The best and the brightest meet the most generous at the 20th Annual Red Rose Ball, scheduled for Friday, March 30, 2001, at the Westin Galleria. Twenty-five high-performing UHD students will receive $3,000 scholarships this year. The award amount increased thanks to the support of corporations and individuals who understand the power of investing in human capital. Proceeds also provide scholarships to students who transfer to UHD from community colleges.

The ball celebrates its twentieth anniversary by honoring Jonathan Day, managing partner, Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, and his wife, businesswoman and former UHD professor Barbara Day. Ball co-chairs are Yolanda F. Londoño, senior vice president and manager of public affairs and David L. Mendez, vice chairman, both with J.P. Morgan Chase in Houston.

In addition to highlighting the accomplishments of the Red Rose scholars, the ball will feature a celebration of history. The event was initiated by the Latin American Student Service Pioneers of the Red Rose Ball in 1981 (from left) Ricky Diaz Sr., Belen Diaz, and their sons Ricky Jr., Albert and Armando.

A Bouquet of Twenty Roses

Brown Foundation Makes $400,000 Gift to Learners Community

The UHD Learners Community is in its first year, and is already receiving important community support. (See related story page 6.) The Brown Foundation has contributed $400,000 to endow the program. The gift meets a challenge requirement included in the U.S. Department of Education’s recent $1.9 million award to UH-Downtown.

The endowment created with the Brown Foundation and Department of Education funds will provide sustained support for continuation of the Learners Community. "This gift will allow the university to institutionalize the academic support and student success programs begun with Title V funds," said Robin Davidson, interim director of the Learners Community. "First-time-in-college freshmen need guidance and support to succeed in their first two years of college. I believe this program will begin to address those needs."

The Brown Foundation was founded in 1951. Eighty percent of its awards stay in Texas with special attention paid to Houston.

Dr. Maconda O’Connor, a foundation trustee, is a member of UH-Downtown’s President’s Advisory Council.

There’s more good news inside!

- The John Biggers Legacy ................................ p. 3
- A Slice of the PIE ........................................... p. 4
- A First Time for Everything: UHD Learners Community .................... p. 6
A Growing Crop of Graduates

Flowing black commencement robes and the flat “mortarboard” cap—these are the most powerful symbols of any university’s success. UH-Downtown’s record at producing graduates improves every year. The number of graduates has more than doubled in the last ten years. In the last five years, the number has increased by more than 60%.

More than 660 triumphant seniors crossed the stage during UH-Downtown’s commencement ceremony in December, the largest group of August and December candidates in the history of the institution.

UH-Downtown’s multicultural student population is richly diverse, and graduates from the 1999-2000 academic year closely reflected the composition of the city of Houston: 25% African-American, 31% Anglo, 13% Asian, 25% Hispanic, and 5% of other nationalities.

Quality Collaboration = Quality Teachers

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

Reshape that wise adage a bit to “It takes a village to make better teachers.” That’s one way to capture the essence of UH-Downtown’s participation in The Houston Annenberg Challenge, a program that will focus on transforming the way teachers are prepared.

UH-Downtown will combine its exemplary urban teacher education program with other similar programs at Houston area institutions of higher education. They will collaborate to use a $3.9 million Department of Education grant in creating a national model for the reform of teacher education from grades K-16. Houston received one of only eight Teacher Quality Education grants awarded nationwide.

UH-Downtown was recognized for its participation at a recent luncheon along with partners University of Houston, University of St. Thomas, Texas Southern University and Houston Community College.

New Degrees Help Students “Get a Life!”

In addition to the new Master of Arts in Teaching, UH-Downtown now offers even more ways to prepare for the future. New degree programs are underway in international business and biotechnology, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board just approved three more: communications studies, political science and sociology.

Teacher Shortage

Seeking degrees in elementary, secondary and bilingual education.

Students in the program continue to test high in the state’s teacher certification exam. They also tend to stick with the profession — UHD graduates surpass the national average for teacher retention.

For additional information, contact the Urban Education department at UH-Downtown at 713-221-8906.

UHD Honored Through National Conference

UH-Downtown’s emphasis on student success received national attention when UH-Downtown was chosen to co-host a prestigious national conference on new college students. The 20th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience was sponsored by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina. Center Senior Fellow Dr. John Gardner invited UH-Downtown to be involved after his visit last spring for the President’s Colloquium titled “Shaping Strategies for Student Success.”

“Dr. Gardner was impressed with UH-Downtown’s commitment to serving students and our openness to new strategies that will bolster their success,” said Robin Davidson, interim director of the Learners Community.

“He wanted to highlight our university’s accomplishments as a model for other institutions that are facing similar challenges.”

The conference complemented UH-Downtown’s new Learners Community, which targets first-year, first-time-in-college students. (See related story, page 6)

UH-Downtown participated in the conference in a number of ways. President Max Castillo welcomed conference participants. Learners Community staff helped with organizational details. Faculty members Susan Kanter, Branden Kuzmick and Caroline Rubin-Trimble made a presentation on how to help students strengthen their reading skills through use of a reading lab.

The conference gave UH-Downtown the opportunity to swap strategies with educators from across the country.
An Arc Still Open

Words, like all splendid things
Familiar or obscure
Can teach us if we dare
Taking a story is a charming
Smoothing & polishing the syllables
To bright reflection

We call that literacy
The accounts said,
Learning an either
Is to hear a library

Then they invented Art
To stem such loss
We are men of women born
And human being

Sing us we are, and makers
Keeping toward manhood, womanhood
A variety of sport known as grace
We choose so mystically
What can be made with the wine and water
Wood and stone
Carefully selected mud
Work and patience

Wilt:
When care and kindness
Compassion and concern
Dearest the soul
The route of the windblown becomes a dance
And the dash shared
Can speak
Can sense or mark smooth geometries
That section space into the stars
Of humane understanding
And joyous trace of song

The warrior then becomes
The one and the door

The soul records the heart's reach
As the hand records the wind's

That was the way he took,
That was John's path:
Gent, storyteller
Simple spoken art, luminous sage
Ablement of words and images
Child of leisure, spinner of magic phrases

Sometimes the world of entropy and haste
Seems reaching more than a great step
With everyone of us,
Screamed, unheeded
Treadling light in heavy burdened
In passage—
Closing the shutter and the frame
In endless round

To treasure our moments and our settings here
Treasure the story and the memory
That will remain to testify when we embark
Upon the next stage of our never-ending journey

— Lorenzo Thomas
1/31/01

Building for the Future at the State Capitol

Walk the hallways at
UHD during the time
between classes, take
a look at the crowd of students,
and you'll get a vivid reminder of
one of the university's most press-
ing challenges: a critical short-
age of space.

Decisions made during the 77th
Session of the Texas Legislature
could ultimately give UHD more
elbow room. If lawmakers
approve UHD's downtown's request
for $30 million in tuition revenue
bonds, the university will be
able to add a new building with
needed classrooms, laboratories,
and faculty offices.

According to standards estab-
lished by the Texas Higher
Education Coordinating Board
(THECB), UHD's facilities deficit
would be more than 213-thou-
sand square feet by 2005,
assuming an enrollment of 9,111.
UHD could exceed that enroll-
ment figure in the next year.

The university currently has a
deficit in all five categories of the
space model developed by the
THECB. The most crucial needs
are instructional space and faculty
office space.

"UHD faculty care about their stu-
dents and make themselves avail-
able to meet with them one-on-
one as much as possible," said
Dr. Molly Woods, vice president of
academic affairs and provost.

"Many of our part-time faculty
members face the challenge of
finding a quiet spot where they
can sit with students and concen-
trate on their questions. So,
adding faculty offices would have
a direct benefit on our students."

Another challenge is identification
of space for any new faculty posi-
tions that are approved.

The most recent expansion at UH-
Downtown was the addition in
1997 of the Academic building
and the Jesse H. Jones Student
Life Center. More than 147,000
square feet of space holds class-
rooms, the multi-purpose Special
Events center, the Wilhelmina
Cullen Robertson Auditorium, and
a food court. The Student Life
Center has two gyms, a fitness
center and weight room, and a
dance studio.

The Academic building is con-
nected to the original part of the
vertical campus, the One Main
building, a ten-story structure
that opened in 1930.

In the last year, UHD renovated
the third floor of the One Main building
to improve service to students.
The One Stop Student Service Center
allows students to take care of busi-
ness without moving from floor to
floor, including registration, the
cashier, academic advising and
more.

Also on the drawing board is the
reclamation of the Willow Street
Pump Station, a historic structure
located directly across White Oak
Bayou from the One Main building.
Through funding provided by
Houston Endowment, the facility
will become a center for community
and cultural events.

John Biggers: 1924-2001

UH-Downtown remembers the artist who cre-
ated one of the signature features of UHD's
campus. John Biggers died in January at
age 76. His mural "Salt Marsh" serves as the
visual centerpiece for one of the newer
areas of campus, the third floor lobby of the
Academic building.

Painted in rich tones, the 10-by-27-foot
acrylic on canvas mural was inspired by an
ancient African children's story about the
reverberating chase between a rabbit and a
turtle, representing renewal and the chang-
ing rhythm of the seasons. UHD students
served as Biggers' assistants during the pro-
tected one of the signature features of UHD's
academic building.

A native of North Carolina, Biggers moved
to Houston to found Texas Southern
University in 1949.

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Contributions to UHD Alumnae are vital to fulfilling our mission of providing quality educational opportunities to all students and opening avenues for students who might not otherwise be able to pursue a college degree. We greatly appreciate the generosity shown to UHD by the following corporations, foundations and individuals between JanUHD and February 1, 2001. Please note that numbers following a name signify the year of graduation from UHD.

$250,000 to $500,000
The Brown Foundation
$50,000 to $100,000
Shell Oil Company Foundation
$5,000 to $10,000
Robert and Janice McNair Foundation
Richard and Ann Traeck
$1,000 to $4,999
Agrarian Alliance of America
BP Amoco
Conoco, Inc.
Coca Cola Company
PriceWaterhouseCoopers Foundation

$100 to $249
Elizabeth I. Arndt, '92
Thomas M. England, '90
L. Renee (Moss-Fussell), '95
Emmanuel N. Wjesena, '98
Mladenka-Fowler, Associates
Mary I. Sanders Under $100
Janet S. Simpson, '92
Juanita Davis, '90
Michael R. Downer
William B. Hermes, '80
Johnnie Jones, '90
Sara Anne Kozialik, '92
Julie George Mahkoti, '91
Deanna M. Parnenter, '97
Thomas E. Porter, '92
Marlyn K. Williams, '88

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

SBP. 64
The Partners in Excellence campaign provides support to UHD’s computer information systems degree program, faculty and staff development, and the Scholars Academy.
$10,000 to $25,000
AT&T
El Paso Corporation

$1,000 to $4,999
Arthur M. and Emilia G. Aybar
Frederic J. Attermeier
BCH Broker & Canberra Architects
Cole Chemical and Distributing, Inc.
Fred de Roode and Daise Olson
JDA Professional, Inc.
Ann and Alan Evans
Intocera Technology
Kimberly A. Pauley
Gerald M. Frito
Jim and Ellen Slegler
Starlight Capital, Inc.

$500 to $999
Carneg Building Construction
Consultants' Choice, Inc.
Data-Brothers Construction
Suzanne Hasser
Robert and Anne Morales
Joe Teg
$250 to $499
Rose C. Alyn, '83
Gerald A. Bass, '89 & '92
Ergo Technology Partners
Irene and Luisa Fraites
Freddie Harding

Mary M. Stewart Jones, '92
Greg N. Martin
M. Allen McPherson
Redable Automatic Sprinkler Company, Inc.
Milton and Vera Scott
Steve Soucher

Robert and Janice McNair Foundation
El Paso Energy Foundation
$5,000 to $10,000
Ann and Alan Evans

John L. Wortham & Son, LLP
Vinson & Elkins

H-E-B
HCC Employee Benefits, Inc.

ENRON

Hank and Mary Stewart, '92
In Memoriam of Shannon Doyle
BB Bringman
Kathy Harney
Anto Silva
Linda Vaden-Goad
Carolyn Wallides
Lisa Waldner

With contributions possible.
Listed beneath the company names are the donors whose contributions made these matching gifts possible.
American General Corporation
Canon, '88, and Gregory M. Gorgacs
Chase Manhattan Foundation
Pulaski County, '93
Coca Cola Company
Cynthia Jean Buchan, '88

Compaq Computer Corporation
Julie George Mahkoti, '91
Conoco, Inc.
Gerald M. Pinto

Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Henley
Art and Sandra Flanagan
Dr. and Mrs. Emile Helley
David B. Hoffman, '86
Albert M. Rodriguez, '93
Robert and Geriude Vanen

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

In Memory of C.C. and Vera Anderson
Anderson Family
Peggy Anderson Guy
Susan Anderson Family

In Memory of Jay Anderson
Cheney and Jo Jean Anderson
Jeff Anderson

In Memory of Emmett August
Hank and Mary Stewart, '92
In Honor of Ed Markay
Alison Schuler, '94

IN-HIND GIFTS

Lyndall-Crego Refining Limited

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Listed beneath the company names are the donors whose contributions made these matching gifts possible.

American General Corporation
Canon, '88, and Gregory M. Gorgacs
Chase Manhattan Foundation
Pulaski County, '93
Coca Cola Company
Cynthia Jean Buchan, '88

Compaq Computer Corporation
Julie George Mahkoti, '91
Conoco, Inc.
Gerald M. Pinto

Dr. W. Campbell, assistant professor of engineering technology and SPED director, meets with Japanese engineers during the tour.

The East-West Pipeline

A delegation of Japanese engineers — most of them members of the Engineering Advancement Association of Japan — toured UHD’s Engineering Technology Department during a recent visit to Houston. They had heard about UHD’s unique program in process and petrochemical industries. The partnership between SPED and UHD is a natural fit because UHD offers the only four-year accredited baccalaureate degree in piping design and SPED is the only professional society exclusively for piping designers and engineers.

Dr. N.S. Nandagopal, associate professor of engineering technology and SPED director, meets with Japanese engineers during the tour.

The process and piping design program, coordinated by Dr. N. S. Nandagopal, meets the special needs of the Houston-Gulf Coast area which is a center for engineering, procurement and construction companies, as well as the chemical and petrochemical industries.

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ALUMNI TAKE NOTE:

UHD alumni will get an irresistible opportunity: two-for-one giving through the Alumni Annual Fund. Alumni can expect letters and phone calls soon to alert them to the program.

The 2001 Alumni Annual Fund will support major new initiatives that are vital to UHD. Gifts to the fund will assist in:

• establishing an endowed professorship in Computer Information Systems in UHD’s College of Business,
• enhancing faculty and staff development throughout the university, and
• providing scholarships for promising students interested in math, science and engineering fields.

A very special feature... all gifts to the Alumni Annual Fund will be matched by outside organizations, so every dollar contributed will result in as many as two more dollars for UH-Downtown. The Double the Gift, Double the Pleasure of Giving

Organizations (LASSO) in 1981 thanks to chairperson Armando-Diaz and his two brothers (and fellow students) Albert and Ricky Jr. The brothers used a handy pipeline to secure some star power to entertain at the inaugural event: the Ricky Diaz Orchestra, under the direction of their father, Ricky, Sr. To make it a complete family affair, their mother, Belen Compean Diaz, pitched in to help organize the ball, which was held at the old Shamrock Hilton. LASSO students raised $20,000 that first year, and a tradition of generosity was born.

The three Diaz brothers all graduated from the University of Houston Downtown College, as UHD was called then. Armando is an attorney, Ricky Jr. is in financial services, and Albert is a finance director. All speak fondly of their alma mater.

Women’s Month 2001

Women’s Month at UHD explores the spectrum of women’s experiences — on matters of culture, politics, art, health and more. Scheduled over the month of March, events range from concerts to a discussion on women and politics.

Highlighted are events that include a group of women professionals from Denmark. Pia Deleuran, an attorney and coauthor of two books on women’s issues, will be joined by a Danish sociologist, a children’s book publisher, and artist/photographers. On March 26th, 27th and 28th, they’ll participate in an exchange of views on life for women in Denmark and in America.

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Black History Month

UHD celebrated Black History Month with a variety of events, including appearances by leading African-American filmmaker and historian William Greaves (pictured below), this semester’s Artist-in-Residence for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. He screened his award-winning documentaries Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice and Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey, his 2001 Sundance Film Festival feature, with UHD students, faculty and staff.

ALUMNI TAKE NOTE:

“Alumni Notes” Update Form

Name: __________________________ Student Name: __________________________ (if different)
Graduation Year: __________ Social Security #: __________________________
Home Address: __________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: ______________________
Business Address: _________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: _____ Zip: _____ Bus. Phone: ______________________
E-mail address(es): ______________________________________________________
News for the “Alumni Notes” page in the next publication:
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UHD’s Learners Community is First Class

For many new college students, the freshman year brings culture shock: new faces, new environment, new demands. To make the first year experience a positive one, the new Learners Community program is underway at UH-Downtown.

Designed to promote the success of entering college freshmen, the program is funded through a $1.9 million federal grant and a generous $400,000 gift from the Brown Foundation (see story page 1). The program helps create a sense of community and camaraderie for first year students while providing academic support. The Learners Community combines a number of innovative strategies. Unlike the more typical university practice, students are enrolled in classes in groups that stay together for two or more courses. That way students get to know each other so that they can benefit from teamwork and the encouragement of their peers.

Courses are linked, with two faculty members working together to coordinate projects that combine the subjects of each class. For example, an English composition class that develops writing skills would be linked with a computer information systems class that teaches Microsoft Word, a software program needed to complete an English class writing assignment. Other combinations would link English and history, or English and psychology. As much as possible, students are also kept together in math classes.

This interdisciplinary collaboration not only benefits students, it also helps stretch the skills of faculty members who are able to look beyond the day-to-day concerns of their individual fields of study. Another aspect of the Learners Community is supplemental instruction, a student-to-student peer mentoring approach.

Academically successful students are engaged to serve as role models or peer mentors for the first year students. The peer mentors lead study sessions to provide a more comfortable environment for discussions or explanations about the concepts they heard in class. Supplemental instruction works. Students who participate generally have higher grade point averages and are less likely to drop out of courses.

Currently, approximately 150 students are enrolled in UHD’s Learners Community. That number should grow over the next few years as the federal grant and private funds begin to pump additional money into the program.

Annual Science and Engineering Fair

Over 1,400 junior high and high school students will rev up their computers and gear up their calculators to compete in the 42nd Annual Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH), March 22-24 at the Reliant Arena.

Future scientists and mathematicians tune up their skills in categories like microbiology, medicine and health, science and zoology, biochemistry and earth and space science. Competition is stiff, with more than 175 schools participating from the 16-county greater Houston area. UHD’s Natural Science Chair, Dr. Larry Spears, is the executive director of SEFH and UHD President Max Castillo sits on the board of directors. Co-sponsors include The Engineering, Science and Technology Council of Houston and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The fair also sponsors science writing and technical poster design contests. Over 1,500 volunteers from UHD, corporations and institutions are responsible for making the huge event a success.

UHD participates in several outreach programs that promote math and science study including Houston Prep (a pre-college math and science preparation program), partnerships with Johnson Space Center/NASA and collaborations with the Museum of Natural Science. SEFH participants who apply for study at UHD can become eligible for the Scholar’s Academy, which offers scholarships to those pursuing degrees in math, science and other technical fields.

The Red Rose Scholars

Pictured above are the 25 outstanding students receiving Red Rose Scholarships this year. They represent UH-Downtown’s finest — women and men honored for academic achievement, leadership potential, community activism and commitment to higher education.

Many are the first in their family to attend college, often while working, supporting a family and attending evening and weekend classes. All will have their moment in the spotlight at the Red Rose Ball on March 30. Here are just a few.

Catherine Blount is an interdisciplinary studies major with a minor in biology who hopes to continue his education in order to become a cardiovascular surgeon. In UHD’s Scholars Academy, he volunteers with the Leeuwenhoek Society and the Health Professionals Organization at UHD.

Michelle Shuck has a 4.0 grade point average in engineering technology with a specialty in control and instrumentation. She works part-time at Halliburton Energy Services and as a tutor in UHD’s Engineering Technology Lab. Michelle provides stability for her mentally disabled sister, diagnosed with autism at an early age.

Mitchell L. Garcia, is a criminal justice major with three consecutive semesters on the Dean’s List. On HPD’s Bicycle Team, he serves as vice-president of the Criminal Justice Honor Society and is active in a number of organizations. He is a past 100 Club Police Officer of the Year.

Ekong E. Uffort is an applied microbiology major from Nigeria who hopes to continue his education in order to become a cardiovascular surgeon. In UHD’s Scholars Academy, he volunteers with the Leeuwenhoek Society and the Health Professionals Organization at UHD.

David Cassell, a member of UHD’s Partners in Excellence committee, was nominated by Houston Business Journal (HBJ) for HBJ’s Entrepreneur of the Year award. He is founder of Consultants’ Choice, a company that provides senior-level technology professionals on a short term basis. The company was recently ranked second in HBJ’s Houston 100, the annual listing of fastest-growing small businesses. Cassell has provided support for scholars in the computer information systems program at UH-Downtown through the Open Door Educational Foundation.
The UH-Downtown University Theatre will present the Tennessee Williams play, Small Craft Warnings, this spring in O’Kane Theatre located on the third floor of the One Main Building. Opening night is Friday, March 30 at 8 p.m.

Dr. Thomas J. Lyttle, director of theatre, is in charge of the production.

Additional performances at 8 p.m. include: Saturday, March 31; Thursday, April 5; Friday, April 6; and Saturday, April 7. A matinee performance is on Sunday, April 1 at 3 p.m. Special 1:30 p.m. student matinee performances are Wednesday, April 4 and Friday, April 6.

Small Craft Warnings is set in a coastal bar in southern California and features a group of derelict characters searching for comfort and support from each other. It was first performed off-Broadway in 1972.

In a letter to his longtime agent, Audrey Wood, Tennessee Williams once wrote: “As you have observed by now, I have only one major theme for all my work which is the destructive impact of society on the sensitive, non-conformist individual.”

In his writings, Williams (1911-1983) deals primarily with themes about the south and divided his time between New Orleans, New York and Key West. Among his more famous works are: A Streetcar Named Desire, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and The Glass Menagerie.

For further information about the play, or to make reservations, please call the Department of Arts and Humanities at 713-221-8104.

O’KANE THEATRE
Welcome to UHD ....

... or, “Welcome back!” That’s the message from UHD-Day, an event to be held on the first day of each term to introduce incoming students to opportunities and services available at UHD.

On hand this spring were representatives from student organizations and staff offices that provide service to students. To liven things up, attendees were treated to free snacks and door prizes.

A Compact for Caring

UHD President Max Castillo (on right) greets General Colin Powell (on left) at the Founding of the Texas Campus Compact. The Texas Commission on Voluntarism and Community Service serves as the facilitator for the program which focuses on encouraging community service by college and university students. General Powell, now Secretary of State, led America’s Promise, the nationwide initiative that promoted volunteerism on behalf of children and youth. Dr. Castillo served as a co-chair for the local arm of the effort, called Houston’s Promise.

Dr. Nicola Yankov, Milena Andreeva Yordanova, and Ivan Ivanov of the Tsenov Academy of Economics learn about the technology used by UHD in instructional television courses.

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Capitalism 101

UH-Downtown could play a significant role in helping the people of Bulgaria make the transition from socialism to capitalism. UHD and Bulgaria’s Tsenov Academy of Economics are participating in a joint research program to help Bulgaria utilize information technology in developing a model for a new economy. Bulgaria’s goal is to qualify for membership in the European Union in 2007.

Participants on both sides of the ocean plan to include students in the program.

In January, representatives from the Tsenov Academy visited UH-Downtown to hear presentations from UHD faculty and staff from across the institution. In May, Dr. Madeleine Johnson, associate professor of marketing, and Dr. Richard Alo, executive director, grants and contracts, will travel to Bulgaria to continue the discussion.

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