



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • May 2019

UH System

17,056 Degrees Awarded by UH, UHCL, UHD, UHV

An estimated 10,411 degrees are being awarded this month at 24 commencement ceremonies throughout the UH System. With the addition of 6,645 degrees awarded at Fall commencement ceremonies, the total number of degrees awarded system-wide for the 2018-2019 academic year is 17,056.

	UH	UHCL	UHD	UHV	TOTAL
Bachelor's	4,635	916	1,698	360	7,609
Master's	1,130	579	319	149	2,177
Doctoral	193	13			206
Professional	419				419
Summer/Spring Total	6,377	1,508	2,017	509	10,411
Fall 2018 Total	3,513	1,016	1,664	452	6,645
Academic Year Total	9,890	2,524	3,681	961	17,056

UH System Launches First-of-its-Kind Temporary Public Art Program

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Public Art of the UH System, it will soon launch a first-of-its-kind temporary public art program with specially commissioned pieces by world-class artists. The first of those pieces, a large acrylic sculpture by Argentine artist **Marta Chilindrón**, known for her collapsible and transformable sculptures, will be installed this summer in Wilhelmina's Grove on the UH campus. Plans call for the piece to be displayed later at other UH System universities.

University of Houston

UH Receives Transformational Gifts

The College of Nursing has received \$3.5 million from HCA Houston Healthcare for a Nursing Faculty Endowment supporting adjunct or full-time faculty members at HCA-affiliated facilities; a Simulation Center in Katy to provide hands-on training and research; and the HCA Houston Healthcare Endowed Professorship. An anonymous \$10-million gift by a grateful patient family to the Texas Center for Learning Disabilities (TCLD) has cemented its future as a world-class interdisciplinary research unit. TCLD, one of five national centers at UH, is a consortium among UH, the UT Health Science Center at Houston and UT Austin investigating the diagnosis, treatment, and causes of learning disabilities in children and adolescents.

New Health Center Will Serve South Central Residents

A health center – a joint initiative between UH and Lone Star Circle of Care (LSCC) – is now open in the Health 2 Building, the temporary home of the College of Medicine. The community-based Federally Qualified Health Center will provide comprehensive primary and behavioral health care services, adding to LSCC's and UH's commitment to improved health outcomes and quality of life in underserved communities, including the Third Ward.

Faculty Members, Administrators Honored

Laura Frishman, Ph.D., FAAO, FARVO, has received the 2019 Esther Farfel Award, the highest honor UH can bestow on a faculty member. Frishman, John and Rebecca Moores Professor, has been the College of Optometry's associate dean for Graduate Studies and Research since 2003. **Paula Myrick Short**, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, has been honored by the Association for Women in Mathematics for her work to support women and women of color in STEM and other key fields. The Texas Commission on the Arts has selected **Rick Lowe**, Project Row Houses founder and professor of interdisciplinary practice in the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts, as the 2019 State 3D Artist, the state's highest recognition for excellence in the arts

Eleven Graduate Programs Among Top 50 in the Nation

Eleven graduate programs have been ranked in the Top 50 by *U.S. News & World Report*. The UH Law Center has three Top 10 programs: Health Law, No. 6; Intellectual Property Law, No. 7; and the Part-time Program, No. 9. The Graduate College of Social Work was ranked No. 22 among institutions offering a master's degree in Social Work, up two spots from last year's rankings. Three Cullen College of Engineering programs ranked in the Top 50: Petroleum Engineering, No. 14; Chemical Engineering, No. 36; and Industrial Engineering, No. 48.

Summer Brings New Leadership

Michael Twa, associate dean, Research and Graduate Studies, University of Alabama-Birmingham's School of Optometry, will assume the deanship of the College of Optometry in June. **Paul A. Pavlou** will join the Bauer College as Dean and Cullen Distinguished Chair in July. He is Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Research, Doctoral Programs and Strategic Initiatives at Temple University's Fox School of Business. Louisiana State University's **Gaston Reinoso** will join us in July as Associate Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Human Resources.

Research Grants

A \$3.34 million Texas Health and Human Services State Opioid Response grant to **Douglas Thornton**, assistant professor, pharmaceutical health outcomes and policy in the College of Pharmacy, is part of \$92.5 million in federal funding Texas received to combat the opioid crisis. The grant will support the purchase, distribution and evaluation of "safe disposal kits" for dissolving/destroying unused prescription-controlled substance medications. With \$5 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health, two UH researchers will study early detection and monitoring of kidney inflammation in patients who have Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, or lupus. Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Endowed Professor of Biomedical Engineering **Chandra Mohan**, is working on disease diagnostics. **Tianfu Wu**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, will be developing a system that tests for multiple biomarkers and a smartphone-based analysis and reporting system for disease monitoring and home care.

University of Houston-Clear Lake

NASA Strategist and Virtual Reality Pioneer Joins UHCL Leadership

Thanks to a generous anonymous gift, **Evelyn Miralles** – virtual reality pioneer, NASA chief engineer/technology strategist and UHCL alumna – has been named UHCL's associate vice president for Strategic Information Initiatives & Technology. In this role, she will identify high-value technologies that support state-of-the-art teaching/learning models, as well as provide leadership in science, innovation and technology.

UHCL Embarks on New Strategic Planning Process

Under the direction of President **Ira K. Blake**, UHCL has partnered with the Balanced Scorecard Institute to create a framework to strategically plan for continuous assessment and improvement at UHCL. The UHCL Strategic Planning Leadership Team – **Kevin Wooten, Joan Pedro, Steven Berberich** and **Mark Denney** – is engaging stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners, in a series of workshops and forums to define UHCL's initiatives and action steps.

Student Develops Police Protocol to Respond to People with Autism

UHCL graduate student **Karlie Hinkle** is creating a training protocol to train police officers how to adapt their approach for people on the autism spectrum. Hinkle received her B.S. in Psychology in 2017 and is scheduled to complete her M.A. in Behavior Analysis in 2020. **Dorothea Lerman**, psychology professor and director of the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, oversees Hinkle's research project.

University of Houston-Downtown

Veteran Higher Education Professionals Joining UHD

Two veteran higher education professionals will soon fill key leadership positions at UHD. **Jonathan Schwartz** has been named Dean of the College of Public Service, and **Jimmy Jung** has accepted the position of Vice President of Enrollment Management. Schwartz will join UHD in July after serving as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for UH's College of Education, and Jung will arrive at UHD in June after serving as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Jersey City University.

Professor Receives Fulbright Scholarship

Candace TenBrink has been named the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship. TenBrink, an assistant professor at UHD's Marilyn Davies College of Business, will travel to an institution of higher learning in Poland to teach innovation, entrepreneurship and strategy.

UHD Recognizes Faculty Excellence

UHD spotlighted excellence in teaching, service, curriculum and scholarly activities at its annual Faculty Awards in April. Top awards went to: **Lisa Morano**, professor of biology and microbiology, Distinguished Faculty Award; **Ashley Archiopoli**, assistant professor of communication studies, Excellence in Teaching

Award; **Bernardo Pohl**, assistant professor of education, Excellence in Service Award; **Elizabeth Gilmore**, criminal justice lecturer, Outstanding Lecturer Award; **Krista Gehring**, associate professor of criminal justice, Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity Award; and **Sam Sen**, who teaches courses in Natural Sciences, Outstanding Adjunct Award.

University of Houston-Victoria

UHV Honors Faculty and Staff

Three faculty members and the senior training and development coordinator in Human Resources were recognized for their outstanding work. **Liping Wei**, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, received the Teaching Excellence Award; **Joseph Locke**, assistant professor of history, received the Research and Scholarly Activity Excellence Award; **Joann Olson**, associate professor of adult and higher education, received the Distinguished Faculty Service Award; and **Eunice Mesa**, with UHV's Career Services and Human Resources since 2004, received the 2018 Employee of the Year Award.

UHV Partners with San Antonio School District to Establish Scholars Program

UHV and the San Antonio Independent School District entered into an agreement to provide extensive advising and financial support for up to 10 graduating high school seniors to attend UHV each year starting in the fall. Financial aid for the "SAISD Scholars" will be met through a combination of scholarships, grants, loans and work study opportunities.

National Publication Ranks UHV on Best Bang for Buck List

UHV was ranked 34th on the 2018 Washington Monthly Best Bang for the Buck Southern Colleges list, which places emphasis on each institution's economic improvement of students, research and service. In addition to the overall ranking, UHV was ranked 15th in the Southern region for its eight-year graduation rate of 66 percent, compared with a predicted graduation rate of 52 percent.