

RENU KHATOR
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2014

UH SYSTEM ACHIEVEMENTS

- A total of 89 certificate, bachelor's degree completion, and master's degree programs are being offered [online](#) by the four UH System universities. They range from a Professional Land Management Certificate offered by UH-Downtown, to a BBA in Healthcare Administration offered by UH-Victoria, and from an MS in Engineering Management offered by UH-Clear Lake, to an M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision in Higher Education offered by UH.

- The UH System is partnering with Coursera to offer three Massive Open Online Courses (**MOOCs**) free of charge. Two classes developed by the University of Houston, in calculus and statistics, are set to start in March to help high school students as they prepare for the AP exams. Enrollment for these two courses grows by the hour – 5,000 this morning, 6,000 projected by Friday, and 7,000 by next Monday. Registration continues through March 17. The third course, developed by UH-Victoria and designed for high school teachers and administrators who are looking to improve their classroom management skills, will launch in April. Courses on human space flight and ethics in science will be launched soon. As the only participating partner from Texas, the UHS has the most upcoming courses of the 10 public universities nationwide that joined Coursera last year. We hope to see a combined enrollment of 10,000 students in these initial offerings.

- Higher education opportunities for students in the region continue to expand through the UH System teaching centers, in fulfillment of our mission to serve our region and our state:
 - The UH Digital Media program is the latest of eleven UH programs brought to **Sugar Land** over the last three years, and is up and running with over 250 enrollments.

 - More space, courses, and sections are being added at the **Northwest Campus** to accommodate increasing UH enrollments (up from 374 in Fall 2010 to 1,686 in Fall 2013). Plans call for adding graduate programs in engineering and geosciences.

 - The UH Bauer College of Business will offer its Executive MBA in Fall 2014 at the University Center in **The Woodlands**. UH-Downtown and UH-Victoria offer courses there, and this marks the return of UH to The Woodlands after a four-year hiatus.

 - The UH Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management will begin offering a complete BS degree program in hotel and restaurant management in **San Antonio** in Fall 2014, in partnership with St. Philip's College.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Five distinguished teachers and scholars from across the nation, representing Phi Beta Kappa, concluded a three-day site visit last week to assess UH's readiness to be approved for a PBK chapter. They met with faculty and student groups to evaluate our academic programs, co-curricular opportunities, student engagement, residential life, and undergraduate research. I thank BOR Chair Jarvis V. Hollingsworth, Regents Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., Peter K. Taaffe, and Benjamin P. Wells, and former BOR Chair Welcome W. Wilson, Sr., for their participation during the visit. The former Chair's participation was particularly appreciated, as it demonstrated the continuity that the BOR represents in the life of the university.

■ Former head coach Guy Lewis' induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame last September fired up our [sports programs](#) across the board. **Baseball** is off to a 7-0 start, including four shut-outs and a 3-0 win against No. 11 Rice two weeks ago. The men's **basketball** team knocked-off No. 17 Connecticut on December 31 at Hofheinz Pavilion in the first American Athletic Conference game for both programs. The women's **tennis** program is off to a spectacular start at 7-1, including the defeat of its highest ranked opponent since 2008 with its win over No. 40 Washington last Sunday. The **softball** team is also off to a great start, 9-2, outscoring their opponents 94-31 during those 11 games. And the men's indoor **track and field** program was recently ranked for the first time in program history. On the academic front, student-athletes set a record for cumulative GPA for the third straight semester in Fall 2013, raising the department's cumulative GPA to 2.95

■ After six years of planning and 18 months of construction, students celebrated the opening of [Phase I](#) of the new \$53 million University Center last month. Phase I includes a new home for the Student Government Association, Student Senate Chamber, campus resource centers, student involvement offices, a 450-seat theater, a two-level Barnes and Noble bookstore, game room, and food court. A World Trade Center Memorial and Reflection Garden also opened. A steel beam from the fallen towers, acquired through the efforts of SGA and the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, is on permanent display on the site.

■ Four UH researchers have been named as fellows of the [National Academy of Inventors](#). They are:

- VP for Research and Technology Transfer **Rathindra N. Bose**,
- Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School **Dmitri Litvinov**,
- M.D. Anderson Chair Professor of Physics and principal investigator at TCSUH **Zhifeng Ren**, and
- M.D. Anderson Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering and director TCSUH's Applied Research Hub **Venkat Selvamanickam**.

In addition, Professor Ren is one of four Texas researchers honored with the Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Science from The Academy of Medicine, Engineering & Science of Texas.

- On February 11, I participated in the official opening of a UH [admissions office](#) in McAllen, which will facilitate the recruiting of students from the Rio Grande Valley. State Senators Eddie Lucio and Juan Hinojosa, State Representative Armando Martinez, Pharr Mayor Leopoldo Palacios, and McAllen Mayor Jim Darling were in attendance, as well as local business leader and UH alumnus Alonzo Cantú, who championed the opening of the office.

- The MS degree in Subsea Engineering offered by the Cullen College of Engineering is now completely online. The program focuses on the design and maintenance of the infrastructure and tools used in offshore petroleum exploration and retrieval, and is designed for professional, working engineers. The online option allows engineers throughout the nation and the world to earn a master's in the field.

- An exciting partnership between the Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre and UH was announced last month, resulting in the Alley performing its entire 2014-2015 [season](#) at UH's Wortham Theatre. This will offer an outstanding opportunity for thousands of first-time visitors to experience our campus, as well as valuable learning interactions between School of Theater and Dance students and Alley actors, designers, and production technicians.

UH-CLEAR LAKE ACHIEVEMENTS

- The U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$1.7 million grant to strengthen UHCL's programming initiatives for first-time students.

- **Zbigniew Czajkiewicz**, Dean of the School of Science and Computer Engineering, and **Andrew Yang**, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems, received Silver Achievement Medals from NASA's Johnson Space Center in recognition of their work with area organizations and companies in establishing the UHCL Cyber Security Institute.

- More than 1,300 prospective students have applied for freshman-level admission since UHCL began accepting applications last August. Administrators, faculty and staff look forward to welcoming the first-ever freshman class in fall 2014 as the institution marks its 40th year in service to the region.

UH-DOWNTOWN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education has selected UHCL as one of 12 national founding institutions as a pilot for its Gateways to Completion™ (G2C™) process, a program that allows faculty and staff at participating institutions to analyze student and institutional performance in lower-division gateway courses (history, English, algebra and others). Lessons gleaned from the pilot will benefit students in courses across the curriculum.

■ The City of Houston and UHD celebrated Citizenship Month in November. The citywide initiative is an annual volunteer-driven celebration that celebrates Houston's civic diversity and has grown from two events with 100 participants only five years ago to thousands of participants at activities and events throughout the Greater Houston area. Dr. Noël Bezette-Flores, executive director of UHD's Center for Public Service and Family Strengths, founded the initiative in 2009 and is its co-chair.

■ UHD has launched the Center for Critical Race Studies, housed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences under the leadership of Dr. DoVeanna Fulton. The goal of the Center will be to produce scholars and citizens who are equipped to critically, actively, and effectively engage racial issues confronting a technologically changing world. The Center will serve UHD, its students, and the community through teaching, research, the facilitation of public discourse, and the cultivation of social empowerment.

UH-VICTORIA ACHIEVEMENTS

■ UHV had its best enrollment ever this academic year with Fall 2013 headcount reaching 4,491, and Spring 2014 preliminary headcount totaling 4,303 (in the past five years, spring enrollment has grown by 32%). Most of the growth can be found on the Victoria campus, where student population has nearly tripled since freshmen and sophomores were added in Fall 2010. Not only is UHV's undergraduate enrollment up 9% from Spring 2013 to Spring 2014, but 89% of this fall's freshmen were retained in the spring.

■ Construction started in December on a three-story, 63,000-square-foot Academic & Regional Economic Development Building. The \$12.5 million project is UHV's first new academic building in more than a decade. UHV also purchased nearly five acres of land for \$4.23 million across from its campus, where the university plans to construct one or two additional academic buildings on the land.

■ Several national ratings organizations have recently recognized UHV for its online degree offerings. UHV's online undergraduate programs were ranked for the first time ever by U.S. News & World Report, at No. 131 in the publication's 2014 rankings of the Best Online Bachelor's Programs. This was the second highest in the state, out of nine Texas universities on the list. The Master of Business Administration program was ranked No. 161 by U.S. News among online graduate business programs, and the School of Nursing was ranked No. 295 for its Master of Science in Nursing program. GetEducated.com ranked the online Bachelor of Business Administration degree No. 1 in Texas and No. 8 in the nation, and Create a Career ranked UHV No. 10 in the nation on its list of 20 Best Affordable Online BBA Degree Programs.