RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
MAY 18, 2010

NEWS FROM THE UH SYSTEM

May is a very special time of year – as symbolically important as the first day of classes in the fall semester – in that it brings with it commencement ceremonies throughout the UH System.

This year, the University of Houston conducted four "general commencements," plus separate commencements for the three professional colleges (Optometry, Law, Pharmacy). UH-Clear Lake conducted two ceremonies, and UH-Downtown and UH-Victoria one each.

Degrees Awarded at the Four UH System Universities:

Doctoral and Professional degrees	627
Master's degrees	1,680
Bachelor's degrees	4,756

Total numbers of degrees awarded 7,071

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

- **UH Commencement**

Honorary degrees:
The University of Houston resumed the tradition of awarding honorary degrees at this year's ceremonies. Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, *honoris causa*, went to **John Hofmeister**, former chair of the Greater Houston Partnership and current chair of the UH Energy Advisory Board, for his Tier One advocacy and support, and to **Lyle Lovett**, songwriter and musicians, for his philanthropic work, including support for the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture.

President's Medallion:
Three President's Medallions were awarded this year. Honorees were the **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo,** with the Medallion being accepted by "Butch Robinson," Chairman of the HLS&R Board; **Carl Lewis**; and **Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Smith** (posthumously), with the Medallion being accepted by UH System Regent Carroll Ray Robertson, with more than a dozen members of the Robertson and Cullen families in attendance at the ceremony.

Degrees Awarded:

4,550 total degrees awarded
626 doctoral
1,014 master's
2,902 bachelor's

Students came from 38 states and 75 nations, and received degrees in 88 disciplines. The youngest graduate in the entire Class of 2010 was Ms. **Alistair Fisher**, BS, psychology, at 19. The oldest graduate in entire Class of 2010 was Mr. **Jim Bingley**, Ph.D., history, at 74.

Lt. Governor **David Dewhurst** stopped by at two commencements, Pharmacy and Architecture/Engineering/Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and delivered greetings to the graduates and guests. Former New York Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**, now a partner in the Bracewell & Giuliani law firm, delivered the commencement address at the UH Law Center.

A moving moment was shared by thousands of students and guests at the Architecture/Engineering/Natural Sciences and Mathematics commencement when a 91-year old veteran of two war, Mr. **John Rogers**, got to "walk" 60 years after receiving his degree in mechanical engineering, something he was unable to do in 1950, as he was on his was to Korea to serve his country when his class graduated. His photo appeared in the Sunday, May 16, edition of The Houston Chronicle.

■ **Student Success**

Out of 2,902 students who graduated with a bachelor's degree this May, almost half graduated with academic honors – an impressive validation of our efforts to promote student success. 510 undergraduates who earned a cumulative grade point average from 3.25 to 3.49 on their last 66 hours at UH graduated "cum laude" – with honors. 438 students who earned a cumulative grade point average from 3.50 to 3.74 on their last 66 hours graduated "magna cum laude" – with high honors. And 238 students who earned a cumulative grade point average from 3.75 to 4.0 on their last 66 hours graduated "summa cum laude" – with highest honors – an extraordinarily difficult honor to achieve! Eight students graduated with a perfect 4.0.

■ **Nationally Competitive Research**

Year-to-date research awards are up 10 % at $72.5 million, and Federal awards are up 60 % at $41.4 million. In the important category of research expenditures, by which we are measured for Tier One recognition, we are up 20 % at $53.8 million, and Federal expenditures are up 26 % at $27 million. Of note is the fact that, reflecting the university's strategic move toward research "clusters" and collaborative projects, which yield higher awards than single-researcher projects, multi-principal-investigator awards are up 134 % for a total of $48.6 million.

Following on the heels of the move to Houston of Jan Åke Gustafsson and the establishment of his Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling, and the return to Houston of Venkat Selvamanikam, whose research team is doing pioneering work in the manufacture of flexible, superconducting wire, a third research "cluster" is now at home on the UH campus. The National Science Foundation's National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM), has relocated here from the University of Florida. NCALM is UH's first and only NSF-supported

center. The center, headed by **Ramesh Shrestha**, is conducting research that will benefit such areas of strategic importance to the nation as homeland security, disaster recovery, oil and gas exploration, wind farm site planning, and environmental studies. Based on historical information, revenues generated by the center are anticipated to be approximately $1 million per year, and will be reinvested in the program.

■ **Community Advancement**

Hundreds of guests from the community and from campus celebrated the grand opening of the Hilton University of Houston April 22. A multi-million-dollar renovation will make the hotel and conference center – which serves as a gateway to the university – even more attractive to the numerous area civic groups, non-profit organizations, and business and professional groups that hold their meetings there. Houston Mayor **Annise Parker** joined Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management administrators and students in cutting a ceremonial red ribbon for the grand opening. The hotel and conference center has been transformed into a "tier one" facility thanks to a generous gift from the Hilton Foundation. The grand opening ceremony capped the college's 40th anniversary celebration. If you haven't visited the renovated facilities, I encourage you to do so soon – you will not recognize the place!

NEWS FROM UH-CLEAR LAKE

■ **UH-Clear Lake Commencement**

Degrees Awarded:

1,052 total degrees warded
1 doctoral
492 master's
559 bachelor's

Of interest:

First Ed.D. in educational leadership awarded in December, the second was awarded at this May.

During this academic year, UHCL's number of alumni will surpass 50,000.

UHCL is now 35 years old. Only one student graduated at the first commencement ceremony, and now more than 2,000 students graduate every year.

■ UHCL was named to the **2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** by the Corporation for National and Community Service in recognition of the university's commitment to service and civic engagement. UHCL is among 30 colleges and universities in Texas (see UH-Downtown news) and more than 700 across the nation to receive Honor Roll recognition for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Administered by The Corporation for National and Community Service, the award is the highest federal recognition a university or college can receive for such initiatives.

■ The Society of Human Resource Management recognized UHCL's **Master of Arts in Human Resource Management** with full competency status, making it one of only 47 programs in the United States that has received this certification. UHCL's graduate program is offered completely online and is fully accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

NEWS FROM UH-DOWNTOWN

■ **UH-Downtown Commencement**

Degrees Awarded:

1,048 total degrees awarded
14 master's
1,034 bachelor's

Of interest:

Graduates ranged in age from 20 to 65.

■ The Corporation for National and Community Service named UHD to its **2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**, recognizing its outreach programs for area elementary and high school students and a growing, family-oriented Destination Downtown open house program. UHD is among 30 colleges and universities in Texas (see UH-Clear Lake news) and more than 700 across the nation to receive this recognition. Administered by The Corporation for National and Community Service, the award is the highest federal recognition a university or college can receive for such initiatives.

■ Professor of Humanities **Edmund Cueva**, chair of the Department of Arts and Humanities, has been named to the Marketplace of Ideas advisory board of the Council on Law in Higher Education. The Marketplace of Ideas is a journal for analysis and opinion on the American Education system.

■ The Institute for Higher Education Policy has selected UHD as the recipient of a $100,000 **Walmart Minority Student Success Award** for its High-Impact Learning to Promote Progress program to help build on UHD's proven success in recruiting, retaining and graduation of first-generation college students.

NEWS FROM UH-VICTORIA

■ **UH-Victoria Commencement**

Degrees Awarded:

421 total degrees awarded
160 master's
261 bachelor's

Of interest:

A mother and daughter received bachelor's degrees, as well as a husband and wife.

■ UHV's **School of Business Administration** has completed its fifth-year review and maintained its business accreditation by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Less than 6 % of business schools worldwide have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education from the organization, the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. To maintain accreditation, a business program undergoes a rigorous review every five years during which the school must demonstrate its continued commitment to the 21 quality standards relating to faculty qualification, strategic management and assurance of learning.

■ The Association of Small Business Development Centers has reaccredited the **UHV Small Business Development Center** for the next five years. The UHV-SBDC has assisted thousands of small businesses and new ventures in an eleven-county area since its inception, including identifying opportunities, accessing capital, starting or expanding, franchising, leasing or buying, market analysis, and others.

■ UHV will offer an **Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Affiliate Program** this fall in collaboration with the University of Houston. The program will be coordinated by the UHV School of Education & Human Development. The school's dean, Lawrence Rossow, is a retired U.S. Army captain.