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I have been an eyewitness to the Tier One excitement building on campus.

It’s just about impossible to visit the University of Houston campus without being exposed to the idea of Tier One.

This goal – our goal – has been more than a snappy slogan to put on T-shirts. Tier One serves as an identity that has united students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and the community. As both a UH graduate student and a member of the Board of Regents, I have been an eyewitness to the Tier One excitement building on campus.

Now, UH has actually earned a Tier One classification from the prestigious Carnegie Foundation. This Carnegie distinction, which you can read about on page 3, just makes official something I have believed for some time now.

We are Tier One!

Tier One excellence has been reflected in our faculty and staff through their continuing dedication to student and academic success. While many people have noticed that our research awards have reached a record $114 million, they might not realize the impact that many of our outstanding professors have had on a personal level. Professors like Bill Alexander, Ronald Turner and Gavin Clarkson aren’t simply my teachers, they are my mentors. Many other excellent professors, administrators and staff members have shaped my education at UH into an extraordinary experience – they are Tier One! And my own experience is by no means unique. It has been repeated many times over among my Cougar classmates.

Tier One is reflected in our alumni and community, as can be seen in the level of private giving to the university that has reached a record high of $102 million. This generosity has helped fund additional scholarships and has resulted in better facilities, classrooms, labs and dorms. I get fired up when I drive south along Interstate-45 and see the giant UH flag flapping in the wind. This flag has come to symbolize our responsibility to the community and their support of our effort – they are Tier One!

Finally, Tier One also is reflected in our students. When I walk into the refurbished Moody Towers dining hall on Fridays and see everyone wearing red Cougar shirts, I get chills. Moreover, the call of “Coooooog’s House” at sporting events reminds me that our students support our teams, and our university supports our students – they are Tier One!

In this issue’s annual report, you will find a good deal of information that documents our progress toward achieving Tier One status. I urge you to read this with the understanding that these facts, while impressive, cannot completely communicate the mentorship of our outstanding professors, the spirit of the community, or the rallying cry of our student body. The Carnegie Foundation has confirmed what many of us already knew ... we are Tier One!

Andrew Cobos
UH System Board of Regents
Making An Impact

UH Earns Tier One Ranking From Carnegie
Designation Highlights University’s Research Excellence.

by Eric Gerber (’72, M.A. ’78)

Very high.

That’s certainly what spirits at UH have been since the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reported our university’s official research ranking – Very High.

The classification is Carnegie’s top one and another way of saying UH has reached Tier One status. Only 100 or so research universities made that prestigious category in the Carnegie report, which was released in January 2011.

The Carnegie Foundation is a nationally recognized policy and research center that systematically evaluates and classifies about 4,000 colleges and universities based on empirical data. UH, which previously was in the “high research activity” category, now becomes the third public university in Texas in the top-tier group — joining The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University.

UH has been in that category for student success also is ... Very High.

Grant Will Help Boost Number of Doctoral Students.

by Laura Tolley

Increasing the number of doctoral students who graduate annually from the University of Houston is a key element of the institution’s mission to become a Tier One university, and that effort received a big boost from Houston Endowment Inc.

Houston Endowment has awarded a $5 million grant to UH, which the university will use to more effectively recruit, retain and graduate highly qualified doctoral students in targeted programs.

UH is focused on becoming the next university in Texas to achieve Tier One status, a designation that would reap a number of benefits, including enrollment, retention, graduation rates, facilities upkeep and expansion, and quality of life at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

“Houston Endowment is glad to provide this assistance to the University of Houston, as it strengthens its graduate programs to compete in a global context,” said Houston Endowment President Larry R. Faulkner. “Outstanding education at the doctoral level benefits the Houston metropolitan area by providing expertise and new professionals in areas essential to the area’s economy.”

Houston Endowment, a philanthropic foundation established in 1937 by Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones, supports nonprofit organizations and educational institutions that improve life for the people of greater Houston.

“Graduate students’ success is a top priority for my administration because it is consistent with our goal of being a nationally competitive Tier One university,” said UH President Renu Khator. “I want to thank the Houston Endowment for this generous grant, which shows strong community support for the university and its aspirations.”

Additional funding received by becoming a Tier One university would be used to improve student education, attract and retain more high-quality faculty members, leverage more federal research dollars, increase technology transfer to the private sector and attract new companies to the Houston area.

“Graduate students’ success is a top priority for my administration because it is consistent with our goal of being a nationally competitive Tier One university,” said UH President Renu Khator. “I want to thank the Houston Endowment for this generous grant, which shows strong community support for the university and its aspirations.”

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Politics as Unusual: 82nd Texas Legislature Under Way

**UHS Hopes to Maintain Momentum Despite Fiscal Challenges.**

by Eric Gerber (’72, M.A. ’78)

The 82nd Texas Legislature convened in mid-January for what many political observers characterized as one of the most challenging sessions in the state’s history. Legislators are responding to a historic budget shortfall, which will impact funding for state entities such as the University of Houston System.

UH System leaders acknowledged the gravity of the situation, but are hopeful that legislative solutions will be reached that support the notable progress achieved by all four UHS universities.

“We recognize that our elected public officials will have to address the most significant fiscal challenge they have faced in terms of total dollars and percentage of the state budget,” said Grover Campbell, vice chancellor/vice president for governmental relations with UH and the UH System. “Our UHS legislative agenda has been established within this context. By working together with the Legislature, we hope we can maintain the momentum achieved over the past several years.”

In particular, it will be requested that funding for state universities not be reduced disproportionately to that of other state agencies and services. Even though higher education represents 12.5 percent of all state spending, it accounted for 41 percent of stop-gap reductions already made to current appropriations.

The UHS agenda also urges the Legislature to:

- Maintain adequate funding of the TEXAS grants and Work Study financial aid programs
- Continue appropriations for research and Tier One support programs such as the Research Development Fund and the Texas Research Incentive Program
- Develop a distribution plan for the National Research University Fund, an existing endowment for UH and other emerging research universities that meet established benchmarks
- Consider Tuition Revenue Bonds for special UHS construction projects to address space deficits
- Postpone changes to current state formula funding that would lead to a major redistribution of limited resources

Several hundred bills have been filed and many are pertinent to higher education in general and UHS specifically, ranging from the affordability of textbooks to carrying concealed weapons on campus. UHS will track relevant legislative developments throughout the 140-day regular session and post weekly updates on this site: [http://www.uhsa.uh.edu/gov/state/82/](http://www.uhsa.uh.edu/gov/state/82/)

UH Adding Second Radio Station to Its Lineup

The University of Houston is ready to double the radio resources it offers the community.

In another clear signal of UH’s commitment to community outreach and cultural improvement, the UH System’s purchase of the broadcast tower, FM frequency and license used by Rice University station KTRU, is now one step away from final approval.

The $9.5 million acquisition, which is under review by the Federal Communications Commission, is being financed 100 percent by enhanced underwriting and private gifts that KUHF raises.

KUHF, the radio station owned and operated by UH since 1950, plans to broadcast 24-hour classical music and fine arts programming on 91.7 FM (KUHC Classical) and convert 88.7 FM to a 24-hour NPR news and information format (KUHF News).

In its current format, KUHF splits its programming between NPR News and classical music. KTRU will continue to provide free radio programming online at www.ktru.org.

“The acquisition of a second public radio station delivers on our promise to keep UH at the forefront of providing strong cultural, educational and artistic opportunities that benefit our students and our city,” said UH President Renu Khator.
Health and Biomedical Sciences
Center Breaks Ground at UH

Facility Designed to Foster Interdisciplinary Collaborations.

by Lisa K. Merkl (’92, M.A. ’97)

Health research at UH is reaching new heights – six stories worth, to be exact.

The new, six-story, 167,000-square-foot Health and Biomedical Sciences Center, under construction since November, will place researchers from different colleges and departments together under one roof in an effort to foster unique opportunities for collaboration and pave the way for creative health research.

The center is designed to facilitate collaboration across neuropsychology and neuroscience, measurement and statistics, biology and biochemistry, biomedical engineering, pharmacy, optometry, computer science and computational physiology. The facility will be a key clinical, educational and interdisciplinary research structure, offering interactive facilities similar to the kinds of work environments students will experience when they graduate.

“The center will be a truly integrated cross-disciplinary research facility that will incorporate researchers from the colleges of Optometry, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Engineering, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Pharmacy,” said David Francis (M.A. ’84, Ph.D. ’85), director of the Texas Institute for Measurement Evaluation and Statistics and a Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor. “It goes beyond traditional colleges working together.”

Bringing together researchers across various areas of expertise in the same physical location will create opportunities for them to better interact while working on related projects. The new research facilities in HBSC also will strengthen UH investigators’ ties to counterparts and institutions in the Texas Medical Center and enable collaborations across organizations throughout the nation to the benefit of UH students and faculty, as well as to the residents of Houston and the state of Texas.

“With the new facility, we will offer expanded services to our patients, create enhanced educational experiences for our students and establish important research collaborations with other scientists that will ultimately impact vision and its care for future generations,” said Earl Smith (’72, M.S. ’75, Ph.D. ’78), College of Optometry dean and Greeman-Petty Professor.
New NSM Dean Appointed

Mark A. Smith Plans to Take College to the Next Level.

Outlining plans for strong growth in medical– and energy–related sciences, Mark A. Smith started January as the new dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Smith, past chairman of the department of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Arizona, succeeds John L. Bear, who announced last year that he would be stepping down as dean after 18 years in the position. A renowned researcher, Smith brings to the position strong credentials as an administrator, experience at both public and private universities, an impressive record of recruiting top faculty and students, and experience in coping with budgetary challenges.

“UH has excellent faculty and students, and an enthusiastic staff who are really underappreciated nationally,” Smith said. “The numbers indicate an institution that is truly ready to step up to the next level among elite research universities.”

At Arizona, Smith had been in the department of chemistry and biochemistry administration for 16 years, the past eight as department head or chairman. Under his leadership, the department achieved a ranking in the top 15 research-funded departments nationally.

Quick Takes . . .

President Renu Khator has been appointed to the nine-member board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, serving an unexpired portion of a three-year term ending Dec. 31, 2011. She is eligible for reappointment to a full term after that ... The UH Law Center ranked 22nd nationally for the total number of law degrees conferred on Hispanic students in 2009, according to the Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education publication ...

Noted peace activist Mient Jan Faber, who held the position of secretary general of the Interchurch Peace Council in the Hague for 30 years, recently served as a guest faculty member of the Honors College. Faber, a professor at Amsterdam’s Free University, taught a course called “Wars and the Transformation of the Security Fabric” ...

UH has earned a B+ on the 2011 College Sustainability Report Card, a national ranking of schools’ performance and practices in several sustainability related fields. While a number of other Texas schools matched UH’s B+ ranking, no other school scored higher. UH scored a B-on the previous year’s report ... First-year Graduate College of Social Work students Maria Cano and Yuliana Medina received the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Bilingual Scholarship. The award covers full tuition and fees for new bilingual students entering graduate social work programs ...

UH students topped a number of nationally competitive schools to win the AP Top 25 Gowalla Check-in Challenge. The victory resulted in a $10,000 scholarship contribution to the university’s Cougar Community TierOne Endowment fund, courtesy of Gowalla.

Going for Six

Quarterback Case Keenum, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in September 2010, has been granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA, based on medical hardship, and will rejoin the Cougars football team this fall. Keenum led the nation in passing offense and total offense in 2009.
James Dickey Q & A
New Basketball Head Coach Shooting for Balance of Execution and Enthusiasm.

James Dickey became the eighth head coach of the men’s basketball team in 2010, bringing with him a wealth of hardcourt experience and insight. As a head coach at Texas Tech for 10 years and assistant coach at schools such as Oklahoma State, Kentucky and Arkansas, he mentored 25 players who played in the NBA and he has competed in 12 NCAA Tournaments. “Winning programs, with first-class student-athletes on and off the court, have followed James throughout his career,” UH Director of Athletics Mack Rhoades said, “and that is certainly no coincidence.” With his first season well under way, including a victory against nationally ranked and previously undefeated University of Central Florida, Coach Dickey discussed his vision for UH hoops.

UH: You are nearly halfway through the regular season. How would you assess it so far?
JD: We have made progress. We are disappointed that we haven’t won more games, but our players understand what we would like to accomplish. I am excited about our program and how hard these players are working. I am looking forward to the future of Cougar Basketball. Hopefully, we can get our fans excited and get them out to Hofheinz Pavilion, which has a great atmosphere when it’s filled.

UH: What challenges did you face?
JD: Losing two great guards in Aubrey Coleman and Kelvin Lewis. They had a terrific run with UH advancing to the NCAA Tournament last year. Filling the void in the offensive production and leadership that those two players brought has been a real challenge.

UH: What do you want your team to accomplish this first season?
JD: The biggest thing is we’re trying to be good defensively. Defense gives you a chance to win every night whether you are at home or on the road. That has been a major emphasis – rebounding, taking care of the basketball and not turning it over. Offensively, we must score by committee, share the ball, make the extra pass and be disciplined in our execution.

UH: How would you describe your on-court approach during a game?
JD: To be positive and enthusiastic with our players, but, at the same time, to be demanding in what our expectations are in terms of effort and execution.

UH: What is your favorite part of coaching?
JD: I love being on the floor with the players. Obviously, I realize the importance of recruiting talent, and I enjoy that as well.

UH: What is the most challenging part of coaching?
JD: Being able to balance quality time with my family because I spend so much time on the job, and I am gone so much.

UH: Who has been your biggest influence as a coach?
JD: My dad and my mom. My wife Bettye was a great player. As a mentor, Coach Eddie Sutton has been tremendous. I spent 12 years with him, four at Arkansas, four at Kentucky and four at Oklahoma State.

UH: During the season, what is a typical day for you?
JD: It’s long. You get in early, try to get a workout. You clear your desk, return phone calls. You have a staff meeting, watch film. We try to see every player during the day to see how they are doing. You organize your practice schedule and talk about the upcoming game or the next practice. The highlight is practice every day. In the evening, you look at tape of your next opponent, return more calls and answer mail. Before you know it, the day and the evening are gone.

UH: What is something about you that most people don’t know?
JD: I’m a wanna-be cowboy. I like the Western lifestyle – boots and jeans, working quarter horses. I grew up in the country. My family always had cattle and horses. That is part of my roots.
As a high school senior making his final college choice, Josh Levine brought a lot to the table – he had an impressive resume, an enviable SAT score and numerous opportunities.

Levine considered such well-established institutions as DePaul University, Indiana and Northwestern, among others. But when it came time to make the final decision, the Missouri City native opted to become a pioneer, of sorts. He selected the University of Houston, and admittance into the initial class of its new TierOne Scholarship program.

“I realized it’s a great place,” Levine said of UH. “When I started looking at it seriously, I realized it did have everything I wanted and more.”

As part of the inaugural class of TierOne Scholars, Levine and his cohort represent an important facet of the University of Houston’s Tier One ambitions.

They are future doctors, lawyers, anthropologists, musicians and pharmacists. They come from diverse backgrounds and each has his/her own story. But collectively the 39 students who are the first to earn the prestigious scholarship are among the most accomplished freshmen on campus.

By design, the TierOne Scholarship program is intended to attract the best and brightest students, who in turn will help raise the university’s academic profile and serve as the next generation of leaders. They will carve a clear path of academic excellence for class after class of future TierOne Scholars to follow.

So far, this year’s class does not disappoint.

“They are the top of the incoming class – the cream of the crop,” said Veronique Tran (’91), director of the UH Learning Through Discovery Initiative, who is connecting the scholars to advisers in the undergraduate research and study abroad offices.

“I have high hopes that this will turn into a cadre of students who will really do well by UH,” echoed John Hardy, associate dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and chair of the UH scholarship committee, which selected this year’s TierOne Scholars. “They will go out into the community, whether they go to medical school, or law school or graduate school, and really represent the University of Houston well.”

The program got its start in 2009 with a $7 million anonymous gift. UH President Renu Khator leveraged that money, using it to match donations for newly created UH TierOne Scholarship Endowments.
Roger Berry ('72), retired Senior Vice President and CIO of Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, endowed a TierOne Scholarship, along with his wife, Victoria. Berry, who studied mathematics and computer science at UH, said he and his wife thought the TierOne Scholarship program was the perfect opportunity for them to give back and to help the university that gave him a great start in life.

"I went to the University of Houston on scholarship myself through the Houston Endowment. And had it not been for that, it would have taken me a lot more time to get through school. It allowed me to apply myself and focus on my studies," he said.

"[The TierOne Scholarship] is going to allow these great students to take advantage of all that the university has to offer."

Khator expressed high expectations for the program.

These scholarships will create a legacy of excellence," she said at the time. "By helping the brightest minds overcome today’s economic challenges, we will ensure that our students are well-prepared leaders who can help our society overcome even greater challenges in the future."

To be eligible, students need a 1300 or better SAT score, or a 29 on their ACT. They must be in the top 10 percent of their class, and they must submit a resume and essay outlining their academic goals.

In the first year, 125 students applied. For the 39 who were selected, the scholarships represent a significant financial and educational benefit. Each student receives tuition and mandatory fees for up to four years; a housing stipend for the first year, up to $2,500; a one-time $2,000 award to participate in a study abroad program; and a one-time $1,000 award to participate in a research project. (The housing stipend may be discontinued in future years.)

“The university has done extremely well in providing the resources for this,” Hardy said. “I can’t think of a better way to spend money than on students like this.”

The students are eager to get started, she said.

Noy Shemer, a pre-business and Honors College student from Houston, already is thinking about research and study abroad opportunities, which she plans to take advantage of next year.

“I was already leaning toward UH, and it [the scholarship] was just the icing on the cake," Shemer said. “It made me feel more confident that I was making the right decision.”

Her father, a UH alumnus, earned his degree in structural engineering as an international student from Israel. He is thrilled that his daughter is attending his alma mater and is able to be near home, Shemer said.

“I am really close to my parents. They were born in Israel, so we are pretty much the only immediate family we have here,” she said.

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Now that he’s here, Levine loves living on campus with access to all that the university and the city has to offer.

“I love Cougar Village,” he said of the state-of-the-art student residence where at least 26 of the TierOne Scholars live. “I love living on campus. I couldn’t imagine not living on campus. It’s great to be one of the few college freshmen in America that lives in a brand new dorm.”

Noah Joost, a mechanical engineering student, decided on UH after a great experience at the Mentoring & Enrichment Seminar in Engineering Training (MESET) camp held on campus each year. The MESET program targets high school students from groups traditionally underrepresented in the field of engineering who have demonstrated an interest and aptitude for math and science.

“I attended the MESET engineering camp the summer before my senior year. It showed me engineering was the degree I wanted to pursue, and that the University of Houston had a great engineering program with a lot of opportunities,” Joost said.

The TierOne Scholarship was a bonus.

“It provides financial support and alleviates the stress associated with trying to focus on school and being financially independent at the same time,” he said.

While many of the scholars are from the Houston area, four are from out-of-state, including Mary Sun, from Wichita, Kan.

When her dad moved from Kansas to Houston for a new job, Sun thought long and hard about staying in Kansas to attend college. But the TierOne Scholarship persuaded her to give Houston a try.
A pre-pharmacy major, and an Honors College student, Sun finds her classes rewarding.

“I especially like the Honors College classes,” she said. “They have really small classes and more time to talk to the teacher. You can actually get to know the teacher, as compared to my biology class, which has like 500 people.”

Though she lives off campus, staying with her family in their new home in Pearland, Sun has thrown herself into campus life, making new friends and joining the pre-pharmacy association club.

Like Sun, Katylyn Stewart also commutes to campus so she can live closer to her part-time job.

The scholarship, she said, is crucial to helping her afford college.

“It made it much easier – that way I only have to cover books and a meal plan,” she said. “I didn’t have any other money.”

Stewart, an anthropology and Honors College student, says she has been inspired by her anthropology courses and, already in her few short months, has decided she wants to focus on linguistic anthropology.

“I was definitely interested in the topic, but I didn’t know that much about it,” she said. “I am just totally fascinated by it.” That fascination for learning is something shared by most of the TierOne Scholars, Tran said. Something else they share is a developing appreciation for UH.

“It is wonderful to see how much they have embraced and love UH … A few of them have commented about how there is such great school spirit,” Tran said. “I have no doubt they will become great ambassadors for the school.”

As they progress in their college careers, Tran believes the students will be very competitive for national awards.

“I’m hoping in the years to come, we will see an increase in the number of Fulbright grantees or Rhodes or Marshall Scholars,” she said. “I think those will come out of the TierOne Scholars classes, so that is exciting for the university.”

Eventually, Tran said, she believes the students’ achievements will help bolster the university’s reputation and encourage even more high-caliber students to attend UH.

“Their success will be a testament to what a Tier One university can provide students as they prepare to become future leaders,” she said. “I hope that by sharing their undergraduate stories and experiences, the TierOne Scholars will inspire other UH students to take advantage of all that UH and the world has to offer.”

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**TierOne Endowments**

- Truman and Becky Arnold
- Roger and Victoria Berry
- Barbara A. Britt
- Gaynell Brock and Prem Bhushan Dewan Gadihoke Burch Family
- Rose and William B. Calhoun
- J. Scott Chase (’68, J.D. ’71)
- CHESS
- Ed and Sue Clark
- Cougar Community
- Lana A. Culpepper
- Barbara S. and Glen C. Farber
- Valerie King Freeman and Greg King
- Goodman Financial
- Les and Donna Haulbrook
- H-E-B
- Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
- Nancy and Carter Hixon
- Clay Hoster
- Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Sue and Richard Howard
- Marvin and Joan Kaplan
- Manny Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Maxwell Jr.
- Gerald W. McElvy
- Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation
- Earl Monk
- Earl Ray Monk
- Dan J. Moran Jr. and Carolyn Farrell Moran
- Professor Mamie Wong Moy
- Pamela and Patrick Newman
- Carlo and Kristen Pippolo
- Sophie Pledger
- The Schissler Foundation
- Dr. Kaye E. Stripling
- Rhonda J. Sweeney
- John D. and Susan K. Thompson Family
- Peter Y. Tsan
- University of Houston Alumni Association

*Fully funded as of Aug. 31, 2010*
Rigoberto Advincula and Mamie Moy (M.S. ’52), chemistry professors, have received one of their field’s highest honors with their election into the 2010 class of American Chemical Society fellows. The fellows program recognizes outstanding contributions to science and the chemistry profession.

Alice Cepeda, sociology professor and Center for Drug and Social Policy Research associate director, has been awarded the National Award of Excellence in Research by a New Investigator from the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse. The award is presented for outstanding research and/or publication in the field of drug abuse in the Hispanic community.

Matthew Dirst, associate professor of musicology, and his ensemble Ars Lyrica Houston has received a 2010 Grammy nomination for Best Opera Recording.

Eunsook Kwon, Industrial Design director of the undergraduate program at UH’s Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, has been named one of DesignIntelligence’s “Most Admired Educators.”

Stuart Long, professor of electrical and computer engineering and interim vice president for Research, has been named a life fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Roberta Nutt, visiting professor and College of Education’s counseling psychology program training director, has been presented with the Texas Psychological Association 2010 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award.

Michael Olivas, William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law and UH Law Center’s Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance director, has been elected president of the Association of American Law Schools for 2011.

Tyler Priest, global studies director at the C.T. Bauer College of Business, has been honored by the U.S. Department of Interior with a 2010 “Partners in Conservation Award” for his work on the six-volume study, History of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana.

Jerry Rogers, professor of civil engineering, served as one of three editors of the American Society of Civil Engineers’ special symposium proceedings to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Hoover Dam project.

Raphael Rubenstein and Sandra Zalman, art professors, have been recognized by the Creative Capital-Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program. The program supports writing efforts focused on contemporary arts.

Venkat Selvamanickam (M.S. ’88, Ph.D. ’92), M.D. Anderson Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Applied Research Hub of the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston, has been named one of the recipients of the 2010 R&D 100 award. The award, sponsored by Research and Development Magazine, recognizes the 100 most technologically significant new products of 2010.

Earl Smith III ('72, M.S. ’75, Ph.D ’78), Greeman-Petty Professor in Vision Development and College of Optometry dean, has received the 2010 Charles F. Prentice Medal Award from the American Academy of Optometry. The award honors an outstanding scientist who has contributed significantly to the advancement of knowledge through research in the visual sciences.

James Thurmond (Ph.D. ’07), Master of Public Administration Program director, has received the Terrell Blodgett Academician Award from the Texas City Management Association. The award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the formal education of students pursuing careers in local government.

Arthur Weglein, Margaret S. and Robert E. Sheriff Faculty Endowed Chair in Applied Seismology, has received the Reginald Fessenden Award from the Society of Exploration Geophysicists. The award is given to someone who made a specific technical contribution to exploration geophysics.

Richard C. Willson, chemical and biomolecular engineering and biochemical and biophysical sciences professor, has been named a 2010 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science.

SUBMIT YOUR FACULTY KUDOS: magazine@uh.edu
UH FACULTY: YOU ARE THE PRIDE
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As this FY2010 annual report boldly declares, we are celebrating a banner year at the University of Houston. But what words, exactly, should be written on that banner?

We most certainly want to acknowledge that 2010 paved the way for the Tier One recognition that we received in early 2011 from the Carnegie Foundation. That distinction confirmed UH's astonishing progress in joining the ranks of the nation's top research universities.

But there is more to be said on our banner.

As important as our prominence as a research institution is, this university strives for overall excellence. Excellence in forging new relations with community and commerce ... In developing a workforce that will compete successfully in a global economy ... In providing the cultural vitality that a great society must have ... In preparing a new generation of leaders to guide our people ... And, above all else, in offering the resources that allow our students to succeed.

We remain dedicated to these objectives. So, I’m gratified to see that in 2010, as this annual report reflects, we continue to pursue them with increasing zeal.

For me, at the conclusion of my first three years at UH, 2010 was a tipping point. Our initial idealism began to tilt dramatically toward tangible results. We realized this was no longer just an ambitious dream shimmering in the distance. This was a year when our faith in this university’s potential for excellence was replaced with a conviction that this excellence is being realized.

Before, we simply believed that UH can be a truly great university. In 2010, we confirmed it.

Renu Khator
UH System Chancellor and UH President

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Houston’s mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge through the education of a diverse population of traditional and nontraditional students, and through research, artistic and scholarly endeavors, as it becomes the nation’s premier public university in an urban setting. In this role, UH applies its expertise to the challenges facing the local, state, national and international communities, and it establishes and nurtures relationships with community organizations, government agencies, public schools and the private sector to enhance the educational, economic and cultural vitality of the city of Houston and the state of Texas.

ABOUT UH

The University of Houston, Texas' premier metropolitan research and teaching institution, is home to more than 40 research centers and institutes and sustains more than 300 partnerships with corporate, civic and governmental agencies. UH, one of the nation's most diverse research universities, stands at the forefront of education, research and service, and offers a full range of undergraduate, graduate and special professional degrees. The university has awarded more than 250,000 degrees, and approximately 80 percent of its alumni remain in the Houston area for 10 years or more.
During FY2010, UH made great strides in its continuing efforts to become a nationally competitive research university and to achieve Tier One status — a designation that will reap economic and educational benefits for Houston and the region.

In fact, at the end of the calendar year, the highly regarded Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching placed UH in its top tier of research universities, a classification enjoyed by no more than 100 or so select institutions across the country and by only three others in Texas — UT, Rice and A&M. For more information about this nationally recognized Tier One designation, visit uh.edu/TierOne.

Closer to home, voters in Texas approved Proposition 4, a constitutional amendment enabling the creation of the National Research University Fund (NRUF) to financially support seven state institutions — including UH — as they meet benchmarks established by the Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. UH is close to meeting or has surpassed the four criteria already announced:

### State Measures
- **At least $45 million in restricted research expenditures:** In 2010, UH had more than $90 million.
- **Endowment assets of $400 million:** In 2010, UH had just under $500 million.
- **Phi Beta Kappa chapter or membership in the Association of Research Libraries:** UH is an ARL member.
- **At least 200 Ph.D.s awarded annually:** UH has averaged 200 doctorates for the past three years.

Three other guidelines are being finalized and will address freshmen admissions, graduate programs and faculty quality. UH leaders are confident the university already has exceeded the standards or will be able to attain them quickly. At this point, knowledgeable observers believe UH is clearly the leader among the seven Emerging Research Universities in meeting the NRUF guidelines. When UH has officially qualified, it will be eligible to receive significant NRUF funds, helping to expand and enhance its Tier One efforts. UH’s Tier One aspirations received another boost in 2010 with the release of the latest National Research Council (NRC) report evaluating doctoral programs. Data from the NRC, which is part of the National Academies, determined that the University of Houston has more highly ranked doctoral programs than all six of the state’s other Emerging Research Universities combined. Overall, an impressive 26 programs at UH made the NRC rankings, and upper echelon disciplines included: civil engineering, clinical psychology, chemical engineering, chemistry, developmental and cognitive neuroscience, electrical engineering, mathematics and pharmaceutics.

In addition, UH has continued to make clear progress on its Top American Research University (TARU) objectives. The Center for Measuring University Performance (TARU Report) is one of three institutions, along with the Carnegie Foundation and the American Association of Universities, that are considered arbiters of Tier One status. In the latest report of nine measurements that TARU uses to gauge research performance, UH placed in the top 50 among public institutions in three categories — endowment assets, National Academy members and doctorates granted — and is close to inclusion in three others (annual giving, postdoctoral appointees and faculty awards).

It is, however, important to note that achieving Tier One status is not an end in itself, but a reflection of the university’s commitment to meeting its own standards of excellence and providing our community and our state with a great university.

### UH Performance on the Nine Top American Research Universities Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>2009/2010 Performance</th>
<th>UH Rank Among Publics</th>
<th>Benchmark Top 50 Among Publics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Assets x $1,000</td>
<td>$596,925</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$25,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Academy Members</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorates Granted</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Appointees</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Giving x $1,000</td>
<td>$61,395</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>$77,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Awards</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total S&amp;E Research x $1,000</td>
<td>$73,542</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>$230,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal S&amp;E Research x $1,000</td>
<td>$40,116</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>$114,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT (25th and 75th percentiles verbal and quantitative portions)</td>
<td>460–570</td>
<td>Not listed</td>
<td>620–720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>480–600</td>
<td>in top 200</td>
<td>630–720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Red denotes UH met threshold for inclusion in top 26-50 publics.
The 2009–2010 academic year was paved with many successes. Here are a few of the highlights that continue to forge the University of Houston’s legacy of pride and a foundation of greatness.

**TOP-TIER FACULTY**

**College of Fellows** — Metin Akay, founding chair and John S. Dunn Endowed Professor of biomedical engineering, has been inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Faculty Early Career Development** — Stanko Brankovic, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, has received the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious honors given to junior faculty members.

**National Academies of Practices** — Ira Coby, dean of social work, has been inducted into the National Academies of Practices as a distinguished scholar in social work.

**Fernström Foundation’s Nordic Prize** — Jan-Åke Gustafsson, Robert A. Welch Foundation Chair in Chemistry, Cullen Distinguished Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, and Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling director, has been awarded the Fernström Foundation’s Nordic Prize, one of Scandinavia’s most prestigious medical prizes.

**World-class University Professor** — Alex Ignatiev, Center for Advanced Materials director, has been chosen for the position of World Class University Professor by the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea.

**National Academy of Education** — Scott Imberman, assistant professor of economics, has been named a 2010-2011 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow for his research investigating how English-speaking students are affected by sharing classrooms with students who have limited English proficiency.

**Chinese Academy of Engineering** — Surendra P. Shah, visiting professor of civil and environmental engineering, has been inducted into the Chinese Academy of Engineering. Shah is one of only four engineers in the world — and the only civil engineer — who is a member of the CAE and the United States National Academy of Engineering. He also is a fellow in the Indian National Academy of Engineering.

**Tier One Resources** — The Center for Teaching Excellence aims to foster a closer relationship between research and teaching — offering resources such as teaching assistant training, research and development, teaching-excellence incentives as well as monthly faculty training and development venues.

**UH HEALTH INITIATIVES**

**Fighting Cancer** — Dmitri Litvinov, professor of electrical and computer engineering, and co-investigators Richard Willson, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering; T. Randall Lee, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Chair of Chemistry; and Chung-Che “Jeff” Chang, associate member of The Methodist Hospital Research Institute, have received a $1 million National Institutes of Health grant to construct and test a biosensor’s ability to spot cancer protein biomarkers for blood and bone marrow cancer. Additionally, UH has received a $2.4 million Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas grant to fund postdoctoral scientists who are at the cutting-edge of a new multidisciplinary approach to fighting cancer — combining cancer biology with computational disciplines like computer science, theoretical physics or chemistry.

**Delaying Parkinson’s Disease** — Research conducted by pharmacology graduate student Gaurav Patki and Yuen-Sum “Vincent” Lau, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Pharmacy, suggests that long-term endurance exercise may slow the progression of Parkinson’s disease by protecting key cells involved in maintaining function and movement. The research was supported by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke.

**Modernizing U.S. Power Grid** — Venkat Selvamanickam (M.S. ’88, Ph.D. ’92), director of the Applied Research Hub and the M.D. Anderson Distinguished Professor in Mechanical Engineering, is developing a technology with high temperature superconducting wires that is revolutionizing the way power is generated, transported and used.
Superconductivity at the University of Houston founding/executive director, T.L.L. Temple Chair of Science and professor of physics, has received a $2.8 million grant from the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research for his ongoing efforts to search for novel materials that become superconducting at higher temperatures.

**Expanding UH's Diesel Center** — The Texas Diesel Testing and Research Center at the University of Houston doubled its size and increased its means to research and test retrofit devices that reduce the amount of harmful pollutants emitted from heavy-duty diesel engine exhaust.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

**Ad Students Among Nation’s Best** — Ad team Cougar Concepts earned first place and best media plan for the State Farm advertising campaign for the National Student Advertising Competition.

**Albert Schweitzer Fellows** — Beth Christopherson and Matt Estey, students in the Graduate College of Social Work, will lead health-related service initiatives for underserved people and communities during 2010–2011 under the prestigious Houston-Galveston Schweitzer Fellows Program.

**Goldwater Scholar** — Matthew Reichl, physics and mathematics double major and Honors College student, received a 2010 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

**Student Teacher of the Year** — Jason Spencer has been named the State Student Teacher of the Year by the Texas Directors of Field Experiences and the National Student Teacher of the Year by the National Association of Teacher Educators and Kappa Delta Pi.

**Shining STAR Program** — The Work Study Student Training and Research program provides work study students with mentored research opportunities. Students that complete program requirements will qualify for a $500 STAR Scholarship.

**Presidential Honor** — Blaffer Art Museum’s Young Artist Apprenticeship Program was nationally recognized by President Barak Obama’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

**Documenting HIV/AIDS** — Honors College student Erica Fletcher documented the stories of HIV/AIDS among Latinas in her film, “Marianismo.” She also was named one of Glamour Magazine’s Top 10 College Women.

**UH in Northwest Houston** — The University of Houston System signed a leasing contract with Lone Star College that will help bring academic programs from UH to the northwest Houston metropolitan area at LSC-University Park.

**UH Libraries’ Access** — Students and researchers have visited the website more than 1 million times and library databases were searched more than 3.5 million times. More than 7,000 students attended classes and workshops taught by librarians, and more than 300,000 books and other resources were borrowed in FY2010.

**ATHLETICS**

**The Numbers** — 13 student-athletes received the Conference USA Commissioner’s Medal (2010); 117 student-athletes were named to the C-USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll (2010).

**New Coaches** — Joining UH Athletics were Todd Whiting (‘95), baseball head coach; Todd Buchanan, women’s basketball head coach; and James Dickey, men’s basketball head coach.

**Postseason Play** — Houston men’s basketball claimed its first NCAA tournament berth in 18 years (2010); Houston women’s basketball appeared in the first round of the Women’s National Invitational Tournament (2010); 10 Cougars advanced to the NCAA track and field championship (2010); the Cougars football team went to the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl (2009).

**COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture** — Designed and built an outdoor amphitheater for T.H. Rogers Elementary School

**C.T. Bauer College of Business** — No. 1 entrepreneurship program in the nation

**College of Education** — Largest recruitment source for the Houston Independent School District

**Cullen College of Engineering** — Among the top 100 engineering graduate and undergraduate programs in the nation

**Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management** — Completed a $12.5 million renovation to its teaching hotel, the Hilton University of Houston

**Honors College** — Recruited its largest freshman class of 476 (15 National Merit Scholars and 27 TierOne Scholars)

**UH Law Center** — Among the nation’s top 100 law schools; No. 4 health law program; No. 8 intellectual property law program

**College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences** — No. 1 chamber chorus in the world

**College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics** — No. 3 among public universities in Texas for strong science and mathematics programs

**College of Optometry** — Serves more than 40,000 patients and its students work about 920,000 hours in the community, annually

**College of Pharmacy** — More than $6 million in total research awards, including more than $4.3 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health

**Graduate College of Social Work** — Only social work program in the nation with a sitting Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (Jody Williams)

**College of Technology** — Designated the National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency
UH SNAPSHOT (FALL 2010)

Student Enrollment 38,752
Faculty (Ranked/Non-Ranked) 2,017
Staff 4,108

Student Distribution by Level
Undergraduate 29,378 75.8%
Graduate 6,324 16.3%
Special Professional 1,740 4.5%
Postbaccalaureate 1,210 3.4%

Student Diversity by Ethnicity
White 13,212 34.1%
Hispanic 8,641 22.3%
Asian American 7,561 19.5%
African American 4,869 12.6%
International 3,278 8.5%
Multiracial 627 1.6%
Other/Unknown 320 0.8%
Native American 129 0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 115 0.3%

Student Gender
Male 19,356 49.9%
Female 19,396 50.1%

Degrees Awarded
Bachelor's 4,778 66.1%
Master's 1,722 23.8%
Doctoral 233 3.2%
Special Professional 497 6.9%
TOTAL 7,230 (FY2010)

Full-Time Annual Tuition & Mandatory Fees
Texas Resident $7,342 $8,788
Non-Resident $14,782 $14,368

Part-Time Annual Tuition & Mandatory Fees
Texas Resident $4,025 $6,095
Non-Resident $7,645 $9,815

Notes:
1 Based on 24 semester credit hours per academic year
2 Based on 18 semester credit hours per academic year
3 Based on 12 semester credit hours per academic year

Faculty Distribution
Professor 425 12.6%
Associate Professor 304 9.0%
Assistant Professor 207 6.2%
Other Faculty (Lecturer, Visiting, Adjunct) 1,081 32.1%
Teaching Assistant 1,347 40.0%

Faculty Highlights
• 3 NSF CAREER Awards (total 22)
• 4 new National Academy members (total 9)
• 31 faculty members have received multimillion dollar research awards
• 10 faculty members have received awards recognized by the Association of American Universities and/or Center for Measuring University Performance

10 FAST FACTS

1. Classified as a Tier One public research university, the only one in Houston and one of only three in Texas (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching)

2. A top 50 public research university in endowment assets, National Academy Members and doctorates granted (Top American Research University Report)

3. No. 2 most racially/ethnically diverse university in the nation (U.S. News & World Report)

4. Among the top 50 best colleges with economic diversity, according to the percentage of undergraduates receiving the Pell Grant (U.S. News & World Report)

5. Among the nation’s top 20 universities with flexible course scheduling (Parade Magazine, College A-List)

6. Top graduate programs — chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering; pharmaceutics, developmental cognitive science, mathematics, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, Spanish language and literature, clinical psychology, kinesiology and vision science/physiological optics (National Research Council)

7. Classified as a Tier One Community Engaged Institution (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching)

8. Texas Medical Center full institutional member

9. One of the nation’s most environmentally responsible universities (The Princeton Review)

10. Moody Towers Fresh Food Co. — nation’s largest Fresh Food Co. and the first in the Southwest
2010 Celebrating A Banner Year

Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Snapshot
For the Year Ended Aug. 31, 2010 (in millions)

| TOTAL REVENUES | $878.3 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | $796.7 |
| TOTAL RESEARCH AWARDS | $114.7 |
| TOTAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS | $603.1 |
| EXPENSES |
| Student Access & Success | $533.6 | 67% |
| National Competitiveness | $94.5 | 12% |
| Infrastructure & Administration | $129.7 | 16% |
| Community Advancement | $38.9 | 5% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | $796.7 | 100% |

Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Appropriations</td>
<td>$192.1</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAF Appropriations</td>
<td>$36.1</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$321.0</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Operating Revenues</td>
<td>$92.2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>$196.3</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Distribution/Budgeted Operating Gift Revenue</td>
<td>$40.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
<td>$878.3</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
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<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Private Support at an All-Time High
The University of Houston hit an all-time high in private and corporate giving — bringing in more than $102 million despite a sluggish economy. The record was achieved on the strength of support from more than 25,000 donors. Examples of philanthropy in action at UH include:

- TierOne Scholarships — a distinguished, high-profile award program intended to attract highly qualified students to the University of Houston, demonstrating UH’s commitment to keeping top talent in Houston and Texas;
- Enhanced student experience — as outlined in a nine-point Strategic Plan for Student Success that includes building an exceptional living-learning experience; offering educational programs that give students unique global, research and service-learning experiences; and instilling a culture of excellence in student support and services that promote student success;
- Cluster hires — an initiative to recruit faculty in new and emerging academic disciplines that cross traditional departmental and college lines; and
- Support for key initiatives in energy, health and the arts — strengths of the university that will serve as pathways to achieving Tier One status.

Donor Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$6.8</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Alumni</td>
<td>$5.0</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$51.5</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$21.2</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$17.9</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL GIFTS</td>
<td>$102.4</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Gift Purposes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Operations</td>
<td>$48.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Property</td>
<td>$40.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UH Support Organizations*

- Association for Community Broadcasting | $4.1 |
- Foundation for Education and Research in Vision | $0.2 |
- Houston Athletics Foundation | N/A |
- UH Alumni Association | $0.7 |
- UH Bauer College of Business Foundation | $0.9 |
- UH Foundation | $6.5 |
- UH Law Foundation | $1.7 |
- Total Support Organizations | $14.1 | 14% |
- Gifts Directly to UH | $88.4 | 86% |
- TOTAL GIFTS | $102.4 | 100% |

*UH Support organizations are independent, private, nonprofit corporations that exist for the purpose of supporting UH. Gifts to these organizations are reported in accordance with national standards. Some support organizations do not receive gifts each year, but they do hold endowment on behalf of UH and distribute annual income. The Houston Athletics Foundation, for example, distributed $246,500 in 2010.
During fiscal year 2009–2010, the University of Houston lost a number of devoted and longstanding benefactors and supporters who have, in many ways, helped to shape the course of the university’s destiny. Their legacies will live on in perpetuity.

Cynthia Woods Mitchell (1922–2009)
Cynthia Woods Mitchell’s enthusiasm for the arts prompted her to make one of the largest individual grants in the university’s history — creating the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts as well as support for UH’s Texas Music Festival, the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artists Competition, the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and the Distinguished Author’s Program.

John M. O’Quinn (1941–2009)
Houston attorney John M. O’Quinn (‘65, L.L.B. ‘67, J.D. ‘69), former UH System regent (1993–1999) and vice chairman (1994–1996), was a committed UH advocate. His support included gifts to the UH Law Library, M.D. Anderson Library, the Spirit of Houston Cougar Marching Band, the A.L. O’Quinn Chair in Environmental Law, the Athletics/Alumni Center’s O’Quinn Great Hall and massive renovations of Robertson Stadium.

Wilhelmina Daisy Cullen Robertson Smith (1922–2009)
Wilhelmina Daisy Cullen Robertson Smith (‘44, HON ‘88), the last of the surviving children of Hugh Roy Cullen and Lillie Crazn Cullen, UH’s first major benefactors, continued her family’s legacy. The Cullen family and associated entities have contributed nearly $70 million to UH and the UH System. Smith was a strong advocate for the university and Cougar athletics.

The University of Houston is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.
Finding a bigger advocate of the University of Houston than Jeff Allen ('72) would be difficult. Clad in a Cougar-red jacket, UH tie and a button-down shirt adorned with the university’s logo, Allen’s phone rings in his pocket, playing the Cougar Fight Song and encased in a UH cover. He then tells of his love of restoring cars – four of them red and white – and how his license plate reads “72 COOG.”

“People often ask (my wife) Judy, ‘Does your husband work for UH?’ And she says ‘Yeah!’ Then they’ll ask what they pay me. She says, ‘No you don’t understand, he pays them!’ What a concept!”

The Allens recently decided to join The 1927 Society by making a planned gift of $2 million through a life insurance policy, naming the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship in the C.T. Bauer College of Business as the beneficiary. With their gift, the Allens are joining more than 300 alumni, friends, faculty and staff who have committed to endowing the university’s future.

The president and CEO of IGF, a Houston-based financial services company, Allen once spoke to a student group at the Wolff Center and called it “the most rewarding experience I’ve had in business up to that point in my whole life.”

Allen stays involved with UH for two reasons. For one, the students, many of whom live hand-to-mouth, remind him of himself.

“The second reason is that I’m a native Houstonian, and this is THE University of Houston, and we’ve never received the right position in this city that we deserve. So anything I can do to foster the city of Houston adopting our university as THE university, that’s a big mission.”

A hardworker from a young age, Allen held several jobs during his time at UH, and worked overseas offshore for the last three years of college. “I missed commencement because I was on a plane. I had a job waiting for me in London.”

Allen, a pillar in the business community, often touts UH to those with whom he comes into contact. “What I tell people is … if you have three graduates applying for a job and all things are equal – GPA, curriculum … I would give the UH grad the slight edge because you don’t have to teach them how to work. They already know how to work, and generally speaking, have been working,” Allen said.

Though the Allens’ most recent gift went to the Wolff Center, they also give generously to athletics.

Allen is a member of the Huddle, a small group of athletics donors whose chief interest is football. Last season he was one of a few chosen to be a sideline coach during the game against Texas Tech.

“In the last 60 seconds, (Coach Sumlin) turned it over to us,” Allen said. “It was the most exciting game ever!”

The Bauer College promoted this event as a way to link business and athletics, and Sumlin wanted his players exposed to real business leaders and CEOs.

“I think it’s very appropriate to see the connection between business and athletics,” Allen said. “Go to Austin or Columbus, Ohio, and see if athletics doesn’t bring in a lot of facilities for academics. Check the budgets and tell me it doesn’t matter.”

To further support the university, Allen recently implemented a new division of IGF called “Cougar Processing.” Through the program, IGF sets aside 20 percent of the profits it earns from processing credit cards for Cougar-owned or managed businesses referred by the UH Alumni Association. Those profits are then donated to the UHAA.

Whether it’s through business or athletics, the Allens are a fixture at UH and intend to be for a long time.

“I want to be a testimony for anyone who wants to do this for his or her school,” Allen said. “Just imagine if 1,000 people did what we did.”
2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE
Games in bold are home games

2/26 vs. UAB
3/02 at Tulane
3/05 vs. Rice

MEN'S BASEBALL
Houston College Classic
3/04 vs. Baylor
3/05 vs. Kentucky
3/06 vs. Texas A&M

ARTS AND OTHER EVENTS
2/14 – 3/6 School of Theatre: Wild Oats
2/21 Aura Contemporary Ensemble
2/25 Moores Jazz Festival
3/10 Grand Opera Symphony Orchestra
3/11 Blaffer Gallery: Young Arts Apprenticeship Program Opening
3/24 – 3/26 Frontier Fiesta

For more UH events:
www.uh.edu/calendar