



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

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UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 2017

## University of Houston System Achievements

### Preliminary Enrollment Numbers

With classes starting at UH and UHD on Monday, August 21, and at UHCL and UHV next Monday, August 28, preliminary\* enrollment figures systemwide show a 1.1 percent increase for a total of 71,618 students.

By university, the preliminary numbers are:

UH 45,109 (+ 3.0%)

UHCL 8,310 (- 4.1%)

UHD 13,923 (-2.3%)

UHV 4,276 (+3.2%)

**UHS 71,618 (+1.1%)**

\*Official figures for all four universities will be certified on their respective twelfth day of classes.

### Getting Closer to System-wide Campaign Goal

The “Here, We Go” campaign has exceeded \$766 million toward its \$1 billion goal – that’s \$86 million since the campaign’s public launch in late January. To date, alumni, faculty, staff, friends, corporations, and foundations have given 146,000 gifts to the campaign.

### UH System Earns No. 5 Ranking from Brookings

The UH System has been ranked No. 5 in the nation based on a new method developed by the Brookings Institution for evaluating public research universities. The innovative approach measures an institution’s number of low-income students as well as the amount of high-activity, meaningful research being produced. Combining those two factors determines a university’s contribution to social mobility and the creation of a more dynamic society, Brookings states.

## University of Houston Achievements

### NSM and Architecture Students Shine Globally

- A student team from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics brought home first prize from the international finals of the 2017 American Association of Petroleum Geologists’ Imperial Barrel Award Competition. Team members were Ph.D. students **Eric Lunn** and **Delaney Robinson** and master’s students **Walter Reed**, **Leiser Silva** and **Andrew Steier**. They beat teams from the University of Texas, Texas A&M and Colorado School of Mines. For the first time in the competition’s history, the panel of six judges unanimously awarded first place.
- Students from the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design traveled to Berlin this summer to present “Houston: Genetic City,” a virtual reality (VR) simulation hosted by the world-renowned Aedes Architecture Forum. The project reflected UH’s commitment to identifying real-world problems and

providing innovative solutions. The college's namesake, **Gerald D. Hines**, and his wife **Barbara** joined the UH group in Berlin.

### Recent Significant Research Grants Received

- A group of researchers led by **Krešimir Josić Ph.D.**, professor of mathematics, has been awarded a \$4.39 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop new methods to analyze and interpret neural data. His team includes researchers from Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Notre Dame.
- The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) has awarded UH a \$3.3 million grant for cancer research and to fund smoking cessation efforts. **Rohith Reddy, Ph.D.**, will join the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering as an assistant professor. He will help develop next-generation technologies for detecting gynecological cancers. **Lorraine Reitzel, Ph.D.**, incoming chair of the College of Education's Department of Psychological Health and Learning Sciences will expand an existing tobacco cessation program and offer it at substance abuse treatment centers across Texas.
- **Rupa Iyer, Ph.D.**, associate professor and founding director of the College of Technology's biotechnology program, has received a \$2.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to replicate, at five colleges and universities around the country, an innovative approach integrating classroom instruction and research. She will be the principal investigator, working with peers at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Southern Utah University, Louisiana Tech University, Prairie View A&M University and Alvin Community College.

### Professor Honored by NASA

**Hadi Ghasemi, Ph.D.**, Bill D. Cook Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, has received the NASA iTech prize for X-factor Innovations. He was one of only three winners in this competition that seeks ideas that may lead to products with the potential to benefit NASA and the nation. Ghasemi was recognized for developing a de-icing material.

### College of Pharmacy Launches Program in Rio Grande Valley

The College of Pharmacy is opening a Professional Pharmacy Hispanic Healthcare Certificate Program, the first of its kind in the nation, in Edinburg, Texas, in collaboration with Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Health System, the area's foremost teaching hospital. The program will help close disparity gaps in health care by being responsive to the unique health beliefs, practices and cultural and linguistic needs of the region, which has one of the most severe shortages of clinical pharmacists in the nation.

### Texas Governor Recognizes Bauer Program

The SURE™ program in the Bauer College of Business has won the Governor's Higher Education Community Impact Award. SURE™ Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship was founded by **Saleha Khumawala, Ph.D.**, Robert Grinaker Professor of Accounting, to teach the fundamentals of business and entrepreneurship to area citizens. The program pairs graduate students with would-be entrepreneurs, and has trained more than 500 entrepreneurs and helped launch more than 80 businesses, including 32 from Third Ward.

## Houston Athletics Successes

Sports fans love stats, so here are a few remarkable ones from the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics for 2016-2017:

- 12 of 17 programs recorded semester GPA averages of 3.0 or higher
- League-leading five American Athletic Conference (AAC) team championships
- 22 AAC individual championships
- 11 of 17 programs competed in postseason events
- A school record \$6.5 million in ticket revenue
- Raised a record of \$6.5 million in Cougar Pride funds

## UH-Clear Lake Achievements

### New Center to Focus on Robotics

Representatives from NASA and aerospace contracting companies gathered in early June at a kickoff event for the new UHCL Center for Robotics Software. The center, led by **Thomas Harman, Ph.D.**, professor of computer engineering, will focus on solving problems and creating solutions for using the Robot Operating System, or ROS. The center will also offer workshops and seminars to interested individuals or organizations and provide UHCL students with opportunities for internships and future employment.

### UHCL Center Receives THECB Disability Grant

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has awarded \$430,269 to the UHCL Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CADD). CADD was established in 2008 to support research on autism and developmental disabilities; train current and future professionals in the fields of behavior analysis, marriage and family therapy, and psychology; and provide services and resources to children, teens, adults and their families.

### UHCL Pearland Strengthens Ties with ACC

UHCL Pearland will partner with Alvin Community College (ACC) beginning this fall to allow the community college to offer classes in Pearland. ACC students will be able to complete coursework such as College Algebra, Composition I and II, Federal Government, General Psychology and more. UHCL has had a long-standing relationship with ACC, working with the college since UHCL opened in 1974.

## UH-Downtown Achievements

### THECB Recognizes UHD for Instructional Excellence

The University of Houston-Downtown's Supplemental Instruction Program received a Recognition of Excellence from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Members of the UHD community attended

the Coordinating Board's July 27 meeting to be formally recognized for this program, which promotes learning through workshops, mentorship and interactive academic activities.

### UHD Awarded Nearly \$2M for High School Transition Services

UHD has been awarded two grants that will support students making the transition from high school to a university. The Greater Texas Foundation awarded UHD \$1.44 million to support scholarships for students graduating from Texas Early College High Schools. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education awarded UHD's Upward Bound Program nearly \$500,000 to support its service to Houston high school students.

### UHD Unveils Data Science Degree and NASA Partnership

This fall, UHD embarks on two bold academic ventures. The university will debut the state's first Bachelor of Science in Data Science, addressing industry needs for skilled data scientists. UHD also begins a collaboration with NASA and astronaut **Joe Acaba**, who will work with Urban Education students from his post aboard the International Space Station. An educator himself, Acaba will work with Urban Education students on STEM classroom exercises.

## UH-Victoria Achievements

### Baseball Wins 'Champions of Character' Award

The UHV baseball team was awarded the Hank Burbridge NAIA Champions of Character Team Award during the 2017 Avista-NAIA Baseball World Series. The award recognizes a team that displays exemplary character and sportsmanship on the field or court, on campus and in the community. The five core values of the Champions of Character program are integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. Earlier this year, 10 team players displayed all five core values when they helped rescue a family of five Victoria residents from the Guadalupe River. The team also is involved with the Victoria Boys and Girls Club.

### First UHV Students Earn Specialist Degrees

UHV awarded its new Specialist in School Psychology degree to three students during spring commencement. The degree is higher than a master's degree and sets UHV on a path to offering a doctorate. The 66-credit-hour degree can be completed in three years and gives students the opportunity for earning higher salaries. Students who received the degree can become a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology, the licensure needed to work in Texas public school districts as a school psychologist.

### UHV Katy Business Plan to Boost Enrollment, Retention

A UHV committee has developed a business plan for UHV Katy that focuses on four critical areas—personnel and organization, marketing, recruitment, and faculty and community engagement. The plan yielded 34 observations and 48 recommendations about how the university should staff and operate UHV Katy, and sharpened the focus of recruiting and marketing efforts to sustain and increase enrollment. The plan is in the implementation stage.