University of Houston

Professor Osman Ghazzaly (Cullen College of Engineering)

The Cullen College of Engineering and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering enthusiastically nominate Professor Osman Ghazzaly for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Ghazzaly joined the University of Houston in 1966. He received his BSCE degree from Cairo University and his MSCE and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Ghazzaly's research is in Geotechnical Engineering. He published thirteen refereed and reviewed papers in reputable journals and proceedings. He wrote several research reports and presented papers at technical meetings. Dr. Ghazzaly supervised and graduated two Civil Engineering Ph.D.'s and ten Master's thesis students. He served as a member on many M.S. and Ph.D. committees in the department and college.

Dr. Ghazzaly served as Associate Chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, Director of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, as well as the department's Graduate and Undergraduate Advisor. For more than four decades his teaching evaluations have been excellent to outstanding. His numerous awards include the UH Teaching Excellence Award, the college's Kittinger Award for Excellence in Teaching, the UH ASCE Student Excellence in Teaching Award, Professor of the Year in 2000 and 2001, the UH George Magner Award for Best Faculty Advisor, Abraham E. Dukler Distinguished Engineering Faculty Award, UH Houston Alumni Organization Outstanding Faculty Award, and the UH El Paso Corporation Faculty Achievement Award.

Dr. Ghazzaly served on numerous department, college and university committees. He was a member of the Faculty Senate and served on the Undergraduate Council, Graduate and Professional Studies Council and the University Grievance Committee.

Dr. Ghazzaly is an internationally known scholar, exemplary teacher and an unselfish contributor to the department, college, university and his profession. He is exceptionally well qualified and fully deserving of Emeritus Professor status.

Professor Ovidiu Crisan (Cullen College of Engineering)

The Cullen College of Engineering and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is pleased to nominate Professor Ovidiu Crisan for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Crisan received his M.S. and Dr. Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Polytechnic Institute of Timisoara, Romania. He joined the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 1984 as a visiting professor and was hired as a professor in 1986. Dr. Crisan achieved a distinguished record of teaching and service during his 28 years at the University of Houston.


Appointment as an emeritus professor will allow Professor Crisan to continue his involvement in departmental activities and share his wealth of knowledge and experience with our students.

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Professor Donald Wilton (Cullen College of Engineering)

It is with pleasure the Cullen College of Engineering and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering nominate Professor Donald Wilton for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor Wilton joined the University of Houston in 1983. He received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. During his 29 year tenure at UH, he achieved a distinguished record of teaching and service.

Dr. Wilton is a member of the Electromagnetics (EM) Research Group and has mentored both graduate and undergraduate students. Professor Wilton is a fellow of IEEE and was recognized for his contributions in 2002 when he received the IEEE Third Millennium Award. His research papers are highly cited.

Dr. Wilton’s appointment as an emeritus professor will allow him to continue to be involved in departmental activities and share his wealth of knowledge and expertise in the Electromagnetics area with our students.

Professor Larry Witte (Cullen College of Engineering)

The Cullen College of Engineering and the Department of Mechanical Engineering take pleasure in nominating Professor Larry Witte for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Witte received his Ph.D. from the Oklahoma State University. He joined the University of Houston in 1967 as an assistant professor, and he rose rapidly through the ranks as an associate professor in 1969 and professor in 1973.

During his tenure at UH, Dr. Witte was not only a leading scholar and researcher, but a committed mentor to young faculty and capable administrator at the department and college level. Professor Witte was the founder of the UH Institute for Space Systems Operations, served as department chair (1972-76 and 1988-93), followed by service at the college level as associate dean for undergraduate programs (1988-2004) and associate dean for graduate programs (2004-2008).

Dr. Witte has had a distinguished record of research in the area of thermal sciences, with emphasis on forced and natural convection, boiling heat transfer and sliding bubble heat transfer. His research program has produced 17 doctoral dissertations and over 130 refereed and other publications.

Dr. Witte will continue to contribute to the life of the department and to the academic community. His colleagues in the Mechanical Engineering department have benefited from his service and look forward to continued guidance from him as Professor Emeritus.

Professor Peter Gingiss (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Department of English is pleased to nominate Professor Peter Gingiss for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

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Professor Gingiss received his B.A. from Colgate University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He specializes in sociolinguistics and has been the backbone of the Linguistics program for many years.

Dr. Gingiss has published in both linguistics and composition. He served on the executive committees of national and regional professional organizations in the field. Dr. Gingiss is the former president of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest and served as the review editor of its journal, the Southwest Journal of Linguistics. He was the book-review editor for the Linguistics Association. Dr. Gingiss directed the English Department's Computer Writing lab for twelve years and taught both on-line and hybrid courses and received several grants to develop such courses.

Dr. Gingiss has been a generous friend to the department and continues to contribute, intellectually and materially to the department. As an Emeritus Professor, he will continue to contribute to the life of the department and the UH community.

Professor William N. Nelson (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)

It is with pleasure that the Department of Philosophy and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences nominate Professor William N. Nelson for appointment as Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Nelson has taught at the University of Houston since 1971. He earned his B.A. at Harvard University and his Ph.D. from Cornell University.

Professor Nelson published two books: On Justifying Democracy (Routledge 1980; also translated into Spanish, and recently reissued in the RLE Political Science series) and Morality: What's in it For Me? (Westview, 1991). In addition he published numerous articles in venues including Mind, The Journal of Philosophy, and Philosophy and Public Affairs, three of the premier journals in the field. Professor Nelson has taught generations of students in introductory courses (Introduction to Ethics and Logic) and in a wide range of advanced level courses which have formed a core part of the philosophy department curriculum, including Advanced Ethics, Biomedical Ethics, Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Law.

Dr. Nelson has a long and distinguished record of service to the department and the university, including six years as Chair of the department and many years as its Director of Undergraduate Studies.

During his career at the University of Houston, Dr. Nelson has made outstanding contributions to the institution as teach and mentor to our students. As a scholar, he contributed substantially to his field. Dr. Nelson is richly deserving of the title Professor Emeritus.

Professor Shiao-Chun Tu (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics)

The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Department of Biology and Biochemistry take pleasure in nominating Professor Shiao-Chun Tu for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor Tu has been on the faculty of the University of Houston since 1977. Dr. Tu received his B.S. from National Taiwan University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Cornell University.

Dr. Tu has had a long and distinguished career in research. He authored 134 articles in the refereed primary literature to date. He is an inventor on four awarded patents and on one pending application. He has given over 85 invited presentations around the world. Dr. Tu received a National Institutes of Health Research
Career Development Award (1981-86), the UH Sigma Xi Faculty Excellence Award (1982) and the TOKTEN Award from The United Nations Development Programme (1987). He was the recipient of the UH Research Excellence Award for Full Professors in 1994. Dr. Tu was awarded a John and Rebecca Moore's Professorship in 1998, which he still holds. He received a Visiting Scholar Award from the National Science Council of Taiwan (2004-2005) and was a Visiting Chair Professor in 2007 and 2010 in the Institute of Biotechnology of the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan.

Professor Tu trained many students and postdoctoral fellows. He graduated 27 Ph.D.'s and 12 Master's thesis students. He was recognized with the John C. Butler College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Teaching Excellence Award in 2006.

Dr. Tu served as Chair of the then Department of Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences (1989-93), before it was merged with Biology in 1997. He served on the most important departmental standing committees (Promotions and Tenure, Policy) and chaired numerous faculty search committees.

Although Professor Tu retired in January 2012, he continues to advise the department and assist junior faculty in course development and grant writing. His appointment as Professor Emeritus will allow him to continue to stay engaged in department and university activities.

Professor Peter Jurtshuk, Jr. (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics)

The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Department of Biology and Biochemistry take pleasure in nominating Professor Peter Jurtshuk, Jr. for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor Jurtshuk joined the University of Houston faculty in 1970. He received his A.B., New York University; M.S., Creighton University; Ph.D., University of Maryland.

One of Dr. Jurtshuk's most notable accomplishments has been in the impact of his research. His scientific publications have been cited well over 2,000 times (2,570 in all, but 2,123 citations if one only counts papers cited 40 or more times)! He has published 74 peer-reviewed papers, six book chapters, and 117 scientific abstracts. Dr. Jurtshuk continues to be one of the world's foremost experts in oxygen metabolizing enzymes in bacteria.

During his tenure as a faculty member, he mentored or co-mentored 18 students earning Ph.D. degrees and 33 students earning M.S. degrees. Dr. Jurtshuk made a significant impact in university life through his long service to the department and the university. His service includes Undergraduate Chair of Biology, Medical Technology Advisor in Biology, and the UH advisor for the Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society. He served on the Faculty Senate, Committee on Committees, the Biohazards Committee and the Safety Committee.

Professor Jurtshuk officially retired in January 2012. He is currently writing a book of oxidative enzymes in bacteria. As Professor Emeritus, Professor Jurtshuk will continue to contribute to the life of the department and the university community.

Professor Dale Alexander (Graduate College of Social Work)

The faculty and dean of the Graduate College of Social Work enthusiastically nominate Professor Dale Alexander for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

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Professor Alexander is a 17 year member of the Graduate College of Social Work. He obtained his B.S. and M.S.W. from Florida State University and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Prior to arriving at UH, Professor Alexander spent 17 years with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill College of Medicine. During his tenure at the University of Houston, Dr. Alexander was central to the college's work in developing its behavioral health direction and helped create many new partnerships with the nation's leading behavioral health agencies. Dr. Alexander is currently an editorial review board member of the Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions. He served on the Board of Directors, Greater Houston Area Health Education Consortium (2003-2006); and a member of the Research Advisory Committee for the COUNCIL Alcohol and Drugs, Houston (2001-2005).

Dr. Alexander chaired many Graduate College of Social Work committees, most notably Admissions, and served on numerous faculty search committees. Dr. Alexander's service on university committees include the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, Research Council, Faculty Senate and Substance Abuse Advisory Board.

Dr. Alexander is nominated for Professor Emeritus status in recognition of his life-long dedication to the University of Houston and the Graduate College of Social Work.

Professor Maxine Epstein (Graduate College of Social Work)

The faculty and dean of the Graduate College of Social Work are pleased to nominate Professor Maxine Epstein for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor Epstein joined the University of Houston faculty in 1988. She received her B.A. from Queens College in New York, M.S.W. from the University of Oklahoma and Dr.P.H. from The University of Texas, School of Public Health in Houston.

Dr. Epstein has provided significant leadership and service in the college and the university. She was the Graduate College of Social Work's first formal liaison with the Texas Medical Center when in the mid-1990's she undertook a number of research projects that ultimately led to a long-standing relationship with Baylor College of Medicine. In 2002, Dr. Epstein was appointed Director of the college's Doctoral program, a position she has held for 10 years. During her tenure at UH, Dr. Epstein has served on every Graduate College of Social Work faculty committee, served on the University's Promotion and Tenure Committee, Graduate and Professional Studies Council, the Health Professions Advisory Committee, and the Limited Grant In-Aid Committee. Dr. Epstein's scholarship has been published in the major journals of both the social work profession and public health.

Professor Epstein is nominated for Professor Emeritus in recognition for her life-long dedication to the University of Houston and the Graduate College of Social Work.

Professor Gopal Reddy (College of Technology)

It is with pleasure the College of Technology nominate Professor Gopal Reddy for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor Reddy joined the University of Houston in 1991. He received his B.S. from Osmania University, Hyderabad, AP, India; M.S. from Texas Tech University; Ph.D. from North Carolina State University.
Dr. Reddy has written numerous technical reports, research papers, articles in conference proceedings and refereed journals. During his tenure at UH, Professor Reddy served as Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology. Dr. Reddy has given exceptional service to the department and the college, giving his time generously to committee work. He served on numerous college committees including the Faculty Advisory Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Academic Standards Committee, Grievance Committee, Library Acquisitions Committee and the Scholarship Committee.

Dr. Reddy made contributions to the university through a long and distinguished record of scholarship, teaching and service and is fully deserving of the title Professor Emeritus.
University of Houston

Dr. Mary Armsworth
(College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology)

The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology and the faculty in the Counseling Psychology Program nominate Dr. Mary W. Armsworth for emeritus appointment at the University of Houston in recognition of her long and distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and service.

Dr. Armsworth joined the University of Houston in 1985. She received her BS degree in Vocational Education from Ohio University, her M.Ed. and Ed.D in Counseling from the University of Cincinnati.

Her many accomplishments include her key role in the establishment of a School Counseling track in the department's Masters in Professional counseling and significant national impact in the area of children's post-traumatic stress disorder. She was awarded a University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award, was invited to appear before the U.S. Senate Sub-committee on Aging and was recognized as the Outstanding Graduate of the Decade by the University of Cincinnati Counseling Program.

Receiving the emeritus designation will be a fitting way to honor her work and contributions to the University and its students.

Dr. Joel Bloom
(College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology)

The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology and the faculty in the Health Education Program nominate Dr. Joel Bloom for emeritus appointment at the University of Houston in recognition of his long and distinguished record of teaching, scholarship, and service.

Dr. Bloom joined the University of Houston 1970. Prior to that he received his BSE in Physical Education and Biology and his MSE in Physical Education and Education Administration from Northern Illinois University and his Ph.D. in Physical Education and Education Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The focus on his career has been on health and fitness and his work in that area has earned him recognition and numerous awards at the local, state and national levels. Examples include the George W. Magner Aware for Outstanding Student Advising and the Conference USA Excellence Award.
University of Houston

Dr. Ronald Frankiewicz
(College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology)

The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology and the faculty of the Individual Differences Program nominate Dr. Ronald Frankiewicz for emeritus appointment at the University of Houston in recognition of his years of service to the University of Houston and its students.

Dr. Frankiewicz joined the University of Houston in 1970. He received his BS, MA and Ph.D. in Evaluation and Measurement from Kent State University.

Dr. Ronald Frankiewicz has served the College of Education for over forty years. During that time, he won multiple awards for his exemplary teaching, also secured funding for various educational projects and was recruited to advise multiple universities and hospitals. He was awarded the Enron Distinguished Teacher Award and the Senior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. John Gaa
(College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology)

The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology and the faculty of the Individual Differences Program nominate Dr. John Gaa for emeritus appointment at the University of Houston in appreciation of his many contributions to the scholarly development of students throughout his 37-year career.

Dr. John Gaa has been with the University of Houston since 1975. He received a BS degree in Social Science from Michigan State University and his MS and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Gaa has consistently shown a real commitment to his students and his research. His classes are highly sought after, regularly earning high marks on student evaluations. He has been co-director of the Urban Talent Research Institute, which helps identify and develop the individual gifts and talents of children through university-school partnerships and grant funding. He has contributed to the scholarly development of students throughout his career at UH by reason of serving on numerous dissertation, thesis and candidacy committees. In recognition of these contributions, Dr. Gaa has received the Alumni Faculty Service Award and the Award for Outstanding Support of Students with Disabilities.

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Dr. Phyllis Gingiss
(College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology)

The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology and the faculty of the Health Education Program nominate Dr. Phyllis Gingiss for emeritus appointment at the University of Houston in recognition of her years of commitment to the University and its students.

Dr. Gingiss began her career at the University of Houston in 1990. She earned her BS in Education at the University of Houston and her Masters and Doctoral Degrees in public Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

In recognition of her research excellence and leadership ability, she was appointed Associate Dean for Research I the College of Education. Her commitment to public health led her to pursue a scholarly agenda supported by external grants whose focus was to advance and disseminate knowledge about public health. She has been the driving force behind the development of a new dual degree program between the University of Houston and the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Dr. Robert Houston
(College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction)

The College of Education and the faculty of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction nominate Dr. Robert Houston for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston in recognition of his long and distinguished career.

Dr. W. Robert Houston began his career at the University of Houston in 1970 at the rank of Professor. He received his BS and M.Ed. degrees from North Texas State University and his Ed.D. from the University of Texas.

From 1973 to 1990 he was Associate Dean in the College of Education. In 1996, he was named a John and Rebecca Moores Professor.

Dr. Houston's books, articles, and grants have established him as one of the preeminent scholars in the field of education. His fifty externally funded grants total over ten million dollars. His forth books include the 1990 Handbook of Research on Teacher Education, which was named the outstanding education book in that year. Dr. Houston has served as a consultant on issues of education in 18 countries and has given keynote addresses in 42 states.

The Association of Teacher Educators honored him with its first ever Distinguished Teacher Educator Award. The American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education bestowed on Dr. Houston their Edward C. Pomeroy Award for Outstanding Contributions in Teacher Education. To date, he is the only person to have received these top awards from both professional associations.
Dr. David Liberman
(College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology)

The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology and the faculty in the Individual Differences Program nominate Dr. David Liberman for emeritus appointment at the University of Houston.

Dr. David Liberman began his career at the University of Houston in 1976. He received his BA in History from the University of Buffalo, his MA in Curriculum Development from Tel-Aviv University, and his Ed.D. in Human Development from Harvard University.

Dr. Liberman's career illustrates sustained commitment to the traditional areas of teaching, research affecting the lives of many students, both graduate and undergraduate. He was among the first university faculty to deliver courses in alternative formats such as television, tape, CD, and YouTube videos making it possible for students a great deal more flexibility in completing course requirements. Dr. Liberman has also collaborated with community leaders in developing a research emphasis that focuses on religion and gender role development.

Dr. Doris Prater
(College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology)

The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology, and the faculty in the Higher Education and Cultural Studies Program nominate Dr. Doris Prater for appointment as Emeritus Professor at the University of Houston.

Dr. Doris Prater began her career in the University of Houston System at the University of Houston Clear Lake in 1979. She received her BA degree in English from Southwest Texas State University, her MA in Reading from Southern Methodist University, and her Ed.D. in Educational Evaluation from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Her scholarship, service and talent for leadership led her to the role of Associate Dean at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, a position she held for many years.

Dr. Prater joined the University of Houston faculty in 2001 and for five years was Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Studies. Subsequently she served as Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology.

Clearly Dr. Prater has consistently exhibited a deep and abiding commitment to true transformative leadership through practice. As a chair and as a colleague, she expected excellence in all sectors of academic work, and led by example.
The College of Education, the Department of Educational Psychology, and the faculty in the Health Education Program nominate Dr. Dennis Smith for emeritus appointment at the University of Houston.

Dr. Dennis Smith began his career at the University of Houston in 1990. He received his BS and M. Ed. Degrees in Physical Education and Health Education at Bowling Green State University and his Ph.D. in Health Education at The Ohio State University.

In addition to demonstrating excellent scholarship, teaching and service, Dr. Smith's leadership abilities were quickly recognized by his colleagues and he served as Chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance for several years. His passion for public health led him to develop and disseminate effective tobacco cessation programs, supported by multiple grants from the Texas Department of Health and other organizations. He also served for many years as Program Director for the Health Education Program, and was instrumental in the move of the program into the Department of Educational Psychology. He has also been an exemplary contributor to the service mission at the department, college and university levels, most recently serving as chair of the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Education.

The above accomplishments reflect Dr. Smith's many years of commitment to the University of Houston and the College of Education. He has made significant contributions to the health and public health fields.
Dr. Joan D. Bruno

The School of Business and the Emeritus/Emerita Nominating Committee of the Council of Professors are pleased to nominate Dr. Joan D. Bruno for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL).

Professor Bruno earned her B.S. at University of New Orleans, and the M.S. and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She joined the UHCL faculty in 1975 as assistant professor of accounting, and was appointed to the rank of associate professor in 1981, and professor in 1994. Dr. Bruno achieved a distinguished record of teaching, research and service over her 36 years at UHCL.

She served as accounting program coordinator from 1984-87; chair of accounting, legal studies and information systems from 1993-94 and 1997-99; associate dean from 1987-92; acting dean from 1995-97; and associate dean from 1999 until her retirement in 2011. She served her program, the School of Business and the university in many capacities. She prepared the accounting self-study report for the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accounting accreditation and three follow-up reports from 1984-86, the School of Business self-study report for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 1990-91; coordinated the AACSB International Peer Review Team visit in 2001-02; and was a member of the SACS Steering Committee in 2000-2002.

She taught both introductory and advanced accounting courses with equal skill, and her students' recognition of her teaching was reflected in outstanding teacher evaluations and alumni feedback. Her scholarly record and research productivity were consistent and demonstrated commitment to improving accounting education, with publications appearing in professional accounting journals in the U.S. and Australia. She served five years on the editorial review board for The Woman CPA, a national professional accounting journal. She was recipient of UHCL’s 1999 President’s Distinguished Faculty Service Award and Beta Alpha Psi’s 1994 Accounting Professor of the Year award. Since her retirement in 2011, she continues to remain active and involved with the School of Business and the university.

Dr. Louis P. White

The School of Business and the Emeritus/Emerita Nominating Committee of the Council of Professors are pleased to nominate Dr. Louis P. White for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL).

Professor White earned the A.A. at St. Petersburg Junior College; and the B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of South Florida. He joined the UHCL faculty in 1976 as associate professor of management and was promoted to professor in 1997. Dr. White achieved a distinguished record of teaching, research and service over his 35 years at UHCL.

A two-time Fulbright Scholar, he was Fulbright Professor of Management at National Sun Yat-Sen University (NSYSU) in Taiwan in 1989-90, and in 1991-92. His passion for Taiwan initiatives from 1991 to the present led to formal agreements with NSYSU, which have enhanced our students, faculty, and the community. Over the past two decades many members of the UHCL and NSYSU faculty have participated in faculty exchanges, more than 75 UHCL students have studied and worked in Taiwan, and many NSYSU students have studied at UHCL.

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Dr. White was honored with the President’s Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award in 1994, and with the President’s Distinguished Faculty Service Award in 2011. His research productivity has resulted in over 75 conference presentations and over 25 journal publications. He has co-authored numerous book chapters and co-authored one award-winning book. His research has appeared in prestigious peer reviewed outlets as The Academy of Management Review, The Journal of Organizational Change Management, Human Relations, The Human Resource Development Quarterly, and the International Journal of Theory and Behavior. He served as president of the Faculty Senate in 1993-94. Since his retirement in 2011, he continues to serve the School of Business by teaching three courses each fall semester, and has also continued his service to the National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan.

Dr. Leslye King Mize

The School of Human Sciences and Humanities and the Emeritus/Emerita Nominating Committee of the Council of Professors are pleased to nominate Dr. Leslye King Mize for appointment as Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL).

Professor Mize earned the BFA at University of Tulsa, the M.A. at University of Houston-Clear Lake, and the Ph.D. at Texas Woman’s University. She joined UHCL in 1989 as visiting assistant professor of psychology. She was appointed to assistant professor in 1990, to associate professor in 1996, and to professor in 2005. She served as director of training for the Family Therapy Program from 1996-2004 and 2006-10; as division chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences from 2004-06; and as interim dean of the School of Human Sciences and Humanities from 2010-2011. Dr. Mize achieved a distinguished record of teaching, research and service over her 22 years at UHCL.

Dr. Mize’s 24 research publications/studies have been primarily qualitative in nature, with a strong interactive component, and with many of them focusing on the effectiveness of the relational system in families. She led the development of UHCL’s Family Therapy program into a premier professional program that has been nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy for 30 years. During this time she led six self-studies/site visits for reaccreditation. During her tenure 421 students graduated from the program, from the U.S., England, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Korea, Serbia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and other countries.

She participated in UHCL governance and the Faculty Senate from 1997 to 2010. She received the President’s Distinguished Faculty Service award in 2004, and the UHCL Distinguished Alumna Award in 2004. She was honored with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy’s (AAMFT) Divisional Contributions Award in 1996, and by AAMFT’s Houston Chapter with five awards for distinguished service between 1989 and 2011. The Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy awarded her their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.
Professor Susan K. Ahern (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Dr. Susan K. Ahern joined the faculty in 1983, teaching a range of courses in developmental writing, composition, technical writing, and eighteenth-century British literature. She was one of the early leaders in the development of the B.S. in Professional Writing. An exemplary classroom instructor, she was awarded the UHD Excellence in Teaching Award in 1988. She was appointed Chair of the English Department in 1994, and she served in that capacity with great skill until 1999. Among her achievements were the development of the B.A. in English and the planning stages of the M.S. in Professional Writing and Technical Communication (MSPWTC), the third of UHD graduate programs and the first in her college. An early advocate for the role of technology in the writing classroom, Dr. Ahern led the way with building the department’s first electronic classrooms and laid the groundwork for the Professional Writing Program’s Usability Lab.

In 2004, Dr. Ahern was selected to be Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and in that role she continued to promote academic excellence and increased opportunities for UHD students until she stepped down in 2011, just a few months prior to her death. During her tenure, the university added undergraduate degrees in Philosophy, Spanish, Political Science, Fine Arts, and Social Work. In addition, she oversaw the approval and implementation of the new MSPWTC program. Dean Ahern also led in the development and reform of the general education curriculum and the renewal of additional usable space for student study areas and faculty-student interaction.

She constantly sought opportunities to develop faculty potential and student achievement by supporting international programs, the arts on campus and in the community, student research, and engagement with social issues in the Houston area, including the Texas Medical Center.

Susan Ahern was an exemplary servant of our university and its students. She was diplomatic, kind, and extremely hardworking, but above all she was always pragmatically optimistic, working with absolute faith toward UHD’s future.

Professor Andre De Korvin (College of Science and Technology)

Dr. Andre De Korvin joined the faculty of the University of Houston-Downtown as a Professor of Computer Science in 1987. His primary research field has been fuzzy logic, which is an application of Artificial Intelligence. According to Dr. De Korvin, human beings use the kind of approximations applied in fuzzy logic all the time. The breakthrough is to teach computers to imitate this human trait to solve problems that do not respond to strictly accurate data – which often does not exist.

Fuzzy logic allows researchers to assign values to certain adjectives that cannot be classically defined, such as rich, poor, or experienced, and feed that data into computer models. One of De Korvin’s specialty areas involves using fuzzy classifications in face recognition software.

Dr. De Korvin has been the author or co-author of 210 publications that have appeared in professional journals, proceedings, and research anthologies. The publications have often been the result of joint research projects with colleagues in own Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences, as well as with colleagues in the UHD College of Business. He has served as Co-Principal Investigator for grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and U.S. Army Research Consortium. He has been a leader in his department, winning the UHD Excellence in Teaching Award in 1993 and UHD Excellence in Scholarship Award in 1990, 1999, and 2009.

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Andre De Korvin is also well known in Houston poetry circles as a writer of vigorous poetry that he reads with dramatic verve when given the opportunity. He has published two books of poems.

**Ursula Spilger (College of Business)**

Dr. Ursula Spilger joined the College of Business faculty at UHD in 1988 to teach business law. She is a baccalaureate graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and she holds an MBA from Boise State and a JD from the University of Idaho. After joining the UHD faculty, she earned an LLM from the University of Houston.

Dr. Spilger was a key advocate and contributor to the development of UHD’s major in international business. She brought her students in Houston into contact with students in Europe and took a major role in internationalizing the curriculum and the undergraduate experience for students. She was the first UHD faculty member to sponsor a model United Nations team, and she was a leader of the International Education Committee.

Her scholarship includes the study of the legal environment of business in Europe and the United States. She has authored and co-authored with College of Business colleagues journal articles on a range of topics, including the World Trade Organization, legal consideration in marketing when using parody, environmental law, and contract law, with her most recent peer-reviewed publication appearing in the *Southern Law Journal*.

Praised by students as one of the best classroom and online teachers in her department, Dr. Spilger also has been a leader in her department and college in enhancing students’ higher-order learning by having students write problem-solving examinations.