The Who’s who of retail and merchandising converged at the River Oaks Country Club to salute a select group of their leading luminaries during an event benefiting the University of Houston’s Department of Human Development and Consumer Sciences.

The 2007 Merchandising Star Awards was presented during a luncheon ceremony Jan. 26. This event honored members of the retail community for exceptional contributions to the profession. Honorees included Donna Vallone, co-owner of Vallone Restaurant Group, Arlene Baranda, owner of Artisan Designs, April Hinkle, associate publisher and senior vice president of sales and marketing for Texas Monthly magazine, George Wilson, retired vice president of Foley’s human resources and the Emerging Star Student Scholarship Award was presented to CSM major Chris Goins. KPRC-TV anchor and Dominique Sachse ’90 served as the event’s emcee. Roz Pactor, former fashion director for Foley’s and UH alumna, was the MSA chairperson.

The Merchandising Star Award Endowment was established in 2004 to provide funds for CSM undergraduate and graduate scholarships, continuing education programs, program and student enrichment, and the expansion of the first online merchandising degree in the nation. Fashion designer Victor Costa and philanthropist Rose Cullen, both UH alumni, shared the first MSA.

Dr. Consuelo Waight will serve the lead faculty for UH at the 2007 Annual Conference of the Academy of Human Resource Development in Indianapolis. Her course, “Emerging Research in HRD,” will feature the role of research in HRD, research design and emerging themes in HRD research. The university will be among 14 other major research universities, participating in the conference.

Dr. Waight was recently nominated to the editorial boards of three of the four Human Resource Development Journals. These journals are:
- Advances for Developing Human Resources
- Human Resource Development International
- Human Resource Development Review

In June, Dr. Waight made a presentation, “Blending Learning,” to the E-learning Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Society for Training and Development.
Teaching Across the Digital Divide

One of the department’s newest members, Beatriz Arnillas, recently ventured South to Galveston for a presentation to the Texas Distance Learning Association. Arnillas drew on her experience teaching online art history at another Texas college. One component of the coursework involves student participation in “group blogging.”

While blogging remains a relatively young phenomenon, it has rapidly ascended as a key component of online culture. Yet despite its ascent, a sizeable majority of internet users still do not know what a blog is according to a survey by the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

Pedagogically, group blogging is of interest to teaching and training professionals because of its potential to facilitate peer learning. Group blogging provides a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas while offering a repository for assignment drops. Group members post completed assignments and comments on others’ posts. Students and instructors post and comment on a blog as a way to foster group learning.

Continuing on the digital path, Arnillas is chairing the Teaching and Learning online track for the March 2008 TxDLA conference, which will be held in Galveston. Members in her “Teaching and Learning online” review committee include Drs. Holly Hutchins and Peter Bishop and two instructional designers, Paul Waldrop from the College of Technology and Madhuri Kumar from the Bauer Business School, and Linda Davis, Ed.D., the director of Instructional Design and Technology in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The mission of TxDLA is to promote all forms of distance learning and to implement effective distance learning strategies for Texans and other distance learning practitioners of the global community.

Arnillas is HDCS’s education production specialist. Born in Lima, she double majored in art studio and art education in the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru before fleeing the political strife her country was experiencing then. Arnillas completed her BFA and MFA at the University of Kentucky. She is a painter/printmaker. Between 1994 and 2001, Arnillas taught painting, drawing and printmaking in Seton Hill University, in Pittsburgh, and was a tenured associate professor before moving to Texas.

Interests Merge for New HDCS Program Manager

Her mother is of the Sherbro tribe and Catholic; her father, Temne and Muslim. The tribal heritage of her father is entrepreneurial; her mother’s academic. For Boi-Yeanoh Adams, the Department’s new program manager, duality has shaped her life from the start. Born in Sierra Leone on the west coast of Africa, the 14 year old joined her mother in Wisconsin mid-winter.

With a hat tip to her father, Adams started off as a business major at the University of Wisconsin. Her love of writing however demanded she switch to communications. Upon graduating with her BA, she worked at a charter high school doing marketing and PR, then development and communications. There, Adams observed how the talent and skills of the teachers were compromised by a weak administration. Her experience nudged her to return to school.

“I realized I wasn’t through with my business interests and so I decided to get my MBA with a concentration in marketing” Adams explained. While the business component held its own attraction, the pull of returning to academia figured in her decision as well.

MBA in hand, Adams did freelance work in Milwaukee for the League of Young Voters. Following two trips to Houston to visit friends, Adams made a firm decision to move here. The warm climate and a bustling metropolitan city that still feels like a small town were significant draws. And at UH, she found a niche that plays to her interests and talents.
Emerging Scholars Hone Research Skills

Attending the 16th Annual International Academy of Human Resource Development Conference were left to right Dr. Holly Hutchins, Jackie German, Amy Abdallah, Dr. Consuelo Waight, Lucrecia Mignana and N’Kem Megwalu. The four-day conference was held in Indianapolis and included scholars and practitioners from 10 countries and 36 states who presented unpublished research in areas such as organizational commitment, aligning human resource development and HR management, leadership challenges, evaluation, project management, and work-life balance. HRDC students Abdallah, Mignana and Megwalu participated in the Emerging Research Scholars class; German participated in the class at last year’s conference.

Futures Foreseen

Futurists and College of Technology faculty, Andy Hines and Dr. Peter Bishop, recently edited Thinking about the Future: Guidelines for Strategic Foresight, a 231-page paperback that distills the expertise of three-dozen futurists. The comprehensive text will help executives, analysts and educators prepare for the future. Based on six categories that mirror the phases of a powerful tool called strategic foresight, this easily scannable reference book provides examples, benefits and key steps on how to use strategic foresight to grow any organization.

Other activities for Dr. Bishop include delivering the Rockwell Heritage Lecture titled “The Future of Houston.” This lecture was presented by the University of Houston Libraries.
Explore the Fall 2007 Trainer Certificate Program starting Sept. 7. Details follow.

www.tech.uh.edu/trainer_certificate_program/index.html
The Trainer Certificate Program is designed for professionals who are emerging and/or experienced trainers. In this program you will learn strategic approaches to designing and developing interactive content and measuring learning outcomes.

What do you get?

Critical skills and knowledge based on adult learning principles and proven training methodology.

Practical instruction from recognized academic and field practitioner faculty.

A Trainer Certificate from the University of Houston.

4.8 CEU credits and potential for university credit in the HRD masters program.

Cost

Entire program (4 modules, student manual, online materials. 4.8 CEUs): $2750.

Each module (2 full-day sessions, student manual, online materials, 1.2 CEUs): $750

Register here.

Or call 713.743.1060 for registration information.
Faculty

**Alise Isbell**, MA, is an award-winning training professional. Her Training and Development expertise focuses on instructional design, facilitation and needs assessment. Alise has published numerous articles on effective communication in the Houston, Boston, Nashville and Columbus Business Journals, while also winning an IABC Bronze Quill Award in Writing. The Oklahoma Journal Record named her an “Achiever Under 40” in 2005. Her clients represent industries including healthcare, petroleum, academia and financial services.

**Kate Hawkins**, MS, CTP. Kate’s MS is in Occupational Technology with an emphasis on training and development from the University of Houston. She is the principal of Forward Thinking, specializing in strategic planning and the analysis, design, and evaluation of training programs. She has worked on a range of projects with a concentration in the petrochemical industry. Kate has worked as a Learning & Organization Development professional for 13 years, Additionally, she teaches Training & Development classes for the University of Houston, and currently serves as VP of Special Interest Groups for the Houston Chapter of the American Society for Training & Development (ASTD).

**Holly Hutchins**, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Human Resource Development at the University of Houston and specializes in training transfer, evaluation, crisis management, and facilitation skills. She is an experienced professional who has consulted, designed and facilitated training for Sinopec Industries, Central and Southwest Utilities, the US Army, Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES), Neiman Marcus Corporate, University Animal Hospital, and Key Energy Services. Holly has completed and published research in training transfer, crisis management and e-learning design and facilitation. Her research can be found in both empirical and practitioner-based publications.

**Donna Martin**, CTP, principal of On Target Training, is a Certified Training Professional, specializing in the design, development and implementation of training materials. Described by students as a “gifted teacher,” and known for making complicated information easy to understand, Donna is a facilitator of the DiSC Profile (Carlson learning Products). She has 25 years in general business operations and is currently VP of Communications for the Houston Chapter of the American Society for Training & Development (ASTD).

**Consuelo Waight**, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Human Resource Development, and is the recipient of the coveted 2006 Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Houston. Consuelo consults in the area of e-learning, instructional design, and cross-cultural training. In addition to consulting in the United States, Consuelo has worked in the Caribbean, Central America, Africa, and Asia Pacific. She is presently involved in several grants, and has several HRD publications. Waight is a former Fulbright Scholar and has a doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.