



**RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 2016

## University of Houston System Achievements

### Task Force Developing Academic Programming, Assessing Infrastructure Needs at Katy

A task force of 25 individuals – including representatives from UH, UH-Victoria, Houston Community College, the UH System Board of Regents, and the community – has been created to develop academic programming for the UHS facility planned for the Katy area, where faculty from UH and UHV will teach. The Task Force is also studying other needs for the operation, including marketing and communication, finance and facilities, student services, and information technology.

## University of Houston Achievements

### UH Among Top 100 Universities Worldwide for Issued Patents

UH was among the top 100 universities in the world for granted U.S. utility patents in 2015. The ranking, released by the National Academy of Inventors and Intellectual Property Owners Association, ranking UH No. 2 among Texas universities, behind only the University of Texas. This is the first year UH cracked the Top 100, tying for No. 80 with 29 utility patents. Texas A&M University and Rice University tied at No. 96 with 25 patents each.

### Five National Academy Members Join the Faculty

Five members of National Academies have been recruited by UH recently. They are:

- **Andrea Prosperetti, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Cullen College of Engineering. He comes from Johns Hopkins University and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering\*.
- **John Suppe, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He comes from National Taiwan University and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences\*.
- **Ganesh Thakur, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor of Petroleum Engineering, Cullen College of Engineering. He is President and Global Advisor at Thakur Services, Inc. and a member of the National Academy of Engineering\*.
- **Kaushik Rajashekara, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cullen College of Engineering. He comes to UH from the University of Texas at Dallas and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.
- **Jerome Schultz, Ph.D.**, is set to join UH in Spring 2017 as Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Cullen College of Engineering. He will come from the University of California, Riverside, where he founded the Department of Bioengineering. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

\* recruited in part thanks to an \$8.5 million grant from the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI)

## New Highs for Cougar Football!

With the first game of the football season just a few weeks away, our Houston team – AAC national champions and Peach Bowl winners – will enter the field at NRG Stadium ranked No. 1 in Texas and No. 13 in the nation in the AP Poll, the highest pre-season ranking since checking in at No. 22 in the 1991 AP Poll. Quarterback **Greg Ward**, featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated's college preview issue, has been named to the pre-season Earl Campbell Award Watch List. More than 22,000 season tickets have been sold, a record for Houston Cougar football.

## A Worthy Partnership in the Third Ward

- The Northern Third Ward Consortium, a coalition of nonprofits that includes UH, has received a \$100,000 planning grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to develop a comprehensive revitalization plan for the Northern Third Ward. Other consortium members are Change Happens, Change Happens CDC, Project Row Houses, Row House CDC, Wheeler Avenue Triangle Ministries and the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity. The consortium represents community development, education, community engagement and social service organizations anchored in the neighborhood, and shares the common goal of creating a resident-driven redevelopment plan that addresses the needs of residents, business owners, service providers and other neighborhood stakeholders. The project will focus on a 2.57-square-mile area bounded by U.S. 59 to the west, I-45 to the north, Cullen Boulevard to the east and Blodgett Street to the south. The plan will be strategically aligned with the planning efforts of other organizations in the Greater Third Ward.
- Earlier this year I directed our College of Education to work closely with the Houston Independent School District to establish the Third Ward Community Partnership focused on six schools in the area. The goal is to bring these schools from “improvement required” to “met standard” ranking in three years. As part of this initiative, the College of Education has applied for a \$1.3 million grant from the Economic Development Administration in the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish the UH Third Ward Innovation Center and build a facility near the intersection of Dowling and Alabama streets to serve as headquarters for the coordination of all UH outreach activities in the Third Ward. As the grant application was being announced, we learned that three of the six targeted schools have moved up to the “met standard” rating, but our work to bring these six schools up to higher ratings will continue nevertheless.

## MacArthur Award Winner Joins College of the Arts Faculty

**Rick Lowe**, visual artist, social activist, and creator of Project Row Houses in the neighboring Third Ward, has been hired by the new College of the Arts as its first faculty member. He will serve as clinical associate professor and will assist in developing a minor focused on socially engaged art as well as a College of the Arts-Third Ward Fellows program. Lowe was named a 2014 MacArthur Fellow for creating an art form so novel that it had no name, an art form that combines creativity, collaboration, historical context, and a sense of shared community.

## UH Libraries Moving Up – Again!

The UH Libraries moved up 12 places in the Association of Research Libraries ranking to 65 from 77. UH Libraries comprises the M.D. Anderson Library, the William R. Jenkins Architecture and Art Library, the Weston A. Pettey Optometry Library, and the Music Library, providing access to over 3.2 million volumes for students, faculty, staff, scholars and community visitors. Resources also include over 600 databases, approximately 94,000 e-journal titles, over 655,000 e-books, and 1,100 print journal subscriptions.

## UH-Clear Lake Achievements

### THECB Awards \$500,000-plus to UHCL Autism Center

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board awarded two grants under the Autism Grant Program to Professor of Psychology **Dorothea Lerman** to support the UHCL Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. A \$330,600 grant will support parent-directed treatment programs and a \$229,598 grant will boost teacher/paraprofessional training. Both grants will be awarded over a two-year period. UHCL's center was established in 2008 to serve a growing population of children throughout the Houston area with an autism spectrum disorder.

### UHCL Receives Second Chance Pell Grant

The U.S. Department of Education tapped UHCL as one of 67 colleges and universities nationwide to participate in its new "Second Chance" Pell pilot program. Selected schools will partner with 141 federal and state penal institutions to enroll some 12,000 inmates in educational and training programs. The grants will go to qualified individuals who are likely to be released within five years of enrolling in coursework, with the goal of reducing recidivism. UHCL has offered classes to Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmates since 1974, and has awarded more than 600 degrees to these students.

### Drone Takes UHCL Research to New Heights

Researchers will gain a new perspective on local habitats and wildlife with the addition of the UHCL Environmental Institute of Houston's Hawk1, an unmanned aerial vehicle also known as a drone. Students and faculty will now have the ability to take high-quality aerial photography as well as infrared scans, which have a number of research applications. Hawk1, which received certification from the Federal Aviation Administration in February, requires a team of at least four people to operate it in the field.

## UH-Downtown Achievements

### Land Purchase Finalized

UHD finalized the purchase of a 17-acre parcel of land located immediately north of campus. Integral to the university's growth and development, the purchase increases the UHD campus to approximately 40 acres. The additional property provides the preferred location for construction of a new Science and Technology Building, approved by the Texas Legislature in spring 2015. This large tract will also ensure space for other new academic and student life facilities, as yet to be determined. Architect selection is underway for the Science and Technology Building, which the University hopes to complete by summer of 2019.

### The Gator Gateway to UHD Student Success

Faculty, staff and administrators collaborated to completely reengineer the entire onboarding process for new students. Mandatory for all incoming freshmen, the "Gator Gateway" is an on-campus orientation experience uniquely tailored to each student's academic major. The program introduces students to the UHD campus and to campus life, where they meet new classmates in a friendly, fun environment. A collaborative cross-functional team of faculty, staff and administrators from across UHD led the effort. "Gator Gateway" is part of a multi-tiered student success initiative referred to as #UHD2020, designed to provide students with every opportunity to excel and succeed.

### \$3.2 Million Awarded to UHD Initiatives

Several research projects and initiatives are moving forward with the support of a total of \$3.2 million in recent awards. These include:

- The TRIO Talent Search Program, which is receiving \$2.1 million from the U.S. Department of Education;
- UHD STEM Training Center for Underrepresented Future Workers, which was awarded a \$498,781 Wagner Peyser Grant from the Texas Workforce Commission;
- High Performance Computing for Faculty and Students, which earned \$377,966 from the U.S. Department of the Army;
- Undergraduate research in applied mathematics, supported by \$280,000 from the National Science Foundation.

UHD's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs continues to assist in acquiring funding for projects such as these under the leadership of associate professor of biochemistry **Jerry Johnson**, who was recently appointed as the office's new assistant vice president.

## **UH-Victoria Achievements**

### **UHV Receives Largest One-time Cash Gift and \$2.5 Million Grant**

Victoria's M.G. & Lille A. Johnson Foundation has donated \$500,000 to UHV – the university's largest one-time cash gift. The funds will be used to purchase a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer to be used by biology, biomedical sciences, health studies and nursing students and faculty. UHV has also received a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The grant, to be paid out over four years, will provide scholarships for full-time students pursuing Master of Education degrees in clinical mental health counseling. The scholarships, aimed at helping students from underrepresented populations, will cover tuition and fees, books, living expenses, transportation and other costs of living for two years.

### **Clinical Mental Health Counseling Degree Earns National Accreditation**

A national accrediting body considered the gold standard in training future counselors has accredited a second UHV counselor education program. The Master of Education in clinical mental health counseling was accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs through October 2018. UHV's school counseling program also is CACREP accredited, the only degree in the Coastal Bend and Greater Houston regions so recognized.

### **National Organizations Applaud UHV's Online Programs**

Four national organizations recognized UHV and its degree programs for their excellence and affordability. Rankings.com listed UHV at No. 5 in its 2016 Best Affordable Online College Awards and gave the university an Editor's Award for the highest score in the online student body category. UHV also ranked No. 3 nationally on Affordable School's list of Top 20 Affordable Online Bachelor's Degrees in Communications and Public Relations. Only one other Texas university was ranked. In addition, UHV's Master of Education in special education was ranked No. 11 on the 2016 Top 25 Most Affordable Online Master's in Special Education list by the Master's in Special Education Program Guide. Finally, the UHV School of Business Administration earned a national ranking from CollegeChoice.net as having one of the 50 best online undergraduate business programs.