Welcome, Dwayne!

Greetings from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. I am excited to be at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and to help our alumni reconnect and rediscover their alma mater. Education has played a major role in my life. In 1979, my family moved from Brooklyn, New York, to Texas, first to Alvin, then to Clear Lake. At that time I was only six years old, and I struggled to adjust to my new environment. My mom encouraged me, urging me to focus on my studies, assuring me that a great education would carry me far. She was correct.

I received a great education at Clear Lake Elementary and Clear Lake Intermediate, as well as at Clear Lake High School, where I studied for one year, before moving on to be a member of the first graduating class from Clear Brook High School. Strengthened by the excellent education, advice and encouragement from my teachers, coaches and other supporters, I went off to college in Connecticut, enrolling at Wesleyan University.

Clear Creek ISD has produced many success stories; mine is definitely not the most glamorous. Now, it is my pleasure, as a product of CCISD, to be able to give back to the Bay Area community, which gave me such a strong foundation for success. On Jan. 19, I joined UHCL to lead an awesome team in addressing both fundraising and alumni relations initiatives. This blended approach will benefit our students, our university and, of course, our alumni.

My goal as executive director of development and alumni relations is to sustain and increase the value of your degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and I look forward to getting to know you and working with you.

Go Hawks!
Lynn Richardson, '85 BA, published her 2015 Calendar for ESL teachers.


Timothy Lee Eiler, '90 MBA, now manages the project, program and portfolio management office (PMO) at Park Nicollet Health Services in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Minnesota metro area.

Julie Nicodemus Jones, '08 MA is the Dean of Student Affairs at Gateway Academy in Houston.


Thomas Reyes, '02 BBA, is Project Estimator of Triad Electric & Control in Deer Park.

Kimberly Spinks, '93 MS, was named Senior Vice President and Trust Investment Officer for Texas Bank and Trust in Longview, TX.

Jeff and Judy ('06), Cone welcomed their son Judah Taylor Cone on July 13, 2014, weighing 7lbs 4 oz. and measuring 21 inches long.

Submit your class notes by sending an email to alumni@uhcl.edu or by completing this online submission form.

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UHCL 25th Annual Chili Cook-Off
We are looking for volunteers to join the Alumni Chili Cook-Off team on April 11. Email alumni@uhcl.edu to sign up today!

Soaring Hawk Celebration
We are looking for volunteers to help with event set-up on May 15. Email alumni@uhcl.edu for more information.

Call for Alumni Awards
University of Houston-Clear Lake alumni and professors are making a difference in our community and our world every day as company leaders, educators and innovators. They have built upon what they learned at UHCL and have achieved prominence in their chosen fields.

Each year, the Alumni Association recognizes and celebrates these exemplary alumni and faculty at the Alumni Celebration by awarding the Distinguished Alumni, Early Achievement, Marilyn S. Sims Leadership Service and Outstanding Professor awards. Read more...

Check out a CLASP event
Join us Thursday, Mar. 6 as Orion program manager Mark Geyer leads a discussion about NASA's next spacecraft. For more information, see a complete list of lectures.
50-50 Rule of Interviewing

by Chuck Crocker, Associate Director, UHCL Office of Career Services

Are you ready for your next job interview? Some of the basic preparation steps include effectively presenting your related skills, answering difficult questions, presenting a professional image, and studying the company and job position in detail. However, one tactic missed by many job candidates is not knowing and applying the 50-50 rule. What is the 50-50 rule? Read more...

Alumni Coffee Table - Mon., March 23
Connect with students over a cup of coffee; volunteer for one of our monthly Coffee Tables. See a list of dates.

CALL FOR ALUMNI AWARDS

University of Houston-Clear Lake alumni and professors are making a difference in our community and our world every day as company leaders, educators and innovators. They have built upon what they learned at UHCL and have
achieved prominence in their chosen fields. Each year, the Alumni Association recognizes and celebrates these exemplary alumni and faculty at the Alumni Celebration by awarding the Distinguished Alumni, Early Achievement, Marilyn S. Sims Leadership Service and Outstanding Professor awards.

Honorees join an elite group from all industries and walks of life who have emerged as leaders in their chosen fields. Nominated and selected by fellow alumni, it is an honor for those chosen:

“I was excited, honored and humbled all at once when I received the letter,” says 2006 Distinguished Alumni honoree Darla McKitrick. “I realized there were other UHCL grads who have accomplished so much. I was so proud I was selected and I still very grateful that I was considered worthy of being a Distinguished Alumni.”

A 2012 Distinguished Alumni honoree, Juan Traslaviña remembers when he was notified that he’d been chosen. “When I found out that I was selected as a UHCL distinguished Alumnus, I felt very honored and humbled to be in the company of great leaders and innovators. This award helps me remember with appreciation all the people that invested their time, love and wisdom and continue to support my personal and my professional activities.”

These award-winning alumni know they had help along the way, including exemplary professors who nurtured their growth, challenged them in the classroom and helped them build the foundation they would need after graduation. To recognize and honor these professors, the Alumni Association created the Outstanding Professor Award.

“I was shocked. It was a tremendous honor to be selected as the Outstanding Professor,” says UHCL alumnus and 2014 Outstanding Professor honoree Stephen Cherry. “As a UHCL alumnus, I could not have been prouder, knowing that it in some way I have given back to university that has given so much to me!”

Kim Case, a 2012 Outstanding Professor honoree says “Being chosen for the Alumni Association Outstanding Professor award is an especially important moment for me because the alumni of UHCL must nominate you. That means students took the time out of their busy lives to nominate me for the award. Students are why I do this work, so it makes the award more meaningful than any other.”

If you are a UHCL alumnus and know a fellow alumnus or current professor who has truly made a difference, award nominations are being accepted between now and April 30, 2015. For complete details and nomination forms, visit http://www.uhcl.edu/alumnirelations/Honors_Awards or call the Office of University Advancement, 281-283-2021.
50-50 RULE OF INTERVIEWING

Are you ready for your next job interview? Some of the basic preparation steps include effectively presenting your related skills, answering difficult questions, presenting a professional image, and studying the company and job position in detail. However, one tactic missed by many job candidates is not knowing and applying the 50-50 rule. What is the 50-50 rule?

In the 2014 edition of the book "What Color is Your Parachute," Richard Bolles cites and describes a study conducted by MIT where they found that a job candidate’s chances of getting a job offer increases when the time spent talking by the interviewer and the interviewee is evenly split 50-50. In other words, the interviewer/employer needs to be asked questions as well as asking questions.

In my personal experience in Human Resources and as a manager, so many job candidates seemed unprepared to ask questions. It seemed they felt that they would be the only ones doing the bulk of the talking. This is a huge mistake to make in the job interview. Employers want to know that you are interested in them, and the best way to express that other than saying it is by asking questions about them. So, how does a job candidate get to that 50-50 rule effectively?

1. Ask questions that give you more information about the interviewer, the organization and the culture of the company. A question might be, “Tell me why you like working here?” or, “What do you see as the strengths and challenges facing this department (or company)?” Questions like this are easily answered by everyone in the interviewing process and give the interviewers the opportunity to expound on what they believe about the company. You will want to know this information! This will help you, as a candidate, to make a well-informed decision about what working at this organization will be like. If the interviewers are hesitant to talk about their company and its culture, this could be a red flag.

2. Ask questions about work performance. As a job candidate, it is important that you know what the employers performance expectations are so that, again, you can make an informed decision. Also, you are sending a message to the employer that you recognize that you will need to perform effectively for them.

3. Be consistent with your questions. If you have multiple interviews with different interviewers, keep asking the same core questions. First, everyone in the interview process wants to believe that you value their opinions. Second, interviewers often have different answers. If the answers differ significantly, then red flags may be raised. For instance, if you ask about company culture and one interviewer speaks glowingly, but others do not, then you will want to know why there is a difference of opinion. Is there a rift in the team, or is there a rationale for why some people are happy and some are not? Is this a culture that you want to join?
In Career Services, we have a list of questions that are good for interviews as well as questions that you should avoid. As alumni of UHCL you are welcome to access that list and visit with one of our career counseling staff about the interview process and how to prepare for it successfully.

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