

# UHCL



**DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020-2021**





# Division of Student Affairs

Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW)  
Career Services  
Counseling Services  
Dean of Students (DOS)  
Health Services  
Orientation and New Student Programs (ONSP)  
Pearland Student Affairs

Student Advocacy (OSA)  
Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (SDEI)  
Student Housing and Residence Life (SHRL)  
Student Involvement and Leadership (SIL)  
Student Publications  
Veteran Services

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# LETTER FROM THE VPSA

## **Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:**

It is truly an honor to serve as your vice president for Student Affairs (VPSA). As I complete my second year in the VPSA role and take the time to reflect, I am filled with great pride and enthusiasm to work with a resilient and committed team of colleagues who made personal and professional sacrifices to serve our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our students reached out to us with empathetic hearts as our country dealt with incidents of racial injustice in the midst of a pandemic. We were all coping with power and water outages at home during the 2021 winter storm, but our staff continued unfailingly to support students and each other. We continued to be a caring, compassionate resource as our students sought out opportunities for engagement and growth.

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) takes immense pride in our role in creating a vibrant campus culture of care, advocacy, holistic learning, and impactful student engagement. Our commitment to our Hawks is to provide tangible leadership skills, learning opportunities and create pathways for them to develop the academic, professional, and personal skills necessary to be successful in an ever-changing, global society.

During the pandemic, and amid much uncertainty, UHCL Health Services assumed a new role as the Campus COVID-19 hub, providing COVID-19 counseling, education and referrals to appropriate community partners for testing and vaccinations.





To ensure proper training, the Health Services staff participated in, and completed, the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course through Johns Hopkins University and developed a campus-specific COVID-19 tracing protocol in collaboration with the Environmental, Health and Safety department. To meet the changing needs of our students, Health Services established the Virtual Telemedicine Program, allowing our students to meet with physicians and nurses.

The Division of Student Affairs is looking forward to expanding the involvement of our campus partners in our **Four Pillars of Student Engagement** program this fall. The program will enhance and expand what our students are already showcasing and being recognized for in their leadership and service on our campus and with our community partners in the following areas:

- **Community Engagement**
- **Career and Professional Development**
- **Social Responsibility and Advocacy**
- **Scholarship and Academic Achievement**

DSA led the campus effort to promote and emphasize the importance of Civic Engagement. For the first time, the UHCL campus served as a polling site for early voting and the general election, and for local elections in October 2020. As a result of our dedication to the civic process, our campus received the Voter Friendly Campus designation from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and the Campus Vote Project and the Fair Elections Commission.

The newly-established Office of Student Advocacy (OSA) has worked diligently to assist and aid all students in providing services and caring support during this challenging time. Through their new partnership with the Houston Food Bank (HFB), all students are eligible to receive free groceries through the HFB's Food for Change Program. To prepare our Hawks for success in the workplace, OSA partnered with Dress for Success Houston and Career Gear Houston, who donated 200 suits to help establish the UHCL Career Closet.

I look to our future with promise and enthusiasm because we are all Hawks and our community thinks of others first. Our faculty and staff are committed to serving our students with open doors and open hearts.

**Go Hawks!**

**Aaron J. Hart, Ed.D.** (He, Him, His)  
Vice President for Student Affairs

**“...we are all Hawks, and  
our community thinks  
of others first.”**

# MISSION, VISION & VALUES

## MISSION

The Division of Student Affairs supports students by enhancing academic success; inspiring critical thinking; and developing personal, professional, and leadership skills. We accomplish this by providing innovative and transformative experiences. We also nurture holistic wellbeing and student success through collaborative practices and a culture of care.

## VISION

Hawks are empowered to achieve their personal success and impact their communities.

## VALUES

**Student-Centeredness:** We provide experiences and advocacy that focus on the needs of each student at UHCL. Our division centers on student opportunity, development, and well-being in everything we do.

**Impact:** Students receive the needed support to navigate their academic and social journey and reach their fullest potential.

**Impactful Learning Outcomes:** We support specific learning outcomes by providing purposeful programs and building collaborative environments, with the goal of creating immersive experiences that lead to lifelong learning.

**Impact:** Students develop marketable and transferable skills they will carry with them as 21st century leaders in the classroom, on campus, and in their communities.

# EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Aaron J. Hart, Ed.D.**  
*Vice President  
of Student Affairs*



**Yvonne Hernandez  
Friedman, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Vice President  
of Student Engagement*

**David Rachita, M.A.**  
*Dean of Students*



**Iliana Melendez, M.Ed.**  
*Associate Dean of Students*



**Equity and Inclusion:** We value each student's identity development and strive to create inclusive programs, practices, and environments. We work to understand and dismantle the systems of oppression that exist within our policies, practices, and history as we actively oppose injustices. We are committed to adaptive practices, open accessibility, and equity across the campus environment.

**Impact:** Students grow as advocates and learn to celebrate diversity and inclusion through a campus community of support and mutual care.

**Collaboration:** We create engaging environments that spark relationship development and collaborative partnerships throughout the campus. By connecting Hawks to traditions and involvement around our campus community, we also inspire campus pride.

**Impact:** Students connect to campus life and contribute to a growing community of peers and professionals.

**Care:** We are receptive to our students' needs, serving as mentors and advocates to support them, and we create accessible avenues for their concerns to be heard and addressed.

**Impact:** Students feel they belong on campus and are cared for and supported.

**Service:** We are dedicated to civic duty, building better communities around our campus and beyond. Through service-oriented programming, we offer experiential learning opportunities — a value we embody through our support services provided throughout the division.

**Impact:** Students learn the importance of dedicated service to others, and they go on to effect positive change in their communities.

**Holistic Wellbeing:** We equip students to pursue not just better jobs, but better lives. We support well-being in the following domains: physical, intellectual, psychological, social, emotional, occupational, environmental, and financial.

**Impact:** Students gain tools, resources, and skills to achieve their maximum potential academically and personally, and they establish well-being as an important personal value.

**Integrity:** We uphold personal accountability as professionals and educators through our daily interactions with students, programming efforts, and student learning experiences. We emphasize the importance of ethics and responsible action in academics, professional spaces, and society.

**Impact:** Students grow into responsible professionals and members of a global society.



**Cindy Saltzman**  
Division Business  
Administrator



**Rosa Ortiz**  
Executive Assistant II



# UHCL IMPACT 2025 & BEYOND

University of Houston-Clear Lake impacts our region through exceptional educational programs provided by engaged faculty and dedicated staff. We continue to build on that success by adding new programs and creating opportunities.

We are expanding our 45-year commitment to opening doors to accessible education through a number of exciting new ways with **Impact 2025 and Beyond**, the theme for our new strategic plan and the pathway to our future. With the assistance of the new plan, we better understand our role and how we impact and educate future leaders.

## Core Values

- **Learner Focused**
- **Transformation**
- **Innovation**
- **Diversity & Inclusion**
- **Resilience**
- **Service**
- **Integrity**
- **Sustainability**

## Strategic Themes

UHCL's strategic themes are value-based pillars that act as the foundation of the strategic plan. The Strategic Management Team, comprised of university, faculty senate and alumni leadership, worked together to define these themes as **Educational Achievement**, **Inclusive Culture**, **Innovation through Collaboration** and **University Identity**.

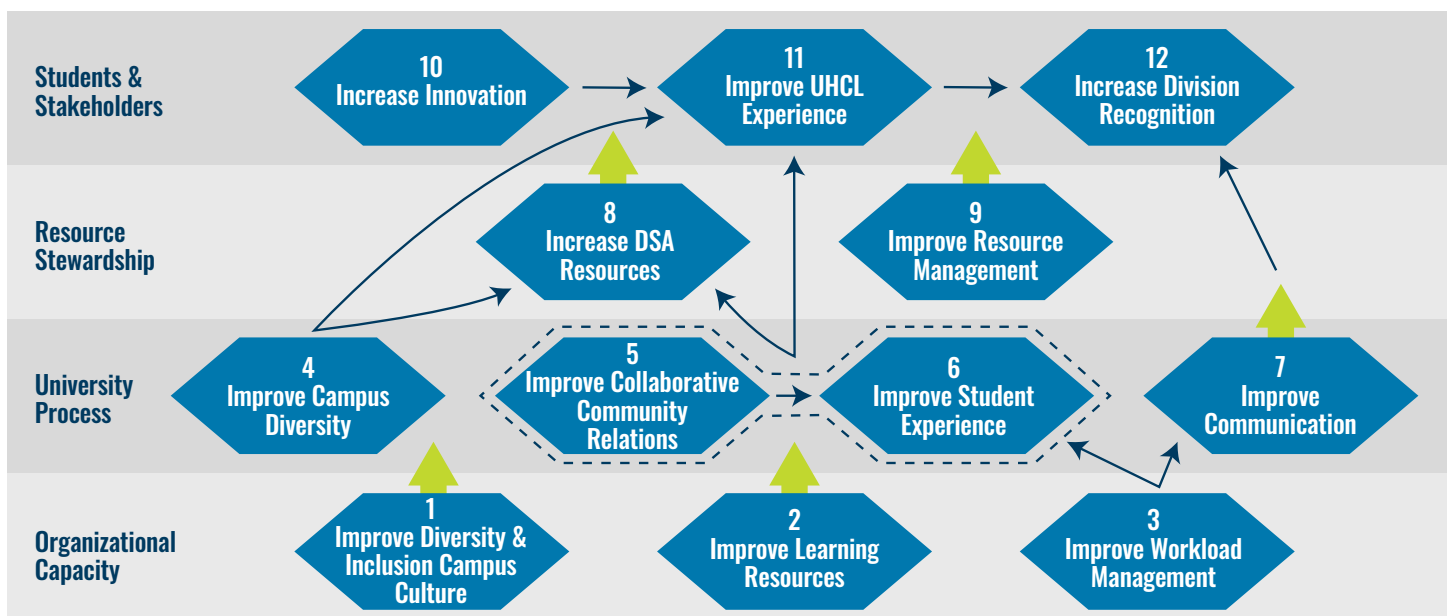
## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Under the direction of President Ira K. Blake, UHCL has partnered with the Balanced Scorecard Institute to strategically plan for continuous improvement. Within the Division of Student Affairs, we have engaged with various stakeholders, including, but not limited to, employees, students, alumni and community partners, throughout the strategic planning process.

UHCL's strategic plan, **Impact 2025 and Beyond**, will provide an effective framework that guides us toward a sustainable model for assessment and planning. As our institution and division grows, we are compelled to transform our institutional culture, practices and expectations to positively impact the communities we serve and influence.

In particular, division priorities align with university goals in areas related to organizational capacity, university processes, resource stewardship and students and stakeholders.

## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS STRATEGY MAP





# COVID-19 IMPACT

As we all quarantined and went to virtual platforms, the Division of Student Affairs worked diligently to pivot to online services and provide emergency relief to students. We were successful in maintaining continuity of services as well as fulfilling the university strategic themes of **innovation through collaboration** and **inclusive culture** and the core values of **resilience** and **service**.

## PIVOT TO ONLINE SERVICES

Student journalists at The Signal hosted virtual socials for the larger campus community, including *Kahoot the Vote!* a trivia event, an *Election Night Watch Party* in collaboration with SIL, SHRL and DSA, *Mid-Term Madness Puzzle* event with SHRL, and a *Zoom Zoo* virtual pet party with Neumann Library.

Orientation and New Student Programs (ONSP) quickly moved all student orientation activities online via Zoom. The orientation program successfully created a virtual experience by pivoting to Blackboard, allowing students to virtually complete required modules like COVID-19 and Title IX. Students also were able to access other recommended modules, including video messages from our campus partners.

Student Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (SDEI) pivoted their traditional *Voice It* series, originally a dialogue, into an interview with an “expert” that individuals could watch asynchronously, comment on and ask questions. SDEI also offered virtual check-in events for students, staff and faculty to find community and process the experience of social isolation and fear together.

Counseling Services pivoted and received training in telehealth services, obtained the necessary hardware and software to offer telehealth services, and updated policies, procedures and patient documentation to reflect this new service.

Career Services responded to the needs of students by moving online for the review of resumes, answering general career questions, held virtual career counseling appointments, and updated resume samples via their website. The team met with 546 students and responded to more than 1000 emails with resume reviews and general questions.

Student Housing and Residential Life (SHRL) continued to create a “home away from home” experience where students were able to safely **Live. Learn. and Engage.** with their peers. Programs consisted of engaging in a conversation regarding healthy snack initiatives, a table tennis tourney, a community beach clean-up and a virtual teaching kitchen.

Student Involvement and Leadership (SIL) moved all student organization workshops and resources to a virtual platform. In doing so, the SIL team was able to continue offering virtual leadership development such as, the *Hawk Leadership Institute*, *Leadership Experience Development Presentation* series and the *Servant Leader Scholars Program*.

Health Services (HS) pivoted to telehealth nursing and physician virtual appointments for students.

The Dean of Students (DOS) staff moved all of their services online. The transition of services provided online support, resources, advocacy, referrals, emergency loans and grants, and continued triaging students’ needs through their Crisis Awareness Response Emergency (C.A.R.E.) Team.

Campus Recreation & Wellness (CRW) made group fitness classes available free of charge for both virtual and in-person offerings and promoted *RecMovement* fitness classes, which are 100% virtual and allowed UHCL community to access fitness classes from different programs around the country.

## EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR STUDENTS

OSA offered phone and virtual consultations and appointments, responded to student's academic and personal needs, kept the *Hawk Pantry* open and available to clients, worked with University Advancement to make grocery store gift cards available to students, coordinated the *Houston Food Bank Market Trailer Grocery Distribution* initiative, and moved Hawk ID Card Services online.

Counseling Services created virtual outreach opportunities, mental health care packages, and COVID-19 specific programming for students and employees. All services within the department continued, however, the modality shifted to telehealth.

Health Services collaborated with Emergency Management to set up a campus hub for COVID-19, setting up a COVID-19 Hotline to answer questions, provide education, and refer the campus community to appropriate community partners for testing and vaccination locations.

Health Services also collaborated with the UHCL Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) department to jointly manage cases involving students and employees, specifically ensuring sanitation and disinfection protocols were executed, as well as the notification of individuals who were in close contact with someone who reported being diagnosed with COVID-19.

DOS coordinated the *Student Resources Survey (SRS)* and established the *Dean of Students Office Assistance Request Form*, which gave the office the opportunity to assess student needs, access concerns, and needed resources related to computers, Wi-Fi, mental and medical services, welfare, etc. As a follow-up to the SRS, the DOS also surveyed students about their needs and concerns as they returned to campus in summer 2020. This information allowed UHCL to effectively address those concerns prior to fall 2020.

CRW made the decision to refund CRW associated fees for the 2020 spring and summer semesters and lowered fees for the fall 2020 semester.

## UHCL STUDENT BECOMES UHS STUDENT REGENT



Derek Delgado, senior legal studies student, became the first-ever UHCL student to be appointed Student Regent for the University of Houston System Board of Regents. Delgado will pull from his student leadership experience as a former vice president of UHCL's Student Government Association, Orientation Leader, senator of the College of Science and Engineering, and numerous university committees as he advocates for students in this new role.

Delgado was sworn in as Student Regent on June 7, and will serve on the board until May 31, 2022. When Delgado is not on campus, he works part time as a legal assistant at Travis Bryan Law Group and is a volunteer firefighter for the Pasadena Volunteer Fire Department.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Community Engagement** is at the cornerstone of the work we do in the Division of Student Affairs. It is an opportunity for intentional interactions and to understand the lived experiences of our students and stakeholders. We strive for creating an approach that guides our interactions and encourages sustainable outcomes in order to improve the UHCL experience and engage with our students in a meaningful way. We were able to fulfill the university strategic themes of **Innovation Through Collaboration** and **University Identity** and the core values of **Transformation, Innovation** and **Service**.

SHRL engaged students in 42 programs throughout the 2020-2021 academic year including *Friendsgiving*, *Fall into Art*, movie and game nights, and trips to the Houston Zoo.

SHRL also collaborated with United Way to coordinate a donation drive for those affected by Hurricane Laura. The staff drove all donations received to Louisiana for distribution to various members of the community impacted by the hurricane.

ONSP replaced the in-person resource fair traditionally held at orientation by developing a program called *Hangin' with a Hawk*. It was facilitated by Orientation Leaders and held on Zoom and Facebook Live. Forty-nine sessions were held with a total of over 5000 views. Themes included *Major Monday*, *Talkin' about UHCL Tuesday*, *Wellness Wednesday* (in collaboration with CRW), *Thursday Lunch and Learn* (highlighting a variety of campus offices), *Faculty Friday* and *Funday Friday*.

OSA was successful in raising awareness about food insecurities and expanding hunger relief services through the *Hawk Pantry* and its partnership with the Houston Food Bank. Students will now have more access to food and utilization of food programs on our campus.

SDEI created outreach in response to Black Lives Matter, law enforcement reform and several other social justice initiatives during the pandemic. Outreach included community check-ins and town halls.

Counseling Services programming during the COVID-19 pandemic included managing stress during a pandemic, grief and loss. Counseling Services partnered with SDEI to provide spaces of reflection and psychoeducation. Reflection groups included, *Black Stress*, *International Student Support Group*, *Black Student Support Group* and a racial trauma presentation and discussion.

Career Services received a \$5000 grant from the Enterprise Holdings Foundation. The Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Enterprise Holdings, which, through its integrated network of independent regional subsidiaries and franchises, operates Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Alamo Rent A Car brands. These funds will assist with providing students career testing and supporting our *Jobs4hawks/Handshake* platform.

SIL spearheaded the initiative designating UHCL as a Voter Friendly Campus from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and the Campus Vote Project and the Fair Elections Commission. All full-time staff became volunteer deputy voter registrars. SIL also provided virtual civic and community engagement programming like *The Big Event*, *Voter Education Series* and *Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service* (in collaboration with SDEI).

CRW created a *Wellness Cohort* program specifically for transfer students during Transfer Student Orientation for 20 students and hosted three follow-up information sessions through January 2021. The CRW team also introduced a *Wellness Referral Program* where students could participate in personal training free of charge.



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & ADVOCACY

The Division of Student Affairs creates change, promotes **Social Responsibility and Advocacy**, and provides educational opportunities for our campus community with the purpose of bringing about positive change. This year, we endeavored to educate our students about social issues, provided spaces for voices to be heard and looked for ways to impact vulnerable populations. We were able to fulfill the university strategic themes of **Inclusive Culture**, **Innovation Through Collaboration** and **University Identity** and the core values of **Diversity and Inclusion**, **Resilience**, **Service** and **Sustainability**.

In April 2020, the Student Assistance Center's transitioned into the Office of Student Advocacy (OSA). OSA engages students in student-centered programs, resources that foster learning and personal growth, emergency assistance resources, self-advocacy, empowerment and success. Their staff also provide advocacy in the resolution of student complaints and grievances and manage the *Hawk Pantry* and *UHCL Career Closet*.

Student journalists at The Signal expanded coverage on social issues, including a series of explainer pieces examining racism and creating robust social media campaigns celebrating *Hispanic Heritage Month*, *Black History Month*, *Women's History Month*, *Pride Month* and *Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi American Heritage Month*.

SDEI assisted in facilitating various town halls addressing campus climate. SDEI implemented a *Community Dialogue* program during the pandemic, as well as the *Social Justice in the Time of a Pandemic* reflection opportunity. SDEI hosted *Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service* that was focused on projects on campus and directly impacted the UHCL community. SDEI social justice and advocacy programs were adapted to both engage and meet the needs of students.

Counseling Services developed reflection spaces, support groups and anti-racist resources for students, staff and faculty. Counselors provided specific programming for Black-identifying students in collaboration with SDEI and the UHCL Alumni Association. Counseling Services also created a solidarity statement that will remain a part of the department's mission to dismantle racist practices and ideology.

Career Services professional staff attended LGBTQIA+ ally training, veteran ally training and unique training to provide effective counseling to students with disabilities. The Career Services staff are also active partners with the UHCL Connecting to College program for autistic students. Career Services also provided the *Real Talk* series that aims to connect students with professionals of color and differing sexual orientations in their respective field.

SIL's civic and community engagement programming builds a connection between our university and the community through various service projects within our local and regional community. Partnerships with entities such as Armand Bayou Nature Center, Galveston County Food Bank and Houston Parks and Recreation allow for our students to give back to the communities in which they live, work and attend school.

Health Services updated their electronic medical records to include pronoun identity, which allows students to self-identify with the hopes of providing them a more welcoming experience. Health Services also hosted the *Gulf Coast Blood Drive* on campus multiple times this past year, which brought in a total of 275 donors.

# CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Career and Professional Development** activities give students the opportunities to prepare for professional success. Students can develop the essential skills to discover career identities through co-curricular experiences. The Division of Student Affairs assists the campus community in translating experiential learning to the professional world outside of the university. We were able to fulfill the university strategic themes of **Educational Achievement** and **Inclusive Culture** and the core values of **Learner Focused**, **Innovation** and **Service**.

Student journalists from The Signal attended the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's Annual Conference and the College Media Association's National College Media Convention. These experiences provide learning, networking and competition opportunities in the area of student journalism and publications.

SHRL worked in conjunction with the Office of the President to create the Presidential Leadership Through Service Living Learning Community to equip residential students with the skills needed to maximize their potential, make a positive impact within and outside of their campus community, and become leaders in a 21st century environment.

Career Services collaborated with the Global Learning and Strategy to provide three virtual training seminars for 45 international students participating in various internships throughout the *Global Learning and Strategy Summer Institute*.

Career Services partnered with more than 125 employers for various career events and professional development opportunities for UHCL students. Enterprise Holdings, a valued campus partner, donated a \$5,000 grant to support career and professional development opportunities for our students. The department also partnered with various companies like Heavy Construction Systems Specialists, Inc. and World Fuel Services to host informational and networking events with the specific focus on hiring UHCL students.

OSA collaborated with Career Gear Houston to provide more than 200 suits to help establish the *UHCL Career Closet*. Career Gear Houston will continue to provide professional attire to UHCL male and veteran identified students. As part of the *UHCL Career Closet*, OSA also collaborated with Dress for Success Houston to provide professional attire to UHCL female and veteran identified students.

SDEI created recorded videos about individual experiences entitled *Myths and Microaggressions*. SDEI also created a *Virtual Game Day/Night* program to help international students' network and create community.

Counseling Services and the College of Education provided *Mental Health First Aid* training for 988 members of the UHCL community and community partners.

SIL provided opportunities for 20 students to participate in fee-funded student organizations and gain professional experience, collaborate with others across campus and gain an understanding of shared governance.

# SCHOLARSHIP & ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Division of Student Affairs is committed to the mission of **Scholarship and Academic Achievement** of our students. We are here to assist our students in completing their educational benchmarks and fulfilling their short- and long-term goals by providing co-curricular experiences and support. We were able to fulfill the university strategic themes of **Educational Achievement** and **University Identity** and the core values of **Learner-Focused, Transformation, Innovation** and **Service**.

OSA organized an ongoing backpack initiative where staff filled backpacks with essential school supplies in order to help students succeed in and outside of the classroom. Additionally, OSA awarded \$2,300 in support funds to students who aged out and were adopted out of foster care. Funds were administered to assist students with textbooks, school supplies and living expenses.

SDEI held Diversity Graduation virtually for the first time in spring 2020 and sent participants stoles and certificates. UHCL students were featured in a video that was recorded for fall 2020 and spring 2021 graduates.

Counseling Services collaborated with the Center for Collegiate Mental Health by contributing de-identified client data to their national project, which focuses on research and achieving a better understanding of college student mental health. This allows the department to compare the UHCL client population to a national sample with regard to presenting concerns, symptom reduction and counseling outcomes.

Counseling Services also received a 3-year grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for \$374,958. Counselors will be able to provide the *Mental Health First Aid* training, developed by the National Council for Wellbeing, which brings opportunities for students, faculty and staff to better understand and deal with students experiencing mental health issues and crisis. The grant proposal and implementation established a significant partnership with the UHCL College of Education.

Career Services staff presented in 39 classrooms this year. Topics ranged from resume writing, interviewing skills, Strong and MBTI assessments, to job fair preparation. Courses included:

- I/O Psychology seminar
- Grant writing
- Learning Frameworks
- Intern II career seminar, College of Education
- Tech writing, counseling and assessment
- STEP program and introduction to exercise science

## Collaborations within the Houston/Texas Community

- Armand Bayou Nature Center
- Career Gear Houston
- Dress for Success Houston
- Harris County Voter Registrar
- Houston & Galveston County Food Banks
- Houston Area Consortium of Career Centers
- Houston Parks and Recreation Department
- Texas Chiropractic College
- Texas General Land Office
- The Rose Center for Breast Health Excellence
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Walgreens Pharmacy



# DIVISIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Awards

In 2020, **SIL** spearheaded the initiative to receive the designation of **Voter Friendly Campus** by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and hosted 14,000 voters on campus.

In 2020, **The Signal** earned the **Gold Crown** from Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA), the highest recognition given by CSPA for overall excellence. Additionally, The Signal won 19 state awards from Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA), 5 national awards and **Gold Critique** status from CSPA.

In 2021, **The Signal** was awarded 7 national awards and **Silver Critique** status from CSPA, 2 national awards from Associated Collegiate Press, and 12 state awards from TIPA.

In 2020, **The Signal's** COVID-19 coverage was featured in Poynter Institute's "The Lead" newsletter and on the Student Press Law Center's COVID-19 webpage.

In 2021, McWhirter Elementary awarded **SIL** the **Volunteer/Partner of the Year** for community involvement of the *Hawk Leadership Institute* and *The Big Event*.

**Cierra Davis**, coordinator of residential life in SHRL, was awarded a **Professional Spotlight** by the Association of College & University Housing Officers-International.

**ONSP** received the **Most Innovative Program** award from National Orientation Directors Association Region IV in March 2021 for its *Hangin' with a Hawk* program.

## Staff Highlights



**Lindsley Burgess**  
Career Counselor,  
Career Services

**Lindsley Burgess** was selected to serve as chair of the Houston Area Consortium of Career Centers Scholarship & Grant Committee.

**Cindy Cook, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director,  
Counseling, Health  
& Career Services

**Dr. Cindy Cook** was selected as president of the Board of Directors of the International Accreditation of Counseling Services, Inc. in October 2020, after serving as the chair of the Board of Accreditation for 2019-2020.



**Angie Montelongo**  
Director,  
Orientation & New  
Student Programs

**Angie Montelongo** was selected to serve as a Foundation Trustees member with the Association of College Personnel Administrators (ACPA).

### **Iliana Melendez**

*Associate Dean,  
Dean of Students*

*Iliana Melendez was the President of the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA) for 2019-2020 and now transitions into the role of Past-President for 2020-2021.*



### **Dillon Nash**

*Assistant Director,  
Student Involvement  
& Leadership*

*Dillon Nash was selected for a two-year term as the Communications Coordinator for the Association of College Unions International (ACUI).*

### **Matthew Perry**

*Director,  
Student Housing  
& Residential Life*

*Matthew Perry was selected to serve on ACUHO-I's Re-Entry Capacity/Occupancy Workgroup, which produced a comprehensive report of student housing guidelines and recommendations for student housing departments across the country.*



### **Joshua Quinn**

*Coordinator,  
Student Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion*

*Joshua Quinn was elected to a two-year term as the Vice Chair of Membership Engagement for ACPA's Coalition on Men and Masculinities and won the 2021 UHCL President's Distinguished Staff Merit Award.*

### **Hana Zewdie**

*Assistant Director,  
Student Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion*

*Hana Zewdie was selected to be the Social Media Co-Coordinator for ACPA's Multiracial Network for a two-year term beginning in 2020.*



## **Presentations**

**Dr. Aliya Beavers**, director, and **Joshua Quinn**, coordinator in Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (SDEI), co-presented at the 2021 University of Houston System Student Affairs and Enrollment Services (UHS SAES) Leadership Conference: "A Call to Action: Supporting Students as they Navigate Social Justice Movements."

**Luisa Beck**, associate director, and **Lindsley Burgess**, career counselor in Career Services, co-presented at the 2021 UHS SAES Leadership Conference: "Gender Identity in the Job Search."

**Dr. Cindy Cook**, executive director of Counseling, Health and Career Services, presented at the 2020 Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors national conference: "IACS Site Visitor Training."

**Chuck Crocker**, director of Career Services, presented at the 2021 UHS SAES Leadership Conference: "Developing a Career & Professional Development Course" and "Are We Career Ready Yet? Updated NACE Competencies and Behaviors Employers Desire in New Graduates."

**Lindsay Humphrey**, manager of Student Publications, presented at the UHCL Friday Morning Continuing Education Program in 2021: “Fake News, Deep Fakes and Pesky Algorithms.”

**Dr. Aaron Hart**, vice president of Student Affairs, presented at the 2019 Texas Association of College & University Student Personnel Administrators Conference “Managing Career Expectations.”

**Mohammad Khan**, coordinator in Student Involvement and Leadership, presented at the 2021 Association of Collegiate Personnel Administrators (ACPA) national conference: “In Pursuit of a Leadership Identity: Exploring Involvement & Multiraciality.”

**Iliana Melendez**, associate dean of students, and **Joshua Quinn**, coordinator in SDEI, co-presented at the 2021 UHS SAES Leadership Conference: “Marketing Building Blocks: Building Better Practices.”

**Brian Mills**, director of Campus Recreation and Wellness, presented at the 2020 NIRSA Region 4 Conference: “Let Me Tell You What I Wish I’d Known.”

**Regina Pickett**, director of Health Services, presented at the 2021 UHS SAES Leadership Conference: “Getting Back to Normal.”

**Joshua Quinn**, coordinator, **Hana Zewdie**, assistant director, and **Aja Rodriguez**, coordinator in SDEI, co-presented at the 2020 ACPA national conference: “Yes, and...: Narratives from Multiracial Practitioners Doing Diversity and Inclusion Work.”

**Amber Tempel**, community resource specialist in Counseling Services, presented at the 2021 Higher Education Case Managers Association national conference: “Manual for the New Clinical Case Managers.”

**Hana Zewdie**, assistant director of SDEI, presented at the 2020 ACPA national conference: “Queering Transfer Advising: Supporting LGBTQ+ Transfer Students as Academic Advisors.”

## Publications

Ashlee, K., Colquit, K., & **Quinn, J.** (2021). Look for the Helpers: Engaging Privileged College Men in Social Justice through an Anti-Deficit Framework. In Clint-Michael Reneau. Mary Ann Villarreal. Leading the Transformation of Higher Education Institutions Through Social Justice, Equity, & Inclusion (156-169). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

**Hart, A.** (2020). Refining Residential Culture in Greek Life Housing. In Meriwether, J., Dismantling Hazing in Greek Letter Organizations (177-194). NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Stites, A. K., **Khan, M.**, & Dean-Scott, S. (under review). Navigating HSI spaces: The impact of campus environment on multiracial identity development. New Directions for Student Services.

## DSA WELCOMES STUDENT ADVOCATE

LaToya Mills-Thomas, Ph.D. joined UHCL in 2021 as the university’s first Student Advocate. In her role, she supports students in resolving hardships and grievances which may impact their personal and academic success.

The Student Advocate joins the newly established Office of Student Advocacy which provides advocacy, essential services and support to students navigating university and community resources. Essential services include, but are not limited to, emergency resources (i.e. the Hawk Emergency Grant Fund), the Hawk Pantry, and new Career Closet.





# BY THE NUMBERS



## COUNSELING SERVICES

**3,496** Individual Therapy Sessions

**279** Psychiatric Appointments

**517** Outreach Programs

**3,794** Students Reached

**61**

Group Therapy Sessions

**136** Couples Therapy Sessions

**115** Case Management, Consultation and Referral Sessions

**37** Crisis Appointments (not including after-hours crisis line)



**120** Goodie Bags Distributed for Fall 2020 Give Thanks Program

**175** Finals Survival Kits Handed Out for Finals Freebies

**200** Welcome Kits Distributed for Spring 2021 Weeks of Welcome



## ORIENTATION & NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS



## CAREER SERVICES

**241%** Increase in Student Use of Handshake

**39** Classroom Presentations

**268%** Increase in Job Posts on Handshake

**1,129** Students Reached

**33%** Increase in Employer Job Fair Attendance

**1,462** Career Counseling Appointments

**2,579** Career Related Emails Answered



VETERAN  
SERVICES

**2,239**

Students Certified  
for VA Educational Benefits



STUDENT  
ADVOCACY

**185**

First-Time  
Hawk Pantry  
Clients

**423**

Pounds of Food and Home  
Essentials Collected from  
Hawk Pantry Donations

**349**

Hawk Pantry  
Requests  
Processed

**275** Suits Collected from Career Closet Donations



DEAN OF  
STUDENTS

**20 & 50**  
Laptops Webcams

Provided to Students  
During COVID-19  
Pandemic

**1,250** Hawk Emergency Grants Awarded to  
Students for a Total of More Than **\$620,000**



## HEALTH SERVICES

**4,665** Students Received Preventative Healthcare & Wellness Education

**236** Staff Members Received Preventative Healthcare & Wellness Education

**1,129**

Patients Assisted by Health Services in 2021



## HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE



**35,406**

Recreation and Wellness Center Member Check-ins



## CAMPUS RECREATION & WELLNESS

**200+**

Residents Hosted for Nike Football and Texas Music Summer Camps



## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

**214** Programs Offered

**2,326** Program Attendees



## STUDENT DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

**91** Diversity Graduates Celebrated

**20**

Workshops Facilitated

**243** Participants Trained

**9** National Awards

**12** State Awards



## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**107,118** Visitors to The Signal Website from January 2020 to June 2021



# DSA 2021 & BEYOND

## DSA Student Advisory Board

The DSA Student Advisory Board exists to provide open dialogue and discussion between UHCL students and the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). This 12-member board, open to both graduate and undergraduate students, has been charged with providing deliberate input to the VPSA regarding out-of-classroom experiences and student life.

## Four Pillars of Student Engagement

We are excited to be expanding the involvement of our campus partners in our Four Pillars of Student Engagement program this fall. The program will enhance and expand what our students are already showcasing and being recognized for in their leadership and service on our campus and with our community partners in the following areas:

### Community Engagement:

Committing to active engagement on campus, civic responsibility and global citizenship in service of others.

### Career and Professional Development:

Achieving and demonstrating key professional skills that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace.

### Social Responsibility and Advocacy:

Cultivating the skills and awareness necessary to accept social responsibility, strive for justice and effectively advocate for positive social change.

### Scholarship and Academic Achievement:

Promoting and displaying scholarly achievement throughout the student's college career.

Broad implementation of the Four Pillars of Student Engagement division and campus wide will create alignment of all student programmatic initiatives to DSA Core Competencies, UHCL Core Values and UHCL Impact 2025 Strategic Goals. Our expansion of the Four Pillars also includes the purchase of Baseline, Engage and Insight, which will allow our university partners to offer our students micro badges for their academic and leadership achievements.

## Presidential Leadership through Service Living Learning Community

In fall 2021, the new residential living learning community will launch in Hunter Residence Hall. The Presidential Leadership through Service Living Learning Community challenges and equips students to maximize their leadership potential and make a positive impact within and outside of their campus community. This community shows students how to become a successful leader in a 21st century environment. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

- **Leadership Development**
- **Service to Others**
- **Responsible Citizenship**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Community Partnership**

## Hawk Leadership Institute

The Hawk Leadership Institute (HLI) is a unique learner-focused learning community for incoming first-year students at UHCL. Through exciting and interactive workshops, retreats, and supportive peer teams, students can gain hands-on experience in a learner-focused environment to learn how to implement exemplary leadership. Guided activities help Hawks recognize and solidify their values and better understand how they interact within diverse contexts, with the goal of creating inclusive communities and contribute to our global society.

HLI is expanding its institute to include the Presidential Leadership through Service Living Learning Community residents. We are very excited to expand and further develop the program and continue to help our students build upon their strengths, implement and practice effective teamwork, and support their success in and outside of the classroom and future career paths.

# IMPACT ON STUDENT PROFESSIONALS



**Jocelyn Smith, Residence Assistant, Hunter Residence Hall:**

“Living in Hunter Residence Hall has given me the chance to thrive as a student and be a part of a community that not only cares but also wants you to succeed. Living on campus allows you to be fully immersed in the college experience, grow as a person, and make connections that last a lifetime!”



**Helga Schmidt, Brand Coordinator, Campus Activities Board:**

“Working with DSA, particularly with the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, has impacted me in many ways. [It] gave me the ability to understand what the leader’s responsibility and impact are on others and how to use that power to positively benefit others.”



**Hannan Khan, Residence Assistant, Hunter Residence Hall:**

“My experience at Hunter Residence Hall was astonishing due to the small, unique and diverse community. This experience will stay with me throughout my future career. I was blessed to have experienced being an RA and community member at Hunter Residence Hall!”



**Darius Randle, Career Adviser, Career Services:**

“Working within Career Services provided remarkable work/life balance. My GPA improved every semester because I was not physically exhausted. I had multiple opportunities to have open dialogue with staff and counselors. I most enjoyed interacting with our front desk staff and managers. Interacting with other business professionals and graduates was inspirational.”



**J. Scates, Student Ambassador, SDEI:**

“As a student who had little to no knowledge on diversity education, these programs [in SDEI] have allowed me to change my perspective on how everyone should be treated. We shouldn’t just treat people all equally, but embrace every aspect of our individual culture and use it as our strength and help each other with our weaknesses.”

**Emily Nichelle Wolfe, Editor-in-Chief of The Signal:**

"I began my career with The Signal as a reporter in the Media Production class and I fell in love with the people who worked tirelessly for the betterment of the students.

My favorite thing about The Signal is that we act as the voice of the students here at UHCL. As journalists, we must act in the best interest of the students who put their trust in us to continue telling the stories they need to know.

It is this aspect that [is] at the center of my leadership. Everything I do, I do it for the Hawks who entrust The Signal to do the right thing, to tell the stories, to act as their voice."



**Mireya "Janet" Green, Student Professional, SIL:**



"The Division of Student Affairs has helped me gain an immense sense of belonging. Without this, my college and work experience would not have been as well-rounded or meaningful. It was through programs like new student orientation, Lighting of the Letters and Chili Cook-off, that my friendships and connections on campus grew stronger with peers and staff. Further, as a first-generation college student, these programs allowed me to not feel alone in my journey, to meet and help others like me, and to gain valuable information about my education that proved to be essential to me graduating on time and feeling equipped to attend."

## IMPACT ON RECENT GRADUATES

**Collin Smith, former Graduate Career Counseling Intern, Career Services:**

"I have gained valuable communication skills that allow me to cater to each student's needs. I also use the Rec Center and clinic regularly and I think they are both wonderful. I was [also] able to learn exactly what employers want to see from students in resumes, cover letters and interviews."

Graduated May 2020, MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling; Career Counselor I with Career Services.



**Brandon Ruiz-Peña, former Editor-in-Chief of The Signal:**



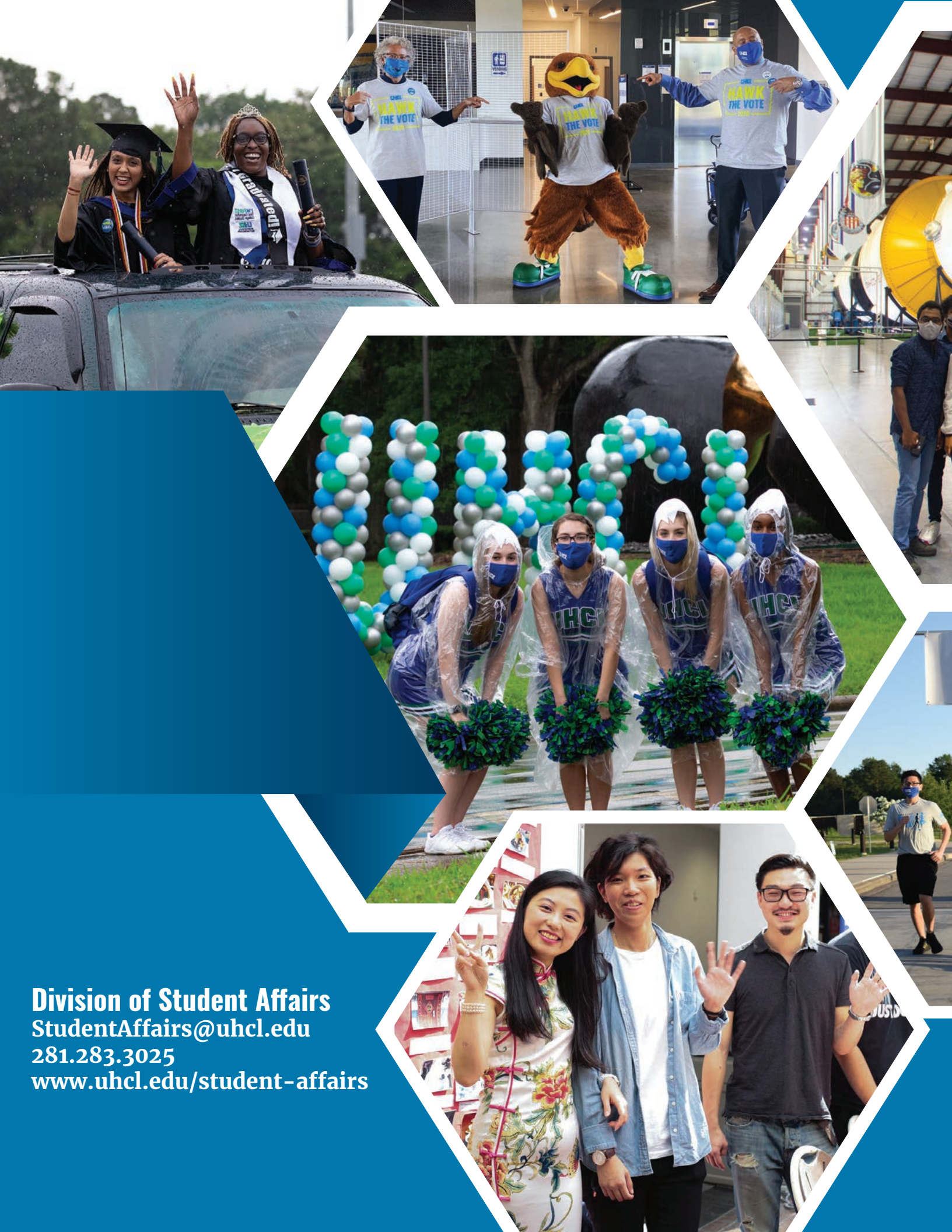
"When I first started out as reporter for UHCL's student-run newspaper, I never expected to be there longer than a semester. Now, years later, I have had the opportunity to be on the editorial team for four years – two of which as the editor-in-chief....

My time at The Signal has been truly life-changing, as I've been challenged and given the chance to obtain skills I never knew I could possess. While it was not always easy, The Signal provided me a playground to try new things, make mistakes and build friendships that I hope last a lifetime.

The countless hours I spent in the newsroom, the laughs shared with coworkers and the experiences that altered what I believed I was capable of, will forever be a memorable part of my journey."

Graduated May 2020, MA in Digital Media Studies; 6th grade reading teacher in Pasadena Independent School District.





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