UPCOMING EVENTS

Change of Engagement: The Photography of Serge Timacheff
Jan. 22 - March 31
UHCL Art Gallery
www.uhcl.edu/artgallery

CLASP Lecture Series:
Before there were Vikings: The Archaeology of Sutton Hoo
Thursday, March 3
5:30-7 p.m.
Bayou Bldg., Garden Room

Physics and Space Science Seminar Series:
The Jazz of Physics: The Secret Link Between Music and the Structure of the Universe
Monday, March 21
7-9 p.m.
SSCB, Room 1100
See a complete schedule of Physics lectures.

Chili Cook-Off
Saturday, April 2
Noon-4 p.m.
Houston Drive
See more details and Alumni Spotlight: Sue Fellman

Legacy of Giving Back

Sue Fellman, '90 BBA, '94 MA, is no stranger to hard work.

The fourth of six children, Sue grew up in a close-knit family in Kentucky, where money was tight and she did her part to contribute to the family income. She began balancing work and school at an earlier age than most and honed the work ethic that would eventually lead her to University of Houston-Clear Lake. Read more...
how to get involved.

CLASP Lecture Series: WWII on Galveston Island: From Fort Crockett to the Balinese Room
Thursday, April 7
5:30-7 p.m.
Bayou Bldg., Forest Room
See a complete schedule of CLASP lectures.

Alumni Coffee Table
Monday, May 9
6-7 p.m.
Bayou Bldg., Atrium II

UHCL Spring 2016 Commencement
Sunday, May 15
NRG Arena
Noon Ceremony
School of Business
School of Human Sciences and Humanities
5 p.m. Ceremony
School of Education
School of Science and Computer Engineering
Find out more information online.

Chili Cook-Off. April 2, 2016
Save the date! The 27th annual UHCL Chili Cook-Off is Saturday, April 2, 2016 from noon - 4 p.m. Bring your family and friends for some great homemade chili, music and games! See more details.

UH-Clear Lake alumns captures the story of fencing

University of Houston-Clear Lake alumns Serge Timacheff’s career has taken him in many directions, from journalism to brand development to photography. But his heart has always been in storytelling, and his energetic story of fencing is the current exhibit at the UH-Clear Lake Art Gallery.

Timacheff’s exhibit is titled “Change of Engagement” after a fencing term for a reorientation of blades. The name helps capture Timacheff’s goal: to help people gain a new understanding of fencing through his photographs. Read more...

Glenn A. Goerke Memorial
UHCL honored the life of former university president Glenn A. Goerke at a special memorial service on Jan. 16. Goerke served as president of UHCL for four years, 1991-1995. Read more...

CLASS NOTES

Britani Moses, ’04 MS, ’10 Ed.D, principal at Stewart Elementary in Kemah, TX, was surprised at a special spirit assembly by Kemah
Mayor Carl Joiner who officially declared Jan. 6, 2016 as “Britani Moses Day” for the city.

**Harris Brooks, ’00 MHA/MBA, ’11 MA, CEO of Palo Pinto General Hospital in Mineral Wells, TX, received the Mineral Wells Index’s 2015 Man of the Year award for his involvement, commitment and contributions to the Mineral Wells and Palo Pinto County.**

**Dee Ann Powell, ’99 MS, ’09 MA, ’11 Ed.D, was officially named the new superintendent for the Pasadena Independent School District.**

**Magdalena Garcia, ’02 BA, ’05 MS, is the new Bilingual/ESL Director for Channelview ISD.**

**Crystal Jones, ’02 BS, ’14 MS, was named TASSP Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year for Region V. Crystal is currently an Assistant Principal in the Hardin-Jefferson ISD.**

**Clare Leonard, ’13 MS, was promoted to Head of Year 2 at the English Academy in Kuwait.**

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

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**Alumni to Alumni: Don't Stick to the Plan**

By Michael Dummer, ’08 BBA, ’12 MS
Director of Finance and Operations, WilsherCo, Inc.

Do not let your career plan trap you. Be open to opportunities. Like most people, I had “the plan” for how my career was going to go after graduation. I was going to get an internship in my last year and use that as a springboard to a job with one of the “Big Four” accounting firms. I would get my CPA, be an auditor for about five years, then move into an internal audit position with a company and work my way up into the C-suite level. The plan would put me on a career path, and after 15 to 20 years I would begin the pursuit of my dream job, CEO. My plan would have been great if I had started in my 20s and was not the driven individual that I am. The alternate path that I took was much better for me, but I had to be convinced that it would work. Read more...

We're on Instagram!
Follow @UHCLAlumniAssociation to stay connected to alumni, the campus and community. Tag #UHCLAlumni to share your pictures with us!
Sue Fellman, ’90 BBA, ’94 MA, is no stranger to hard work.

The fourth of six children, Sue grew up in a close-knit family in Kentucky, where money was tight and she did her part to contribute to the family income. She began balancing work and school at an earlier age than most and honed the work ethic that would eventually lead her to University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Knowing there were no funds for her to attend college, Sue followed the lead of an older brother and joined the U.S. Air Force right out of high school so she would be eligible for the benefits of the GI Bill after her commitment in the military.

The decision to join the Air Force not only helped Sue earn money to go to college, but on her very first day of duty at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, she met the man she would eventually marry and relocate to Texas with, Chuck Fellman.

When their Air Force careers ended, the Fellmans relocated to the Houston area, where Chuck had a job waiting for him. Sue began her academic career at Lee College before transferring to UHCL and eventually earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Sue once again juggled the work-school-family balance as she had done growing up, which many of her fellow UHCL students could relate to. She and Chuck had two sons, and Sue worked hard to be there for her children and expand her education.

An active and engaged student, Sue was involved in several student organizations, including the Student Forum, now named the Student Government Association, and a variety of university committees. For her efforts, she was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society in 1989 and served in leadership roles at both the local and national level.

Sue worked a variety of part-time jobs on campus, which led her to the Student Life Office and eventually the coordinator of student life position in 1992. In this capacity, she served UHCL for 14 years and helped coordinate student organizations, support the Student Government Association and establish a leadership development program for UHCL students, all while continuing to pursue her education.

During that time, she realized that many of the student leaders struggled to maintain the balance successfully. “Some students could not afford to quit a part-time job to invest more time and service in campus activities, especially those who worked exceptionally hard to maintain a high grade point
average," said Sue.

Knowing how much a scholarship could have helped her when she was younger, in April 2002 she and her husband established the Sue Fellman Omicron Delta Kappa Scholarship endowment. Recently renamed the Sue Fellman Servant Leadership Scholarship, the scholarship is open to students who are currently active in the Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement (SLICE) program at UHCL.

But Sue’s determination to help students through scholarships at UHCL didn’t stop there. “When my younger son was finishing his degree at UHCL, I learned that the Environmental Management program had a scholarship for students in the master’s program, but the scholarship was not open to undergraduates. As a tribute to our son, his hard work and success in his chosen field, we decided to establish the Fellman Family Scholarship for Environmental Management Undergraduates.”

“Scholarships are an important tool for helping students succeed,” said Sue, and her passion for servant leadership and desire to create opportunities for others led to the founding of a scholarship that is a little closer to the heart.

In 1993, Sue lost her older sister, Ann, to breast cancer. Ann was 42 years old.

Only 16 months apart, Ann and Sue were close friends and confidants and the two sisters shared many of the chores and responsibilities around the house growing up.

Sue describes her sister Ann as “a caring, giving, outgoing person” who held down multiple jobs as she pursued her nursing degree. Ann made nursing her life-long career and was dedicated to helping others, especially those who had no one else to care for them.

“When I learned that UHCL offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, I was very excited and thought the timing was perfect,” Sue said. “The idea of a nursing scholarship came to me because I wanted a way to honor my sister on what would have been her 65th birthday in March 2016.”

Created in the memory of Sue’s beloved sister, The Ann Wilke Memorial Nursing Scholarship is designed to help ensure qualified students complete an RN-BSN degree in a timely fashion.

“Because of the impact she had on so many peoples’ lives through her work and her personality, I wanted to do something that would emulate what kind of person Ann was, so others can achieve their dream and goal and make changes in peoples’ lives as Ann did,” Sue said.

By taking advantage of corporate gift-matching opportunities, Sue and Chuck Fellman have created scholarships and a legacy for giving back to UHCL.

“We feel blessed that matching funds are available through Chuck’s employer, which greatly enhances the level of funding. My husband and I are both very proud that we have been able to help deserving students attain their academic and professional goals, and we plan to continue doing so for many years to come,” said Sue.

For more information on making a gift or creating a scholarship, please contact the Office of University Advancement at 281-283-2021 or email gifts@uhcl.edu.
University of Houston-Clear Lake alumnus Serge Timacheff's career has taken him in many directions, from journalism to brand development to photography. But his heart has always been in storytelling, and his energetic story of fencing is the current exhibit at the UH-Clear Lake Art Gallery.

Timacheff's exhibit is titled “Change of Engagement” after a fencing term for a reorientation of blades. The name helps capture Timacheff’s goal: to help people gain a new understanding of fencing through his photographs.

"I'm hoping that it tells the story of a sport that is essentially global and a deeply integrated part of many cultures. People know about fencing, but they maybe don't recognize what it is today,” he said.

Representing Timacheff's work and travel as the official photographer of the International Fencing Federation, the photo exhibit is a mixture of hand-selected images from among the millions he has taken at fencing tournaments around the world, including the Olympics. From action shots to team portraits, candid celebrations to stunning landscapes, his photographs capture both the emotional and geographic range of fencing.

He also noted that he’s pleased to return to UHCL, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science in 1985.

"I have a lot of affection for this university. It's a pleasure to come back to this school," he said. “I hope, in a small way, I'm making a contribution to students here. It's a great school and it can be the foundation of a great life.”

At a brief talk at the exhibit's opening reception, Timacheff encouraged artists to cultivate focus and motivation.

“You must have some compelling force that drives you forward,” he said. “That journey is what becomes significant when you stay true to your core.”

For Timacheff, that driving force is the goal to always be better, even as photography has been transformed by social media and up-to-the-minute communication.

“We're still trying to tell stories. We're still trying to show human passion,” he said.

Louise Lepie, owner of Bayou City Fencing Academy, is well acquainted with Timacheff's work. Several prints of his photographs already hang in her fencing academy, but she attended the gallery opening at
"It's amazing that these are stills, but with movement," she said. "It's very hard to capture this kind of action in fencing. He has captured some incredible situations. The university is lucky to have this exhibit."

Computer information systems student Perryn Smith was drawn to the exhibit by curiosity about fencing.

"The photos are high quality, to say the least. I enjoy the 3-D effect of some of them, the ones that capture all the motion," he said.

Cat Pate, a digital media graduate student, said she often attends gallery exhibits on campus, and she was also struck by the movement in the images.

"It's a unique view you don't normally see. I love the time-lapse, the motion," she said. "The artwork they show here is always intriguing. It makes you stop and think."

"Change of Engagement" will remain on exhibit through March 31 in the UHCL Art Gallery, located in the Bayou Building, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston. Admission is free and gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information on the Art Gallery, visit www.uhcl.edu/artgallery.

View event photos on Facebook!

ALUMNI TO ALUMNI: DON’T STICK TO THE PLAN

By Michael Dummer, ’08 BBA, ’12 MS
Director of Finance and Operations, WilsherCo, Inc.

Do not let your career plan trap you. Be open to opportunities. Like most people, I had "the plan" for how my career was going to go after graduation. I was going to get an internship in my last year and use that as a springboard to a job with one of the "Big Four" accounting firms. I would get my CPA, be an auditor
for about five years, then move into an internal audit position with a company and work my way up into the C-suite level. The plan would put me on a career path, and after 15 to 20 years I would begin the pursuit of my dream job, CEO.

My plan would have been great if I had started in my 20s and was not the driven individual that I am. The alternate path that I took was much better for me, but I had to be convinced that it would work.

I am one of many people who did not take the conventional route with my education. I went to college out of high school, but I did not know what I wanted to do professionally. I started working, but later realized that I was better than just a job. I wanted a career. I went back to school and started working on my undergraduate degree. I did not want to be limited by my degree so I completed a general business curriculum. I had difficulty finding a job, so I started my master’s degree in accounting and thus developed my career path. Little known to me, life had a different plan.

While working on my master’s, I was encouraged to join professional groups. I became a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and started attending events. During the events I started networking and made several contacts that were professional headhunters. One of these contacts started telling me that with my experience and education I should change my plan. This contact told me about a small private company purchased by one of his clients and that he needed someone who could manage people and the financial side of his company. Skeptical of abandoning my plan, I went on the interview with few expectations of where it would lead.

After the interview I was sold on the vision of the owner and felt that there was a possibility of a great partnership. I took the position of office services manager. After a few months, the owner saw that I was so much more than just an accountant or office services manager. The owner then sent me to a class on how to be a CFO and I took over the operations manager role as well. I am now the director of finance and operations, have been instrumental in growing the company by 110% and I was the runner up for Houston Business Journal’s CFO of the year. All of this was accomplished in two and a half years instead of 25 just by abandoning the plan.

By not sticking to the plan and being open to new opportunities, new doors were opened and I was able to experience a path leading to a successful career. Be bold and join professional groups. Meet new people in the industry and make contacts. If a new door opens and you’re willing to take risks, you can push yourself into a career that you would have never planned before.

Back to top