UH-Downtown, like all state-funded institutions, has a heightened interest in the outcome of the 78th Session of the Texas Legislature. The question is: What will the multi-billion dollar projected budget shortfall mean for universities and colleges that depend on state dollars?

"The state has requested that UHD take a different and much reduced approach to budgeting that doesn’t account for the additional funding we would normally receive to accommodate our growth," said Dr. Max Castillo, UHD president. UHD’s enrollment grew by 17% during the last state funding cycle.

Once a paved parking lot bounded by Commerce, Main, Franklin and Fannin, the site will house a four-story building faced by glass, steel and red brick. The 90,000 square foot facility is needed to serve UH-Downtown’s expanding student enrollment, now topping the 10,000 mark.

“The construction of this building is a defining moment that represents UHD-Downtown’s evolution in the breadth and scope of our academic programs and in our relationships with the community," Dr. Castillo told the assembled guests. "It also is a sign of UHD’s maturity as a mid-size general academic liberal arts university."

In attendance at the groundbreaking were UH System Board of Regents Chair Gene McDavid and Chancellor Dr. Arthur K. Smith. Also in attendance was Congressmember Gene Green. Noted McDavid, "UHD is a very special community. I have always admired its vitality, its sense of place, and its character as a welcoming and nurturing institution."

Other speakers included Texas State Senator Mario Gallegos, Jim Furr, managing principal with building designers Gensler Architecture, and John English, senior vice president with SpawGlass, the building contractor.

Students using the 101 Main Building will learn and study in 25 classrooms and labs. UHD will continue its commitment to providing students with access to technology by including several computer labs. The facility will house academic department and faculty offices for criminal justice and urban teacher education, the departments that offer UHD’s master’s degrees.

UHD is currently in the process of getting approval to combine these two departments under a new college — the College of Public Service (see related story, page 2).

A multi-purpose room on the first level will overlook Allen’s Landing, the spot on the banks of Buffalo Bayou where in 1836 the Allen Brothers arrived to promote a real estate venture that became the city of Houston.

87th Texas Legislature: An Uncertain Time for Higher Education

UH-Downtown, like all state-funded institutions, has a heightened interest in the outcome of the 78th Session of the Texas Legislature. The question is: What will the multi-billion dollar projected budget shortfall mean for universities and colleges that depend on state dollars?

“The state has requested that UHD take a different and much reduced approach to budgeting that doesn’t account for the additional funding we would normally receive to accommodate our growth," said Dr. Max Castillo, UHD president. UHD’s enrollment grew by 1.7% during the last state funding cycle.

Red Rose Ball 2003: Fun with a Purpose

The ball gowns and centerpieces will be lovely. The food will be delicious. The band will be entertaining. But the real payoff for guests attending the Red Rose Ball will be the satisfaction of helping 25 high-performing UHD students achieve their educational goals.

UHD’s signature scholarship gala is scheduled for Friday, March 28 at the Westin Galleria. The ball will honor Lynn and Mark J. Weikel, chairman of Foyle’s, the leading Southwest department store retailer with 66 stores.

78th Texas Legislature: An Uncertain Time for Higher Education

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There’s more good news inside!

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- President’s Alumni Society Council
- Awards Warrant: Alumnus of the Year
- She’s Sharon’s Scholar ................................. p. 6

Meet a Sampling of Red Rose Scholars on Page 8!
UHD's December commencement ceremony at Minute Maid Park was a history-making event. UH-Downtown awarded its first graduate degrees to three individuals who received the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. A record number of August and December graduates, 866, were added to the alumni rolls. And, UHD was the first university to hold its commencement ceremony at the stadium.

Guadalupe Luis, graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, was chosen to represent her peers. The Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma member has three siblings who have either attended or graduated from UHD. And all those who know her or read her story in the Houston Chronicle were inspired by graduate Ana Calvo. Earning her Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences in four years, Ana has overcome incredible odds to reach her goal. The first in her family to attend a university, she never allowed birth defects caused by thalidomide to limit her abilities. Ana begins graduate school in the fall and plans to practice family law. In fact, a foundation has offered to fund her graduate education as a result of the published story.

David Balderez (from left), Will Robertson and Ruth Weast are the first ever master's graduates for UH-Downtown, receiving the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. A Houston Police Department executive administrator, Robertson, age 57, believes it's never too late to pursue professional development through education. "We live in a world with so many changes, and to keep pace you must not let your education level become static."

The new college would be based in UHD's new building, now under construction at the corner of Commerce and Main (see related story page 1). More than a third of H&SS majors are in the departments of Criminal Justice and Urban Education, and these departments also offer UHD's two master's programs. The two departments share a number of characteristics. They are both career focused and the majority of graduates find work in government-sponsored agencies. And, they have potential common areas of teaching and research, especially in juvenile justice and crime prevention in the schools and among school-aged children.
Gifts and Grants from UHD Friends

The 100 Club: Criminal Justice Endowment

Students in UHD’s criminal justice (CJ) program will continue to receive a financial boost from The 100 Club. A recent gift of $15,000 increased the The 100 Club’s scholarship endowment to $40,000, which supports two $1,000 scholarships for CJ majors.

As a steadfast and generous friend, the organization provided $135,000 in scholarship funds during the last academic year, in addition to doubling the number of scholarships available to students seeking a master’s degree in CJ.

Plunkett Research, Ltd., a member of Plunkett Research Online, provides a total of $6,000 annually for faculty in accounting and information technology-related disciplines. Recipients for the most recent academic year are Dr. Marvin Williams, associate professor, and Dr. Herb Rebhun, professor, both in the Department of Finance, Accounting and Computer Information Systems.

El Paso Faculty Awards

Two faculty in UHD’s College of Business received funding for well-deserved professional development opportunities courtesy of gifts from El Paso Corporate Foundation. The corporation provides a total of $4,000 annually for faculty in accounting and information technology-related disciplines. Recipients for the most recent academic year are Dr. Robert Marcy, director of financial reporting, and Professor Audrey Margiotta, professor of accounting.

A Professor’s Gift: The June P. Wood Memorial Scholarship

When June Popham-Wood passed away last fall, she left UHD-Downtown the nicest possible compliment: a scholarship for outstanding math students.

To continue serving her beloved university in perpetuity, Wood designated UHD-Downtown as the beneficiary of her life-insurance policy and asked that the university devote the money to a scholarship, now called the June P. Wood Memorial Scholarship. In lieu of flowers, her family asked that friends donate to the scholarship fund.

Wood, a mathematics professor at UHD for many years, served as the chairman of the mathematics department, published numerous professional articles, wrote three college algebra textbooks, and received the Minnie Stevens Piper Award for outstanding teaching during her tenure with the university. Following her retirement, UHD-Downtown named her Professor Emerita of Mathematics in recognition of her dedication and excellence. She is survived by her daughter, Esther Wood-Wilson, and her son, Glen N. Wood, Jr., a former UHD-Downtown employee.

78th Texas Legislature: An Uncertain Time for Higher Education

For UHD-Downtown and other public universities, the prospect of a drastic reduction in state funding carries with it a certain irony, since the State of Texas has launched the College for Texans Campaign, which seeks to enroll an additional 300,000 academically prepared individuals in higher education by the year 2015.

UHD has always had to operate in an environment of limited resources,” said Dr. Castillo. “We are well prepared to make whatever adjustments are needed so that we may continue to serve our students effectively without sacrificing excellence in our academic programs or services.”

Four-fifths percent of UHD-Downtown’s operating budget comes from general revenue appropriations made by the Texas Legislature. Appropriations for all universities are based on a complex formula driven by the number and type of semester credit hours (SCHs) for which students enroll. SCHs for undergraduate courses generate less funding than those for graduate level courses; as a predominantly undergraduate institution, UHD-Downtown falls toward the bottom of the budgetary ladder, even when compared to peer institutions.

UHD will continue to monitor the fiscal discussion in Austin and develop plans in response to the legislature’s budget mandates.

Bragging Rights

National honors for UHD students: Three Scholars Academy students — Larry Bellot, Jannie Marie Dilber and Vedangi Sample — received awards at a national conference for Sigma Xi, the international honor society of science and engineering. The students made presentations at an undergraduate research event held in Galveston.

The Scientific Research Society is a nonprofit membership society of nearly 75,000 scientists and engineers who were elected to the Society because of their research achievements or potential. Sigma Xi has more than 500 chapters at universities and colleges, government laboratories and industry research centers.

International recognition for UHD professor: Dr. Rolando Pelaez, professor of finance, was ranked as one of the world’s 500 most-published economists in a study authored for the European Centre for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The study analyzed the frequency of publication by 131,000 economists in nearly 800 academic journals from around the globe.

New Director for Scholars Academy

UHD’s Scholars Academy has a new leader — Dr. Scottie Mouchaty — as of Sept. 1, who received her Ph.D. in Genetics from Lund University in Lund, Sweden. Dr. Mouchaty is responsible for guiding 100 students through the comprehensive program designed especially for students majoring in science, mathematics, engineering and computer science fields. Most students accepted into the academy value most specialized requirements receive renewable scholarships that pay for all tuition, fees, books and room and board for up to four years. Dr. Mouchaty’s experience prior to UHD-Downtown included work with the Human Genome Sequencing Center at Baylor College of Medicine. Pictured here are students Janice Marie Dilber (left) and Shalik Sharma.

Students Put Brains to Work for Habitat

Habitat for Humanity relies on the muscle power of volunteers in building homes for lower income families, and recently, the organization welcomed the collective brainpower of nearly 100 UHD students.

In this case, the students were in four different classes in the purchasing and supply chain management program — some of them at UHD’s location in downtown Houston, some at the UH System in Sugar Land.

Dr. Gary Stading, assistant professor in the Department of Management, Marketing and Business Administration, assigned his students to work together on a business plan to help Habitat prepare for an innovative venture called a restore.

Habitat already operates restores in other cities and is interested in opening one in the Houston area. The concept involves warehousing donated building materials for sale at low cost to independent or lower income builders and contractors, in addition to making the warehouse a staging area for Habitat’s ongoing housing construction projects.

Local corporations that worked with Dr. Stading’s students as mentors included ChevronTexaco and Eagle Global Logistics, Inc.
The new UH-Downtown President’s Alumni Society Council is off and running. Enthusiastic council members gathered for the first time to plan and hear an update on their alma mater and a briefing from UHD President Max Castillo.

The mission of the President’s Alumni Society Council is to advance the University through advocacy, financial support and an alumni perspective. A total of 25 members will serve on the council.

A number of slots remain unfilled, and you’re just the person to help us fill them (if you’re a UHD graduate, that is)! If you’re interested in serving, or if you know someone who would and/or should be, nominations are being accepted. Call Karen Allara-Chamberlin at 713-221-8045. She will e-mail, fax, or mail a nominating form.

Or, download a Microsoft Word version of the form from the UHD alumni website: www.uhd.edu/alumni.htm.

Meet UHD Alumna Rebecca Lopez

If UHD-Downtown weren’t a family affair for Rebecca Lopez (pictured in photo, above), she might not be a top computer analyst for ExxonMobil.

Rebecca’s brother and sister-in-law, both UH-Downtown students, encouraged Rebecca to try UHD-Downtown after a professor at another university brushed aside her questions, saying he wasn’t hired to teach, but to research. “If I hadn’t talked to my brother and sister-in-law, I would have walked away from school,” she said.

But after one class at UHD-Downtown, she decided to enroll full time. She loved it.

That didn’t mean she knew what to choose for a major, however. “I didn’t know what to do,” she said. “But a professor at UHD-Downtown made it clear to me. He saw me with a frown and asked what was bugging me. I told him I had just come out of Calculus 2 and I didn’t understand it. He said, ‘Well you’ll make sense of it, you’re good at that. You like puzzles, you like to analyze, you like to find solutions.’ He was right on target.

That’s the difference with UHD. Here, professors focus on the students.”

At ExxonMobil, where she solves business problems, Rebecca’s UHD-Downtown experience has helped her in yet another important way. “The diversity that I experienced in every single classroom really helped me work with diversity,” she said. “I don’t think that’s something other institutions have. You can’t stage it, it wouldn’t work. It’s a real-life setting at UHD.”

Today, Rebecca is a member of UHD-Downtown’s President’s Alumni Society Council, and she said it feels great to be a part of UHD-Downtown again. She hopes to get her alumni family members involved again, too.

After all, UHD-Downtown is still a family affair for Rebecca. Her son Stephen is a junior here.

New! Improved! More Alumni Info Online!

UHD’s website, www.uhd.edu, now brings you more information and opportunities to connect with your alma mater.

Log on to www.uhd.edu/alumni to find out more about the UHD Alumni Society, the new way that UHD-Downtown graduates can relate to the university. Make a gift online. View a listing of UHD’s donors and friends. Learn how to become a volunteer for UHD. See if your old classmates have made any changes in life.

And, let us know what else you’d like to see in the alumni section of the website. Use the “Please Contact Me” link to send in your thoughts.
Give So Others May Learn

You have the opportunity to give back to your alma mater through the Alumni Annual Fund. UHD needs continued giving from its alumni to support scholarships, student internships and faculty and staff professional development. A student may be calling you soon to request your support, and your gift of $50, $100, or $250 will make a difference.

• Scholarships: Did you have to worry about how you would pay for your education back when you were a student at UHD? Then you can understand how much a scholarship can mean. It could be the extra financial boost that allows an individual to work fewer hours and have more time to study. Or, a scholarship could eliminate the one barrier that prevents someone from being the first in their family to go to college. Your gift will support students with high academic merit and financial need.

• Student internships and service learning: UHD-Downtown provides its graduates with practical, relevant experience in their chosen academic or career fields. Thanks to partnerships with corporations, government and non-profit agencies, students can participate in academic conferences and gain experience in field-based internships that sharpen their understanding of the workplace.

In March 2002, a group of Dr. Alfredo Santos’s students attended and presented papers at the Southwest Social Science Association annual meeting in New Orleans. The students gained valuable real-life experiences presenting papers to an academic audience. They also attended panel discussions and met faculty members from other universities who motivated them to think about pursuing graduate studies after finishing at UHD. Students also have the choice to participate in service learning opportunities where they can apply their classroom knowledge for the benefit of the community— for example, through positions in social service agencies or at non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity.

• Faculty and staff professional development: Conferences and seminars can be real skill sharpeners for any professional in this rapidly changing world. Your gift to the Annual Alumni Fund could help UHD faculty stay current in their academic disciplines, which will translate to even better classroom experiences for their students.

You may be receiving a call, or you can now choose from various options to make your gift. Make a gift online or set up an electronic funds transfer gift at www.uhd.edu/alumni.htm. Or you can also mail your gift to: University Advancement Office, UHD-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.

For additional information about the Alumni Annual Fund, please contact Karen Paz Alfaro-Chamberlin at alfarok@uhd.edu or 713-221-8045.

2003 UHD Alumnus of the Year Nominations Due

Each year, UHD-Downtown honors one UHD alumnus for his or her leadership, service, and commitment to the university, the community, and his or her work or family life. In the past, UHD has named as Alumnus of the Year, Senator Mario Gallegos, Jr., and Rick Hartley, Executive Director of The 100 Club.

This year, the university will hold the Alumnus of the Year reception on the evening of May 9 in the Special Events Center on the third floor of the One Main building. All alumni are invited to attend the reception to congratulate the 2003 Alumnus of the Year and to meet the UHD President’s Alumni Society Council members and fellow alumni. Details will be available online soon.

Do you know a fellow alumnus whose hard work, devotion, and enthusiasm deserve UHD recognition? If so, please take a moment to complete the Alumnus of the Year nomination form available online at www.uhd.edu/alumni.htm and send it in by April 4. The university cannot honor its alumni without your help. See you on May 9!

Double the value of your gift!

Thanks to an anonymous donor, every new gift to the Alumni Annual Fund will be matched, dollar for dollar.

What’s New? Send a Note!

What’s going on in your life? Let your old UHD classmates know by sending in 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 email directly from the website at www.uhd.edu/alumni/notes.htm. Or, send an email to Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin at alfarok@uhd.edu. Or, mail your item to Karen at UHD-Downtown, One Main Street, Suite 990-S, Houston, Texas 77002.

Black history at UHD

On campus at a luncheon launching UHD’s Black History Month celebration is Joe Don Boney, Jr., former Houston city councilmember and mayor pro tem, standing with a portrait of his father, Dr. J. Don Boney, former Houston city councilmember and mayor. Keynote speaker at the luncheon was Congressmember Sheila Jackson Lee. Proceeds from the luncheon were designated for a scholarship in memory of the former university president.
UHD’s Taiwan Connection

UH-Downtown is an extraordinarily multicultural university and, thanks to a recently signed criminal justice department exchange program with Chung-Cheng University (CCU) in Taiwan, it’s about to get even more so.

The new CCU/UHD program will allow professors and students to spend time at their respective partner universities. Also, it opens the possibility for joint research activities, conferences, seminars, and academic meetings. Although both universities are still discussing logistics, the program could begin this summer with an exchange of both universities are still discussing logistics, the program could begin.

Dr. Hsiao-Ming Wang, an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice; Dr. Beth Pelz, associate professor and chair, both in UH-Downtown’s Criminal Justice Department; Dr. Michael Dressman, dean of UHD’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Wang; Dr. Beth Pelz; an associate professor and chair, both in UH-Downtown’s Criminal Justice Department; and Dr. Michael Dressman.

When a former colleague mentioned CCU as an institution that values internationalization, Dr. Wang went to UHD university president Max Castillo to discuss possible academic cooperation between UHD and CCU.

President Castillo’s interest sparked a mid-December trip to Taiwan for a UH-Downtown delegation consisting of Dr. Michael Dressman, the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Wang; Dr. Beth Pelz, an associate professor and chair, both in the Department of Criminal Justice; and Executive Director of University Advancement M. Anne Murphy.

In Taiwan, the delegation was graciously received by the president and faculty of CCU, the director general and staff of the MJIB, the director general and staff of the MJIB, and the president and faculty of Central Police University.

Dr. Dressman hopes the Taiwanese exchange students and professors will open a campus dialogue about life in other countries and cultures. “We have people from everywhere, but we haven’t worked to draw first-hand knowledge of their homelands from our faculty or our students. Coming fresh from a university in another country, I hope these Taiwanese students will make their backgrounds really part of the university experience,” Dressman said.

Like UHD, which was founded in 1974, CCU is a young and innovative university. Located in the southern area of Taiwan, it was officially founded in 1989 to commemorate the late president Ren C. Luo, Chung-Cheng University’s president.

The director of the department and of the Graduate Institute of Criminology, Dr. Shu-Lung Yang, will bring a return delegation to UH-Downtown in late March or early April.

Scholarships: Value for Life

Scholarships can be a reward for excellent academic performance or some other outstanding achievement, and quite often they are the bridge that helps a student attain the goal of a college education. In this feature, New Horizons introduces you to a UHD scholarship recipient and the alumna who made the scholarship possible.

Although Joyce Andrews has always loved crime dramas like “Law & Order,” her decision to major in criminal justice comes from a place closer to her heart — her brother. Joyce’s brother spent most of his childhood in the juvenile-detention system. “Being African-American right now, a lot of our kids have it really bad,” she said. “If you could get into their heads and prevent it before it goes even further, then you may not have such a high crime rate. I just want to do as much as I can to help.”

At UH-Downtown, Joyce joined Delta Sigma Theta, a public service sorority, and this year she was named vice president. She is planning an international-day of service in Spring 2003 that will increase AIDS awareness. “Delta Sigma Theta does a lot in the black community, trying to help people out,” she said.

Upon graduating in May 2002, Joyce began looking into a master’s program in juvenile forensics psychology at Prairie View A&M. She doesn’t know where her education might end. “I wasn’t planning on college — I was just going to get my associate’s. So, who knows. I might decide to get my Ph.D.”

Joyce worked full time every semester, and she often sought overtime hours to pay for school. Winning the Sharon’s Scholar scholarship last year helped her worry less about her accruing tuition. The Sharon’s Scholar scholarship is given by Sharon Matthews, a UH-Downtown alumna who wants to help others achieve the advantages she had when she was a student. Matthews graduated in 1996 with a degree in General Business.

Anyone can establish a scholarship for UHD students. The recommended amount for a named scholarship is $1000 or more. An endowed scholarship must be at least $10,000. Income from the endowment account will be used annually to support a named scholarship. For further information, contact Karen Alfaro-Chamberlin, at 713-221-8045.
Reaugh (1860-1945) came to Texas from the Midwest and developed a great respect for his adopted state. He began his career by sketching cattle in pastures near the family farm outside Terrell and on cattle drives from Texas to Kansas. After studying fine arts in the U.S. and Europe he returned to Texas to become a private instructor.

In Texas Monthly [11/01] writer Michael Ennis wrote: “Reaugh’s real magic lay in his often hazy, allusive color, as daring and original — despite its subtlety — as anything in the American landscape tradition.”

Foley’s is a longtime supporter of UH-Downtown, as well as other universities. Additionally, Foley’s has a long tradition of supporting organizations focused on education, such as Teach for America, Inroads, Junior Achievement and Communities in School.

In recent years the event’s growth and success has also enabled the university to establish the Dean’s, Enthusiasm, commitment and creativity are traits shared by the McCallum, Judy and Charles W. McCullough; and past ball honoree; David Hafner, Jr., Riviana Foods Inc., Company;  Bob Carlquist, The Houston Chronicle;  Ann Earnest, Company; Bob Carlquist, The Houston Chronicle;  Ann Earnest, AT&T, Glen Gondo, Gondo Company, Inc.; Joseph A. Haftner, Jr., Riviana Foods Inc., and past ball honoree; David Huckin, David Huckin & Associates, Inc.; Elizabeth Hwang, ExxonMobil U.S. HR Services; Jodie L. Jiles, Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc.; Larry G. Jones, Deloitte & Touche, L.L.P., past chair of two Red Rose Balls; Yolanda Lendonio, JPMorgan Chase, a past ball co-chair; Gasper Mir III, Mir, Fox and Rodriguez, P.C.; Ed Monto; Beth Robertson, Cockspur, Inc.; Elijo Serrano, Eagle Global Logistics, Inc.; William Swanstrom, Joche, Liddell and Sapp, Eugene H. Vaughan, Jr., Vaughan, Nelson, Scarborough & McCullough; George Wilson, Foley’s; and Rosie Zamora, Telesurveys Research Associates, a past ball honoree.

Red Rose Endowments Visionary donors are creating named endowments to ensure the income from a $60,000 endowment provides one scholarship annually for a deserving student.

Red Rose Ball 2003: Fun with a Purpose

Gala Committee is "On the Ball"

Enthusiasm, commitment and creativity are traits shared by the members of the Red Rose Ball 2003 Committee, co-chaired by Tom Harper, chairman, The Procurement Center, and Don Wang, chairman and CEO, MetroBank, N.A.

Committee members include Joe Adams, Union Pacific Railroad.


Red Rose Endowments Visionary donors are creating named endowments to ensure the success of the Red Rose Scholarship program for years to come. The income from a $50,000 endowment provides one scholarship annually for a deserving student.

Red Rose Ball 2003 endowments to date have been established by Hai Du Duong, Carol and Tom Harper, Sue Hsiao and Ming and Don Wang. The first Red Rose endowments were established last year by the Marian and Speros Martel Foundation and from Ralph S. O’Connor.

Red Rose Table Sales At this printing, the following generous corporations, foundations and individuals have stepped forward to support the Red Rose Ball. Gold underwriter tables at the $10,000 level, include Deloitte & Touche L.P., El Paso Corp., Foley’s, and Union Pacific Foundation. Silver underwriters for $5,000 are the Blanton and Wareing Families, JPMorgan Chase, Locke Liddell & Sapp, Lockton Insurance Agency of Houston, Ocean Energy, Reliant Energy, Riviana Foods/Vaughan Nelson Scarborough & McCullough, Judy and Charles W. Tate, and the UH System.


All table buyers, donors and other contributors will be noted in the next issue of New Horizons.
Red Rose Scholars: Stories to Admire, Stories that Inspire

The 2003 Red Rose Scholarships recognize 25 individuals for their outstanding academic achievements, leadership potential, community service, and commitment to higher education. As many Red Rose Scholars work to support their families and to pay for their educations, these scholarships are the most valuable honor the university could provide: $3,000 to cover costs for the next academic year.

Each scholarship recipient will be honored at the Red Rose Ball on March 28. Here are just a few of the students that, as one professor noted, “are outstanding in every facet of their lives.”

**Sara Deckard**, age 28, is a full-time criminal justice major who is married with two young children. After obtaining her bachelor’s degree from UH-Downtown, Sara plans to earn a Ph.D. in criminal justice so that she can teach at the university level. In doing so, she has excellent role models: her mother, grandmother, and uncle are all college professors. Sara is primarily interested in the history, philosophy, and inclusion of women in the criminal justice system in America. In addition to her studies and extracurricular activities at UHD, Sara maintains a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) and serves as the treasurer of Alpha Phi Sigma, the criminal justice honor society. She volunteers in donation drives, Galveston’s Adapt-a-Beach program, the annual Houston Thanksgiving Feast, and serves as an active member of the parentteacher organization at her son’s school.

**Victor Kaiser**, age 36, works full-time as a medical laboratory technician at Memorial Hermann Hospital while studying computer science part-time at UHD. He plans to join the newly-formed health informatics profession, which applies computer technology and information science in the health care arena to reduce the inefficiency, high cost, and high error rates of clinical practice. At UH-Downtown, where he maintains a 4.0 GPA, Victor is a member of the Scholars Academy, tutors in discrete math and computer science, and has presented a poster on clinical decisions support systems at the Student Research Conference. In addition, Victor is active in his church and is a committed husband and father to three young children.

**Mai Lam**, age 20, is a full-time chemistry major who plans to attend medical school before becoming an obstetrician-gynecologist. At UHD, she is active in the Scholars Academy; is a member of the Student Government Association; volunteers for student projects such as the Student Leadership Conference, Make a Difference Day, and Bayou Clean-Up; and works in UH-Downtown’s Center for Applied Polymer Science Research Laboratory, for which she has presented her research findings at the UHD Student Research Conference and at the Sigma Xi Student Conference. In addition to her school commitments, Mai is an active and involved wife and mother of a toddler son, Nick.

**Harry Ogbogu**, age 23, is an international student from Nigeria who studies computer information systems and finance full-time at UHD while financially and emotionally helping to support his three siblings, one of whom is eleven years old. Harry plans to teach high school and study for a master’s degree in management information systems. Ultimately, he hopes to open a telecommunications and software consulting firm that specializes in working for nonprofit organizations. At UHD, Harry works in the Department of Student Activities; is the president of the Student Government Association and is involved with a number of student organizations, and he regularly volunteers for a variety of community organizations. Harry is a returning Red Rose Scholar — he was honored with this scholarship in 2002.

**Linda Peña**, age 51, studies English full-time at UH-Downtown. She plans to use her degree to become a high school English teacher — a long-standing goal. At UHD, Linda maintains a 4.0 GPA while serving as the treasurer of the English Club and the assistant house manager for the O’Kane Theatre. She is establishing an English honor society and an organization for nontraditional students. In addition to her UH-Downtown activities, Linda is a wife and the mother of three college students and she is a caretaker for her father, who has stomach cancer, and her niece, who is in high school. She is an after-school tutor, a religious education teacher, a member of the Texas A&M University parents group, volunteers numerous hours each week in area public schools, and makes and sells birthday and wedding cakes to support her own college education.

**New Horizons** is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing, UH-Downtown, and distributed to friends of the university with updates on campus activities. Call 713-221-8010 for more information or e-mail: ballardb@uhd.edu.

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