



## **RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

---

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • March 2018

## University of Houston System Achievements

### Public Art of the UH System Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Stella Masterwork

The creation and installation of **Frank Stella's** "Euphonia" in UH's Moores Opera House was celebrated at an event attended by more than 700 community members. The event included a visit by the artist and a panel discussion on the importance of art in public spaces. With 687 works, the UHS public art collection ranks among the top five university-based collections in the nation.

### Victoria College Joins Houston GPS

Victoria College is the latest institution to join the **Houston Guided Pathways to Success (GPS)** alliance, a regional collaboration of colleges and universities established in 2015 to increase college completion rates and streamline student transfer between two- and four-year institutions. Houston GPS is led by the University of Houston, and all four UH System universities are participants in the program.

## University of Houston Achievements

### Online/Hybrid Core Activity Increasing

Students continue to routinely use online and hybrid courses at UH to augment conventional classes, with **60 percent** of undergraduates and **21 percent** of graduate (and law) students taking **at least one such course** during the spring semester, according to the Center for Academic Support and Assessment. The number taking at least **two online or hybrid courses** is **30 percent** for undergrads and **9 percent** for grad students.

### UHin4 Earns Statewide Recognition

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has presented a **2017 Star Award** to the **UHin4** program for making exceptional contributions to the **60x30TX** plan to increase the number of Texans with college certificates or degrees. UHin4 is improving graduation rates at UH by offering a four-year fixed tuition plan and enhanced academic advising. In 2017, **71 percent** of the incoming freshman class chose to participate in UHin4.

### Graduate College of Social Work Gets \$5M Grant

A **\$5 million** grant has been awarded to the UH Graduate College of Social Work to establish a center to enhance HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in Texas and four other Gulf Coast states. Gilead Sciences, Inc. is funding the project to create the **SUSTAIN Wellbeing COMPASS Coordinating Center**. This is part of **\$9.7 million** in grant funding received this last quarter for UH research initiatives.

### Hackerman Award Goes to Chemistry Engineering Professor

**Jeffrey Rimer**, associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, is the recipient of the **2018 Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research** for his discovery that a natural fruit extract can dissolve the most common component of kidney stones. The annual award is given to recognize the accomplishments of chemical scientists in Texas who are early in their careers and includes a **\$100,000 honorarium**.

## Hurricane Harvey Support

To date, the University of Houston has disbursed nearly **\$1.2 million to more than 600 students** from various accounts established to provide relief for those seriously impacted by Hurricane Harvey, including the Cougar Emergency Fund.

## Cougar Athletics Win National Recognition and Rankings

The UH Swimming & Diving program, under the direction of Head Coach **Ryan Wochomurka**, recently earned its second straight American Athletic Conference Championship (AAC), followed by placing 13 team members on the All-Conference team. Not long after, the UH men's squad claimed their fourth straight AAC Indoor Track & Field Championship while the UH women took fifth for a second straight top-five finish. Kudos to Head Coach **Leroy Burrell**. Our baseball team, under Head Coach **Todd Whitting**, has enjoyed a national ranking in the Top 25 while the UH men's basketball team brings its **24-6** regular season record and a No. 21 national ranking into the AAC Championship this week. Led by Head Coach **Kelvin Sampson**, who was just named **AAC Coach of the Year**, this is the first time the team has been ranked in both national polls since 1984 season. The team is expected to receive a bid to play in this year's **NCAA Tournament**.

## UH-Clear Lake Achievements

### Approval Granted for Mechanical Engineering Degree

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted UHCL approval to offer a **Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree** beginning this fall to help meet area industries' growing demand for trained engineers. The university expects to admit 50 students in the first program year and 55 in the second.

### New \$66M STEM and Classroom Building Set for Fall Opening

UHCL's new building for science, technology, engineering and mathematics classrooms and laboratories is on schedule to open in the fall. The **\$65.7 million STEM and Classroom Building** will include 15 teaching labs for the newly established mechanical engineering and other science programs. It will also house 12 specialty rooms for mechanical-engineering projects, computer-aided drafting, 3-D printing and more.

### Online MBA Business Programs Ranked for Value Quality

UHCL's online MBA program ranked in the **top 43 percentile of U.S. News & World Report's 2018 survey** of online MBA programs. The online bachelor's business degree program ranked in the top 50 percentile of the canvass. In 2017, UHCL redesigned the MBA program from a standard 16-week course length to an eight-week format. A student can earn an MBA online in as little as 14 months by taking two courses per eight-week session across fall, spring and summer semesters without sacrificing academic quality.

## UH-Downtown Achievements

### Students Talk with Orbiting Astronaut Aboard the ISS

UHD hosted an ISS In-Flight Downlink, connecting the University to the International Space Station for a live Skype chat with astronaut and educator **Joe Acaba** in February. From space, Acaba answered students' questions on STEM education and what it's like to be an astronaut. This dialogue was the culmination of a partnership between UHD's Urban Education Program and NASA's Department of Education.

### UHD Continues to Be Center for Public Discourse

This spring, the UHD launched its **Gator Grit Speaker Series**. Its first event focused on leadership during Hurricane Harvey and included Houston Fire Chief **Samuel Peña**, Harris County Sheriff and UHD alumnus **Ed Gonzalez** and meteorologist **Jeff Lindner**. The University also hosted several legislators during a House Committee on County Affairs hearing focused on emergency response. Additionally, UHD continued its partnership with ABC13 by hosting a Town Hall Meeting addressing the city's ongoing recovery from Harvey. UHD President **Juan Sánchez Muñoz** was among the panelists at this event, which was streamed live.

### More than \$600,000 Raised to Help Harvey-Affected Students

Fundraising efforts bolstered UHD's assistance to students who are recovering from Hurricane Harvey. Recent gifts included \$280,000 from the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund managed by the Greater Houston Community Foundation, and \$100,000 from Strada Education Network. In all, more than **\$600,000** has been raised to support Harvey-affected students' higher education goals with scholarships, work-study opportunities, case management, behavioral health care and more.

## UH-Victoria Achievements

### New RN to BSN Program Graduates Students, Honors Faculty Member

UHV's new Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is moving ahead. The first group of 10 students graduated in December. Additionally, **Karen Camargo**, clinical assistant professor of nursing, was awarded the first UHV Nursing Program Johnson Foundation Endowed Professorship last fall thanks to a grant from the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Foundation.

### NAIA Recognizes Soccer Team with Champions of Character Award

The UHV men's soccer team received the **National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Buffalo Funds Five-Star Champions of Character Team Award**. The award recognizes a team with members who display exemplary character and sportsmanship on the field or court, on campus, and in the community. The men's soccer team is the second UHV sports team to earn the Champions of Character Team Award. The UHV baseball team earned recognition last spring with the Hank Burbridge NAIA Champions of Character Team Award for baseball.

### Students Continue to Give Back to the Community

UHV students spent time cleaning up trash and debris in Rockport, a coastal town devastated by Hurricane Harvey, during the annual **Jags Join In: Day of Service**. The Student Government Association also hosted its **15th annual Giving Tree donation drive** to benefit two Victoria nonprofit organizations – Adopt-A-Pet pet adoption center and Mid-Coast Family Services, which works to eliminate family violence, homelessness and substance abuse. The Giving Tree allowed UHV students, faculty and staff members, and community members to donate items to the organizations by placing them under one of two decorated Giving Trees on campus.

