

Community Service Award

Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students-Members of PSCJS are required to complete community service hours as per their membership. The organization's Vice President is responsible finding opportunities for members to complete their hours. Members have volunteered at school-wide events such as the Commerce Fall/Spring Connect, Open House, and Blood donation for MD Anderson, Human Trafficking Panel, Journey of Hope Panel, House of Tiny Treasures Fall Festival and several other community volunteer opportunities.

Professional Accounting Society- The purpose of our organization is to help business student's transition into business professionals. We facilitate this transition by providing members with an out-of-class experience. For example, this year we gave back to the Houston community by providing income tax preparation services to families and individuals that make less than \$50,000 a year, i.e., our organization logged more than 300 service hours. One of the organization's goals this year was to bring the VITA program to UHD which works closely with the neighborhood tax centers here in the Houston area. We were successful to bring the VITA program to the University and on February 10 VITA kicked off by providing free tax services on campus till April 16 2016. Members of our organization volunteer their time to prepare taxes for low income families in the Houston-area. We have volunteered over 800 hours of community service.

Gamma Alpha Omega- Being a member of this organization, I feel that with seven actives, as a group and individually, we did a lot. We gave water, snacks, and cards to homeless on Valentine's Day, we volunteered at a community center with tax preparation, we volunteered at the zoo with a Dog Walk, and we also did our Annual Book Hunt at a local elementary school where more than 150 books were donated. This particular event is something we have been doing for approximately 7 years where we get book donations, take them to a school, hide them like Easter eggs, and children go find them. Our mission is to mentor children, and we feel that connecting with them this way is a good start to show them that reading is important and letting them know that college is fun and necessary for them. Our top three benefits to members who participate in community service are: bonding moments, leadership opportunities, and of course, giving back to our communities.

SWSCAN- SWSCAN has contributed greatly to the university's goals of engaging student within the community through civic engagement, community engagement, high impact learning opportunities and service learning. The list of contributions of SWSCAN. They have volunteered hundreds of hours to community service including the following Houston Food Bank, Food Not Bombs, Houston Vision Walk, Women's Home, Open Door Mission, A Visit from St. Nick Packing Party, A visit from St. Nick Discovery Day, Wreaths Across America, Triage Cancer Event, Ronald McDonald Charities, House Of Tiny Treasures, Vita Living, Holly Hall Retirement Center, Will Walk 4 Food with Target Hunger, KIPP Playground build , Volunteer Fair & Festival (Volunteer Houston), Open House, Walk 2 Vote, Cornell West Lecture, Ed's Bayou Clean Up, They volunteered House of Tiny Treasures where they spent their time teaching, playing and mentoring homeless children or where she helped put up a playground for disadvantaged kids with the KIPP Playground build. Not only has SWSCAN made volunteerism a focus for itself but has also empowered others at UHD to volunteer and get involved by

facilitating almost 1,000 hours with other students from SWSCAN. The impact that they have on UHD and the community at large is a testament to the type of learning we encourage at UHD through 21 century skills through high impact practices. SWSCA's commitment to helping the community makes them perfect for this award. SWSCAN is a social work student organization that focuses on helping the community and solving social issues. Considering UHD commitment to community engagement, I think that SWSCAN embodies the heart and soul of UHD.

Academic Achievement Award

Most Creative/Special Program

Purple Out Week for Alzheimer's- Sigma Kappa Omega

Powder Paint Party (P3)-Campus Activities Board

Annual Book Hunt- Gamma Alpha Omega

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program- Professional Accounting Society

AMSA Monthly Clinic-American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

English Language Institute [ELI] Mentorship Program- United Nations Association

Walk 2 Vote- SGA

Rising Star Award

Iranian-American Student Association

Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students

Fandom UHD

Professional Accounting Society

American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

Financial Management Association (FMA)

SWSCAN

UHD Debate Team

UHD Model United Nations

Greek Man Award

Eric Alvarado, Omega Delta Phi- Although Eric is no longer with us in person, I feel that he did a lot for Omega Delta Phi. Under his leadership, he guided his brothers in doing things for the community and was always present. He always helped our organization, Gamma Alpha Omega, with donating money or time. He never spoke negatively about other people and was always willing to help anyone. He worked hard in school because education was his main priority. He worked hard in and out of class. I feel that if you would ask any Greek on campus about him, everyone would have a memory of his participation on campus. To me, that deserves recognition.

Greek Woman Award

Amanda Trinity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.-Amanda is amazing, even prior to being Greek she exudes excellence in everything that she does. She not only a trusted business partner but a friend.

Clarissa Gaona, *Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority, Inc.*- Clarissa is Gamma Alpha Omega's chapter president. She also holds stroll chair, fundraising chair, and co-service chair. She ensures that our house is as active as possible. She has worked hard for our chapter to gain a positive review from Nationals after being inactive for a few semesters. With her guidance, our chapter is hosting Regional Convention April 8-10, we attended several community service events, and held our first Stroll Competition. She has tried very hard for our organization to be active on campus by promoting new events and also by supporting other organizations with their events.

Advisor of the Year Award

Dr. Janice Ahmad, *Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students*-Dr. Janice Ahmad has made the impact that many students seek from their professors, both in and out of the classroom. Dr. Ahmad is the most dedicated and most involved faculty advisor in any organization. Dr. Ahmad attends all our member meetings, participates in club events both social and non-social. She always has time for everyone and treats everyone with respect. Dr. Ahmad is also in charge of the internship program for Criminal Justice majors, and therefore, she challenges, empowers and assists students in the organization to succeed. Many students who have been enrolled in Field Experience have acquired employment, and it is all due to Dr. Ahmad's persistence and belief that each student in PSCJS are a part of the future. Dr. Ahmad has been with PSCJS since the beginning. She is always there to give us ideas and help with whatever we need for the organization. She is definitely a person we can count on. Besides helping with the organization, she gets students to into any internship or job we have been dreaming about. Her dedication is one of a kind towards students.

Percy Jackson, *Campus Activities Board*-Mr. Jackson as the adviser for the Campus Activities board, HAS NEVER let us down. He plays Mr. Fix it when we mess it up, he pushes us and requires us to meet standards that we are more than capable of reaching. He was the very person himself to inspire me to be a part of this great organization and from there we have went nothing but up. Besides being our adviser fulltime, Percy Jackson is also one of the Student Activities Coordinators on campus, he has contributed a multitudinous amount of work to this campus, and more important directly to the students. Every student I know in an organization knows him name and not because they gossip but because he maintains a reputable repertoire with them in everything is does. NO ONE, and I repeat NO ONE deserves this award more.

Dr. Alicia Yancy, *Professional Accounting Society*- Professor and Adviser Alicia Yancy continues to empower all members of the Professional Accounting Society. She leads and empowers by setting an example for future business professionals. Recently, Professor Yancy went above and beyond her role as Adviser by acquiring funds for many members in the professional accounting society to study and take the CPA exam. Dr. Yancy has been an amazing faculty adviser for our organization. She is always offering her wisdom and professional criticism to enhance our ideas to the next level. She consistently shows her dedication and pride for our organization by dedicating her time and energy at our events and general meetings. She is always the one that thinks of the future of the organization with intentions to assist future leaders of the society. We couldn't have a better adviser because Dr. Yancy's heart is in this organization. Dr. Alicia Yancy has played a major role in the development of our student organization. She not only advices us but she also encourages us to do things against the norm. That it's ok to try

something new and fresh and to build on that. Under her guidance we were able to increase our organization's memberships by 800% and we have continued to grow. She's awesome. PAS wouldn't be where it is today, helping students the way it is, without her guidance. Enough said.

Tim Redl, *Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority, Inc.*- We had the unfortunate event of being inactive on campus for a few semesters, but Mr. Redl assisted us in every way possible when we became active again this semester. He ensured that we were prepared for Recruitment, he answered our emails with questions we had, and he was a huge supporter when we went to his office. Although we were not active on campus, we still had to run business as usual with Nationals and he was there to support our needs during our difficult time.

Yuanyuan Kang, *American Medical Student Association*- Advisers serve as a crucial component of any organization because their roles directly impact the success of an organization. Dr. Kang, the adviser for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) has shown outstanding commitment in helping AMSA to make ideas, events and even attending medical school a reality for some students. Dr. Kang has promoted AMSA through all of her Biology classes in Genetics, Biology 1, Genetics lab, Medical Genetics and even Neuroscience. Despite her busy schedule she continued to participate in most AMSA activities. She actively shows great communication by seeking out to AMSA officers to get updates about all activities happening pertaining to AMSA. She has helped to promote various Admission committees from Medical schools from around Texas to come in to share special insights as to what their committees look for in an applicant. These seminars were held every week to allow pre-med students to gain valuable and even secretive information that would allow them to learn about their dream school to make their dream a reality. She also actively gets to know AMSA members in all activities and events that AMSA holds.

Dr. Christina Hughes, *Model UN*- Dr. Hughes has helped facilitate the rise of the Model UN's prominence not only in the UHD community, but also through the success of the Model UN in competition. She is constantly looking to add new members to the organization with an open door policy. She is also championing their efforts, letting others know how successful they are, all the while taking no credit for what is clearly a product of her guidance and leadership. This is why I am enthusiastically nominating Dr. Hughes for this award. I sincerely wish there were more advisors here at UHD who took a roll in championing their organizations. Her hard work and dedication reflect great credit on the UHD faculty and staff.

Dr. Merrilee Cunningham, Dr. Christina Hughes and Dr. Michael Wilson, *United Nations Association*- I have never seen a group of advisors work so hard for their students. Dr. Cunningham has been doing Model United Nations for over 25 years, and she has never received or looked for recognition but the simple desire to ensure her students are successful, realize their true potential and can make a positive impact on the community. All three advisors worked together to create a Model United Nations course (for each semester) at UHD to help better mentor and prepare us for competition and in our approach towards global issues. They have written several grants and raised funds – totaling over \$20,000 – to provide us with opportunities to attend WFUNA, Member's Day, National UNA-USA Convention, competitions, etc. Their dedication to all of us is seldom recognized but always appreciated by all of us – they have kept an open-door policy when it comes to students.

Dr. Michael Wilson has helped coach several students on a one-on-one basis to help them with their debate and communication skills as well as facilitated our trip to Washington, D.C. for the National UNA-USA convention. Dr. Hughes and Dr. Cunningham has continuously helped the students with learning in-depth about global issues, policy-making and how we can create change on a global scale. All three faculty advisors have been present at each officers and members meeting throughout the year and have always been a support group for the UNA-UHD organization. Dr. Michael Wilson ensured that we could take 25 delegates to Texas A&M-Commerce by driving us to Commerce, Texas in a 12-passenger van; otherwise, we would not have been able to attend and win 11 awards and first place (Outstanding Delegation) above other universities such as Baylor University among others within the Southwest region – the first since UHD opened its doors in 1974. Dr. Christina Hughes has also helped us to create a strong collaboration with high schools near UHD such as Mandell High School. Dr. Cunningham has also been active in ensuring we were able to take advantage and be aware of every opportunity that came our way such as Global Classrooms of Houston, where we are now initiating a partnership on an annual basis starting with 2016. Correspondence via emails amount to over ~10,000 emails as not a day has gone by where they haven't inquired if we needed any help, connected us with major partnerships and opportunities that have vastly helped the students of the organization. Please consider all three of our faculty advisors of the UNA-UHD organization for this award – I will even cover all costs for the awards if necessary. This is extremely important to me, as I have seen from myself and “all” students within the organization – that they have been a primary reason to not only the success of this organization but the desire of the students to “remain in school” and make an impact within our community.

Dr. Nancy Lopez, *Phi Alpha Theta*-Our advisor, Dr. Nancy Lopez, has made everything we have accomplished this past year through Phi Alpha Theta possible. Through her guidance we have been able to create our student lecture series, which has given valuable learning experiences to almost all of our members, many of whom seek to become teachers and professors themselves in the coming years and months. Dr. Lopez has also been our biggest supporter from the very beginning. She has always found a way to help and support us in any idea that we have had such as finding a way to fund our trips, which she solved with having many themed bake sales, to making a point to get to know what all of our members want to do after college. For some of our members that didn't mean a life of teaching, so she has made sure that we have seen other paths that we can easily peruse with our history degrees, whether that means helping students prepare for law school or getting us the inside tour of historical archives. She is always pushing us to strive for things we may not even think are possible, such as congressional internships in Washington, D.C. or even just stepping out of our comfort zones and applying and presenting papers at conferences all over the country.

Dr. Lopez's door is always open. If we have questions or concerns of any kind when it comes to Phi Alpha Theta, she is there. She goes above and beyond when it comes to supporting our members in many different ways, but in particular she has accompanied us to almost every historical research conference at which any of our members have presented papers, from Fort Worth to Orlando, Florida, just to show her support for each and every one of us. She will write us outstanding letters of recommendations, even on short notice. She does all of this for us and so much more, and never complains, she just wants us to be able to go far in our lives and succeed in what makes us happy.

Student L.E.A.D. Award

Kiran Valani-Ali, *Professional Society of Criminal Justice*-Kiran is a very dedicated individual, and has been a great asset to the Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students. As a member, Kiran expresses true leadership skills and aids the board members in finding guest speakers as well as other contacts that help find internship and volunteer possibilities. Her most recent achievement was acquiring and inviting an FBI recruiter to a member meeting. The members of PSCJS are truly grateful for the opportunity that was presented to us since a group of members want to attain a position in the FBI. Kiran also generously donates items when the organization has drives and volunteers at many events.

Bianca Gonzalez, *Sigma Kappa Omega Sorority Inc.*-This student not only remains committed to Sigma Kappa Omega but she is able to balance out school, internships, and her job. We all have bad days and it seems like she never has those, she's always in a good mood and always has inspiring things to say to a sister in a time of need. The other day I was feeling so overwhelmed with school and she just listened to me vent about life and all she said was "it's all going to be worth it at the end". Her words made realize that I will succeed and all this hard work and stress will benefit me. Bianca is probably one of the friendliest people I know, she is always willing to start a conversation with other organizations.

Jessly Perez, *Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students*-I will like to dominate Jessly Perez, The Secretary for Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students (PSCJS). Jessly has demonstrated on how to be a great Leader. She was also the President for this organization and has given the opportunity for old and recent members to take an opportunity and try to be officers, to get to know people in and outside campus and how to interact with others. She is always with a positive attitude, she is also very helpful, understandable, and has a unique personality. One of the most important things she does for this organization is to make sure every member involved does not stay out track, and knows what is coming up in the future. For example; very organized person on sending emails and reminders for current events, including new community service opportunities for members to participate, always making sure everyone completes the required hours to be in the organization, and very supportive. She is always supporting members, and other students to making sure they know the importance of being involved in a University and the great opportunities students can obtain for a better future. Another point of view is that Jessly, knows very well how to manage he own time. She has time for her job, school work, and her participation in 2 organizations. Which I personally admire. She dedicates 100% of her time at anything she does. I believe she is a great student on campus, and also a great leader with a wonderful ahead future.

Jasmine Gunn, *Campus Activities Board*-Jasmine is a remarkable student leader who has went above and beyond as the Director of Special Events for the Campus Activities Board, she has always came in time of need when asked upon even at last minute. She is always ready and ready with energy and a smile. She has provided an environment of exclusivity in our organization. I credit the amount of members we do have to her consistency and repertoire that she maintains with them. I cannot think of anyone on campus who deserves this award more. Jasmine who was previously not involved on campus, found the courage to become and establish herself within the organization dynamic even while mothering a small child. She is the definition of persistence, and strength.

Alexandro Sanchez, *Professional Accounting Society*- Alexandro Sanchez is a prime example of what it means to be a leader. He successfully transformed the Professional Accounting Society from just another student organization to the largest and most successful student organization at UH-D. He is dedicated as president and is constantly motivated others around him to become better leaders and more active within the society. I cannot fathom a better fit for this award. Alex Sanchez contribution to the City of Houston includes leading and organizing a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A) program for UHD. Alex is a humble leader. He always puts the needs of others before his own needs.

Zackery Miller-Perez, *Professional Accounting Society*- Helped to develop ordinary students into extra ordinary professional students.

Lizeth Del Castillo, *Gamma Alpha Omega*- Lizeth is Vice President of Gamma Alpha Omega, Inc and holds several other positions as well, including Service Chair. She is always ready to help out the community and even though she is graduating this semester, she is always present and ready to give back. She works in the advising center and manages to also intern at MAM so that she can earn her Social Work degree. With work and everything else going on in life, she is involved with attending service events and encouraging other sisters to participate as well. We have been involved with the Dog Walk at the Houston Zoo, volunteered during tax season at a community center, and recently held a Book Hunt at a local elementary school.

Jeff Abraham, *United Nations Association*-Jeff Abraham manages to be the president of five organizations, while maintaining a high grade point average and a steady relationship with his mentees. The breadth and depth of his involvement on campus is clear, but his efforts go beyond his titles. His approach towards people and his dedication to the legacy of each organization make him a successful leader. First and foremost, it is important to recognize that Jeff has helped us start the organizations; his grass root efforts have helped us maintain stability and have allowed us to be involved on campus. Jeff motivates each officer to get involved on campus and to be proactive in maintaining the objectives of the sustainability goals the United Nations has set in place. We have raised funds for GirlUp, volunteered at the Beacon and Ronald McDonald House, became involved with the ELI Program, participate in PAIR Houston, helped educate the youth about world events through Global Classroom etc., because our agendas revolve around contributing our time to the local and national community. Jeff urges the officers and members to channel their capacities for the betterment of our chapter through volunteerism, networking and to better ourselves in our personal lives. I cannot tell you how Jeff managed to get us funding for our Model Arab League and Model United Nation trips, but I know it was not an easy job. I am aware of his leadership qualities because he does not display his struggles, rather chooses to take charge. This is an example of his stress tolerance and relentless passion. He is an effective leader because we have accomplished all the goals we have set in place – even it was difficult to get there. Jeff cares about our cohesion, attainments and aspirations. He would come to school on Fridays from 7 AM to 12 AM in order to host our “Competition Marathons.” He is passionate about seeing us compete, hence he advocates for us and is extremely involved in our growth and preparations. Jeff made us research binders and guided us through the rules of debate, thus I believe he was the backbone of our success. He advises us to teach our new members in a similar way because he wants us to continue the legacy our collegiate chapter. The University of

Houston – Downtown has been recognized in these competitions because our delegates have won various awards.

Jeff is a mentor to various others and I. He exhibits great leadership qualities because he is empathetic, accountable, honest, humble and knows how to communicate in an effective and appropriate manner. Jeff is extremely humble and would rather give credit to anyone else before himself, but I believe he deserves to be recognized for his efforts. He has coached us to become better student leaders, therefore, Jeff demonstrates his commitment to the organization because he considers every individual's strengths and how they contribute to our collective success. Furthermore, if anyone is struggling in their academic assignments Jeff gets out of his way and figures out ways to tutor us. If someone does not know Jeff, one would assume he is juggling all these responsibilities, but I can confirm that he is devoted to each task. We all consider Jeff as a part of our family; he has created an ambience of support and solidarity. Jeff influenced us to participate in intramural sports here at UHD as a team bonding event. Although, we were not great at sports, we were able to enjoy ourselves and come out of our comfort zones. He motivates us to challenge ourselves and to take leadership positions. For example, he helped members run for SGA and to start their own organization, such as the UHD Debate Team. Jeff will put forth the priorities of others, before his own and he will always make time for people. He is extremely concerned with the improvement of others, and gives constructive criticism to improve someone's character. I know of various time he has held discussions with people about their mistakes in order to guides them toward the right path. In the Model Arab League debate we had in February, there was a delegate of our team who was an aggressive speaker which caused him to seem as a harsh person; Jeff guided him to Professor Wilson, who has experience in speech and debate to become an effective public speaker.

Specifically, I believe for a new organization, we have become very involved on campus. In the beginning, establishing a new organization scared our board of officers. Our sense of ambiguity and confusion affected our participation. We were not as involved as we could have been, but after various speeches and advice from Jeff, he influenced us to interact. He cultivated an environment of trust and direction, which allowed for the inclusive growth of our relationships. Jeff has helped me develop my confidence and self-esteem skills, as well as other officers. I have a passion for Model United Nations, but I was afraid to speak during the conference, so eventually after various talks with Jeff I was able to break out my shell and debate. In the events we have participated in and hosted, he has allowed us to manage these events, thus slowly directing us toward the common goal of our organization. For our fundraiser for UN Water Day and GirlUp, we felt secure because there was enough room for trial and error to occur and not affect us, thus highlighting the stability of our organization. Although, our events were successful, his approach developed our organizational skills. Jeff sees potential in people and fosters those potentials through providing us with articles or books to read, gives us advice, and even quizzes us at time. In the end, I realize that Jeff has truly given us the opportunity to make this a student run organization and I know for a fact he does that to every organization he is involved with. I have observed various conversations between Jeff and his peers and it is clear that he is extremely generous and tenacious. Jeff Abraham is the milestone for all our initiatives and the future leaders who have encounter him here at UHD. His success in his personal life and academics mark him as person for others to admire. His determination and effective leadership abilities can also be verified with his professors and advisors – they know they can depend on

him. Jeff is goals because of his distinctive, hallmark character that we all aspire to be, therefore, I nominate him for the Student L.E.A.D. Award. Hence, endorse Jeff for this award because he truly embodies a leader that has good intentions and a good heart.

John Locke, *Student Government Association*- John Locke is deserving of the Student L.E.A.D Award for a multitude of reasons. His work at both U.H.D. and in the surrounding community have defined the attributes of an L.E.A.D award recipient. During the 2015/16 school year John has not only been thorough in the completion of his duties as Student Body President while maintaining an above average G.P.A., he has also been very active with local charity organizations and community outreach programs as well as successfully managing two jobs. John was invited to be part of group of student body presidents working alongside member of the White House staff and the Department of Education in an effort to increase financial aid and lower student debt. This group was responsible for creating report on Federal Education Policy which is expected to have a positive effect in not only educating students about federal financial aid programs, but also in advising the federal government on ways to better reach students in an effort to create awareness about those programs. John was featured by the Lumina Foundation, an organization dedicated to increasing the percentage of Americans with higher education, in their online publication after giving a speech on student involvement with on campus projects. He also represented the University of Houston Downtown in an International Education Parliament where he shared UHD's philosophy on high impact practices and community engagement, and received an honorary degree from the I.E.P. He also was integral in organizing the event with members of congress and members of the international parliament representing 25 different countries.

John has done volunteer work at numerous events including, but not limited to, food not bombs, voter registration, clothing drives, and the Points of Light Conference which is the largest volunteering conference in the world. John's speech at that conference was so powerful and impactful that he was invited to speak again in Mexico for the 2016 Global Volunteer Conference. Demonstrating yet again his excellent communication skills, John wrote an article on civic engagement entitled "The Power to Influence Positive Change: A Student's Perspective", which was featured in the American Association of Colleges and Universities publication, Diversity and Democracy. Under John's leadership the Student Government Association was able to facilitate the Circle of Change Leadership Conference being hosted at the University of Houston Downtown, which will bring both faculty and students from universities across the country to UHD and provide much needed exposure and recognition for our university. John also aided the university through service on several committees including search committees for Provost, President, and Dean of Students. John was also constitutive in creating the Tuition Advisory Committee which has in its first year brought great changes for UHD's students through the 5 year fixed tuition program. This student has an excellent academic record, consistently expresses entrepreneurial initiatives, outstanding career progression, and demonstrates extraordinary achievements in the face of challenges and adversity. John Locke is an effective leader who uses his abilities not only in the development and achievement of his own goals but in aiding, encouraging, and inspiring those around him to reach for the stars as well. I nominate John Locke for the 2016 Student Lead, Effectiveness, Ability, and Development award.

Reyna Valdez, Darwin and Leeuwenhoek Society (DLS)-I would like to nominate Reyna Valdez, (myself) for the Student L.E.A.D. award; since her start at UHD this student has been involved on campus at different organizations, currently she is the president of the Darwin and Leeuwenhoek Society (DLS), where she had to make a fresh start after the fall 2015 semester, because previous leadership left, no one wanted to take charge and bring the club back to life, however she did, with limited support due to lack of officers, she was able to succeed. Within her first couple of weeks as president she brought in speakers from M.D. Anderson to meet with new members of her club to discuss possible career options. She was able to manage to bring the members together every other Saturday to volunteer at UHD's events such as open house and Ed's Bayou clean up; also volunteer around Houston to places like Hermann Park. A month after her presidency she was able to succeed in the organizing of Science Jeopardy, an event where she managed to get not only DLS members but also UHD students to form different teams to compete against each other through a series of questions from different subjects within the sciences were asked. The event had an attendance of around 60 people composed of students and faculty. This was such a big accomplishment that was possible due to her dedication to see the organization succeed. Now through her leadership the club will start to award graduating cords to its members in spring 2016, something that it has not been done before since the club's existence. The faculty advisors of DLS are glad to be working with her because she is self-sufficient; if she sees a need she tries to fix it by herself, without going straight to the advisor and having it solved for her. Apart from being president of DLS she is secretary of the Environmental Club, a UHD Ambassador, researcher at UHD and a part time student worker. She was selected from a pool of applicants to serve as a UHD ambassador, where she instantly picked up the role, within a month of being an ambassador she was already giving tours to prospective students, when it usually takes over two months of training before a new ambassador can start giving tours. During her term as secretary of the Environmental Club (EVC) she has assisted the officers with events, meetings and recruiting new members, she has shown them the ropes of being an officer and the passion that one must have to be in such a role. She served previously as the president of EVC, so her previous experience is of great help to current officers in the implementation of new volunteer activities, events, informative speakers, and recruiting. Aside from all her involvement on different organizations she also performs research, where she has been selected as one of the students to represent UHD three times at national conferences and the entire UH system on one occasion by presenting her research project and findings, this past January 2016 her research has been published, a big accomplishment after working on the same research lab for almost four years; she joined the laboratory since she was a freshman, while most of her peers did not join a research laboratory until their junior or senior years. Besides from being a student she also holds a part time job at UHD, where she has been able to assist at numerous UHD events such as the opening reception for the welcome center, retirees luncheon, president's community breakfast, SACSCOC visit, just to name a few; and learn new skills like reconciliations, event planning, customer service amongst others, that make her a good asset in that office. Besides from her involvement in different UHD organizations, she is also part of the National Hispanic Professional Organization, where she completed a semester long leadership course along businessmen and businesswomen from Houston. She was able to do all of this while being a full time science student and keeping up with her classes, homework and projects. During her time at Student Government Association, she saw the need of microwave stations aside from the food court to better serve students, hence the installation of microwaves at other UHD buildings and the addition of a microwave in the food court. She was also one of the main

organizers of the first student led health fair, where she had to work alongside UHD staff, students and community members to bring information and various health testing to the UHD community. The first UHD Pet a Pet Day was initiated by her, many obstacles, had to be overcome due to policies imposed by UHD, months of planning, meetings, and organizing but she managed to make it a successful event which appeared on the Dateline newspaper, now this has been undertaken by another organization, however she opened the doors to the creation of such event hopefully the start of a new tradition at UHD. She will be a great recipient of the Student L.E.A.D. award for her involvement, commitment and leadership demonstrated towards her peers, UHD and the community

Courtney Stevens, *Phi Alpha Theta (PAT)*-I am writing to recommend Courtney Stevens for the LEAD Award. Courtney serves as an executive officer in UHD's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (PAT), the national history honors society. At the time that we initiated Courtney into the chapter, PAT had fallen into a period of complete stasis, and she has played an instrumental role in revitalizing the organization. Courtney has helped organize and has participated in every meeting, every trip, and every fundraiser. By every trip, I mean Austin, the Battleship Texas, San Antonio, NASA, Rice University, camping in Goliad and Dallas. These outings, while certainly a lot of fun, have required a significant investment of time and energy on her part. Moreover, Courtney is always willing to undertake the mundane but necessary task of emailing members (and procrastinating advisors) to gently prod them into completing paperwork, meeting deadlines, or simply showing up when they are expected. She has helped design and post flyers, and she is always available when we need someone to stand in front of our tri-board and chat up potential members at various student recruitment events, from Student Involvement Days to the

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Open Houses. Student organizations are only as strong as their members, and Courtney has been a rock for PAT. She has experienced the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat in the OrgOlympics. She has courageously cleared away some very questionable items (including a shiv and a very suspicious-looking black plastic bag found outside the Harris County Jail) during Ed's Bayou Cleanup. She learned which fork to use for salad and which to use for dinner at the SOLD Conference, and she regularly attends the scintillating meetings of the Council of Organizations. And cupcakes! So many cupcakes! In addition to her prodigious baking skills, Courtney also regularly mans the PAT bake sale table, and it was Courtney who had the bright idea to purchase a PayPal card-reader—now there is no escape, a lack of cash will no longer excuse anyone from purchasing a PAT cupcake. Moreover, Courtney has been one of the primary organizers of PAT's Movie Night, and she baked cupcakes (more cupcakes!) for the UHD Geeks' Zombie Prom. PAT, however, is primarily an honor society, and in that regard, Courtney's contributions have been impressive. She gamely volunteered to present two talks in PAT's fledgling Student Lecture Series. The first was presented on a trip to NASA, where she lectured on the Space Race. Next, she presented a talk in Dallas on the Kennedy Assassination. More importantly, however, she has presented her paper, "The Problem of British Rule Inside the Palestinian Mandate" at the UHD World Wars Conference in December, and again during the winter break at the PAT National Conference in Orlando, Florida. Her Florida presentation was particularly important because it was a national convention attended by PAT chapters from around the country. To my knowledge, UHD had never previously attended this conference. Courtney not only acquitted herself admirably, but in doing so, she helped burnish UHD's reputation on a national level. In addition to all of her hard

work, perhaps Courtney's most remarkable trait is her generosity of spirit. Frankly, this is true of all of our PAT members. Given that PAT is an honor society of history majors, many of whom have similar goals, it means they are often in competition with each other for the same jobs, scholarships and conferences. This situation could easily devolve into an acrimonious atmosphere marked by jealousy and ill will. But our members are genuinely supportive of each other. They commiserate with each other when they experience disappointments, and they celebrate each other's accomplishments. In fact, Courtney agonized over which member to nominate for this award because she thought several others were deserving of it. In the end, it was the other officers who insisted that Courtney be nominated. I couldn't agree more.

Based on Courtney Stevens hard work, dedication, and generous spirit, I believe she is richly deserving of the LEAD Award.

Student Organization of the Year Award

Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students-The mission of The Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students is committed to promoting the academic, professional and social success of its members. The goal this year was to network with a plethora of individuals who are employed in the field of Criminal Justice. Members are recruited at the beginning of each semester. Each member is required to attend member meetings, perform community service hours and participate in school events so that they may develop a sense of school unity and campus pride through involvement in the organization. The main purpose of the Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students is to provide career resources for each member. Most of our members, both past and present, are involved in the community and have been enrolled in internship programs as well as become employed full-time by an agency. The success of the organization has captured the attention of many of the professors that are a part of the College of Public Service. The top three benefits of joining the Professional Society of Criminal Justice Students are that members will network with various agencies, along with touring facilities. Members will also be a part of a support system between undergraduate and graduate students and members who go above and beyond in the many communities in Houston are recognized at the end of each semester at our banquets.

American Medical Student Association (AMSA) - AMSA (American Medical Student Association) is a national organization with members varying from residents, to medical doctors, to medical students and even undergraduate pre-medical students!! The UHD AMSA chapter is dedicated to allowing pre-medical students to excel as a candidate for medical school by providing volunteering service opportunities, suture clinics, CPR certifications, MCAT preparations, secret insights from the medical school admission committee and CV/Resume workshops! The AMSA group is also dedicated to spreading knowledge about health to all students' staff and faculty at UHD. These are all the goals that AMSA targeted for the 2015-2016 academic year and were all actually accomplished.

So most AMSA members, have all individually started volunteering at the Memorial Hermann hospital as well as at the Texas Children's Hospital in the world's largest Texas medical center. On top of their individual volunteering, AMSA also helped out Project C.U.R.E where AMSA volunteers helped to sort and organize donated medical supplies, evaluate and repair bio-medical equipment and helped with various projects in their busy warehouse. AMSA members also

loaded containers with medical supplies bound to Zambia, Ghana and other countries in need! This event will also be continued this upcoming late April. Also AMSA has trained officers to hold the bi-monthly AMSA CLINIC, where AMSA officers will check blood pressure as well as blood sugar for any students, faculty and staff to emphasize how important health care is and to spread awareness. AMSA held weekly meetings last semester featuring 7 Texas medical schools as well as 7 outside of Texas medical schools that came in to talk to AMSA pre-medical students about the important things that they can do to increase their chances of getting into medical school. Also admission committees from these various schools also shared mock interviews, as well as personal statement and resume tips. Pre-med AMSA members were also given the opportunity to attend the UT-Houston annual medical conference where they learned IV insertions, laryngoscopy, and other clinical skills. AMSA members were exposed to MCAT training during our 4 important MCAT seminar drills, which allowed them to strengthen their understanding in the health science area so that these future medical doctors will be able to be the best in the nation in providing care and support to their patients. Early medical training is always the best, and this is what AMSA made sure that pre-medical students at UHD were exposed to. Also AMSA pre-med students as well as other students were allowed to get CPR certified which is an important certification to have when applying for medical schools. AMSA also shared numerous other resources with members from the AAMC and TMDSAS websites to allow members an upper hand when obtaining resources and knowledge for their future career in Medicine. AMSA hopes to train future doctors to be their best as well as to spread health care awareness.

Omega Delta Phi-ODPHI's Mission Statement: The purpose of this Brotherhood, a Service/Social fraternity dedicated to the needs and concerns of the community, is and shall be to promote and maintain the traditional values of Unity, Honesty, Integrity, and Leadership. This Brotherhood was founded in order to provide, to ANY man, a diverse fraternal experience which coincides with a higher education. Omega Delta Phi always strives to be better than the semester before. From doing community service to motivating its members, Omega Delta Phi continues to strive towards success. ODPHI always supports other organizations events by attending, donating, and even helping with the event. After the tragic accident that happened to one of its members, it was really great to see that its members remained intact with their goal. They continued to hold a strong brotherhood.

Campus Activities Board- CAB started off with nothing this year. All we had was the remnants of activities that were done by previous members. Our mission always is and will be to provide the students with amazing, free events that increase the college experience and culture on campus. This year we wanted to make sure the students knew we existed for them. We held several nacho Wednesday events where we gave out free Nachos to the students. We have had multiple 100 plus student attended events. We pride ourselves in our ability to get student's minds off of school, and more on fun and relaxation.

Programs we offer:

Powder Paint Party (P3) Students painted themselves and each other in safe powder paint while enjoying free music, games, and food during the event.

Straight Outtalk Compton Movie Night: Students were able to see a fresh movie on campus for free, and enjoyed prizes, and free food as well.

Creed Movie Night: Students were able to enjoy fun interactive trivia on the rocky movies, and win free prizes including blue tooth speakers, and authentic boxing gloves.

Skyline Social: Students were able to enjoy the best finger food provided by Phoenicia's of Houston, along with beer, and regular beverages. We provided a full layout of desert of all flavors, while they were surrounded by a fresh DJ, lights, and great decorations.

CAB Hump Days: Students are able every other Wednesday to come to the Student Lounge and enjoy free music, and lights, including free hamburgers and hot-dogs for the student body.

The Campus Activities board also attended the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities Conference in Houston, Texas. We received 1st place in the Onsite Poster Graphics Competition, and 2nd place in the T-Shirt Design Competition. Being a part of our organization provides a holistic view for students who are interested in not only being involved on campus, but also event creation, and management. We are able to involve out students to a capacity where they feel as though they are able to run an event themselves. We make sure that we keep everyone on the same page as what is being done. We make sure that every is able to work on events together regardless of who may be leading. Students will leave knowing how to be organized, and consistent, and also having gained lasting networking connections throughout the years.

Professional Accounting Society-The purpose of our organization is to help business student's transition into business professionals. We facilitate this transition by providing members with an out-of-class experience. For example, this year we gave back to the Houston community by providing income tax preparation services to families and individuals that make less than \$50,000 a year, i.e., our organization logged more than 300 service hours.

The mission of the Professional Accounting Society is to transcend the student into the business professional by providing them with resources and knowledge that could potentially jump start their career. Every semester PAS' goal is to help students succeed in finding their careers and creating corporate relations with major firms. Because of PAS, a major accounting firm, BKD will soon be holding on-campus interviewing. This is huge, not only for our members, but for everyone at the college of business. The professional Accounting Society has been participating in the VITA program all semester. We offer free tax preparation to low income families in the college of business. This service we are providing benefits the entire Houston community. We are always informing our members not only about PAS events but also about COB events and any community events such as the Houston CPA Society. We understand the importance to broaden our network. The top three benefits would be: 1. Our members receive weekly newsletters updating them on events in the community and within the organization. 2. We provide them the opportunity to network with recruiting firms at their offices. 3. We provide them the opportunity to become leaders and make a difference.

The Professional Accounting Society is the premier business student organization in the College of Business that provides business students with opportunities for professional and intellectual growth. We create out-of-classroom experiences for all members in efforts to facilitate their transition from business students into professional business leaders. Our organization has been recognized by the University of Houston-Downtown community for having outstanding

leadership and for our commitment to community service. One of the organization's goals this year was to bring the VITA program to UHD which works closely with the neighborhood tax centers here in the Houston area. We were successful to bring the VITA program to the University and on February 10 VITA kicked off by providing free tax services on campus till April 16 2016. Members of our organization volunteer their time to prepare taxes for low income families in the Houston-area. Members are recruited through our marketing efforts and are able to sign up on our website at pasuhd.com. There are many ways that members can get involved in the organization, they can join one of our many committees that we have. As of today we have five different committees; Marketing, VITA, Aramark, Corporate Relations, and our Web Chair committee. We have 182 current members, and a year ago we only had 26 current members. An increase of 700%. One of the many ways that students have benefited from our organization is by being able to get jobs and job offers through us efforts. We have many events throughout the entire school year where we would visit and invite employers from the Houston area to meet our PAS members. This has really helped our members develop their soft communication skills and help them become better leaders. We host Excel workshops throughout the semester to help our fellow business students improve those skills. As an accounting student, it is very important for us to have an intermediate level of knowing how to use Excel. It is an extremely crucial skill to have ones in the accounting world. As quoted from the Professional Accounting Society (PAS) web page, "The Professional Accounting Society is the premier business student organization in the College of Business that provides business students with opportunities for professional and intellectual growth. We create out-of-classroom experiences for all members in efforts to facilitate their transition from business students into professional business leaders. Our organization has been recognized by the University of Houston-Downtown community for having outstanding leadership and for our commitment to community service."

Over the course of the last academic year, PAS has endeavored to establish itself as the premiere example for the College of Business and the University of Houston-Downtown of what a professional student organization should be. When I first became a student here at UHD in the fall of 2014, PAS was nearly non-existent. It served no purpose. Now, however, PAS is one of the strongest, most visible and highly involved organizations on campus and in the community. The leadership for PAS over the course of the last year, under the excellent advising direction of Dr. Yancy, has utilized intense marketing to grow the organization's membership to approximately 200 members. In addition to its growth, PAS has aggressively pursued the development of its professional relationships with companies and firms in the surrounding Houston community. PAS understands that doing well in school and getting a degree is not the end game. We're all here for one purpose; getting a job and beginning a career. To achieve these goals, PAS has established several committees within the organization, each with their own purpose, that help contribute to this overall goal. The Corporate Relations Committee is the designated contact point to liaise with companies and businesses in the community, to establish and develop professional relationships for UHD, the COB and Accounting students for years to come. The Aramark Committee is the community involvement and volunteer committee, and also serves as a focal point of raising revenue and operating funds for the organization. And finally the Marketing/Web Committee, that works diligently without pause to communicate with the members of PAS about programs, events and functions. In the last year, PAS has hosted many functions and activities, including excel workshops, etiquette dinners, office and campus visits to and from several companies and firms from the Houston area, and established a relationship with the Houston CPA Society Student Auxiliary, where one of the PAS members is

now an officer. PAS has volunteered at the Houston Rodeo and Texans games, and through the VITA program many Houston area residents have been assisted with free tax preparation. Last fall, PAS was able to send several student to the annual NABA conference, which in turn led to a few interviews and job offers for several students with major companies in the Accounting industry. And that's really what it's all about. Helping students get jobs and begin careers when they graduate. PAS aims to assist in achieving that goal for all of UHD students, not just its members. Through the hard work of PAS leadership, the committees and its members, students can benefit from the many networking opportunities to establish relationships and develop the necessary techniques and skills to become successful students while here, and achieve success in the job market after graduation.

United Nations Association [UNA-UHD]-The UNA-UHD chapter at the University of Houston-Downtown is one of the first ten university-based United Nations Association chapters created within the United States. The chapter maintains a focus on community service, international experiential learning/ service opportunities, Model United Nations [MUN]/ Model Arab League [MAL] competitions, annual national UNA [UNA-USA] and international UNA [WFUNA] conventions. The University of Houston-Downtown has also started an annual Model United Nations course in Spring 2016; this was advantageous for all students not only in competition but diplomatic debate, constructing resolutions and in developing a strong foundation of history, social affairs, healthcare, education, economics, security, defense and most importantly - understanding the importance of collaboration and international cooperation in accomplishing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals [MDGs]. The United Nations Association pursued several goals this year – particularly with increasing awareness of several global issues through community service initiatives, debate tournaments (encompassing several categories – i.e. Joint Defense Council, Social Affairs, Economic Affairs, Palestinian Affairs, Special Council on Religion and Extremism, Public Health and Political Affairs). The United Nations Association partnered with several key organizations throughout the year via volunteerism and advocacy such as the GirlUp Foundation (gender equality – education, marriage and abuse), UNICEF Tap Project (raising money for providing water to underserved communities), and UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) among several other organizations.

The membership of the organization is open to all majors and individuals of all backgrounds and they are recruited via tables in front of A300, in the classroom and aggressive promotional tools and events. They are involved through volunteering in community service activities throughout the year (i.e. The Beacon Homeless Shelter), hosting speaker events (i.e. Ambassador Cynthia Shepherd Perry) and participating in MUN/ MAL competitions nationwide (i.e. Southwest Regional Competition in Atlanta, Georgia; Southwest Regional Texas A&M-Commerce Competition in Commerce, Texas and University of Houston-Honor's College in Houston, Texas). Last year, the organization was a group of 7 members and have grown to over 70 members (25 that compete in MUN/MAL). The students have benefited tremendously with this organization as they are exposed to global issues through debate and collaboratively create resolutions to problems such as the humanitarian issues in Palestine and the current refugee crisis. Educational advancement and understanding in global issues in conjunction with an active role in volunteering within the confines of these global issues (i.e. PAIR-Partnership for the

Advancement and Immersion of Refugees) has helped them to directly impact the lives of individuals affected by such humanitarian issues.

The various programs offered by the organization the campus, surrounding community and general organization membership is various guest speaker hosting opportunities such as the Head of the EU Delegation to the U.S., who discussed global trade; Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry among others. Various community service opportunities are also offered to members such as volunteering at the Beacon on a weekly basis since August 2015; English Language Institute (ELI) Student-Mentorship Program (where we partnered with ELI students and helped them assimilate into the U.S. via helping them with their English, TOEFL, volunteering opportunities and membership activities to make them feel more at home); Citizenship Month Kickoff Luncheon/ Houston Dynamo Game/ Houston Rockets to raise awareness and celebrate the diversity and collaborative environment within the Houston community. We also participated as an organization in the Intramurals Volleyball and Dodgeball at University of Houston-Downtown – this helped bring the members closer together and create more of a collaborative environment. We also volunteered at Ronald McDonald House and did arts and crafts with Pediatric cancer patients as well as visited/ received a sponsorship for airfare, hotel and tour costs to Istanbul, Turkey for competition for 12 delegates from the Turkish Raindrop Foundation (~\$17,000). We also volunteered and hosted the UN Day Celebration at the Junior League of Houston and also the Aga Khan Foundation Walk/ Run. The UNA organization also volunteered for Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston (IMGH), Rails to Restaurant, Texas Children's Hospital, IMGH All for Humanities Luncheon.

The UNA organization also participated in Model United Nations in Atlanta, Georgia with 12 delegates – 2 Honorable Mentions were awarded at this competition. Competition in Model Arab League in UH-Honor's College resulted in awards to 8 delegates in various areas of global research (social affairs, Palestinian affairs among others). Recent competition in Texas A&M-Commerce in Commerce, Texas, where we participated against Baylor University, Arkansas Tech University among others with a total of 25 delegates resulted in 11 total awards and in addition to individual awards – University of Houston-Downtown came in First Place with Outstanding Delegation among all universities within the southwest region – the first of this recognition since University of Houston-Downtown opened its doors in 1974!

UNA-UHD also had the privilege of sending two students – Jeff Abraham (Chapter President) and Wallace Wilson (Vice President of Finance) in addition to one of the three faculty advisors – Dr. Michael Wilson to Washington, D.C. to officially create one of the first ten university-based UNA chapters within the United States. We also sent one youth delegate – Thomas Canny (Sponsorship Coordinator) to be one of 40 students worldwide to the World Federation of United Nations Association in Vancouver, Canada, where he met with several world leaders and youth leaders from across the globe. UNA was also able to send two members – Katy De La O and Eisha Khan – to UN Member's Day, where they were able to ask questions and participate in dialogue with world leaders in New York City at the United Nations Headquarters. We are also sending two more delegates – Faryal Gul and Jessica Plascencia to Washington, D.C. this June 2016 to develop the UNA chapter that is currently in place at UHD.

The United Nations Association (UNA) has also started an annual Global Classrooms Houston at University of Houston-Downtown, which will be a Model United Nations simulation for underprivileged high school students near University of Houston-Downtown. This is an invaluable opportunity that will serve as a channel for recruitment to UHD as well as make a positive impact on children that are underserved within the community. These children will also learn about crucial global issues and develop solutions among themselves. This year, we are hosting approximately 250+ students with a UNA-UHD volunteer base of 20+ students, which is amazing. We hope to continue this initiative with UNA-USA on an annual basis with funding contributed through UNA-USA and UNA-Houston.

We are also working in collaboration with two schools. We celebrated International Day of Families with Crockett Elementary, where we celebrated woman all over the globe and their accomplishments. We also will be working with Manville High School on April 25, 2016 to teach them about our organization as well as to have them participate in a Model UN simulation. We will also be feeding them and treating them as if they are part of our organization – this will also serve as a channel for recruitment to UHD. The UNA organization also will be participating in an awareness initiative on refugees via “Remembrance Day of Rwandan Genocide”, where the movie Hotel Rwanda will be viewed in collaboration with several organizations on campus. At UNA-UHD, we believe a collaborative environment is what will produce the most impact; therefore, we have been working with several organizations on campus throughout the year. This movie viewing will also serve as a fundraiser event to raise money for UNHCR for refugees as they were approximately \$180 million under budget for the past year. We want to show the students you can make a global impact through awareness initiatives such as this initiative by UNA. Other notable events have been the Valentine’s Day fundraiser for GirlUp, UN World Water Day fundraiser for UNICEF Tap Project, Soccer fundraiser, two pizza fundraisers and the UN Earth Day fundraiser.

The UNA-UHD organization remains committed to several departments, especially the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, where it has had the full support of several professors in addition to Dean Fulton. The top three benefits to members apart from our organization is: leadership skills, awareness of global issues through research (competition) and community engagement; in addition to the desire to “be the change”. Our UNA-UHD organization has volunteered almost ~2500 hours over the year collectively (if not more) and has won over 30+ awards and recognitions in 2015-16, and we represent the importance of diversity in collaboration as we have representation from several nationalities (i.e. United States, El Salvador, India, Ethiopia, Kashmir, Mexico, Pakistan, Colombia, Honduras, Venezuela, Haiti, Czechoslovakia, etc.); this diversity in addition to MUN/MAL competitions, the Model United Nations course offered in Spring 2016 and service learning opportunities throughout the year has helped the students to understand the importance of building stronger, collaborative relationships on a global scale and that we encompass the ability to develop effective resolutions for international issues (i.e. healthcare, education, economics and poverty). I have no doubt this organization will serve as an effective tool for developing future global leadership.

Student Government Association- Student Government Association is an organization that is here to represent the students at UHD. We are tasked with increasing student involvement, supporting student initiatives and helping build the UHD brand in the community. Our members

our elected by the student body and for vacant positions appointed by the president and approved by the senate. We currently have over 30 active members that either work in a department in the organization or appointed in different positions. We have provided many events and services to the student body. We collaborated with the creative collective and the college of humanities and social sciences, and outside organizations for our 100 Poets for Change event which is in collaboration with 169 different countries around the world to speak against social injustice through the arts. We collaborated with Greek life for the Hispanic heritage day event that included political figures alumni and UHD administration celebrating Hispanic heritage. We organized the Walk 2 Vote that was a collaboration between 10 non-profits from around the city, the city of Houston, congress, student orgs including Greek life , ambassadors , CAB, BSA, Gatoretts and many more to create a city wide event to engage students in civic engagement. We collaborated with the department of deliberations with two different deliberations that included about 200 people from UHD, lonestar and the community where we deliberated about issues that we face as a community today. We hosted a Veterans Day event where we volunteered with vets and the garden club to help with the UHD garden. Volunteer Houston was also a partner in the Veterans Day event. We hosted an Ed's Bayou clean up where we help build a culture of community engagement for student orgs on campus we picked up and recycled over 1,000 pounds of trash around the UHD campus. We also worked with administration to bring a leadership program to the campus called Circle of Change which is a regional conference where students from multiple colleges will be able to be exposed to our great university. We have hosted town halls in regards to gun legislation. WE hosted a UHD Got Talent event that was in collaboration with the theater department and College of Humanities and Social Sciences where students was able to display their talents and highlight the amazing students we have at the University. We also collaborated with Rice University and Mi Familia Vota to host our first ever Mayoral debate at Rice University. We organized and facilitated the event. Honestly there is not enough room to share all our contributions to the students and the University. We have over 1,000 hours of volunteering work at UHD and community including welcome week, eds, bayou, house of tiny treasures , food not bombs to name a few. Our organization has been committed to the students and working hard to implement programs and collaborations that better the University and the community through High Impact practices and community engagement that allows students to connect what they are learning in class to the outside world. I hope you will consider SGA as an org of the Year as our students have been committed to the betterment of the University and our students and surrounding community. Another example of this is our work with the It's On Us campaign that is a program to combat sexual assault on college campuses in collaboration with the White House. SGA also has been able to connect students with Internships at congressional offices and agencies in Houston. We also help facilitate work study opportunities that are with agencies in the community helping give students work experience and opportunities. Our goal was to build more collaboration opportunities for the student orgs to help empower them. We think we have met this goal. We have grown a lot this year with all of the changes on campus and challenges we have faced as a university. We have 11 people running for election compared to 4 in the previous year. This shows that we are empowering students. Lastly, we were able to negotiate with administration a few amazing items which include increase of hours of operation for our food services, starting a 5 year fixed tuition plan from our first ever Tuition Advisory Committee, and adding more outside work study programs than we had previously. I think SGA has been a great example of what you can do with students that are inspired, empowered and engaged. The three top benefits for being a part of our organization is

being involved and engaged in high impact practices, connecting with administration and students, and learning the processes in which a college makes decisions. Thank you for your time and GO GATORS

Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) - UHD's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (PAT), the national history honors society, has had a very active year. In conjunction with the Webb Society, we have visited the Houston Printing Museum; the Battleship Texas; took an overnight trip to Austin, where we toured the Harry Ransom Center, visited the LBJ Presidential Library and visited the capitol; and we have gone camping at Goliad State Park. We initiated a Student Lecture Series that involves visiting historical sites where students present lectures on related topics. UHD senior Jason Rivas, spoke at the Battleship Texas on the history of the ship, and on the campus of Rice University, he presented his talk, "Glory Days: How the Boss Brought Down the Berlin Wall." In early October, Phi Alpha Theta traveled to San Antonio where Ryan Carlet spoke on the history of San Antonio's River Walk; Itzayana Lopez-Prestegui lectured on Spanish colonization of Texas at the Alamo; and David Hale recounted the colorful history of Mission San Jose. Randy Krinsky, whose ancestors were among the 56 founding families of San Antonio, spoke at the Spanish Governor's Palace about his family's journey in 1731 from the Canary Islands to Texas. Courtney Stevens has lectured on Houston's role in the Space Race at NASA and on the Kennedy Assassination in Dallas. These student lectures not only help our members, many of whom want to be teachers, they have had a strong, positive impact on UHD because of the way in which they showcase the hard work and dedication of our students to their academic careers.

Another important way in which Phi Alpha Theta has worked hard to achieve our goals, and in the process helped to shine a positive light on UHD, is by presenting research papers at historical conferences. Four of our members presented papers at UHD's World Wars Conference in December. Moreover, three our members have presented papers at regional conferences in Austin, College Station and Fort Worth. Finally, one of our members represented UHD by presenting a paper at the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention in Orlando, Florida. Phi Alpha Theta has also participated in many UHD events, including the OrgOlympics, Ed's Bayou Cleanup, the Get Your Geek On trivia tournament, the SOLD Conference, and the UHD Geeks' Zombie Prom. PAT has also participated in various Student Involvement Days and in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Open Houses.

Although our numbers dropped off slightly last year with the graduation of some of our members, we have been able to recruit ten new members, five of which will be inducted this May, and the other five will qualify after this semester for full membership. While these numbers may sound low, as a narrowly focused honor society with strict, nationally-set rules for membership, these numbers are actually quite impressive for a small commuter school like UHD. The reason I believe these numbers are even possible is that we have the full support of our university. UHD's support allows us to showcase our achievements to other students through such things as Student Involvement Day, and Welcome Week.

The top three benefits our members get from being a part of our organization would be that they are members of a nationally recognized historical honor society; they get hands on experience preparing and presenting lectures, which is invaluable for those who wish to pursue an academic career; and that they have a safe, nurturing place where they can be among other like-minded

individuals who support each other. Our members have built a strong community around each other that helps to push and challenge them, but is also there to support one another. Together we have built our student lecture series from the ground up; we have helped each other to step out of our comfort zones and present papers at many different conferences. We have also even motivated and supported one of our members in applying, and ultimately being accepted for an internship in Washington, D.C. working with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.