

Fall 2017

Upcoming Events

UHCL Alumni

Welcome Back Bash 2017

Alumni Reception
Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017 | 5:30–7 p.m.
Bayou Bldg., Garden Room

CLASP: Dangerous Straits – The South China Sea: China, Taiwan and the United States in Conflict
Friday, Sept. 1, 2017 | 6-8 p.m.
Bayou Building, Garden Room

Film and Speaker Series:

Hidden Figures
Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017 | 7 p.m.
SSCB Lecture Hall, 1100

Healthcare Administration Open House

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 | 5-7 p.m.
UH-Clear Lake Texas Medical Center
2151 West Holcombe, Houston, 77030

CLASP: The Development of Ellington Airport as a Future Spaceport
Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017 | 6-8 p.m.
Bayou Building, Garden Room

Alumni Celebration

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 | 6 p.m.
South Shore Harbour Resort

Bay Area Heart Walk

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 | 7 a.m.
Kemah Boardwalk
[Register Online](#)

UHCL Bayou Theater

Mercury: The Orchestra Redefined

Bach and Piazzolla
UHCL Bayou Theater
Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017 | 8 p.m.
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Mercury: The Orchestra Redefined

Mendelssohn's 5th
UHCL Bayou Theater
Friday, Oct 6, 2017 | 8 p.m.
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Texas New Music Ensemble

UHCL Bayou Theater

UHCL welcomes Ira K. Blake as fifth university president



On Tuesday, Aug. 1, University of Houston-Clear Lake makes history when it welcomes Ira K. Blake as the university's fifth president - the first female and first African-American to serve in the role.

Blake's early action items are meeting university faculty, staff and community friends, as well as expanding educational opportunities for the Houston area. [Read more...](#)



Alumni Celebration: Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017

Save the date for the annual Alumni Celebration honoring alumni and professors who have made a difference at UHCL and in the community. Support alumni scholarships by purchasing a ticket. Tickets on sale soon.

MESSAGE FROM THE AAEC CHAIR
Quarterly Alumni Updates

Fellow Alumni,

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017 | 7:30 p.m.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

For more information, visit
www.uhcl.edu/bayouthheater.

Update Your Information

Make a Gift Today

Become a Lifetime Member

Class Notes

Craig Cordola, '97 MHA/MBA, was named senior vice president and ministry market executive for Ascension Texas, which is the corporate parent of Providence Healthcare Network in Waco and Seton Healthcare Family in Austin.

Corey Benson, '11 BA, joined UHCL staff as the university's first-ever Title IX coordinator.

Richard Anderson, '77 BS, named CEO of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

Rick Mastracchio, '91 MS, has retired from NASA.

Elaine Parker Adams, '00 MA, has published her second book, *Haiku Bouillabaisse*.

Henry "Hank" Hodde, '12 MS, was named planning and policy manager for Smart Home America.

Tynette Guinn, '07 MS, was appointed principal of the new Secondary Disciplinary Alternative Education School in HISD.

Sameer Pande, '02 MS, was named associate provost for enrollment management and student success at Auburn University at Montgomery.

Submit your class notes by sending an email to alumni@uhcl.edu or by completing the [online submission form](#).

UHCL in the News

Mercury dances in the 2017-18 season at UHCL Bayou Theater
[Read more...](#)

Houston honors UHCL's retiring president
[Read more...](#)

The word "commencement" is usually associated with a ceremony in which degrees or diplomas are conferred on graduating students at the end of their college career. It is one of the most memorable moments in a person's life when they participate in their commencement ceremony and become an alumnus. However, the word actually means new beginnings.

This fall brings many new beginnings to University of Houston-Clear Lake. We welcome Dr. Ira K. Blake as the fifth president of UHCL – the first female and the first African-American to serve in the role. As chair of the Alumni Association Executive Council I welcome her on behalf of all UHCL alumni and look forward to helping UHCL through this time of change.

And if you haven't been to campus in a while, it may be quite a shock to see all of the new development going on. The STEM and Classroom Building and Recreation and Wellness Center are well underway at UHCL and plans are in progress for the Health Sciences and Classroom Building at the University of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland Campus.

With all of these changes, UHCL alumni are getting excited about their alma mater and want to be a part of the action. As chair I often hear, as do the other members of the AAEC, from fellow Hawks about how they'd like to get involved in the Alumni Association or give back to UHCL, but that they're not really sure what to do or where to start. That's where AAEC members can help.

Your Alumni Association is here to help you find ways of getting involved and giving back that are the most meaningful to you. From attending events and planning activities to making financial gifts to scholarships and endowments to help current UHCL students achieve their dream of a college degree, there is a place for every Hawk to help our university soar.

To keep up with all the latest alumni association news, events and activities, visit www.uhcl.edu/alumni and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to connect with other UHCL alumni and get updates on events and activities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the UHCL Alumni Association at 281-283-2021 or alumni@uhcl.edu or stop by the alumni association office in the Bayou Building, Suite 1604. I look forward to meeting you at an upcoming UHCL event.

Go Hawks!

Randall Garcia, '88, '96, '14
Chair, UHCL Alumni Association Executive Council



Step Up Your Hawk Pride!

Help make a difference in the community by registering to walk with the 2017 UHCL Alumni Association Heart Walk team at the 2017 American Heart Association Heart Walk on Saturday, Oct. 28 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Kemah Boardwalk. There is no cost to register, but donations and pledges are encouraged. Friends and family are welcome to sign up with the alumni team, too! For more information, contact Richard Zalesak at 281-283-

2032 or zalesak@uhcl.edu. [Register online](#).



Welcome Back Bash: Alumni Reception

Catch up with your fellow UHCL grads at a private alumni reception on Friday, Sept. 1 from 6-8 p.m. in the Bayou Building, Atrium II, Level 2. Sponsored by Saint Arnold Brewery with food provided by Red River BBQ and music by Molly & The Ringwalds!

Donor Spotlight: Karen Fiscus, '12 MA

Enduring Support Makes a Difference

New law requires license for applied behavior analysis
[Read more...](#)

UHCL alum's passion for books ignites students, educators
[Read more...](#)

Toy Story: UHCL artist is serious about play
[Read more...](#)



“
The people at UHCL
all come together for
a purpose. With that
commitment, there's
a joy to it. I like to
add to that joy.

”

Art has been a lifelong passion for Karen Fiscus, '12 MA. Although an arts lover, she began her educational career in veterinary medical research. After getting married, several moves and raising her daughter to school age, she began taking ceramics courses at University of Houston–Clear Lake as a non-degree seeker. It was there she met her mentor, ceramics professor, Nick De Vries. He pointed out that she was doing all the work to earn a degree without getting the credit for it. Making an easy decision, she took the GRE, enrolled and began working as Nick's instructional assistant.

Karen enjoyed the quality of UHCL's art programs, the facilities and small class sizes, which allowed one-on-one instructor attention. With Nick's mentorship, she evolved from making simple pottery to pieces that show her artistic innovation and style and earned a master's of arts in humanities in 2012. Along the way, Karen transitioned from an instructional assistant to the coordinator of the UHCL Art Gallery. Her love for the arts and the university helped build a legacy of consistent support at UHCL. [Read more...](#)

New Card, New Benefits!

We are introducing the new UHCL Alumni Association membership card. As a graduate of UHCL, you are automatically a member with no dues required. Your official membership card gives you access to a variety of benefits and services. [Request your new card today!](#)



Carrer Corner: The Intern: The Source for Getting the Job

by Shawn P. McCann, '02 MA



As humans, we are social creatures. Many of us do so in the center of a complex web of relationships and work constantly to negotiate the connections between resume style, companies to work for, job market and society in general.

As a college graduate or someone on the brink of graduation, what do you do when it's time to pick a career—or a job to get you to that next level in life? How do you make the ultimate position of your dreams manifest when after the interview countless representatives at companies pop up and say, "Thank you for meeting with us, and even though your skills are great, we've decided to go with a candidate that is closer to our needs." Sounds familiar, right? If it doesn't, chances are it will. [Read more...](#)



Returning to this fall is “Visions in Our Midst”, a free distinguished lecture series that brings in speakers from around the Houston area to lead discussions on a wide variety of topics. For a complete schedule, visit www.uhcl.edu/clasp.

(281) 283-2021 | alumni@uhcl.edu | 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058

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On Tuesday, Aug. 1, University of Houston-Clear Lake makes history when it welcomes Ira K. Blake as the university's fifth president - the first female and first African-American to serve in the role.

Blake's early action items are meeting university faculty, staff and community friends, as well as expanding educational opportunities for the Houston area.

"My first priority is to continue UHCL's evolution into a comprehensive four-year university, mission-focused on the delivery of high-quality educational experiences by outstanding faculty as we prepare all students for meaningful roles and satisfying careers in the Houston-Galveston metropolitan region, state, nation and beyond," said Blake.

Blake joins the university after having served as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania since 2009. Prior to serving at Bloomsburg, Blake was associate vice chancellor for academic and student affairs for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education at Dixon University Center as well as assistant to the president for public engagement at Kutztown University.

She holds a doctorate and master's degree in developmental psychology from Columbia University and a second master's degree in educational psychology from San Francisco State University. Blake received her bachelor's degree in psychology from George Washington University.

"UHCL is a university on the rise and Dr. Blake has the necessary vision to build on our success," said University of Houston System Chancellor Renu Khator shortly after announcing Blake as the sole finalist for the role of UHCL president.

Blake says that one of her overriding objectives is to be inclusive, to listen to all voices and to engage members of the UHCL community.

As a first-generation college student in a family of nine children, Blake says she understands the importance of a college education for all. She credits her sharecropper father and homemaker mother with instilling the confidence in her as well as her siblings that they could do anything they desired.

"My parents always told us to 'own where you come from' and to know that it doesn't prevent you from ending up anywhere you want to be," said Blake.

She noted that having the desire is key, but having the financial support to realize the dream is often difficult.

"We need to look for additional ways to fund education to assure that students can attend the university and can receive a high-quality educational

experience,” she said when discussing affordability as one of the challenges in higher education.

Blake and her late husband raised three children who now live throughout the U.S. She now embraces her role as grandmother to six.

UHCL began welcoming students in 1974 as an upper-level university and has evolved into a four-year university offering more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as three doctoral programs. During the spring, the university broke ground on three buildings including the STEM and Classroom Building and Recreation and Wellness Center at UHCL, and the Health Sciences and Classroom Building at UHCL Pearland Campus.

Find out more about UHCL by visiting www.uhcl.edu.

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Donor Spotlight: Karen Fiscus, '12 MA

Enduring Support Makes a Difference



Art has been a lifelong passion for Karen Fiscus, '12 MA. Although an arts lover, she began her educational career in veterinary medical research. After getting married, several moves and raising her daughter to school age, she began taking ceramics courses at University of Houston-Clear Lake as a non-degree seeker. It was there she met her mentor, ceramics professor, Nick De Vries. He pointed out that she was doing all the work to earn a degree without getting the credit for it. Making an easy decision, she took the GRE, enrolled and began working as Nick’s instructional assistant.

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Every year, for almost a decade, Karen has made charitable gifts to support the arts at UHCL. She consistently supports the UHCL Art Gallery and has helped improve and expand its exhibitions and programming.

Karen says, “ I support UHCL because UHCL has made a difference in my life.”

Donors like Karen know that modest gifts can be meaningful, especially over time. That’s why she makes it an annual priority to give.

“It is my hope others will experience the joy of making a difference, whether it’s smiling at someone in the hallway or making a donation of few dollars. It all adds up,” Karen says.

The baseline of support, each and every year, provided for programs and initiatives throughout the university has been crucial to the success and growth of UHCL. UH-Clear Lake recognizes supporters who give for five consecutive years or more as members of the Enduring Support giving society. At the end of 2016, the university celebrated 187 individuals who had achieved five or more years of giving, including eight donors who’ve given for 20 or more years. We thank them for the consistent commitment they show to UHCL!

For more information about UH-Clear Lake’s giving societies or how to make a gift, visit www.uhcl.edu/giving.

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As humans, we are social creatures. Many of us do so in the center of a complex web of relationships and work constantly to negotiate the connections between resume style, companies to work for, job market and society in general.

As a college graduate or someone on the brink of graduation, what do you do when it's time to pick a career—or a job to get you to that next level in life? How do you make the ultimate position of your dreams manifest when after the interview countless representatives at companies pop up and say, "Thank you for meeting with us, and even though your skills are great, we've decided to go with a candidate that is closer to our needs." Sounds familiar, right? If it doesn't, chances are it will.

Does this mean that other applicants are better than or more qualified than you? No! In many cases, they have the right connections—they know someone on the inside—or they have worked at the organization before.

Many companies like to hire people with experience, especially experience at their organization. Therefore, instead of putting your head down, you must make the effort to get in the door. Whatever company or organization you're dreaming about working for—an internship is the gateway for entry.

Other noteworthy reasons for an internship: It demonstrates that you have experience, initiative and puts you in a better position, against the competition. As a college student, this may require that you work (intern) for a company during the summer. Or, perhaps you may need to work around classes if possible. Also, keep in mind that some internships are during the long semester and may not pay you—except with the experience, of course.

Remember, experience is key and the goal is to work for the company. Therefore, making the connection—the internship—can land you that next opportunity.

For internship opportunities, please visit the Internship Coordinator at UHCL.

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