



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

Summer 2018

Upcoming Events

UHCL Alumni

Welcome Back Bash

Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018 | 5-8 p.m.
Recreation and Wellness Center
www.uhcl.edu/alumni/events

UHCL Bayou Theater

Stay turned for the announcement
of the 2018-19 season on June 15th!

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

Update Your Information

Make a Gift Today

Become a Lifetime Member

Class Notes

Haley Hedderick, '04, '12, is new
Webmaster at Frisco ISD.

Lee Holmes, '97, was named CEO of
Imperial Health, LLC in Lake Charles,
LA

Lynne Phillips, '03, is the new
archivist for MacMurry College and the
Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the
United Methodist Church in
Jacksonville, IL.

Kristi Koncaba, '97, '05, was
appointed to the Texas Mutual
Insurance Company Board of
Directors by Governor Greg Abbott.

UHCL spring commencement ceremonies May 20 at NRG Arena



Nearly 1,300 University of Houston-Clear Lake students are expected to graduate this spring semester. Of those, approximately 1,100 plan to cross the stage at two commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 20, at NRG Arena, 1 NRG Park, Houston. A total 582 will receive bachelor's degrees; 480 will receive their master's degree and 14 will receive doctorate degrees.

At noon, the College of Business will confer degrees to 297 candidates; the College of Human Sciences and Humanities will honor 307. Alumna Mary Anne Brelinksy, president of EDF Energy Services and managing director of EDF Trading North America LLC, will deliver the commencement address. EDF is an international firm that manages large-scale electricity and natural gas assets.

At 5 p.m., 165 candidates in the College of Education will receive degrees, as will 307 in the College of Science and Engineering. The commencement speaker is alumnus Michael Larrañaga, principal consultant at Ramboll, a global sustainability solutions provider. [Read More...](#)



Take Your Seat Campaign

Play a leading role in the transformation of the Bayou Theater! By naming a seat at the UHCL Bayou Theater during this renovation campaign, you become a leading supporter of the arts in Clear Lake. Your one-time contribution of \$1,000 per seat will make a lasting impression for generations of Bayou Theater patrons. For

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

Mundi Ball: May 19, 2018

Support the UHCL Art Gallery expansion by attending the Mundi Ball on Saturday, May 19, 2018. Enjoy tapas, an open bar with a signature cocktail and live classical Spanish guitar. A silent auction

Edrel Stoneham, '09, was named Dean of Student Services of Victoria College.

Ricardo Espinoza, '01, has been nominated for the national 2017-18 LifeChanger of the Year award as superintendent of LaMoille Community Unit School district in LaMoille, IL.

Paul Huizinga, '00, has been appointed to Office Managing Director for Accenture in Calgary, AB.

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

UHCL in the News

Expansion of facilities, opportunities progress at UHCL Pearland Campus
[Read more...](#)

UHCL's exercise and health sciences degree offers career options, work experience
[Read more...](#)

Community partner's support for Bayou Theater enables program expansion
[Read more...](#)

UHCL alum inspires future leaders through endowment
[Read more...](#)

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

THE UHCL ART GALLERY PRESENTS THE

Mundi Ball

will offer UHCL faculty/alumni-created artwork, fun packages and more. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.uhcl.edu/mundiball

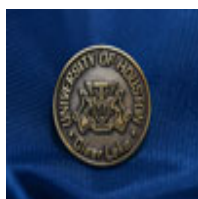
Alumni Spotlight: Marilyn

Lunney, '93 MA

Alumna Supports Extended Educational Opportunities at UHCL



Marilyn Lunney, '93 MA, is an exceptional alumna with many "firsts" in her life. She was the first female school board president of Friendswood Independent School District and the first elected female judge in mainland Galveston County. In 2004, she became the first recipient of the UHCL Alumni Association Leadership Service Award in recognition of her service and volunteerism on behalf of our university and our community. We are moving ahead boldly because of the investments and commitments of alumni like Marilyn. [Read more...](#)



Request Your Pin

The UHCL Alumni Association pin is presented only to UHCL alumni as a symbol of the fact that they are important to the university. They are the university's representatives in their chosen fields and in their communities.

[Request a pin!](#)

Save the Date: 2018 Alumni Celebration



Mark your calendars for the 2018 Alumni Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018 at South Shore Harbour Resort.

Persistence

by Mitali Paul, '05 MHA/MBA

Career Corner: Grit = Passion +



When we talk about attributes or “soft” skills that play an important role in determining success, grit is somewhat of an unknown. Recently I was introduced to Angela Lee Duckworth’s TED talk about her research on “grit” as a predictor of success in work and life. The dictionary defines grit as “courage and resolve; strength of character”. When you think about successful leaders – having a values-based character, a strong passion for and commitment towards a vision, and the resilience to achieve it, is what stands out. Your professional journey is a marathon and not a race. To be in it for the long haul is success (not just the milestones along the way), and it takes more than just talent or intelligence. Passion can drive you to graduate school or to innovate and start a company, but it is perseverance that will help you succeed and thrive. Now can grit alone get you there? Probably not, but lack of grit surely will not! [Read more...](#)

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Alumni Spotlight: Marilyn Lunney, '93 MA

Alumna Supports Extended Educational Opportunities at UHCL

Marilyn Lunney, '93 MA, is an exceptional alumna with many “firsts” in her life. She was the first female school board president of Friendswood Independent School District and the first elected female judge in mainland Galveston County. In 2004, she became the first recipient of the UHCL Alumni Association Leadership Service Award in recognition of her service and volunteerism on behalf of our university and our community. We are moving ahead boldly because of the investments and commitments of alumni like Marilyn.

In 2007, Marilyn was named a Distinguished Alumna because of her substantial contributions to society and for accomplishments within her career that brought significant credit to UHCL. That same year, she and her husband, Glynn, received the President’s Cabinet Leadership Award recognizing the significant donations the Lunney’s have made to UHCL and the sense of philanthropic leadership that inspires other alumni, friends and community partners to give as well.

Marilyn’s career path has been unique, beginning with serving as a registered nurse in Ohio. While at the Lewis Research Center, she met and later married aerospace engineer Glynn Lunney. The Lunney’s relocated to Houston when NASA established the Manned Spacecraft Center, which would become Johnson Space Center. Marilyn set deep roots in her adopted hometown and would go on to be the school board president of Friendswood ISD, and then as an elected judge of mainland Galveston County. Glynn was a member of the Flight Operations Division for Project Mercury as well as flight director at NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC) during the Gemini and Apollo space programs, including the historic missions of Apollo 11 and Apollo 13. Glynn served as manager of the Apollo-Soyuz Test project and the Space Shuttle program.

But for all those accomplishments and accolades, she’s most proud of the success of her marriage and family. She and Glynn have four children; Glynn, Jr., a law school professor, textbook author and giver of Ted Talks; Jennifer, a veterinary cardiologist; Shawn, '92 MBA, a Hawk alumnus and chief operating officer of a genetic testing company; and Bryan, former flight director for NASA and now vice president at Odyssey Space Research. Their children and grandchildren were on hand when Marilyn and Glynn recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

Marilyn and Glynn have made an impact supporting the JSC History Center archives housed at UHCL’s Neumann Library. These records cover more than fifty years of NASA manned spaceflight, JSC general records, oral histories, handwritten notebooks from mission controllers, and even thermal tiles and a Space Shuttle tire used in live missions. The Lunneys have also personally contributed books and photo albums related to the space industry, especially the Apollo program.

Education is very important to the Lunneys, who have established the Lunney Family Scholarship Endowment for students in the College of Science and Engineering pursuing degrees in aerospace fields. Marilyn says they wanted to help give a boost to students with great potential who might not be able to go to college because of their unmet financial need.

Marilyn’s passion for education isn’t limited to those pursuing degrees. In 2002, Marilyn and several of her close friends began developing a lifelong learning program for senior citizens, hosted at UHCL. She wanted to offer a casual continuing education program to involve and engage community members in a wide variety of topics. Clear Lake Association of Senior Programs (CLASP) was created to open opportunities for senior citizens to learn about subjects that they may not have had time to experience while working, raising their families or may have never heard about before.

Drawing on her personal network of aerospace professionals, local officials, law enforcement officers, healthcare personnel, UHCL faculty and alumni and even her own family (Glynn and Glynn, Jr. have been presenters), Marilyn partnered with UHCL to arrange hundreds of presentations in the past 15 years. Most presentations were at UHCL, but programs were also held at the Bay Area Community Center, Clear Lake’s Freeman Library and two venues in Pearland to reach an even wider audience.

The engaging and thoughtful speakers volunteered their time to present and answer questions on topics ranging from local history to American sign language, the space program to climate change and healthcare reform to feng shui. Marilyn declined to pick a favorite presentation from her time coordinating the series, but especially enjoyed the stories of ordinary people involved in extraordinary events. She does admit that the presentation by survivors of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor took her breath away.

Marilyn is quick to acknowledge the colleagues and friends who served as advisors and helped keep CLASP running for the past 15 years, but we

truly thank Marilyn for her service to UHCL on behalf of all the attendees who were educated and entertained. Thanks to the entire Lunney family for the all the time, talents and treasures they've chosen to share with UHCL.

With partners like Marilyn, we will boldly go forward.

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Carrer Corner: Grit = Passion + Persistence

by Mitali Paul, '05 MHA/MBA



When we talk about attributes or “soft” skills that play an important role in determining success, grit is somewhat of an unknown. Recently I was introduced to Angela Lee Duckworth’s TED talk about her research on “grit” as a predictor of success in work and life. The dictionary defines grit as “courage and resolve; strength of character”. When you think about successful leaders – having a values-based character, a strong passion for and commitment towards a vision, and the resilience to achieve it, is what stands out. Your professional journey is a marathon and not a race. To be in it for the long haul is success (not just the milestones along the way), and it takes more than just talent or intelligence. Passion can drive you to graduate school or to innovate and start a company, but it is perseverance that will help you succeed and thrive. Now can grit alone get you there? Probably not, but lack of grit surely will not!

Duckworth talks about cultivating a “growth mindset vs fixed mindset” in kids and Maxwell talks about cultivating an “abundance mindset vs scarcity mindset” in employees. What both experts are referring to is the ability to inspire people around you to have a positive mindset, change beliefs and behaviors, and influence their passion and perseverance resulting in grit. Increasing research in the area supports that it is no longer an admirable virtue but a sought-after non-cognitive skill, especially in leadership.

It involves staying steadfast on your path, overcoming failures and viewing challenges as opportunities to grow, regardless of the effort involved. It involves risk, sacrifice and self-control. It takes deliberate practice and intentional strategy. As Lincoln said “if I had 8 hours to chop down a tree, I would spend 6 of those hours sharpening my axe.”

Grit is a fascinating word for me personally. I have always appreciated passion and perseverance but to find a word that can articulate both of those significant qualities together is delivering a power packed punch! So, as you take on that next challenge in your personal or professional life, ask yourself if you have the grit to see it through. If you don’t, work on changing your mindset first. And if you do, success should follow...

Mitali Paul is VP of business development with Wiederhold and Associates and adjunct faculty at Texas Woman’s University.

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