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December 2013: Association Pins

December: the holiday season and time for families to gather, and to celebrate new members.

December: the graduation season when the university family will grow by approximately 900 graduates who enter the alumni phase of their lives, while remembering the support they received from family, friends, colleagues, faculty and staff who helped make their dream of a degree come true.



I recall in my youth how easy it was to tell who got what from Santa. Bicycles were the ultimate Christmas gift, and the minute you walked outside you would see new bikes, with shiny rims and glossy paint, reflecting light in eye-catching ways that said, "I got a new bike! Boy am I proud and happy."

At this year's graduation, a new tradition begins, providing graduates a meaningful way to commemorate and celebrate their entry into the family of alumni. While not shiny and sparkly like a child's new bike, the new item will be a visual reminder of something about which each alumnus should be very proud and happy: graduation. This year, the new alumni pin, bearing the same university seal that is printed on each diploma, will be presented to each student on the stage at commencement as they literally walk up as a student and walk off as an alumnus.

In the past, the Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni and Community Relations presented bright lapel pins bearing the alumni association brand at Commencement Kick-Off, an event held on campus to celebrate students and their accomplishment of graduation. Students, family and friends had the opportunity for fun and goodbyes with favorite professors or staff members. Some students would then wear their alumni association pin on their robe at commencement. Pins would be lost over time, and new ones would be provided. The new pin will be a once-in-a-lifetime offering. Alumni interested in a pin may request one [online](#).

Claiming UHCL as your university can happen in many ways; the new alumni pin will become a tradition over time, as a way to proudly proclaim UHCL as your own for the rest of your life. Welcome to all the students who will join the alumni family this December.



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