



Renu Khator • Chancellor's Report

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • November 2015

University of Houston System Achievements

Sugar Land Transitions to Full UH Campus

Bob McPherson has been named Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Operations at the UH Sugar Land and UH System at Cinco Ranch campuses. He remains Dean of the UH College of Education. Dick Phillips, who served as Associate Vice Chancellor for System Initiatives for seven years, will assist in the transition as Associate Provost for Outreach and Community Engagement.

UH-Clear Lake is completing its last semester at Sugar Land, allowing it to focus on downward expansion at its Pearland campus. UH-Victoria is developing plans to relocate select programs from Sugar Land to Katy, while continuing to focus on downward expansion in Victoria. UHV's Nursing program was successfully transitioned to UH this fall.

A \$12 million campaign to fund startup costs for new UH academic programs in Technology, Education and Business has received a \$3 million pledge from the George Foundation and \$250,000 grant from the Parks Foundation.

Sugar Land Campus Footprint to Expand

UH is in the process of acquiring approximately 16 acres of TxDOT property contiguous to the campus – literally its “front door” – thanks in particular to the support of State Rep. Rick Miller and State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst. UH Provost Paula Short, with the assistance of Patricia Benton Oliver, Dean of the UH Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, is leading the effort to develop the campus master plan, which will reflect the change from a UH System teaching center to a UH campus.

Enrollment Growth in Northwest Campus, Sugar Land

UH-Downtown and UH have experienced substantial enrollment growth at the Northwest Campus. UHD reports 7,275 semester credit hours for Fall 2015, up 31.5% from Fall 2014 and up nearly 60% since the initial Fall 2012 semester. UH reports 4,581 semester credit hours for Fall 2015, up 16.3% from Fall 2014. UH is also experiencing tremendous growth at the Sugar Land campus, with nearly 9,000 semester credit hours for Fall 2015, up 115% from Fall 2014.

University of Houston Achievements

UH Proudly Welcomes PBK Chapter

After a rigorous three-year evaluation process, the efforts of a dedicated faculty organizing committee came to fruition October 9 with the announcement that UH had been granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. William Monroe, Dean of the Honors College, and Andrew Davis, Director of the Moores School of Music, co-chaired the committee. To qualify for a chapter, UH faculty had to demonstrate excellence at the highest level in undergraduate arts and sciences education. The process required approval from multiple bodies of the national PBK organization, including the PBK Senate, which voted unanimously in favor of granting the UH faculty permission to shelter a chapter. Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary. Nationally, only 286 colleges and universities are PBK institutions. Twenty-six colleges and universities applied during this triennial cycle, with just three winning approval. Previously, UH faculty had made formal applications as early as the 1980s.

Yet Another National Academy Member Calls UH Home

Since 2008, UH has attracted 11 members of the National Academies to UH. The most recent addition to this roster of distinguished scholars and researchers is Maurice Brookhart, a member of the National Academy of Science, who joined the chemistry faculty this fall. He came to us from the University of North Carolina and holds degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Those Unstoppable Cougars

After a spectacular win over Memphis last Saturday, the Houston Cougars remain the lone undefeated program in The American Athletic Conference and one of five remaining undefeated teams in the nation. The only remaining undefeated coach in his first year with a program, Tom Herman became the first coach in Houston history to start his career 10-0, topping the previous best of 8-0 from John Jenkins in 1990. Reflecting the success of the football program, Greg Ward Jr. received his official letter from the Heisman Trophy Trust signifying he is a candidate for college football's most coveted individual award. Ward becomes the fourth UH quarterback to be named a Heisman candidate, joining Andre Ware, David Klingler and Case Keenum. Ware won UH's only Heisman in 1989.

Kudos to 2016 Distinguished Alumni Honorees

Winners of the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards have been announced. They are William Brookshire ('57, M.S.'59, Ph.D.'61), co-founder and chairman of S&B Engineers and Constructors, Ltd.; Billy Ray Brown ('85), on-course reporter for the Golf Channel and

commentator for CBS Sports; Alan Gershenhorn ('82), chief commercial officer of United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS); The Honorable Jarvis V. Hollingsworth (J.D. '93), partner at Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP, and immediate past chair of the UH System Board of Regents; Pamela O'Rourke ('95), president and chief executive officer of Icon Information Consultants; and Brent Spiner (F.S. '71), actor.

An Accreditations Sweep

UH's two newest engineering programs – petroleum engineering and biomedical engineering – have been accredited by ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). Sought by universities world-wide, ABET's voluntary peer-reviewed process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in disciplines where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance. With these two latest accreditations, all of the Cullen College of Engineering's eight undergraduate programs are ABET-accredited.

It's True... It Pays to Get an Education

Two recent rankings validate the claim that a degree from UH leads to professional and personal success. The inaugural edition of the Princeton Review's "Colleges That Create Futures" guide includes UH among only 50 universities nationwide so ranked. PayScale, which features 40 million salary profiles, listed UH among Texas institutions producing top earners. The UH Law Center earned the No. 3 spot among the "best graduate schools in Texas by salary potential," and the Bauer College of Business was No. 8 on the same list.

UH-Clear Lake Achievements

First U.S. News & World Report Ranking for UHCL

For the first time in its 40-year history, UHCL was included in the U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings as one of the Best Regional Universities in the West, a major milestone for UHCL, which became a four-year university in fall 2014. For the second consecutive year, UHCL has been designated a 2016 Military Friendly® school by Victory Media, originator of Military Friendly® education and career resources for veterans and their families.

Highest Enrollment Ever

UHCL experienced its highest enrollment in its history in Fall 2015, with 8,906 students. Total undergraduate enrollment grew to an all-time high of 5,743, which includes 273 freshmen and 420 sophomores rounding out the second year for UHCL as a four-year university.

Prestigious Physics Recognition

UHCL took its place this fall among graduate physics programs recognized as American Physical Society Bridge Program partnership sites. UHCL has been a member of the APS Bridge Program for three years and is now one of only 10 institutions recognized as a partnership site, including Columbia University, MIT, Princeton University and University of Chicago. APS representatives who visited UHCL earlier this year encouraged David Garrison, Program Chair and Associate Professor of Physics, to apply for the designation.

UH-Downtown Achievements

Lumina Grant Focuses on Competency-Based Academic Records

UHD was named one of eight colleges and universities to participate in a pilot project to create new ways to measure students' academic performance. The project is funded with nearly \$1.3 million from the Lumina Foundation. Institutions that have experimented with competency-based education and other new ways to gauge students' academic progress have committed to develop new comprehensive student records.

Civil Rights Activist Cornel West Speaks on Race and Social Justice

Author and civil-rights activist Cornel West visited Houston November 6 to deliver a public program, "Race, America and the Black Lives Matter Movement," sponsored by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and its Center for Critical Race Studies, Cultural Enrichment Center and Departments of Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and English. More than 600 community members, students, faculty and staff filled Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium and several overflow rooms. West urged UHD students to "be a long-distance runner in your education as you learn how to Socratically engage in critical reflection."

Faculty, Staff and Students Participate in Citizenship Month Activities

UHD President William V. Flores served on the host committee of the City of Houston's Citizenship Month. UHD faculty and staff participated in activities including the opening event at Asia Society Texas Center; the 2015 Points of Light Conference on Volunteering and Service; "Our Future: Our World," the United Nations Day 2015 Celebration: United Nations 70th Anniversary; the President's Community Breakfast; the Walk 2 Vote rally featuring Mayor Annise Parker; and a presentation by former U.S. Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry.

UH-Victoria Achievements

Robots Come to UHV

A \$412,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) will help pay for four student research assistants for three years as they study human/robot interaction and the integration of robotics into virtual reality. This is UHV's second grant from the DoD for the study. The first grant for \$191,000 allowed UHV to purchase three robots and other equipment.

Retention, On-Campus Living on the Rise

UHV saw increases in student retention and the number of students living on campus this fall. A record number of students are living in the university's residence halls this year, with an occupancy rate of 92%, up 6% from a year ago. The freshman retention rate also is at an all-time high at more than 60%. Two years ago, the retention rate was 48%.

Director Appointed for New Office of International Programs

UHV has hired [Ludmi Herath](#) as director of international programs, a new position that will oversee recruiting, evaluating and assisting international students with their academic programs. Previously, she was the international student coordinator at Minnesota State University-Moorhead.