

hawk news

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

UHCL ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
University of Houston  Clear Lake

Winter 2018

Upcoming Events

CLASP

"The Oxford of the Floodplain": The Saga of UHCL in (Mostly) Light Verse

Presented by Dr. John Gorman
Thursday, Dec. 6 | 5:30 p.m.
Bayou Building, Garden Room

Learn more at www.uhcl.edu/clasp

UHCL Bayou Theater

Annie Moses Band

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Riders in the Sky

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Kristen Hertenberg

Friday, Jan. 18, 2019 | 7:30 p.m.
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Peacocks and Porches

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019 | 7:30 p.m.
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Mercury: Mozart Symphonies

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019 | 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

Congratulations 2018 Alumni Association Award Winners



Experience the excitement of the 2018 UHCL Alumni Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018!

Family, friends and fun describe the 2018 Alumni Celebration held at South Shore Harbour. In addition to hearing the incredible stories of this year's honorees and meeting more wonderful UHCL alumni, attendees learned about a new Alumni Partnership that will pave the way for alumni to stay engaged near or far. For more information on how to get involved, contact the UHCL Alumni Association at alumni@uhcl.edu.

Every year we strive to recognize alumni and professors who are making in our community. To nominate a fellow Hawk or professor for an UHCL Alumni Association award, visit www.uhcl.edu/alumni/honors-awards. Nominations are due March 30, 2019.

[View Event Photos](#)

SENIOR 2018 SEND-OFF

Senior Send-Off 2018

Senior Send-Off celebrates the summer and fall 2018 graduates on Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 at 6 p.m. Alumni are encouraged to attend and congratulate the newest members of the UHCL Alumni Association. You'll have a chance to take photos at the photobooth, meet Dr. Blake and enjoy refreshments. [Learn More...](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Pam Culpepper, '80 BS, '83 MA

Picture This: 35 Years Behind the Lens

Class Notes

Thelma R. Piper, '08, was named commander of the Louisiana National Guard's 415th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Evelyn Miralles, '92, '12, was named to Latino Leaders Magazine's Top 101 Most Influential Latinos.

David V. Jones, '12, has been named director of advising, career and transfer services at the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata.

Herman Adler, '07, '09, was appointed to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Nancy Ojeda, '96, was selected as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of La Porte.

Scott Glass, '81, was named to Sales Director of Kymeta.

Kate Lightfoot, '03, has been selected as the next ExxonMobil Baytown Chemical Plant manager.

Melinda Stephenson, '93, was named Most Admired For-Profit CEO by The Houston Business Journal.

Odette Bolano, '89, has been named president and CEO of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, ID.

Keri Ward, '09, '13, has been selected as the new principal of Raul Martinez Elementary of Houston Independent School District.

Opie Otterstad, '95, completed his World Champs mural inside Minute Maid Park, to commemorate the Astros' 2017 World Series victory.

Joe Stanton, '05, became Chief of Police for Texas City.

Estela Castillo, '15, was named to the Galveston Daily News "40 Under 40" list.

Heather Minette, '12, '16, published "Half Light", a collection of poems centered on death, loss, joy and hope.

Mark Weatherly, '97, has been named the Director of Secondary Instruction in New Caney Independent School District.

Rebecca Wingfield, '15, was selected as flight director for NASA/JSC Mission Control.

Venitra Senegal, '06, was named instructional officer for the Fort Bend ISD Early Literacy Center.

Christina Lovette, '03, '16, has been selected as the new principal of Whidby Elementary School of Houston Independent School District.

Stephen Chazen, '77, has been named to the University of Houston System Board of Regents.

Written by: Kimberly Campbell, '87, '92



Life Magazine photojournalist, Alfred Eisenstaedt, who was most famous for his 1945 V-J Day in Times Square shot of an exuberant sailor kissing a nurse, once said, "It is more important to click with people than to click the shutter." After thirty-five years serving and photographing the Bay Area Houston community and beyond, Pam Culpepper, of J. Pamela Photography, has clicked with just about everybody. [Read more...](#)



Request Your Alumni Membership Card

As a graduate of UH-Clear Lake, you're automatically a member of the UHCL Alumni Association. If you haven't received your card already, be sure to request yours today to ensure your getting access to a variety of benefits and services. [Request Your Card!](#)



UHCL Faculty Exhibition: Nov. 16 - Dec. 18

You're invited to see UHCL's Faculty Exhibition on display the UHCL Art Gallery. The exhibition, which runs from Nov. 16 – Dec. 18, includes submissions created by full-time and adjunct faculty members from UH-Clear Lake's Art Department. The works represent the faculty's areas of research from

across all media, including ceramics, sculpture, collage, video, photography and textiles. For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/artgallery.

#HawksGivingBack on Giving Tuesday

Support UHCL on November 27, 2018

Cris Daskevich, '97, became the Chief Executive Officer of The Children's Hospital of San Antonio and Senior Vice President of Maternal Services for CHRISTUS Health System.

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

UHCL in the News

Alumna empowers Hawks with contributions to student, STEM scholarships
[Read more...](#)

UHCL alumna brings autism services to Saudi Arabia
[Read more...](#)

UHCL Pearland Campus to offer master's in engineering management
[Read more...](#)

'Tonight Tonight' singer John King takes center stage at Bayou Theater
[Read more...](#)

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

#GIVINGTUESDAY
ONE DAY. ONE GOAL. 200 HAWKS.

Be one of the 200
November 27.
[#HawksGivingBack](#)

#GivingTuesday, a global philanthropy day, is just around the corner!

The #GivingTuesday movement began as a response to the increased commercialism of Thanksgiving. As Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday grew, many people felt it was time to move back towards the true purpose of the holiday, giving thanks. Save the date for this year's #GivingTuesday on November 27, 2018.

University of Houston-Clear Lake joined the movement in 2016, along with thousands of other non-profit organizations around the world. During the first event, 110 alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents and friends joined in and made gifts of over \$13,000 to UHCL. In 2017, we broke our own record when 149 Hawks gave back over \$11,400 to scholarships and programs during #GivingTuesday. They also helped to spread the word by sharing #unselfies on social media letting friends and family know why they chose to donate.

This year is shaping up to be the biggest #GivingTuesday event yet, as we plan for a day of games, and activities, all in the spirit of giving back to UHCL.

Help us reach our goal of over 200 #HawksGivingBack. You can join us in the Bayou Building or our new Recreation and Wellness Center on the main campus or at our remote giving location at the Pearland Campus. If you can't make it out, you can also give online! Find more details at <https://www.uhcl.edu/giving/gratitude-week/giving-tuesday>

We'll make an even greater impact by coming together than any one of us can alone. So mark your calendar now to join other Hawks as we invest in the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Be one of the 200 #HawksGivingBack on November 27.

More than that, we've developed a week of activities to engage our campus community to focus on, celebrate and show gratitude. [Gratitude Week](#) kicks off November 26 and runs through December 1 with events for students, parents, faculty, staff and friends. From writing thank you notes to influential professors to giving back on Giving Tuesday, and a kite festival to Lighting the Letters on UHCL Hill, it is shaping up to be a week of grace and kindness to remember.

For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/givingtuesday or call 281-283-2021.



End of Year Giving

2018 has been an exciting year for UHCL, and we are looking forward to an even more successful 2019! As the year draws to a close, don't forget to make your year-end gift to UHCL today in support of your favorite program or college, university initiative or area of greatest need at UHCL. [Make your gift today!](#)

Hawk Advantage Scholarships: Making a Difference at UHCL



At the University of Houston-Clear Lake, we are committed to maintaining an infrastructure for success! The Hawk Advantage Scholarship is an integral part of that infrastructure, having already made a difference in 108 students' lives. At UHCL every action, every donation, and every event betters the lives of the students who walk through our doors. We want to captivate, engage, and retain full-time students in their first year and beyond. [Read more...](#)

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Alumni Spotlight: Pam Culpepper, '80 BS, '83 MA

Picture This: 35 Years Behind the Lens

Life Magazine photojournalist, Alfred Eisenstaedt, who was most famous for his 1945 V-J Day in Times Square shot of an exuberant sailor kissing a nurse, once said, "It is more important to click with people than to click the shutter." After thirty-five years serving and photographing the Bay Area Houston community and beyond, Pam Culpepper, of J. Pamela Photography, has clicked with just about everybody.

With two degrees from University of Houston-Clear Lake, Pam is a recipient of the 2000 UHCL Distinguished Alumni award. Opening her studio in 1983, she has been immortalizing cherished memories ever since. Corporations and organizations such as Houston Methodist Clear Lake, Space Center Houston, and Lunar Rendezvous Festival have valued her skills as seen throughout marketing materials, area magazines, and newspaper stories as well as adorning the walls of our very own Bayou Building. Thousands of area residents proudly display her framed portraits of families, babies, brides, and graduates in their homes.

Yet, it is not just her images that have captured our hearts; it's her endearing smile, vivacious character, and unflagging support of our university and the surrounding community. "Pam's photographs have been a cornerstone of the UHCL brand and its identity for decades," said former UHCL President, Dr. William A. Staples. "From the professional portraits of the university's distinguished alumni, exceptional faculty, and dedicated staff, to the casual imagery of daily student life on campus, her creative eye has captured the essence of what it means to be a part of a quality academic institution."

Earlier this year, following three and a half decades behind the lens, Pam decided it was time to "shutter" her studio doors. However, she intends to continue her travels with family and friends and stay involved in many community and church activities. "I have been fortunate to have a career that allowed me to do what I love and create art every day," said Pam Culpepper.

Pam credits her success to UHCL, not only from the outstanding education received, but also from the long-standing relationships cultivated through her engagement with the university. "I clearly remember a defining moment in the beginning, while I was shooting a professional portrait of Dr. Rosemary Pledger, former Dean of the School of Business, when she said to me, 'You will be great at this.' It was this simple affirmation of support that encouraged me to continue my journey."

During her extended sojourn at the university, Pam was student president of the UHCL art association; the first ODK inductee, a national leadership honor society; and a student representative on the search committee that hired the university's second chancellor. She served as photographer for the UHCL newsletter and the university's partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville; president of the alumni association; and, most recently, photographer to President Dr. Ira K. Blake for her official university portrait and through to her investiture ceremony.

"Pam's life work epitomizes the community-minded and partnership-oriented philosophy that is a hallmark of UHCL," added Dr. Staples. In addition to her professional and voluntary affiliations with the university, Pam has held many board positions and contributed her services to organizations such as Bay Area Houston Ballet & Theatre, Assistance League of the Bay Area, The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, Bay Area Turning Point Space Center Rotary, and the Houston Symphony. Pam is a Stephen Minister at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church and is a thirty-year member of the

Association of Business and Professional Women who recently endorsed her nomination and subsequent honor by the Federation of Houston Professional Women as a recipient of the 2018 Women of Excellence award.

"Though hard work and luck played a part of my career, I would be forever remiss if I didn't share my loving appreciation to my husband, Peter Cronk, who gets to retire with me," said Pam. "He built what I needed, fixed what I broke, and tirelessly supported my dream."

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While the Hawk Advantage scholarship program has received donations from over 550 generous donors, the number of incoming freshmen with unmet financial need rose an alarming 140% since the program began. With 60% of children in K-12 in UHCL's service area showing extreme unmet financial need, this number is expected to continue growing. Hawk Advantage scholarships help retain first-year students by alleviating the strain of financial difficulty and allowing them to progress toward their dreams.

To be eligible for the scholarship, graduating high school seniors must be admitted unconditionally to UHCL, complete federal and state applications for assistance, and show unmet financial need. Then, as long as the students stay in good academic standing, and remain enrolled full time, they are eligible to renew the scholarship for four years.

Gabrielle Pringle, a recipient of the scholarship, had this to say. "The Hawk Advantage Scholarship pays for two of my classes and my books, which is a lot. I am receiving \$2,500 per year, and it's a relief not to have to worry about paying for books."

To date, the program has established 12 scholarships with over \$1.9M in permanent scholarship investments, to help students just like Gabrielle achieve their dreams of gaining a college education. "I want to graduate in four years with my peers," she says, "If I didn't have this scholarship, I would have to go much slower because I'd have to work so much to pay the fees out of pocket."

[Read more](#) about Gabrielle's journey on the UHCL Newsroom...

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