

RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
MAY 7, 2014

UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

■ The four UH System universities will award a total of 7,595 degrees at 14 commencement ceremonies this weekend and next.

University of Houston

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Doctoral | 127 |
| Professional | 401 |
| Master's | 1,176 |
| Bachelor's | 3,235 |
| TOTAL | 4,939 |

UH-Clear Lake

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Doctoral | 5 |
| Master's | 541 |
| Bachelor's | 645 |
| TOTAL | 1,191 |

UH-Downtown

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Master's | 34 |
| Bachelor's | 1,007 |
| TOTAL | 1,041 |

UH-Victoria

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Master's | 173 |
| Bachelor's | 251 |
| TOTAL | 424 |

GRAND TOTAL 7,595

■ I have announced the appointment of a [Sugar Land Transition Team](#) which has three objectives: 1) Support UH-Victoria's goal of becoming a destination university; 2) Build a viable University of Houston branch campus Sugar Land; and, 3) Explore an organizational arrangement that meets the UH System's commitment to serve its extended communities with speed, innovation, and flexibility. **Dana Rooks**, Elizabeth Rockwell Endowed Dean's Chair and dean of libraries, will serve as executive planning director. Community forums in Victoria and Sugar Land are being held, and the transition team is expected to issue its report in October.

- Nearly 25,000 students have enrolled in our three inaugural MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Classes in calculus and statistics, developed by UH, started on March 17 to help high school students prepare for the AP exams. Enrollment has exceeded 15,000, and students continue to enroll daily as we draw nearer to the AP Exams on May 9 and 12. The third course, developed by UHV, is designed for high school teachers and administrators looking to improve their classroom management skills. It was launched on April 7 with 5,000 students, and its enrollment continues to grow as well.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

- Four nationally and internationally competitive awards have been bestowed on UH faculty members.

Ange Mlinko, assistant professor in the Creative Writing Program, has been awarded a [Guggenheim](#) Fellowship. She was one of only 173 individuals in the United States and Canada selected for this honor from among 3,000 applicants.

Nicolás Kanellos, Brown Foundation Professor of Hispanic Studies and director of Arte Público Press, has been awarded the [Enrique Anderson Imbert](#) lifetime achievement award from the North American Academy of the Spanish Language for contributing to the knowledge and dissemination of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture in the United States.

Abinadi Meza, assistant professor of art in interdisciplinary practices and emerging forms, is the recipient of a [Rome Prize](#), presented by the American Academy in Rome. He is one of only 30 arts and humanities professionals to receive this year's award, and one of only four selected from 500 applicants for visual arts fellowships.

Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate and Sam and Cele Keeper Endowed Professor in Peace and Social Justice in the Graduate College of Social Work has been selected as a 2014 recipient of the prestigious [Olof Palme Medal](#) for her work in support of human rights and in banning anti-personnel landmines.

- UH Athletics continues to make the news, in the classroom as well as the playing fields. Twenty-five percent of student-athletes are currently on the Dean's List. As of today, our Cougar baseball team is ranked No. 13 nationally, the highest since 2003. Our men's golf team is seeded No. 2 in the NCAA regionals. And our men's outdoor track and field team won the 2014 American Athletic Conference Championship, the first American team title in UH history.

- Just a little over a year since it opened, the Health and Biomedical Sciences Center building has won the Houston Business Journal's 2014 [Landmark Award](#) in the medical project category. The award recognizes real estate projects that improve Houston's image.

- *The Princeton Review* has included UH in its 2014 "[Guide to 332 Green Colleges](#)" for the fifth consecutive year. The guide lauds UH for promoting environmental literacy and sustainable behavior on campus, including the installation of 61 filtered water refill stations to

reduce the use of plastic bottles. These stations have helped prevent 500,000 bottles from reaching landfills.

- The [Welcome Wilson History Collaborative](#) has been created in the UH Center for Public History. It is funded thanks to a generous gift from **Welcome W. Wilson, Sr.**, UH alumnus and former chairman of the UH System Board of Regents. The newly named collaborative (formerly known as the Houston History Project) will continue to publish Houston History magazine. Additionally, the collaborative manages the UH Oral History of Houston, the UH Houston History Archives and UH Memories Documentary Films.

UH-CLEAR LAKE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Houston Endowment presented the second \$500,000 installment of a \$1 million grant awarded in support of UHCL's transition to a four-year university. The funds have made a significant impact on the expansion of services offered by Academic Advising, the Placement Testing Center, the Office of Veteran Services, the Student Success Center, and the Math Center. Expanding its academic offerings to include freshman- and sophomore-level coursework is the most significant development in the university's history since its opening in fall 1974.

- More than 2,000 prospective students have applied for freshman- and sophomore-level admission to UHCL since the university began accepting applications in August 2013. UHCL's first-ever freshman class will be welcomed to campus in Fall 2014. The university anticipates that 300 to 400 freshman and sophomore students will enroll.

- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency awarded a \$204,300 grant to UHCL's Environmental Institute of Houston to study the water quality of Texas rivers and streams. Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science **George Guillen**, executive director of the institute, will lead a team of scientists, graduate students, and student interns to conduct the study, which will provide data for use in a statewide and nationwide EPA assessment of streams and rivers.

UH-DOWNTOWN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) awarded the College of Business a full five-year extension of its initial [accreditation](#). Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education, and has been earned by less than 5 percent of the world's business programs.

- The Harris County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Criminal Justice Training Center in the College of Public Service to prepare candidates for law enforcement positions. Certified Texas Commission on Law Enforcement instructors will provide cadets with basic peace officer training, qualifying them for the Texas Peace Officer License Exam. The center has one of the

state's highest passing averages on the exam. The program also allows for cadets to complete a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at UHD.

■ **Janusz Grebowicz**, associate professor of natural sciences, was selected for a 2014-2015 [Fulbright](#) U.S. scholar grant to Poland. Also, recent graduate **Adolfo Lara**, who is enrolled in a doctoral program in comparative biology at the American Museum of Natural History, was selected by the National Science Foundation to participate in its prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship Program. In addition, former student **Ali Nomani** was selected to participate in the Urban Scholars Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where he will pursue a master's degree in education.

UH-VICTORIA ACHIEVEMENTS

■ **Raymond V. Morgan, Jr.** has been named interim [president](#). Prior to his appointment, he was president emeritus and professor of mathematics at Sul Ross State University. He served as the 10th president of Sul Ross from 1990 to 2009 and was the first president of the university to come from within the ranks of its faculty. After that, he was special assistant to the vice chancellor and president-designate of the University of North Texas at Dallas until August 2010.

■ An accreditation review team with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges [visited](#) UHV and renewed the university's accreditation for the next 10 years without any findings. This is a significant achievement and we applaud UHV for this success.

■ After a record year in which new freshman enrollment increased 14 percent and the number of students with SAT scores greater than 1,000 increased by 44 percent, UHV Student Affairs and Enrollment Management has implemented strategic efforts to increase freshman enrollment for Fall 2014 by at least 20 percent. Concerted efforts across the division have led to a more personalized recruitment experience for freshmen. These include financial aid award letters going out earlier, the use of both priority queries and Free Application for Federal Student Aid school-ranking data, and improved on-campus registration days. UHV's goal is to have more than 400 freshmen for the fall semester.