



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 2019

UH System

UHS Fall Enrollment Update

Preliminary reports from the four UH System universities show a total of 74,059 students enrolled for the Fall 2019 semester as of August 21. UH and UHD started classes August 19, while UHCL and UHV will start classes August 26.

Final, official numbers will be determined after the twelfth day of classes.

Fall 2019 Preliminary Headcounts

	UH	UHCL	UHD	UHV	TOTAL
Undergraduate	38,716	6,494	13,169	3,195	61,574
Graduate	7,310	2,450	1,571	1,154	12,485
All	46,026	8,944	14,740	4,349	74,059

Legislature Shows Strong Support for UH System

We thank Gov. **Greg Abbott**, Lt. Gov. **Dan Patrick**, Speaker **Dennis Bonnen** and all our legislators, especially the Gulf Coast delegation, for making higher education an important priority of the 86th Legislature and approving strong support for continued growth and student success throughout the UH System. This support includes over \$26 million for Hurricane Harvey recovery, \$18 million in general revenue increases, plus facility funding for UH Law Center and UH Hobby School of Public Affairs, and startup funds for the UH College of Medicine. A dedicated student fee was authorized to fund new recreation, wellness and student success centers at UHD and UHV.

UH System Launches \$2 Million Technology Bridging Fund

The UH System has launched a \$2 million research fund to help faculty inventors bridge the gap between research and commercialization. The Chancellor's Technology Bridging Fund will offer grants to qualifying faculty to cover costs between proof of concept and commercialization. Officials expect to make between four and ten awards for each of the next five years in the \$25,000 to \$75,000 range.

University of Houston

Record Number of Students Receive Prestigious Grants, Scholarships

A record number of UH students received prestigious grants and scholarships recently. Fulbright awards went to eleven undergraduates – the most awarded in a given year in UH history. In addition, two undergraduates were awarded Barry Goldwater Scholarships. **Jacob “True” Furrh**, environmental sciences major and an Honors student, received a 2019 Udall Scholarship. Only 55 U.S. students were selected, and Furrh is the only recipient from a Texas institution.

Men's Track and Field, Women's Swimming and Diving Recognized

For the fourth consecutive year, the men's outdoor track and field team has captured the American Athletic Conference championship title. Head Coach **Leroy Burrell** and his staff won the AAC's "Men's Coaching Staff of the Year" honors, also for the fourth consecutive year. Coach **Ryan Wochomurka's** women's swimming and diving team was designated as a "Scholar All-America" team by CSCAA, the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America.

Mellon Foundation Supports First-of-its Kind Digital Program

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded UH a \$750,000 grant to establish a first-of-its-kind U.S. Latino Digital Humanities Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The program will give scholars expanded access to a vast collection of written materials produced by Latinos and archived by the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literacy Heritage program and UH's Arte Público Press.

UH Receives Entrepreneurial University Award in Recognition of Wolff Center

UH received the 2019 Entrepreneurial University Award from the Deshpande Foundation for the success of the Bauer College's Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship. The award, the top honor bestowed by the foundation, recognizes the work of the program, which draws students from across UH and offers both a certificate and an undergraduate degree. Students who have taken entrepreneurship classes within the past decade have started 1,006 businesses, with identified funding of over \$238 million.

Geoscience Team Wins International Petroleum Exploration Competition

A team of graduate geoscience students topped more than 300 teams from 61 countries to win the 2019 Imperial Barrel Award. The annual competition is sponsored by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Besides the trophy, the students brought home a \$20,000 cash award to be used by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and the local AAPG chapter. A UH team won the competition in 2017, making UH one of just two universities to have won more than once.

Several Large Grants Will Support Health-Related Research

Badri Roysam, chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received a \$3.19 million award from the National Institutes of Health to support the development of a brain profiling toolkit. **Nuri Ince**, associate professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, received a \$2.8 million award from the National Institutes of Health to improve the treatment of epilepsy. A \$3.1 million grant from the National Cancer Institute was awarded to **Frank McKeon**, professor, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, to fund research to understand the development of and treatment for cancer of the esophagus.

University of Houston-Clear Lake

New Vice President, Dean Join UHCL

Joseph L. Staley joined UHCL July 1 as vice president for University Advancement. Staley, who was vice chancellor for Resource Development at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, has spent

more than 25 years in fundraising for higher education. The College of Science and Engineering welcomed **Miguel Gonzalez** as its new dean. He spent 20 years at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in various roles, including director of the Rio Grande Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization.

Professors, Student Publish First Study on Mental Health Effects of Harvey

Four UHCL professors and a doctoral student co-authored the first major published study on mental health effects related to Hurricane Harvey. The study will appear in the October edition of the Journal of Affective Disorders. The authors are **Steven Bistricky**, **Sara Elkins** and **Mary Short**, clinical psychology professors; **Heather Kanenberg**, social work professor; and **Kristina Harper**, a health service psychology doctoral student.

Five of Six New Goose Creek Principals are UHCL Alumni

Five of the six new Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District principals for the 2019-20 academic year are UHCL graduates. **Angela Mancini**, **Reneé Meyer** and **Maria Rosas-Gonzalez** earned both their bachelor's and master's degrees from UHCL, while **Bart Cobb** completed his bachelor's degree at UHCL and **Carrie Smith** received her master's degree from UHCL.

University of Houston-Downtown

New Building Opens on UHD Campus

UHD recently opened its new College of Sciences and Technology Building. The \$73 million structure is the UH System's first LEED Gold certified building. The 105,000-square-foot teaching and research facility will serve as a model for sustainability and undergraduate education in biology, biotechnology, biological and physical sciences and chemistry. It will house UHD's Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability and will be partially powered by solar panels made possible by a gift from the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club.

UHD Awarded Prestigious Fundraising Recognition

The University has earned its first Exceptional Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). UHD was recognized in the category of Overall Improvement among public comprehensive institutions based on blind analysis of three years of fundraising data submitted to CASE.

Largest Freshman Class Completes Orientation

UHD recently conducted its fourth Gator Gateway orientation, welcoming approximately 1,300 freshmen – UHD's largest freshman class to date – to campus. During Gator Gateway, students from each of UHD's five colleges visit campus for faculty-led lectures, university tours and activities that connect them with peers and professors. The University also welcomed its transfer population to campus through both Transfer Orientation and the Accelerated Transfer Academy, both of which are focused on student success and helping new Gators navigate their new university.

University of Houston-Victoria

UHV Continues to Expand

UHV has started renovations on a 44,000-square-foot facility which formerly housed part of the Town Plaza Mall in Victoria. The new facility will house the Small Business Development Center, Partnerships for Regional Economic Prosperity, Athletics, the university's kinesiology program and classrooms. A topping-out ceremony was held for Don & Mona Smith Hall, the university's new 280-bed residence hall expected to be completed by December. In addition, an 80,124-square-foot, three-story student center and library, called University Commons, will open at the start of the Fall 2019 semester. University Commons is the first student center constructed on the UHV campus.

Donation to UHV Honors Former Regent

A portrait of **Dorothy Alcorn** and her collection of 2,227 fiction and nonfiction books were donated in her memory to UHV. Alcorn was the first member of the UH System Board of regents from the Victoria area and a lifetime UHV supporter. Her portrait hangs on the wall outside of UHV Alcorn Auditorium, home to the UHV/American Book Review Reading Series and named in her honor in 1993.

UHV Welcomes New Dean

Ken Colwell recently took the reins as dean of the university's School of Business Administration. Before coming to UHV, he was a professor and dean of the School of Business at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn.