

Dear UHCL Alumni,

Happy New Year! On behalf of the UHCL Alumni Association, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The holiday season is always a magical time of year, coupled with kindred warmth, time-honored traditions, and opportunities to both reflect the past year and prepare for the future. As great as 2023 was, this year promises to be our most exciting year, as we have now entered UHCL's 50th anniversary.

This year, the Alumni Association and its representative 78,000+ alumni base will play a pivotal role in helping steward numerous events celebrating the entire year for our 50th anniversary. As referenced in our previous alumni article, the Alumni Association, comprised of alumni volunteers, will maintain focus on the Alumni Celebration, Alumni Engagement, Giving, and Student Success, as we continue partnering with various stakeholders on UHCL's 50th plans.

Last year, we launched new, exciting opportunities to get involved with our association whilst maintaining our core areas of alumni involvement. Below is a quick recap on some of those exciting 2023 accomplishments:

- **Alumni Celebration:** This past fall, committee members selected our UHCL Alumni Award Honorees for the 2023 Alumni Celebration in the categories of Distinguished Alumni, Marilyn S. Sims Leadership Service, Early Achievement, and Outstanding Professor. The association is proud to recognize that all six (6) award recipients for the 2023 honoree class were female, setting the bar very high for future UHCL Alumni Award Honorees.
- **Oral History Project:** You might have been contacted in fall 2023 regarding the Oral History Project, a university initiative that seeks to update alumni information, and document the invaluable experiences and journeys of our esteemed alumni from around the world. This project will soon wrap up the gathering of these wonderful experiences and move into the compiling and publication of our much-anticipated book, due out this summer. Over 7,000 of you have participated in the data verification, and we've collected over 5,000 stories.
- **Fall 2023 Commencement:** This past December, the university conferred over 1,000 degrees to graduates from the colleges of Business, Education, Human Sciences and Humanities, and Science & Engineering. The Alumni Association, represented by Marilyn Sims, '88 B.S. and Juana Rodriguez, 18 B.S., were on hand to personally congratulate and provide the new graduates with their UHCL alumni pins.

As many exciting alumni opportunities available last year, 2024 will be a phenomenal time in continuing to volunteer, or even connect for your first time, with UHCL. This year promises to be filled with excitement and varied opportunities to invest in something magical, as our alumni participate in a year-long campaign to honoring our university's 50th. Stay tuned for more communications to come on those celebrations.

I would like to continue to express my gratitude for your continued support and participation in our Alumni Association. Whether you're interested in meeting other alumni, volunteering, sharing the spirit of UHCL with your family, or engaging with current students, we hope you find an opportunity that

appeals to you. Your 2023 involvement helped strengthen our bond and shape the impact on our university and the lives of its students.

Please stay connected with us through our communication and social channels for upcoming events and important information relating to this year's 50th anniversary celebration. Together, we can continue to write the story of UHCL's vibrant alumni community while promoting core values in academic excellence, university development, Alumni Association growth, and overall student success.

I hope to see you at an alumni event soon – Go Hawks.

Sincerely,

Wayne Sallee, '12 B.S., '15 M.S.
Chair, UHCL Alumni Association