2011 Events Calendar

School of Music
Texas Music Festival
Perspectives Festival Artist Series Concerts: 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28
Festival Orchestra: 6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2

School of Theatre & Dance
Houston Shakespeare Festival
"Othello" — 7/29, 7/31, 8/2, 8/4, 8/6
"The Taming of the Shrew" — 7/30, 8/3, 8/5, 8/7

Blaffer Art Museum
"Museum of Broken Relationships"
"Love is a Many Splintered Thing"
5/21 – 6/4

UH Athletics
Track & Field Conference
USA Championships
5/12 – 5/15 (at Rice)

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

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“UH is a place where world-class students and world-class faculty come together ...”

With the recent prestigious designations the University of Houston has earned, it is clear that we are achieving even greater success. On the wake of being ranked Tier One by the Carnegie Foundation, UH has achieved another milestone in its path to excellence. The Princeton Review named UH as one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education, a first for our university.

While these honors are pinned on the university as a whole, it is undeniable that our students, faculty and staff are who fuel this success. World-class students and world-class faculty have put UH on the educational map — leaving an indelible mark in academia, business, law, the sciences and in society.

The success of our university is concomitant with that of our students. Our world-class students’ unrelenting efforts to succeed make UH’s achievements possible. They are not your typical college students, yet they are shattering expectations and perceptions by managing studies, work and family to excel academically and then to go on to have incredible careers.

One great example is the group of UH Law Center students who took on a pro-bono case in their Immigration Clinic. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States and changed the face of immigration law through a unanimous decision in favor of the clinic’s position.

Another example: members of the Hispanic Business Student Association at the C.T. Bauer College of Business who, realizing the importance of higher education and of changing the lives of at-risk youths, host an annual Youth Outreach Day where nearly 200 high school students are given presentations on how to apply to college and for scholarships.

UH continues to back our students with much needed assistance from faculty and staff, and by providing funding to various centers of excellence. Bleak economic times and UH funding cuts have made this a difficult time for everyone. We have all had to tighten our belts. Securing dollars for student success initiatives, however, continues to be at the forefront of our plan for strategic growth. Working with Chancellor Renu Khator and Provost John Antel, the Board of Regents remains committed to finding innovative ways of supporting our students’ initiatives and providing them with the tools they need to reach their goals.

While “student success” seems to be intangible, our students continually reach out and harness it. Our recent accolades affirm what we already knew — UH is a place where world-class students and world-class faculty come together to find the brightest minds among us and to reach for the stars. I invite you to get to know a UH student and contribute to student success either financially or by giving your time. We are the pride, and we are the University of Houston.

Spring has come and, with trees leafing out and the flowers in bloom, our campus looks spectacular.

Many visitors are often pleasantly surprised when they encounter UH for the first time. They have heard that we are a “metropolitan” university and assume that means utilitarian structures jammed together in a hectic, concrete-bound business district. Instead, they find a large, lushly landscaped area with an intriguing mix of stately traditional buildings, like Ezekiel W. Cullen, and striking modern edifices like noted architect Cesar Pelli’s SEERC complex.

Add to that our outstanding collection of public art and the growing number of students (more than 6,000!) who now live here, and the result is a campus that is lively and attractive.

This is not boasting — though I am justifiably proud — as much as it is a reminder that perceptions sometimes differ widely from reality.

We are making remarkable progress in transforming our school into a nationally competitive institution and doing a great job sharing our successes, like the Carnegie Tier One classification, with the campus community and our many supporters. And now, with recognition by a widely read publication such as The Princeton Review, which has named UH as one of the country’s best colleges for undergraduate education, we are enjoying an increased level of awareness by the general public. This helps us replace possible misperceptions with an essential reality — we were good, we have been getting better and, increasingly, we are among the best.

We don’t seek such awards and honors for their own sake. Rather, they are measurements and milestones as we continue our efforts to achieve overall excellence at the University of Houston. It is the excellence itself that we strive for, not the praise and publicity that it brings. Still, like the beauty of our campus in spring, it’s only natural to want people to properly appreciate it.
Dr. Jan-Åke Gustafsson Leads Team Exploring Alternate Therapies.

Treatments with $5.2 Million Award

by Lisa K. Merkl ('92, M.A. '97)

Dr. Jan-Åke Gustafsson

A renowned hormone researcher, Gustafsson will oversee the multi-investigator award, which will be an interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers from UH’s Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling (CNRCS), The Methodist Hospital Research Institute and The University of Texas at El Paso.

Gustafsson, who discovered a previously unknown estrogen receptor during the mid-1990s, is internationally recognized as a leading authority on hormone receptors and will lead the group in the discovery of innovative approaches to slowing the growth of early-stage cancers and combating late-stage cancers. Joining Gustafsson in this effort is the CNRCS co-founder, UH biology and biochemistry professor Margaret Warner.

“More than 200,000 new cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed annually, affecting one in six men. In approximately one-third of diagnosed cases, the disease spreads and invades other tissues to become life-threatening,” Gustafsson said. “Through this grant, we will be able to open the door for new and better therapies. Our early efforts have yielded promising results, and we look forward to building on our previous successes.”

Prostate cancer grows and survives on male hormones called androgens, and current treatments target these naturally occurring hormones. This can result in negative and harmful side effects. In the most severe and recurrent forms, the cancer can become resistant to this therapy, at which point treatment options are extremely limited.

Armed with decades of experience in hormone research, Gustafsson and Warner will test plant-derived and synthetic chemicals resembling hormones to prevent and combat prostate cancer. The team also plans to develop drugs that target new areas of the androgen signaling system and work differently from existing therapies.

“This important award is an indication of UH’s continuing commitment to research excellence and reflects the emphasis we place on finding real solutions to health-related problems,” said UH President Renu Khator.

Renee Khator thanks to $5.2 million in grants awarded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, Dr. Jan-Åke Gustafsson and his colleagues are beginning work to develop new methods for treating the most severe form of prostate cancer.

“More than 500 space industry professionals from around the world gathered in Houston for the 18th International Academy of Astronautics Humans in Space Symposium, hosted by the University of Houston and NASA. The week-long symposium featured presentations and events that considered “Integration and Cooperation in the Next Golden Age of Human Space Flight.”

UH and NASA are partners in educating the next generation of space industry professionals and collaborate on various research projects that have applications to life in space.

“We are moving into a time where commercial space flight will take over and it won’t be government oriented,” said Professor William Paloski of the department of health and human performance and director of the Center for Neuromotor and Biomechanics Research. “Professionals will come from the rank and file — from universities — to run these programs.”

The symposium participants honored the 50th anniversary of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin’s historic flight into space, the first human to glimpse beyond the boundaries of Earth’s atmosphere. Additionally, astronaut Robert Crippen, pilot of the first space shuttle flight, was on hand to commemorate the anniversary of his history-making flight.

A highlight of the symposium was an art project that asked young people from around the world to express in painting, song, film or words the importance of space exploration and education.

More than 500 submissions were received, many of which were compiled into an exhibit. Opening ceremonies, coordinated by Tina Neuhaus of the UH School of Theatre & Dance, featured many of the art images and one of the original scores.

Renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson tweeted that provocative message as he began an engaging talk about space exploration for this year’s Elizabeth D. Rockwell Lecture on Ethics and Leadership at UH.

A rapt audience listened and laughed often for more than two hours as Tyson discussed the past, present and future of space exploration. The capacity crowd of 1,600 remained in the Cullen Performance Hall for a lively Q&A session.

“There’s no better place to talk about space than Houston,” Tyson said as he shared his concerns that the United States is no longer the leader it should be in space exploration.

Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History and host of PBS’ “Nova scienceNOW,” was the 18th speaker in the series named to honor UH benefactor Elizabeth Rockwell (men ‘19), who died earlier this year.

For some people, space is irrelevant. But when the asteroid comes, I bet they’ll think differently.”

by Marisa Ramirez ('00)
A Work in Progress

by Mike Emery

It wasn’t a science project, but University of Houston students were tasked with creating an exhibition that would take people back in time. UH art and architecture students combined their creative talents to celebrate the historic Third Ward and one of its cornerstones, James D. Ryan Middle School. They created “WorkingShop,” a multimedia exhibition that recreated aspects of yesteryear’s Third Ward while celebrating the school’s rich history.

This public school has served Third Ward residents since 1926. Originally, its campus was the site for Jack Yates Colored Senior High School, the city’s second school for African Americans. In 1958, the campus became home for Ryan Colored Junior High School — renamed Ryan Middle School following desegregation.

“It’s called WorkingShop because Ryan Middle School and the Third Ward are still a work in progress,” said architecture student Nick Ballard. “It takes a community to look at Third Ward’s past and present in order to take this neighborhood into the future.”

The exhibition was housed in a site that once served as Ryan’s woodwork/vocational shop. UH students designed and constructed its components. Included in the exhibition were:

• Display focused on Herman Sweatt, plaintiff in historic civil rights case Sweatt v. Painter

Faculty oversight was provided by research professor Carroll Parrott Blue, architecture professor Patrick Peters and art professor Cheryl Beckett.

For students, “WorkingShop” offered a history lesson, but it also provided an opportunity to apply their energies toward a project that would impact the community.

“We actually designed something and saw it come together,” said Alex Lara, architecture student. “Most of the time, we design projects that are never built. It was a nice feeling to actually create something that was part of the community and impact lives.”

Smile! UH Offers Dental Services

UH students now have something else to smile about. In May, the university began offering dentistry services on campus at the UH Health Center. It is the only facility currently offering this at a Texas university not affiliated with a medical or dental school.

“We’ve been researching ways to deliver dental services to our students for a long time,” said UH Health Center Director Floyd Robinson. “Only recently has technology allowed us to bring a permanent clinic on campus.”

Services include preventive care and cleanings, fillings and limited major dental procedures. Dental care is available two days a week through a partnership with Cornerstone Onsite Dentistry, a Houston-based practice that staffs the UH clinic with dental professionals. Cost includes a $20 co-pay. Other charges will be based on services provided. Dental insurance is accepted.

The goal is to develop into a full-time facility that also is available to faculty and staff. “Our student population is the priority,” said Robinson, “but we believe we have the demand to expand our services to the entire campus community as early as this fall.” — Shawn Lindsey

Making An Impact

Shining Success

UH Provides Emergency Solar Generator Stations to City.

The top priority will be to power critical devices,” said Joe Meppelink, UHGBC director of operations and sustainability. “At a Texas university not affiliated with a medical or dental school.

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City of Houston officials are tapping into the talents of UH’s Green Building Components (UHGBC) for disaster relief solutions. UHGBC will provide city parks, schools, fire stations and other locations with 17 Solar Powered Adaptive Containers for Everyone (SPACE). SPACE units are recycled shipping containers equipped with solar generators. They can withstand hurricane force winds and can be quickly deployed using helicopters or flatbed trailers.

“Each SPACE unit contains 20 solar panels that generate 3.5 kilowatts — enough power to run an air conditioner, three small refrigerators, a few computers, communication devices and lighting.”

FCC OKs All-Classic Station

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has given the green light to UH’s plans to operate a second radio station.

Barring last-minute technical difficulties, KUHF (91.7 FM) may already be on the air when you read this, providing Houston with its only full-time classical music station. It joins KUHF (88.7 FM), an NPR affiliate with a full slate of news and information.

UH acquired the 91.7 FM license from Rice University, which used it for KTRU. KTRU continues to operate a second radio station.

RESEARCHER WINS NIH GRANT TO TEST VACCINES FOR CHIKUNGUYA VIRUS

A UH engineering professor has received a grant to develop a new method of testing potential vaccines and will use this approach to fight a virus identified as an emerging bioterrorism threat.

COUGAR FUND STUDENTS AMONG BEST IN REGION

Two teams of four graduate students from the Cougar Fund at the UH C.T. Bauer College of Business were among the best in two recent regional competitions. The students placed in the top three spots in both the Texas Investment Program Symposium Portfolio Competition and the CFA Institute Research Challenge.

BONUS ONLINE

$1.5 MILLION GRANT HELPING RESEARCHERS UNDERSTAND HOW STUDENTS LEARN ALGEBRA

Researchers from the University of Houston and Vanderbilt University will conduct a four-year study devoted to understanding factors connected with how students learn algebra.

EVOLUTIONARY ‘WINNERS AND LOSERS’ REVEALED IN COLLABORATIVE STUDY

A study that already analyzed competing bacteria fighting it out to the death, a UH researcher and his colleagues identified evolutionary ‘winners’ and losers.

TEAM HOPEs TO CUT YEARS OFF DEVELOPMENT TIME OF NEW ANTIBIOTICS

Eliminating tens of thousands of manual lab experiments, two UH professors are working toward a method to cut the development time of new antibiotics.

PROFESSOR CREATING COLOR-CODED MRSA

A UH engineering professor is developing a new class of contrasting agent that will make magnetic resonance imaging machines (MRI) images easier to read. At the heart of this research are iron nanotubes that will provide something entirely new to MRIs: color.

UH RECEIVES $1 MILLION GRANT TO TEST TECHNOLOGY ON DIESEL-Powered SCHOOL BUSSES

Diesel fuel tends to conjure up images of smoke-belching vehicles spewing down the road, but a UH research team is trying to improve the老百姓s’ colored reputation in the transportation world.

RESEARCHER WINS NIH GRANT TO TEST VACCINES FOR CHIKUNGUYA VIRUS

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Play-by-Play

Talent, speed and strength training are all important. The real key to a really good jump? Natural ability?

Up, Up and Away...

Carl Lewis. Did that influence your decision to attend here?

Q: What’s the key to a really good jump? Natural ability? Technique? Concentration?

A: Talent, speed and strength training are all important. The real challenge, though, is putting it all together. Otherwise, you’d just be faster and stronger, but not really go anywhere.

Q: What’s the key to a really good jump? Natural ability?

A: To count my strides while I’m running — not to think about hitting the board. Just focus on my strides. He said to count them quietly in my mind, and let everything else happen. That really helps me a lot.

Q: Besides jumping, you also ran hurdles in high school in Hearne. Did you consider continuing that at UH?

A: Oh yeah, I wanted to run the 400 hurdles. But coach didn’t think it was a good idea since he needed me to concentrate on jumping.

Q: Speaking of Hearne, we have another star athlete at UH from your hometown – receiver Patrick Edwards. What’s your relationship?

A: We’ve known each other since we were 4 years old. It’s like we’re brothers. We’ve competed in sports ever since pee- wee football when we were 9. We always push each other, especially in the triple, you get three.

Q: Do you prefer jumping indoors or outdoors?

A: Outdoors. It’s hot, so you don’t have to warm up as much. Plus, you can get a wind advantage, even though it might go against you because your competitors will get the same advantage.

Q: UH is home to one of the best long jumpers ever – Carl Lewis. Did that influence your decision to attend here?

A: That was definitely a main reason I came here. They told me that Carl’s jumping coach (Coach Tom Tellez) would be here helping me out. I knew he had some great points if he coached Carl Lewis, who’s had the most jumps over 28 feet. Carl comes every year at his invitational we hold here, and I’ve gotten a chance to talk with him. My junior year, he gave me a pointer on jumping that I still use today.

Q: Which was?

A: To count my strides while I’m running — not to think about hitting the board. Just focus on my strides. He said to count them quietly in my mind, and let everything else happen. That really helps me a lot.

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A: We’ve known each other since we were 4 years old. It’s like we’re brothers. We’ve competed in sports ever since pee- wee football when we were 9. We always push each other in the weight room and at practices.

Q: You made the Conference USA Academic Honor Roll a few times, which is very impressive since athletes spend so much time training and performing. Are you super smart? Or, do you study super hard?

A: Both, I guess. Can’t say I love studying, but I know if I don’t, I may not always get it down right away. So, I study hard. I’m a sports administration major with a minor in business with a 3.0 GPA right now.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I want to keep jumping for a few years to see where that goes. Then it’s grad school after that. At some point, I hope to become an athletic director or something along those lines.

Q: When you’re soaring through the air on a long jump, ever tempted to yell, “Wheee!”?

A: Not! (laughter)

Rigoberto Advincula, professor of chemistry, has been named a 2011 American Chemical Society Polymer Division fellow and Polymer Materials Science and Engineering Division fellow.

Edward Allen, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professor of Theatre, has received the Arena Stage at The Mead Center for American Theater’s American Artist Award for his contributions to American theater.

Abdeljelili “O.J.” Belotar (M.S. ’86, Ph.D. ’91), Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professor and chair of the department of civil and environmental engineering, has received the American Concrete Institute’s Joe W. Kelly Award, an international award for outstanding contributions in education relating to the broad field of concrete.

Albert M.K. Chong, professor of computer science, has been named an associate editor of the IEEE Transactions on Computers journal.

Cheryl Craig, professor of curriculum and instruction, has been inducted as a 2011 Fellow of the American Educational Research Association. AERA honors national and international educators who have made substantial research contributions to the field.

David R. Dow, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professor of Law, has received the Barnes & Noble 2010 Discover Award for nutrition for his book, “The Autobiography of an Execution.” The memoir chronicles his years of working on behalf of Death Row inmates.

Ronald S. Harwerth, (62, O.D. ’64), John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Optometry and one of the world’s premier visual scientists, has earned the 2011 Esther Feltz Award, the university’s highest faculty honor; internationally known as one of the most pre-eminent glaucoma researchers in optometry, he has tackled the difficulty of diagnosing glaucoma in its initial stages. In his landmark work, Harwerth’s findings explain the different ways glaucoma presents itself.

Jami Kovash, assistant professor of technology, has been named the 2010 recipient of the American Society of Quality’s Fellinger Medal. She received recognition for her contributions to the field of quality engineering and management, where she applies practical experience as a process improvement engineer and academic expert in innovative instructional techniques to prepare students and practitioners to be trained problem-solvers.

Rebecca Lee, associate professor of nutrition, and Catherine Horn, associate professor of education psychology, have been awarded Fulbright scholarships. Lee’s five-month research period begins this year, while Horn’s starts March 2012. Lee will visit to Instituto de Ciencias Aplicado a la Actividad Fisica y al Deporte in Guadalajara, Mexico, where she will develop training protocols for health care practitioners and researchers so they can better document and define obesity. Horn will study strategies to increase student access to higher education at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile.

Vassily Lubchenko, assistant professor of chemistry, has been named an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow.

Martin Melo, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professor of History and Center for Public History director, has written “Precious Commodity: Providing Water for America’s Cities.”

Mamie Miss (M.S. ’32), professor of chemistry, has received the American Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences.

Michael A. Olivas has been named the ImmigrationProf Blog’s 2010 Immigration Professor of the Year. Olivas, the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law and director of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance, also will serve as the 2011 Association of American Law Schools’ president. And, he has been named a 2011 American Educational Research Association fellow.

Latha Ramchand has been named the C.T. Bauer College of Business interim dean. She also has served as the college’s associate dean of programs and administration as well as of graduate and professional programs.

Jerry Rogers, associate professor of civil engineering, has received the American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental Water Resources Institute’s 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award and the History and Heritage Committee’s 2011 O.A. Cow Engineering History and Heritage Award.

Nancy Beck Young, professor of history, has written a chapter, “Beyond Parochialism: Modernization and Texas Historiography,” for “Beyond Texas Through Time: Breaking Away From Past Interpretations.”

Submit your Faculty Kudos: magazine@uh.edu

UH FACULTY: YOU ARE THE PRIDE
UH Tier One

A Celebration of Excellence

Carnegie and Beyond

UH Achieves Tier One Status! Now What?

by Eric Gerber (’72, M.A. ’78)

If you look closely at the University of Houston’s official seal, you will see a winged hourglass in the center and, above that, an inscription. It says: “In Tempore”

If your Latin is a bit rusty, that means “In Time.” This is adopted from the family coat of arms of this university’s namesake, General Sam Houston, and traditionally has been regarded as a reference to this school being founded “in time” to meet the city’s critical need for such an institution.

Of course, these days, it’s tempting to say that “Ahead of Time” might be a more fitting motto. Despite projections that it was at least five years away from doing so, the University of Houston recently earned Tier One status — catching even its most optimistic leaders and staunchest supporters by surprise. This was a wonderful surprise, but a surprise nonetheless.

“They have accomplished so much more quickly than almost anyone imagined it would,” said Carroll Robertson Ray (J.D. ’02), UH System Board of Regents chair.

This impressive Tier One designation came courtesy of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, moving UH into the “very high research activity” classification — its top tier — in its latest evaluation of more than 4,700 colleges and universities in the United States. That’s the top 2 percent nationwide. Of those, only 188 institutions met Carnegie’s rigorous standards (see “The Company We Keep” for a complete list), which measure data such as the kinds and number of doctorates awarded, the amount of research expenditures and the level of research staffing.

Within the academic community, the Carnegie classification is regarded as one of three indicators of an institution’s Tier One rank, along with the Center for Measuring University Performance Top American Research University reports and membership in the elite Association of American Universities. Recognition by any of these three is considered a confirmation of Tier One status.

In Texas, UH joined two other state universities — Texas A&M and The University of Texas at Austin — along with Rice University, a private institution also in Houston, as members in that lofty Carnegie group.

As you might expect, the University of Houston’s early arrival at such an ambitious milestone was cause to celebrate — specifically, “A Celebration of Excellence,” an event that filled UH’s Cullen Performance Hall with rousing music, stirring speeches, vigorous applause, a multitude of red and white balloons and, above all else, a limitless supply of Cougar spirit. It was a chance for the campus and the community to congratulate each other and officially acknowledge a job well done.

As Greater Houston Partnership chairman, Larry Kellner, declared, “GHP’s objective is to create prosperity, and we all recognize that UH becoming a Tier One university is a major part of that. Great cities need great universities.”

“We can celebrate for another hour,” a jubilant President Khator told the cheering crowd, “but then we have more work to do.”

If the event felt more like a pep rally before a big football game, such enthusiasm was certainly understandable. UH has been doggedly pursuing Tier One status for at least a decade and, with President Renu Khator shifting those efforts into high gear, the faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters — indeed, the entire Cougar community — have been increasingly committed to earning that prestigious designation. Small wonder, then, that accomplishing that goal was greeted with brass fanfare, a New Year’s Eve-style balloon drop and Shasta, the mascot, leading the audience in a rousing call-and-response of Who’s House? Coogs House! Even the university’s most studious and sedate academics were not immune to an emotional rush of pride and elation.

“We can celebrate for another hour,” a jubilant President Khator told the cheering crowd, “but then we have more work to do.” And she’s not joking.

While the Carnegie Tier One distinction is most assuredly a major step forward for UH, Khator stressed that this is not the end of a journey. There is still “unfinished business,” as she put it. As tremendously important as UH’s graduate-level, research-related accomplishments may be, Khator is committed to achieving overall excellence.

Take, for example, the matter of “student success,” which Khator has consistently cited as her number one priority since assuming the UH presidency in 2008.

Granted, “student success” is a broad concept, something not easily defined and measured, but one basic component is an institution’s graduation rate — and Khator insists that UH’s must improve. She has targeted 54 percent (the national average). To that end, the university has raised admission standards to focus on properly prepared freshmen and swelled the ranks of academic advisers, who help keep students on track. And Khator has personally challenged UH’s faculty to help meet this challenge in their classrooms, not only educating students but also engaging them in the process.

Clearly, progress is being made — not just in the graduation rate (which has increased 5 percentage points in a single year turnaround) — but in the entire campus experience as well.

That improvement was acknowledged with another recent recognition for the university, perhaps not as officially approving as the Carnegie bona fides but, in its own way, still gratifying. The Princeton Review, the noted educational...
services organization, selected the University of Houston for the upcoming edition of its popular “best colleges” guidebook, which focuses on undergraduate education and relies heavily on students responding to the surveys about such things as dorms and facilities, financial aid, administrators, food, library, athletics and so on. In other words, just the sort of diverse mix of elements that, when taken as a whole, helps define a university’s overall level of accomplishment.

This is UH’s first time to be included in the Princeton Review, and the significance was not lost on its leader.

“One thing we still have more we want to accomplish in this area, and I am delighted that our commitment to improvement and our actual progress have been noticed in the national arena,” Kathar said. (See Simply the Best, page 17.)

Another important yardstick to help measure UH’s efforts toward acting as an influence has a more regional perspective — the state of Texas’ list of benchmarks for seven Emerging Research Universities to receive financial support to become nationally competitive institutions. The universities are Texas Tech, UT-Arlington, UT-Dallas, UT-San Antonio, UT-EI Paso, the University of North Texas and UH. This program to help create more Tier One universities in Texas (called the National Research University Fund [NRUF]) — was approved by statewide voters as a constitutional amendment in 2009. Working with the state Legislature, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board developed a set of standards that the universities must meet to qualify for funding from NRUF’s $600 million endowment.

The recently completed standards, which address such things as academic status of the freshman class, caliber of the faculty, quality of graduate education, number of doctorates awarded, membership in the Association of Research Libraries or Phi Beta Kappa, research expenditures and amount of endowment, evaluate a school’s potential to use the NRUF money productively. In other words, are you ready to move up to the next level?

At UH, the answer is yes. UH has now met the NRUF criteria — apparently the first of the Emerging Research Universities to do so, according to Welcome W. Wilson Sr., UH System Board of Regents member and chairman of the university’s “Drive to Tier One Initiative.” As one enthusiastic UH supporter put it, “We’re no longer Emerging … we’re Emerged.”

Of course, there are still bureaucratic matters to attend to, officially validating UH’s NRUF status. And the Legislature must determine the exact procedure for distributing the NRUF proceeds. There have been different bills filed during this legislative session detailing how this should happen and what an equitable amount would be. State Rep. Garnet Coleman and State Sen. Rodney Ellis have offered a version that basically asks that this distribution be handled in essentially the same manner that the state uses for similar endowments.

The specific NRUF amount the university receives is certainly significant, particularly in light of the reduced funding that higher education faces during the state’s current budgetary challenges. But even more important is the acknowledgment that the University of Houston continues to move forward in its commitment to success in all its endeavors.

In that respect, every day becomes a Celebration of Excellence.

“Great cities need great universities.”

—Larry Kellner
Chairman, Greater Houston Partnership

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE:
What People Were Saying ...

CONGRESSMAN GENE GREEN (‘71)
“UH does a tremendous job not just educating folks, but also providing important research that the community and the country needs. When I heard about this Carnegie recognition, I was ecstatic. It confirms what many of us have known about the overall quality of this institution. What I learned in the college of business and in law school here can compete with any other school in the country. That is a message we really need to spread. The excellence of UH lifts up our entire community.”

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN LARRY KELLNER
“UH is going to be the same great UH on no matter what. But this Tier One designation helps everyone recognize what a great program is already in place here. And that’s incredibly exciting.”

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP PRESIDENT AND CEO JEFF MOSELEY
“Now, everyone else has been officially informed.”

UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS CHAIR CARROLL ROBERTSON RAY (J.D. ’02)
“So much here at UH is clearly top class, but we need to acknowledge that and build on it. A university is an important engine of our economy and that’s certainly no exception with UH. Since so many students settle where they graduate, UH is increasing the educational level of the workforce here — raising the cultural level of the community — and is just improving the whole experience of living in Houston.”

STAR FURNITURE CHAIRMAN MELVYN WOLFF (‘53)
“It is clear that a city can’t be better than the citizens in it. So the educational resources of a community play a vital role in determining its overall quality. Internally, we already knew what a valuable resource the University of Houston is. Now, everyone else has been officially informed.”

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP PRESIDENT AND CEO JEFF MOSELEY
“One ingredient that Houston was lacking in moving up to the next level was a Tier One public university. That is no longer the case. Surprisingly, some of the people who live right next door don’t realize what a tremendous and dramatic development has taken place here. Strictly from a workplace perspective, UH provides an invaluable supply of highly trained technical and professional support for our economy. But, it also offers much more than that.”

FORMER TEXAS GOV. AND UH SYSTEM CHANCELLOR BILL HOBBS
“UH’s Carnegie Tier One designation is a great honor, well-deserved and, I might add, long overdue. The University of Houston’s excellence speaks for itself, but this is a matter of reputation. And, you can’t put a price on that. Chancellor Renu Khator is leading the university to new heights, and I say more strength to her.”
A CELEBRATION OF Excellence

Enjoying the festivities: President Khator, Regent Chair Ray, Regent Welcome W. Wilson Sr. and Regent Jim Wise (above, front row, left to right). Hitting a high note: Renowned singer and UH alumna Barbara Padilla entertains the audience with her vocal prowess (facing page, bottom right).

— Photos by Thomas Campbell and Thomas Shea
Simply the Best
Princeton Review Names UH as One of America’s Top Colleges for Undergraduates.

Read all about it — the University of Houston is one of the nation’s top schools for undergraduate education.

So says The Princeton Review, the widely known education services company. It has selected UH for inclusion in the next edition of its popular annual guide to the country’s best colleges. The publication will be available in bookstores in early August 2011.

This marks the first time UH has been included in the well-known roundup of America’s premier institutions. The significance of that acknowledgment was not lost on UH President Renu Khator.

“The Princeton Review’s guide, which is widely used by prospective applicants and their parents in selecting a university, is based, in large part, on the responses that enrolled students gave to surveys about their schools,” she said. “While that sort of opinion-based recognition may not be a part of our performance-based Tier One measures, it is still a very important indication of the growing reputation of our university.”

Robert Franek, senior vice president of publishing for The Princeton Review, said UH was chosen for “The Best 376 Colleges: 2012 Edition” based on several criteria the publication considers when reviewing schools.

“First, we must have a high regard for their academic programs and other offerings,” said Franek. “Second, our selections take into account institutional data we collect from the schools and the opinions of more than 122,000 students who we survey. We also greatly value the feedback we get about schools from our college-savvy staff across the country as well as from students, educators and parents who use our services and books.”

Khator cited a number of factors she believes have contributed to an improved undergraduate experience at UH that likely earned the Princeton Review recognition, including:

• Providing world-class dining facilities, such as the addition of the cooked-to-order Fresh Food Co. at Moody Towers — the first-of-its-kind facility in the Southwest and the largest in the nation.

• Creating a living-learning environment on campus, where the Faculty-in-Residence program allows faculty and their families to live in the residence halls and interact with students.

• Enhancing scholastic performance by raising admission standards and increasing the number of academic advisers.

• Rewarding academic progress with the Graduation Pledge, which provides grants that can total $3,000 for students who complete at least 30 credit hours a year toward their degrees.

• Providing incoming freshmen with Personal Assistance Liaisons — faculty and staff members who stay in touch with their assigned students throughout the semester, informing them about upcoming events and offering a human connection to the university.

“Student success is the top priority at UH, so this confirmation from The Princeton Review that we’re making real progress in that area is truly great news,” Khator said.

(To view a brief video of publisher Robert Franek discussing UH’s inclusion in the guide during his recent visit to the campus, please see: www.uh.edu/tier-one/princeton-review.)

UH Tier One

UH billboard shares the good news with the city of Houston.
When you notice all of the construction in progress at the University of Houston, you’re witnessing history in the making.

UH is building a bigger, better university for current students and tomorrow’s scholars. In doing so, the campus is undergoing the most construction in its 84-year history. When all current and approved projects are wrapped up, UH facilities will total more than 12 million square feet.

From research facilities to residence halls, the campus landscape is changing rapidly. Contributing to this growth has been the university’s Tier One designation from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

“Right now, it’s imperative that UH maintain its momentum,” said Dave Irvin, associate vice president of plant operations. “We’re doing that by adding new facilities that support the university’s Tier One initiatives. These include new buildings and spaces for instruction, research, culture and recreation — some of the elements that define a Tier One institution.”

In building a Tier One university, Irvin added that now is the best time to do so. Construction costs during the 2010–2011 academic year have been historically low, and the university has capitalized on a host of economical opportunities.

“Right now, we can build new facilities much more efficiently and more economically than we would be able to do next year,” Irvin said. “We’re able to add more amenities to various projects and still remain under budget. This allows us to put facilities in place that will position the university for future growth.”

The following is a breakdown of projects under construction, in the design phase and in the planning stages.

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

- **UH Hilton Hotel Renovations:** Renovations are being made to teaching facilities, public areas and building infrastructure, as well as structural upgrades. The project will be completed by September 2011. Cost: $13.6 million

- **Central Plant Expansion:** This project includes the replacement of two boilers, a chiller and chilling towers. It also modifies existing boilers and pipes, electrical and control systems. The enhanced plant is estimated to reduce energy costs by 3 to 4 percent and will reduce emissions by 90 percent. The project is scheduled to be completed by September 2013. Cost: $38.5 million

- **Lamar Fleming Jr., Building Addition:** This project creates 20,000 square feet of research space to be used by the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The project is scheduled to be substantially completed by the fall semester and will open for classes in January 2012. Cost: $31.2 million

- **Cemo Hall Construction:** This 34,000-square-foot facility will be used by the C.T. Bauer College of Business. It will contain a 400-seat lecture hall, three 80-seat classrooms, a career center and office space. This project is scheduled to be completed by June 2011. Cost: $10.6 million

- **Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) Build Out (Phase 3):** This project completes half of the third and fifth floors and increases HVAC capacity. The project covers 20,000 square feet. It is scheduled to be completed this semester. Cost: $12 million

- **Science & Research 1 Safety Upgrades:** This project includes the installation of a stair pressurization system, a fire sprinkler system and the chilled water and fan coil unit. It also includes the replacement of a domestic fire storage tank and fire alarm system and updating the elevators. It is scheduled to be completed in summer 2012. Cost: $14.6 million

- **Energy Research Park – Petroleum Engineering Building:** This project will renovate Building 9 for future use as the site’s Petroleum Engineering Research Center. It is scheduled to be completed this semester. Cost: $5.1 million

- **Energy Research Park – Administration Building:** This project will renovate Building 4 for future use as the site’s administrative offices. It is scheduled to be completed by June 2011. Cost: $3.7 million

- **Energy Research Park Site Improvements:** This project will enhance the facility’s parking, lighting, security, signage and streets. It is scheduled to be completed by June 2011. Cost: $2 million

- **Construction of the Lance T. Funston Center at the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication:** The project will add 4,875 square feet to the existing School of Communication, including a production studio. Also, renovations are being made to 14,000 square feet of existing space (classrooms, studio support facilities, storage and offices). It is scheduled to be completed by the start of the fall semester. Cost: $3.6 million
“Right now, it’s imperative that UH maintain its momentum. We’re doing that by adding new facilities that support the university’s Tier One initiatives.

— Dave Irvin
associate vice president of plant operations

PROJ ECTS IN DESIGN PHASE

• HEALTH AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES BUILDING: This new 167,000-square-foot facility will be at Wheeler Avenue and Calhoun Road near the College of Optometry. It will include an ambulatory surgical center, laser center, labs, offices and will house UH’s Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation and Statistics. The project is scheduled to be completed by January 2013.
Cost: $70 million

• CLASSROOM AND BUSINESS BUILDING: A three-story, 140,000-square-foot facility will house business classrooms, offices, space for student organizations and other amenities. The project is scheduled to be completed by fall 2012.
Cost: $41 million

• STADIUM PARKING GARAGE: This 2,400 space garage will include 10,000 square feet of space for mixed use. Its estimated completion date is summer 2012.
Cost: $26 million

• SERC BUILD OUT (PHASE 4): This project will build out the building’s second and third floors. The project is scheduled to be completed this semester.
Cost: $15 million

• BLAFFER ART MUSEUM: Exterior improvements will be made to the Fine Arts courtyard and landscaping, and a visitor drop off area will be created along the nearby curb. Additionally, a new north entry will be created and the museum’s interior will be renovated.
Cost: $2 million

PLANNED PROJECTS

• UNIVERSITY CENTER EXPANSION AND RENOVATION: This project will provide a major facelift to the facility that serves as the “living room” of the university. It covers renovations to the existing 246,000-square-feet facility and includes two building additions. One addition will add an east wing to the existing building to accommodate new dining and retail facilities. The other addition will create additional space for student organizations by adding another floor and new entrance over the existing UC Underground. Construction will begin next summer.
Cost: $80 million

• LAMAR FLEMING JR. BUILDING: This renovation will upgrade labs and teaching facilities.
Cost: $7.9 million
One Big Happy Family

Faculty-in-Residence Connects with Students.
by Marisa Ramirez ('00)

Students line the sidewalks outside the Moody Towers residential facility on a crisp fall morning. They’re watching a little girl struggling with a rite of passage: riding her bicycle without the training wheels. Trial and error: ride and fall, until, finally, she guides the bike successfully along the walkway to the sound of elated student cheers.

Though the little girl isn’t a student, she is a resident of the University of Houston’s Moody Towers residential facility. Her mom is a participant in the Faculty-in-Residence Program, a collaboration between the offices of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. It is a role that acknowledges the critical connection between a student’s academic life and their residential life on the road to academic success.

“Living here takes away the boundaries that the classroom sometimes unintentionally creates,” said Catherine Horn, associate professor of educational psychology in the College of Education. “It reminds everyone that there is an important academic life outside the classroom and that, ultimately, we are here for the same reason — the collective success of all Cougars.”

Horn has made Moody North her home for the last academic year. Together with her husband John Clegg, daughters Ryan and Harper and their two dogs, Horn has become a familiar face to students in the dining hall, laundry room or outside as they walk their dogs or ride their bikes.

“The kids love living on campus,” she said. “They’ve come home to the Cougar Marching Band playing outside our door, learned to salsa, celebrated Black History Month and studied Mars rovers in competition. It’s hard to beat that.”

Horn also is a senior researcher for the National Center for Student Success, a multidisciplinary research institute that investigates student success, particularly minority students, and aims to inform public policy on higher education. Undergraduate residential life may be the first time students are experiencing life as an independent adult, she said, and having a professor readily available to help them navigate this exciting, but stressful, time is valuable in their holistic development.

“Part of the reason I wanted to do this is my ‘day job,’” she said. “My research centers on issues of college student success and to be able to ‘live’ what we know is a tremendous gift.”

As a faculty-in-residence, Horn works with the resident assistants in the Moody Towers to coordinate programs for students in the facility. These conversations with students have included topics such as taking advantage of the learning support systems on campus, informing them of services such as the Counseling and Psychological Services and the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center.

“We’ve also discussed what the life of a professor is like, and they’ve happily reminded me of what the life of an undergraduate is like,” Horn said.

Research shows that higher rates of interaction with faculty, as well as being a part of a hiring and learning community, are associated with academic success.

Two colleagues in the endeavor join Horn, who remembers the faculty-in-residence when she was an undergraduate. Professor Carroll Parrott Blue, research professor at the Texas Learning and Computation Center and the Center for Public History, is the faculty-in-residence at Moody South. Similarly, history professor Raul A. Ramos, his wife, two young sons and two dogs live in the newest residence hall, Cougar Village.

“I’m hopeful that students will see the faculty-in-residence position as an illustration that life in the freshman residence hall is not separate from academic life. They’re actually one in the same,” Ramos said.

“Living on campus means that your entire life is about academics, about being a student. It’s a unique and special time, and we don’t want to squander that opportunity to learn and grow.”

UH Research

Not a Dirty Little Secret
UH’s Latest Tier One Research Facility, the ‘Cleanroom,’ Supports Academia, Industry.
by Laura Tolley

This is a room that can definitely pass the white-glove test. One of the newest research centers on the University of Houston campus is the Nanofabrication Facility, which boasts a state-of-the-art “cleanroom” that is virtually free of dust and other contaminants and has strict controls on humidity. Anyone entering it must don protective gear, and there are even special mops and buckets used to clean it.

This center supports the growth of innovative, Tier One research at UH and in the surrounding community, making it an important regional resource for academia and industry. Funded research projects supported by the facility total in the millions of dollars and the consolidation of equipment into one facility results in substantial savings to UH.

Led by Dmitri Litvinov, professor of electrical and computer engineering, the Nanofab is a “core facility” under UH’s Division of Research, meaning it’s open for use by all faculty and students at the university as well as outside nanotech researchers.

Litvinov said the facility’s cleanroom (as they call it) is the only integrated, shared fabrication resource in the Houston metropolitan area. With the acquisition of key pieces of cutting-edge equipment, the site “will elevate nanoscience research in the area to a globally competitive level.”

The cleanroom’s state-of-the-art tools enable scientists to manipulate materials at the micro-nanoscale structures, most commonly on silicon wafers, for integrated circuits, microelectromechanical systems, microfluidic devices and other systems. It’s of the caliber found at major pharmaceutical and high-tech institutions.

“This is a strategic investment for the university and the nanotech community,” said Joseph W. Tedesco, Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean and professor in the UH Cullen College of Engineering. “It further
“This is a strategic investment for the university and the nanotech community.”
— Joseph W. Tedesco, Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean and professor in the UH Cullen College of Engineering

UH Research

establishes UH as a major source of nanotechnology research and innovation and offers unique opportunities for collaborations with the region’s nanotech community.”

UH officials and researchers turned out recently for a dedication and open house for the Nanofab, which first opened its doors to users in 2009. Currently, the facility has 94 users from UH, 14 from Rice University and two industrial users.

The facility’s construction costs were approximately $6 million, funded in partnership by the Division of Research, the provost’s office, the Cullen College of Engineering, the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Alliance for Nanohalth. The initial equipment, valued at $1 million, came from Litvinov’s own lab.

An additional $2 million funded from grants was used to purchase more equipment, including a focused ion beam and a deep reactive ion etcher. Finally, a new $1 million e-Beam writer has arrived and is being installed in the facility. There is only one other e-Beam writer in a four-state area, an older model at The University of Texas at Austin. An e-Beam writer uses a beam of electrons to write a pattern directly into a photosresist, which is a polymer used to cover a silicon wafer. A covered silicon wafer is used to make structures in the cleanroom.

So far, more than $7 million has been awarded to UH projects conducted in the cleanroom. Sponsors include the Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Texas Advanced Research Program and The Welch Foundation.

Litvinov said in addition to making nanotechnology capabilities more widely available, sharing equipment helps increase researchers’ understanding of how these tools work and sets the stage for future collaboration.

“The machines in this facility are very complex. Having multiple users can quickly build up the knowledge base about what this equipment can do and how to do it. It has really been a game changer for researchers,” said Litvinov. “If you’re attempting to do something new, you can just call up the other people who work in the same facility and ask if they have any insight. Those conversations can accelerate your research and can also lead to research partnerships.”

In Memoriam

Neal R. Amundson (1916-2011)

by Lisa K. Merki (‘92, M.A. ‘97)

Neal R. Amundson (1916-2011) [Image 789x315 to 1073x645]

Five years ago, the headline of a University of Houston news release announced, “Father of Chemical Engineering” Turns 90, Still Teaching at UH.” On Feb. 16, 2011, this great mind finally called it a day. Neal R. Amundson died at the age of 95.

Throughout his seven decades in engineering education and research, Amundson’s contributions were recognized by many prestigious organizations. Among them were the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; the American Chemical Society; the American Society of Engineering Education; and the International Symposium of Chemical Reaction Engineering, an organization that named an award in his honor.

Inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 1970, Amundson was a recipient of the NAE Founders’ Award. He also was an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Minnesota, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, University of Guadalajara and Northwestern University. A three-time UM graduate, he earned a B.S. and M.S. in chemical engineering in 1937 and 1945, respectively, and a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1947.

He also was recognized by his peers and the institutions he served. At UM, the building that houses the department of chemical engineering and materials science was named in his honor, and UH’s department of chemical and biomolecular engineering named their annual lecture series for him. Additionally, he was honored with the Esther Farfel Award, UH’s highest faculty award.

Colleagues and friends from across the United States and Mexico gathered in March at UH to remember Amundson in a tribute featuring talks from top engineers and scientists who worked with and studied under Amundson during his lifetime.

Plans are under way to create an endowed chair of chemical engineering in Amundson’s name. UH’s department of chemical and biomolecular engineering hopes to raise $1 million to establish the fund.

As a Cullen Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Professor of Mathematics, Amundson held appointments at both the Cullen College of Engineering and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM).

“While we are deeply saddened at this great loss, Neal Amundson’s impact to UH and the profession has been, and will continue to be, extremely profound,” said Cullen College dean, Joseph W. Tedesco.

NSM’s dean, Mark A. Smith, added: “To this day, he remains the world’s most famous chemical engineer and is credited with bringing mathematics and computation to the discipline.”

“Neal was single-handedly responsible for building one of the best chemical engineering departments in the country at UM [University of Minnesota],” said Dan Luss, Cullen Professor of Chemical Engineering at UH, who earned his Ph.D. under Amundson at UM. “He came to UH and was instrumental in putting our chemical engineering program on the map.”
Event Gives Students Chance to Thank Donors

Philanthropy Awareness Day Stresses Importance of Private Support.

by Kelli Gifford

Each year, the University of Houston’s donors contribute, through a charitable gift, to the 36 percent gap in the cost of UH students’ education that is not funded by tuition, fees and state support. The most generous, transformational gifts allow UH to go above and beyond for excellence. So this year, the Office of Annual Giving hosted Philanthropy Awareness Day to educate students about private support and offer them a chance to say thank you.

“It’s about thanking all those donors who so generously give each year, even if it’s just a couple of dollars a month,” said Liz Castro (’98), young alumni coordinator for the Office of Annual Giving. “We are a better university because these contributors make an effort to support UH and its students, whether from generosity or loyalty. All gifts make a difference for UH.”

More than 400 students attended the event, where they were able to write out thank-you cards for donors, sign a large banner, and, at the same time, get free food and have the chance to win prizes. But some students just wanted to pay their regards.

“You don’t often get the chance to say thank you for all the support of the programs you get to enjoy every day. This is a great opportunity,” said freshman Larysa Knuijs.

The event started with a small parade from the Welcome Center to the University Center with the UH Spirit of Houston Cougar Marching Band, and, of course, Shasta. Two large bows adorned the front of the M.D. Anderson Library, showing people campuswide what their donations can do. During the library’s renovation campaign, more than 7,000 donors came together to raise more than $20 million. UH Athletics showed its gratitude by displaying a large bow in the main entry of the Athletics’ Alumni Center, in addition to bows spread throughout the facility’s weight rooms, student lounges, study labs, and even the tennis courts and batting cages. Next year, Castro hopes to see more bows around campus to represent other gifts.

Student volunteers were on hand to spread the message to everyone passing by.

“They were really doing a great job explaining what the day was about and how the donations directly impact the tuition,” said Castro. “We had a chart to show the students how tuition and fees work in the UH budget, and how if we didn’t have donations, how much more expensive tuition could be. With the budget cuts that everyone has heard about and the way higher education is faring in the general economy, right now (donations) are even more important than ever before. As recently as 1991, state funds are around only 26 percent. We were not out there asking students to give money; we simply wanted them to understand that the gifts of alumni and friends help us to keep growing, and to offer more and better resources to students that tuition and state monies just can’t cover.”

Philanthropy Awareness Day was just one opportunity to thank alumni and friends, even UH faculty and staff, for their philanthropic efforts and investments in UH. These efforts affect the campus and change lives every day.

“Thousands of UH alumni have donated to UH, giving students opportunities to make more of their college experience,” said Amy Marks, director of annual giving. “For them, opportunity knocked when their alma mater beckoned, and they have answered, giving students a community in which to enhance their education. It’s alumni confidence in all Cougars that motivates them to give students the gift of opportunity.”

Last year, more than 25,000 generous private donors gifted $103 million. There are myriad ways donations are used, whether they fund buildings, scholarships, fellowships, endowments or specific colleges or programs. No matter the gift, each has a direct and immediate impact.

“Giving to UH is a unique opportunity,” said Nancy Clark (’76), director of development in the Office of University Advancement. “I picture my gifts helping my grandchildren’s grandchildren. This helps me understand the vast importance my small support can make to help students today achieve their dream of higher education.” Clark gives regularly to UH through the annual Faculty and Staff Campaign. During Philanthropy Awareness Day, Clark took the special opportunity to snap photos of donations that had been highlighted for students with gift bows and tags, sharing these with the donors who funded them.

A prime example of the impact of private giving is the 39 Tier One Scholars the university welcomed this past fall — the first class of such students. The UH Tier One Scholarship is a distinguished, high-profile award intended to attract highly qualified students to the University of Houston. President Renu Khator created the program using dollar-for-dollar donations to match a generous $7 million anonymous gift, with the intention of attracting top-tier students to the university. These scholarships are available to outstanding first-time-in-college freshmen and cover tuition and mandatory fees for up to five years of undergraduate study. There are still matching funds available to those wanting to donate to this effort.

“The fact that this generous scholarship is available to such a broad range of students makes this an incredibly kind gift,” said Tyson Adams, a UH freshman who graduated from Harker Heights High School near Killeen. “The kindness that this Tier One Scholarship brings has not gone unnoticed by me, and I’m sure every other student has realized the magnitude of what this has done for them. It’s an absolute honor.”

With the University of Houston recently designated in the top tier of research universities by the Carnegie Foundation and appearing for the first time in The Princeton Review’s “best colleges” guidebook, there is no better time to make an investment in UH.

“Our students...can say with pride they are getting a Tier One education,” said Khator. “They will finally be able to take their diplomas and say ‘I have graduated from a Carnegie Tier One university.’”

And students can now say with understanding that they have been supported by UH alumni and friends.

“The reason we have achieved [Tier One] now in 2011 is sheer perseverance and absolute quality and excellence of the university and the community,” said Khator.
A love for music never waned.

Johnstone, who has a degree in molecular biology, was on the faculty of two medical schools — the University of Miami and Washington University in St. Louis. She was president of her own business, which did medical research consulting for law firms across the country. She retired three years ago after more than 30 years in the business.

In 1995 when Johnstone first moved to Houston, she was seeking out avenues to hear live music in the city and came across the University of Houston Moores School of Music’s Immanuel & Helen Olshan Texas Music Festival, and she immediately fell in love. She has eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly eagerly 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