



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

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UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 2020

## UH System

### “Here, We Go” Campaign Finishing Strong

As August nears its end, UHS is in the final days of the historic “Here, We Go” Campaign. With fundraising totaling \$1,220,822,281 (as of August 10), 185,257 donors (and counting) have contributed to date. The campaign’s success will be commemorated through a hybrid approach of virtual engagement and modified gatherings in spring 2021. We are most grateful to Campaign Co-Chairs **Tilman Fertitta**, **Beth Madison** ('72), **John Nau** and **Marvin Odum** (M.B.A. '95) and Finance Chair **Steve Chazen**.

## University of Houston

### The Quad Opens Doors to Students

The University debuted new student housing this year with The Quad, replacing the first residence hall at UH affectionately known as the Quadrangle. The Quad features 1,189 new bed spaces and includes seven townhomes which house living and learning communities. The design includes four courtyards and one plaza which are named after the Quadrangle’s original buildings: Law, Bates, Settegast, Taub and Oberholtzer.

### UH Continues to Grow Research Funding

Between May 1 and July 31, the University received eight award notices for grants that exceed \$1 million each of proposed awards for a total of \$22.8 million. These include:

- \$10 million grant from the Institute of Educational Sciences to **David Francis**, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Chair of Psychology and director of UH Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation and Statistics (TIMES) to create and direct a national research and development center for English Learners. Participating institutions include University of Texas at Austin, Harvard Graduate School of Education, New York University and Strategic Education Research Partnership.
- \$3.2 million grant from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering to **Mini Das**, associate professor of physics, to help usher in the next generation of micro-computed tomography (CT) imaging. The project’s goal is to lower the radiation doses while improving the resolution and enhancing the contrast of three-dimensional pictures of small specimens, like tumors or biomaterials.

### Building a More Diverse Faculty at UH

UH now tops national averages for faculty diversity in several categories. UH developed a data-driven approach to increase the number of underrepresented minority-tenured and tenure-track faculty members by 46% over the past five years. The number of tenured and tenure-track female faculty members in STEM and social and behavioral science disciplines has grown by 20.3% during the same period.

### New UH Rankings

- UH moves up to No. 75 among the top 100 global universities for issued utility patents and has ranked among the top 100 global universities for the past five years.

- CNBC spotlighted the top colleges to provide students the highest average salaries for their tuition dollars. UH ranked No. 7 in public universities on the 2020 list of the top 50 U.S. colleges that pay off the most.

### College of Medicine Hosts Historic White Coat Ceremony

For the 30-member College of Medicine class of 2024, the white coat ceremony held Saturday, August, 8, symbolized their entrance into the medical profession. In perhaps the most moving moment of the historic white coat ceremony, the inaugural class stood to recite their jointly composed class oath, demonstrating a collective understanding of the privileges, responsibilities and commitments involved with serving others as a member of the medical profession.

## University of Houston-Clear Lake

### UHCL, Consulate of Qatar Partner for Diplomacy Institute

University of Houston-Clear Lake announced the creation of the Diplomacy Institute, a partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar that will expand the range of educational services and training of diplomats and consular officials. Dignitaries from the Consulate of Qatar in Houston, the University of Houston System and the city of Houston attended the signing.

### EXCITE Grant Offers Opportunities

Future teachers will benefit from a \$2.5 million EXCITE: Exploring Careers in Teaching grant awarded to UHCL's College of Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans division. The grant provides Hispanic or low-income students an opportunity to succeed in the Master of Arts in Teaching program and the Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program.

### UHCL NASA Alumni League Form Internship

The NASA Alumni League Johnson Space Center Chapter and UHCL's Alfred R. Neumann Library have created an internship that will offer a student \$1,000 each fall and spring semester to work in the library's JSC History Collection. They also initiated an endowment fund of \$1,000, a fund they plan to build to \$25,000 to provide for ongoing support of an intern.

## University of Houston-Downtown

### Students Taking on Statewide Leadership Roles

Student Government Association President **Alan Modrow** became the first UHD student appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Undergraduate Advisory Committee. Additionally, Modrow and fellow student **Samantha Moseley**, president of the Black Student Association, were appointed to the Texas Civic Ambassadors Program hosted by the University of Texas at Austin Moody College of Communication's Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life.

### NIH Awards \$400K to Support Student Research

UHD Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Ben Soibam** received a \$400,000 National Institutes of Health Research Enhancement Award to engage four student researchers in a project and provide them with opportunities to attend conferences and present this research to both peers and professional researchers.

### Freshmen Welcomed Via Virtual Gator Gateway

UHD continued its annual tradition of preparing First Time in College Students for their freshman year during Gator Gateway. The Zoom orientation greeted approximately 1,800 new Gators with workshops, information sessions, lectures and other interactive activities. This year marked the fourth time the University has hosted Gator Gateway.

## University of Houston-Victoria

### UHV Athletic Director Garners Top Honors

UHV Athletic Director **Ashley Walyuchow** was named the 2019-2020 Red River Athletic Conference Athletic Director of the Year. Walyuchow has served as the Jaguars' athletic director since the inception of UHV's athletics program in 2006. He has expanded the program from two to six sports and 50 to 140 student-athletes.

### National Website Ranks UHV's COVID-19 Response Among Best in Texas

UHV was included in the top tier of Texas universities responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with action that benefited and protected students, especially in terms of available online learning resources. Educate to Career, a national website that ranks colleges and universities based on the economic advantages they offer students, included UHV in Tier 1 out of four tiers on its ETC College Rankings Results for the COVID-19 Economic Crisis list.

### Former Student-Athlete Wins Soccer Awards

UHV men's soccer defender **Uriel Garcia** recently was named a 2020 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar first runner-up. He was recognized from the more than 790 student-athletes from 42 sports nominated for the award. In addition, Garcia was selected as the 2019-2020 Red River Athletic Conference Betty Etier Male Character Athlete of the Year.