NEVER PICTURED I WOULD ...

Fight for safer food
Walk out alive
Abandon my career

PLUS:
Other U-turn stories
Above: Therapy dogs like 7-year-old Kelsey came to UC in May to help students reduce the stress of upcoming exams. "It is well documented that dogs can have a therapeutic effect such as lowering blood pressure," said John Wallace, president of Therapy Pets of Greater Cincinnati. "How can you be stressed after getting your face licked?" Kelsey enjoys her work as student Katie Fine offers a welcome scratch under the chin.

Opposite page: UC made the switch to semesters in August. Read more on page 11.

“Time changes everything except something within us, which is always surprised by change.”
— Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), English novelist and poet
Never pictured
In this issue, we tell stories of graduates whose paths have gone in unanticipated directions. Some discovered within themselves the need to do an about-face in life while others turned on a dime due to unforeseen, even tragic, circumstances. For all, however, it’s been a life of which they never dreamed.

14 Tragedy spurs advocacy
A son’s death lands grad on “Food, Inc.” and fighting for safer food.

19 Remembering Louise Nippert
A look at the modest side of UC’s philanthropic alumna.

20 A starlet’s story
A Hollywood actress left behind the silver screen to teach.

24 Honoring a brother’s last request
Holocaust survivor builds bridges of reconciliation.

28 Actor to the rescue — of tigers
Alumnus found his way from stage and screen to wildlife conservation.

30 Walking the walk
Doc’s career path moved from corporate world to waiting tables to treating cancer.

32 Second chances
UC professors help Cincy’s unemployed re-enter the workforce.

34 Trading the courtroom for a classroom
Find out why one grad ditched her legal career to pursue teaching.

Bearcat Sports
36 Agent to the pros
One UC grad represents a stable of former Bearcats in the NFL.

39 ‘Crosstown’ goes neutral
UC and Xavier will continue rivalry game at U.S. Bank Arena.

Departments
2 Letters: Memories of WWII, Neil Armstrong and Ludlow Hall
5 News: Ono interim president; quarters now semesters
12 In Focus: Festival of colors
40 Alumni Connection: More U-turn stories
47 Index to 59 alumni
48 On Campus Yesterday 1955: Remembering Jack Twyman
**LETTERS**

**WWII nursing students**

I especially enjoyed reading "Answering the Call" in the April magazine about UC’s 25th General Hospital for the Army.

In 1944, I and about 70 other girls entered the College of Nursing and Health. Most of us were members of the Army’s Cadet Nurse Corps, the Army’s attempt to recruit nursing students for the war effort. Since almost all the RNs had left Cincinnati General Hospital, members of the class of 1947 were used to staff the wards. Also, some of the nurse faculty were gone, and we were taught anatomy and chemistry by medical college professors.

I was one of the first in my class to work night duty on the busy male surgical floor B1 — an experience I will never forget. Needless to say, our class received a very intense education. About half of the entering students graduated in 1947. I have many special memories of those days and will always be glad I was there.

Glenice DeWees Anderson, Nur ’49
Santa Rosa, Calif.

**Mystery face revealed**

I was on campus during the ’60s, and my picture is in the Letters to the Editor of your April issue ["1970 Revisited"]). I’m the lone guy with the granny glasses, white T-shirt, and looking to my right. My dad was Jed Small.

Thanks for a great issue.
John Small Jr., A&S ’71
Crystal Lake, Ill.

**Editor’s note:** John “Jed” Small, Bus ’40, was director of the Alumni Association from 1949-70, then assistant to UC presidents Warren Bennis, Henry Winkler and Joseph Steger. In 1946, he co-founded the Sigma Sigma Carnival. He died in 2007.

**NCAA champs**

Your article on UC’s Golden Age of basketball [December 2010] brought back wonderful memories. I especially appreciated being reminded of the individual contributions of each of the players, the Ed Jucker coaching style and the improbable nature of the 1961 victory. The bond the players formed is remarkable. I was amazed to learn that they still get together twice a year. Thanks for a really well-written article.

Jon Lippincott
Cincinnati

I enjoyed reading the article describing the 1961, ’62 and ’63 NCAA championship basketball teams. I recall that Tony Yates [Ed ’63] was clearly fouled on his drive near the end of regulation in the 1963 game though no foul was called.

I note you indicate the only source of video coverage of those games is through the NCAA. I’m certain there was a limited edition pair of videos of the two games in 1961-62 offered by the university or through one of the bookstores — in the early to mid-1980s, I believe. The quality wasn’t too good since, I think, they were made from TV kinescopes. I didn’t have a VCR and couldn’t afford the videos. I seem to recall they sold out very quickly, and it seems likely some of them are around the Cincinnati area. I’d love to get a set of them and hope they haven’t all wound up in landfills.

One personal note: I arrived on campus in the fall of 1961 and found my way to the Armory Fieldhouse to see many home games. Before the season started, however, I was on the steps outside the building and ran into the largest human I’d ever seen, wearing the thickest eyeglasses I’d ever seen. It was the gentle giant Paul Hogue [Ed ’62].

Thanks for the memories.
Tom O’Neill, Eng ’66
Beaver, Pa.

**Memories of Armstrong**

We really enjoyed your issue on Neil Armstrong and the UC co-op grads working on NASA space exploration [October 2011]. It brought back memories of our family meeting Neil Armstrong [HonDoc ’80, who died Aug. 25] in Las Vegas in 2002. We attended a seminar and were among the 10 or so of the 5,000 attendees who got to meet him.

He is a very private individual, and it took over a year to convince him to attend the seminar, let alone meet and greet a lot of people. I wrote a personal note to him and mentioned that we were 1959 UC grads, that we were both Ohio natives and that I was an instrumentation engineer in helping to develop the “Back Pack” (Portable Life Support System) for the Apollo space suit that he wore.

This was in the old days of 1962-65 after our three years in the Air Force. Babe (Kathryn) Gallenstein [Ed ’59] and I got married just before graduation in 1959, and I went into the service as an engineering officer working on the Titan I Intercontinental Ballistic Missile program.

When we met Armstrong, he said, “Oh, here’s the Bearcats” and happily posed with us. He and the host of the event had a conversation on stage. When asked, “When you look up at the moon, what do you think of?” his droll, humorous comment was “girls.”

Jim Reger, Eng ’59
Lakewood Ranch, Fla.

**Team impresses 7-year-old**

I took my daughter out of school early to catch the Bearcats vs. Butler baseball game in Indianapolis. I just wanted to say what a class act the whole team was; great
character and values were on display. My little girl, Maggie, got to shake hands with some players and coach Brian Cleary. She even got to walk in the dugout and tell the players good luck. To a 7-year-old, that was a big deal.

That was the power of influence that a team had on a little person, a little person who will take that little prestigious moment and grow from it. Thanks to a great university, and thanks for making my family feel a part of a great team.

Jim Serger Jr., Univ ’91 Carmel, Ind.

Fortress still not found

I really look forward to receiving my “UC Magazine.” I appreciate the superior writing, excellent photography and the diversity of news and accomplishments covered.

I had to chuckle, however, at a phrase [describing the location of an archeological dig in Cyprus] in the “Ancient Fortress Found” article in the April issue: “…which is situated on a plateau not far from the Mediterranean Sea.” In fact, since Cyprus is an island surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, all of Cyprus is not far from the Mediterranean Sea. The use of that phrase made me wonder if the article’s author had even looked at a map of the country.

I understand the importance of protecting this type of excavation by not revealing its exact location, but I was hoping for a bit more information about where the site was situated, such as a reference to its proximity to a major city. I am fortunate to have traveled to Cyprus and experienced its beauty firsthand.

For places not on a typical American’s travel itinerary, however, it might be helpful, when publishing articles about UC’s global reach, to include small maps of the areas referenced.

Aside from my nitpicking about Cypriot geography, I thank you for producing such a high-quality magazine.

Ellen Roberts, CCM ’76 Wilmington, Del.

Editor’s note: Episkopi-Bamboula is the archeological dig located on the prehistoric site of Bamboula, which is between the villages of Episkopi and Limassol on the southern coast of Cyprus. We meant to indicate that the Mediterranean is actually visible from the plateau.

Moved to tears

I was so moved by what John Bach wrote and the video [online, “Voices of Dadaab Theater Project”]. His way to tell this story brought me to tears. I thank him for his kindness and willingness to share the work of UC students and our friends in Africa with the UC community. It means a great deal to me. Sharing their voices with the world is important.

Michael Littig, CCM ’05 New York, N.Y.

Sad for Wittenberg

Thank you for asking the opinion [in the readership survey] of a parent who enjoys the “UC Mag” so very much. Our oldest son and his wife are UC grads. Our youngest son is a UC grad, and our “son” from Africa also graduated from UC. We love UC and its amazing co-op program. Keep up the good work.

As a Wittenberg alum, I am sad that Witt does not do the same excellent job of communication that we find at UC.

Greg and Marcia Ward Urbana, Ohio

Sander Hall lives on

I was on Sander Hall’s 24th floor in 1981-82 as a graduate student. I think I was the only female student from Turkey in the whole university.

UC had thought a lot about diversity back then and offered scholarships to international students. But taking elevators to the 24th floor was not easy. I used to get standard elevator questions like: “What do you wear in your country? Do you eat hamburgers in Turkey?”

We also had nightly alarms and had to go down 24 floors in the middle of the night — sometimes quite annoying.

Once we had a real fire during the day. I was working in the next building at the Behavioral Science Lab in the Center for Policy Research when I saw the fire trucks around Sander. The fire department could barely reach a floor above the 10th floor. Afterward, there was massive media coverage with many graduate students from our floor on TV.

A decision like putting Sander Hall into the sand will never happen in my country. I am amazed that principles are taken so seriously at UC, as well as building and fire code laws in Ohio. It should be a case study to many architectural and law schools all over the world.

Suzan Onat-Bayazit, M (A&S) ’83 Istanbul, Turkey

Foreign Service update

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed your April 2012 “UC Magazine.” My husband and I are both Foreign Service officers with the U.S. Department of State stationed in Embassy Pretoria, South Africa. We are both ’97 UC graduates — David Foster from Arts and Sciences and I from the College of Law where I was a fellow in the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights.

As career diplomats, it is really very
exciting for us to see UC highlight its alumni’s interesting experiences around the world. While I recognize that this was a special issue, I would hope that you would continue to carry this theme in regular articles in your publication. Very well done, and thank you.

Kathryn Pongonis, JD ’97
Pretoria, South Africa

Ludlow Hall ‘makeshift dorm’

In 2003, you ran a story about the memories of a freshman girl who was housed in Ludlow Hall [Patricia Crume Lloyd, DAAP ’69]. She had some good stories to tell about the old hotel that brought back fond memories for me.

After reading the article, I went on a diligent search for memorabilia from my own freshman year in that makeshift dorm on the other side of Burnet Woods. At the time, I couldn’t find these photos, but a few weeks ago they turned up in a box of old papers. I have scanned the few that show the dorm from the front and the group picture that our dorm adviser Bob Deddens [Eng ’63, JD ’67] organized for us.

As far as I know, my freshman class was the first to use the old hotel as a dorm, and I remember being pretty confused when I first got there about where I was and where the college was that I was supposed to be attending. I clearly remember the day my mother and stepfather dropped me off and got my luggage up to my room on the second floor. We said goodbye, and they left to go back to Pittsburgh. There I was — a clueless freshman who didn’t even know what questions to ask.

After exploring Burnet Woods and the little business district on Ludlow Avenue, I got my bus pass to campus and found the DAA building where I would spend most of my time. I had many long walks up Clifton Avenue to the DAA building and remember never quite getting used to all the ambulance sirens coming and going from Good Sam Hospital at all hours of the night.

We had a good group of freshmen there — my first real exposure to people from other places and cultures and all pretty good guys when I think back. I remember the Ping-Pong table in the basement and how I actually used the iron and ironing board to press my shirts to wear to class. That didn’t last very long once I discovered how casual college life was and how my mother’s idea of what college kids were supposed to look like was a little behind the times.

It didn’t take long to meet some commuting freshman students who had cars and would pick me up and take me to campus. So I never really made very good use of my bus pass. My meal-plan ticket was not very well used, either, since I seldom was able to make it to the other side of campus with all my DAA gear and still get to classes on time.

Breakfast became snack food that I could store in my room. I remember once being reprimanded for keeping a container of milk out on my windowsill to keep it cold in the winter. So much for my routine of cereal for breakfast.

I remember the barbershop a few doors down from the dorm, the IGA supermarket a little further down Ludlow on the other side of the street and some grand old mansions a few blocks out on Clifton. There are lots of memories to go through, but this is probably not the time. Hopefully some of the members of the 1965 freshman class will see this and get a few laughs.

For the group photo, handwritten announcement posters were put up around the dorm, and I must have thought they were worth saving. I am the guy in the black sweatshirt, just right of center behind the guy with the umbrella (mouth open, making a wisecrack of some kind, I’m sure). Our dorm adviser, Bob Deddens, has the bowtie and dustpan just left of me. I remember all these faces like it was yesterday, but can’t come up with very many names. I do remember that we had some good times. This was more like a frat house than a dorm.

Craig Fitzpatrick, DAAP ’70
Knightdale, N.C.

Editor’s note: Are any readers willing to supply additional names of the men in the photo?

UC Visit www.magazine.uc.edu/extra to see more photos and read the original letters or the stories to which these writers refer.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor must relate to the university, be signed and include addresses, colleges and years of graduation, when applicable. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity or factual accuracy and to reject letters of unsuitable content. Letters may not criticize other letter writers or insult the character of anyone else. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Cincinnati.
The University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees appointed provost Santa Ono interim university president following Gregory Williams’ Aug. 21 resignation as UC’s 27th president. Larry Johnson, dean of the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services, was appointed interim provost.

Since September 2010, Ono has been UC’s senior vice president for academic affairs and the university provost. He holds positions as professor of pediatrics within UC’s College of Medicine and professor of biology in the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. Earlier this year, he developed the university’s comprehensive “UC2019 Academic Master Plan.”

“Our senior leadership team is particularly strong and experienced,” Ono says, “and we will work to move this institution forward in a positive, profound way. As a university, we have built an amazing amount of momentum with UC2019 and the Academic Master Plan. We owe it to the university to see these initiatives through to success.”

Prior to Ono’s UC arrival, he had served at Emory University as senior vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs, while also on faculty as professor in the Department of Ophthalmology. Ono received his education at the University of Chicago, McGill University and Harvard University, where a Helen Hay Whitney Foundation Fellowship supported his biochemistry and molecular biology training.

Ono’s first academic appointment was as assistant professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, during which time he received the American Diabetes Association Career Development Award and the Investigator Award from the National Arthritis Foundation.

In 1996, he became an associate professor at the Harvard Medical School, joined the staff at the Schepens Eye Research Institute and was principal investigator of the Harvard Program in Ocular Immunology, as well as an executive committee member of the NIH Training Program in Molecular Bases of Eye Diseases.

In 2001, Ono went to University College London where he served as associate dean of students, a member of the UCL Council (the university’s governing body), Cumberlege Professor, GlaxoSmithKline Chair of Biomedical Sciences at both UCL and Moorfields Eye Hospital, and immunology department head. He has also served on multiple editorial boards and consults widely for companies such as Cambridge Antibody Technologies (now part of Astra Zeneca) and Johnson & Johnson.

In accepting Williams’ resignation, the board expressed its appreciation for his contributions since his UC tenure began in 2009. He not only led UC to higher graduation rates, increased numbers of National Merit Scholars and higher alumni giving rates, he also accomplished the following:

• Development of “UC2019 — Accelerating Our Transformation,” a strategic plan designed to position UC among the world’s best universities.
• Helped to reshape the Big East conference as a result of realignment and led the search for the new Big East commissioner, Mike Aresco.
• Development and implementation of a comprehensive diversity plan.

President Williams said he had appreciated the opportunity to serve as UC’s president. “I wish the university all the best. It is on an upward trajectory, and I am pleased to have been part of that.”
VOCALIZATION PROJECT

UC researcher Peter Scheifele records an otter vocalizing in different situations. Scientists with UC’s FETCH-LAB (Facility for Education and Testing of Canine Hearing and Lab Animal Bioacoustics) have partnered with biologists at the Newport Aquarium in Kentucky to study the hearing and vocalization of several animals — including otters, sharks and sea horses — housed at the aquarium. By increasing knowledge of these species’ hearing and environment, researchers believe the project could eventually improve captive breeding programs for rare, endangered animals.

Infant growth and cholesterol

Ensuring a baby’s health starts in the womb, and the contributing factors are complex. A new grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will allow UC metabolic disease researchers to study maternal cholesterol and its connection to fetal growth. Fetuses that grow slowly (called intrauterine growth restriction or IUGR), have an increased risk of infection, disease and mortality, an issue of paramount importance in developing countries where 90 percent of the world’s IUGR infants are born. The new UC study will investigate whether or not cholesterol is a beneficial factor that helps a fetus grow normally during gestation.

New treatment for Parkinson’s

UC researchers took part in a national study that showed that an intestinal gel delivered through a surgically implanted tube is more effective for Parkinson’s disease patients than similar medication taken orally. The gel, known as levodopa carbidopa, was shown to increase the time patients were free of symptoms of advanced Parkinson’s disease.

Brain tumor vaccines

Vaccine clinical trials under way at the UC Cancer Institute and Brain Tumor Center are taking aim at one of the most commonly diagnosed brain tumors. Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is a fast-growing malignant brain tumor that occurs in the central nervous system and accounts for 60 percent of the 17,000 new primary brain tumors diagnosed annually in the United States. One of the trials targets a specific mutation which is present in about 30 percent of patients with GBM.

Circadian rhythms research

Could a better understanding of circadian rhythms lead to enhanced knowledge of disease treatments, trauma care and human combat performance? That is the question an interdisciplinary research team based in molecular and cellular physiology will seek to answer with a $3.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense. Researchers hope their studies will reveal potential methods to improve care for patients with abdominal trauma or exposure to gut pathogens.

Secondhand smoke exposure

The negative health effects of early-life exposure to secondhand smoke appear to impact girls more than boys — particularly those with early-life allergies. Epidemiologists with UC’s Cincinnati Childhood Allergy and Air Pollution Study found that children exposed to high levels of secondhand smoke who also had allergies during early childhood (age 2) are at greater risk for decreased lung function at age 7 compared to children who had not developed allergies by this age.
**NEW ACADEMIC MASTER PLAN**

UC’s Academic Master Plan, developed by provost and interim president Santa Ono, was unveiled this spring with an expanded investment of approximately $10 million. The master plan is a component of “UC2019 Accelerating Our Transformation,” the strategic plan that sets the university’s agenda through 2019 and commits the university to become a first-choice destination for students, patients, faculty and staff.

Of the allocations, $4.25 million is designated for enhancing the student experience, diversity and global engagement; $3.32 million toward faculty recruitment, teaching excellence and research; and $2.45 million for core support in the form of improvements to classrooms for 21st century learning, academic technology tools, streamlining scholarship coordination and more.

**COOL, CLASSY COUTURE**

UC’s College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning staged its 61st annual fashion show in June. The event, sponsored by Macy’s, showcased the work of graduating fashion design students before a sell-out crowd. Nationally recognized beauty-industry leader and long-time DAAP supporter Frederic Holzberger was honored.

**ARCHITECTURE ACCOLADES**

Four University of Cincinnati buildings were designated as some of “The 50 Most Amazing Examples of College Architecture” by Top Colleges Online, a website providing reviews and college rankings for prospective students. The total of four listings was more than any other university in the U.S.

The Vontz Center for Molecular Studies was described as a "panoply of curved lines" with "skewed windows" and "tilted angles." The Steger Student Life Center “is like a bizarre and wonderful marriage between a curve and the prow of a ship.” The Michael Graves-designed Engineering Research Center was listed as “an eminently pragmatic building in space and form.” The highest ranked UC building on the list, the Campus Recreation Center, is "a chimera of a building … slammed together in an almost terrifying way."

Not the first accolades for UC architecture, Forbes magazine named UC among the world’s most beautiful college campuses in 2010, and Delta Sky Magazine included UC among the world’s top 10 inspiring campuses in 2011.
AMATEUR DISCOVERS ‘MONSTER’

Around 450 million years ago, shallow seas covered the Cincinnati region and harbored one very large and now very mysterious organism. Despite its size, no one has ever found a fossil of this “monster” until its discovery by an amateur paleontologist last year.

The fossilized specimen, a roughly elliptical shape with multiple lobes, totaling almost seven feet in length, has professionals puzzled. “It’s definitely a new discovery,” says David Meyer of UC’s geology department. “And we’re sure it’s biological. We just don’t know yet exactly what it is.”

Remains of the unidentified creature were found near Covington, Ky., by Ron Fine of Dayton, a member of the Dry Dredgers, an association of amateur paleontologists based at UC. “I knew right away that I had found an unusual fossil,” he says. “Imagine a saguaro cactus with flattened branches and horizontal stripes in place of the usual vertical stripes. That’s the best description I can give.”

For more than 200 years, the rocks of the Cincinnati region have been among the most studied in all of paleontology, but Fine’s discovery might be the largest fossil recovered from the area, Meyer adds.

BIOFUEL FROM UC FRYER FAT

Environmental engineering faculty and students have an innovative approach to turn waste cooking oil from campus eateries into an alternative fuel source, resulting in a collaboration that could help Cincinnati’s own grease traps power the region.

Every month for years now, engineering professor Mingming Lu and her team of students have collected around 35 gallons of waste fryer fat from UC dining spots. After cleaning and treating the used cooking oil, the process yields biodiesel — at a cost of about $1.35 per gallon — which helps fire UC’s power plant.

This year the team presented its solution as part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency design expo and won an $87,000 grant to expand the fryer-to-fuel project into a regional effort.

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District, Bluegrass Biodiesel and UC have partnered to test methods for extracting oil from local grease traps around Cincinnati at a 100-gallon pilot facility for the sewer district.

BETTER BOTTLE

Blind and visually impaired patients may have an easier-to-use pill bottle if the senior capstone project of design students Alex Broerman and Ashley Ma gets produced.

After interviewing prospective clients, the pair created an innovative design that eliminates the need for often-difficult and easily lost twist caps by incorporating a childproof, hinged lid that flips open. To those lids, they added multiple distinct textures and colors to differentiate medications. The design does not include Braille since only 10 percent of people who are blind or have visual impairments can read Braille.

The stout body and a nearly 2-inch-wide rectangular opening allow a user easy access while making the bottle less likely to tip over. Broerman and Ma, who graduated from the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning in June, have filed for a provisional patent on their design.
TWO NEW DEANS

The University of Cincinnati welcomed two new deans this summer. Xuemao “Shimo” Wang is the new dean and university librarian. UC alum Ronald Jackson II heads the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. Wang comes to UC from Emory University where he served as associate vice provost of university libraries since 2009. Jackson, A&S ’91, M (A&S) ’93, who earned degrees in communication, returned to his hometown and home college from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

SNACK STUDY

UC researchers have further confirmed something most parents already knew. Elementary-age children are scarfing down way more junk foods such as chips, candy and cookies than they are eating nutritious snacks such as fruits and vegetables.

Manoj Sharma, professor of health promotion and education at UC, co-authored a study of 167 fourth- and fifth-graders who reported their snacking behavior over a 24-hour period. What they found was the youngsters’ daily calorie count from low-nutrition foods far outpaced that which they receive from produce, specifically 300 calories to 45. Further, girls reported eating significantly more high-calorie snacks (348) than boys (238).

The study suggests that part of the increase in unhealthy snacking stems from the growing number of children who skip breakfast. Also, children make more of their own choices when snacking versus what they are served at dinner. In the battle against childhood obesity, unhealthy snack foods are a particular concern because they are both cheap and easy for children to purchase, researchers point out.

RECORD GRADUATING CLASS

The University of Cincinnati handed out more than 5,600 degrees during Commencement weekend June 8-9 — the most since 1980. Local and national journalist and humanitarian Nick Clooney (above) was awarded an honorary doctorate and addressed the 2012 graduates at all three ceremonies.

“We are rattling and clanking our way deeper into the 21st century, adjusting to a vulnerable global economy,” said Clooney. “We’re held in the embrace of an immediacy never before imagined.

“Ready or not, change is coming. We won’t meet it successfully unless our intellectual centers like the University of Cincinnati continue to raise the bar for what we expect of ourselves.”

Honorary degrees were also given to Thane Maynard, executive director of the Cincinnati Zoo, and Robert Woodson Sr., founder and president of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise.
RICHARDSON’S ROCKS TURN 40

This November marks the 40th anniversary of the dedication of “Operation Resurrection,” a student-designed monument that commemorates local work of famed architect H.H. Richardson, the man who inspired the architectural style known as Richardsonian Romanesque in the late 1800s.

Standing in Burnet Woods across the street from UC’s northwest corner, the structure comprises stone relics of the Richardson-designed Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce building, one of the region’s most significant public structures before it burned in 1911. The city’s best remaining example of this architectural style is Cincinnati City Hall, designed by Cincinnati-based architect Samuel Hannaford.

In the late ’60s, former UC architectural history professor Bill Rudd sparked the idea for a monument when he discovered that the remains of the Chamber of Commerce building were still in the area. Students dreamed up “Operation Resurrection” and began raising money by selling T-shirts, buttons and sweatshirts bearing Richardson’s face.

DAAP professor John Peterson kept the project moving forward and helped assemble a memorial design contest, won by Stephen Carter, DAAP ’69. The project took a giant leap in 1970 following the Kent State shootings when UC suspended classes. During the campus shutdown, students and faculty oversaw the pouring of the foundation and slab for the memorial. After additional fundraising, the stones were erected at the park in 1972.

Visit www.magazine.uc.edu/extra to see more photos and read former professor Bill Rudd’s essay on the rocks.

CLERMONT’S FIELD

The UC Clermont College Cougars baseball team will open 2013 on a new home field thanks to Cincinnati Reds outfielder Jay Bruce.

Bruce, through the Reds Community Fund, is underwriting a major upgrade to one of the existing fields at the Batavia Township Community Center, which will become the new home of the Cougars. The field, only minutes from the Clermont campus, will be far more convenient for the program, which has used the Blue Ash Crosley Field, more than 20 miles away, for practices and home games.

Bruce asked that the complex be named Brian Wilson Field after the Reds scout who discovered him. Wilson died tragically from a heart attack at age 33 in 2006.

SCORE ONE FOR CCM

College-Conservatory of Music students will soon be leaving UC ready to jump directly into the commercial music scene and perhaps even operate their own studios.

Starting this fall, CCM began offering a bachelor’s in commercial music production, a program unlike any other in the region or the state and one that is attracting applicants from around the world. The degree combines core training in music theory, composition, arrangement and musicianship along with recording-studio techniques, commercial music and media technologies.

By the time students finish, they will have gained skills in composing for television and commercial media, producing, editing, running live sound, songwriting and film scoring. They will also graduate with a minor in music business entrepreneurship.
If history is any guide, the University of Cincinnati’s just-completed move to the semester calendar will stand for at least the next half century … or longer.

After all, UC was previously on semesters for just over 70 years, from the early 1890s to 1964. In the early 1960s, the move to quarters came thanks to the rising tide of baby boomers entering college years.

At that time, the quarter calendar system was viewed as a means to accommodate a greater number of students with a shorter calendar span of classes combined with an extended school day and larger class sizes. That was seen as necessary since the college-age population in the United States increased by more than 65 percent from 1960-75.

The current climate, however, has altered significantly since then. Cooperation between different segments of the higher education system in Ohio will increase during the coming years. As such, Ohio’s public colleges and universities still on quarters were asked to convert to semesters by the Ohio Board of Regents.

The university began preparing for the transition back in 2008, and preparations included three major challenges.

• Curricular revisions: Every course — about 9,000 in all — had to be revised to cohesively fit into a semester calendar, with each course integrating with others across disciplines, majors, departments and colleges. UC added a twist by also taking this opportunity to streamline degree requirements to meet the needs of today’s and tomorrow’s workforce, industry and community needs.

• Encoding and cataloging: Behind-the-scenes encoding and cataloging of the new curriculum was done so that students’ online course registration process was both enhanced and simplified. UC also added new technology to track student learning.

• Student advising: Students making the transition — including about 20,000 undergraduates in degree-granting programs — have individual transition plans/degree audits and the offer of academic counseling to map out degree completion during and after the switch to semesters. The goal is to keep students on track to graduate on time.

Of that challenge, conversion co-chair Kristi Nelson said, “With the course revisions alone, you can liken it to putting together an incredibly complex, three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle. Each one of tens of thousands of pieces had to fit with other pieces due to the nature of prerequisites and requirements of accrediting bodies.”

Semesters will provide experiential-learning benefits like those associated with co-op and study abroad since, for example, almost all study abroad options with partner institutions are based on the semester calendar.

Conversion will also provide graduating students a “first-mover” advantage when entering the job market. Most large employers schedule recruitment of new hires according to the semester calendar. Until now, UC grads entered the post-graduation job market much later than regional peers because of the university’s late graduation date.

And employers involved in UC’s cooperative education program often prefer the semester system (already in place at most other co-op schools) because it allows for a longer work cycle, enabling employers to benefit by entrusting students with projects of greater longevity and responsibility.

In addition, employers will often team co-op students from differing schools on important projects. When these students are on incompatible academic calendars, co-op students from quarter-based schools “arrive late” and “leave early” and, thus, miss out on work-based opportunities.
Brilliant!
Sigma Sigma Commons was awash in color as hundreds of UC students let loose in a rather vivid rejoicing of Holi, an Indian celebration of spring in which participants pelt one another with colored powders called *abeer* and *gulal*. Holi is one of multiple events during Worldfest, when UC spends a week celebrating the many cultures on campus.
When I first met alumna Barb Kowalcyk 10 years ago, I had called to talk about her 2 1/2-year-old son, Kevin. As a fellow Midwesterner and the father of a toddler myself, I felt like we had a few things in common. But I also knew we had one very big difference. While we talked, my son Max was napping at a nearby preschool. Kevin had died the year before.

In that phone interview, we talked about the advocacy Kowalcyk had thrown herself into in response to Kevin’s death. He had been killed by complications from a foodborne pathogen, E. coli, that he consumed in a contaminated hamburger. In less than two weeks, Kevin had gone from a healthy, giggling boy to one of the approximately 3,000 Americans who die each year from foodborne illnesses.

The particular details of his death are horrifying: The worrying presence of blood in his diarrhea that brought them to the emergency room one evening, only to be sent home. His worsening overnight condition and admission to intensive care the next morning. His failing kidneys and agonizing dialysis treatments. His pleas for water or juice, withheld for days to aid his

Continued on page 16
spurs advocacy

Barb Kowalcyk (opposite), D (Med) '12, completed her doctorate in environmental health at UC's College of Medicine this year to further her expertise in epidemiology. The Kowalcyks' son, Kevin (right), died from complications from E. coli in 2001 — two weeks after eating a contaminated hamburger. Their story was featured in the documentary "Food, Inc."
treatment. His sunken eyes and his malnourished, swelling body. Vomiting black bile. His sedation to ease his pain and dull his memory of this ordeal. Tubes sticking out of him everywhere. Eight units of blood.

And then a resuscitation. And then a resuscitation attempt. He and his family were at the hospital for eight days, and he never came home. “We felt like he had been hit by an invisible truck,” Kowalcyk, D (Med) ’12, told me over the phone.

The search for answers

After Kevin’s death, Kowalcyk and her husband searched for answers. Rather than finding comfort by putting together the pieces of his mysterious illness, what they learned — from their county health department to the USDA to agribusiness conglomerates — left them frustrated and angry.

Hence, Kowalcyk became involved with a victim advocacy organization and began walking the halls of Congress recruiting co-sponsors for a food safety bill that came to be known as Kevin’s Law. Co-sponsors were hard to come by, she told me.

By this point in our interview, I had already closed my office door. After I hung up the phone, I sat numbly at my desk trying to compose myself before opening the door and being available to my co-workers. Later that afternoon, I picked my son, Max, up from the day care and held him a little closer. I looked very differently at the food we gave him for dinner that evening and have ever since.

I thought about Kowalcyk constantly for weeks and even had lunch with her a couple of months later. More than anything, I just felt sorry for her, sorry for what she and her family went through and had to live with, and without.

The victim advocacy organization seemed well-meaning, but its mission of “raising awareness” was a way of channeling outrage, not a concrete path to defining and implementing the kinds of policies and protections that would have prevented Kevin’s death. If Kowalcyk’s work with that organization was going to help anyone, I thought, it most likely would help Kowalcyk herself, helping her cope with her grief.

The need for credentials

In retrospect, my reaction to Kowalcyk was typical of many who heard her story. We projected an identity onto her: the victim. It was definitely a case of mistaken identity, one she quickly discovered didn’t fit her at all.

In her professional life, Kowalcyk was a biostatistician with undergraduate and master’s degrees in mathematics — an analytical thinker who saw broken systems as she looked more deeply into the nation’s production and regulation of the food we eat. But without a scientist’s advanced credentials, she risked being seen as “a grieving mom” whenever she spoke, she said — with good intentions but not a heavy hitter.

She decided in 2006 to leave the victim’s group and founded the Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention (CFI), a science-based advocacy organization dedicated to translating the latest research into evidence-informed policies. At the same time, she enrolled at UC to
earn a doctorate in environmental health with a focus in epidemiology and biostatistics.

“There was a moment when I realized I didn’t want to be a victim,” she said. “I wanted to be viewed as a scientist who happened to be affected by foodborne illness rather than a victim who happens to be a scientist, and that’s a big difference.”

The move made perfect sense to David Acheson, former chief medical officer of the FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. He wrote her a letter of recommendation for admission to UC after coming to know her through her advocacy work.

“The reality is that when you’ve got some letters after your name, it counts for something,” he said. “A doctorate requires a higher level of thinking. There’s an analytic process that one goes through.

“I was struck by her capacity as someone who had personal pain but also a lot of scientific objectivity. She can argue her case in a way others can’t.”

She graduated in June, but her years of doctoral study at UC coincided with her rise as one of the nation’s leading advocates for food safety, respected among not only victims’ advocates but also scientists, policymakers and lawmakers for her unique voice and expertise.

National prominence

If Kowalcyk’s story sounds familiar, it might be because you saw her in the 2009 Oscar-nominated documentary “Food, Inc.,” an extended critique of the industrialization of food production in this country. Kowalcyk’s section, called “Unintended Consequences,” shows a happy and healthy Kevin frolicking on a Maine beach on a family vacation shortly before he got sick.

Kowalcyk, her voice breaking, tells the story of his illness in voiceovers over the footage of Kevin. The cameras then follow Kowalcyk and her mother around Capitol Hill, where they hand a photo of Kevin to a Congressional representative as they ask for support for Kevin’s Law.

Another strong voice in the film, practically its narrator, is Michael Pollan, author of “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” and one of the nation’s leading critics of massive industrial agribusinesses. Kowalcyk and Pollan’s paths crossed during press events for the film, and they spent several days together when they each traveled to Iceland to accept the 2010 LennonOno Grant for Peace, an award Yoko Ono offers to honor her late husband’s commitment to peace, truth and human rights. They were two of four recipients that year.

Kowalcyk’s scientific credentials make her “an important player by virtue of her personal experience and scientific expertise,” says Pollan. “I don’t know too many who combine her tragic story, scientific background and political work. For me, she’s been an inspiring figure and someone I turn to when I have a question about science.”

She has used her platform and expertise to influence public policy that is better informed by science. CFI, the national nonprofit she founded in 2006, focuses on scientific research, education and advocacy “to help America create innovative, science-based solutions for the food challenges of the 21st century,” according to its website (www.foodborneillness.org).

She co-authored a report by the National Academy of Sciences that became the blueprint for the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) of 2010, which the FDA calls “the most sweeping reform of our food safety laws in more than 70 years.” That law shifts the focus of federal regulators from responding to contamination to preventing it. It gave the FDA authority that many consumers probably believe it already had,
the power to order a recall of foods contaminated by deadly pathogens, and it increased the agency’s ability to trace the sources of foodborne illnesses.

“She has been an inspiration in educating the public about the tragic, heartbreaking consequences of these illnesses ever since (Kevin’s death),” said Connecticut Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, who introduced the FSMA in Congress.

“Her story was a call to action that helped us pass the act.”

**Preventing foodborne illnesses**

Doctorate in hand, Kowalcyk says her work is far from done. The authority of the FDA, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, does not extend to meat and poultry, which are overseen by the Department of Agriculture. The USDA still lacks recall authority, something Kevin’s Law would remedy if it ever passes.

After more than a decade, the bill has never been reported out of committee, and Kowalcyk says the current climate in Washington is not favorable to its passage anytime soon. She focuses her efforts on smaller steps, translating science into evidence-based recommendations for policy and practices where she can.

“There’s a gap between what we know and what we do,” she said, and weak spots exist throughout the farm-to-fork continuum.

“The best way to prevent foodborne illnesses is to prevent food from getting contaminated in the first place. What are farms using for irrigation water? Do they test it? What about wildlife coming through the area? They need to be aware of that and take steps to reduce and mitigate those risks.

“There’s very little oversight during transport. It’s not even clear who has authority when it’s on the truck and when it’s in a warehouse. More and more Americans are eating out, and a majority of food outbreaks are associated with food prepared outside the home.”

It’s those thoughts that keep her coming to work every day, leading the Center for Foodborne Illness’ research, linking it to public policy debates and, more recently, training the next generation of scientists. In November, North Carolina State University announced that Kowalcyk was moving CFI to its campus, where she is now an assistant research professor in the department of food, bioprocessing and nutrition sciences and a half-time faculty member.

She is also an adjunct faculty member of the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her research will focus on how and why outbreaks of foodborne illness occur. She also continues to tell her family’s story, which is no easier today than it was a decade ago.

“There was definitely my life before and my life after,” she said. “For me, it is very personal, but it’s not just personal. I really want to improve food safety. I don’t like the term ‘victim,’ and I don’t like feeling like the victim. I want to be part of the solution and to be looking forward.”

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**Matthew Dewald, A&S ’95, is editor of Alumni Magazine at the University of Richmond, Va.**
No one lives to read his or her own obituary, and in the case of Louise Dieterle Nippert, A&S ’34, HonDoc ’67, that might have been a good thing. Although the 100-year-old alumna received countless beautiful accolades about her magnanimous philanthropy following her July 23 death, she would have been shocked to see that her obituary in the Cincinnati Enquirer consumed the front page — to the extent that the newspaper greatly reduced its nameplate to make room for her photo and headline.

All that for a woman who had adamantly declared she did not want to be in any “headlines.” She and her late husband, Louis, Law ’28, HonDoc ’71, had usually required anonymity in bestowing hundreds of millions of dollars on Cincinnati.

Reflecting their modest ways, Louis once refused to accept a reserved parking space in the Riverfront Stadium garage even though they were majority owners of the Cincinnati Reds. “We are just like any other fan,” he reasoned, according to Louise’s longtime friend Nancy Walker.

Forgoing the parking space might have been easier to live with if they really had been like any other fan. But they weren’t. And Louise would soon understand the consequences.

Liesel, as her friends called her, routinely created meals for the guests whom she and Louis invited to their stadium box. Delivering those meals without reserved parking, she discovered, was tricky.

Similarly, she once jumped in to prepare a meal for 20 people when the caterer fell through for a woman who had bought the box with catering at a charity auction, Walker recalls. Mrs. Nippert picked fresh vegetables from her garden, made pot roast, packed everything in her little red Mercedes coupe and drove to a stadium entrance near the box, where she told the security guard she needed to deliver food. He asked for the box number, then raised his eyebrow when he recognized it as belonging to the owners.

“Who are you?” he asked.

“Mrs. Nippert,” she replied. “Oh, you can leave the car here as long as you want to,” he enthused — to which she quickly insisted, “Just don’t tell my husband.”

Walker finishes the story, “The woman who bought the box never knew that Liesel was the owner, which was so typical of her. She always said that it was a privilege to fulfill a need where she perceived it, and she meant that.”

Usually that “need” involved music and other forms of art because that was the couple’s passion. Louise was a well-trained mezzo soprano who once sang a solo with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

At UC, the Nipperts funded the 1995 renovation of the former Schmidlapp Gymnasium into the Dieterle Vocal Arts Center (named in honor of Louise’s parents), established scholarships and endowed the Dieterle Chair of Music, the Thomas James Kelly Chair (CCM’s first endowed chair), the Nippert Chair of Law and the Frank Mayfield Endowed Chair for Neurosurgery.

Interestingly enough, the grand-opera-scale rehearsal hall in the vocal arts center has a large glass window overlooking Nippert Stadium, named for Louis’ older brother James “Jimmy” Gamble Nippert, a law student who died from blood poisoning after suffering a spike wound during the 1923 Homecoming football game. Jimmy and Louis’ grandfather, James Gamble, of Procter & Gamble, funded the completion of the stadium in 1924.

So the family’s support of sports rubbed off when the Nipperts bought into the Reds ballclub in 1966 as part of an investors group. From 1973-81, they were majority owners — years that included the ’75 and ’76 World Series championships. Louise retained minority interest until her death, making the Nipperts’ 46-year ownership interest the longest in franchise history.

The Nipperts’ financial commitment to the Reds may seem like a far step from their support of the local symphony, opera and pops orchestra, but they did it to support the city, Walker relates. “They were very loyal people,” she adds. “Things that were needed in Cincinnati were more important to them than things they could have pursued on their own.

“Liesel was not a lady who sat in a castle and was waited on,” Walker continues. “She had a huge heart and very generous character. She was extremely intelligent and industrious. She was given 100 years and wasted not one second.”
A STARLET’S STORY

Evelyn Venable shined on silver screen and in the classroom

BY JOE ELLIOTT
tunning small-town Midwestern girl, smart and popular, joins drama club, grabs leads in school plays, tours with professional acting troupe, gets discovered by big-time Hollywood producer, becomes film star appearing with such celebrities as Shirley Temple, Katharine Hepburn and W.C. Fields.

Although it could have been the basis of a classic movie script, the scenario describes the life of Evelyn Venable, att. '33. At least, it's half her story. Long after she stepped away from cameras, the Hollywood starlet entered a new kind of performance space, one in which she transformed herself into a distinguished teacher whose legacy still lives on today nearly two decades after her death.

Born in Cincinnati in 1913, Evelyn was the only child of a tight-knit family that valued education above all else. Her father, Emerson, was an English instructor and classics scholar. Her grandfather, William Henry Venable, was a teacher and a noted author of 20 books of poetry and history.

At various times, both men taught at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati, the same school where Evelyn had lead roles in several plays. After graduation, she attended Vassar College, then the University of Cincinnati's College of Arts and Sciences before joining with the Walter Hampden acting troupe, a traveling thespian company. Hampden, a famous Broadway actor, cast her in numerous first-rate Shakespearean productions.

Reportedly she was spotted by a Paramount scout while playing Ophelia in "Hamlet" and soon signed a film contract. Between 1933-43, she starred or appeared in numerous popular productions, including "David Harum" with Will Rogers, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" with W.C. Fields, "The Little Colonel" with Shirley Temple, "Alice Adams" with Katharine Hepburn and Fred MacMurray, "Vagabond Lady" with Robert Young, "Lucky Cisco Kid" with Cesar Romero and "Pinocchio" as the voice of the Blue Fairy. (She also may have been the model for the fairy.)

Interestingly, Evelyn's initial contract stipulated that she did not have to cut her long hair or pose for leg art. While she may have requested these clauses, it is also clear that Paramount executives wanted to maintain her wholesome, Midwestern image as a publicity tool.

Her fine features, swan-like form and beautiful speaking voice seemed just right for roles calling for a "poetic" type of actress. But in the period of the brassy,
high-chassis platinum blondes like Jean Harlow and Mae West, she was also going against the popular type.

The studio's challenge was to create roles that fit her image as a somewhat demure ingénue, yet allowed her to grow artistically. This was a lot to hope for in an era when most actors had to fit within very limited molds defined by studios.

At the very start of her career, Evelyn found a director who knew how to showcase her delicate beauty and bring out the best in her as a performer — Mitchell Leisen, who would go on to direct some 50 films. He directed Evelyn as the female star in her first film, "Cradle Song," then in her biggest hit, "Death Takes a Holiday," an unusual tale in which Death, played by Fredric March, takes a brief "holiday" from his usual grim toils by temporarily assuming human form.

March received top billing because he was already an established star. Nevertheless, the production's heart and soul is Evelyn, who was praised for being "luminous" and "radiant" in her performance as Grazia. Leisen's real focus was apparently on Evelyn, so that whatever odd magic this film possessed emanated directly from her character. His efforts paid off handsomely as the movie was a huge commercial hit.

Unfortunately, "Death Takes a Holiday" represents the high watermark of Evelyn Venable's movie career in many ways. Certainly, she would never again appear in a film where the director used her so wisely or where she had the opportunity to flower quite so fully as she did with that production.

Not that she wouldn't go on to other Hollywood successes. She had a very productive career with 24 movies in 10 years. Her last film, "He Hired the Boss," was released in 1943.

By this time, she had married two-time Oscar-winning cinematographer Hal Mohr and was starting to raise a family. Her daughter Rosalia Mohr Woodson explained that her mother left the industry mostly because it was "transitioning from period films, which she adored — wearing gorgeous costumes, playing genteel and well-mannered characters, to more modern projects with more unpleasant, screwed-up characters.

"Also, when my sister, Dolores, and I came into the picture, she chose to be an at-home, hands-on mother," says Woodson.

By the 1950s, Evelyn had returned to academics and was enrolled at UCLA majoring in Latin studies. She completed a bachelor's degree in 1956 and her master's two years later. Immediately, the university hired her as a full-time lecturer in the classics department.

Current UCLA classics professor Robert Gurva says that school records show Evelyn began teaching at UCLA while still working on her own graduate degree. Her teaching load alone was enormous, including courses in Latin prose and composition. Taking on such a task was "extraordinary for someone who had not yet received her own degree," he says.

"During her teaching career, she usually averaged only about three to four hours of sleep, seven days a week," Rosalia recalls. "She spent the rest of the time preparing for her classes, preparing and grading tests. She was a perfectionist."

Moreover, it was as if all those years of hard work as an actress had actually been in preparation for the one stage where she was meant to shine most brilliantly, the classroom. And shine she did.

Not only did the charismatic Evelyn have a passion for and expert knowledge of ancient languages, but also the former starlet knew how to present it in ways that her students found exhilarating and challenging.

Pat Wickham, a former student who took Greek with Mrs. Mohr, says she was one of her best teachers at UCLA. "Because of her background in acting, she was wonderful in reciting Greek aloud. "Evelyn's recital of Dido's speeches (attributed to an ancient Carthage queen) was the best I'd ever heard. I remember she always had a wonderful smile on her face. She was so charming and friendly and helpful to all her students," she says.

In addition to teaching, she produced and directed a play each spring. "These were amazing," Wickham adds, "all presented in the Latin or Greek with original music and costumes. After I finished at
UCLA, I brought my high school classes to these plays.”

One of the most moving testaments to Evelyn’s impact as a teacher comes from former student Bruce Thornton, distinguished classics professor at California State University. “To understand the impact she had on me, know that I came to UCLA from a rural cattle ranch, the first in my family to attend university. The world of learning, books, culture and Hollywood stars, of course, was as distant and strange as Mars.

“What impressed me first about Mrs. Mohr was the woman herself: She was formal, but with humor and grace. She spoke beautifully, but with warmth, wit and a genuine interest in what you were saying.

“Of course, she was gorgeous, even at 60. She always dressed as one would think a retired movie star would — her hair and makeup perfect, her clothes elegant.

“The fact that someone so striking and smart took interest in a country kid like me was critical. Her gracious empathy overcame my defensive suspicion that this strange new world was full of smart-ass city-boys who thought they were better than I,” he continues.

“She saw past all of that and cultivated my abilities. She showed me that nothing else mattered except talent, that my background was no impediment to my aspirations to be as cultured and learned as those with greater advantages, that the only true elite comprised those who developed their abilities yet remained humane and who, like her, didn’t take themselves too seriously.”

Evelyn Venable Mohr, who died in 1993 at age 80, was a star in two realms — the movies and the classroom. Her 20-plus years as a UCLA instructor of languages turned out to be a stellar engagement in which she changed countless lives.

“Passion went into her work,” says Conrad Barrett, one of her colleagues. “In the classroom, she used her dramatic skills to help inspire and clarify things.

“She believed that the development of the mind was a great thing and urged students to work hard toward this noble end. Her students were moved to do better than they might have done for a less inspired and effective teacher.”

Perhaps Professor Thornton sums it up best, “She showed me that learning, beauty, elegance and humanity could coexist in the same person.”

Author Joe Elliott is a classic movie fan who spent a great deal of time researching Evelyn Venable. Evelyn’s daughter Rosalia helped with the article, a longer version of which originally appeared in Classic Images magazine. Elliott dedicates the article in memory of Evelyn’s daughter, Dolores Mohr Lofgren, who died last year.

See the extensive photo gallery of Evelyn and ads for her movies at www.magazine.edu/extra.
Every job at the Nazi slave-labor camp in Poland was demeaning, demoralizing and draining, yet 13-year-old Sigmund Rolat knew that his was one of the best. While nearly 4,000 Jews toiled endlessly building missile shells on the premises, Sigmund had been chosen to care for a flock of chickens and geese, which kept him outdoors and often on the other side of the barbed-wire fence, where the fowl freely nibbled next to a brook. Occasionally, he dared to lie down in the grass and dream of a new tomorrow.

Even better was the fact that his mother, Mariane, worked nearby — inside the Hasag Pelcery munitions factory. Although her job was grueling and her rations miserable, Sigmund realized that 95 percent of the other Jewish women in his hometown of Czestochowa had been transported to the Treblinka extermination camp, where his father had already been taken. Plus, the mother and son’s proximity to each other meant they could usually steal quick hugs each day.

But on July 20, 1943, the boy grew disturbed as he herded the flock along the facility’s main street. Iron hooks supporting naked light bulbs had been installed during the night, creating a scene so bright that it resembled a film studio, says UC alumnus Rolat, A&S ’52.

The meaning was obvious. Right there in the middle of the street, the Nazis would conduct a “selection,” where the most able-bodied workers were separated from the rest. The less productive were either transported to gas chambers or mass murdered in the local Jewish cemetery.

“My first impulse was to find my mother,” Rolat says. He ran into the room where she worked and called her name. No answer. He sat down by the machine assigned to her and began crying.

Just then, she dashed into the hall, hugged him and repeated her familiar promise: “Don’t be afraid. Everything is going to be fine.” Believing her was difficult, but the love behind her staunch pledge always made him breathe a little easier.

Outside, they sat
together for about an hour on the only grassy spot available until they had to line up in pre-sorted groups to listen to a commanding officer's speech about how grateful the Jews should be that they were still alive. "There is too much laziness here," the officer barked over loudspeakers. "The selection is held to take away those who do not measure up."

The miracle children

Sigmund's group consisted of 34 young boys, and its existence was a miracle in itself. Nazis did not spare children. Along with women, who could not work as well as men, children were among the first to be killed — a fact he knew all too well.

Only a month earlier in June 1943, Sigmund was nearly forced aboard a truck full of people being transported to the Jewish cemetery where Jews at a time were being put on a "turntable" for the Germans to select the few they wanted to keep. Next up were the children. "I was sure it was the end," Rolat distinctly remembers. "I shall never forget the last time I saw Jerzyk," Rolat says. "It was the night he left with his friends. He told me never to forget who I was and never to forget what I saw. He smiled and embraced me. Oh, how I loved him."

The elation, however, was only momentary as the children would stay. "I owe my life to Litt," Rolat declares. "And to my friend Tadek and someone else who held me firmly from both sides," he continues. "And Dauman squeezed me down between his legs."

At that moment, my friend Jerzyk Feierman shouted, 'It's me! I called my mom!' He stepped out and walked up to the guard who grabbed him by the collar and with a smile said, 'All right. I'll give you your mom!'"

The guard then threw him toward two soldiers. The next morning, some 400 people from Hasag, including Rolat's mother and his friend Josek, were shot in the Jewish cemetery and buried in a mass grave there.

Family of resistance fighters

It was neither the first nor last time that such brutalities occurred on what should have been sacred ground. "It was a killing field," Rolat says of the cemetery — a killing field that had claimed the life of his only sibling, an 18-year-old brother, just four months earlier.

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That was in January 1943 when his brother joined five older friends to carefully craft resistance plans. In March, the men were fully armed and loaded with grenades at a temporary camp near Czestochowa when a 12-year-old classmate of Sigmund's exposed their location to the Gestapo in an effort to save himself. The Nazis immediately surrounded the six, and they simply surrendered.

"It would have been easier for them to fight, kill a few Germans and die in a hail of bullets and exploding grenades," Rolat says, "but the six brave men knew something my young classmate did not know: In the same building was a hideout for Jewish children. The six decided to forgo avenging death in an attempt to save the lives of other Jewish children."

The next day, the Germans executed all six young men, along with the boy who exposed them, in the cemetery.

"I only know that theirs was the greatest courage a man can muster," Rolat testifies. "For in a night of terrible torture that followed their capture, not one of them revealed his true identity."

"I jumped, but I didn't jump. I felt as if I were in a steel cage, hemmed in on all sides."

"I was unable to shout, 'It's me!' I couldn't speak at all because my friend Moniek Dauman's fist was stuck in my mouth."

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"It would have been easier for them to fight, kill a few Germans and die in a hail of bullets and exploding grenades," Rolat says, "but the six brave men knew something my young classmate did not know: In the same building was a hideout for Jewish children. The six decided to forgo avenging death in an attempt to save the lives of other Jewish children."

The next day, the Germans executed all six young men, along with the boy who exposed them, in the cemetery.

"I only know that theirs was the greatest courage a man can muster," Rolat testifies. "For in a night of terrible torture that followed their capture, not one of them revealed his true identity."

"I jumped, but I didn't jump. I felt as if I were in a steel cage, hemmed in on all sides."

"I was unable to shout, 'It's me!' I couldn't speak at all because my friend Moniek Dauman's fist was stuck in my mouth."

"My friend Tadek and someone else were holding me firmly from both sides," he continues. "And Dauman squeezed me down between his legs."

"At that moment, my friend Josek Feierman shouted, 'It's me! I called my mom!' He stepped out and walked up to the guard who grabbed him by the collar and with a smile said, 'All right. I'll give you your mom!'"

The guard then threw him toward two soldiers. The next morning, some 400 people from Hasag, including Rolat's mother and his friend Josek, were shot in the Jewish cemetery and buried in a mass grave there.

Family of resistance fighters

It was neither the first nor last time that such brutalities occurred on what should have been sacred ground. "It was a killing field," Rolat says of the cemetery — a killing field that had claimed the life of his only sibling, an 18-year-old brother, just four months earlier.

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"I want to debunk that terrible lie that we have heard so often — that the Jews went to their deaths like sheep. Many died fighting."

The reality of liberation

On Jan. 16, 1945, the Soviet army liberated Poland from the Germans. By that time, 14-year-old Sigmund was "a lonely, emaciated orphan, who by some miracle had survived the German occupation of his homeland," he notes.

"Initially, I was euphoric. I could go wherever I wanted to go. I could do whatever I wanted to do. Unfortunately, that euphoria was short-lived."

The truth was that after five and a half years, the Jews no longer owned any property, and other people had confiscated their homes. Jews had no job opportunities. Few of them had families left. Plus, some Polish citizens treated them with disdain. To make matters worse, young Sigmund had missed seven years of school by the time he tried to go back.

After spending a few months in a French orphanage (just long enough to learn French), the teenager traveled to Munich, where an aunt arranged for a retired professor to tutor him — six days a week for six hours a day with three hours of daily homework. Because textbooks were unavailable, his teacher handwrote books for his eager student.

After 18 months of private instruction, the dedicated pupil passed his secondary-school equivalency test in Europe. One month later, he left for the United States, which had made special arrangements for European children orphaned by the war.

In February 1948, he arrived with $8 in his pockets, which was soon stolen. Nevertheless, "America was love at first sight," he declares.

The Jewish Family Service Bureau, which was busy handling displaced orphans, took special interest in Sigmund because he was one of very few teenage Holocaust survivors with the credentials needed to enter college, he says. "A number of Jewish service organizations offered me assistance, and I actually had my choice of several schools."

He was brought to Cincinnati to see if he liked it, and he immediately knew this was where he belonged. He applied to the University of Cincinnati, which accepted him with the stipulation that he first learn English. In three short months, he did so.

While a student at the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, he lived at Hebrew Union College (practically across the street), wrote for UC’s student newspaper the News Record as a columnist and joined the Foreign Policy Association, French Club and the International Club. In 1952, he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science, then went to New York University where he earned a master’s in international relations.

Helping others at 82

Rolat’s career took off in New York. In 1959, he established a shipping business, Skyline Shipping Corp., which broadened into the field of finance when he formed Oxford International Corp. three years later. That company, of which he is still the president and sole shareholder, handles exports from the U.S. to Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Africa.

Early in the 1990s, financial success also came from his initiative to sell denim in Poland after communism fell. A photograph of West German teenagers sitting on a collapsing Berlin Wall triggered the idea. “That iconic picture showed all of them wearing jeans — the uniform of freedom,” he says. In two years, he had exported 9 million yards to his homeland.

Today at age 82, he and his wife, Jacqueline, live on Manhattan’s Park Avenue. He has three children, Geoffrey, Samantha and Amanda, plus four grandchildren. A daughter, Jane, died in ’03.

He is grateful that his accumulated wealth has enabled him to be a philanthropist who creatively honors his brother’s final directive “to never forget.” “I did not close my eyes to what I
saw,” he admits, “and I remember it to this very day. I saw what no nice boy should ever see.”

Speaking freely about the atrocities that occurred is only a minor goal of his. His most feverish efforts have been to restore important landmarks, to reunite ancestors of Czestochowa Jews who are scattered around the world and to help people understand that, for 1,000 years, Jews and Christians had a productive and peaceful coexistence in Poland.

He came back to Cincinnati to tell that story on April 22 in honor of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) at the Mayerson Jewish Community Center and at Hebrew Union College. At HUC, he opened the extensive museum exhibit “The Jews of Czestochowa: Coexistence-Holocaust-Memory,” in which historic photos, videos and artifacts trace the history of the city’s once-flourishing Jewish community and its subsequent tragic destruction. The exhibit has been touring internationally since 2004.

Rolat, who serves as president of the World Society of Czestochowa Jews and Their Descendants, was instrumental in the creation of the exhibition. He also funded the restoration of Czestochowa’s Jewish cemetery, which had fallen into ruin with broken gravestones and stood at risk of an adjacent steel mill destroying it.

In addition, he is honored to chair the nine-day Krakow Jewish Culture Festival, the largest such festival in the world. This summer, the 22nd annual affair attracted approximately 15,000 people from around the world to its 200 events, including films, plays, music, dancing, art, historical exhibits, lectures and workshops.

Currently, Rolat’s chief philanthropic endeavor is the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, due to open on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto in October 2013. “The Museum will be a place for the promotion of openness, tolerance and truth,” he says.

“In my later years, I have become a builder — building bridges of reconciliation. I’ve managed to accumulate resources that have enabled me to create them. America made it possible for me to return as a person able to help with the rebuilding of Jewish life in Poland and with the telling of our history.

“We must continue our duty to tell the story. That duty to tell all the memories has become the music of my life.”

Read more of Rolat’s Holocaust memories and see videos at www.magazine.uc.edu/extra.

Rolat’s touring exhibit contained life-sized images of Czestochowa’s synagogue, which the Nazis destroyed, as well as a touching bronze sculpture of a father untying his son’s shoes, a requirement before entering the gas chamber.
How one UC alumnus found his way from stage and screen to wildlife conservation

Actor to the rescue

Open with a wide shot: The sun is bright. The flat, wooded land has the iridescent green tinge of spring. A man emerges from a peculiarly shaped, dingy building and makes his way through a maze of gates surrounded by North Carolina pine. Stepping close to a chain-link fence, he presses his lips together to make an odd sound, “Pppffff.”

No response. “Pppfff.” A tiger stands and looks at him. He tries again, “Pppfff.”

Finally, a response back, “Pppfff.” The cat rises, comes closer, then sits alert, sphinx-like.

Ears up. Ready to pounce.

The man is — by education — an actor. The tiger is not. Raj’s 600 pounds of striped flesh has not been trained for flaring lights or rolling cameras.

Keith Gavigan greets Raj by “chuffling,” a low snuffling sound similar to the purring of smaller cats. An outsider might wonder how this College-Conservatory of Music theater alumnus found his way to becoming education director at a wildcat rescue sanctuary last year. To him, it is a natural fit.
“I would like to host a television show that teaches animal conservation,” says Gavigan, MFA (CCM) ’94. “I do not need a ‘Keith’s World of Animals’ show, but I sure would like a chance at wearing a pith helmet in the jungles of Africa, quoting Shakespeare to a lion, ‘To eat or not to eat…”

For now, Gavigan’s venue is a 55-acre tract of land dedicated to the preservation of wildcats. Founded in 1981 as the Carnivore Preservation Trust, the organization changed its name to Carolina Tiger Rescue in 2009 with a mission of saving and protecting wildcats, providing lifelong homes to those in need and educating the public about what threatens these animals.

More than 13,000 people visit the sanctuary yearly, meet the residents and hear the stories of how the animals arrived. For example, Tex the tiger was found chained to a tree near downtown Houston. Tigers Kaela and Rajah were found wandering a highway near Charlotte, N.C. And Elvis the serval was left in an animal crate in the CTR parking lot.

In a more typical scenario, tigers Emerson, Fenimore and Moki were rescued from a questionable facility in Missouri, which was closed following an attack on a volunteer. Most of the more than 70 cats came from individual private owners or from zoos and sanctuaries that either closed their doors or had their animals confiscated by authorities.

The CTR collection includes cougars, caracals, ocelots, bobcats, kinkajous, lions, tigers and binturongs — or bearcats. “During my job interview, the sanctuary director was surprised I knew what a binturong was,” says Gavigan, “I said, ‘Well, I am a UC Bearcat’.”

Close up and flashback: The green-eyed, lanky 6-foot alum’s path to North Carolina took him all over the country — starting in Chicago Heights, Ill., where he grew up and where his father owned the nearby “Wet Pet Shoppe,” a fish and aquarium store. As a child, “I wanted to be a marine biologist,” he notes, but performances on stage while in high school convinced Gavigan to focus his attention on acting.

In 1991, he received a bachelor’s degree in theater from Western Illinois University (with minors in dance and earth science), then came to UC to work toward his master’s in theater performance.

To pay the bills, Gavigan established his own business, Aqua Dynamics, in which he designed, installed and maintained aquariums for businesses, including Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. “My proudest moment was designing and stocking the aquariums at the children’s museum (at Cincinnati’s Museum Center), which are still active over 10 years later.”

While immersing himself in theater during the day, Gavigan volunteered at the zoo. Offering to teach overnight programs, he turned that into a paid position, working in the “Nocturnal Adventures” and “Sleep with the Manatees” programs.

“Working at the Cincinnati Zoo was a passion turned job,” he says. “Since auditions for theater are done during the days, a night job was perfect.” He was also a stunt performer for Kings Island amusement park.

Add romance: At UC, Gavigan met fellow theater student Karen O’Brien, CCM ’91, MFA (CCM) ’94, and they have remained together for more than 19 years. Because of her career path, Gavigan found himself in San Francisco where he was a lead naturalist for the Aquarium of the Bay and an instructor for the San Francisco Zoo. In Chicago, he worked as a performer for the Shedd Aquarium.

O’Brien earned a PhD from the University of California-Irvine, then landed a position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Meanwhile, Gavigan looked for opportunities in the area. A chance meeting with the tiger rescue director at an event led to his position at the center, located south of Durham in Pittsboro, N.C.

For most of his adult life, Gavigan has had an agent and worked gigs as an actor. His theater credits include stage performances in Chicago and Cincinnati, industrial or commercial work for Procter & Gamble and Spirit of Chicago Cruises, as well as film work, including a lead role in the Sundance award-winning film, “Dry Mount,” and a role as a convict in the television version of “The Untouchables.” He is certified to direct and perform stage combat as a member of the Society of American Fight Directors.

Right now, however, his focus is on a more peaceful existence for tigers and wild animals. He is an advocate for stricter laws — or any laws in some states — to protect animals like Raj from being abused or, foolishly, kept as pets.

“North Carolina has no laws at the state level,” Gavigan notes. “You cannot keep a squirrel or a raccoon as a pet, but you can keep a tiger in North Carolina.”

Ohio used to be as bad. When a man in Ohio released 56 wild animals before committing suicide last year, most of the animals had to be destroyed. Although loose restrictions on animal ownership in Ohio led to the situation, the state legislature passed a bill earlier this year that would more tightly control such situations.

The downside to his work today? “Knowing that there are so many big cats destined to live out their lives in captivity,” he says, “not in the wild where they belong.”

Slow fade: That bad news is also the good news. Although the cats aren’t free at CTR, they do have a comfortable place to sleep for life, food, medicine and room to stretch their legs. Plus, occasionally, someone comes up to connect with them. “Pppfff.”
Ruth knew from the age of 2 that she wanted to be a doctor.
It just took her 30 years to realize medicine was the right path for her. Now 52 — and seven years into her career as a radiation oncologist specializing in breast and pediatric cancer — Ruth Lavigne, MD ’00, says being a doctor feels like a “comfortable old shoe.”

“It was just sitting there waiting for me to slip my foot into it all my life,” she adds.

The journey toward medicine

Lavigne remembers the moment she realized something needed to change in her life. She was 32 — a mother of two small children — working as a waitress in San Diego.

“I was holding tiny little Arielle looking into her face thinking she was so beautiful and perfect. I wanted my daughter to know she could be anything she wanted to be,” recalls Lavigne, cradling her arms as if once again holding her baby.

“And then I realized that one day she would be smart enough to say to me: ‘Oh, you wanted to be a waitress? Got it.’ That’s when I decided I needed to walk the walk.”

Her path to medicine was not straight — it zigzagged through various cities and industries until she got on what felt like the right course when she entered the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1996.

Lavigne graduated with a master’s degree in international business from the American Graduate School of International Management in 1982 and began her career as a broker with a money management company. She quickly realized the corporate world wasn’t for her. She hated the office life, so when she moved to San Diego with her husband and their growing family in 1985, she decided to become a banquet waitress.

“For a while, I loved it because it gave me the flexibility to take care of my kids. It was such a great change of pace from the corporate world,” she says.

The idea of going into medicine came and went in the back of her mind. But she felt that ship had sailed. It would take more than a decade of additional education to become a doctor, and she had too many responsibilities: two kids to care for, a husband, bills to pay.

“Eventually, I thought, ‘Why can’t I be a doctor?’ That is when all the stars began to align for me to pursue my dream. It certainly felt like a dream because it seemed impossible to achieve at the time.”

Lavigne sought the advice and help of her father, Myron Moskowitz, A&S ’54, MD ’58, a radiologist who was practicing at what is now UC Health University Hospital as part of the UC College of Medicine faculty. Her mother-in-law offered to babysit.

At age 36, she packed up and moved cross-country to Ohio with her husband and two children, then ages 5 and 6.

She chose UC for medical school because it was the most welcoming of nontraditional students, she says. After all, she was a 36-year-old married mom in a class of mostly 22-year-olds. In addition, her father committed to keep working as a radiologist in order to offset half of her medical education tuition costs.

“Everyone at UC was very positive and supportive during my interviews. It just felt like a very good fit for me and my needs,” Lavigne says. “Moving to Cincinnati was the start of a new chapter in my life.”

Med school at age 36

Lavigne laughs that it “took a village” to facilitate her entry back into school to tackle the 14-year education climb required to become a doctor.

Balancing the transition — and sustaining it — was no easy feat.

“It was tough. When I was at home with my kids, I felt like I should be studying. When I was at school or work, I felt like I should be home. You are always fractionated,” she recalls.

Being a non-traditional student did have some advantages, though. Entering medical school at 36 instead of 22, she had the benefit of perspective.

Time was her biggest challenge. She didn’t have the luxury of downtime, but that gave her steely-eyed determination...
and focus. She carefully managed her time, resources and priorities to make it all work.

“I loved what I was doing and learning, so I never had to force myself to study. It was just finding the time to do it.

“Sometimes that meant waking up at 1 a.m. and studying while the kids were asleep. Sometimes it was just that I went to every single class and took careful notes because I knew I wouldn’t have much time to revisit the material.

“Once I took the leap of faith, though, I was committed. My journey to become a doctor took 14 years. But I made it. And I feel good deep down that I set a positive example for my children,” Lavigne adds.

Her daughter, Arielle, is now a senior at UC studying history and intends to pursue a master’s in library science. Her son, Ryan, is about to enter his junior year at Appalachian State in North Carolina and plans to attend law school.

Choosing oncology

Now working at Christ Hospital, Lavigne credits the mentorship of William Barrett, MD ’87, — current chair of the UC College of Medicine Department of Radiation Oncology and her former colleague within UC Health’s radiation oncology team — for cementing her decision to be an oncologist. “He gave me enormous motivation. I looked up to him and wanted to emulate him,” she says.

Lavigne’s mother had been a social worker in his department. Her father had worked with Barrett’s father years ago, so she had always heard good things about the oncologist.

“In the summer between my first and second years of medical school, I did an oncology rotation. I’d go in with Dr. Barrett to see patients, and I thought, ‘This is the type of doctor I want to be.’ Before that, I thought I would go into radiology, but after watching him I realized I needed that personal connection with patients, too.

“That is why I love what I do. Every day, I get to help people.”

At age 32, Ruth Lavigne, a former broker who was working as a waitress at the time, decided to start her 14-year educational journey to become a doctor. Now 52 and seven years into her career as a radiation oncologist, she has no regrets.
UC professors donate time and expertise to help area unemployed refresh their skills and confidence to re-enter the workforce

Professor Amit Raturi was feeling personally attacked.

It was fall 2008. The economic bubble had just burst, and America was really in the mood to spread the blame. The biggest helping had already been heaped onto Wall Street, the banks and political types.

Still, there was plenty more culpability to go around, and it wasn't long before the national media set their sights on the B-schools. The arrows began to rain down on the so-called "ivory towers" that were churning out MBAs who, as one pundit alleged, "treat ethics as an afterthought."

Convinced it would take more than just words to defend themselves, Raturi, a 26-year UC professor, and his colleagues in the Lindner College of Business went to work on their own...
economic stimulus for Cincinnati — and entirely pro bono.

“The economy had gone into the tank,” says Raturi. “Our intention was to do something to show that business schools were not the main culprit of this disaster. But really, we just wanted to help people who were in trouble. As a college, we needed to make a statement that we care.”

Motivated by startling job losses both nationally and locally — upward of 100,000 in Greater Cincinnati — Raturi and his contemporaries in the college began to brainstorm ways they could help the throng of hurting displaced professionals, many of them job hunting for the first time in decades. They landed on a program they called “Back to Business.”

Started four years and six sessions ago, the concept for the program is fairly simple. Professors donate instruction every Friday and Saturday so participants can wrap up an intense, but free, business refresher in a little more than a month.

The 16 four-hour sessions — most of them hosted at an executive center in Blue Ash, northeast of Cincinnati — cover topics ranging from analytics and human resources to marketing and social entrepreneurship. The mini-course is designed to equip participants — who average 18 years of professional experience — with a new or refreshed set of business skills and a renewed confidence to re-enter the job market.

To hold participants accountable, Back to Business requires a $500 deposit, but organizers offer a full refund to everyone who finishes. “We haven’t kept a single deposit,” Raturi proclaims. After more than 170 B2B participants, every person has completed the course and received a certificate. More important, at least seven in 10 find work again.

In an effort to keep the program completely free, the university kicks in a few thousand dollars each session to help cover meals and any parking expenses. But it is Raturi who rises early each morning to prepare a hot breakfast for every attendant, normally omelets or frittata. Lunch, usually ethnic, is often catered, deeply discounted and eaten family style.

“Our excuse for doing this is that people are learning new stuff,” Raturi says. “But really, what we are doing is creating a community where they can talk to each other.”

Renewed confidence

A career newspaper man, Bill Ferguson lost his job as a page-one editor with the Cincinnati Enquirer in July 2009. He was one of 101 who got pink slips from the Enquirer that day. Though he had 26 years of experience working for Gannett, the Enquirer’s parent company, he found himself among thousands in the media who have fallen victim to both a poor economy and a changing industry in recent years.

“At first you are kind of stunned,” Ferguson says. “Some people felt like they had a scarlet letter attached to them because they had been laid off. But I realized with millions being laid off, I was just one of those numbers.”

Job-hunting at age 50, he admits, is difficult, especially when openings get flooded with 100 to 400 resumes. “I was so focused on my career at the Enquirer all those years, I just didn’t have time to network,” he says. “I was focused on getting a great newspaper out to readers every day.”

Back to Business, however, helped him get reacquainted with networking and move beyond his natural tendency toward introversion.

“It was a good opportunity to meet other out-of-work professionals, all of us in the same shoes and many of us having 25 or 30 years with the same company,” Ferguson says.

“Suddenly we were thrust into this situation we hadn’t encountered since before computers became household items.”

Today Ferguson makes ends meet by freelance writing and editing, but he’s still looking for a full-time job in communications. He’s even considered returning to college for a second degree, a prospect he’s confident he can handle now thanks to the time he spent in UC’s program.

“Back to Business reminded me that I still have a great curiosity about things,” he says. “I still have a desire to learn about high-level topics. By the time we had finished, I felt like I had finished a mini-MBA.”

Carolyn Hauger retired after 25 years with Procter & Gamble when she entered Back to Business.

“I was ready to try something different, but I wasn’t really sure what,” she says. “The opportunity to get state-of-the-art knowledge and build networks and contacts is just invaluable.”

Beyond the classroom experience, the participants also network through LinkedIn, where more than 160 B2B alums communicate through a private UC Back to Business group. Other past grads still meet for monthly lunches where they roll out their latest presentations and proposals to gather one another’s feedback and advice. But the most exciting communications are those who share news of a new job landed.

Soon after she completed the UC program in 2009, Hauger received an offer to become a senior manager with a Cincinnati accounting firm. Today she’s vice president of finance at Clopay Plastic Products and has given back to the program that helped her by sponsoring meals, mentoring students and job coaching.

“You have to give back,” says Hauger, noting so many who made her training possible. “There was no financial gain for them. But they gave back. It sounds a little new-agey, but for me to give back brings the universe back into balance.”
The idea of becoming a teacher just kept beckoning.

Lisa Ellis spent 15 years practicing law in the areas of bankruptcy, real estate, probate and creditors’ rights, but despite a successful career, she wasn’t happy. “I didn’t like the person I had to be to practice law,” she says.

Ellis, JD ’91, had previously thought about leaving the profession to go into teaching, but she let her former husband talk her out of it, she says.

Every day that she was practicing law, however, the longing to be a teacher grew stronger. After all, she had read Shakespeare to kick back and relax while in law school and was proud of her full-size Oxford English dictionary. She wanted to spread and share her love of English and literature with high-school students.

Then, she found an opening. After receiving a small inheritance from her grandmother, she entered the teacher-education master’s and licensure program at the UC College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH). Her first day in class was on her 40th birthday in 2006. She achieved her licensure in June 2008.

But soon, the economy tanked. Schools struggled even harder to balance budgets and provide quality education, and the job market for teachers was shrinking.

“The economy just blew up in 2008, and I never in my life expected to defend teaching more than being a lawyer. But when I was looking for a job to teach English, they were hard to come by.”

Her dream took another turn that year
University of Cincinnati www.magazine.uc.edu September 2012 35

entire story and theme of the book with another student,” Ellis says.

“I am a lot happier, even though this job was not exactly what I was looking for. I was thinking that I was going to be an English teacher, and we would sit around and drink tea,” she says with a laugh.

Instead, Ellis’ days are both trying and, at times, tragic. While her class was studying J.D. Salinger’s “The Catcher in the Rye,” one of her students who was particularly fond of the book committed suicide.

“It broke my heart,” she says.

“There’s more stress in teaching, but it’s a different kind of stress,” Ellis says. “When you’re a lawyer, you’re worried about making money for the firm — saving and not losing your clients’ money, worrying all the time about money. At least in education, you don’t have to go home worrying about money or at least someone else’s money.”

She’s also adapting to teaching today’s tech-savvy student. Cell phones and iPods didn’t exist when she was in high school.

“We’re going to have to move forward and somehow integrate cell phones into education. Students aren’t supposed to have them, but they’re students’ watches and security blankets.

“Almost all of my students need extra help. They’ve had hard lives, but they’re very resilient.”

One of Ellis’ former UC professors, Chet Laine, says this discovery is becoming more common among his current senior candidates in English and education. “We’ve seen these seniors think very seriously about going into special education; a degree of intensity is possible when teaching children who have developmental needs.

“In terms of Lisa’s writing and knowledge of literature, her ability to communicate her ideas was quite extraordinary,” Laine says. “In terms of teaching, the new challenge in building on that talent is making the material accessible for all students.”

Ellis says that when she can connect the students with her love of literature, the connection is even more meaningful. She recalls giving her students a reading assignment on “Cruise Control,” a Terry Trueman book about a developmentally disabled teen.

“I really didn’t think one of the students was paying attention. He was back in class the next year, but when that assignment came up again, he shared the entire story and theme of the book with another student,” Ellis says.

“I once had students pretend they were texting, but instead they wrote a story using 140 characters. Cell phones are something teachers are going to have to deal with, because parents expect their children to be able to contact them.”

No regrets, Ellis says, about leaving her law career. Plus, she found that older students can get tax breaks as they continue their lifelong learning and pursue their lifelong dreams.

“It’s never too late — never too late,” Ellis says. “At my age, running around the campus was harder than anything else, and I don’t regret this at all. I’m glad I went to law school, but life is too short to be miserable.

“I didn’t think this was where I was going to end up, but I’m much happier than I was as a lawyer. When you help a child with special needs, you are really doing something for the world.”

Ellis continues to earn her master’s degree from CECH and expects to finish this year. Inspired by her students, she is also pursuing licensure online as a mild-to-moderate intervention specialist, so that she can also teach in special education, a new turn on her pathway to achieving her dream.

Lisa Ellis traded a 15-year law career to pursue teaching. Today she teaches at-risk students in Clermont County.

“When you help a child with special needs, you are really doing something for the world.”
Agent to the pros

UC grad represents a stable of former Bearcats in the NFL

by Chip Reeves and John Bach

Dave Lee says he doesn't believe in serendipity.

A chance meeting with a Bearcat football player, however, changed his future forever.

As a freshman double-majoring in marketing and finance at the University of Cincinnati, Lee, Bus ’01, wasn't too sure of his possible profession after graduation. But in an ordinary business class in ’96, Lee saw UC football player DeJuan Gossett struggling with crutches and books after a preseason injury. Gossett, a 180-pound linebacker nursing a torn ACL, asked for help — a simple request that sparked a friendship between the two.

That relationship grew. The two eventually roomed together through college, and it helped sculpt Lee's drive toward a career as a Chicago-based professional sports agent.

"That's how I got interested in football and the business side as well," Lee says, speaking of his friendship with Gossett, Bus ’03, who would go on to become one of UC’s leading tacklers. "We were both in the business school, and from there I got this internship with a sports management company that had just started up. They were going to manage (quarterback and first-round draft pick) Akili Smith in Cincinnati. So that was a big deal.

Sports agent Dave Lee, Bus ’01, poses with one of his NFL clients, Darius Fleming, a linebacker from Notre Dame who signed a four-year $2.2 million contract with San Francisco this year.
Lee eventually facilitated Gossett’s signing with the New York Giants when he went pro, but he also aided Gossett through their college years together. “I remember one time where we were up studying all night to make sure I would pass this class so I would be eligible,” Gossett says. “It was a rough year. He was always a good influence.”

And early in his career, Lee called Gossett many times to ask the pro football player’s opinion on prospective NFL hopefuls. “In the initial stages there were times like that,” Gossett says. “Now he’s off and running.”

Gossett’s NFL career ended in 2002 after blowing out his knee for the second time. He’s now running an upstart cleaning business near Cincinnati. Meanwhile, Lee works for PlayersRep in the Windy City, where he has negotiated dozens of multi-million dollar NFL contracts. His success at the bargaining table, however, is not the reason for his nickname (and Twitter handle) “Diamond Dave Lee.”

Other reps in the firm actually tagged him with that moniker because he used to wear diamond earrings. “The fake ones,” Lee adds. “I’m too old to wear those anymore.”

Today, Lee represents a variety of NFL players, but he seems to specialize in those who have worn the C-Paw on their jersey. This year, for example, he helped former Bearcat and former Baltimore Ravens free safety Haruki Nakamura, Ed ‘08, lock up a three-year $4.8 million contract with the Carolina Panthers.

“I work with all of the Cincinnati guys because that’s what I take pride in and that’s my school,” says Lee. “It’s a little more fun for me with those guys.”

Other former UC players he reps include stand-out wide receiver Mardy Gilyard, att. ’10, now on the Philadelphia Eagles roster; tight end Ben Guidugli, A&S ’10, of the St. Louis Rams; Indianapolis Colts tackle Jeff Linkenbach, Bus ’09; and Colts defensive end Ricardo Mathews, Ed ’10. Additional Bearcat clients of Lee’s who have spent time in the NFL include Blue Adams, att. ’02; LaVar Glover, Ed ’01; Daven Holly, A&S ’04; Andre Frazier, Bus ’04; Tyjuan Hagler, Ed ’04; Adam Roberts, A&S ’06; Angelo Craig, att. ’07; and John Bowie, Ed ’07.

“Lee represents UC grad Haruki Nakamura, Ed ’08, who has had a successful NFL career — first with the Baltimore Ravens and now with the Carolina Panthers.

Lee represents UC grad Haruki Nakamura, Ed ’08, who has had a successful NFL career — first with the Baltimore Ravens and now with the Carolina Panthers. Bengals wide receiver, never a stranger to off-the-field problems, was killed when he fell out of the back of a moving truck in December 2009.

Lee says Henry was actually a “polite and caring person” who allowed himself to be influenced by the “wrong friends.” In an effort to help, Lee had even allowed Henry, broke and under house arrest, to move into a home he owned in Cincinnati.
"His funeral was very difficult," says Lee. "I sat there, and I just cried. I couldn't even go up to the casket to see him. It was very emotional. Reporters were calling, but I really couldn't even talk to people. I just didn't want to deal with it."

But "dealing with it," as it turns out, is an undeniable part of the life of an agent. Lee works tirelessly for his clients, whether that means researching a player's value or schmoozing a restaurant owner to come through with a last-minute New Year's Eve reservation.

He credits his strong background in both finance and marketing at UC for prepping him for the job. "Our players are like assets," Lee says. "You have to find the right value for them. Understanding what a client is worth involves a lot of research, comparables and statistics."

More than anything though, being an agent is all about marketing. The top pro prospects, he says, typically get contacted by 75 to 100 firms, and even the late-round picks get courted by at least 25 or 30.

"You've got to make the calls, and you've got to stay in front of the guy you want to sign," he says. "We have to show our clients we are accessible 24 hours a day. I fly out to a rookie's city where he is drafted and help him find an apartment. Nothing is really beneath us. We want to make sure our clients are both comfortable and happy."

A second-generation Korean American, who grew up in a Cleveland suburb with little diversity, Lee found UC's city neighborhoods more to his liking. "It's awesome to see the variety of not only ethnicities, but genres of people, all in one area."

He cites living on campus as a huge plus, an invaluable experience to him in terms of networking with other business-minded students. He even ran for dorm president of Calhoun Hall his freshman year and won. "I still see a lot of those UC guys when I come to Cincinnati," he says. "For the diversity and out-of-classroom experience you get there, you can't beat it. I would never trade my experience, ever, for another college."

Outside the realm of assessing football players and repping elite athletes, Dave Lee is a stay-at-home dad with three young children. His wife, Michelle, is a successful physiatrist in Chicago, who did her residency at UC. As a specialist in rehabbing injuries, she has the second opinion he often seeks when one of his players is injured.

Providing 24-hour service for his clients coupled with the demanding life of a father and husband creates some interesting situations for Lee, who at times finds himself toting toddlers along to meet with clients.

"I had a GM tell me on the phone, 'Hey, my wife watches that show where they have six or seven kids. It kinda' sounds like that in the background. It takes a lot of patience and a lot of family help.'"

"That ability to handle many problems at once, he says, is priceless. "I better be able to multitask, or I'd be in trouble."
Going neutral

UC and Xavier continue rivalry game Dec. 19 at U.S. Bank Arena

Two teams, 9.4 seconds and one really bad taste.

Exactly 9.4 ticks were left on the game clock last December when refs were forced to call the UC-Xavier basketball game following an ugly, benches-clearing brawl between athletes from both programs.

The story blanketed national media, and videos of the melee rocketed past a million views on YouTube. Both universities suspended several players for multiple games.

For a while at least, it appeared that perhaps the greatest rivalry game in the country could be in jeopardy for the first time since World War II. Though the two programs — separated by less than three miles — played a few times between 1927 and 1943, Cincinnatians have enjoyed the game every year since the 1945-46 season.

New name, neutral territory

Instead of suspending the game, officials from Xavier and UC announced earlier this year that the game would go on, but with a new name, a new venue and a new focus.

Former UC President Gregory Williams and Xavier President Rev. Michael Graham announced during a joint press conference in June that the annual game, previously known as the Crosstown Shootout, would be renamed the Skyline Chili Crosstown Classic.

Further, instead of being played at UC’s Fifth Third Arena in 2012 as it was scheduled, the match-up will relocate downtown along the river to U.S. Bank Arena on Dec. 19. UC will play as the home team in 2012, then Xavier at the arena next year. After 2013, the schools will re-evaluate and decide how to proceed.

In addition, a portion of the ticket sales will benefit the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which hosted the joint press conference.

“Our universities wanted to find a way to remind everyone that we play this game in the spirit of mutual respect and celebration,” said Williams.

“We want to celebrate the values that we share in common, and we want to celebrate the city of Cincinnati.”

Xavier’s president echoed similar sentiments. “It occurs to me that if there’s anything that Xavier and UC people are passionate about more than the game and their schools, it’s the community itself,” said Graham.

“This is, after all, just a game. It’s a very important game, one that a lot of people get very passionate about, and that’s a great thing. But, there’s much more that unites us than divides us, and we’d like people to focus on that.”

This year will mark the 15th straight that the game has been carried by an ESPN network. On Dec. 19, set your DVR for 7 p.m. EST on ESPN2.
Joe Maas contends that if you surveyed a hundred people 20 or 30 years into successful careers, half might say they aren't doing professionally what they studied in college. Joe himself is Exhibit A — trained to supply pharmaceuticals to the sick, yet dedicated to supplying hamburgers to the hungry.

“I'm a card-carrying, licensed pharmacist, but I haven't practiced pharmacy in almost 20 years,” says Maas, Pharm ’81. Instead, he found himself drawn to the family business that his father, Jack, started more than a half-century ago and which eventually became the international JTM Food Group. As vice president of manufacturing and production, Joe oversees the operations of the $110 million company based in Harrison, Ohio.

Maas' educational and professional paths were a function of family, finances and foodstuffs. His father and uncle owned the Delhi Horn of Plenty pony keg on Cincinnati's west side. Pony kegs were essentially small, neighborhood, family-owned grocery stores of a couple generations ago.

Losing the store
The family lost the store and Joe's brother, Mike, to a fire in 1970. The store was reopened in a new location as Jack Maas Meats as Joe was about to enter Elder High School. He had expected to continue working alongside his father and another brother after high school, but his father gave him an economics lesson.

"Dad sat me down and said, 'You can't stay in the meat store. It's barely supporting your brother and me. You need to go do something else.'”

His father suggested college, and that meant UC for a hard-working family of modest means. So Maas became a first-generation college student, continuing to work full time in the meat store while commuting to classes that would prepare him for a different career.

"It was clear to me from day one that I'd become a pharmacist," he says. "I liked and did well in chemistry at Elder. Both of my chemistry teachers were pharmacists. So was a good friend of my dad's, and I worked in his pharmacy part time. I had no reason to think that pharmacy wouldn't be my profession."

But once again, the Maas family's future — and Joe's in particular — was influenced by economics, in this case the double-digit inflation, interest rates and unemployment of the late ’70s. "People have to eat, but they don't have to eat meat if money is tight," Maas says.

So the decision was made to get more restaurant customers and rely less on individuals shopping for their families. That led to Jack getting a loan to build a food-processing center to handle the new business. That's when the company became JTM Provisions, with JTM being Jack's initials.

Expanding the business
The loan led to an ironic reprise of the "career conversation" between father and son, whose innate ability to fix equipment and keep things running smoothly had become invaluable.

"He saw the business expanding and said he needed me to stay," Maas explains. "I replied, 'Well, Dad, I didn't really want to leave in the first place. Of course, I'll help.'"

"So I stayed while also working in a few different area pharmacies at night. I did that until JTM really broke through in the mid-'90s." Still, his UC education continues to pay lifelong dividends. Even though Maas doesn't start his workday by donning a pharmacist's white coat, he credits the math and science skills developed and sharpened at UC as pivotal to his daily work at JTM.

"Plus, over the years, I've called on UC for technical assistance. We have hired many UC grads, and I've leaned on so many people I met through UC to help us keep the ball rolling here." That doesn't even count his most important UC-related contact.

"I was externing at the pharmacy in St. Francis Hospital during my last 10 weeks at UC," he recalls. "The hospital's IV department was part of the pharmacy. A young woman named Robin was an IV tech, and we started dating."

"As I approached graduation, she asked me which pharmacy I was going to work in, but I told her I was going to keep working at our family's struggling meat store." While that might have dismayed many girlfriends, by chance (or fate), Robin’s father, who had died not long before, had been a meat cutter in Delhi.

"So she married me anyway, and it's worked out pretty well," says Maas. "Without UC, we wouldn't have met."

Staying connected
Maas remains involved with his college, and he is a longtime friend of the Winkle College of Pharmacy interim dean Bill Fant, who had been Maas' preceptor toward the end of his student days.
Joe Maas, a 1981 UC pharmacy graduate, is vice president of manufacturing and production of JTM Food Group. Though once a struggling meat store, today the family-run business is an international success. The Maas family — including brothers Tony Maas, JTM president; Jack Maas, vice president of sales; Jerry Maas, vice president of business development; and sister Mary Lou Kern, marketing — are avid supporters of UC.

“At graduation, my father’s camera broke so we had no photos from the day,” Maas remembers. “Then about a month later, out of the blue, I get a letter from Bill saying, ‘I know you probably have photos from your graduation, but here’s one more.’ And he had enclosed what became my only graduation photo.’

Maas envisions returning to pharmacy work in the future in a volunteer capacity, providing help where it’s needed most. It’s part of his sense of community and a way to further leverage his UC experience.

“UC meant the world to me. I developed some great relationships there and learned a tremendous amount.

“And I know firsthand that UC puts people to work. Cincinnati would not be what it is without UC pouring into the community all that it does.”
INSPIRE

Alumnus trades boardroom for wash-and-groom

Jeff Voelpel turns a passion for animals into successful business

There was a time years ago when Jeff Voelpel’s day began with the usual office routine of emails, meetings, entertaining clients and a seemingly endless to-do list. But now, as manager of his own enterprise, The Pet Spot in Norwood, his days are a little different.

When the doors open at 7 a.m., Voelpel, Bus ’97, gets ready for more than 140 canine clients for “doggy day care” — just one of the services his business offers to busy pet lovers.

“It gets pretty hectic during the morning rush, but we really enjoy getting to see them all come in,” says Voelpel, who founded The Pet Spot with business partner Terry Rath in 2005. Usually, the animals are even more excited to see the staff and the other dogs for a full day of play.

Voelpel’s marketing background has played a huge role in branding the subtle difference between day care and boarding, which strikes a chord with loyal customers who entrust his staff with their four-legged family members.

Providing peace of mind

“When people talk about boarding or kennels, they picture cramped, stuffy cages, dirty floors and dogs that are isolated all day,” he says. “Our facility isn’t anything like that, and once people come in and see that dogs get to spend time with one another and see the building is clean and climate-controlled, it gives them peace of mind about leaving their animal with someone else.”

The facilities include more than 70,000 square feet and two floors of space, as well as 40 “luxury villas” which include televisions and other amenities for discerning pups. Some rooms are even themed, including rooms for Reds, Bengals and (of course) Bearcat fans.

“Our sports-themed rooms usually get booked the farthest out, so there’s definitely a demand for these types of amenities,” Voelpel laughs.

Transparency is also a big selling point. Webcams are linked up all around The Pet Spot’s facilities, play areas and boarding rooms, so nervous or homesick owners can check on their pet anytime they want.

Voelpel’s path to founding and operating The Pet Spot mirrors that of many UC alumni, as he had to navigate a number of challenges involved with changing careers and gaining new skill sets. An alumnus of the Carl Lindner College of Business with a degree in marketing, Voelpel landed a first job after graduation in warehousing and logistics.

Gaining experience

“The experience I gained was great in terms of seeing how businesses run and how to work with clients, but the hours were long, and there was really no room to move up.

“After a few years there, I wanted to go back to school in veterinary medicine,” Voelpel continues, “because I’ve always loved animals. I even considered being a vet before going into marketing. When I saw that I’d have to leave town and be in school for three more years at least, I decided to earn a grooming certificate and see what I could do with that.”

Voelpel was leaving behind a well-paying, stable position in the corporate world with no clear plan for his future. But that’s where the experience he gained at UC through his co-op assignments came in handy. After finishing training, Voelpel pooled together everything he had and opened a grooming business, Hyde Park K9 Kamp. The property was small, and Voelpel ran the entire operation by himself for a few months, only to break even and keep the bills paid.

“The beginning was definitely a challenge, because almost everything I made went back into the business or covered my living expenses,” Voelpel recalls. “I wasn’t doing much else besides working and staying home because I had to spend as little as possible — but I felt it was worth it to be in business for myself and be working with animals.”

Referrals from happy customers brought in substantial new grooming business, allowing him to expand operations...
He was leaving behind a well-paying, stable position in the corporate world with no clear plan for his future. But that’s where the experience he gained at UC through his co-op assignments came in handy.

Successful expansion

“I had developed a business plan for The Pet Spot during my time at my first shop, and the bank loved it,” Voelpel remembers. “The problem was, I had no way of coming up with the down payment I needed to get their funding.

“One of my clients, Terry Rath, asked me one day if I had ever thought of expanding, and I told him about my plan and the challenges getting a loan. We realized our vision was the same in a lot of ways, and he told me he wanted to invest in making it happen."

With funding secured and a location found, construction was rushed to open in time for the 2005 holiday season. Voelpel brought his entire base of clients from Hyde Park K9 Kamp to the bigger operation, and soon more referrals started rolling in. Jeff and Terry continued to invest in the business and hire staff to handle the demand for day care and boarding, as well as grooming and training classes.

Today, Voelpel has more than 1,000 day-care clients, hundreds of grooming appointments each week and customers who book boarding rooms months in advance.

Looking back on his experience, Jeff offers straightforward advice for alumni who are considering (or have been pushed into) career changes of their own. “It can be frightening to move away from something you know, but if you think about it enough, you can probably come up with a few things you would rather do for a living,” he says. “Once you find out what they are, don’t be afraid to invest in yourself or take a risk.

“It probably sounds strange that I wanted to be a groomer with a business background, but the end result was worth it. Be prepared to make some sacrifices. If you believe strongly enough in what you are doing, it won’t be as painful as you may think.”

Jeff Voelpel paired his love for animals with his marketing degree and created a successful grooming and boarding business with more than 17,000 total clients.
Phillip Holloman found his way to the top of his profession, but getting there required a leap from his comfort zone.

After graduating from UC with a degree in civil engineering in ’78, Holloman took a position with Procter & Gamble, where he had co-oped as a student. “I was very fortunate to start my career in such a large company,” he recalls. “There were a lot of places you could go in P&G, and it taught me at a relatively young age to keep my options open. I was also lucky to have the co-op experience under my belt — it really helped to set myself apart from everyone else who was hoping to get hired.”

A time for change

Holloman made the most of his opportunity in the years that followed as a project manager at P&G, then at a number of other companies that held close working relationships with key P&G products. Over time, he gained additional responsibilities in the engineering and design divisions.
for a number of iconic brands, starting with disposable diapers.

Even though he earned numerous accolades, Holloman decided it was time for a change in 1996. Thanks to fortuitous timing and recommendations from former and current clients, he joined the Cintas Co., an international business supplier in Cincinnati.

As vice president of engineering and construction, he oversaw the growth and process automation of the company as it expanded into new markets. Over a four-year period, Holloman helped coordinate the construction of 37 new plants in the United States and Canada.

"As a manager, there's only so much you can do to ensure processes are being carried out correctly," Holloman says. "By taking the extra time to ensure everyone else is happy and understands their role in the organization, you ultimately benefit."

**Leaving his comfort zone**

Holloman's performance and reputation as a strong manager — and the company's growth into one of the largest uniform and apparel producers in the U.S. — brought him to yet another new position. His new role, however, would require him to branch out from his comfort zone in engineering and focus more on the business and operations of the company.

Thanks to support from fellow executives and his family, the decision to make the leap to a new role was easy. The ultimate stamp of approval and career wisdom came from an unlikely source, his son Desmond.

"Desmond pointed out that if I could have fun and make things even better for our family, that he thought I should make the leap," recalls Holloman. "I had been focusing on so many small details that I sort of missed the bigger picture, and I was grateful for his advice and support."

Determined to make his new role successful, Holloman began handling seven distribution centers and two underperforming production planning groups. In just a few years, he was able to increase efficiency and customer satisfaction, turning around a combined annual loss of $7 million to a $2 million yearly profit.

His willingness to take on a role that was in the company's best interest, even if not in his personal career plan, propelled Holloman to vice president of global supply chain organization in 2006. Just a few years later, he was named president and chief operating officer, overseeing the company's various business units in uniforms and apparel, as well as logistics, document destruction and promotional products.

As he looks back on his career, Holloman points to a few pieces of wisdom he's picked up along the way: "I would say the biggest key to success is realizing that you will never be doing just one thing," he says. "While you'll go through college and training to find your first position, those responsibilities will inevitably adapt. It's helpful to be on the lookout for new skills and knowledge you might be able to use in the future."

**Increasing diversity**

As president and COO, Holloman has continued to build Cintas' business and expand into new markets. He has also worked hard to increase diversity inside the company and with suppliers and other service providers to Cintas.

"Diversity takes many forms — not just gender and race, but ideas, cultures and opinions, too," Holloman says. "By working to bring everyone on board, our company benefits substantially while we create opportunities for the next generation of leaders. I'm proud to have continued a tradition that in a way started at UC when I helped found our chapter of the Society of Black Engineers more than 30 years ago.

"I'm also extremely grateful for the education and opportunities I received at UC. I know it's been a big part of my success, and I hope my story can show today's students that almost anything can happen if they are willing to keep their options open and work hard. It may seem cliché, but I'm living proof that it can and does pay off."

“**I'm proud to have continued a tradition that in a way started at UC when I helped found our chapter of the Society of Black Engineers more than 30 years ago.”**

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**UCAA offers free workshops for career changes**

In survey after survey, alumni of all colleges and universities say that "career development assistance" is something they want from their schools.

The UC Alumni Association has responded with a suite of resources designed to help UC alumni better understand the dynamics of career management and the job-search process, while also enhancing their career navigational skills and marketability.

“We want to help our alumni become more capable of managing the various challenges that come with career change, whether it’s strategically planned or sudden and unexpected,” says Jen Schuster, Bus ‘08, M (Bus) ’09, the UC Alumni Association’s programs and services committee chair. "We can’t facilitate personal job searches, but we can help provide the tools and tips that put our alumni in a better position to succeed — to help create a better you’ within the context of the ongoing need for career fulfillment.”

To that end, the UC Alumni Association is offering a series of free interactive workshops in October to provide alums with practical career-change tools and strategies. Presented by noted career strategist and author Julie Bauke, the program, called “Want a New Career? Strategies for Change — at Any Age,” will help participants manage the issues surrounding an unfulfilling job or uncertain career. Participants will better understand when to change careers, how to assess their skills and how to leverage networking as a career-change strategy.

The three-part workshop will take place Oct. 9, 16 and 23, from 7:30–9 p.m., at the Myers Alumni Center on campus. Alumni can also participate remotely from anywhere as each workshop will be streamed live.

To register, visit www.uc.edu/alumni/career.

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University of Cincinnati www.magazine.uc.edu September 2012 45
Homecoming ‘Flashback’
Return to campus as Bearcats host Miami

For alumni and students alike, Homecoming stands out as the greatest red-and-black celebration on the annual UC calendar. This year’s party culminates on Saturday, Oct. 6, when groups from UC’s colleges and organizations welcome back thousands of lifelong Bearcats.

Presented by the University of Cincinnati Alumni Association, UC Homecoming 2012 will turn the clock back, thanks to the Homecoming theme “We Love Lucy: A Flashback to Yesteryear.” Beyond recalling Lucille Ball, Lucy is also the name of UC’s real-life binturong mascot, which often makes the short trip up Vine Street from the Cincinnati Zoo to visit campus.

Given the retro theme, the Homecoming football game fittingly finds the Bearcats playing Miami University in the oldest football rivalry west of the Allegheny Mountains. Game time is 7 p.m. at Nippert Stadium.

The annual Homecoming parade starts at 3 p.m., and fans of TV’s “Amazing Race” will see familiar faces coming down Clifton Avenue. One of UC’s outstanding young alumni, Cindy Chiang Halvorsen, Eng ’04, and her husband, Ernie, will be parade grand marshals after becoming this year’s “Amazing Race” champions.

“By Saturday, students will have already enjoyed quite a few days of Homecoming campus events,” says UC Alumni Association executive director Myron Hughes, Bus ’86. “On Friday evening, we’ll launch the weekend here at the Myers Alumni Center — free food, special guests, lots of fun. On Homecoming day itself, the campus will be teeming with activity — reunions, parties, parade-watching, tailgating and, of course, cheering the Bearcats to victory over Miami.”

As with all Bearcat home football games, Homecoming includes the Bearcat Blitz pre-game festivities in and around the Myers Alumni Center, just north of Nippert Stadium. Included will be family-friendly tailgating, big-screen TVs, refreshments, prize raffles, a UC Bookstore booth with plenty of UC gear and the starting point for the football team’s ritual Catwalk to the stadium two and a half hours before kickoff.

Visit www.uc.edu/homecoming for the full schedule of events.
Alumni accomplishments hailed

The excellence of the University of Cincinnati alumni family was on full display at the 2012 UC Distinguished Alumni Celebration, held June 14 in the Kingsgate Marriott Conference Center on campus.

“These alumni have gone on to become remarkable leaders and difference-makers at UC and in our communities,” said UC Alumni Association executive director Myron Hughes, Bus ’86. “The university is honored to have such high caliber alumni representing UC around the world and to have played some part in their successes.”

Some of the exemplary alumni honored this year included Thomas Horwitz, DAAP ’78, ’81, Alumni Distinguished Service Award; Willie Carden Jr., Univ ’80, Bus ’86, UCAA Mosaic Award; Thomas Humes Jr., Bus ’71, M (A&S) ’77, William Howard Taft Medal for Notable Achievement; Andrea Zahumensky, Eng ’00, Jeffrey Hurwitz Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award; Joseph Judge, Bus ’00, Jeffrey Hurwitz Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award.

Each year, the UC Distinguished Alumni Celebration offers the opportunity to honor a select group of outstanding alums.

Alumni mentioned in this issue
(by graduation year, page number)

Pre 1940s
Louis Nippert, ’28, ’71, p. 19
Evelyn Venable, att. ’33, p. 20
Louise Nippert, ’34, ’67, p. 19

1940s
“Jed” Small, ’40, p. 2
Glenice DeWees Anderson, ’49, p. 2

1950s
Sigmund Rolat, ’52, p. 24
Myron Moskowitz, ’54, ’58, p. 30
Jack Twyman, ’55, p. 48
Jim Reger, ’59, p. 2
Kathryn “Babe” Gallenstein Reger, ’59, p. 3

1960s
Paul Hogue, ’62, p. 2
Bob Deddens, ’63, p. 4
Tony Yates, ’63, p. 2
Tom O’Neill, ’66, p. 2
Stephen Carter, ’69, p. 10
Patricia Crume Lloyd, ’69, p. 4

1970s
Craig Fitzpatrick, ’70, p. 5
Thomas Humes, Jr., ’71, ’77, p. 47
John Small Jr., ’71, p. 2
Ellen Roberts, ’76, p. 3
Phillip Holloman, ’78, p. 44
Thomas Horwitz, ’78, ’81, p. 47

1980s
Willie Carden, Jr., ’80, p. 47
Joe Maas, ’81, p. 40
Suzan Onat-Bayazit, ’83, p. 3
Myron Hughes, ’86, pp. 46, 47
William Barrett, ’87, p. 31

1990s
Lisa Ellis, ’91, p. 34
Ronald Jackson II, ’91 & ’93, p. 9
Karen O’Brien, ’91, ’94, p. 29
Jim Serger Jr., ’91, p. 3
Keith Gavigan, ’94, p. 28
Matthew Dewald, ’95, p. 12
David Foster, ’97, p. 3
Kathryn Pongonis, ’97, p. 4
Jeff Voelpel, ’97, p. 42

2000s
Joseph Judge, ’00, p. 47
Ruth Lavigne, ’00, p. 30
Andrea Zahumensky, ’00, p. 47
LaVar Glover, ’01, p. 37
Dave Lee, ’01, p. 36
Blue Adams, att. ’02, p. 37
DeJuan Gossett, ’03, p. 36
Andre Frazier, ’04, p. 37
Tyjuan Hagler, ’04, p. 37
Daven Holly, ’04, p. 37
Michael Litting, ’05, p. 3
Adam Roberts, ’06, p. 37
John Bowie, ’07, p. 37
Angelo Craig, att. ’07, p. 37
Haruki Nakamura, ’08, p. 37
Jen Schuster, ’08, ’09, p. 45
Jeff Linkenbach, ’09, p. 37

2010s
Mardy Gilyard, ’10, p. 37
Ben Guidugli, ’10, p. 37
Ricardo Mathews, ’10, p. 37
Alex Broerman, ’12, p. 8
Barbara Kowalcyk, ’12, p. 14
Ashley Ma, ’12, p. 8
Bearcat basketball legend Jack Twyman fulfilled every boy’s dream of tearing up a basketball court, becoming an All-American and playing for the pros. What he couldn’t have dreamed was becoming equally as famous for what he did off the court.

The six-time NBA All-Star and Hall of Famer died May 30 at age 78. Twyman finished his college career in 1955 as UC’s all-time leading scorer (1,598 points) and rebounder (1,242). His scoring total currently ranks ninth at UC, while his rebounding numbers rank second. Twyman is one of four former Bearcats to have their number retired. His No. 27 jersey hangs in Fifth Third Arena.

Selected by the Royals in the 1955 draft, the Pittsburgh native was named an NBA All-Star in six of his 11 seasons and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in ’83.

Twyman’s true legacy comes from a deep compassion he had for a teammate disabled at age 24. Maurice Stokes, a standout on the Royals, was named 1955-56 NBA Rookie of the Year and made the All-Star team all three seasons he played. A blow to his head on the court in 1958, however, left Stokes unable to walk, talk or pay for medical bills.

At 23, Twyman petitioned to become his friend’s legal guardian. Twyman managed Stokes’ bills, completed paperwork and maintained that relationship until Stokes died in 1970 — probably the greatest assist in basketball history.
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HOMECOMING

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012

3 p.m. Homecoming Parade
Led by grand marshals Cindy Chiang Halvorsen, Eng '04, and husband Ernie Halvorsen, winners of TV’s “The Amazing Race”

7 p.m. Football Game
Bearcats battle Miami RedHawks for Victory Bell in a rivalry that dates back to 1888

Details: uc.edu/homecoming