



## **RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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UH System Board of Regents Meeting • February 2017

## University of Houston System Achievements

### UHCL Presidential Search Process Started

After a long and accomplished tenure, **President William Staples** has announced his desire to retire. **Richard Walker, Ed.D.**, vice chancellor for student affairs and enrollment services, will chair the Search Committee for a new president. He will be assisted by the firm of Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc., with the hope of filling the position by Fall 2017.

## University of Houston Achievements

### A Spectacular Way to Launch a Campaign

The announcement of a \$20 million gift from the John P. McGovern Foundation to College of the Arts highlighted the campus festivities January 18 and 19 marking the public launching of UH's \$1 billion campaign. In recognition, the college has been renamed the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts – the first UH college named after a former student and the first named after a woman. Almost 130,000 donors have contributed to the campaign so far – 94,000 of them first-time donors and nearly half friends from the community. The campaign's faculty/staff segment is chaired by the husband-wife team of **Michael Olivas**, William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law, and **Tina Reyes**, professor in the College of Education's department of educational leadership and policy studies. They have generously challenged to match dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$100,000, all faculty and staff gifts.

### Two Major Grants to Faculty

- The NIH's National Eye Institute has granted \$1.9 million distributed across five years to **Earl L. Smith III, O.D., Ph.D.**, Greeman-Petty Professor and dean, College of Optometry, to conduct research to better understand the causes of common forms of myopia, or nearsightedness, in children and develop treatment strategies. His research team will look at how levels and color of indoor lighting affect eye growth.
- **Ding-Shyue "Jerry" Yang**, assistant professor of chemistry, has won a five-year, \$570,000 National Science Foundation CAREER Award, a highly competitive award granted to junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars. The grant will fund Yang's research and support his outreach activities to high school students – he enjoys providing tours of his lab – interested in STEM careers.

### A Game Changer for the College of Education

UH has received final approval from the state to launch an Education Research Center to improve student outcomes and strengthen the workforce. The center, to be housed in the College of Education, will be the only one of its kind in the Gulf Coast region. The Gulf Coast region represents almost a quarter of the state's population and more than 20 percent of its student population. The Center will partner with other educational institutions and agencies.

## UH Hosts the Patriots... and More!

Having the New England Patriots practice at TDECU Stadium prior to the big game was not our only connection with Super Bowl LI:

- UH hosted the Taste of the NFL's Party with a Purpose, the league's premier fundraiser benefiting food banks across the nation – the first time the event had been held on a university campus. More than 3,000 guests paid a minimum of \$700 to attend, and over 300 students from nine colleges greeted guests and participated alongside chefs from the 32 NFL cities. At the conclusion of the event, over 400 pounds of delicious treats were recovered by students with the Campus Kitchen program for distribution at a homeless shelter.
- The Jack J. Valenti School of Communication held a day-long "Summit on Sports Media" with top speakers such as **Alex Riethmiller**, NFL vice president of communication, and collaborated with ESPN and the African American Studies Program on "A Conversation on Race, Culture and Sports, with the participation of Emmy Award-winning star **Anthony Anderson**.

## UH Launches Fellowship Program to Better Integrate Arts into Communities

The Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts has partnered with Project Row Houses to establish a fellowship program to build upon the impact socially-engaged art projects have in transforming communities. Artists will work alongside urban planners, educators, and policy makers and collaborate with the Third Ward community to execute creative projects. The project will be funded through a \$100,000 gift from Texas philanthropist **Suzanne Deal Booth**. The fellows will work with UH professor and Project Row Houses founder **Rick Lowe** and others. The program will also train students for socially engaged experiences as artists.

## Construction Management Student Places No. 1 in National Exam

For the fourth consecutive year, a student enrolled in the College of Technology's construction management program has earned the highest score in the nation on the rigorous American Institute of Constructors (AIC) exam. **Ethan Jeffcoat**, who will graduate in May, has maintained a 4.0 GPA while also working as an intern at CenterPoint Energy.

## UH-Clear Lake Achievements

### Groundbreaking Plans Underway

Plans are underway to break ground on three new buildings slated to open in Fall 2018. Groundbreakings at UHCL for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Classroom Building and the Recreation and Wellness Building are scheduled for March, while the UHCL Pearland Campus for the Health Sciences and Classroom Building is on the calendar for an April groundbreaking.

### UHCL Professor Leads Bilingual Counseling Conference

More than 175 area school counselors and teachers attended UHCL's two-day, bilingual counseling conference titled "Culturally Responsive Counseling with Latinx - Our Past, Our Present, Our Future." The conference, organized by Professor of Counseling **Cheryl Sawyer**, covered a wide range of multicultural counseling topics and concerns. In addition to Sawyer, keynote speakers included Arizona State University Visiting Professor of Counseling and Counseling Psychology **Patricia Arredondo**, University of Colorado Denver Associate Professor **Carlos Hipolito-Delgado**, President and Executive Director of The Children's Center **Terry Keel**, and University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Associate Professor **Selma Yznaga**.

### Author and Autism Advocate Temple Grandin Visits UHCL

About 500 educators, mental health professionals and parents visited UHCL to hear from **Temple Grandin**, internationally renowned author and speaker on autism. Grandin, who was diagnosed with autism as a child, is also one of the nation's leading scientists involved in the humane handling of livestock. She was the subject of a 2010 movie on her life, and in that same year was recognized in TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. She signed copies of her books before and after her lecture. The presentation was sponsored by UHCL's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

## UH-Downtown Achievements

### UHD Reaccredited with "No Recommendations"

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) informed UHD in December that it was reaccredited with "no recommendations." For two years, faculty and staff compiled the required data, developed a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and hosted site visits for the accreditation committee. The QEP – "Academic Achievement through Community Engagement" – has proven to be both effective and popular among students. It promotes critical thinking through community issues.

### UHD and HCC Collaborate to Simplify Transition

UHD and Houston Community College joined forces in December to help more students graduate on time and simplify the transition process from community college to a university. The institutions formalized this pact through an articulation agreement aimed at offering students degree maps, joint admissions and opportunities to complete associate and bachelor's degrees at a single campus. UHD and HCC leaders also signed letters of intent focused on collaborations between the institutions' respective business and nursing programs.

### MBA Program Largest in Houston

The Houston Business Journal has ranked the UHD College of Business MBA Program as the largest in Houston. This is the second consecutive year that the publication has featured UHD's program in its round-up of "Largest Houston-Area MBA Programs." UHD's first MBA cohort arrived on campus in 2012 with just 20 students. In Fall 2016, more than 200 students earned MBAs during the College of Business commencement ceremony.

## UH-Victoria Achievements

### UHV Sets Donor Records in FY16

UHV recorded 734 donors during Fiscal Year 2016, the most in the university's history and a 61 percent increase from the previous year. Within this total were 441 alumni donors, also an all-time record and 34 percent more than the last fiscal year. From 2015 to 2016, UHV saw a 32 percent increase in the number of gifts and pledges, a 41 percent increase in the number of organizations supporting the university, and a 40 percent increase in the amount given by UHV faculty and staff. Fiscal Year 2017 has started off strong as well, with a \$300,000 donation to support student scholarships from Victoria's M.G. & Lillie A. Johnson Foundation.

### UHV Honors Individuals, Organizations with Excellence Awards

**President Vic Morgan** presented three awards during the 2015-2016 President's Annual Report and Excellence Awards dinner to individuals who have made a substantial impact on the university. **Robert Lyall**, general and artistic director of the New Orleans Opera Association, was the recipient of the People Who Make a Difference Award. Lyall founded the Victoria Symphony when he was a UHV faculty member in the 1970s. The UHV Community Partnership Award was presented to INVISTA for the company's support and efforts to advance the quality of life in the region and at the university. The Student Leadership Award recipient was **Genesis Castillo**, a senior psychology major from Houston.

### UHV Students Lend Hand to Community Organizations

Students took time to help the community in several ways during the holiday season. The Student Government Association organized the 14th annual Giving Tree, a two-week donation campaign that encouraged students, faculty and staff, and community members to give items to several local nonprofit organizations. The SGA also organized a group of students to feed people in need at a Victoria food kitchen. In addition, students raised \$8,296 by donating meals from their meal plans. The meals were converted into cash by the university to benefit the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent and victims of the flooding in Louisiana.