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Dinner party dishes out praise, humor

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Open house

It was University of Houston System president Renu Khator's first adventure as party hostess at Wortham House, the historic chancellor residence in the oak-shrouded neighborhood of Southampton.

Although she's been in her post since late last year, social duties did not prevail until last week.

The early evening reception was in celebration of the new Richard W. Murray Endowed Scholarship for political science, named for political science professor Richard Murray, a UH stalwart for 42 years and well-known political consultant/pollster.

The announcement was made by state Sen. John Whitmire, who revealed that his former professor Murray was the first to encourage him to run for state office.

In the mix were those who led fundraising for the scholarship - \$125,000 to date and still growing - including former Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Harris County Clerk Beverly Kaufman and Jim Granato, director of the UH Center for Public Policy.

In Wortham House tradition, Khator and her husband, Suresh Khator, stood in the foyer welcoming the 150 guests that included the honoree's wife Debbie Hartman, Gene Locke, Welcome Wilson Sr., City Controller Annise Parker, Helen and Joe B. Allen, Tissy Hardin, Alison Leland, and Marty and Bob Stein.