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March 2011: We are your UHCL

They will gather with us in March, and they *come* together to *be* together. One will be recognized with an award; all will be thanked. Some are new to the "family," and some have been a part almost since the university's inception. They represent important benefits to the university and its students, ranging from scholarships to art collections, all of which came because of generosity and a shared belief with the university for the value of education and learning.

These are the people who declare University of Houston-Clear Lake as theirs through their actions of philanthropy. They are members of President's Cabinet, comprising those the university recognizes for annual individual contributions of \$1,000 or more. Some in attendance will also be recognized later this year for their membership in a new recognition program—The Neumann Society—for donors with individual lifetime giving of \$100,000 per year and named after the founding chancellor of UHCL, Alfred R. Neumann.

I admit that the annual [President's Cabinet Award Dinner](#) is one of my favorite events at the university. Its purpose is satisfying and its attendees inspiring. There is something about the mood of an event where everyone takes pride in what they have done and appreciates being thanked for it: It affirms the mission of the organization, and magnificent effect of generosity on the lives of others.

Even during challenging times—or, *especially* in challenging times—philanthropic giving declares a connection between the donor and the beneficiary. When I look at those in the room, and the names of those who have given but could not attend, I am thankful for their decisions to claim UHCL and its work as their own. Each is different with different motivations, but in each I see a commitment which motivates us to say, "Yes, we are your UHCL, and we are proud to be so. And thankful."



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We love stories. Human stories. Funny stories and dramatic ones.
Would you like to share *your* UHCL story? We would love to listen.