

UH System

PERSPECTIVES

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To All University of Houston Employees:

The 1980 United Way Campaign will be launched soon in our community and again employees of the University of Houston will be asked to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Last year, members of our University family on the three campuses in Harris County gave over \$30,000. A total of \$23.6 million was raised by the campaign in the county. I believe that we can increase our fair share.

United Way is a local voluntary system which helps people in our community:

- * It helps people in need of counseling.
- * It provides individuals with food and housing assistance.
- * It provides rehabilitative services for handicapped children and adults.
- * It furnishes day care for children.
- * It provides special care for the elderly.
- * It furnishes disaster relief for families.
- * It supports young people and adults who participate in scouting, recreation, and other social development activities.

These are just some of the many reasons why we should support the United Way Campaign. Every employee of the University of Houston reaps some direct or indirect benefit from the work of this agency.

Each of us has a responsibility to participate in the program which helps so many who are unable to help themselves. Please join me in showing our appreciation to this community which supports our University in so many ways.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Bishop
President

Tri-university Center for Technology Proposed

Three major Texas institutions including the University of Houston are planning to establish a research center that will assist in the development of technology in Houston and the state.

The tentatively-named Houston Area Research Center (HARC) is the first large-scale project to be sponsored cooperatively by the UH System, Rice University, and Texas A&M University.

The internationally-recognized firm of A. D. Little has been selected to conduct a feasibility study to be completed by Thanksgiving, for the proposed center.

The High Technology Planning Committee, the planning council appointed to oversee the establishment of the center, will use the firm's study as a basis for the recommendations it will make concerning the center's future to the three university presidents.

Dr. David Gottlieb, executive director of public service and extended programs at the University of Houston Central Campus and chairman of the High Technology Planning Committee, said that A. D. Little is in the process of interviewing faculty and administrators at the three institutions, conducting a marketing study to determine which areas of research and technology would be an appropriate focus for the center, and deciding what the relationship should be between the universities and the center.

According to Dr. Gottlieb, the study will also examine

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United Way Launches UH Campus Campaigns

The United Way campaign is underway on three University of Houston campuses for the 1980-1981 year. UH System President Charles E. Bishop and the chancellors of UH Central Campus, UH Downtown College, and UH at Clear Lake City have appointed coordinators to guide the fund-raising effort.

This year, United Way coordinators are seeking to increase participation and per capita contributions on each campus. During the 1979-1980 campaign, UH Downtown College recorded the highest percentage of participation, with 48.4 percent of the college's personnel contributing to the drive. Per capita giving was highest on the UH Central Campus, where employees contributed an average of \$9.59 per person.

Overseeing the campaign for the Houston area campuses for 1980-1981 will be Farris Block, executive director of university relations for the University of Houston System, who has been named campaign coordinator by President Bishop.

Campus coordinators include: Walter Williams and Herbert Maxwell, UH Central Campus; Hugh Avery, UH at Clear Lake City; Dr. Beth Howard and James Forsyth, UH Downtown College; and Milton Birdwell, UH System.

A separate campaign will be conducted by the UH Victoria campus.

Committee to Formulate Six-year Plan for UH System

The University of Houston System has organized a planning committee to develop a comprehensive six-year plan for the UH System and its component campuses.

The plan will include both instructional and facilities development.

Responsibility for developing the six-year plan rests with two groups. One group, an executive committee, consists of the UH System president and vice presidents and the chancellors of the four UH campuses, and will perform a board of directors function.

The second group, a 12-person comprehensive planning steering committee, consists of three representatives from each campus. It will guide the formulation of the plan and will work with councils appointed by the campus chancellors to carry out planning on a campus level.

Steering committee members include: Dr. George Magner, Dr. Robert Lawless, and Dr. Martha Piper from UH Central Campus; Dr. Louis Rodriguez, Dr. Otis Baskin, and James Hale from UH at Clear Lake City; Dr. Larry Spears, T. Chaney Anderson, and the chairman of the faculty senate (unnamed) from UH Downtown College; and Dr. Chris Buys, Dr. Furman Smith, and John Cordary from UH Victoria Center.

The first meeting of the steering committee was held on September 15 in the University of Houston System offices.

Nicholson Retires After 25 Years at UH

Dr. Patrick J. Nicholson, vice president of the University of Houston since 1957, took early retirement effective August 31, 1980, after a quarter of a century of service. On September 1, he became a part-time special assistant to the university president.

Joining the UH administrative staff in 1956, Dr. Nicholson witnessed first hand and participated personally in the tremendous expansion of the institution as an executive under four presidents—A.D. Bruce, Clanton W. Williams, Philip G. Hoffman, and Charles E. Bishop.

Dr. Nicholson is the author of *In Time*, a 486-page anecdotal history of the first 50 years of the University of Houston, published in 1977. He played a major role in obtaining admission of the University of Houston to the State system of higher education.

Within the University, Dr. Nicholson directed for over 20 years the division of development which encompassed community relations, legislative liaison, overall fund-raising, information and publication services, loans and scholarships, the Alumni Association, and the broadcast stations, KUHT-TV and KUHF-FM.

He served as chairman of the editorial board of *Forum*, the University of Houston literary quarterly, and was the charter chairman for the President's Committee on Art Acquisitions.

Dr. Nicholson was instrumental in establishing the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Gallery after Mrs. Blaffer, noted philanthropist and collector, decided to make major contributions from paintings within her own family, and from other acquisitions, to the university.

Dr. Nicholson served on numerous community boards ranging from the United Fund to the Byzantine Institute, and within many professional organizations, including the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education; the Public Relations Society of America; the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges; the Houston Council on World Affairs; and the Astronaut Fund for Scientific Scholarships.

Enrollment Increases for All UH Campuses

An overall increase of eight percent in student enrollment in the University of Houston System is reported for the 1980 fall term, according to figures released this week.

Twelfth-day class figures show that 41,763 students are enrolled on the four campuses for the 1980 fall term, compared to 38,674 who were enrolled for the same period in the fall of 1979.

The figures by campuses are as follows:

	1979	1980	Increase
UH Central Campus	27,954	30,314	8.4%
UH Clear Lake City Campus	5,365	5,595	4.3%
UH Downtown Campus	4,612	5,052	9.5%
UH Victoria Campus	743	802	8.0%

Perspectives

Perspectives is published bi-monthly by the UH System University Relations Office. Executive Director: Farris Block, 749-4149. Editor: Haise Johnson.

The University of Houston seeks to provide equal educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or veteran status.

This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by the University.

UHDC Receives \$1.7 Million in Federal Grants

The University of Houston board of regents accepted three separate U.S. Department of Education grants totaling over \$1.7 million for the UH Downtown College.

A \$500,000 Title III grant will allow improvement in administrative policies and procedures, academic programs, student services, and faculty development.

In addition to Title III funding, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded two other long-term grants to the University of Houston Downtown College to strengthen programs for disadvantaged students.

The college's Upward Bound program received a three-year grant with a total budget of \$405,369 to aid economically disadvantaged students. Upward Bound assists approximately 60 selected students per year and combines academic classes, employment, and cultural activities to promote academic success and to broaden the awareness of the participants.

Another UH Downtown College program, the Special Services division, has been awarded a minimum of \$803,024 for four years to provide disadvantaged students with special academic classes, tutoring, and assistance for the physically handicapped.

The Title III—Strengthening Developing Institutions Program award (SDIP) will extend over a two-year period. Dr. Don D. Elgin, UH Downtown College associate professor of humanities, has been appointed Title III coordinator by Dr. Alexander F. Schilt, UH Downtown College chancellor.

Title III funds will allow a complete review of all of the college's operational policies and procedures, and the development of a master plan for administrative computer usage.

UHDC Engineering Program Receives Accreditation

Dr. Stanley G. Ebner, University of Houston Downtown College dean of business and technology, has announced that the college's bachelor of science degree with a major in process and piping design has received full accreditation.

The accreditation signifies that the engineering technology department now has the first nationally accredited degree program at the Downtown College.

Official notification was contained in a letter from Richard Cunningham, president of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology.

According to Dr. Ebner, accreditation of the engineering technology degree at such an early point in the development of the Downtown College reflects "specifically on the strong and extremely capable leadership of the department's faculty members, and more generally on the entire UH Downtown College faculty and staff."

Locally, as well as nationally, a demand for piping personnel exists, Dr. Ebner noted. "Billions of dollars are being spent by the oil companies to refurbish existing oil refineries and build new ones," he said.

"Moreover, the design and construction of synthetic fuel plants is expected to create a very strong demand for persons with piping design expertise. Through its fully-accredited program, the University of Houston Downtown College is helping to meet the needs of local and national industries."

Center . . . from page 1

the practicality of locating the center at The Woodlands. George Mitchell, president of Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation and developer of The Woodlands, has agreed to donate land at The Woodlands for the proposed center.

Tri-university participation in the center would enhance purchasing of equipment, design and building of research facilities, recruitment of outstanding scientists and scholars, and external funding opportunities which could not be undertaken by a single institution.

The University of Houston board of regents passed the following resolution at a meeting on September 8, 1980.

IN MEMORIAM
LYNDALL FINLEY WORTHAM

WHEREAS, the University of Houston System lost a guiding force and a great patroness with the death of Lyndall Finley Wortham on July 12, 1980; and

Whereas, Mrs. Wortham was born in Sherman, Texas, on July 22, 1892, the daughter of Phillip and Eudora Finley. She graduated from Kidd Key College in Sherman in 1909, and received a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas in 1912; and

Whereas, Mrs. Wortham has been a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Houston since the institution became part of the state system of higher education in 1963. She was appointed by Governor John Connally in 1963 and remained on the Board until 1979, serving on the Building and Executive Committees and as Secretary of the Board; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Gus S. Wortham made one of the largest grants in the history of the University of Houston, and spoke of the gift as an expression of appreciation for the privilege of serving on the Board of Regents of the University of Houston; and

Whereas, as a tribute to Mrs. Wortham's generous support of the University of Houston and the arts, the Board of Regents named the theatre on the University of Houston Central Campus, the Lyndall Finley Wortham Theatre, in her honor; and

Whereas, the Board of Regents wishes to express to her family the sense of loss which the entire university community feels at her passing.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this resolution in memory of Lyndall Finley Wortham be included in the minutes of the September 8, 1980 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Lawless Appointed Senior Vice Chancellor

Dr. Robert Lawless has been named senior vice chancellor at the University of Houston Central Campus and will serve as the chief planning and administrative officer for the campus.

The appointment was approved September 8 at the UH board of regents meeting in Clear Lake City.

Dr. Lawless, who has been with the University of Houston since 1969, has most recently served as associate chancellor for planning and resource allocation.

In recommending the appointment to the board, UH Central Campus Chancellor Barry Munitz said, "Dr. Lawless has been the chief planning officer for the university since 1978 and has been consistently accepting more administrative duties. This new title formally recognizes him as the campus' chief administrative officer."

Dr. Lawless' appointment consolidates the UH Central Campus administration. Operations responsibilities have been removed from the former division of finance and operations, in order that the realigned division of financial affairs can devote full time to the financial needs of the campus.

In his new position, Dr. Lawless becomes responsible for the personnel, budget administration, and physical plant departments, in addition to his responsibilities for planning studies, resource allocation analysis, and computer services.

Assisting Dr. Lawless with his additional assignments will be Douglas J. Wright. Wright's appointment as assistant vice chancellor was also approved at the board meeting. He had previously served the university as director of planning and evaluation.

UHCC Dorms Scheduled for Construction

The University of Houston board of regents approved a bid of \$4,740,940 submitted by Meyerson Construction for a dormitory complex to be built on the University of Houston Central Campus.

The 400-unit complex will be built with funds provided by a \$4.1 million loan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which the regents approved at their December meeting.

The long-term, low interest loan will be paid back over a period of 40 years, at three percent interest, from gross revenues derived from the operation and ownership of the complex.

UH Central Campus Chancellor Barry Munitz says increased student housing is a fundamental campus need, and because of its high priority, the additional funds needed for the completion of the project will come from institution contingency accounts.

Current facilities house 2,100 students and have been filled to capacity for a number of years. More than 1,000 requests for dormitory housing must be turned down each year.

According to Dr. Munitz, the new facility will help bring more people from outside the Houston area to campus and give greater flexibility to the recruitment of top students from throughout the state.

The garden-type, two-story buildings, designed by the architectural firm of Bernard Johnson, Inc., should be completed in time for students to move in for the fall 1981 semester. Rather than the typical high-rise towers of most dormitories, the UH Central Campus complex will resemble apartments.

The dormitory will house 400 upperclassmen and graduate students. Twenty units will provide special facilities for the handicapped. One bedroom suites with shared bathrooms will be available.

The dorm complex will be constructed on the northwest corner of Wheeler and Cullen which is currently serving as a soccer field. Bleachers at the site will be removed, but existing trees have been worked into the landscaping plans.

UH President to Chair Rhodes Selection Committee

Dr. Charles E. Bishop, president of the University of Houston System, will serve as chairman for the Rhodes Scholarship selection committee for the state of Texas.

The invitation was extended by the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, the body charged with the administration of the prestigious scholarship program.

As chairman, Dr. Bishop will oversee the selection of two candidates from Texas in December. These candidates will then be considered for the 32 scholarships which are awarded annually in the United States.

Established in 1899 by the will of British financier, statesman, and philanthropist Cecil J. Rhodes, the scholarships provide for at least two years of study in any field of the scholar's choice at Oxford University in England.

In the U.S., candidates for the scholarship must be unmarried American citizens, 18-24 years of age, with at least junior standing at a degree-granting college or university. Rhodes specified that scholars should possess scholastic ability and attainment, leadership, moral force of character, and physical vigor as evidenced by success in sports.

Dr. Bishop was also active in the Rhodes Scholarship selection process while president of the University of Arkansas. In a letter of acceptance to William J. Barber, American Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, he wrote: "One of the most pleasant days of my year is the opportunity to visit with the Rhodes Scholar applicants. They are indeed the brightest and the best."

Around the Campuses

Vincent J. Rodnite, director of auditing for the UH System who has been serving part-time as interim vice chancellor for finance and operations at the UH Downtown College, has been appointed to the UHDC interim vice chancellor's position on a full-time basis. He will continue in that capacity until a permanent appointment has been made for the vice chancellor's position. **James W. Rackley**, UH System director of financial reporting, has been appointed acting director of auditing in Rodnite's absence.

Bernadette Motiska, UHDC assistant professor of business services, has been named director of policies and procedures manuals development for the UH System. In her new position, she will draft an overall framework of policies for the UH System, as well as assist representatives from the four UH campuses in developing specific campus policies and procedures.

Arnold Ahrens, administrator for the UHCC College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, is the recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship, awarded annually by UH Central Campus Chancellor Barry Munitz. The scholarship enables a member of the UHCC staff to study for an Executive MBA (Master's of Business Administration) degree at the College of Business Administration on the UH Central Campus. The Executive MBA program is a two-year intensive course with classes meeting on alternate Fridays and Saturdays.

Dr. Samuel B. Southwell, University of Houston Central Campus professor of English, has published a book, *Quest for Eros*, which sheds new light on the work of Victorian poet Robert Browning. The book contains Southwell's critical analysis of a late Browning poem, "Fifine at the Fair," and includes a description of the structure of Browning's poetry which provides a new perspective for interpretation of his work as a whole.

UHCC director of admissions **Myron Bud Swiss** has retired after 35 years with the university. Swiss was named director of registration in 1949 and was appointed director of admissions in 1957. In 1963, when the University of Houston became a state university, he was instrumental in establishing and implementing selective admission policies and procedures to replace open admissions. His 22 years as director of admissions is the longest tenure of any admissions director in the state of Texas.

Dr. Richard Crout, director of the Bureau of Drugs, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, will be the guest speaker at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy building dedication ceremony on Sunday, October 26. Located in the Texas Medical Center, the new 49,400-square-foot building houses the departments of pharmaceuticals, clinical pharmacy, and administration, as well as part of the pharmacology department. The rest of the college's departments will remain on the UH Central Campus.

Dr. Larry G. Spears, UHDC professor of chemistry and chairman of the department of science, has been appointed as special assistant to the chancellor for academic coordination. Dr. Spears, who began his half-time duties in early September, advises **Chancellor Alexander F. Schilt** on policies and programs related to the instructional area, assists in long-range planning, and represents the chancellor on various college and system committees. He will continue as special assistant on an interim basis while a nationwide search is being conducted for a new vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Two new honor societies were chartered at UHCLC this spring. Installation ceremonies were held for Phi Kappa Phi, an interdisciplinary honor society whose members are selected from the top 5% of their graduating class on the basis of scholarship and good character, and Kappa Delta Pi, an honor society in education.

Farris Block, executive director of university relations for the UH System, has been elected president of the Press Club of Houston. The one-year term begins October 1. A member of the Press Club for 25 years, Block has been active in the journalism field for over 30 years. Before joining the University in 1954, he was the editor of three newspapers: the *Midcounty Review* (Nederland, Texas), the *Athens Daily Review*, and the *Port Neches Chronicle*. He holds membership in the Society of Professional Journalists, SDX, the Public Relations Society of America, the Texas Gulf Coast Press Association, and the Rotary Club of Houston.

UHCC has instituted a program to offer minority students the opportunity to participate in a semester-long Congressional Internship in Washington, D.C. Offered for the first time this fall, the internships give minority students first-hand experience with the operation of Congress in a supervised work-seminar environment. Students accepted into the program earn a full semester's college credit and receive a \$2,000 stipend to offset transportation and living costs. Initiated by **Congressman Mickey Leland**, the internships are supported by major Houston area corporations. Junior, senior, and graduate minority students from UH Central Campus, UH Downtown College, and Texas Southern University are eligible to apply for the program.

Dr. Richard Abrahamson, UHCC assistant professor of education, has received the Educational Press Association's Distinguished Achievement Award in educational journalism. His article on series books (Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys) was selected as the outstanding learned article published in 1979. He has also been elected to the board of directors of the Adolescent Literature Association in the National Council of Teachers of English and to the board of directors of the Adolescent Literature Assembly in the International Reading Association.

A gift of 1,401 volumes, appraised at almost \$17,000 has been presented to the UHVC Library. The gift, made by **Harry Burkhart** of Bay City, consists largely of finely bound, limited editions, some numbered, representing a wide range of authors and literatures.

The University of Houston Downtown College's cooperative education program was recently awarded a \$55,759 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for 1980-1981. The cooperative education program corresponds with UHDC's career-oriented degrees by providing students with on-the-job experience before graduation. Under the program, students work full-time at least one full semester in areas such as accounting, purchasing, and real estate.

UH Downtown College and UH Central Campus have begun a joint program which encourages mathematics and science students at UHDC to obtain teacher certification in math and/or science. The new program requires 18 hours of courses offered in the college of education at UHCC, to be taken concurrently with an undergraduate degree program at the Downtown College. The program was designed to provide UHDC students concentrating in mathematics or natural sciences with a desirable career option.

The new UH Victoria Center scholarship program, initiated earlier this year in an effort to bring the Victoria area's highest caliber students to the campus, has succeeded in attracting five of the six top honor graduates from area junior colleges. The \$1,600 scholarships, \$800 to be given annually for two years, are awarded to the salutatorian and the valedictorian of Victoria College, Wharton County Junior College, and Bee County College.

The UH Central Campus will hold a "Cotton-Eyed Homecoming" for the thousands of alumni and students in the Houston area from October 20-26. The festivities, which include the International Food Fair, a bonfire and pep rally, a 10-kilometer run, and a chili cook-off and "razorback roast," will culminate in the wild Southwest Conference football game, the UH Cougars vs. the Arkansas Razorbacks at 7:30 p.m. on October 25. A giant pre-game party starts at 3:00 in the Astrodome parking lot.