RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2011

UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

Commencement time is just around the corner. UH-Victoria will hold its commencement on Saturday, Dec. 10, UH will hold three ceremonies on Friday, Dec. 16, UH-Clear Lake will hold two ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 17, and UH-Downtown will hold its commencement on Sunday, Dec. 18

A total of 6,781 UH System students have qualified to earn their degrees after completing their studies at the end of the Summer and Fall 2011 sessions. The breakdown by university is:

UH 3,314
UHCL 1,320
UHD 1,427
UHV 720

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

■ UH will be showcased before millions of television viewers this weekend when ESPN's **"College GameDay"** comes to campus. Activities leading to the UH vs. SMU game will center around the traffic circle in front of Cullen Performance Hall, where a stage will be set up for live broadcasts beginning Friday. Only 12 universities are selected as GameDay sites each season, and this is **a "first" for UH** and our No. 11-ranked football team. Information may be found at http://www.uhcougars.com/sports/m-footbl/spec-rel/111411aac.html

■ **Mat Johnson**, associate professor in the Creative Writing Program, has been named the **2011 Dos Passos Prize** recipient. Named for John Dos Passos, the prestigious prize honors American authors whose mid-career works focus on American themes and the human experience, while embracing an experimental approach to literary form. Johnson now joins a roster of celebrated authors honored with the Dos Passos Prize, including Tom Wolfe and Annie Proulx.

■ South Texas area students will soon have access to **College of Technology** courses in high-demand areas such as retailing and consumer science, organization leadership and supervision, supply chain and logistics, human resource development, and technology project. These courses will be offered at a **new multi-institution teaching center in Harlingen**, where students will attend Texas State Technical College-Harlingen and then transfer to one of the programs offered by UH or the seven other Texas universities offering classes at the teaching center.

■ With a **$3.1 million grant** from the U.S. Department of Energy, a public-private research team led by UH will develop an efficient, low-cost superconducting wire to use in advanced wind turbine generators. Leading the project will be **Venkat "Selva" Selvamanickam**, M.D. Anderson Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Applied Research Hub of the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston (TcSUH).

■ **Hillary K. Valderrama** and **Jennifer L. Hopgood**, students in the UH Law Center, were co-authors of **"American Justice in the Age of Innocence,"** a book that explores the circumstances surrounding wrongful convictions. The book was co-edited by Professor **Sandra Guerra Thompson**, one of the nation's leading criminal justice academicians. Written for judges, lawyers and scholars, the book examines the most common causes behind breakdowns in the legal system. It is rare for students to write, edit, and publish a book while in school.

■ Sophomore **Aaron Casey** recently received lessons from Grammy Award winner Bobby McFerrin as part of HBO documentary series **"Masterclass."** Casey was selected by McFerrin to participate in the program following his performances during 2011 Young Arts Week in Miami. He and four other students worked with McFerrin in Germany's largest opera house, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden. A native of Fort Worth, Casey is a member of the Moores Concert Chorale, and his goal is to perform opera.

UH-Clear Lake Achievements

■ UHCL has received approval for **downward expansion** from the Texas Legislature. This measure will allow the university to move forward with plans to add freshman- and sophomore-level courses to its roster of academic offerings.

■ Associate Professor of Healthcare Administration **Mary Femi Ayadi** has been named a **Fulbright Scholar**. Ayadi will be lecturing at Covenant University in Sango-Ota, Nigeria, from January through August 2012. Her research project will focus on the interdependencies that exist between health care expenditures and economic growth in Nigeria.

■ Alumnus **Michael Fincke** ('01 MS), was one of the six-member crew on the 25th and final mission for the **Space Shuttle Endeavour**. He holds the record for most time in space by a U.S. astronaut.

UH-Downtown Achievements

■ The National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program has awarded **$1.08 million** to fund the UHD-Noyce Mathematics Teacher Scholarship Program for five years. UHD's Departments of Computer and Mathematical Sciences and Urban Education are preparing future secondary school math teachers for Houston-area classrooms.

■ The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has awarded a $260,000 grant to initiate a **student success program**, "Freshman Achievement Communities to Enhance Student

Persistence and Success." UHD was **one of five schools out of 37 applicants** to receive the funding. The Coordinating Board has also designated UHD as one of eight universities statewide helping adults return to college to finish their bachelor's degrees through a new program called Grad TX.

■ G.I. Jobs Magazine named UHD a **"Military Friendly School"** for the second year, placing it among the top 20 percent of colleges and universities nationwide who are doing the most to embrace U.S. military service members and veterans as students.

UH-Victoria Achievements

■ For the sixth consecutive year, the School of Business Administration was named one of the **best business schools in the nation** by the *Princeton Review*. The school is featured in the 2012 edition of the company's book, "The Best 294 Business Schools." Three members of the school's faculty were recently honored by *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*. **Jie Yang** was recognized for outstanding performance in research, and Jeffrey **Radighieri** and **Stephanie Solansky** were presented with awards for outstanding teaching.

■ UHV has begun offering a **bachelor's degree in communication**, leading to careers in multimedia, design, and publishing. And the university will begin offering a **dual-degree program** in the Spring 2012 semester to train **nurses** with top-level skills and solid business know-how. The new Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Business Administration dual degree will feature 51 semester credit hours of graduate-level business and nursing classes and will offer students a faster option of completing the two degrees simultaneously.

■ GetEducated.com, a national consumer group that rates online college programs, ranked UHV's Bachelor of **Applied Arts and Sciences** in computer information systems **No. 4** in affordability and the Bachelor of **Business Administration No. 6** in affordability.

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Note: Previous Chancellor's Reports to the UH System Board of Regents may be found at http://uh.edu/president/communications/index.php