

**Chancellor's Report to the UHS Board of Regents
April 21, 2009**

I'm honored to have served this board and the UH System for more than one year. I've dedicated myself to working with our university presidents, faculty members, administrators, and staff in building on our fine traditions to make our universities better. Much was accomplished during the past year with your help, guidance, and support.

UHS System

Today, the UH System is strong and well positioned for our next steps in serving the greater Houston metropolitan region and beyond.

- In 2008, our system-wide enrollment grew by 4% from 56,700 to 59,200.
- In 2008, we awarded more degrees. Our degree count increased from 11,735 to 11,934.
- In 2008, the UH System worked with UH-Victoria and Victoria College to facilitate significant conversations on the future of Higher Education in Victoria. This collaboration resulted in the approval by this Board of downward expansion at UHV.
- In 2008, significant research was completed to provide you with essential information for your consideration of downward expansion at UH-Clear Lake.

- In 2008, much was done to inform you about the importance of a distinct identity and name for UH-Downtown.
- In 2008, this Board supported local and state initiatives to advance the status of the University of Houston as a national research university.
- In 2008, collaboration continued on initiatives in the Northwest region of Houston.
- In 2008, the UH System universities pulled together to effectively respond to Hurricane Ike. I was very pleased with the cooperation extended by our four universities to their local communities and the hard work of our staff members in restoring our operations. I was especially impressed by the leadership and service offered by our students in the wake of the storm.
- In 2008, we initiated the development of a comprehensive strategic enrollment plan for the UH System. This plan will help guide us in fulfilling our mission to serve the higher education needs of Texas and the Houston Metropolitan area. The plan will be presented to you at your annual retreat in June 2009.
- In 2008, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recognized UH, UHD, and UHCL

as community engaged universities. UH and UHCL were recognized for curricular engagement and outreach & partnerships. UHD was recognized for outreach and partnerships.

- The Southern Association for Colleges and Schools reaffirmed the accreditation of UH for the next decade. UHD fulfilled reporting requirements for continued accreditation by SACS.

UHCL will be reviewed by SACS in 2012 and UHV in 2014.

UHS Board of Regents

At the Board level, your guidance was significant.

- You adopted three goals to provide us guidance related to national competitiveness, student success, and community advancement.
- You requested and received a progress card from each university. These now offer you benchmarks on which you can monitor progress and hold our presidents accountable.
- You took actions that transformed each system university.

With respect to the operation of this Board, we worked together to:

- engage four new members subsequent to their appointment;

- review and restructure the number and nature of Board committees;
- open a new office to provide you with essential support; and
- enhance the Board's web site to help guide your meetings with online agendas and supporting documentation.

University accomplishments

The following accomplishments were reported by UH System universities and colleges.

The University of Houston

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture

- The college founded the UH Green Building Component Laboratory to develop sustainable building products, components, and assemblies, and to work with manufacturers to bring these designs to the market. This initiative is funded by The Houston Endowment and The Meadows Foundation.
- This year the only two Houston projects receiving Texas Society of Architects design awards were authored by our faculty members. UH faculty members and/or graduates received eleven of sixteen 2008 design awards presented by the Houston chapter of the American Institute of Architects.
- The college's Burdette Keeland Design Exploration Center was published regionally (*Texas Architect*)

and nationally (*Metropolis*), and received design awards from the Houston AIA, Texas Society of Architects, AGC, Houston mayor's office and others.

C. T. Bauer College of Business

- The Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship was ranked #1 among the country's top 25 Undergraduate Entrepreneurship programs by The Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine.
- A UH Bauer team of graduate students from the Cougar Fund placed first in the country in the CFA Global Investment Research Challenge, topping teams from other powerhouse business schools including MIT and Carnegie Mellon University.
- For the second consecutive year, UH Bauer's Department of Marketing & Entrepreneurship faculty was ranked #9 in the nation as one of the most productive in a feature published by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Doctoral students from UH Bauer accepted tenured track positions at Florida State University; University of Georgia at Athens; ESSEC, a top European business school; Michigan State University and Iowa State University.
- The Hispanic Business Student Association (HBSA) at UH Bauer was ranked the top National Hispanic Business Association Student Chapter in the country among 45 colleges, topping chapters

from Ivy League colleges as well as the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M.

College of Education

- Through its collaborative program with the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics called teachHOUSTON the College of Education more than doubled the number of UH students preparing to teach math or science in high school. Major funding from the Texas Education Agency, ExxonMobil and the Sid Richardson Foundation made this possible.
- The COE tripled the number of "career changers" it recruited from accounting and engineering firms to retool as teachers.
- The College created the state's newest, and Houston's only, doctoral program in school psychology.
- Faculty in health and human performance received national attention for their use of the Internet medium called "Second Life" in their courses.

Cullen College of Engineering

- The National Science Foundation highlighted fuel cell catalyst research conducted by Peter Strasser, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering. His research was among less than a dozen showcased by NSF as a "CBET

Nugget”—used to publicize important contributions from CBET principal investigators within the foundation. Strasser and his team have been working to create a less expensive, more efficient fuel cell catalyst.

- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the establishment of a department of biomedical engineering.
- Devon Energy Corp. and Marathon Oil Corp. committed major funding to the College of Engineering in support of its developing undergraduate program in petroleum engineering. Marathon pledged \$600,000 in unrestricted funds to the program, while Devon pledged \$1 million to support student scholarships, the renovation of a student research laboratory and other needs of the program. The new program is expected to be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this fall.

Graduate College of Social Work

- GCSW was selected by the New York Academy of Medicine to serve as its first (demonstration project) regional hub for training of all social work programs in the southwest interested in pursuing gerontological social work in baccalaureate and graduate social work programs
- The GCSW hosted the NIH sponsored National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse; participants included graduate students from a variety of disciplines from across the

country who have an interest in drug abuse issues among Hispanics

- In the summer of 2008, the GCSW sponsored two international study courses, one to Turkey and one to South Africa; approximately 30 students/staff participated
- Dr. Andy Achenbaum, Professor of Social Work and History, was selected to serve on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management

- The Hilton University of Houston Hotel and Conference Center, which is the Hilton College's teaching hotel, received funding for a \$12 million renovation. Construction is slated to begin in June '09.
- Alumnus Nick Massad '73 and his family (also all Hilton College graduates) donated \$1.5 million to renovate the Hilton College's Library and Archives. Construction is slated to begin in July '09.
- In August 2008, student Jenny Durham was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship from the National Association of Catering Executives (NACE). Jenny was the first-ever recipient of the Vince DeFinis Scholarship, named in honor of Vince DeFinis, a hospitality icon who died in November 2007. NACE established the award to honor excellence in leadership and identify future stars of the catering and events management industry.

- A total of 94 percent of the May '08 HRM graduating class members were employed upon graduation.

The Honors College

- An Honors College student, Ronnie Turner, involved in undergraduate research with Professor Orson Cook, was featured on the *Dan Rather Reports* TV show for his work chronicling local civil rights advocate Quentin Mease.
- Jessica Wei Zhu was the first undergraduate from the University of Houston to become a Marshall Scholar. Jessica, a senior piano performance major, was one of 40 scholars nationally.
- The Honors College received a Temple grant for the development of the Medicine and Society Program.
- The Honors College, aided by a record breaking "Great Conversation" event, received donations of more than \$1 million in 2008.

UH Law Center

- The Law Center climbed an additional five rungs in national rank (to No. 55) – the best performance of any U.S. law school in the past two years.
- The Law Center admitted the strongest incoming class in Law Center history, based on LSAT scores.
- The Law Center was recognized as one of the nation's most diverse law schools, with minorities accounting

for 30.7% of the newest incoming class.

- The Law Center achieved a record level of employment for new graduates, with more than 95% employed within nine months of receiving their law degree.
- The Law Center hosted major conferences on consumer law, U.S. climate change legislation, airline deregulation, and children and the law.

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

- The first graduate of the Chinese Studies completed her degree in the spring of 2008.
- Dr. David Francis won the prestigious Esther Farfel Award for faculty excellence.

College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

- NSM recruited Swedish biochemist Jan-Ake Gustafsson, a leading scientist in nuclear receptors, to position UH at the forefront of research into diabetes, cancer, and other prevalent diseases. Dr. Gustafsson will be the director of the Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling.
- NSM hired renowned Canadian researcher Rob Stewart and two other well-known geophysicists to create breakthrough technologies to address the world's energy, natural

resource and environmental needs.

- A biotechnology company created by NSM researchers working on a new process to sequence individual human genomes was acquired by a global disease-research and drug-discovery conglomerate for an initial \$20 million--one of the largest acquisitions ever of a UH spin-off company.
- TeachHOUSTON, a College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and College of Education collaboration in its third year, grew from 28 to 122 students, leading enrollment among the 13 universities.
- NSM bioscience mathematicians and other UH, Rice University, and Texas Medical Center researchers formed the Center for Mathematical Biosciences to achieve medical breakthroughs through integration of advanced mathematics with medical research. Suncica Canic, center director, was named a Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor in Mathematics.

College of Optometry

- The UH University Eye Institute, together with our 3 community-based clinics, generated over \$5 M in revenues and our faculty and students provided \$2.5 M worth of free eye care to medically indigent Houstonians.
- The College of Optometry renewed its "Core Grant for Vision Research" from NIH's National Eye Institute (\$3 M total) . It provided critical infrastructure support for the 13 NIH

research grants and 2 NIH training grants held by our faculty.

- The College reached its initial fund raising goals for a new building, the Vision Institute, and the project received programmatic approval from the UH System Board of Regents.
- The College's MS EyeCare, a clinical service dedicated to the early diagnosis of multiple sclerosis (MS) and to research on the visual consequences of MS, was certified by the National MS Society and received a renovation grant from the Lone Star Chapter of the MS Society to expand our MS EyeCare facilities.

College of Pharmacy

- The College of Pharmacy received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for two new degree programs: the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (the first such program in Texas) and the Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy Administration (one of only two in Texas)
- The College of Pharmacy received \$240,000 grant from the John Dunn Foundation and the Gulf Coast Consortium's Center for Chemical Genomics to purchase a robotic high-throughput drug screening system (boosting UH's drug discovery potential by 100 – 1,000 times its current capability)
- The College of Pharmacy launched a jointly funded two-year Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Fellowship

Program with St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital

- The College of Pharmacy launched a paid Summer Research Program for professional pharmacy students to encourage pursuit of the college's combined Pharm.D./Ph.D. in pharmacology or pharmaceuticals

College of Technology

- The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE www.asee.org) ranked the Department of Engineering Technology very high in regard to student success: (1) 10th out of 93 schools in the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in 2006-07; (2) 12th out of 94 schools in the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded to women in 1999-2007; and (3) 9th out of 91 schools in enrollment in fall 2007
- The newly launched program in Biotechnology (2008) attracted national attention and was featured in *Best Practices in Biotechnology Education*.
- Graduate enrollment in the College of Technology was 85% higher in Fall 2008 than it was in Fall 2006, up from 106 to 192

Graduate and Professional Studies

- Competitive graduate fellowships resulted in the recruitment of 120 "top 10%" students for graduate study at UH
- In partnership with the National Academy of Sciences and the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF), UH

recruited two VEF scholars. These scholars were in the top 1% of undergraduate students in Vietnam.

Advancement & University Relations

- UH raised \$82 million in private support in 2008 and over \$86 million as the UH System. This was the second highest amount ever raised in a single year.
- Capital gifts at UH were nearly \$30 million, more than double the second highest amount of the last few years.

Universities Libraries

- *Learning Commons*
This facility, which opened in November 2008, offers library users flexible and inviting spaces for both collaborative and individual work, new opportunities for developing presentation projects, enhanced access to sophisticated computing technology and advanced applications, improved options for reserving equipment, greater responsiveness to technical questions, and exciting opportunities to help the UH Libraries move forward with a dynamic new model for library service. These services and facilities support new avenues for collaboration and research among students and faculty. The Learning Commons has been enthusiastically embraced by students, and has been busy since day one.

- *Collaborative English Class*
As part of the Quality Enhancement Plan initiative, Julie Grob, Digital Projects & Instruction Librarian, and Dr. David Mazella, Associate Professor of English, developed a pilot project for a collaboratively designed English class for a research-intensive undergraduate course, *1771: A Year in Four Cities* (ENGL 4396), focusing on authors and works published in and around the year 1771 in London, Edinburgh, Jamaica, and Philadelphia. The course included multiple visits to UH Libraries Special Collections during which students learned to conduct research using primary source materials. (Subsequently, a Curriculum Development Grant has just been awarded Ms. Grob and Dr. Mazella to teach this class for a second time in the Spring 2009 semester, with \$5,000 going to the purchase of rare books and journals specifically relevant to the course.)
- *Acorn Endowment*
This innovative fundraising mechanism was created by the Libraries to offer individuals an easy and low-cost method to become active donors to the Libraries. This program allows an endowment to be created with a relatively small initial investment of \$1000 within a 12 month time frame, and then to be fully funded over an indefinite period of time. One of the benefits of this method is that the Libraries can use the interest accrued by these gifts before the endowment is fully funded. This program was adopted by the entire University and has already been successful for several colleges.

UH-Clear Lake

- The Pearland City Council approved a design-build contract for the construction of a 30,000-square-foot building to house the University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland campus.
- On December 16, 2008, the University of Houston System Board of Regents approved a resolution for downward expansion (i.e., the addition of freshman- and sophomore-level courses) by UH-Clear Lake.
- The Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities was established at UH-Clear Lake in spring 2008 through a partnership with Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County. The collaborative initiative is funded by a \$1.25 million grant from the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.
- UH-Clear Lake's School of Education received the Association of Teacher Educators' Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award. The national award recognizes and honors outstanding teacher education programs that demonstrate strong, viable partnerships between education agencies such as local school districts and institutions of higher education in the preparation of quality teachers.
- UH-Clear Lake was one of only 119 schools (68 public and 51 private) recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. UH-Clear Lake received the

highest ranking in its category and was cited for building partnerships within the community and for academic programs that send students and faculty into the community through curricular involvement in community issues.

- More than 1,800 high school students, parents and teachers attended the Texas Art Education Association's 2008 Visual Art Scholastic Event, which included workshops led by local and international artists, scholarship competitions, artists' demonstrations and student portfolio reviews. This was the ninth year UH-Clear Lake has hosted the event.
- UH-Clear Lake President William A. Staples recognized the City of Pearland with the university's 2008 Community Partnership Award at his annual Report to the Community in March 2008. The award saluted the city's leadership for a partnership to bring a UHCL branch campus to Pearland.
- Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership tapped UH-Clear Lake President Staples for its Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded a \$906,104 Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program grant to Jane Claes, assistant professor of school library and information science, for her proposal "School Librarians and Administrators Working Together: A Key to Student

Success, Collaborative School Librarian Training (CSLT II)."

- Assistant Professor in Humanities Shreerexha Subramanian received the Marilyn Mieszkuc Professorship in Women's Studies, the first-ever privately funded professorship established at UH-Clear Lake.
- UH-Clear Lake awarded 2008-09 Faculty Fellowships to Professor of Decision Sciences Mike Hanna, Professor of Fine Arts Sandria Hu, Professor of Psychology Dorothea Lerman and Professor of Chemistry Jack Lu in recognition of their significant contributions in teaching, research and service.
- Alix Valenti, assistant professor of legal studies and management, received a Fulbright Scholar Award to lecture in business administration at National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan during fall 2008.
- During UH-Clear Lake's 30th Annual Faculty and Staff Awards Presentation, President William A. Staples announced top honors for 2008, including: Distinguished Teaching Award – Edward Waller, professor of finance, School of Business; Distinguished Research Award – Terry Feagin, professor of computer science, School of Science and Computer Engineering; Distinguished Service Award – Grady Perdue, professor of finance, School of Business; and Distinguished Staff Service Award – Cindy Cook, associate director of career and counseling services, Office of Career and Counseling. Staff Merit Awards

were presented to Jean Grant, library technician, Alfred R. Neumann Library; Ann Hinojosa, advising coordinator, School of Human Sciences and Humanities; and Lynda McKendree, executive director of student financial aid, Office of Financial Aid.

- Dennis Casserly, interim associate dean of the School of Sciences and Computer Engineering and associate professor of industrial hygiene and environmental science, was recognized by the American Industrial Hygiene Association with an AIHA Fellow Award for his significant contributions to the field of industrial hygiene.
- Student-produced publications Bayosphere and The Signal, received 18 state awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's annual conference in College Station.
- The Columbia Scholastic Press Association recognized student-produced publications The Signal and Bayosphere with 10 awards.
- Stephen K. Jones Jr., '96 MHA/MBA, was selected as the chief executive officer of Clear Lake Regional Medical Center.
- Steve Phelps, '80 BBA, '91 Distinguished Alumnus, was re-appointed to the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority.
- Gavin Clabaugh, '80 MS, vice president and CIO of the C.S. Mott

Foundation, was named one of the 2007 NPT Power and Influence Top 50 by Nonprofit Times.

- Rita Karl, '01 MS, was named director of educational programs at the Challenger Center for Space Science headquartered in Alexandria, Va. As director, she will head efforts to engage more than 400,000 students each year in learning experiences designed to foster and encourage long-term interest in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

UH Downtown

- After 17 years, President Max Castillo decided to retire from the presidency at UH-Downtown. He has accomplished much and will now step up to serve with the faculty.
- The UHD Library opened the doors to a multi-million dollar expansion, part of the overall W. I. Dykes Library remodeling project, in November. The new fourth-floor wing included a computer lab, a reading room, high tech presentation practice rooms and classrooms. It also included presentation rooms, small-group meeting rooms and a commons area. Construction on a facelift for the fifth floor of the library will begin in 2009.
- UHD's Bachelor of Science degree program in Chemistry in the Department of Natural Sciences recently received the American Chemical Society (ACS) approval for meeting the standards for excellence

of undergraduate chemistry programs from the ACS Committee for professional training. Akif Uzman, associate professor of biology and biochemistry, chairs UHD's Department of Natural Sciences. Tyra Montgomery, associate professor of chemistry, is the chemistry degree coordinator.

The American Chemical Society is the world's largest scientific society and leading source of authoritative scientific information. ACS is at the forefront of the evolving worldwide chemical enterprise and the premier professional home for chemists, chemical engineers and related professions around the globe.

- UHD graduate Kristopher Overholt was accepted with a full scholarship to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute's respected doctoral program in fire protection directly after graduating from UHD in 2008 with a bachelor's degree, a rarity in Ph.D. programs. Overholt worked full time for a fire and security company and volunteered with the Klein Volunteer Fire Department during his years at UHD. He also worked with UHD faculty to create a course on national fire alarm codes. The course now helps certifies those in the field to perform fire alarm inspections.

- UHD is the new home of the European-American University Forum, an academic conference that brings together administrators and faculty from the Americas and Europe annually to share professional papers on higher education issues on both sides of the Atlantic. The Forum, led for years by founder Virginio L. Piucci, promotes intellectual exchanges through the comparative study of best-of-practice examples in curriculum, pedagogy, administration, public service and research. The 2008 EAUF conference was held in Liverpool, England, in November.
- HR Houston awarded the UHD's Employment Services and Operations the Impact Award for HR Service Technology. The award recognizes human resource workgroups that create significant business value for their organizations. UHD won in the technology category for its ambitious technology overhaul, spearheaded by UHD's Vice President of Employment Services and Operation Ivonne Montalbano, PHR. The two-year project improved services to employees and managers and provided access to reliable, quantitative data for strategic planning. It also reduced costs and increased the accuracy and integrity of all human resource-related transactions.

UH-Victoria

The 2008 year has seen record growth at the University of Houston-Victoria, in terms of enrollment, programs, faculty development, and funding.

Enrollment growth has continued to be strong, with a 12% increase in Spring of '08 and a fall enrollment of 3,172, a 12% increase over the previous fall, and the first time that UHV has reached the 3,000 mark.

The humanities division attracted national and international attention on several fronts:

- Becoming home to Society for Critical Exchange, the oldest and for many years the only scholarly society devoted specifically to interdisciplinary theories;
- Attracting the FC2 , an independent press devoted to publishing fiction that is overlooked by America's largest publishers;
- Offering a new Certificate Program in Publishing, the only such program in the southern United States;
- Receiving its first National Endowment for the Arts grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the American Book Review Reading Series;
- Developing The Writer's Edge, a writing conference that will bring together writers and aspiring writers with 10 established authors in Cuernavaca, Mexico;

- Receiving an endowment of \$125,000 from The Victoria Advocate for an endowed professorship in the humanities, dependent upon downward expansion; and,
- Being featured in *Inside Higher Education* in an article calling UHV "an unlikely haven for the humanities."

Faculty development through research continued to grow at UHV with faculty members publishing books, articles and delivering presentations.

- Business professor Peggy Cloninger, discovered that her paper "Service Content and the Internationalization of Young Ventures: An Empirical Test," has been in the top 10 most downloaded papers;
- Lee Chao, professor of computer science and math published the book, "Strategies and Technologies for Developing Online Computer Labs for Technology Based Courses;"
- Xavier Garza-Gomez developed a system used to detect falsely inflated profits or embezzlement in a company's accounting;
- Mel Damodaran, professor of math and computer science, presented a paper at an Austrian conference entitled, "Security in Web 2.0 Application Development;" and,
- Nagarajan Ramamoorthy received a Fulbright award to lecture and conduct research in Bulgaria.

In addition to the new publishing certificate, other program development highlights include:

- The RN to BSN program received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to become the School of Nursing and offer a Master's of Science in Nursing;
- A new online graduate certificate in Adult and Higher Education;
- The roll out of Mastering our Future, a partnership between UHV School of Education , Region III Education Service Center, area school districts, community college districts and business leaders program to prepare high school teachers to teach dual credit courses;
- A partnership with Brazosport College's allowing their bachelor of applied technology graduates to earn a Global MBA in one year; and,
- Four additional partnerships with universities in China, in which students begin programs in China and complete them at UHV and expansion of Global MBA with Universidad Internacional in Cuernavaca.

In October, UHV signed cooperation agreements with five Chinese Universities located in the cities of Xi'an, Hangzhou and Qingdao, adding to the four agreements signed last year. These agreements will bring Chinese students to UHV for degree completion in business, and arts and sciences. Currently, 18 Chinese students are at UHV, with

another 50 students expected by Fall 2009. In three years, it is anticipated that UHV will enroll 400 students from China as a result of these partnerships.

- The new athletic teams generated enthusiasm after an outstanding inaugural season both on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The Jaguars Softball team was recognized as a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Scholar Team (NAIA) for maintaining a team grade-point average above 3.0. The NAIA recognized UHV as a 2007-2008 Champions of Character Institution. Mentoring students in the Victoria ISD are among the many activities which brought UHV athletes this recognition.
- The National Fastpitch Coaches Association recognized six members of the 2007-08 UHV softball teams for excellence in the classroom. These players achieved a 3.5 or better grade point average for the school year. Recognized are Kristen Lindley, Lindsey Ferguson, Ashley Falco, Brittany Faas, Whitney Damborsky and Samantha Campagna. UHV was recently recognized by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics as a 2007-2008 Champions of Character Institution for actively instilling high standards of virtue in its student athletes.

Grant funding this past year has increased to over \$2 million dollars, including grants from the Greater Texas Foundation, the National Endowment from the Arts, the Fred and Mable R. Parks Foundation, the M. G. and Lille A. Johnson Foundation and Alcoa Foundation.

Significant progress and decisions were made this past year related to the downward expansion of UHV to a four-year destination university.

- All major internal and external stakeholder groups went on record supporting downward expansion;
- A strategic plan was developed to achieve downward expansion, beginning with existing facilities;
- The 17-member Commission on Expanding Access to Higher Education, co-chaired by Welcome Wilson (UHS BOR Chairman) and Ron Walker (The Victoria College Board Chairman) recommended the UHS BOR authorize UHV to seek enabling legislation to achieve downward expansion and develop a memorandum of understanding between UHV and The Victoria College (VC) that outlines the partnership between the two institutions in the event of downward expansion; and,
- An Affiliation and Partnership Agreement, fulfilling the MOU recommendation of the commission, was signed between UHV and VC to address mutual considerations necessary to facilitate the proposed expansion of UHV into a four-year university without adversely affecting VC.