

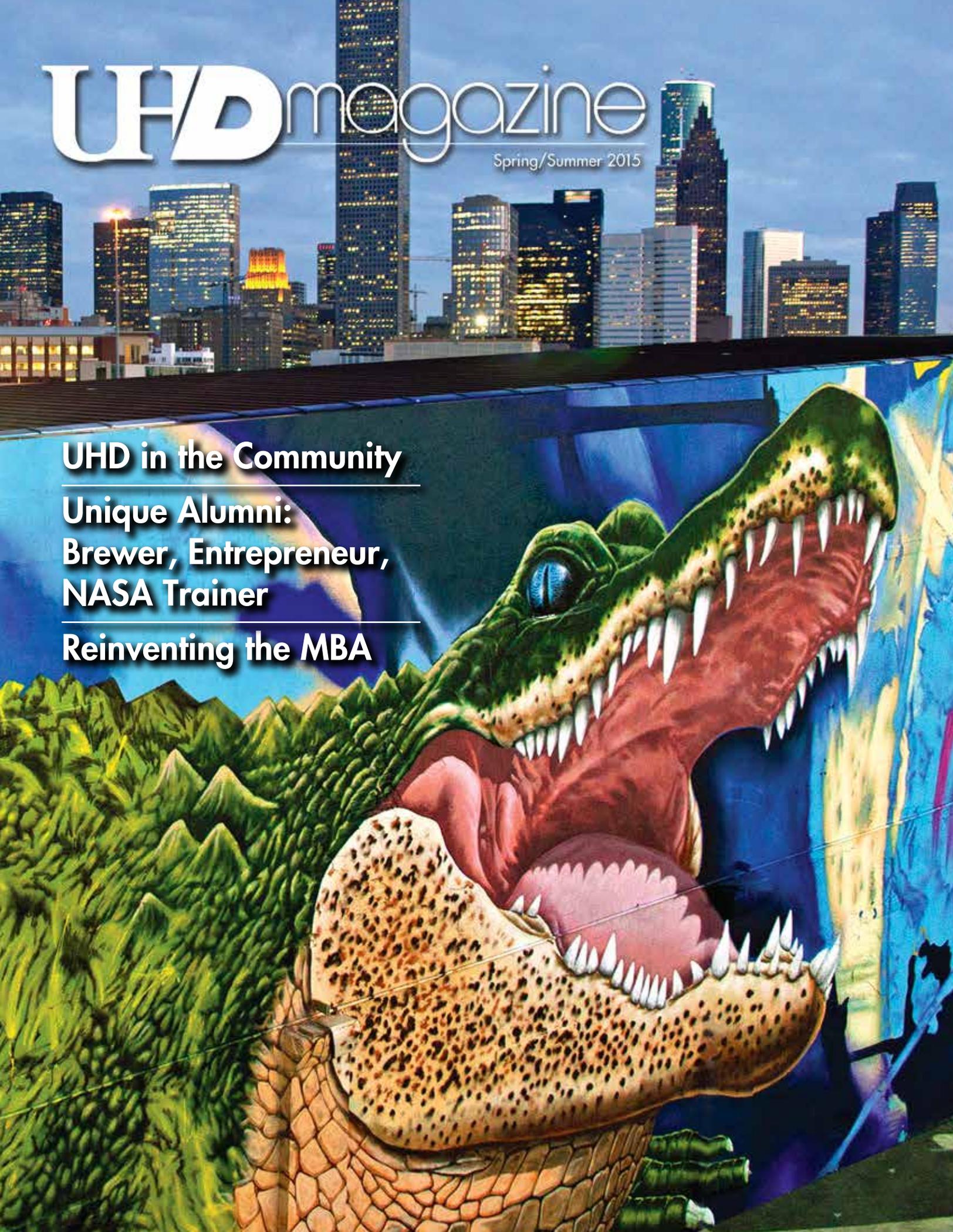
UHD magazine

Spring/Summer 2015

UHD in the Community

**Unique Alumni:
Brewer, Entrepreneur,
NASA Trainer**

Reinventing the MBA



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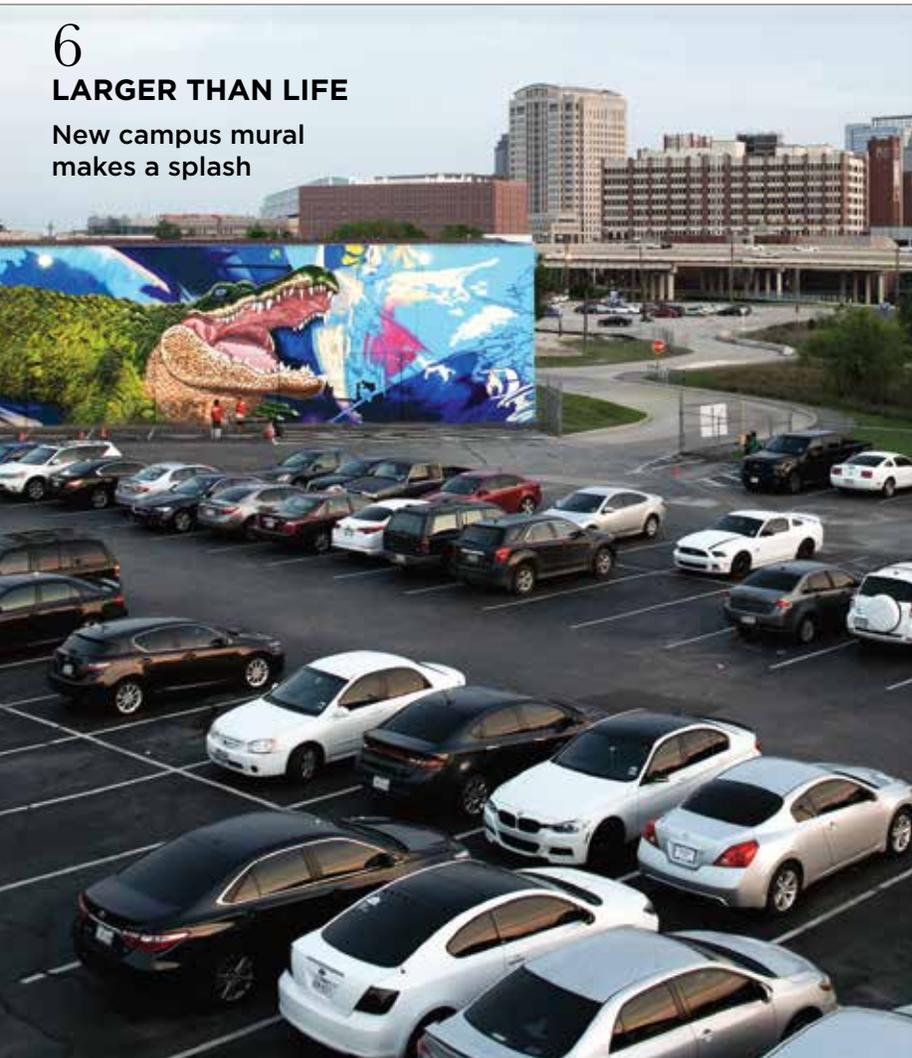




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Hardworking, exceptional faculty members are the lifeblood of our University, and it is my distinct pleasure to annually recognize our most outstanding with UHD Faculty Awards.

While these award winners and nominees each bring unique strengths to their roles, they all share one common – and essential – characteristic. And that is an unwavering dedication to student success.

The professors, adjuncts and lecturers highlighted on these pages unite their passions for their fields with an above-and-beyond mindset that ignites students' own desire for learning and achievement.

These stalwarts of service, scholarship and research are excellent examples in the classroom for students, as well as academic leaders who extend their expertise off campus through professional organizations and widespread community engagement.

On that topic of service to our community, I'd also like to recognize the UHD faculty, staff and students whose tireless efforts throughout Greater Houston have recently garnered national attention. I'm proud to share that UHD is one of only five universities in Texas – and the only institution in Houston – to earn the Carnegie Foundation 2015 Community Engagement Classification.

Please read more about this prestigious national award on page 17 of this issue.

I am proud of the transformative impact UHD has on our region and for our hardworking faculty and staff who help make this possible. I invite you to join us as we continue to build students' futures and further enhance our community – one issue and life at a time.

Dr. William V. Flores, President
University of Houston-Downtown

Faculty Award Winners



Excellence in Service

“My overall service philosophy is that service to UHD, the profession, and the community are interrelated and should be student-centered. It is my honor to serve at UHD and my pleasure to sow seeds of major opportunities for student success.”

Hsiao-Ming Wang,
Criminal Justice

Faculty Award Finalists



Excellence in Service

“I believe deeply in the value of service to the workplace, profession, community and world. The service of faculty members at UHD allows the University to fulfill its vital function in educating minds and preparing students for satisfying professional careers.”

Susan Henney,
Social Sciences



Excellence in Teaching

“To me, the most important aspect of an excellent teacher is commitment to student success. I strive to truly motivate students to understand the subject matter on a deeper level, provide means to acquire knowledge independently, instill passion for life-long learning, stimulate their ability to think critically, and mentor students to help them succeed and achieve their goals.”

Rachna Sadana,
Natural Sciences



Excellence in Scholarly/ Creative Activity

“Engaging in research allows me to satisfy my curiosity about the world around us, and to inspire the same curiosity in my students. Nothing is more exciting than finally figuring out the answer to a question you have wondered about for a long time.”

Amy Baird,
Natural Sciences



Outstanding Lecturer

“I believe that stimulating interest in the subject matter and promoting critical thinking skills are the two most important components of a thoughtful teaching philosophy. My goal is for students at UHD to experience the course concepts as applicable to real-life situations so that learning extends beyond the classroom. By being enthusiastic and open-minded, I try to create a warm and safe environment that engenders a spirit of collaborative learning.”

Kristen Capuozzo,
Social Sciences



Outstanding Adjunct

“As a retired police officer with over 34 years of experience in the criminal justice system, I have the desire to expose our students to the various career opportunities in our area so they will not only learn in theory, but will be able to apply the knowledge they learn in the classroom with real-life career decisions.”

Lois Dewey,
Criminal Justice



Excellence in Teaching

“I learn so much from the interests, life stories and experience my students share through their writing. My biggest reward at the end of the semester is to see students who are effective technical and professional communicators. In fact, they have always been effective communicators, but did not know it, or needed help to discover their talents.”

Natalia Matveeva,
English



Excellence in Scholarly/ Creative Activity

“Like my teaching and service, my research is driven by the intellectual and political desire to ask and answer questions about social justice. In terms of research practice, my professional energies are directed toward questions aimed at exposing the everyday, seemingly benign, ordinary manifestations of institutionalized, systemic inequality.”

Kristin Anderson,
Social Sciences



Outstanding Lecturer

“In my teaching, I strive to provide my students the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful professionals in the workplace. In order to provide that learning experience, I must work constantly to incorporate best practices into my classroom and online teaching.”

Richard Ogle,
English



Outstanding Adjunct

“I love the challenges and rewards associated with teaching philosophy to the diverse students here at UHD.”

Christopher Lay,
Social Sciences

B

eware the giant, fierce alligator in the student parking lot. Don't worry, it won't bite you. It's just a mural, and it could become a hot spot for selfies on campus.

"It's a fun and fascinating landmark for all of Houston to enjoy; a pleasure for light rail riders to see as they travel through campus," said Diane Summers, UHD executive director of university relations. "It provides a sense of pride for our students who park next to it each day."

Sprucing up the north side of the old brick storage room adjacent to the student parking lot at Main Street and I-10, the mural can be seen by students in the parking lot, as well by METRORail riders headed southbound toward downtown Houston.

The alligator mural, a fresh take on UHD's mascot, is a creation of Sebastien "Mr. D" Boileau, professional graffiti artist, muralist and owner of EyeFull Art. Boileau says the mural's design is symbolic of students going into the real world after graduating college.

"There's a meaning behind it. The gator is pictured bursting out into their wall, representing UHD students who are preparing to break out into their professional careers," Boileau said.

On the south side of the building, which faces I-10, is another eye-catching mural of UHD's logo and tagline, "Major Opportunity." This mural will become an iconic landmark for UHD.

"If people see there's a giant mural on the side of a building, they'll no longer need a street number to find it," Boileau said. "The wall gives the campus more visibility. It makes a cool statement in the urban landscape."

Boileau is known for his large-scale murals, many of which are popular spots for residents and tourists to take selfies. One of his most well-known masterpieces in Houston is on the side of Biscuit Home, a home decor store in Montrose. Called "Biscuit Paint Wall," the mural features a row of bright colors poured from the top of the wall to the ground, representing the bright colors of items sold in the store. The mural even has its own social media hashtag, #biscuitpaintwall.

Boileau also recently painted "Preservons la Creation" ("Preserve the Creation"), a mural of a muscular god-like image floating across the wall with an outstretched hand holding a spray can. The mural is inspired by Michelangelo's famous Renaissance painting, "The Creation of Adam," on the ceiling of Italy's Sistine Chapel.

"Preservons la Creation is the largest mural in Houston," said Boileau of his 10,000-square-foot, five-story mural that spans the entire city block at 2800 San Jacinto St.

Mark Cervenka, art professor and director of UHD's O'Kane Gallery, attended the unveiling of Preservons last summer in Midtown.

"The focus of this project was to do something imposing and dramatic that could make a statement and engage the students, enliven the area," Cervenka said. "It creates a good public presence for the University in a way that is accessible to our students, especially our younger students, many of whom are familiar with street art. It's a win-win all the way around."

The result of Boileau's vision is a striking rendition of the mascot and a mark of UHD's vitality as an urban university that millions will recognize off the freeway and light rail.

LARGER THAN LIFE

Gator mural makes a splash in downtown Houston

By: Julian Cavazos

Did you know? The muralists used more than 100 gallons of paint, in addition to 300 cans of water-based spray paint donated by Liquitex. Take a look behind the scenes at www.uhdgatorwall.com.

Gorilla Marketing

Boileau's latest project involves painting a mural of another wild animal: gorillas.

To promote the Houston Zoo's new gorilla habitat set to open this year, the zoo hired Boileau and four other local muralists to each paint a mural of gorillas around town.

"It's a form of advertising, but done in such a cool way," Boileau said, whose gorilla mural can be seen at the corner of Washington Avenue and Hemphill Street. "They're using modern media and social media to promote it. It fits in with the edgy approach that UHD is taking on. The zoo wants to target a young audience."

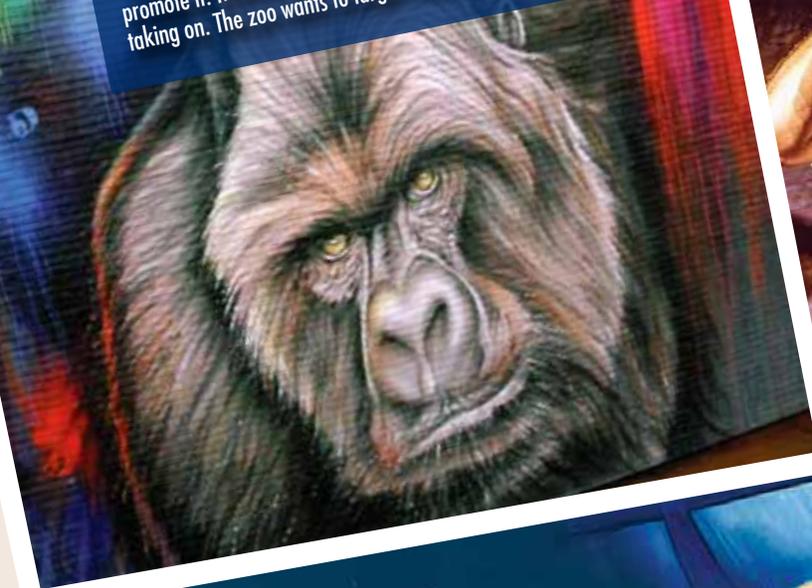


Photo by Aisha Khan/AMA Photography

Preservons la Creation is the largest mural produced in the Houston Metro area. It was produced in partnership with Texan French alliance, Up Art Studio and the midtown management district.



THE UHD MBA PROGRAM
INTENDS TO SERVE HOUSTON'S
VAST CONCENTRATION OF
WORKING PROFESSIONALS.

DREAMSTIME PHOTO

REINVENTING THE **m**ba

BY: AMANDA JACKSON

The Master of Business Administration program at UHD has received a lot of attention lately.

In 2014, the Houston Business Journal ranked UHD's MBA program as the fourth-largest MBA program in the Houston area, up from No. 13 the year before. More than 350 students enrolled in the program in fall 2014, an astounding increase from its initial enrollment of 20

students just two years prior.

So, what is happening in the Shea Street Building that has graduate students banging on the doors to get in? Mike Fields, dean of the College of Business, says the answer is simple — UHD is reinventing the MBA.

"People want to be a part of our program because it works, and it works because students are at the center of the process," Fields said. "When the faculty has that common focus, they are willing to try new things and test the limits to provide the best education possible for our students."

CORPORATE-DRIVEN CONCENTRATIONS

Fields and his team brainstormed about

innovative ways to create a valuable and competitive MBA program. They began with one overarching goal — to help students land top jobs in business.

The team decided the best way to do this was to consult people with hiring power.

First, they identified the five high-demand concentrations in business: finance, human resources, leadership, investment and supply chain management. Then, the college invited industry professionals from 35 companies, including Coca-Cola, JPMorgan Chase and Shell to define a corporate-driven curriculum for each concentration.

At each session, industry leaders gathered at UHD and identified 60 to 70 competencies specific to their field of work. These competencies were divided into five to six categories, which would become courses. Finally, each course was assigned a name and a set of learning objectives.

"These corporate representatives gathered in a room and said, 'These are the skills we want to see in our new hires. People who know this are the clear choice for a promotion,'" said Fields. "Now, it's our job to ensure graduates of our program meet those standards."

CORPORATE FELLOWS AND THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM

The next phase in the MBA development process was to change the way students and faculty engage in the classroom. In the "flipped" classroom model, students view pre-recorded lectures prior to attending class, leaving classroom time open for asking questions, discussing concepts and exploring real-world applications.

A team composed of a faculty member and a corporate fellow teaches each course. The professor instructs students on the academic theories related to the subject, while the corporate fellow reinforces every lesson with a practical application.

"The corporate fellows are not just guest lecturers; these are experts in their respective fields who work alongside professors in every session to offer our students real-world examples of the concepts and theories they are learning," explained Fields.

Designed with working professionals in mind, the program's flexibility is another major draw for prospective students. The flipped classroom format allows students to view lectures in three- to five-minute modules, making it easy to fit them into busy schedules. Each course is eight weeks long, and classes meet only one night per week. This setup allows students to choose their preferred pace and earn an MBA in one, two or



DEAN MIKE FIELDS

A DISCUSSION-BASED
UHD MBA CLASSROOM



SHEA STREET BUILDING, UHD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

“I want to see the day when every employer in the region is confident that a UHD business student is the best possible hire because they know exactly what our students are capable of.” — DEAN MIKE FIELDS

three years.

Tim Johnson, a current MBA student, said, “The hybrid format made the program very manageable. As a business professional, I learned many things in the classroom that I was able to apply directly to my current position.”

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As for Fields, he has big plans for the future of the MBA at UHD. He says the program will stick to its three main objectives: to recruit serious business students, to teach them what they need to know, and to launch them into

successful careers.

The college plans to implement its corporate-driven development method to redesign its nine undergraduate programs for fall 2015. More than 120 professionals from top corporations already have committed to the task.

“I want to see the day when every employer in the region is confident that a UHD business student is the best possible hire because they know exactly what our students are capable of,” said Fields. “That day is not far away.”



UHD MBA STUDENTS AND WORKING PROFESSIONALS AARON ROFFWARG, LINDSEY PATILLO AND ARTHUR THOMAS



A Family in the Family

Five relatives—four brothers and their brother-in-law—all are enrolled at UHD simultaneously. From taking classes together, to participating in student activities, the family enjoys spending time together both on-and off-campus.

“We’re better when we’re together,” said brother Michaelalli Bolden, 26. “When we’re apart, it doesn’t feel right. Being around my brothers is the best feeling ever. I never want to be apart from them. That’s my heart.”

Through thick and thin, the family has only grown closer through trials and hardship.

-----Starting Over-----

Originally from New Orleans, the family evacuated to the Houston area in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina. Located in the Lakeview area of New Orleans where the 17th Street canal levee breached, their home was amongst tens of thousands destroyed and deemed uninhabitable.

“It was like something that you see in the movies,” said brother James Wilson. “Everything was annihilated.”

The family relocated to Sugar Land temporarily before resettling in Spring, where they began a new chapter of their lives together.

“We had to start all over,” said Michaelerallien Bolden, who was 13 at the time. “My mom lost everything— all kinds of pictures, family albums and documents.”

-----Studying at UHD-----

Throughout their lives, the brothers’ parents have always encouraged them to attend college.

After high school, Michaelerallien was in search for a college. Ultimately, he chose UHD because of its learning environment and affordable tuition.

“I knew the smaller classes at UHD would help me connect with my professors and learn better,” said Michaelerallien, who enrolled in fall 2011 and is double majoring in accounting and management.

Hearing about his brother’s experience, Wilson, 33, enrolled the following semester.

“I saw that Michaelerallien was going to school and decided I should get my degree to have a better chance for my own life and start my own path,” said Wilson, a biochemistry major.

Next came brother-in-law Jerald Robinson, who chose to return to school to support his wife and two children.

“I had previously attended another university, but then my mom got diagnosed with cancer, so I put my college education on hold,” said Robinson. “But once Michaelerallien went to school, that motivated me to go back and finish so that I can make a better life for my kids and me.”

Following Robinson was Michaelerauls Bolden, who said going to the same school as his brothers made his transition into college easier.

“I didn’t want to go to another college by myself, so I thought it would be best for me to come here with my brothers,” Michaelerauls, 20, said. “It was nice to have somebody show me the ropes.”

Then came Michaelalli Bolden, who was attracted to UHD’s science program.

“Since I was young, my brothers and I had this strong bond, which made me want to come here,” Michaelalli said. “I also had found a



By: Julian Cavazos

There's a lot of brotherly love for one family at the University of Houston-Downtown.

What's in a name?

With the exception of James Wilson, all of the Bolden brothers' names are a variation of Michael: Michael, Michaelerallien, Michaeralli, Michaelerauls, and Michaelerano. They are all named after their father, whose name is Michael.

"It's a tradition," Michaelerallien said. "People don't believe that all of us are named Michael. Our mom was in love with that name."

When they have families of their own one day, they plan to name their sons Michael as well.

Band of brothers

All the brothers are musically talented: James Wilson raps and writes poems/songs; Michaeralli plays the guitar; Michaelerauls writes poetry and songs; Michaelerallien plays the violin and piano; and Robinson plays the trumpet, saxophone and drums.

"We have some serious sessions together," Michaeralli said. "It's fun."

Writing a book

Michaelerallien and Wilson are writing a science fiction novel together.

"It's about aliens taking over the world, but in a political sense," Michaelerallien said. "One alien becomes U.S. president, while other aliens become other world leaders."

They have received support from UHD faculty as well.

"We gave it to a couple of professors, and they liked it," Michaelerallien said. "They encouraged us to finish it. It sounds even better after their feedback."

Once the book is finalized, they plan to reach out to publishers.

passion for geology, so I decided to major in that."

Just three semesters ago, the Boldens' two sisters were also UHD students, though they have gone on to do other things. Now, the brothers are trying to recruit their two other brothers, Michael and Michaelerena, to attend UHD next semester.

"If they come, then all of us would have attended UHD at some point," Michaelerallien said.

My brother, my friend

Throughout their time at UHD, the brothers have often been classmates, studying everything from literature to history together.

"It's good that we're all in the same classes so we can study together and get a feel for how each other learn," Robinson, 26, said. "Who knows your strengths and weaknesses better than your brothers?"

When they aren't studying, they like to participate in campus activities together, such as playing basketball in the Student Life Center. There's enough of them to have their own basketball team.

"Other students don't want to play against us because they know we're going to win," Robinson joked.

Looking ahead

Though each brother is in a different school year at UHD, it's important for them to see one another graduate. This would make them the first college graduates in their family.

"Our goal is to graduate summa cum laude, which requires a GPA of 3.75 or above," Robinson said. "I'm going to make sure everyone sticks to it."



Above: Students gathered with 100 Club leaders to express their gratitude and tell their personal stories at an event this spring.

Below: The president hosts a private reception for Red Rose scholars in the 40,000 Windows Cafe.



The 100 Club, Red Rose Scholarship donors reach giving milestones during UHD's 40th year

By: Amanda Jackson

Students come to UHD in pursuit of various ambitions – from becoming the first in their family to graduate college to moving up on the corporate ladder. Repeatedly, graduates have said financial aid and scholarships, paired with UHD's competitive tuition rates, made their goals attainable. More than 1,200 UHD students have received The 100 Club and Red Rose Scholarships, each of which has reached a significant milestone this year.

The 100 Club

The 100 Club is a nonprofit organization that funds scholarships for law enforcement officers to further their education in criminal justice. In addition, the club is dedicated to supporting the dependents of firefighters and law officers who have died in the line of duty by paying their debts and providing an education for their children, and providing life-protecting equipment for local law enforcement agencies. The 100 Club has a long history with UHD, and has provided nearly \$4 million in scholarships to criminal justice students, benefiting more than 750 graduates.

At a recent luncheon honoring the organization, Brian Aguilar of Montgomery County Sheriff's Office fought back tears as he shared the impact of his 100 Club scholarship. Aguilar, who was forced to drop out of high school after taking off time to nurse a sick relative, earned a GED in 2001. He started college in 2002, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice in December 2014.

"It took me 12 years, but I did it. In the meantime, I built a beautiful family and served the police department. I couldn't have done it without the financial help I received from The 100 Club," said Aguilar.

The 100 Club has a membership of more than 30,000 individuals who support its mission with an annual minimum membership donation of \$100. One-hundred percent of the organization's funding comes from individuals and businesses.

Red Rose Scholarship Fund

The Red Rose Scholarship – the University's most recognized, longest-running scholarship program – has been one of the highest honors for UHD students since its inception in 1981. The fundraising event was founded by former UHD students and brothers Armando, Albert and Ricky Diaz, who went door-to-door requesting corporate support for the young University's students. The ambitious family tapped into their extensive network of friends and family to host the inaugural Red Rose Ball, selling tables to launch the scholarship and featuring entertainment by the widely recognized Ricky Diaz Orchestra. The first ball attracted more than 800 Houstonians and raised approximately \$25,000 to launch the long-standing legacy of the Diaz family.

The Red Rose scholarship has since made the dream of a college degree a reality for nearly 500 UHD students, and continues to support about 25 students each year. The Red Rose Scholarship committee selects recipients based on their academic achievements, leadership ability and potential for future contributions to the Houston community. Individual endowments and contributions totaling more than \$1 million to-date ensure that the Red Rose Scholarship will continue to support UHD students well into the future.



University Honors Program Takes Off

By: Toni Sims

Last fall, UHD launched the University Honors Program. Directed by social sciences Professor Mari Nicholson-Preuss, the program promotes intellectual curiosity, supports academic achievement, and provides an enriched University experience for exceptional students.

Students in the Honors Program receive credit for completing customized coursework within the context of regular academic courses. The program encourages students to participate in special projects that involve working one-on-one with faculty members in their respective departments.

As director, Nicholson wants to take her students higher. Known for her enthusiasm and dedication, she prides herself on creating opportunities for students to participate in research and community volunteering, creating a support system for their holistic development.

“Truly successful students benefit fully from their University experience by seizing every opportunity they are given to grow as scholars, citizens and critical thinkers,” said Nicholson. “Sometimes, even the most gifted students don’t recognize the opportunities that are available at UHD. My role is to help high-ability students make the most of their undergraduate education.”

Honor students exemplify community engagement

The Honors Program considers community engagement a critical characteristic of its students. For many, that means pursuing their passions and interests in the communities surrounding the University. Here is a look at how honors students engage with the Houston community.



Estefania Rodriguez

Interdisciplinary studies (elementary education) student, Estefania Rodriguez, volunteered in an interactive forum entitled, “Linked Futures: Communities, Higher Education, and the Changing World of Work,” a deliberation on ways in which Houston communities and higher education can collaborate to guarantee students’ success post-graduation.

“This was my first time volunteering and it was amazing,” said Rodriguez. “I got the opportunity to have my voice heard and discuss ideas that would provide feedback for bigger actions.”

Eisha Khan

After discussing international affairs with the United Nations Secretary General’s spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, political science major Eisha Khan secured a spot on the United Nations Association symposium to discuss the UN post-2015 Development Agenda. As a participant, Khan expressed issues that directly and indirectly affect college students.



“I hope that such experiences will help me address global issues as I plan to practice international law in the future,” said Khan.



Patrick Taveechai

Computer science major Patrick Taveechai worked with Comp-U-Dopt, a nonprofit organization that provides refurbished computers and technology education to children in underserved communities of the Greater Houston area. Taveechai saw firsthand the impact computer literacy had on the education and self-confidence of young students.

“I learned how doing something so minor can contribute a lot, even if you don’t see it with your own eyes,” said Taveechai.

40th Anniversary Gala Raises Over \$420,000

Student, Alumna testimonies inspire Houston leaders to lend support

*A*t UHD's recent sold-out fundraiser, Celebrating 40 Years: University of Houston-Downtown Gala, the inspiring words of a current student and a recent graduate drew a few tears and raised funds for life-changing scholarships that help ensure UHD students' success.

Event Chairs Deanna and Gilbert Garcia and Clarease and Cary Yates spearheaded the gala, which drew business, community and legislative leaders from throughout the Houston region. In total, the gala raised over \$420,000, which will provide scholarships for approximately 250 students in the coming academic year.

Dressed in a sharp suit and a show-stopping smile, UHD accounting major Carlon Johnson shared his educational journey with a packed ballroom of 420 people at the newly renovated JW Marriott Houston Downtown. "I am the product of a single-parent household and I knew that my mother would never be able to send my brothers and me to college. So, I applied for several scholarships and grants and — through this University — I have covered my tuition each semester."

He continued, "It has not been easy to work 50 hours a week at two jobs and still find time to study and maintain my GPA. But, because of the opportunities I found at UHD, I'll be the first in my

family to graduate from college — employable and debt free — in fall 2015."

UHD alumna and social worker Maria Chavez-Berry shared his thoughts from the stage. "Ten years ago, referring to myself as a college graduate seemed only a dream. For a mother of four, full-time employee and wife, choosing a university to achieve my dream of earning a degree was an arduous undertaking.

"While I now pursue my graduate degree in social work, I have not forgotten my UHD family. My professors were not only inspirational educators, but mentors who left an indelible mark on my life and future. Without UHD, I would not be where I am today, nor would I have the self-confidence I need to help others, inspire change in my community — and one day — change the world."

President Flores concluded the evening by sharing, "Each day, I meet students who inspire me and I know their future is bright — as is Houston's — because of the education they received at UHD. Your invaluable support of our students and programs further expand UHD's Major Opportunity for the more than 14,000 students who call UHD home."



Celebrating 40 Years





Celebrating 40 Years
University of Houston Distinguished

Wine Pull
\$25 per cork pull

Wine generously donated
 by friends of UHD

Take a special bottle of wine home with you tonight after the Anniversary celebration. Pull a cork that designates one of 100 bottles of wine. Included are wineries from Texas, Napa Valley and other wineries.

The following wines are represented in the collect:

- Franciscan Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley, 2011
- Hank Winery Blanc Dubois Madiera Desert Wine, 2011
- Drift Estate Winery Reserve Shiraz, 2012
- Perrin Winery Tempranillo, 2013
- Purple Angel by Moxie, 2007
- Chateau Gaudin Merlot, 2005

UHD
40 YRS

Co-Chairs Gilbert



UHD Student Carlon Johnson, UHD alumna Maria Chaves-Berry and gala Chair Gilbert Garcia



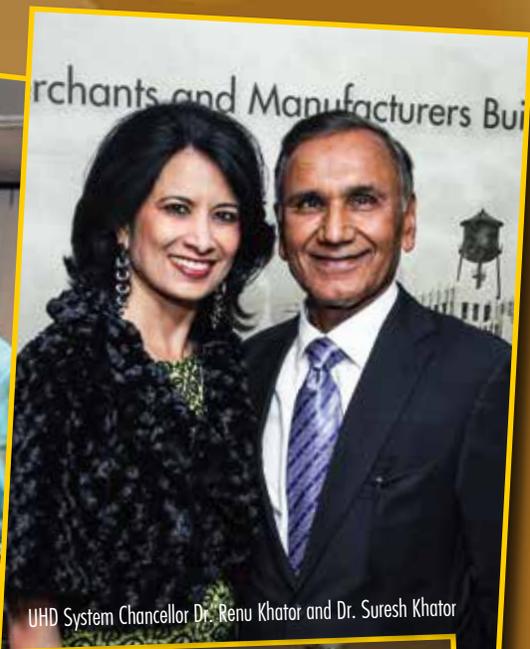
President Dr. William Flores and Dr. Noël Bezette-Flores with Houston's First Lady Kathy Hubbard and Mayor Annise Parker



Co-Chairs Cary and Clarease Yates with Dr. William Flores



and Dr. Deanna Garcia



UHD System Chancellor Dr. Renu Khator and Dr. Suresh Khator



Former UH System Regent Welcome Wilson Sr., Dr. Noël Bezette-Flores, Dr. William Flores and UH System Regent Welcome Wilson Jr.



Dr. Rosario Martinez Castillo and UHD President Emeriti Dr. Max Castillo and their daughter, Patricia Harris

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Motivated Scholar

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Determined Scholar

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Joel Abramowitz and Rita Berger | Fidelity Investments | San Jacinto College |
| Amegy Bank | Fiesta Mart | Ellen and Jim Seigler |
| Aramark | HNTB | Silver Eagle Distributors |
| Barnes & Noble College | Houston Community College | SSC-Services for Education |
| Jacquelyn & Brennan Birchak | Houston Eye Associates | Anne and Bill Stewart |
| BoyarMillar | Houston First Corporation | Sheila Melyn Turner, '98 |
| Dr. Dorothy E.F. Caram | Donna and Edward T. Hugetz | TWEF-International |
| CenterPoint Energy | Iberia Bank | UT-Health |
| Chase | Lone Star College | Vaughn Construction |
| Fred DeRoode and Diane Olson | Walter P. Moore | Voya Financial, formerly ING |
| EarthColor | Petro Amigos Supply Inc. | Wilson Architectural Group |
| Enterprise Rent-A-Car | PGAL | Cate Woods, '97, '99 |
| | Porsche of West Houston | |

Sponsor Couple

| | | |
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| Linda and Les Allison | Gensler | The Honorable Caroll Ray |
| Liza Alonzo, '02 and Albert Alonzo, '03 | Jonmar Electric | The Honorable Beth Robertson |
| Janet and David Bradley | Dr. Ralph and Barbara Kauffman | Regina Rogers |
| Dr. Max Castillo and | Kathryn and The Honorable | Tellepsen |
| Dr. Rosario Martinez-Castillo | James L. Ketelsen | Dr. Amy Sater and Dr. Akif Uzman |
| Laquitta DeMerchant, '97 | Lincoln National Life Insurance | Dr. Leigh and Jerry Van Horn |
| Dolores and Raul Dominguez | Ivonne and Brian Montalbano | The Honorable Welcome Wilson Jr. |
| Estrada Hinojosa and Co. | Miriam Morales, '01 | The Honorable Welcome Wilson Sr. |
| Dr. Mike and Lori Fields | Ralph S. O'Connor | Johanna and Richard Wolfe |
| Dr. DoVeanna Fulton and son, Israel Fulton | Richards/Carlberg | |

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: The **HEART** of **UHD**



You may have heard of UHD's involvement in "high-impact practices," or read stories on students involved in "service learning." These efforts engage students in activities that expand learning beyond the classroom. They enable students to work with non-profits, community groups, civic organizations, or corporations, and provide opportunities for students to connect with groups or individuals outside of their usual circle of influence.

Research has shown that these experiences enhance student learning and lead to greater retention in keeping students enrolled—and ultimately, improve graduation rates. These experiences changes lives and leave a lasting impact on student's view of the world, and frequently shape their dreams and professional or personal aspirations. UHD has been proud to offer these

experiences for our students and will be taking increased measures to provide these experiences through our upcoming Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

A requirement in a university's accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges (SACSCOC) is to create a QEP that focuses on supporting student learning and accomplishes the mission of the institution. UHD will be engaged in the re-accreditation process, and has selected community engagement as the university's upcoming QEP focus.

The next few pages of the magazine will highlight some of these student experiences in community engagement. Watch for future issues of the UHD Magazine to feature more stories of students involved in our community.



Education Paired with Service Earns UHD National Recognition



By: Claire Caton

Author and filmmaker Joel A. Barker said, “Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.”

When a university combines a powerful vision to better the community with substantial commitments of time, talents and service, something special happens.

And it garners national attention.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recently selected UHD as one of five universities in Texas – and the only institution in Houston – to receive its prestigious 2015 Community Engagement Classification.

The Carnegie Foundation selected 240 U.S. colleges and universities for this classification based on institutions’ community engagement and service commitments. In total, 361 campuses in 33 states and U.S. territories received this award – out of a total of 3,000 institutions nationwide. Last year, UHD students, faculty and staff contributed more than 74,000 community engagement hours to 82,000 individuals in the Houston region.

Gators giving back

UHD students, faculty and staff routinely give of their time and talents throughout the Houston community, including participating in the hundreds of events hosted by the University for the city’s annual Citizenship Month, organized in large part by UHD’s First Lady Noël Bezette-Flores, Ph.D. From planning the citywide initiative, to sponsoring fitness walks, overseeing literacy events and uniting all cultures in a celebration of civic responsibility, UHD is viewed a community engagement leader throughout the region.

Through innovative service learning opportunities, UHD students regularly serve others while building skills in their chosen disciplines. For example, in partnership with Crockett Elementary School, urban education students collaborate with natural science students to bring science investigations into elementary classrooms.

Throughout the year, students, faculty and staff are highly invested in the lives of homeless children and their families at Houston’s House of

Tiny Treasures (HTT). UHD’s Urban Education Department launched the Family Literacy Project at HTT, which provides valuable experiences for future teachers, while supporting families and teaching young students a love of reading.

Additionally, the University set a national precedent by pairing senior criminal justice students with representatives of the Harris County Sheriff’s Office Reentry Services Program to introduce rehabilitation to inmates of the Harris County Jail throughout the course of their incarceration.

“UHD changes lives and builds futures, and community engagement is an integral element of this process,” said Flores. “This remarkable recognition by the Carnegie Foundation is an added reward for our hardworking students, faculty and staff, who make the commitment to lead by example – and change our city in the process.”

“

Community engagement is at the heart of who we are as a University,” said UHD President Bill Flores, Ph.D. “It is central to our mission and essential to our promise to educate tomorrow’s community, business, education, criminal justice, scientific and nonprofit leaders. This classification is a testament to the importance we place on creating civic leaders who will give back to their communities and set the bar for serving others.



”

Student Research Plays Vital Role in Gang Prevention

By: Toni Sims

The Houston Police Department wanted to know if their G.R.E.A.T. program prevents the lure of gang involvement in middle schools. They reached out to UHD professors and students for help. G.R.E.A.T. is an evidence-based gang and violence prevention program built around classroom curricula taught by law enforcement officers. The program has three primary goals for its students: avoid "gang membership, abstain from violence and criminal activity, and develop positive relationships with police.

Professors Janice Ahmad, Mike Cavanaugh and Rebecca Pfeffer agreed to evaluate the program during fall and spring 2014. Criminal justice honors students, Yaneli Carreno, David Green II, Renee Lamberton and Joseph Nelson were selected to assist.

Research

Hartman Middle School, M.C. Williams Middle School and Marshall Middle School were targeted for this project.

Researchers determined that a mixed methods research design, including student surveys and interviews with stakeholders, was the best way to evaluate the program.

UHD researchers hope to answer the following questions: Does G.R.E.A.T. work? Does the effect last? And, are there secondary benefits of the G.R.E.A.T. program.

Targeted to sixth-graders, the initial survey measured decision-making ability and attitude toward law enforcement.

"Sixth-grade students completed the surveys before and after participation in the G.R.E.A.T. program to determine if the program changed their perspectives," said Pfeffer. Overall, the pre-test and post-test indicates that the G.R.E.A.T. curriculum is not working as intended.

Eighth-grade students also were evaluated to determine if the effects of the knowledge and skills learned in G.R.E.A.T. remained with the students beyond the program. Results were promising; students learned that gang life results in negative outcomes.



UHD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition, researchers interviewed middle school principals and teachers, G.R.E.A.T. officers, school district police officers and personnel at the mayor's Anti-Gang Office. The researchers also observed the officers' teaching methods in the classroom.

Results

Through interviews and observation, UHD researchers discovered that the G.R.E.A.T. program offers multiple benefits. The following explores some of those positive preliminary findings:

Benefits of G.R.E.A.T. for students

G.R.E.A.T. students quickly discovered that it is more than a gang prevention program. "It's a life-skills program that talks less about gangs and more about how to govern yourself – it's about communication," said one officer.

The study found three important benefits of the program for students: positive behavior modification, additional adult role models, and a change in perceptions of self-value and potential for success, which is a result of having had a positive and supportive relationship with a law enforcement agent.

In September 2014, the student researchers presented these preliminary findings to HPD's Gang Division.

"The students were a major part of this presentation," said Ahmad. "We prepared them, but they did all the research, so we wanted them to present the findings themselves."

Student researchers such as criminal justice major Renee Lamberton learned the vital role research plays in programs such as G.R.E.A.T.

"My takeaway is the understanding of how unbiased data collected by researchers strengthens the effectiveness of programs such as G.R.E.A.T.," said Lamberton. "Being involved in this research project changed my life in unexpected ways. I found a passion for knowledge that encouraged me to continue my education."

Lamberton earned a bachelor's degree in May 2014, and began UHD's master's program in criminal justice in August 2014.

Ahmad, Canvanuagh and Pfeffer will release more findings and recommendations to improve the G.R.E.A.T. program in spring 2015.



Above left: Student researcher Renee Lamberton, criminal justice major.

Researchers, law enforcement agents and G.R.E.A.T. officers met in fall 2014 to review the students' preliminary findings and discuss ways to interpret them into actionable improvement plans.

UHD Students Interact with Global U.N. Leader on World Affairs

By: Claire Caton



The Hon. Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, addresses students and the community at UHD.

future direction of the U.N., both in Houston and worldwide, and participated in a Q-and-A session following his presentation.

“UHD is proud to host Mr. Dujarric and provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students to learn from one of the world’s most informed leaders on world affairs,” said UHD President Bill Flores. “His desire to talk with students on issues of global importance reinforces the city’s role in the global arena and could prove transformational for this group of young leaders.”

UHD has a long-standing relationship with the Houston chapter of U.N.A. through the Model U.N. Program and its global humanitarian initiatives. Noël Bezette-Flores, Ph.D., UHD’s first lady, also serves on the board of the Houston chapter of U.N.A.

“Being a part of the U.N. conference gives us the opportunity to acquire knowledge and encourages us to raise our voices,” said Eisha Khan, a freshman student at UHD. “As future leaders, I believe it is our voices today that will echo in the future to bring reformation.”

A hallmark of a UHD education is high-impact experiences — or supplemental, real-world activities that bring students’ classroom learning to life. Oftentimes that includes vital engagement with the Houston community. And sometimes it allows Gators to enter the world stage.

Students had just such an opportunity recently when the Hon. Stéphane Dujarric — spokesperson for United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon — addressed students and community members on global citizenship and world affairs at UHD. Dujarric previously served as spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, as well as director of news and media for the U.N. Department of Public Information.

More than 100 students from UHD and Harmony Public Schools, as well as Model U.N. advisors and students from Lone Star College joined Houston leaders for the event, sponsored by UHD and the Houston chapter of the United Nations Association (U.N.A.).

Dujarric interacted with attendees on topics of importance to the



The Hon. Teta Banks, president of U.N.A. Houston, participates in a Q-and-A session on global affairs at UHD.

Business students combat childhood hunger

By: Amanda Jackson

Many elementary school students who rely on free or reduced-priced lunches during the school day go home to meager or no meals on the weekends.

Recognizing this need, more than 900 students in the College of Business (COB) united to make a difference in the lives of local children by volunteering at the Houston Food Bank (HFB) during a two-day event in October.

The students worked on the Backpack Buddy assembly line, where they packaged cereal, juice, dried fruit, applesauce and other items for students on subsidized lunch programs to take home over the weekend. The College of Business team packaged more than 50,000 of these meals in just eight hours of service.

The project began when Isiah Brown, UHD director of assurance of learning and assessment, decided to create a unique service-learning opportunity for students in his Business Cornerstone classes. Brown, who is a member of HFB's Apple Corps, secured a grant to support the service-learning project.

Eventually, each Cornerstone professor signed on, with a total of 24 classes participating.

"What started as an idea to get my students involved at the Food Bank turned into this momentous opportunity for the entire Business Cornerstone program," said Brown.

After the event, students wrote reflective papers on their experiences. The reactions varied from empathy to gratitude.

One student wrote, "The experience was so meaningful to me that I plan to bring my family to volunteer with me next time. I want to share this experience with my young son."

Another student discovered that community service is a good way to build a professional network. A local executive recognized the student's work ethic on the assembly line and offered him his business card.

Many students mentioned the importance of communicating and delivering feedback to make the assembly line effective and efficient.

"Students often struggle with face-to-face interaction. Community engagement can be an important tool in learning professional communication skills," said Brown.

Following this record participation, the college plans to make it an event. Lucille Pointer, chair of the Department of Management, Marketing and Business Administration, looks forward to providing more memorable engagement experiences for COB students.

"These kinds of projects are important because they instill in students educational value and the opportunity to give back to the local community," she said.



Student volunteers pose with a sign boasting the 36,000 meals they packaged on day one of the project.

The Science of **BEER**

By: Amanda Jackson

Like many college graduates in 2010, Antoine Ferguson knew the state of the economy might create some challenges in his job search. Equipped with a Bachelor of Science in industrial chemistry from UHD, he was confident, that his education and training would make him a strong contender in an increasingly competitive job market.

A member of UHD's Scholars Academy, an academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology, Ferguson participated in several undergraduate research projects. Under the direction of Associate Professor Janusz Grebowicz, he studied oil shale and its environmental impacts using a technique called Thermogravimetric Analysis Mass Spectrometry (TGA-MS). He also participated in a summer research trip in Poland, where he studied the implications of combining non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in cancer patients.

"I tried to get broad-based experience, especially in energy and medicine," Ferguson said. "That's where the jobs were. Then the recession happened, and things were a bit unsure."

During the economic recession, many large companies cut jobs and froze hiring. This led Ferguson to cast a wider net in his job search, which landed him in a seemingly unlikely industry for a chemist – beer.

"Many people don't think much about it, but there is a real science to brewing beer. There are several chemical and environmental processes at play in its production," Ferguson explained.

He applied for a lab analyst position with Heineken because of its reputation as a strong and respectable multinational corporation. The interviewer was impressed with the young chemist's level of laboratory experience, and hired him to work in their Nassau, Bahamas plant.

As a lab analyst, Ferguson was responsible for quality control, including measuring alcohol content and inspecting ingredients. Within two years, Ferguson was the youngest candidate in Nassau promoted to brewer, a chief position at the plant that typically requires at least five years' experience.

It was a combination of skill and perfect timing. He had just completed a successful

analysis on the effects of a possible bottling redesign when the position opened. Recognizing his potential, his manager encouraged him to apply.

As a brewer, Ferguson manages the entire manufacturing process from input of grains, water and yeast, to maintaining equipment and managing environmental factors at the plant.

He says the job takes more than a mere understanding of the technical process.

"You have to confidently communicate your findings, good or bad, in a language that non-chemists can understand," Ferguson said. "Executives make major business decisions based on my observations, so I need to be self-assured. The presentation and analytical skills I learned in Scholars Academy have equipped me to do that."

Under Ferguson's direction, the plant in Nassau has won the McArthur Guinness Award – a recognition of excellence in quality – for three years running.

The Fly Movement

By: Toni Sims



Quick Facts

- 92 percent of Texas elementary schools do not have a daily physical education program
- 73 percent of school-aged children in Houston are considered economically disadvantaged
- In the first official program-launch with 50 students at KIPP Elementary, the school experienced a 24 percent increase in overall fitness activity during fitness challenges

“I never would’ve imagined I’d be working in the beer industry, but it’s a great job. Even beyond the free sampling,” he said with a chuckle. “Seriously, I love the technicality and level of detail I deal with every day.”

“ I’m so thankful for the unique opportunities at UHD that led me here.



Ferguson smiles for the camera, posing in front of large sacks of barley, a key component in the beer-making process.

UHD marketing alumnus Eric Melchor '01 is motivating kids to be active.

Inspired by Nike’s FuelBand – a device that measures movement for all kinds of activities – Eric Melchor saw an opportunity to increase physical activity among elementary students. Melchor had a vision of creating a program that not only helps fight childhood obesity, but also gives children a sense of purpose by channeling their energy toward achieving a goal.

“When Nike released the FuelBand in 2009, something clicked,” said Melchor. “I immediately thought how it could be used to encourage children to be more physically active. As time went on, I couldn’t believe no one had hopped on the idea, so in 2014 Fly Movement was born.”

Fly Movement is an innovative nonprofit program that allows students to reach fitness goals through fun, rewarding, team competition. Although a new program, Fly Movement is already servicing Houston-area elementary schools including KIPP Dream Prep.

The goal

This dynamic exercise program helps students to develop virtues that will enable them to lead healthy lives. The program has three objectives: improve self-esteem, teach kids self-discipline and goal setting, and motivate physical fitness.

How Fly Movement is unique

Specifically geared toward third-graders, Fly Movement is the first children’s health program to use FuelBand technology to support its efforts, according to Melchor. The program gets children excited to exercise by camouflaging fitness components in fun activities. So, how does it work?

Easy-to-use fitness trackers record the movement and steps of each

participant. Two third-grade classrooms compete to log the most activity. The students vote on a prize they’d like to win, which gives them more incentive to participate. There are no weight scales and no individual rewards; the program is completely focused on teamwork.

The benefit

It’s free!

At no cost, Fly Movement makes it possible for students to engage in physical exercises on a daily basis.

Melchor says that costly after-school sports programs are about the only alternatives to staying active since 92 percent of Texas elementary schools do not have a daily physical education program. Given that 73 percent of school-aged children in Houston are considered economically disadvantaged, few parents have the financial resources to enroll their kids in sports programs.



Erick Melchor, UHD alumnus ('01) and founder of Fly Movement.

Future plans

Melchor cites UHD as a major influence in starting his organization and is proud of what he has accomplished within the Houston community.

Fly Movement is scheduled to launch at two additional Houston elementary schools in spring 2015, and is available for implementation for other Houston-area elementary schools in fall 2015.

Man on a Mission

By Julian Cavazos

All his life, Larry Carroll has gazed toward the sky. He grew up fascinated with rockets and the space flight program.

“I always was a space enthusiast,” said Carroll, a University of Houston-Downtown 1984 alumnus. “I used to launch model rockets near the Astrodome when I was young. It was a cow pasture at the time.”

At age 15, he recalls being glued to the television while watching astronaut Neil Armstrong land on the moon in the 1969 Apollo 11 mission.

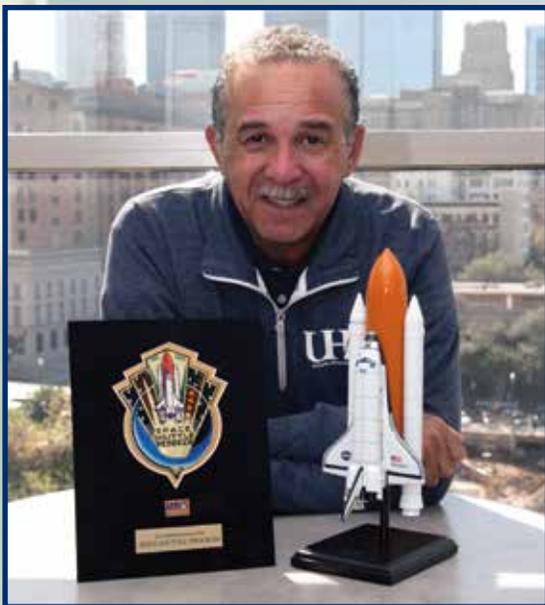
“I stayed up all night to see what was going on,” he said. “As I watched, I took Polaroids of my TV screen to record this historic moment.”

Carroll ended up living his dream of working for the space program as an adult. UHD prepared him for his career.

Impact of UHD

In the early 1980s, Carroll grew passionate about data processing after taking a UHD computer information course taught by professor Herbert F. Rebhun.

“I just fell in love with data processing in that class,” said Carroll,



Carroll poses with space shuttle commemorative memorabilia from his personal collection.



who would later analyze data on a regular basis at the Johnson Space Center. “Dr. Rebhun was very engaging and kept the class involved. He always pushed me, saying, ‘Larry, I know you can do better.’”

A technical writing course he took at UHD prepared him to write training manuals for simulation and communications instructors, ground controllers, and operations support team controllers.

“The certification process was intense and took me 13 months to complete,” he said. “It required both a depth of technical knowledge and strong communication skills, as well as people skills.”

Working at the space program

After graduating from UHD in 1984 with a bachelor’s degree in data processing and business services (now called enterprise computer information systems), Carroll spent six years working as a computer security engineer at OmniPlan Corporation, a cyber-security company contracted by NASA.

“Neurotically Productive” Alumna Finds Success as Entrepreneur

By Claire Caton



The majority of people might shy away from admitting a neurotic tendency.

But when it comes to delivering results as an in-demand public relations executive in Houston, UHD alumna Jennifer Evans considers the trait essential to her brand. A former employer lovingly pegged her as “neurotically productive,” out of a phrase coined from a well-known leadership book. Upon founding JL Evans Communications, she chose “Neurotically Productive PR” as her company tagline.

That approach has served her well since officially hanging up her shingle nearly seven

years ago. Prior to starting her own company, Evans accrued more than a decade of communications and marketing experience working for companies in numerous industries. After the birth of her son, she decided to manage her work/life balance differently and knew the time was right to channel her knowledge and expertise into her own business venture.

“If I have one piece of advice for current UHD students, it would be not to quit!” said Evans. “I’m doing what I love now, and I owe much of that success to my degree from UHD. A college degree is a necessity in a competitive market.

“UHD provided me with two excellent scholarships, a flexible schedule and wonderfully inspiring professors. They helped me rediscover my appreciation for history and fine arts, and encouraged me to blend my passions of literature and writing. UHD really opened my eyes as a young adult to all the options in front of me.”

After her graduation from UHD, she pursued a master’s degree at the University of Houston’s School of Communication in public relations studies, a degree she earned in 2001.

Like many UHD students, Evans and her siblings were the first ones in the family to

graduate from college, a feat she achieved by working full time while taking a full course load.

She fondly remembers the support and advice from her communications professor, Hank Roubicek. “He reminded his students that most adults work most of the days of the week, and sometimes it rains on the weekend – why not do what you love?” Evans said. “And he was right. Today, I love working with clients in a variety of industries from professional services, health and retail to nonprofit organizations.”

As a former Gator, Evans recently contributed her expertise to the University’s sold-out fundraiser, *Celebrating 40 Years: University of Houston-Downtown Gala*. She managed media relations for the event and placed articles and photos in several prominent outlets, including the Houston Chronicle, Houston Business Journal, Culture Map and Houston Modern Luxury.

“It was a joy for me to give back to the University that gave me so much,” she said. “I’m proud to be a UHD graduate and look forward to working with my alma mater again in the future.”

In 1990, he was hired as a network simulation instructor at Johnson Space Center’s Space Flight Training Division. For the next 20 years, he trained a total of 100 space shuttle flights and astronaut crews.

Using simulators, or space shuttle models, he trained flight controllers and astronaut crews on the concepts of shuttle space and ground network communications to ensure a safe and successful mission. Crews learned how to retrieve and send data between the shuttle and the mission control center, and how to recover from malfunctions, such as an engine failure, computer failures, and fuel cell failures.

“I trained them on all phases of flight, from ascent to orbit to return,” Carroll said. “They learned to troubleshoot

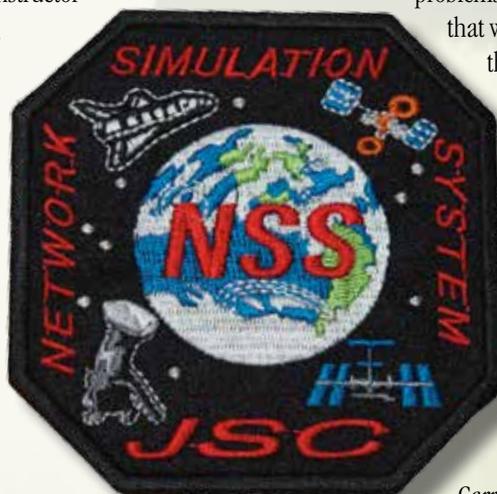
problems and find solutions. Sometimes the same scenarios that we practiced actually occurred during their mission.”

After the simulation sessions, Carroll and his team gave performance reviews to the flight controllers and astronaut crews.

In addition to training 100 space shuttle flights and crews, Carroll also trained 14 other network simulation instructors.

“I’m proud of the career I’ve had in the space program,” Carroll said. “If I had a chance to do it all over again, I would. Just for the adventure.”

Carroll retired from the space shuttle program in 2011.



UHD

University of Houston
DOWNTOWN

Points of Pride



Graduate enrollment doubled in 2014



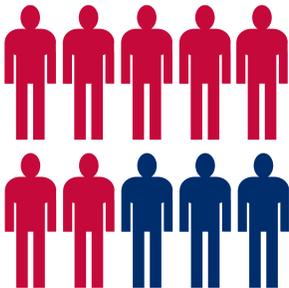
17% enrollment growth in last 5 years



1.2 billion annual impact
on regional economy



UHD is recognized as a
Hispanic-Serving Institution and
Minority-Serving Institution



70%

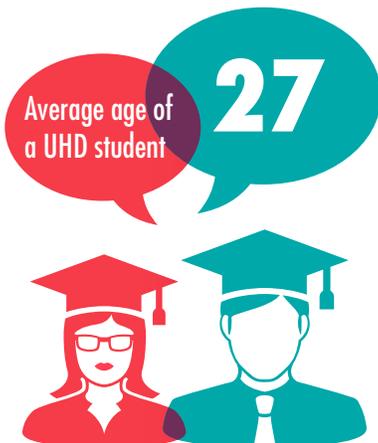
of students work while
attending school, and just
over half attend the univer-
sity on a part-time basis



15 online undergraduate
degree completion
programs

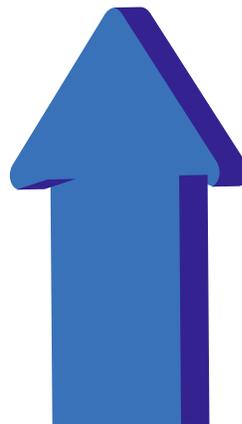
3

masters-level
degree programs
fully online



Average age of
a UHD student

27



14,438

Fall 2014 enrollment

Largest enrollment in the
University's history, up 5%
from fall 2013



First-year earnings of UHD grads recognized as the **THIRD HIGHEST** in the state



37,000
alumni



New degree programs link to projected regional workforce needs, specifically in business and finance, education, energy, and health care.



Undergraduate students pay

17%

below the state-wide average in tuition and fees

1/4

of all semester credit hours were **online** in Fall 2014



2015 Community Engagement Classification

“ Among the most efficient Texas public universities in cost-per-graduate. ”

– Chronicle of Higher Education

UHD
40YRS!



Sounds like Houston! Thursday Concerts presented by UHD

This summer, join us every Thursday from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. at Discovery Green to enjoy food, drinks and live music from local artists.

May 7 Bill Carter and The Blame, Mike Stinson

May 14 Shinyribs, Wrenfro

May 21 The Fab 5, Picture Book and Friends

May 28 **MBA Night 8 ½ Souvenirs,
The Jitterbug Vipers**

Jun 4 David Lee Garza Y Los Musicales, Pulpo

Jun 11 Geno Delafosse and French
Rockin' Boogie.

Jun 18 Roxy Roca, Electric Attitude

Jun 25 **Alumni Night Ian Moore and
The Lossy Coils, Annika Chambers**

Share your experience
[#UHDThursdayConcerts](https://twitter.com/UHDThursdayConcerts)