



**UHCL ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**
University of Houston  Clear Lake

Spring 2017

Upcoming Events

Actors From The London Stage: 'Romeo & Juliet'

March 9-11
7:30 p.m.
UHCL Bayou Theater
[More Info & Purchase Tickets](#)

Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, April 1
Noon - 4 p.m.
Student Lot D/Houston Drive
[Email alumni@uhcl.edu](mailto:alumni@uhcl.edu) to
volunteer

Mercury Orchestra: 'Death & the Maiden'

Friday, April 7
8 p.m.
UHCL Bayou Theater
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Black Violin

Sunday, April 9
7:30 p.m.
UHCL Bayou Theater
[More Info & Purchase Tickets](#)

Alumni Coffee Table

Tuesday, May 2
5:30-7 p.m.
Bayou Building, Atrium II

CLASP Lecture Series- 'Commercial Crew Program: Getting Ready for the Mission'

Thursday, March 2
5:30-7 p.m.
Bayou Bldg., Garden Room
[See a complete schedule of CLASP
lectures.](#)

Update Your
Information

Make a Gift
Today

First Cohort of Hawk Advantage Scholars

Forty Hawks join UHCL under new scholarship



University of Houston-Clear Lake has welcomed the first 40 recipients of the Hawk Advantage Scholarship, the latest addition to the university's scholarship offerings. Initiated in 2015, the Hawk Advantage Scholarship Program is the university's first need-based scholarship for freshmen and reflects the institution's goal to increase community access to higher education. Recipients say the scholarships benefit not just individuals, but entire families. [Read more...](#)



Are you working in Healthcare Administration?

We are looking for UHCL alumni currently working in the healthcare administration industry to help connect fellow UHCL alumni and network locally and nationally. [Update your information](#) to stay up-to-date on events, projects and other opportunities.



Do you wear your Alumni Pin?

At each commencement, graduates are given their UHCL Alumni Pin as they cross the stage. Share your Hawk pride wherever you go by wearing your UHCL Alumni Pin and on social media using #uhclalumni and @uhclalumniassociation. Don't have an Alumni Pin?

[Request a pin today!](#)

Donor Spotlight: Doris Buchan, '02 BS, '08 MS

Class Notes

Ahmed Adu-Oppong, '91 MS, was appointed the Director of the Kintampo College of Health and Well-Being at the University in the Kintampo, Ghana in the Republic of Ghana.

Former astronaut **Col. Michael Fossum**, '97 MS, has been named a vice president of Texas A&M and COO of the Galveston campus.

Kelly Knighton, '94 BS, had been appointed the new administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Dallas regional office.

Rodney Chant, '08 MS, is the new director of athletics for Fort Bend Independent School District.

Vicki Thomas, '83 MS, has been named the new superintendent for Diboll Independent School District.

Michael Van Essen, '06 MS, is the new principal of the Dobie Ninth Grade Campus in the Pasadena Independent School District.

Phillip Lyons, '88 BS, was appointed Dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University.

Megan Marietta, '04 MHA/MBA, has been named CEO of the West Houston Medical Center. The hospital is part of Nashville-based HCA Holdings Inc.'s Gulf Coast Division based in Houston.

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

UHCL in the News

UHCL interim police chief sworn in as permanent chief. [Read more...](#)

Experience art, poetry, fiction at UHCL gallery events. [Read more...](#)

Author, autism advocate Temple Grandin visits UHCL. [Read more...](#)

Read these stories and more on the [UHCL Newsroom](#).



"The university has been very good to me... I wanted to do a little more than before, because I can."

College of Business senior secretary Doris Buchan, '02 BS, '08 MS, transferred to UHCL from a community college in 2001 to finish junior and senior-level courses and earn her bachelor's degree in business administration. By 2003, she started to work in the College of Business advising office. Even after earning a master's in counseling from the College of Education, she decided to continue working for the College of Business. She enjoys assisting students when they come to see their advisers and preparing their advising documents. [Read more...](#)



Distinguished Alumna, Susan "Sue" Garman, passes away

1993 Distinguished Alumna, Sue Garman, '89 BS, passed away on January 8, 2017. Sue was a supporter of education and the arts in the community. Sue and her husband Jack, who recently passed in September 2016, have been loyal donors to the university for over 25 years. [Give to the Susan H. and John R. Garman Hawk Advantage Scholarship Endowment at UHCL.](#)

Career Corner: Boosting Your Resume

by Kimberly Campbell, '87 BBA, '92 MBA, '05 Distinguished Alumna



Did you know that spring and fall are the best times to apply for a job? It's no surprise that hiring is a seasonal process, with summer break and winter holidays bringing many job searches to a grinding halt. So, now is the perfect time dust off your resume whether or not you are actively seeking a new position. As the owner of a marketing and public relations firm, I am regularly asked to develop personal resumes and company profiles. [Read more...](#)



William A. Staples Hawk Advantage Scholarship Endowment

Established in tribute to Dr. Staples' long legacy of leadership and service to UHCL, the William A. Staples Hawk Advantage Scholarship Endowment is offered to incoming freshmen who are entering college for the first time and who demonstrate unmet financial need. [Support future Hawks today!](#)



Hawk Advantage Scholars: First Cohort

Forty Hawks join UHCL under new scholarship



University of Houston-Clear Lake has welcomed the first 40 recipients of the Hawk Advantage Scholarship, the latest addition to the university's scholarship offerings.

Initiated in 2015, the Hawk Advantage Scholarship Program is the university's first need-based scholarship for freshmen and reflects the institution's goal to increase community access to higher education.

Recipients say the scholarships benefit not just individuals, but entire families.

"I have been able to cover my own expenses," said UHCL student Abraham Sanchez, who plans to pursue a career in criminal justice. "My family has been able to remain economically stable without having to worry about anything but my success."

Linda Pineda Santos, an education student, echoed similar thoughts.

"My plans were grants and loans, but when I was informed that I was receiving a scholarship, I was beyond thankful," she said.

Another recipient, Vanessa Lara, said her scholarship will support her goals to give back to her hometown of Pasadena as a school psychologist.

"I want to work in the Pasadena School District because I want to help out my community," she said.

The Hawk Advantage Scholarship is designed to support incoming UHCL freshmen through all four years of an undergraduate education at UHCL, awarding up to \$2,500 per year to recipients who continue making progress toward their degrees. The scholarship is renewable up to four years for a total of \$10,000. Applicants must be Texas residents and recent high school graduates who have unmet financial need.

More than 500 donations have supported the Hawk Advantage Scholarship Program so far. University leaders have set a goal to build a \$5 million endowment for the program by 2020, which would support 100 or more students each year.

UHCL's new program was founded in response to changes in the Houston-Bay Area region. The Texas Education Agency reports that as of the 2014-2015 school year, 57 percent of the region's K-12 students are economically disadvantaged, a 47 percent increase in 10 years. And, according to the American Council on Education, rising costs of tuition make it more difficult than ever for these students to continue education after high school. In 2013, less than half of low-income recent high school graduates enrolled in college, the council reported.

The Hawk Advantage Scholarship Program seeks to make higher education attainable for students regardless of their family's income, said Associate Vice President for University Advancement Rhonda Thompson.

"The Hawk Advantage Scholarship Program complements the university's New Hawk merit-based scholarship, providing financial support to students who need it most — expanding the university's impact within communities with the highest economically disadvantaged student populations," she said.

Executive Director of Financial Aid Billy Satterfield said 170 students applied for the scholarship in its first year, reflecting the need for the program.

"Students who have a desire for higher education and have a financial need to achieve that goal can benefit from the Hawk Advantage Scholarship," said Satterfield.

"The great thing is, it's a renewable scholarship. It shows how committed UHCL is to these students and to helping them achieve their dream of earning a degree," added Assistant Director of Financial Aid Joshua Trevino.

To contribute to the Hawk Advantage Scholarship Program or to learn more, contact University Advancement at www.uhcl.edu/giving or 281-283-2021.

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Donor Spotlight: Doris Buchan, '02 BS, '08 MS



College of Business senior secretary Doris Buchan, '02 BS, '08 MS, transferred to UHCL from a community college in 2001 to finish junior and senior-level courses and earn her bachelor's degree in business administration. By 2003, she started to work in the College of Business advising office. Even after earning a master's in counseling from the College of Education, she decided to continue working for the College of Business. She enjoys assisting students when they come to see their advisers and preparing their advising documents.

Soon after coming on staff, she began making gifts to UHCL through payroll deduction. Over her time at UHCL, she's invested in the Four-Year Initiative, scholarships for students and staff members, the College of Business and the President's Fund.

When asked why she supports UHCL, she said "the university has been very good to me. I've been a student and a staff member, and I hope to be a retiree one day. I wanted to do a little more than before, because I can."

Faculty and staff contributions to the university take many forms, from the discovery of new ideas, to training the professionals of our future, to the mentoring of our talented students. We are so grateful for our entire team and the role they play in enriching our community. A significant percentage also supports UHCL with charitable gifts. In the 2016 academic year, 71 members of our faculty and staff invested in UHCL's growth. Added together, they contributed over \$41,000 to 35 different programs, scholarships, colleges and departments.

How does faculty and staff giving make a difference?

7.3%

faculty and staff made a gift to UHCL in the 2106-17 academic year – higher than any other group at UHCL!

The most obvious way is the direct investment in UHCL. The biggest benefit went to scholarships – faculty and staff donors gave more than \$27,000 in 2016. This was split between direct scholarship funds and investing in endowed scholarships for the future. They also supported programs and centers throughout the university from TAPS to CADD and the Art Gallery to the Neumann Library. They supported every college and the President's Fund, too.

Another way faculty and staff giving makes a difference at UHCL is through the vote of confidence in our mission and growth. Gifts from faculty and staff are an endorsement of the university, announcing to alumni, friends, foundations, and corporations that UHCL is an institution worthy of support and that support begins at "home." That endorsement also shows our students we believe in their dream.

Thanks to Doris and all the faculty and staff who make it a priority to support UHCL!

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Carrer Corner: Boosting Your Resume

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Did you know that spring and fall are the best times to apply for a job? It's no surprise that hiring is a seasonal process, with summer break and winter holidays bringing many job searches to a grinding halt. So, now is the perfect time dust off your resume whether or not you are actively seeking a new position.

As the owner of a marketing and public relations firm, I am regularly asked to develop personal resumes and company profiles. Here are some of my top tips to ensure you are using a professional, technology-friendly resume.

Conquering the Robot – Most all large companies use an Applicant Tracking System tool to filter through thousands of resumes. If this HR machine doesn't see key words that match the job profile, your resume is apt to be trashed no matter how amazing the credentials. To beat the beast, include a three-column highlights section that has about 12-16 bulleted words specifically called out in the job description and matching your experience. Update these words for each position you pursue.

Adding Elements – Most of the client resumes I develop include color with graphical treatments that set them apart from traditional formats. Color selection is aligned with common industry pallets or personal favorites. For example, softer colors, such as turquoise and purple, evoke a sense of calm and are ideal for jobs in the creative field; whereas trust-building colors, such as green and grey, are suitable for the finance industry. Using these colors in borders, separation lines, bullets or section headers helps break up the monotony of a text-heavy page, making it more pleasing to the eye.

Enhancing Layout – Order the sections of your resume in a way that best reflects your strengths as compared to the competition. Typically, for job changers, experience is listed prior to academic history, organizations and awards. For recent graduates, education is often listed first, followed by any job, school or community experience and leadership roles. For those changing careers or for somebody who has held several roles at one employer, it may be prudent to group experience into relevant topics. Examples include Project Success, Budgeting and Finance, Leadership and Management and Customer Satisfaction.

Getting it Correct – While it seems obvious that no resume should be submitted without a triple check for proper grammar, spelling and punctuation, you would be surprised how prevalent errors are in resumes. Many people simply update the resume with new experience and never revise the entire document for flow, accuracy and role continuity that displays growth, advancement, skill and unique ability. Have others provide feedback on your resume. Review it online and in printed form. Once in solid condition, tweak it regularly to align with each application.

Sending it Out – Develop an electronic stationary template that mirrors the same colors and treatments as your resume. It can be used for the cover letter, thank you notes and for any supplemental documents you might include with a resume. As I recommend holding resumes to a two-page limit, supplemental documents are ideal for long-list items such as publications authored, clients supported, awards won, patents obtained, work samples and more. Unless directed otherwise, always send out resumes, letters and supporting documents in .pdf format. This ensures that page breaks, text, margins and all formatting and content are frozen in place, like a picture, and won't be displayed differently regardless of computer brand, software or printer setup.

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