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## October 2011: I Heart UHCL

October 12 is "**I Heart UHCL**" day at University of Houston-Clear Lake. It is a great way for students, faculty and staff to show their love for the university in myriad fun ways. Alumni are joining in, too, and various businesses are showing their appreciation and affection by providing sponsorships for the day. A day of hearts is a good day indeed. One local business has gone much further, and that was before the manager even *knew* "I Heart UHCL" day existed.

Ayobami Awe is the manager of the local Denny's, across the street from the university apartments. I am partial to the place and my secretary calls it my satellite office. I always feel comfortable and welcome there for business chats, interviews and conversations. Thanks to Awe's initiative, everyone who loves UHCL will feel welcome. He is creating a UHCL room, decorated with UHCL logo items, and he will offer discounts to university students, faculty, staff and alumni when they present their university I.D. card. "Maybe they want to eat here, or maybe they just want to come and study. Either way, we want them to feel welcome," he said.

I met Awe when he came by the Office of University Advancement to inquire about university paraphernalia and logo items pertaining to alumni; he had already completed a successful shopping spree at the bookstore, as evidenced by a bag full of goodies. His plans intrigued Charity Ellis, the director of alumni and community relations, and she introduced me to him after he had **his photo** taken while holding an "I Heart UHCL" sign.

He seemed pleased to hear the story of one of our distinguished alumni from several years ago who went to Denny's after the black-tie optional gala that was held on campus that year. I had interviewed her at the restaurant and she said, "My family and I are going to Denny's for coffee. That is where this began and it will always be special."

"I Heart UHCL" is about saying to others that the university is special to you. Everyone has their own way of communicating that UHCL is their special university. What is yours? Share your story!

Join us as we celebrate everything we love about our university during the annual "I Heart UHCL" day on Wednesday, Oct. 12. To show your love for UHCL, print **this graphic**, then take your photo with it and send it to [alumni@uhcl.edu](mailto:alumni@uhcl.edu) or post it to the UHCL Alumni Association Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/UHCLAlumniAssociation).







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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.