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## March 2013: 50th Edition



There is something beautifully synchronous to have this, the 50th edition of Your UHCL, coincide with the 2013 President's Report to the Community. Fifty times I have written about how people hold various relationships to the university, be they donors, alumni, faculty, students, staff, community members, retirees, or even passersby. All are affected by the place and the spirit ... the spirit of connectedness which President Staples refers to often as "community-minded and partnership-oriented." These people connect to the beauty of the campus, to the people who work and go to school

here, or to the effect provided by the education and/or environment. The Report to the Community could easily be, "We are in this together, and we always will be."

Each year, the president recognizes an organization that has been a partner with the university to the betterment of the community we serve. This year, the honoree truly exemplifies that notion of "We are in this together, and we always will be": Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. The chamber was established in 1962, just a few years before the director of the Manned Spacecraft Center (now NASA/Johnson Space Center) Bob Gilruth asked University of Houston to establish a higher education presence in Clear Lake. The chamber was growing and full of energy by the time the university opened its doors in 1974. UHCL and the chamber have partnered and collaborated from the beginning.

This past year has witnessed the two organizations' ongoing commitment to collaboration in a multitude of ways, but there is more. Both entities serve those who comprise it: the chamber serves its members and the community, and the university serves its students and the community. The connections are not merely between the organizations' leadership. Members of the chamber who have businesses in the community include alumni, or parents of students; students of the university own businesses or shop at the businesses that compose the chamber. And so on. Perhaps it is not a connection that we celebrate, but an integration of spirit and purpose.

Fifty issues of Your UHCL, coinciding with the 2013 President's Report to the Community: a wonderful time to genuinely say, "We are in this together, and we always will be."



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