

RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2011

UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Preliminary enrollment figures as of Monday, August 15, show a 3.2% increase system-wide, from 58,188 on the same date last year to 60,025 this year. Enrollment figures by university as of August 15 were:

UH 36,956 (up 3.3%)
UHCL 7,588 (up 3.2%)
UHD 11,495 (up 1.5%)
UHV 3,986 (up 6.6%)

■ The newest member of my Cabinet, **J. Richard Walker**, will officially be on board in September following your approval of his appointment earlier this afternoon. In late-July, I named Dr. Walker to fill the position of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, UH System, and Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Houston. He brings vast experience - most recently at the University of Miami - as a strong proponent of student engagement programs and problem-solving to support student success. At UM he oversaw the design and development of a \$68 million student center project that includes a new student activities center and the renovation and expansion of an existing university center. We welcome Dr. Walker to the UH System and to UH and look forward to his vision and expertise as we continue our drive for excellence in all areas of student success.

■ In July, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine's annual list of the "Top 100 Colleges for Hispanics" ranked three of our UH System universities in various categories.

--UH, number 15 for conferring bachelor's degrees and number 16 for conferring doctorates to Hispanic students.

--UH's College of Optometry, number 1 among optometry programs.

--UH's Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, number 3 among architecture programs.

--UH's Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, number 10 among communication programs.

--UH's Bauer College of Business, number 10 in business programs and number 8 in marketing programs.

--UHCL, number 61 among those universities awarding master's degrees to Hispanic students.

--UHD, number 36 among institutions granting bachelor's degrees to Hispanics

--UHD, number 7 in business and marketing programs

--UHD, number 8 in multi/interdisciplinary studies.

Five UH graduates who earned their bachelor's degrees in 2009, 2010, and 2011 have received prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. The three-year fellowships cover tuition and include \$30,000 annual stipends. One of the students will pursue her master's degree at UH, while the other four will continue their studies, or are already attending, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Yale, Cornell, and Johns Hopkins.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

■ As you are all undoubtedly aware of by now, UH has been named as “one of the best colleges in the nation to work for” by The Chronicle of Higher Education. This ranking, announced last month, came as a result of a survey of nearly 44,000 employees at 310 colleges and universities. UH joins 84 other four-year institutions and 26 two-year institutions on the annual list, which recognizes the best practices of elite groups of colleges based on enrollment size. UH received recognition among large universities for its policies in diversity, collaborative governance, teaching environment, and respect and appreciation.

■ The fall semester starts with new leadership in the College of Education. **Robert McPherson** has been selected as the new Dean of the College of Education. Formerly the college's Executive Associate Dean, McPherson oversaw the college's academic affairs, business operations, and administrative support services. He is a previous chair of the Department of Educational Psychology and director of training of counseling psychology. He succeeds **Robert Wimpelberg** who served as dean for 11 years.

■ One of the criteria by which we will continue to be judged for national recognition is the number of members of National Academies among our faculty. In July, we attracted the nation's foremost petroleum engineering academic in the nation. He is **John Lee**, a National Academy of Engineering member noted for his work on oil and gas reserve regulations. He is the first tenured faculty member in UH's growing petroleum engineering program, and will hold the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Chair. His appointment come on the heels of the opening of the ConocoPhillips Petroleum Engineering Building in the UH Energy Park, which will house the rapidly growing undergraduate program. Professor Lee comes to us from Texas A&M University, where he held the L.F. Peterson Chair in Petroleum Engineering. He will help shape the emerging petroleum engineering program, which is slated to become a department, and will start teaching next week.

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After a long and valiant battle against brain cancer, **Arthur Warga**, beloved and respected former Dean of the C.T. Bauer College of Business, passed away August 7. Dean Warga faced the most difficult challenge of his life with dignity, self-assurance, and grace - an inspiration to all of us. His dedication to his students and strong leadership of the college was legendary, and he will be truly missed by the Cougar family. His legacy will live on through the students and faculty members whose lives he touched, his research contributions, and the key role he played in elevating Bauer's national status and prestige.

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UH-CLEAR LAKE ACHIEVEMENTS

- UHCL has been recognized by Modern Healthcare as the number one “Top Business Graduate School for Physician Executives.” Programs were evaluated based on cost, duration, number of days students must spend on campus, age and the number of program graduates.
- For the visual delight of students, faculty, staff, and visitors, the new UHCL Pearland Campus now boasts an art collection of its very own. The Founding Collection of Art at UHCL Pearland Campus was selected and installed earlier this summer after an extensive juried competition. Twenty-seven pieces from 19 artists were chosen to adorn the hallways, lobbies, and offices at the satellite campus. A policy established in 1966 by the Board of Regents and UH President **Philip Hoffman** mandates that 1% of the construction costs of all future building projects be earmarked for the acquisition of works of art. With the addition of the Pearland Campus works, the UH System’s public art collection now numbers close to 400 pieces.

UH-DOWNTOWN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The College of Public Service’s Urban Education Department received a Guiding Star Award from the Houston Chapter of Parents for Public Schools in the category of Educational Partners and Organizations. The award recognized the UHD partnership with Lone Star College and various school districts in the Houston area to assist teachers’ aides and teachers’ assistant staff members in earning their bachelor’s degrees and becoming certified teachers.
- **Adrian Hopkins**, a veteran who saw duty in Iraq, became the first student to graduate from UHD’s Insurance and Risk Management Program. To mark the occasion, President Bill Flores presided over a special ceremony in his office.
- UHD has established a partnership with Lone Star College-Kingwood’s Atascocita Center so students can obtain a Bachelor of Business Administration in general business degree. Once students complete their core courses through Lone Star College, they can take required classes for the BBA degree offered through UHD at LSC-Kingwood’s Atascocita Center.

UH-VICTORIA ACHIEVEMENTS

- Following Board of Regents confirmation earlier this afternoon, **Philip D. Castille** is now the new UHV President. A veteran educator, respected scholar and experienced administrator, he was the former special assistant to the chancellor at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Previously, he served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at that institution. he also served as a professor of English at the University of Houston-Downtown from 1981 to 1994. President Castille brings a wealth of administrative experience, academic insight, and personal commitment to the ideals of higher education, which he will apply to our efforts to help UHV fully realize its potential as a destination university. Castille earned a Ph.D. in English from Tulane University as well as a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and English. He has a master’s degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has held positions at Tulane, the University of

Memphis, Louisiana Tech University and Eastern Washington University, where he was the founding dean of the College of Arts & Letters. Our thanks go to the search committee, chaired by UH-Clear Lake President **William Staples**, and our gratitude to **Don Smith**, who served with distinction as President on an interim basis since August 2010.

■ GetEducated.com, known as the “go-to” source for recognizing exceptional online education offerings, ranked UHV’s among the top five programs in affordability compared with other regionally accredited universities across the nation. In-state students pay an average of \$22,740 at UHV for an online bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree in computer information systems. By comparison, the average cost for an online IT bachelor degree or online computer science degree is \$46,758, according to the study. GetEducated.com first recognized UHV in 2004 when it ranked its Strategic Master of Business Administration fourth as a “Best Buy” in regionally accredited universities across the nation.