

RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2010

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The new year has brought increased activity across campus related to the university's drive to achieve Tier One national recognition.

■ In the area of **UH Energy**...

The Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston (TcSUH) has received a **\$3.5 million Research Superiority Award** from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund. The five-year grant, announced by Gov. Rick Perry, will help establish TcSUH's **Applied Research Hub** to recruit stellar scientists and researchers in superconductivity and related materials.

C.W. "Paul" Chu, founding director of TcSUH, has returned full time to UH. Chu, the T. L. L. Temple Chair of Science, professor of physics, and executive director of TcSUH, recently concluded an eight-year term as president of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. In November 2009, Chu 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 temperatures close to or above room temperature, and with higher current carrying capacity. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, holds numerous patents, is the author of more than 570 publications, and has been awarded 10 honorary degrees and six honorary professorships.

Already home to the nation's number one program in health law and policy, the UH Law Center has announced that **Tracy Hester**, a longtime partner at Bracewell & Giuliani LLP and head of the firm's Houston environmental group, has been selected to direct its **Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (EENR) Center**. Hester has earned a national reputation for his innovative application of environmental laws to emerging technologies such as wind and other renewable power sources. Plans call for building the EENR Center into a highly respected and influential academic think-tank and policy center. Hester has served on the adjunct faculty at the UH Law Center since 1995. He will continue as senior counsel with Bracewell & Giuliani's environmental team in addition to his UH duties.

■ In the area of **UH Health...**

Two faculty members – one a longtime biology professor and researcher, the other a newcomer to campus – have received the distinction of being named **Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science**, the world's largest general scientific society,

Stuart Dryer, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Biology and Biochemistry and chair of the Department of Biology, has been awarded the AAAS Fellow distinction for his research on a type of protein found in cell membranes that could lead to new treatments for cancer, asthma, and kidney diseases. AAAS publishes *Science*, which along with *Nature*, is one of the world's most prestigious scientific journals. Getting even one article published in either publication is a major accomplishment, and Dryer has had a total of five papers published in both journals.

Metin Akay has been named an AAAS Fellow just weeks into his tenure as John S. Dunn Distinguished Professor and founding chair of the new Department of Biomedical Engineering. He was selected for the AAAS's engineering section for his contributions to biomedical engineering research and education, informatics, and neural engineering. In addition, Akay has been inducted into the prestigious College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering for his work in neural and cardiovascular engineering. The recognition puts him in the top two percent of the medical and biological engineering community.

Both Dryer and Akay will travel to San Diego this weekend for their AAAS induction.

■ In the area of **UH Arts...**

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts will host world-renowned performing, visual and literary artists while sharpening its focus on educating UH students in the history and practice of creative collaboration. The center's spring 2010 artist-in-residence is Berlin-based, Texas-born Amy Patton, who will be in Houston crafting a new film work to debut this fall at Blaffer Gallery. The center also continues its ongoing residency with spoken word artist and choreographer Marc Bamuthi Joseph, who will visit Houston on multiple occasions to plan the fall 2010 festival, "Life Is Living: Houston" and create his new performance work, "red, black, and GREEN, a blues."

The Moores School of Music hosted the **International Piano Festival February** 12 to 14. The festival continues to bring the world's top musicians to campus for recitals and master classes. This year's event featured three master pianists, including UH's **Abbey Simon**, Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor of Music. Simon founded the festival in 1984 and has been its most frequent performer. He also is one of the most recorded classical artists of all time and has been honored with numerous awards including the National Orchestral Award. He has been a UH faculty member since 1977.

■ In the area of **Student Success**, I would like to update you on the **TierONE scholarship initiative**, a program that is becoming one of the pillars in our plans to bring up graduation rates to the 55 percent level – the benchmark for Tier One recognition.

The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid has produced a unique item that will go a long way in capturing the attention of the brightest and most accomplished students as they decide what scholarships to accept and what universities to attend.

Last week, the first 37 of these recruiting packets went out to promising high school students. By the magic of software and laser printing, each of them received a **custom-printed, hard-cover booklet** with personalized letters and information. Included in each booklet is a unique URL created for each student to communicate with UH. In addition, each booklet reproduces the original essay each student submitted to UH, one of the determining factors used in deciding scholarship candidates. A second back of booklets will be mailed in the near future.

In all, we plan to offer \$437,500 worth of TierONE scholarships to Fall 2010 entering freshmen.

This is what I call “thinking outside the box,” and it is this type of innovative approach to recruiting that will separate UH from all other universities as we recruit the nation’s best students.

With the expansion of the Cougar Promise program, which will now award free tuition to students from households making less than \$45,000 a year, to the opening of the East Parking Garage last fall, the scheduled opening of Cemo Hall in May, and the planned opening of Cougar Village in time for the Fall semester, UH continues to build the Tier One infrastructure necessary to attract and retain Tier One students and help them succeed.

UH-CLEAR LAKE

■ UH-Clear Lake achieved a milestone this past December when it awarded its first doctoral degree during one of two commencement ceremonies. Tina Farrell, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Clear Creek Independent School District, took center stage as keynote speaker and as UHCL’s first doctoral graduate, receiving her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership degree. She already held a Master of Arts in Humanities degree (’85) and a Mid-Management Certificate (’93). Ms. Farrell was awarded the 1998 Distinguished Alumna award by the university. Approximately 900 summer 2009 and fall 2009 graduates received their degrees during ceremonies at Reliant Arena.

■ Recognized for its leadership and innovation in teacher education, UHCL won the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ 2009 Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education. UHCL was the sole recipient of the 2009 award. AASCU will use UHCL’s practices as an example for other teacher education programs nationwide.

UH-DOWNTOWN

■ A little less than one month from today, UHD will celebrate the investiture of William Flores as the university's fifth President. A week-long program of activities, including an arts festival, a university open house, and a scholarship dinner, will be highlighted by an Investiture Ceremony and Presidential Luncheon Mar 11 at the Wortham Center downtown.

■ Cadets in classes number 241 and 242 of UHD's Criminal Justice Training Center had 100 percent pass rate on their first attempt of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) certification exam. The commission uses training academy graduates' first-attempt pass rate of the state exam to evaluate training programs. The Center's academy graduates had a 98 percent pass rate in 2008-09.

■ The artwork of Beth Secor, adjunct professor of art, was featured in the 84th edition of New American Painting Juried Exhibitions-in-Print. Terry Sultan executive director The Parris Art Museum in Southampton, N.Y., and former director of UH's Blaffer Gallery, juried the exhibition. This past fall, Secor curated The Image Altered, a Hispanic Heritage art exhibition at the JPMorgan Chase Bank Building in Downtown Houston.

■ Houston City Council members voted to appoint alumnus Ed Gonzalez ('00), who represents District H, where his alma mater is located, to be the City Council's next vice mayor pro tem.

UH-VICTORIA

■ The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education fully accredited UHV's School of Nursing's undergraduate and graduate programs for the next five years. This was the school's first attempt at national accreditation and it came less than two years after the state gave approval for the school's creation. The school is led by founding Dean Kathryn Tart. In a related story, a \$100,000 grant from the M.G. & Lillie A. Johnson Foundation to the nursing program will be used for scholarships to recruit the best and brightest RN to BSN (Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing) and Master of Science in Nursing students, preparing them to assume leadership and management roles in the field. In addition, the George Foundation has donated \$203,468 to add new equipment for the use of the nursing program, including a 3G Sim Man, the most advanced human simulator available to educate nurses. This equipment can mimic almost any human bodily function and health scenario.

■ The **School of Business Administration** was named the No. 1 Greatest Opportunity for Minority Students program in The Princeton Review's "Best 301 Business Schools: 2010 edition." The publishers looked at the percentage of minority students and faculty and how supportive the university culture is to minority students. The school's minority enrollment includes 18 percent African American students, 14 percent Hispanic, 22 percent Asian and 14 percent international. UHV faculty has representatives from Belarus, Canada, China, Colombia, India, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Russia.

In closing, I would like to update you on a remarkable development across the UH System. For years we have known that UH was one of the most ethnically diverse major research universities in the nation, with students from 136 countries. Now, UH-Clear Lake, UH-Downtown, and UH-Victoria are also showing **increasing numbers of international students**, reflecting the growing globalization of our institutions.

As of Fall 2009, 4,369 international students were enrolled in the four UH System universities (7.2% of 61,040 total enrollment).

University of Houston: 3,169 (8.6% of 36,999)

Top 5 countries of origin:

India (808), China (540), Vietnam (146), South Korea (117), Nigeria (101)

UH-Clear Lake: 775 (9.7% of 7,669)

Top 5 countries of origin:

India (475), Vietnam (105), China (39), Nepal (26), Pakistan (15)

UH-Downtown: 283 (2.2% of 12,742)

Top 5 countries of origin:

Pakistan (23), Vietnam (22), Nigeria (21), Nepal (17), Angola and Kenya tied (16 each)

UH-Victoria: 141 (3.9% of 3,653)

Top 5 countries of origin:

India (43), China (35), Nigeria (10), Venezuela (5), Vietnam (5)

A quick review of countries and a look at a world map reveals that students come to us from as far away from Houston as Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Turkmenistan.