a graduate student in UHD’s master’s program for executives in security management. He is an assistant global security director with a diversified, worldwide company, where he ensures the safety of its individuals and assets. UHD’s two-year program features classes that meet every other Saturday, allowing students who work full time to also complete a degree.

Fanny Torres is the first in her family to go to college. Her parents encouraged her to attend, and that meant learning a lot about admissions requirements, careers and how to pay for college. She searched for answers and found them at UHD. She enrolled first in UHD’s Freshman Summer Success Program. Torres enjoys the time she spends in class and with friends at UHD. She is studying to become a teacher.

In This Issue

Often in this magazine, we have taken time to focus on a single new building, program or faculty achievement. In this issue, we wanted to present a more encompassing picture of the University of Houston-Downtown as we enter our 34th year. Individual changes have steadily built and shaped a new university district, and our new and vibrant campus is so inspiring, it often surprises alumni, high school counselors, parents and prospective students. They remember an earlier UHD—a UHD that was just as memorable and relevant in earlier times, but smaller in size and scope.

Our skyscape soars alongside Houston’s robust economy. And our academic focus reflects the needs of tomorrow’s society. As we listen to community needs and individual aspirations, we have focused on providing opportunities and access. Our story is the collective story of our students, our faculty and our staff.

We have added degree programs, taken a broader look at sustainability, designed our schedules to accommodate nontraditional and traditional college students and created a supportive multicultural community. In the last four years, the university has added two buildings and renovated a third, expanding the campus to six buildings. We have continued to renovate, remodel and re-engineer the One Main Building and will soon open an expanded library. Other campus improvements give visitors new places to study, eat and take in the downtown skyline while enjoying the best in wireless Internet technology.

We are finalizing a strategic plan, the first plan of its kind for UHD, and we share a proposed new mission statement with readers in this edition. It will set the stage for the next platform of progress as our enrollment and influence continue to grow.

If you haven’t visited campus in the past year, we hope you’ll peruse the calendar of events in this issue and join the UHD family for an event on campus. Our doors are always open for an afternoon visit. We think you will be impressed, pleased and surprised to see how far UHD has come. We look forward to seeing you.

FEATURES

3 UHD has a history of adapting to the world around it. “A Changing UHD” introduces the proposed mission statement that will carry the University into the future.

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12 Have you seen the UHD marketing campaign on your travels about town or in your favorite publication?
A Changing UHD

Strategic Planning Process Leads to Proposed New Mission Statement

UHD hopes to have a revised mission statement in place by the end of this academic year. The proposed statement is just 55 words long, but it provides solid guidance as the university grows and expands. UHD’s strategic planning leadership group spent the better part of a day coming up with the proposed refinements for the mission statement, and those who participated in the exercise believe the result will guide the institution well into the future.

In addition, the strategic planning team crafted a statement that defines UHD’s institutional values. The Shared Values statement looks at excellence, student success, inclusiveness, respect, integrity and service. It helps define UHD’s distinct identity in the Houston higher education community.

UHD leaders will present the proposed mission statement to UH System regents later this year, after it is reviewed by campus groups, and, if all goes as expected, it will be in the hands of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2009. Both proposed and current mission statements appear below, along with UHD’s Shared Values statement.

Since 1976, John Capeheart, professor of biology, has worked closely with undergraduate students to prepare them to excel in medical careers and in life.

Assistant professor of education Kathryn Jenkins, second from left, works with children and their families at House of Tiny Treasures, a day-care facility for homeless children.

Current UHD Mission Statement

“The University of Houston-Downtown is a public, urban university committed to providing quality academic programs that serve the needs of the multicultural population of Houston and surrounding communities. It offers both undergraduate and a limited number of graduate academic degree programs that enable students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in their chosen fields. Through instructional excellence, creative and scholarly activities, and community involvement, the university contributes to the business, scientific, economic, technological, social and cultural development of the area.

“As an urban university, UH-Downtown has a special responsibility to provide educational access to those who have not had access in the past. Through flexible scheduling of courses, the innovative use of technology and distance learning opportunities, and a policy of open admissions at the undergraduate level, the university provides educational opportunities for many who might not otherwise be able to pursue a college degree. To facilitate the academic success of both its traditional and nontraditional students, the university offers a wide range of support services and employs a faculty and staff who are dedicated to helping students meet the rigorous standards and requirements of its programs.

“In its public service and outreach activities, the university offers numerous pre-collegiate programs as well as continuing education programs that maintain and upgrade specialized skills of professionals employed in the Houston area. Through selected programs, research initiatives, and collaborative efforts, the university also seeks to broaden its domestic and international academic programs and relations.”

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A New Name for UHD?

In coming months, the University of Houston-Downtown will explore the possibility of changing its name in order to create a more distinct identity for the institution.

“When we apply for grants and seek gifts from individuals and corporations, they often say they have already given to UH,” President Max Castillo says. “When we follow up with additional questions, their response is that they have funded the University of Houston and are simply not aware that we are a separate university.”

Over the past year, the University has also been involved in a strategic planning process. The need for a distinct identity and a possible name change were a priority of the discussion as faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends talked about positioning UHD for continued success.

“UHD’s mission and unique qualities have always been appreciated by local businesses, alumni, community groups, faculty, staff and students,” Castillo said. “As we continue to grow as one of these new-generation universities, establishing a distinct identity now will be critical for our future.”

The idea is not a new one. UHD first took the issue to the UHS Board of Regents about four years ago. A presentation showed how UHD, located at One Main Street, could easily be confused in the public mind with the “main campus,” or UH. People thought UHD was a branch of UH. UHD has used the tagline “Houston’s Downtown University” because it is on the northern edge of the business district. Still, the two institutions are both inside the inner beltway less than five miles from each other, and most people think of them as located downtown.

The UHS Board of Regents met Aug. 19 and passed a resolution encouraging UHD and the UH System to further explore changing UHD’s name.

Changing the name would require the Texas Legislature to pass enabling legislation, and Castillo has discussed the idea with local legislators. “We will make this a collaborative process, and will seek input, opinions and suggestions for actual names from the students, faculty, staff, alumni and the general public,” Castillo said.
Students and faculty will enjoy an open library reading area and greatly improved library facilities this fall. UHD is expanding the W. I. Dykes Library. Currently, the library occupies the entire fifth floor of the One Main Building. Construction is under way to expand the library to the north wing of the fourth floor.

The new space will have a computer lab, large and small meeting and presentation practice rooms, a reading area and a stairwell to the fifth floor of the existing library space. It will also include space for library offices and a vending machine area.

The facility has not been renovated since the 1970s. Renovation of the fifth floor will begin after the fourth floor expansion is completed, in late 2008.

Funding for the facelift is due in part to a grant from the Rockwell Fund, Inc. Additional funding sources include the George and Cynthia Mitchell Foundation, the Ray C. Fish Foundation, the Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters and individual donors.
New Degrees Provide New Opportunities

Students have new degree programs to choose from beginning this fall, and newer degrees on campus are proving to be popular. Here is a summary of some of the newest programs and how they fit the needs of Houston’s nonprofit agencies, businesses and industry.

Social Work
The College of Humanities and Social Sciences offers students a chance to make a lasting difference with its new bachelor’s degree in social work. The program will prepare entry-level social workers to practice in an urban society. The degree leads both to professional licensing and graduate studies.

“There is a lot of support in the community for this degree at UHD,” says Joanne Bailey, assistant professor of sociology. “We will develop practitioners who will understand how to work with culturally diverse populations, especially minority and immigrant groups.”

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, demand for social work professionals will increase by 30 percent by 2010. Bailey says UHD’s program will help fill the need for qualified individuals, and because the university’s student population mirrors that of multicultural Houston, it is expected to provide highly sought Spanish-speaking practitioners.

UHD’s four-year program also will give students who earn associate degrees at community colleges a new career choice when they consider finishing a bachelor’s degree. UHD has applied for accreditation for the degree program from the Council on Social Work Education—a must for credibility in the field.

Security Management for Executives
Last fall, the first group of UHD students started the new master’s degree program in security management for executives. They have made a good start, and degree coordinator Richard Hill says another group of students began classes in August. Students meet every other Saturday, and so far, results are positive. Hill says three students have transitioned to new or better jobs, while another student has received a promotion since beginning the program. Hill says industry leaders are closely following the program’s progress.

UHD Security Management Advisory Board Chairman Kevin Swailes says: “The Master of Security Management for Executives is a groundbreaking program of collaboration between academia, the business community and corporate security leaders. I believe the UHD program will quickly become the de facto standard in recruiting global security leaders.”

Faculty from UHD security management and the College of Business, as well as industry professionals, conduct the seminars. In May, program organizers held a conference for students and security management professionals titled, “Emerging Issues for Security Professionals.” Corporate executives addressed industry issues such as global security, investigations, intellectual property, business practices and security trends and threats.

“The security industry has changed dramatically,” Hill says. “Security management positions now require more business knowledge than ever before. And as with any business, the bottom line must be managed successfully.”

Applied Science
The UHD Department of Engineering Technology has started a degree program for individuals with two-year community or junior college degrees in applied science. The bachelor of arts in applied science (BAAS) lays a sound foundation in safety management, management of organizations, human factors, domestic terrorism, industrial safety, hygiene and loss prevention.

It is the only four-year degree program of its kind in Texas. Assistant Professor Edward Sheinberg, coordinator of the Safety Management program, has watched the BAAS program gain momentum since it opened in fall 2007. He says UHD will launch a bachelor’s degree program at Lone Star College–CyFair in 2009. Graduates with associate degrees in fire science or emergency management training (EMT) can easily continue their education in the four-year program at the Lone Star campus or at UHD. Sheinberg says students without a fire science or EMT background will need additional training before continuing with the BAAS. He will evaluate them individually.

“It’s a two-plus-two program,” says Sheinberg. “We will make it convenient for the working professionals by offering the same courses in northwest Houston (Lone Star–CyFair) and at the UHD campus downtown on alternate days.”

Houston-area industries require qualified fire engineering professionals because of the area’s large concentration of petrochemical, oil refining and energy installations.
Basic engineering concepts. Classes in science skills, and introduced me to the project management service consultant. His main role now is to work with high school students to research and career opportunities.

20th Anniversary
The Houston Pre-freshman Enrichment Program (Houston PREP) celebrated its 20th anniversary in June. The preparatory mathematics, physics and engineering program introduces middle and high school students to research and career opportunities.

Sponsors and alumni of the program joined summer camp students to celebrate the milestone. PREP alumnus Jermaine Davis now works with CenterPoint Energy as a distribution project management service consultant. He attended Houston PREP in the mid-1990s and credits the program for influencing him at an early age. He says that PREP formed a critical piece of his academic foundation. “Successfully completing four summers in PREP allowed me to focus and sharpen my math and science skills, and introduced me to basic engineering concepts. Classes such as drafting, introduction to engineering and introduction to physics were seeds in developing my skills to become a CenterPoint Energy Service Consultant."

Writing
Rewarded
The UHD Urban Teacher Education Department sponsored the first High School Writing Competition and Exhibit, with more than 425 people attending an opening reception. Essay winners from area high schools displayed their work at the April event. The writers, their teachers and their families toured the Commerce Street Building and were recognized at the celebration. Carol Bedard, assistant professor of education, organized the contest for gifted writers in Houston classrooms that are served by UHD students majoring in urban education.

Yes. It is rocket science.
UHD sponsored the 2008 Science Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH) with the Houston Museum of Natural Science at the George R. Brown Convention Center this spring. Since 1960, SEFH has served as the regional fair for all public and private junior and senior high school students in the 16-county surrounding area. The grand award winners represented SEFH at the annual International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Atlanta, Georgia. Their project topics ranged from biofuels to nanotechnology.

Women’s Club Scholarship
UHD Urban Ed scholarship students were recognized by the Women’s Club of Houston at a spring meeting. Pre- teachers Felicia McKinnis, Tina Meeks and Tony Davis were invited to speak to members of the club, which has long supported UHD students through scholarships and donations. The Women’s Club sponsors an annual luncheon that benefits the scholarship fund. Rosario Martinez Castillo, director of articulation and university relations at Lone Star College and UHD’s first lady, was honored for her contribution to the community. Leigh Van Horn, associate professor of education, works closely with the club to facilitate the scholarships and build relationships.

Executive Security
UHD’s Security Management staff and faculty hosted the first Annual Security Management for Executives Conference in May, titled, “Emerging Issues for Security Outlooks.” Notables such as John Chamberlain, executive director of the Energy Council; Keith Budd, GE Energy Global security director; Bob Moore, Hewlett Packard global security director; and Eddie Everett, Control Risk senior vice president of global services presented global security outlooks. Kevin Swailes, chairman of the MSME advisory committee, invited security executives from Shell Oil Company North America, Halliburton, Flor Corporation, AIG and the FBI to discuss challenges, trends and threats to security in the global theater. Richard Hill is the coordinator for the degree program.

Academic Excellence
UHD students were recognized for academic excellence and achievement at the 2008 Academic Awards Ceremony in May. Each year, the academic colleges reward top students. Jaime Acosta received recognition as one of the Outstanding Writers of the Year for his senior portfolio. Bill Gilbert, then chair of the English Department, said Acosta’s portfolio stood out because it “impressively articulates and documents his intellectual growth as an English major."

Acosta’s success came from the guidance and challenges he received from his professors. “I am not worried about graduate school because I feel the support and guidance I have received has prepared me for the next step,” he said.

Sports and Fitness Awards
Sports and fitness aficionados were congratulated in May at the 2008 Awards Banquet. UHD Director of Sports and Fitness Rich Sebastiani emceed the ceremonies. The UHD community of athletes and team players competed and participated in volleyball, flag football, badminton, tennis, club sports, power lifting and fitness classes.

Stefany Mitchell, student services and enrollment management, won Female Athlete of the Year, and senior Eli Cerda, who is studying business, won Male Athlete of the Year. Olga Hernandez, sports and fitness student employee, received the T-Tapp Scholarship. Theresa Tapp is a nationally known fitness figure who endowed the scholarship to promote health and wellness within the UHD community.

2008 Earth Day
More than 700 people celebrated UHD Earth Day in April with boat rides on the bayou, a “farmers market” on the south deck and live music indoors. This was the first UHD Earth Day to partner with community organizations, including Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Harris County Flood Control District and Trees for Houston. Guest speakers shared tips on how to be environmentally responsible in our daily lives.
This year, men’s and women’s club sports in basketball won the conference championship. Men’s and women’s power lifting were the UHD Extramural Meet champions. The men’s baseball club was second in district, and the women’s soccer club tied for second place in the local conference.

Block Student Alliance members celebrate winning the 2008 award for Organization of the Year.

Active Students, Dynamic Campus
Student Activities and Events celebrated the achievements of outstanding students and organizations at UHD’s One Main Event. Student Activities serves as the hub for sorority and fraternity groups, professional activity clubs, student government, service organizations, honor societies and academic interest groups.

The Black Student Alliance won the Organization of the Year Award for building awareness about health, safety and community issues. Freshman Matthew Vetter won the L.E.A.D. Award for leadership, excellence and development for his volunteer activity in the community.

Going for the Gold
Diana Lopez, a junior in teacher education at UHD, traveled to Beijing, China, to compete in the 2008 Olympics. Lopez and her two older brothers, Mark and Steve, are part of the U.S. Olympic team. She qualified for the games in the spring, while training and attending classes in the evening. Her other brother, Jean, serves as coach for his three siblings. The Lopez trio, originally from Sugar Land, are the first set of three U.S. siblings to compete together in the same Olympic sport since 1904, when gymnasts Edward, Richard and William Titscher made the team.

All That Jazz!
The fifth annual Young Jazz Artists Music Camp hosted 40 youngsters in June at the Camp Allen Conference and Retreat Center in Navasota, Texas. The camp included daily classroom instruction, ensemble work and private master classes by professional musicians and jazz educators. Guest artists were Tony Campise, master of woodwind instruments; Lynne Seaton, two-time Grammy award–winning bass player; and Carol Morgan, professor of music and master’s graduate of The Juilliard School, New York.

Robert G. Wilson, founder and director of the UHD Civic Music Program and Young Sounds of Houston, has been successful in securing support for the summer music program for gifted youth. Sponsorship and scholarships were provided by UHD, the Commission on Black Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, Houston Professional Musicians Association Local 65-699, astronaut Charles Bolden, The Mustard Seed Fund, the Eastern Star Foundation and the Kemah Boardwalk.

Wilson, with a group of student musicians and jazz camp faculty, traveled to Bordeaux, France, this summer for an international student musician exchange program with Musique de Nuit. The trip included a performance in the Bordeaux International Music Festival and classes at the Conservatory of Music in Bordeaux. Funding for the trip was provided by the French petrochemical company Technip, the Texas French Alliance for Advancement in the Arts and the Kemah Boardwalk.

Leigh Van Horn, UHD associate professor of education, hopes her new book, Reading Photographs to Write With Meaning and Purpose, will fire students’ imaginations and lead them into a lifelong passion for reading and writing. Van Horn came to UHD in 2000. Before she became a university professor, she taught language and literacy to middle school students in the Clear Creek (Texas) Independent School District.

In her book, Van Horn thoughtfully takes readers on a learning journey. The book walks teachers and students through step-by-step instructions that utilize photographs and writing to explore a variety of subjects. Teachers can use Van Horn’s methods with almost any curriculum or subject.

Much of the book reflects work and research with and by pre-service teachers in the Urban Teacher Education Department in UHD’s College of Public Service. That is why Van Horn dedicates the book, in part, to the “teachers of tomorrow.”

Van Horn’s personal experience of using photographs with writing began when she turned 10 and her parents gave her a Polaroid Swinger camera for her birthday. She would take photographs of her younger sister, Martha, and her pet parakeet, Sahara. Then she would paste the images into an old calendar she used for a journal. The 10-year-old Van Horn would spend hours writing about what she saw in the pictures, beginning a lifelong practice of using images to capture and interpret the world around her.

Van Horn started formalizing her method when she worked with middle school children at Creekside Intermediate School in League City, Texas. She used much of her students’ work in her first book, Creating Literary Communities in the Middle School, published in 2002 by Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc. Reading Photographs is being published by the International Reading Association, which provides resources and networking opportunities in the field of education and is a leader in literacy research.

The book is nearly divided into five chapters. Van Horn introduces each chapter with a description of a photograph that has special meaning to her, demonstrating how the reader will use the information in the chapter. Topics covered in the book include writing about memories, expressing personal discovery, creating biographies about others, exploring social issues and “reading” photographs to write narratives.

Each chapter includes suggested activities for teachers designed to assist them in creating their own classroom applications and projects. The book also includes “reflection points” that prompt teachers to stop and consider their own students and classrooms and how to connect to lessons in other areas of study.

“This book was about putting research into practice,” Van Horn says. “I conducted the research together with pre-service teachers to see how it affected my practice with undergraduate students, and how it affected them as teachers.”

Van Horn says she enjoys teaching at the college level and continues to learn from her students. “We have an opportunity to learn from our students, as well as to share our knowledge with them.” About reading she has written: “Books define me in many ways. I cannot imagine a life without books.”
Faculty Awards

University faculty members were recognized in the spring for their work in teaching, service and scholarly and creative activity. These prestigious awards reflect the excellence and quality that UHD values and rewards as an institution.

Aaron Krochmal, assistant professor of biology, received the Excellence in Teaching Award. The honor is given to faculty members who go beyond traditional standards to help students connect with the academic and university experience.

Krochmal, whose research areas include ecology and evolution as well as herpetology, has been known to wrestle alligators in White Oak Bayou. His work on reptile vision was featured in a 2007 National Geographic television program.

UHD students benefit from Krochmal’s multifaceted approach to teaching. He mentors junior scientists and pays particular attention to students’ written work, thoughtfully analyzing and critiquing assignments so that students continue to refine their work until it approaches that of accomplished scientists.

When Krochmal identified a pattern in his students’ performance, he initiated intervention symposia to provide students with extra instruction on difficult concepts and topics. In addition, he developed a program to promote faculty engagement and cooperation in improving learning and teaching effectiveness.

Assistant professor of English Chuck Jackson was a finalist for the teaching award. He “demonstrates an insightful awareness of the range of our students’ abilities and strives to meet their academic needs,” said Bill Gilbert, chair of the English department at the time. Jackson engages and inspires students to want to learn the very challenging subjects of literature, composition and critical theory. In his humanities class on prison culture, Jackson invited journalists who cover death row to deliver guest lectures, and he took students on a field trip to the Darrington Prison Unit south of Houston.

Ryan Pepper, assistant professor, computer and mathematical sciences, received the Scholarly and Creative Activity Award. His areas of scholarship include number theory, set theory and a subfield of research called chemical graph theory. In his work, Pepper predicts the chemical properties of theoretical hydrocarbons, including molecules called benzenoids, fullerenes and diamondoids. For example, nanotubes are a type of fullerene molecule.

Pepper has also been successful in predicting the independence ratio of benzenoid molecules. This independence ratio can be used to predict the stability of benzenoids and can be applied to theoretical benzenoid molecules, which may one day be synthesized.

Shohreh S. Hashemi received the award for Excellence in Service. The recognition takes into account the individual’s service to the university community, as well as service outside the university. Hashemi is known to take every commitment to heart. Her work on the Credentials and Elections Committee ensured elections were prompt and fair. She often steps beyond her role as a College of Business professor. For example, Hashemi enjoys volunteering with Houston Poetry Fest, which features guest and local poets. She encourages her students to use volunteer opportunities in their coursework. One such student, now an executive with an American multinational semiconductor company, modeled Hashemi’s example by donating computers to the University on the company’s behalf.

Finalists for the service award were Carolyn Ashe, professor of business administration, and Gene Preuss, assistant professor of history.

Ashe has served on several University committees benefiting students, her peers and the UHD community. She combined her time working as assistant chair of the Marketing, Management and Business Administration Department, with her leadership roles on scholarship committees, planning groups and faculty development teams. Ashe spends time outside the University sharing her expertise with organizations such as the Association of Business Communication and the Workforce Development Committee of the Greater Houston Partnership.

Gene Preuss, assistant professor of history, is serving on the UHD Strategic Planning Leadership Team. The team was selected by UHD President Castillo to help develop the University’s strategic direction at an important crossroad in its history. Preuss also is a leader on the Achieving the Dream Core Team. UHD is part of the Achieving the Dream national initiative to increase student success in higher education. The faculty senate has benefited from Preuss’ years of service as secretary and treasurer. He continues to serve as a representative and also represents his department on the Student Research Conference Committee. In addition, Preuss contributes as a member of the Research Support/Faculty Recruitment and Retention Task Force.

The finalist for the Scholarly and Creative Activity Award is Paul Fortunato, assistant professor of English.

Fortunato is currently studying the philosophical movement of phenomenology. He will use the award to advance his research in the field of literary aesthetic theory and disability studies.

Fortunato publishes in the area of fashion and aesthetics and fashion and literature. An article he wrote will be published in a collection by Cambridge Scholars Press. He also presented a paper on the subject at the 2007 Modernist Studies Association Conference.

The UHD Faculty Development Leave Award allows faculty to dig deeper into their disciplines. Professors spend at least one semester immersed in their research. This year’s recipients are John Linantud, assistant professor of political science, and Aimee Roundtree, assistant professor of English.

Linantud’s interests include political change and development—in particular, questions of dictatorship, democracy, liberalism and religion. During his leave, he will address the question of nation building. He will compare the current situations in Afghanistan and Iraq with the situation in four countries that were U.S. allies during the Cold War.

Roundtree teaches courses in hypermedia and technology, Web publishing and accessibility, visual design, medical and science writing, and technical communications. Her research project will concentrate on computer simulations as rhetorical acts influenced by the discourse communities that produce and use them.

The Faculty Awards Committee chooses these annual honorees. The committee consists of one member from each academic department. The previous year’s award winners serve on the committee as representatives from their respective departments. The winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award chairs the committee.
After graduation, Kandola began studying for her dream to become an accountant. Immediately, her husband, Lucky, for supporting her in her pursuit, gave up. She thanks her professors and her classmates with a fear of numbers, but never gave up. She graduated high school as a recognized gifted and talented student. He worked for AmeriCorps directly after high school, serving inner-city youth in a classroom setting. Throughout his college years, Salinas volunteered at several nonprofits in the Houston area focusing on at-risk youth and the arts. In May 2008, he earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a minor in sociology.

Steve Jones (’99) has recently accepted the position of vice president with Merrill Lynch Commodity Partners, L.P., Merrill Lynch’s private-equity group that focuses on energy-related principal investments. Jones is responsible for origination, transaction structuring, risk management, execution and portfolio monitoring. Jones graduated with bachelor of science degrees in political science and psychology, and worked as a juvenile probation department supervisor and as a manager for United Parcel Service. Jones was accepted into a number of top law programs after he left UHD, including programs at Yale, NYU, the University of Texas, and the University of Virginia, but decided to attend Harvard Law School. There he received the award for Outstanding First Year Law Student. After finishing his law degree in 2002, he returned to Houston as a corporate attorney. Jones found the business side of his law practice to be more appealing than the actual practice of law and eventually returned to a full business role. He says his legal experience enhanced his business acumen, and he looks forward to his new role.

Alumna Armanda Arredondo (’84, ’85), Ricky, Jr. (’83), and Albert (’82, ’83) Diaz and their families were honored at UHD’s Red Rose Ball in April. The brothers belonged to the Latin American Student Service Organization (LASSO) and started the ball in 1981 with the help of their parents, Ricky, Sr., and Belen Diaz, and their sisters, Belinda Scott and Michelle Rodriguez. At the ball, UHD President Max Castillo announced that UHD had named a new Red Rose Scholarship endowment in their honor.

College of Business

Laolu Davies-Yemitan (’05) wrote a guest column in the Houston Business Journal last fall. He penned the article “Market collapse stems partly from investor marketing strategy.” Davies-Yemitan is president of Five Woods, a residential and commercial real estate company.

Joanna Fuentes (’07) and Eduardo Juarez (’07) took part in UHD’s career fair in March. Fuentes and Juarez work for New York Life and came back to campus to recruit UHD students for the Manhattan-based insurance company. Steve Markert, director of career services, coordinates the job fair for students and alumni.

Nandini Kondolha (’08) spoke as the student representative at UHD’s 44th Commencement in May. Kondolha majored in accounting and finished her undergraduate career with a 4.0 grade-point average. She started her business classes with a fear of numbers, but never gave up. She thanks her professors and her husband, Lucky, for supporting her in her dream to become an accountant. Immediately after graduation, Kandolha began studying for her CPA exam and will join the audit team at Deloitte and Touche this fall.

Diaz family members were early organizers of the Red Rose Ball.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Bettnie Carter (’97) graduated from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences with a bachelor of science degree in professional writing. She recently published her first novel, Where the Heart Is, with Better Day Publishing Company. She is planning a book signing at the UHD bookstore in September.

Anna Calvo (’02) has been awarded Houston United Way’s 2008 Dorothy F. Caram Commitment to Leadership Award for her commitment to serving people with disabilities.

Calvo holds a UHD bachelor of arts degree in social science and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Houston. She is a transition coordinator at Shrine’s Hospital for Children and serves on the City of Houston’s Commission for People with Disabilities. Calvo is also on the board of Special Kids Incorporated and the advisory board for Baylor College of Medicine. She is also a resident cast member of Dionysus Theater.

Philipp Gallegos (’03) worked at Baylor College of Medicine following his graduation from UHD. In 2004, he started medical school at the American University of the Caribbean in St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles. He then attended the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to complete his first clinical year of medical school. Gallegos studied surgery, internal medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology. He finished his final year of medical school as a visiting student at the University of Texas Medical School, Baylor College of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Louisiana State University Medical School.

Gallegos graduated with a medical doctorate, with honors, in April 2007. After completing a year of residency in general surgery at the UT–Houston Medical School, he moved into the field of regional anesthesia and is now involved in three more years of training. Gallegos hopes to complete a one-year fellowship in regional anesthesia and eventually practice as a board-certified anesthesiologist in Texas.

Elizabeth Garza Villegas (’05) was accepted to the UT–Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Baylor College of Medicine doctoral programs. The Scholars Academy alum majored in biology and will attend Baylor College of Medicine.

Daniel Brenes (’05) was awarded the Alfred P. Sloan Scholarship. The $38,500 scholarship award will help Brenes continue doctoral studies at Pennsylvania State University. The scholarship provides support to underrepresented students who are beginning their doctoral work in engineering, natural science or mathematics. Brenes is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of chemistry at Penn State.
Made for TV

TreeShawn Martin (‘08) and Lindsay Haygood, professional writing majors, interned this spring with KHOU (Channel 11) in Houston, as part of UHD’s professional writing program. The internship satisfied their field experience requirement. Each year, hundreds of students apply for the three internship slots offered by the CBS affiliate. This year, UHD students won two of the coveted positions. Martin and Haygood worked as assistant producers on “Great Day Houston,” Channel 11’s morning talk show. Martin says he learned to edit stories, shoot video, work with a teleprompter, produce news “teasers” and write scripts. He also helped produce “Houston’s Happenings.”

“The internship allowed me to experience a real-time, real-life view of the production genre versus the hypothetical,” says Martin. “Once I was in the internship, I realized what people were talking about when they said you need ‘real experience’ to find a job. It forced me to find out if I really loved it. And I do.”

“After starting college I realized that what I wanted to know about television broadcasting, I had to learn hands on,” says Haygood. “Nothing can prepare you for working on a live television show. Now, I want to tie in my professional writing skills with the broadcast television experience I have. I’ve learned that I can mix everything I love to do. It was an invaluable experience.”

Destination UHD

This past spring, the Office of Admissions hosted Destination UHD, the campus open house. More than 800 prospective students and guests attended the spring event—almost twice as many as in fall 2007. “Destination UHD gives us the opportunity to roll out the red carpet and showcase our university to prospective students from across the city of Houston,” says Jose L. Carri, director of admissions and recruitment.

Community service

The UHD American Marketing Association (AMA) organization received funding from the AMA Foundation to produce a brochure promoting ABC Health Connection to teenagers. The group will work with the health organization to promote disease prevention among high school students. For their work this year, the group was rated “outstanding” at the International AMA Student Conference in professional development and community service. The student organization also contributed to various community events and developed a comprehensive professional tradeshow proposal for MCA Communications.

Lucille Pointer, assistant professor of marketing, is the group’s adviser.

Virtual business

A team of UHD students placed in the Spring 2008 Capsim Management Simulations, Inc. (C2S2) Foundation Challenge. Capsim is the world’s largest provider of business simulations to college graduate and undergraduate students. The team included College of Business students: Mark Langerot, Justin Lyssy, Shah Ruhk and David Bryan Sandoval. They placed in the top five, over teams from the U.S., Europe, Asia, South and Central America, Australia and Africa. Steven Manarville, associate professor of management, sponsored the team.

Cultural envoy

Marilisa Cunningham, associate professor of English, won a grant to serve as a cultural envoy for the U.S. Department of State in Serbia and Macedonia. She spent three weeks on a poetry tour speaking at different universities in the two Balkan countries. At home, Cunningham is serving on the board of advisors of the Houston Teacher’s Institute. The institute offers classes to Houston Independent School District teachers to support them as they work to educate students. It is part of a national project led by the Yale—New Haven Teachers Institute.

International relations

The International Business Association (IBA) student group was honored at a reception for Houston International Festival volunteers. The team of more than 35 students and UHD adviser Anil Islam, professor of economics, volunteered at the annual event. The festival fosters good will with other countries in an effort to stimulate international trade. IBA also won the Most Improved Student Organization of the Year and the Community Involvement award at One Main Event, the Student Activities and Events awards ceremony held in April.

Economic growth

BMC Software, Inc., has awarded 11 scholarships to students in the College of Business. Carolina Trinidad, Erick Contreras, Tiffany Andrews and Kimberly Taylor each received the BMC Bobby Bizzell Memorial Scholarship. Ryan Tomasselli, Brenda Rios, Curtis Carley, Marta Alvarenga, Ezzine Odi, Sheila Mbeguya and Roger Condon each received the BMC College of Business Scholarship. BMC announced the scholarship recipients and recognized its 2007-08 interns at the academic awards ceremony in April. Ashley Fields, Sr., director of BMC Software, honored the students. Interns Cristina Barrillas, Carolina Mwanza, Marco Melendez Santos, Naia Ansari, Sarah Martin, Brenda Rios and Nathaniel Nouri worked this past academic year at the multinational software company’s Houston headquarters.

Civic service

Jacquie Baly-Chaumette, adjunct professor of political science, was recently elected to the City of Sugar Land City Council. She won the race with almost 70 percent of the vote. Baly-Chaumette will hold Position 2 on the City Council.

State chair-elect

Stephen Ring, the W.I. Dykes Web management librarian, has been vice chair and chair-elect of the Texas Library Association’s (TLA) College and University Libraries Division. TLA is a professional organization promoting librarianship and library service in Texas.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

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Artist-in-residence

Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue presented its Artadia Awards to 10 artists living and working in Houston in 2007. Winners include University of Houston-Downtown Artist-in-residence Floyd Newsum. Newsum was chosen as one of the top three award winners from a pool of more than 200 Harris County applicants. The artists selected for this year’s Artadia Awards represent the diversity of artistic practice and perspective in the city.

Newsum’s work has been shown throughout the United States and is in permanent museum collections in Houston, Memphis, Philadelphia and Dallas, and in corporate and private collections.

Newest addition awarded

The Shee Street Building, home of the UHD College of Business, was recognized as a “project of distinction” in the Educational Design Showcase Annual Awards—Colleges and Universities, for outstanding design and architecture. The architectural firm FGAL designed the academic building to serve the growing university population in an urban environment. The award is sponsored by College Planning and Management magazine, published by the Peter Li Education Group.

Political move

Autumn Jodzia (’08) has been interning with City of Houston Council Member Mike Sullivan, District E. Jodzia is a political science major and is one of the UHD students who participates in the University of Houston Center for Public Policy’s internship program. She started out as an intern and was offered a part-time position in the District E office after her field service ended. Jodzia will begin working full time for the Clear Lake/Kingwood area council office.

New business center

Donald Bates, dean of the College of Business, met with insurance industry leaders at a luncheon in June. Dennis A. Baker of Capstone Consulting Group, LLC, and Irving Paz- mantier of Pazmantier Insurance Consulting, joined Bates to support development of the insurance and Risk Management Center in the UHD College of Business. UHD hopes to offer a bachelor’s degree in insurance and risk management in the near future.

University recognized

HR Houston awarded UHD Employment Services and Operations the Impact Award for HR service technology overhaul, spearheaded by Vice President for Employee Services and Operations Ivonne Montalbano.

In the organization’s service technology contest category, UHD competed against major companies such as AIG Retirement Services, CenterPoint Energy and the City of Sugar Land. The ambitious technology overhaul, spearheaded by Vice President of Employment Services and Operations Ivonne Montalbano, PHP, was accomplished over a two-year period. The project improved services to employees and managers; provided access to reliable quantitative data for strategic planning; reduced costs; and increased the accuracy and integrity of all human resources-related transactions.

HR Houston judged the entries based on what various initiatives produced. At UHD, changes led to a marked increase in completion of performance appraisals, improvement in the development of professional goals and objectives for employees, and improved methods of self-management of employee information.

Success in the sciences

Scholars Academy members in the academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology attended more than 70 off-campus conferences and professional meetings this academic year. Forty students presented their research off-campus.

Benedict Khoo and Kristopher Overholt won the Brown Foundation Poster Presentation Award. The Brown Foundation Leadership Awards went to Ali Abi, Adolfo Aranzales, Nguyen Lam, Danil Safin, Overholt and Liem Luong. Luong also received a 2008–2009 Microsoft Technical Scholarship.

The Houston Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation presented awards to outstanding scholars with the highest grade-point average in computer and mathematical sciences, engineering technology and natural science. The recipients were Lauren Gracia, Lam and Overholt. Overholt will attend the University of Maryland–College Park for that university’s fire protection engineering master’s program. Gracia and Luong were accepted into the Department of Defense High-performance Computing Joint Educational Opportunities for Minorities summer internship at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

In the fall, Hien Nguyen will attend Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey to study cosmetic science.

Dramatic design

Kelly Robertson, assistant professor of drama, designed costumes for “One Flea Spare,” the Mil- dred’s Umbrella Theatre Company’s spring production. Robertson is technical director of UHD’s O’Kane Theatre.

English Language Institute students educate the UHD community about their project to “Keep Houston Beautiful.”

Keep Houston Beautiful

Keep Houston Beautiful awarded the UHD English Language Institute (ELI) a grant, sponsored by First Community Credit Union. International student volunteers from ELI created three aerial maps of the campus and its parking areas. They collected trash samples from different locations and affixed samples to the maps, according to the location. The students also discussed proper ways to dispose of different types of trash. On Keep Houston Beautiful Day, students engaged passers-by in brief discussions on how to keep the UHD campus free of litter and debris.

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As gas prices climb and Houstonians feel the pinch on their pocketbooks, many students and their families are finding that UHD tuition rates are very affordable, and those who attend school while working full or part time appreciate UHD’s flexible scheduling options. Affordability and flexibility are two major message points carried to the public in UHD’s new identity campaign, which includes billboards and radio and print advertisements. It is all part of a plan to build greater public recognition for the University, says Sue Davis, UHD’s executive director of public affairs.

“As UHD grows, we need to continue to tell our story,” Davis said. “This is the first coordinated advertising campaign the University has done in many years. We are building the UHD brand with our billboard campaign and encouraging people with credits to return to school to finish their degrees.”

UHD’s flexible options include weekend courses, online courses, new hybrid courses that combine online and in-class instruction, and courses delivered via interactive television to remote sites. Programs are also offered at Cinco Ranch, Lone Star College–CyFair, the University Center in the Woodlands and at Kingwood College.

While the billboard campaign runs through mid-October, expect to keep hearing UHD’s messages on KUHF-FM and seeing advertising in the Houston Business Journal, local newspapers, at movie theaters and at some area malls. Special sponsorships are also in the works that will raise UHD’s profile in two area high school districts.

“Developing the campaign has been fun, and its success reflects a team effort,” Davis said. Those who contributed include Public Affairs staffers Joe Wynne, Meghan Sellers, Celeste Zamora and Rebecca Van Meter, and members of the Public Affairs Advisory Council, a group of faculty, staff and administrators who meet monthly to discuss marketing and public affairs issues.

Meanwhile, UHD continues to build two-plus-two programs with area community colleges and to establish dual enrollment agreements with Houston area high schools. Students in dual enrollment programs earn college and high school credit simultaneously.

“We are becoming the institution of choice for more students,” Davis said. “We hope that trend continues as prospective students, parents and guidance counselors learn more about our faculty and our programs.”

Above: The UHD Division of Public Affairs is using outdoor advertising to reach a broader audience. This billboard, north of the university, is located at Interstate 45 and Quitman.

Right: UHD print advertising appears in local publications such as the Houston Business Journal.

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