

RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2010

NEWS FROM THE UH SYSTEM

■ I start my report with a review of the **2010 UH System Statistical Profile** (copy attached). Some of its highlights are the record enrollments at the four UH System universities, record number of degrees granted, and record amounts of research awards attained during 2010.

■ During this past month, I had the opportunity to visit UHCL, UHD, and UHV for **informal meetings with students, administrators, and staff**. I was extremely pleased to witness first-hand the pride and enthusiasm across the campuses.

■ This December, **we expect to graduate 5,685 students system-wide.**

--UH	2,690 will graduate at three ceremonies on December 17
--UHCL	991 will graduate on December 18
--UHD	1,520 will graduate on December 19
--UHV	484 will graduate on December 11

President's Medallions will be awarded to **Beth Madison** and to the **Reverend William Lawson** at the UH commencement.

■ In the face of the uncertainties presented us in the form of budget constraints, all of us must remain conscious that maintaining – and even enhancing – **student success is our number one priority**.

■ The **budget reduction process is ongoing at the four UH System universities**. But in spite of the budget situation, we must continue to move the needle through clever application of staff resources and asset utilization. At UH, in response to an email to faculty and staff inviting suggestions and ideas for cutting costs, some 150 replies were received in just the first three days. The emails are being posted here: <http://www.uh.edu/president/communications/budget-discussions/index.php/> Even though some of the suggestions are UH-specific, many of them, dealing with how to cut energy costs and the costs associated with the purchase of office supplies, for example, could be applied at UHCL, UHD, and UHV.

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

■ For the second time in four years, the **Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship** at the C. T. Bauer College of Business has been ranked the best of its kind in the nation, landing at the top of *The Princeton Review's* list of leading undergraduate

entrepreneurship programs in the United States. The center is No. 1 on the list of the Top 25 Undergraduate Schools for Entrepreneurs. The program was ranked No. 1 in 2008 and No. 2 in 2007 and 2009. **William Sherrill** is the program's founding director.

■ **Mark A. Smith**, chairman of the department of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Arizona, has been named dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics after a national search. Under his leadership, the department achieved a ranking in the top 15 research-funded departments nationally. He also was actively engaged in university restructuring and cost-savings initiatives. Smith earned a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Oregon in 1976, an M.S. degree in organic chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978 and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Colorado in 1982. He will begin his new duties on January 1, 2011, leading a college with more than 180 ranked faculty, nearly \$26 million in annual research expenditures and more than 4,500 students. Among his initial goals, Smith said he plans strong growth in the medical- and energy-related sciences in NSM.

■ Ground was broken November 3 on the **Health and Biomedical Sciences Building**, and the grand opening of the **Michael J. Cemo Hall** is scheduled for December 10.

■ ABB Inc, SuperPower Inc., and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Brookhaven National Laboratory have received a \$4.2 million grant from the DOE to develop a superconducting magnet energy storage system device that could revolutionize the nation's electrical power grid. **Venkat Selvamanickam**, M.D. Anderson Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Applied Research Hub of the Texas Center for Superconductivity at UH, will lead the university's efforts.

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

■ **Emily Messa**, assistant vice president of university services, was appointed to the city of Houston Clean City Commission. The commission's mission is to educate and to build community partnerships and awareness of how people can be proactive in preserving Houston.

■ During the spring 2010 semester, **students from the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and the School of Arts Graphic Communications Program** teamed up to help change the face of Japhet Creek park through a design project. The effort, led by architecture professor **Patrick Peters** and graphic communications professor **Cheryl Beckett**, has been awarded the Mayor's Proud Partner Award. Presented annually through Keep Houston Beautiful, the award honors projects that enhance and beautify the city. Using biodegradable and recyclable materials, students designed and fabricated signs, benches and other amenities for this unique natural refuge near downtown Houston.

■ Alumna **Elizabeth Warren** ('70), Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law at Harvard University, has been named President Barack Obama to serve as the special assistant to the president and special adviser to the secretary of the treasury on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

NEWS FROM UH-CLEAR LAKE

- The **UHCL Pearland Campus** officially opened in August 2010 with 530 students. That figure contributed to the record Fall 2010 enrollment of 8,111 students, a 6% increase over Fall 2009, and a record for UHCL. The satellite campus, on Pearland Parkway south of Beltway 8, is part of a land-lease agreement between the UH System and the City of Pearland. The Pearland Economic Development Center is also housed in the facility.
- UHCL received unanimous approval for accreditation of its **Master of Arts in Behavior Analysis** program offered by the School of Human Sciences and Humanities. Following a report from two on-site visits that included student interviews, and a recommendation for approval, the Accreditation Board of the Association for Behavior Analysis International granted accreditation for the program through 2015.

NEWS FROM UH-DOWNTOWN

- UHD's nationally recognized **Scholars Academy** has won a five-year, \$450,000 federal grant from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to increase the number of underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics who enter programs in the nuclear science arena. The grant will allow the creation of pipelines from UHD to schools with graduate programs in nuclear sciences, nuclear engineering, and nuclear medicine. The grant will pay for scholarships, research stipends, conference-related expenses, and other costs associated with mentoring students each year.
- 12 UHD students are participating this semester participating in the **Civic Houston Internship Program** in UH's Hobby Center for Public Policy. The students are working in the offices of U.S. Representative Al Green, Texas Representatives Jessica Farrar and Sylvester Turner, the Houston Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations, several Houston City Council members' offices as well as non-profits.

NEWS FROM UH-VICTORIA

- UHV significantly surpassed its goal of attracting 200 underclassmen to the Victoria campus for the Fall 2010 semester, with **more than 300 freshmen and sophomores enrolled**.
- Two of the master's-level counseling programs offered by the **School of Education & Human Development** received national accreditation for the first time after a rigorous two-year review. The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs accredited the Master of Education degrees in both community and school counseling. **Lawrence Rossow** is the school's dean.
- **UHV's softball team** was recognized as a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Scholar Team. For a team to be considered for the award, it must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.