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## August 2011: Celebrating Shuttle

University of Houston-Clear Lake was created because the NASA/Johnson Space Center (then known as the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center) Director Robert R. Gilruth asked University of Houston to create a higher education presence in the Clear Lake area. From the beginning, UHCL has been there for and with the extended aerospace family through thick and thin. Many of the students who attended UHCL did so to enhance their careers in support of the Shuttle Program. We have celebrated with successes and cried with catastrophes. And sometimes our emotions are mixed.

On Tuesday, Aug. 23, UHCL will host the opening reception for [Celebrating Shuttle: An American Icon](#). This photographic exhibition will take over much of Bayou Building as every mission of this magnificent endeavor will be represented with a photograph from each of the 135 missions. It is with joy and pride that we celebrate, and it is with sadness that we do so to mark the end of the Shuttle program. It is with pride that we invite others to see what an integral part our friends, neighbors, students, faculty, staff and alumni have played since the inception of Shuttle. Astronauts, engineers and scientists who have been involved with human space exploration are among the portraits and names of our distinguished alumni.

The opening reception will include live music, insights from NASA docents, and various guest speakers will share their perspectives. Shuttle artifacts will be on display as well. The event, though sad for ending that it marks, also celebrates the greatest engineering feat. And this community stood proudly front and center during the highs and lows.

The exhibit will remain on display until Sept. 28. I hope you can make it. For more information on the exhibition, visit [the exhibit website](#) or call 281-283-2021.



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