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# YOUR UHCL

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## May 2013: Hawks

It is not unusual to see members of the university family gather together or spend time alone to enjoy the campus wildlife. Hawks, egrets, cardinals and black birds take to the skies, while deer join raccoons and opossum along with many others to roam the grounds. Add fish and gators, and there is plenty of cause to pause and look, listen, photograph or just enjoy. It is not unusual to hear of sightings, which are made particularly easy because of the familiarity that animals have with the campus human denizens. One recent sighting has the campus abuzz. A hawk, a BIG hawk, was spied at the recent annual chili cook-off, and it stole the show, even if it couldn't fly. The yet unnamed bird from a yet-to-be-determined hawk species is the new university mascot.



For the first time in university history, UHCL has an official mascot, and it will soon become a more visible part of campus life. Expectations are that the land-bound bird will appear at various events, activities and festivities to add a dose of energy, excitement and fun. As the university moves forward with its four-year initiative to admit freshmen and sophomores in fall 2014, it is developing new programs and roles on campus. One is that of mascot, i.e., the person inside the costume and the processes used to find and train the person(s) who become the mascot. Excitement is high.

Enthusiasm surrounding the hawk has encouraged a new initiative to take flight with the university's annual fund program called the Family Campaign, which is the opportunity each year for university family members to commit their support to the university through contributions. This year, the fledgling mascot program will be offered as an earmark for generosity. There is much to do to bring the mascot program together, and there is a hope that those who serve as the mascot can also receive some assistance, such as a stipend.

It only makes sense that those who attend classes or work at the university feel a natural affinity to flora and fauna...including a six-foot-tall hawk. Everyone feels a sense of ownership of the university environment, and apparently already the mascot. Go Hawks!

*(If you would like to support the mascot program, please contact Kim Herhold at [gifts@uhcl.edu](mailto:gifts@uhcl.edu))*



**Dion McInnis**

Associate Vice President for University  
Advancement

[McInnis@uhcl.edu](mailto:McInnis@uhcl.edu), 281-283-2018