



University of Houston  Clear Lake

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By all appearances, 'tis the season now, it seems. Christmas trees and displays were up in many places before Halloween. Thanksgiving seems to be the time to mark Black Friday. But unseen because it resides in the heart, is the sign of the holidays: caring...caring shown in compassion, giving, giving thanks, and showing attention to others. I see this at the university, too.

We are in the final stages of fundraising for the calendar year, and I am lucky to have so many thank you letters to write. Some names are new, and some are quite familiar. I am also reviewing names of those who have been exemplary in their support and are under consideration for award recognition at the President's Cabinet event in early 2011. This is also the time when we look over the endowments that now number more than 130 to verify that the funds are being spent well, to the donors' intentions. Names everywhere. Names of people who chose to pay attention to the needs of others while sharing with the university in ways that gave thanks for special people in their lives or preserved their legacies at the university they love. Their UHCL.

Behind each contribution is a story. Some of the stories appear in brief form on the pavers in Alumni Plaza where varied messages bring about smiles and sentimental sighs. Again, more names. More who have found a way to make a difference for students while making a statement about themselves, their loved ones or their university.

The office is quiet as I type this, as most of my team is taking extra time off for the Thanksgiving break. They comprise an amazing group of women who regularly give of their time, abilities and self for others, for the university and for all the right reasons.

Everywhere I turn, I see people and names of those who have chosen the university as a medium for the generosity of all that they share. There must be something to that. I know there is. Special things happen when giving to their UHCL.

We are blessed.

Dion McInnis

Associate Vice President for University Advancement

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