We did it.
Above: Larger-than-life sculptures created out of duct tape by UC students decorated MainStreet in early June. The “Duct Tape Through the Decades” sculpture exhibit then traveled to Avon, Ohio, as part of a duct-tape festival over Father’s Day weekend, sponsored by ShurTech Brands, the company that markets Duck Tape. Graduate fine-arts student Tyler Hamilton created the 6-foot-tall View-Master. Associate professor of fine arts Joe Girandola created the sculpture spelling the word “DUCK” atop a large roll of duct tape.

Opposite page: Hundreds of dogs have been tested for hearing impairment at UC’s FETCHLAB, which has developed a national reputation for having canine-audiology experts. Read more on page 34.

“Money is like manure; it’s not worth a thing unless it’s spread around encouraging young things to grow.”
— Thornton Wilder, The Matchmaker
$1 billion raised from 100,000 donors

Thanks to you!
Because you gave

The University of Cincinnati reached its goal to raise $1 billion in gifts from 100,000 unique donors. Only 2 percent of all colleges and universities in the country have ever raised so much. This entire issue is dedicated to sharing stories that illustrate the human impact of your generosity.
We did it.
After eight years of hard work and dedication, UC finds itself among the top 2 percent of U.S. universities for having raised $1 billion from 100,000 donors. Where does the money go? Who benefits from it? Who donates it? UC Magazine looks at some of the most intriguing stories that surfaced along the way.

12 ‘Proudly Cincinnati’ in national spotlight by Phil Kanet
UC’s eight-year campaign concludes with a record $1 billion from 100,000 donors.

14 Advocating for the innocent by Deborah Rieselman
Mark Godsey and law students free 16 wrongfully convicted people, thanks to the Rosenthals.

20 New Alumni Engineering Learning Center by Tom Robinette
Amazing facility accommodates technology-driven revolution in engineering education.

22 Wooded playland welcomes children to campus by Dawn Fuller
Researchers can observe preschoolers having fun in nature.

24 Field-study classes at Miami Whitewater by Tom Robinette
Multidisciplinary programs benefit from having classrooms with Mother Nature.

26 Photojournalism grad documents an uprising by Barbara Blum
Scholarship recipient moves to Turkey as a national revolt begins.

30 Moving from anguish to admiration
One of UC’s first African-American grads, Clark Beck, on how he nearly turned his back on UC.

32 Significant donor nearly overlooked by Greg Hand
Asa Van Wormer: a simple farmer who funded the Van Wormer Library out of surprising wealth.

34 FETCHLAB’s ‘dog-eared’ research by Katy Cosse
Unusual lab diagnoses and treats hearing-impaired service dogs.

35 At-risk students beat the odds by Dawn Fuller
Specialized housing lets first-generation students live together to learn ins and outs of UC.

36 Prescription for a full life by Angela Koenig
Millions of pharmacy mishaps avoided, education advanced, thanks to alumnus donor Wuest.

Bearcats Sports
37 Hostility to hope: Soccer player a former African refugee by John Bach
40 Nippert update: $86 million renovation to open in 2015 by John Bach

Departments
2 Letters: Neil Armstrong, Logan Hall, Nippert
6 President Ono: ‘Many folks to thank’
7 Campus News: Morgens Hall, farewell to Steger
42 Alumni Connections: Homecoming, alumni profiles
47 Alumni Index: Guide to 69 alumni in this issue
48 On Campus Yesterday: 1965, donor Dolly Cohen
Call to donate sparks memories

The phone rang, and I was sure this was another robo-call. Believe me, I was in a defensive mode, ready to make short business of this call.

When I realized the voice on the other end was from a student from my alma mater, I blurted out in a relieved manner, “Oh, you’re not a political call!” My caller chuckled and proceeded with the message I receive annually — thanking me for my previous gift to benefit students attending the University of Cincinnati and wishing to update information.

Then, to my caller’s surprise, I finished the message for him by saying if he would send me the material I would return it with my check. By this time, we were in a chatty mode and fast becoming buddies. “Have you visited the campus recently?” he asked. “Not since my 50th reunion,” I replied and hurried on to say that visit was in 1992. “There are lots of changes, new buildings extending to the east of the old campus area, and extensive green space,” he said.

I asked about his studies and learned he is a sociology major. That was all it took for us to bond as old friends.

I reported, of course, that I was a "soc" major; had loved my classes under Dr. Quinn, Dr. Carlson, Dr. Talbert and Dr. Eubank; and, even today, called up ideas from Dr. Eubank’s book. We concluded our transaction, and I smiled quietly to myself. He would never know what the campus was like in 1938-42, and I will never know what campus life is like in the 21st century.

I went to sleep walking the familiar paths of the campus. The faces of friends and professors paraded through my mind. I recalled sitting on the marble steps of the library, deep in conversation, puffing on a bummed cigarette, the late fall afternoon light coming through the windows of the Teachers’ College auditorium, the trek from the streetcar to McMicken Hall on a cold, snowy day and suppers at the Chi Omega sorority house.

I thought of six Mortar Board members, in their black sweaters, sitting in the back row of the urban sociology class. I thought of cramming for exams, digging deeply in philosophical bull sessions, totting my black leather, zippered notebook holding notes from class and riding the streetcar from the campus back home for supper with my parents.

Extracurricular activities were important ways of learning, and I remembered serving as president of the campus YWCA and being a junior advisor leader. Recalling the heady experience of a garment corsage, the swish of an aqua chiffon dress and the thrill of "tripping the light fantastic" at a fraternity dance brought delightful memories.

I wouldn’t change places with the young caller, for those years were rich in friendships and experiences that took me from being a teenager to being an adult. Yes, I’ll send my check to the university. That is a small payback for four years of nourishment, learning and fun.

Margaret Grogg Pifer, A&S ’42
Kalamazoo, Mich.

“Life in a Hitler Labor Camp”

I was fascinated by the article “Life in a Hitler Labor Camp” since I am the daughter of Holocaust survivors. I am always interested in getting a different perspective on that time in history. Most of my childhood was spent hearing about my father’s life in Auschwitz.

I have found it nauseating to read that some people loved Hitler. I took a trip to Auschwitz, as well as other camps, and to this day, I can’t understand how anyone living near a concentration camp could ignore what was happening inside those camps.

Helen Klug Elfenbein, Ed ’72, M (Ed) ’96,
Loveland, Ohio

The article on the two UC girls who worked in Germany pre-WWII did not ring true to me. I was shocked that two women would purposefully go to Germany to work in such a camp of which I had never before read. This is a new chapter for me in the pre-WWII story.

Thank you.

Ray Vegso, D (Bus) ’76, and wife, Sally
Marietta, Penn.

Your article on "Life in a Hitler Labor Camp" rang a bell for me. I was on the cheerleading squad for the 1942 football season (when cheerleaders were all male) and had also joined the Army Enlisted Reserves and ROTC. In May 1943, I was called to active duty.

We were in northern Germany, on our way east toward Kassel through picture-perfect farmland, when we saw what looked like German army barracks off in the distance. Capt. Nolan said, “Marmer, go check them out.”

The last thing infantrymen want to do is advance in open fields. There are no goodies to dive in, no trees to duck behind. The German troops started firing and fought until they ran out of ammunition. Then they just left! We had accomplished our mission!

When we arrived, we didn’t find “army barracks” but instead a slave labor camp using Russian prisoners of war to work the fields so German men could go fight. The SS guards had been given orders to kill all the Russian POWs, but two things went wrong for them: We got there too quickly, and they ran out of ammunition!

The POWs gave me this note before we moved out: “To the lieutenant of the American troops: Sir, On the first of May, you have made us — we who live like slaves since three years in the damned Nazi Germany — the greatest joy. All night we did not sleep to hear without pause the warm words of our native country. (They heard the Russians fighting their way east as we were fighting our way west. We just got there first!) We say many thanks to you, sir, and also to the American soldiers who liberated us from the Nazi Germany.”

At a wedding party a year ago — at which my brother's youngest son married the daughter of a Russian family who had immigrated to Atlanta — I took the mic, and after all the toasts were given, I told the above story because a great many of the guests were also Russian families who had also immigrated to Atlanta.

A few minutes later, a man in his 50s came to my table, knelt and told me his father had been liberated from a German Slave Labor Camp by American troops. I almost cried and just wished it was “My No-Name Camp.”

Saul Marmer, Bus ’48
Cincinnati
Read the whole thing

I have just finished reading the April 2013 issue and thoroughly enjoyed it. I always scan the magazine, but this is the first time I have actually read the entire issue. Good job!

Carla Andrews, Nur ’65
El Macero, Calif.

Every time I look at the front cover of the April UC Magazine, I smile and think how adorable. It’s such a perfect shot! It says so very much about our UC president! Thanks!

Mary Davis, administrative secretary
School of Computing Sciences
and Informatics
UC College of Engineering
and Applied Science

Armstrong memories strong

In May 1971, I was named News Record editor for my senior year. That fall, Neil Armstrong [HonDoc ’82] became professor of engineering, and I got to interview him. He had just walked on the moon two years earlier, and he was the bomb.

Unfortunately, he was colder than the dark side of the moon (though I’m not really sure what the dark side of the moon is). He only wanted to talk about his professorship. He refused to talk about the moon, despite a globe of the moon sitting right there in his office.

No readers cared about engineering, of course. After 45 minutes, he eventually gave me enough nuggets to put into the lead.

As professional as I wanted to be, however, I still asked for a picture of him and me together.

David Litt, A&S ’72
Retired sales manager, USA Today
East Brunswick, N.J.

I very much enjoyed your article about Neil Armstrong. I graduated from the UC aerospace engineering and engineering mechanics department with three degrees (the first one in 1979), so I remember Professor Armstrong well. And I have two anecdotes for you.

One of the most special moments of our senior year, as we neared graduation, was when Professor Armstrong came in to chat with our class. I honestly don’t remember the details of what he shared, but what I do remember is that, when one member of the graduating class, Greg Jarrells [Eng ’79], asked Professor Armstrong to sign a stamp he had that the post office had issued to commemorate the moon landing, Professor Armstrong declined to do so, saying that if he did, that stamp would become very valuable, and he didn’t feel it would be appropriate for him to sign it.

I know Greg was very disappointed, but I think it demonstrated the integrity and humility of Neil Armstrong.

Another moment, one I doubt you would want to publish, was a personal highlight, odd as it might sound. I recall standing next to Professor Armstrong in, of all places, the men’s room nearest the aerospace department. I didn’t say anything to him, since it was a bit awkward, as we stood shoulder to shoulder at the urinals. Nonetheless, I never got over my moment standing that close to the first man to step on the moon!

Mark Barnett, Eng ’79, M (Eng) ’82, D (Eng) ’84
Senior executive consultant
RG Performance Group
West Bloomfield, Mich.

William Hines, Eng ’59, M (A&S) ’64, is an aerospace engineering alumnus who sent us a copy of this letter, which he received from his school friend John Herrnstein. They were both 1953-54 basketball and baseball teammates at Chillicothe High School. Herrnstein went to play football and baseball at the University of Michigan, and Hines came to UC and played baseball.

John Herrnstein’s letter follows:

My father held dual degrees in aeronautical and mechanical engineering, and my brother was a metallurgical engineer, both graduating from the University of Michigan, as I also did. They both worked for NASA at Langley Field, Va., during the ’60s, so I naturally had a very keen interest in our budding space program. I happened to be a professional baseball player with the Philadelphia Phillies at that same time.

When the Houston Astrodome officially opened for National League play in April 1965, we were the Astro’s opponent in the inaugural game. Before the game, the 29 Mercury program astronauts were all honorees, preceded by an introduction of the original seven that had been chosen.

Naturally, I was transfixed. I remember being the only person in our dugout, as the rest of my team had not bothered to come out of the clubhouse.

As I was waiting for the ceremonies to begin, a wiry-built civilian came down into the dugout, approached me, sat down and we began talking. He explained that he was an astronaut in training, part of the second wave of newer astronauts, and was from a small town in Ohio, just as I also was. We exchanged pleasantries for 10 or 15 minutes before he decided he’d better rejoin the activities on the field.

Upon departing, he shook my hand and said, “By the way, my name is Neil Armstrong. What is yours?” I remember thinking to myself at the time, none of these astronauts are very big men, restricted in stature by capsule space and payload limitations, but huge in outright courage.
After our road trip ended, I told my wife, Barbara, about meeting one of the newer astronauts, how impressed I was over his humility and modesty and that he told me his name was Neil Armstrong. I asked her to help me remember his name — that I wanted to follow his career and any flights he might take! The rest is history!

Then in April 2010, I decided to write him a letter explaining that I totally forgot to tell him about both my dad and my brother working for NASA at Langley, and about my dad's close friendship with many of the test pilots back then. I even vainly asked if he remembered anything about the event of our chance meeting before the game.

I also included several items of "proof," in order to show that I was not misrepresenting myself in any way. Knowing his rather reclusive nature and understandable penchant for privacy, I never really expected a reply.

About two months later and much to my great surprise, I received a wonderful return letter in the mail. He thanked me for my letter and apologized for not responding sooner but explained he had been quite busy lobbying Congress for a larger NASA budget and the continuation of our manned space program.

Although now 80, he was still fighting for America to lead in space exploration. He remembered that the Phillies won the game that night but not much else about the evening, aside from how impressed he was with the Astrodome.

He also named some of the test pilots my dad probably knew and said who he had worked with at Langley, as well. Indeed, one was a very close personal friend of our family who was in our home on many occasions before we moved to Ohio.

Aside from being profoundly honored that he took the time to write me, it was also quite obvious to me that he had even researched me to some extent. He made mention of the fact that my family had an interesting history in University of Michigan athletics, which could only have come from the Internet.

He was obviously thorough and meticulously prepared in everything he did, even in responding to a letter over a chance meeting 45 years previous. Little wonder he was such an accomplished pilot, astronaut and explorer.

Our meeting is my most cherished moment from professional baseball. It was not my first hit or my first homerun or any statistic about baseball. It was, however, getting to meet and having that isolated conversation with Neil Armstrong, before he ever made it into space or walked on the moon.

Looking at both the past and the future, I don't regard Christopher Columbus as having anything on Neil Armstrong. Few, if any, have made a greater contribution to our country, or to the world community, than he did. What a remarkable legacy he leaves us.

John Herrnstein

More on Jimmy Nippert

I enjoyed the story ["Naming Nippert," April 2013] on Jimmy Nippert [att. ‘23]. There are a few things I think you may want to clarify:

• In 1923, the 11 men played both offense and defense. While we think of the center as an offensive position today, Jimmy probably played the entire game.

• The 1923 game was Homecoming for UC. That was a new annual event. To date, I have only found two other previous Homecomings (football), those being in the years 1919 and 1921.

• Coincidentally, in the same 1923 season on Oct. 6 at Carson Field, the University of Kentucky center Price McLean was injured (fractured skull) and died the next day.

• The "star" of the game was UC's Bob Hynes [Eng ’25], who scored three touchdowns — a huge feat then and today. Therefore Jimmy was most definitely a very obscure football warrior and contributor for the team, as are most lineman. Unsung heroes, if you ask me.

• Jimmy actually quit football. His brother Louis was to be the center for the 1923 team. But things did not go well, and the team pleaded for Jimmy to return one more year. I could only imagine the grief that Louis Nippert [A&S ’26, HonDoc ’71] carried with him in losing his older brother who came back to play one more year of football because Louis was not able to play as a starter. Their father, Alfred [HonDoc ’56], also played football for UC, but he tore his ACL in a slip on an icy sidewalk. That injury probably would not be career ending today.

I think Jimmy put a lot of pressure on himself to succeed to the highest effort he could make to support the university in football. I suspect he knew he had a significant injury but played through the pain due to the nature of the game in 1923.

The Miami game was considered the ultimate game for UC and Miami every year. There were no bowl games as we know it today, and professional football did not exist yet.

I think anyone who followed football within 100 miles of Cincinnati would have considered this game as important as we think of the NCAA national championships or the Super Bowl today. The rivalry was extremely intense.

UC had lost to Miami in the 1921 and 1922 games. This 1923 game would have been important to Jimmy and everyone at UC. The university's record for this match-up with Miami for the previous 10 seasons was 1 win, 8 losses and 1 tie.

Mark Fields, Eng ’80
Franklin, Ohio

Editor’s note: In a UC Libraries’ exhibit about campus fraternities and sororities, the first Homecoming is dated June 1924. In later years, the event moved to the fall. If Mark has a date a year earlier, he may be on to something. Nationally, Baylor was the first university to celebrate Homecoming in 1909 with a parade, class reunions and a football game, considered traditional elements today.

Barry Bishop online

Nice article about Barry Bishop [A&S ’54, HonDoc ’94, an alumnus who was on the first American team to scale Mount Everest]. Not sure if you know it, but I just happen to be one of the world’s lead-
Bob Deddens found

As I was reading the April 2013 issue, there was a letter from Craig Fitzpatrick, DAAP ‘70, regarding his RA Bob Deddens. I tried to contact Craig via Internet search but was unsuccessful. I have the data he’s looking for so maybe you could connect it to him.

Bob Deddens [Eng ’63, JD ’67] lives in Dayton, Ohio (actually the city of Oakwood, which has a Dayton mailing address). He recently retired as a judge and has a private law practice there.

I used to coach Bob’s twins in fifth- and sixth-grade basketball, and my nieces and nephews attended school with some of his eight kids.

Bill Kugel Bus ’78
Dayton, Ohio

Prodigy Henry Meyer recalled

I am a former violin student of violinst Elizabeth Mason [att. CCMJ] who studied with Henry Meyer at UC in the 1950s. Recently, she shared her admiration for him, and I read his obituary in your [online] magazine.

I was struck by the formulation that he played in a “prisoners’ orchestra” in one of the concentration camps. Such orchestras were not exercises in fine arts. My understanding is that they were forced to play as fellow inmates were marched to the gas chambers. I believe that Mr. Meyer was forced to play a percussion instrument as his brother was sent to die.

I’m an English teacher whose students always read about the Holocaust, and it consistently strikes me how they have to learn from scratch about that event and time in history. The ghouliness of the concentration camp orchestra, forced to “accompany” work details and death marches, never fails to sicken me.

Elizabeth was a wonderful violin teacher when I later studied with her. She is no longer well. On one of my visits to her, she talked about Mr. Meyer with great reverence.

Joan Levitt
via email

Editor’s note: UC Magazine never set out to do a story on Ludlow Hall. Readers kept sending me more and more information, until one day we sat down and combed through it all and started cross-referencing articles in the student newspaper. You’re the first person to mention living in Logan Hall. If other readers send us their stories, too, maybe this will develop into a full story after a few issues.

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

The former dorm on Ludlow Avenue today
We did it. We set a highly ambitious goal of raising $1 billion in philanthropic support, and we surpassed that mark a full five months before the campaign’s official endpoint of June 30, 2013.

This is a monumental achievement and not just because of one giant number. The real key to this milestone is not that we raised it, but how we did so — and the incredible impact it will have on our campus and out in the world.

I certainly don’t want to downplay that dollar figure because it puts us in some very select company. Fewer than 2 percent of all colleges and universities in the country have ever raised so much, and you can probably name several of them without trying: Stanford, UCLA, Berkeley, Michigan and Penn State. But here are some numbers that strike me as even more important.

First, 100,000 unique donors made this possible. Think about that. Even for a place with as much history as the University of Cincinnati, that’s a staggering figure. To put it in perspective, imagine the entire population of cities like Boulder, Green Bay or South Bend, Ind., reaching into their pockets simultaneously to give money to a university campaign.

Perhaps even more stunning is that fully half of those people were first-time donors. The range of donors is startling, too, whether you look at who or where.

Roughly 60 percent of donors are alumni, meaning not only that our alumni believe strongly in the UC mission but that 40,000 non-alumni do, too. About a third of donations came from outside Cincinnati — New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Northern California, all over — which makes a statement about UC’s growing reach. And some $65 million came from our own faculty and staff, which says something about people’s willingness to invest in the future of a place they love.

The spirit behind this outpouring is both thrilling and humbling, especially when you think about the concrete changes it will make. Thanks to your generosity, 530 new scholarships have already been created, 23 faculty chairs endowed, and beautiful campus facilities planned or upgraded.

We will continue to attract and retain world-class faculty and students. We will push forward with new research into Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, as well as the areas of business, law, religion, engineering and so many fields connected to so many lives.

We have many folks to thank for all of this, including campaign co-chairs Otto Budig and Buck Niehoff; Steve Wilson, chairman and interim president of the University of Cincinnati Foundation at the time; and all the staff and volunteers who worked to make “Proudly Cincinnati” a success.

But without the “you” in UC, reading this now, the university and its work literally couldn’t exist, much less be on the amazing trajectory of these last few years. I’m as “proudly Cincinnati” as anyone. So after all the stats and numbers, finally and simply, I say, “Thank you.”

Santa J. Ono, President
University of Cincinnati
Flame retardants linked to hyperactivity, low IQ

Prenatal exposure to chemical flame retardants used in everyday products, such as baby strollers, carpeting and electronics, is associated with hyperactivity and lower intelligence in early childhood, according to UC researchers. A study presented by Aimin Chen, assistant professor of environmental health, showed that chemicals known as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) disrupt thyroid hormones and cause hyperactivity and learning problems.

Chen and his colleagues collected blood samples from 309 pregnant women enrolled in a study at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center to measure PBDE levels. They also performed intelligence and behavior tests on the women’s children annually until they were 5 years old.

They found that maternal exposure to PBDEs was associated with deficits in child cognition at age 5 and hyperactivity at ages 2 to 5. A 10-fold increase in maternal PBDEs was associated with about a four-point deficit in IQs in 5-year-olds.

Even though most PBDEs are not used as a flame retardant in the U.S. anymore, they are found on many consumer products bought several years ago. In addition, the chemicals are not easily biodegradable, so they remain in human tissues and are transferred to the developing fetus.

Assistant professor Aimin Chen’s research shows that chemicals in flame retardants have adverse reactions in children.

MediCal Breakthroughs

UC’s top-ranked environmental health department was recently awarded $8.7 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue operation of its Center for Environmental Genetics. This state-of-the-art research core supports scientists conducting studies on how agents in the environment interact with genetic and epigenetic factors to influence disease. Led by department chairman Shuk-mei Ho, UC’s 20-year-old center is one of only 20 of its kind funded by the NIH. During the last funding period, center members held a collective $350 million in funding for UC and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

Solving the mystery of premature birth

UC and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center have joined with the March of Dimes Foundation, two other major Ohio universities and three other hospitals to establish a new collaborative research program aimed exclusively at finding the causes of premature birth. The March of Dimes intends to invest $10 million in the program over five years.

The Ohio collaborative will focus initially on evolution of human pregnancy, genetics of unique human populations, the disparity among races in having seriously premature babies, molecular and developmental biology of pregnancy, and the role progesterone signaling plays in premature births prior to 37 weeks. Louis Muglia, professor of pediatrics and researcher at Cincinnati Children’s, serves as the coordinating principal investigator for the new collaborative.

$2M nursing grants

UC’s College of Nursing has won more than $2 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). HRSA grants are to improve and expand health-care services for underserved populations. UC’s four awards enhance nursing-workforce diversity, increase nursing faculty, develop interactive inter-professional education and train nurse anesthetists devoted to serving in under-served areas.
J

oseph Steger, HonDoc ’04, UC’s 24th president, died May 9 in Cincinnati at the age of 76. His 19-year term of office, 1984-2003, was the second longest in UC history.

As president, he launched the world-renowned campus Master Plan in 1989 to direct the dramatic rebirth of UC’s campus. Through his term, indicators of academic quality and research productivity climbed dramatically, UC achieved increasing attention for fiscal responsibility, and UC’s undergraduate curriculum was revitalized with the adoption of online and digital tools.

Steger published more than 70 articles and edited a book on statistics while conducting research and consulting on technology-transfer management, identification of management talent and higher education’s role in economic development. In recognition of his contributions to science, he was elected a Fellow in both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society.

On campus, the Joseph Steger Student Life Center opened in 2004 to house offices and meeting spaces for student groups and organizations. It is one of the most unique buildings on the MainStreet corridor.

Steger earned his PhD in psychophysics and MS in experimental psychology from Kansas State University after graduating from Gettysburg College with a degree in psychology. Gettysburg named him a distinguished alumnus in 1987.

After retiring as UC president, Steger worked at the College of Business. From his office, he could see the reality of his “master plan” dream. “This is a different place now,” he told UC Magazine at the time. “I’ve done everything I could to change the nature of the institution in terms of quality.”

Rankings and accolades

Over the last several months, UC has continued to mount up praise from across the country and around the world. Here are just a handful of recent compliments for the campus, students and faculty:

The 2014 issue of U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges guide ranked UC 135th among the top tier of national universities, up from 139th last year. UC was also listed 3rd among 23 National Universities identified as “Up-and-Coming Schools.”

PolicyMic, a millennial generation news site, ranked UC No. 1 in the nation for return on investment. The ROI ranking looked at salaries for graduates, tuition, graduation rates and the amount of debt students accumulate.

The Princeton Review rated UC one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education for the seventh straight year.

AlliedHealthWorld.com named UC’s two rec facilities — the Campus Recreation Center on MainStreet and the Fitness Center at CARE/Crawley — to its national top 10 list of outstanding university fitness centers.

UC was one of three universities in the nation to be awarded top funding — a $300,000 grant — to ease the nationwide shortage of physics and physical-science teachers. The other two were Central Florida and Georgia State.

CCM artist diploma student Thomas Richards, CCM ’12, was one of only six artists named as a winner of the 2013 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. The 24-year-old bass-baritone competed with nearly 1,500 singers for a top spot, which came with a $15,000 cash prize.

Senior design student Scott Lenkowsky’s futuristic tire design placed in the top 100 out of more than 11,000 international entries as part of the iF Product Design Award competition.
Putting a smile on a child’s face is business as usual for the dental hygiene students at UC Blue Ash College. The students, through a community outreach program called UC Smiles, have provided access to quality dental care for kids in underserved areas — many of whom have never had the opportunity to visit a dentist.

Dental hygiene students benefit, too, because they have a requirement to complete a certain number of hours treating patients in the dental chair.

The college partners with several local school districts, including Cincinnati Public Schools, Norwood City Schools and Fairfield City Schools. UC Smiles is supported in part through sponsorships by local dental-health organizations.

UC Smiles has served more than 550 local primary-schoolchildren over the past four years:

- 2010 – 1 event for 68 students
- 2011 – 2 events for 136
- 2012 – 5 events for 260
- 2013 – More than 100 children participated in UC Smiles in the first three months, and several more events are planned through the end of the year.

The children take a school field trip to the college. The checkups include a full oral-health exam and teeth cleaning. Each child receives an assessment of his or her oral health, toothpaste, a toothbrush and floss.

The dental hygiene program graduates approximately 32 students a year, making it the largest program in the state of Ohio and the only such program offered in Greater Cincinnati. It began in 1967, the same year the college first opened its doors.

A lesson in brushing is part of the UC Smiles program in dental hygiene at UC Blue Ash.

UC Blue Ash expands

Students at the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College have a lot of new space in which to study, meet with friends or relax between classes. The college opened the new Bleecker Street Café and Student Commons in Muntz Hall at the beginning of the summer semester. In July, the UC Blue Ash library opened in its new home nearby.

The café and student commons cover 7,000 square feet and completed the first phase of a $4.5 million renovation project. The addition provides more space for the growing student population and expands the dining options on campus.

“This new space is designed with our students, faculty and staff in mind,” says Blue Ash Dean Cady Short-Thompson. “We wanted to provide new, inviting and comfortable space where people can come together to meet, study or just take a break from a busy day. I believe this addition will really help transform our campus.”

Bleecker Street Café is named for an entertainment district in New York City’s Greenwich Village. The concept is based on a typical city deli, featuring pizza, fresh baked pastries and bread, signature sandwiches, a breakfast menu and a coffee bar that includes espresso, smoothies, iced coffee and more.

The final portion of the four-phase renovation project is a dean’s suite.

The entire project will add approximately 22,000 square feet to Muntz Hall, space that is needed as UC Blue Ash continues to grow. The college has more than 6,000 students, up from 4,900 just five years ago, making it the largest regional college campus in Ohio.

The new Bleecker Street Café at UC Blue Ash opened in May thanks to $230,000 in donations from Steve Boymel, Barry Bortz, A&S ’77, and Anne Nethercott, BLUE ’77.
UC hit a new all-time high for enrollment this fall, welcoming more than 42,600 students to its campuses. This year's largest-ever freshman class includes more than 6,350 students, a 5-percent jump over 2012.

So who are all those new Bearcats? Interestingly, more than 30 percent of the freshman class are first-generation college students. In terms of their academic chops, the 2013 freshman class averages an ACT score of 25.1.

UC's Institutional Research also reports that the institution is making strides in building diversity on campus, with more than 17 percent of the freshman class representing students of color. Across campus, out-of-state students now number about 20 percent of UC's population, and international students total more than 2,700 graduate and undergraduate students, which is roughly 6 percent of UC's total student makeup.

To accommodate the growing demand for housing, UC leased a couple of hundred beds at nearby University Park and Campus Park apartments to bring its total on-campus (and near-campus) capacity to 4,900 beds.

UC hit a new all-time high for enrollment this fall, welcoming more than 42,600 students to its campuses. This year's largest-ever freshman class includes more than 6,350 students, a 5-percent jump over 2012.

So who are all those new Bearcats? Interestingly, more than 30 percent of the freshman class are first-generation college students. In terms of their academic chops, the 2013 freshman class averages an ACT score of 25.1.

UC's Institutional Research also reports that the institution is making strides in building diversity on campus, with more than 17 percent of the freshman class representing students of color. Across campus, out-of-state students now number about 20 percent of UC's population, and international students total more than 2,700 graduate and undergraduate students, which is roughly 6 percent of UC's total student makeup.

To accommodate the growing demand for housing, UC leased a couple of hundred beds at nearby University Park and Campus Park apartments to bring its total on-campus (and near-campus) capacity to 4,900 beds.

**Co-op in China**

UC, the world founder of cooperative education in 1906, signed an agreement this summer that is taking its mandatory co-op model to China.

UC's cooperative education program now has a new home base at Chongqing University, one of China's largest, leading institutions and home to a premier engineering college. An agreement signed in July established a joint co-op institute between the two universities and calls for UC to provide experience and expertise in establishing a mandatory co-op program at Chongqing as part of two engineering majors while also establishing UC's curriculum and offering UC faculty instruction.

Initially, the agreement will affect only students enrolling at Chongqing; however, it is hoped that the partnership will also provide future experiential learning opportunities to current UC students for study abroad and international co-op in China. The effort is part of UC's aim to become a leader in establishing strategic global partnerships in Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

This agreement is the first to establish a joint co-op institute between universities in the United States and China. With it, Chongqing University, considered a major educational and economic center in southwest China, becomes the first in the country with a mandatory cooperative education model.

---

**Growing up Gladys**

UC anthropology student Grace Meloy had a rare but special opportunity this summer as an animal care intern at the Cincinnati Zoo. Grace joined a team led by Ron Evans in hand-rearing Gladys, an orphaned gorilla that came to the zoo following her birth in January when her mother rejected her. The challenge was to help Gladys crawl, walk and act like a gorilla, which at times required Grace to slip into a hairy disguise when interacting with the primate. All the work paid off in June when M’Linzi, Gladys’ surrogate mother, immediately took to the baby ape and began what appears to be a lifelong bond.

**Bearcats break record**

UC hit a new all-time high for enrollment this fall, welcoming more than 42,600 students to its campuses. This year's largest-ever freshman class includes more than 6,350 students, a 5-percent jump over 2012.

So who are all those new Bearcats? Interestingly, more than 30 percent of the freshman class are first-generation college students. In terms of their academic chops, the 2013 freshman class averages an ACT score of 25.1.

UC's Institutional Research also reports that the institution is making strides in building diversity on campus, with more than 17 percent of the freshman class representing students of color. Across campus, out-of-state students now number about 20 percent of UC's population, and international students total more than 2,700 graduate and undergraduate students, which is roughly 6 percent of UC's total student makeup.

To accommodate the growing demand for housing, UC leased a couple of hundred beds at nearby University Park and Campus Park apartments to bring its total on-campus (and near-campus) capacity to 4,900 beds.
You’ve probably never seen a “before and after” like this one.

Take one glance at the renovated Morgens Hall, and it’s as clear as the 2,000-panel glass exterior that the northernmost sibling of UC’s original “Three Sisters” has undergone an ultimate makeover and emerged as the queen of all campus housing.

Morgens’ only remaining sister, Scioto Hall, stands to the south nearly unchanged since her founding in 1964. A monument to modernism of the era, Scioto closed in 2008, but discussion is under way regarding her future. The remaining triplet, Sawyer Hall, was razed in 2006, leaving a concrete foundation as the only discernible vestige of her existence.

Morgen’s $35 million renovation goes much deeper than what meets the eye. The glass-curtain exterior features a high-tech design that gives the apartment-style residence hall greater insulation than the original exterior. Underneath all that glass, many unique features make Morgens the latest example of innovative, eco-friendly architecture that has been a UC hallmark since the inception of the university’s Sustainable Design Policy in 2001.

Facts about Morgens

- 142 furnished apartments with 454 beds are on levels 100 to 1200.
- There is no 13th floor.
- Level 1400 is a penthouse with two apartments, one each for the resident coordinator and assistant resident coordinator.
- Four apartment styles are available: two-person small studio; two-person standard studio; three-person, two-bedroom apartment; and eight-person, five-bedroom apartment.
- Glass panels have adjustable privacy screens that are 98 percent opaque and thermal weaved for energy conservation.
- Each apartment features first-of-its-kind furniture developed by UC Housing and Food Services staff with an industry partner — a patented-design desk-dresser combo that allows it to expand and contract, saving floor space.
Fundraising campaign exceeds $1 billion, 100,000 donors

‘Proudly Cincinnati’ in national spotlight

BOLD? How about a goal of $1 billion?
STRONG? Surpassing that goal a full five months ahead of schedule.
AMBITION? Totaling 100,000 donors by the campaign’s end.

Those three words were the hallmark of the “Proudly Cincinnati” campaign since its inception. But a new adjective became appropriate as the campaign closed on June 30: Prestigious — because the final numbers placed UC in the top 2 percent of U.S. universities and colleges to have successfully completed a fundraising campaign in excess of $1 billion.

Over the last eight years, the entire UC community came together to make history and help UC take its place among the nation’s premier institutions of higher education. Traditionally, top fundraising honors have been reserved for the likes of Stanford, Harvard and Yale, but when it comes to raising $1 billion, only 68 universities out of more than 4,100 have done so. And for UC, it was a tremendous leap from UC’s prior campaign high of not quite $329 million.

In July 2005, a feasibility study indicated that the “Proudly Cincinnati” campaign was capable of raising approximately $750 million. The campaign planning committee decided to stretch the goal to $800 million. By the time the university’s Board of Trustees and the UC Foundation’s Board of Trustees invested more than $84 million into the campaign’s nucleus fund, momentum had carried the goal to $1 billion, as was announced at the public kickoff in October 2008.

A daunting task in and of itself, the heft of raising $1 billion was compounded by one of the worst economic climates our country has seen. Plus, university changes were rampant: major athletic conference shifts, three presidents, an academic-calendar conversion from quarters to semesters and major facility renovations.

Through it all, the campaign maintained enough energy to raise $1,090,626,798 and enlarge UC’s support base until it exceeded 100,000 donors. “This great university has become a place that sets big goals, then exceeds expectations," says campaign co-chair Buck Niehoff, JD ’72. “That is how we do things. The community should be very proud that we are a place that dreams big and achieves even more.”

Interestingly enough, the 100,000 donors may be the most pivotal number for the university’s future. “I was absolutely ecstatic about reaching 100,000 donors,” said President Santa Ono. “Of course, we are thrilled to grow our donor base in terms of philanthropic dollars raised, but to me, having that many individuals, corporations, foundations and others pledge their support makes a strong statement about the incredible impact the University of Cincinnati has throughout so many segments of our community.”

The significance of that number partly lies in what it says about UC’s evolving alumni base. Historically, UC has always been able to build pride within the city with which it shares a name. Opportunities for alumni engagement outside of Cincinnati, however, had been sparse.

Campaign volunteers were determined to change that. Eleven different regions of the coun-

What is the money being used for?

• $177.8 million to solidify UC’s research enterprises.
• $162 million to strengthen the Academic Health Center and UC Health programs.
• 23 chairs were endowed in diverse areas, including entrepreneurship, design, tort law and Alzheimer’s research.
• New and upgraded facilities, such as the Engineering Alumni Learning Center (see page 20) and the Sheakley Athletics Center, went from ambitious visions to reality.
try were identified as key areas for alumni, and regional campaign chairs were appointed in each. In turn, the chairs recruited teams of volunteers who began identifying UC’s extensive impact in their cities, such as New York, Dallas and Cleveland/Akron.

Ultimately, regional volunteers played a huge part in taking UC beyond $1 billion. In Washington, D.C., for instance, the regional campaign reached its initial $8 million goal more than two years early. That led D.C.’s campaign chairman Todd DeGarmo, DAAP ’82, to raise the regional goal, and the area finished the campaign with nearly $20.5 million.

In Chicago, regional chair Robert Fealy, Bus ’73, dedicated personnel to coordinate their efforts, resulting in a final campaign tally of more than $10 million. Extraordinary volunteers like these not only brought in regional gifts totaling nearly $260 million but established incredibly strong networks to build upon in the future.

Niehoff explains it with a personal story.

“One day I was working on a fundraising campaign. I was talking to a student, and she said, ‘I’ve seen your picture. I want to thank you. Without what you’ve done, I wouldn’t be here.’ It was very moving.”

Niehoff’s work over the past 35 years has been a testament to the power of giving. “Giving allows you to dream about making the world better and to help make those dreams happen. You become part of something bigger than yourself. It’s a humbling feeling, but very exciting.”

This issue of UC Magazine is dedicated to the role philanthropy plays in the university’s success — from students who use scholarships to carve out amazing careers to researchers who use private support to save lives and create innovations.

Inspiration is the first step toward improving the human condition, and we hope that you will find your own inspiration through the stories of these remarkable individuals.

*according to Council for Advancement and Support of Education data

Where did the money come from?

- Faculty and staff (current and retired) gave more than $65 million.
- 53,687 donors made their first gifts to UC.
- 16,384 donors gave multiple campaign gifts.
- Greater Cincinnati gifts exceeded $455.2 million.
- Many gifts came from outside the area, including the following regional campaigns:
  - New York — $21,259,436
  - Washington, D.C. — $20,430,788
  - Northern California — $13,680,757
  - Southern California — $12,326,388
  - Florida — $11,259,287
  - Dallas — $10,769,061
  - Chicago — $10,084,766
  - Cleveland/Akron — $9,028,251
  - Northern California — $9,028,251
  - Phoenix — $5,853,406
  - Columbus — $5,617,043
  - Pittsburgh — $5,497,185
  - Dayton — $4,833,204
  - Atlanta — $3,329,782
  - Houston — $2,740,921
  - Indianapolis — $1,824,498
Mark Godsey and UC law students have made a national reputation in freeing 16 wrongfully convicted people

ADVOCATING FOR THE INNOCENT

by Deborah Rieselman

The instant Melinda Elkins caught sight of a SWAT officer sprinting past her picture window with a gun drawn, she stopped breathing. Before she had a second to react, a deputy sheriff showed up at the front door ordering her and her 12-year-old son, Brandon, to move onto the porch where they could not see what was happening on the other side of the house.

Out of sight, her 15-year-old son, Clarence Jr., was handcuffed, lying on the ground, surrounded by officers pointing guns at him. When his father came running from the back door, the officers realized they had cuffed the wrong person and immediately turned on Clarence Sr. Amid the chaos, the younger Clarence heard his mother screaming and dashed for the house with one handcuff still dangling.

In the yard, officers were arresting Elkins Sr. for brutally raping and murdering his 58-year-old blind mother-in-law, Judith Johnson, and raping his 6-year-old niece, Brooke. On the porch, a deputy was explaining to Melinda how she had just lost her mother, had nearly lost her niece and was about to lose her husband.

That was June 1998. For seven and a half years, Clarence Elkins sat behind bars, serving a life sentence for a crime that both he and his wife steadfastly maintained that he had not committed.

He would still be there today if UC College of Law professor Mark Godsey had not gotten involved. In 2004, Godsey brought in law students to learn techniques for proving Elkins’ innocence and saving his life.

In 2005, Godsey had DNA testing done. As director of the Ohio Innocence Project, which operates out of UC’s Rosenthal Institute for Justice, he firmly believed that the results excluded Elkins from the crime.

Getting prosecutors and judges to agree, however, was going to be particularly difficult, the students soon discovered.

Resistant to admitting mistakes

The criminal justice system is normally good at administering the law — locking up a murderer so he doesn’t endanger anyone else, for
instance. Boosting society’s confidence in law and order is a good thing.

Those in the field point out that the work is harder than it looks on TV. Police put themselves in dangerous situations. Prosecutors work long hours to win cases. And judges hand down verdicts, confident that they have considered all the evidence.

But sometimes the system can be so focused on an end result that justice falls short of being just, and “wrongful convictions” are the outcome, say Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld, who founded the Innocence Project in 1992 to free such people pro bono.

Unfortunately, they say, overturning a conviction requires a new trial, and no prosecutors or judges want to be second-guessed or have work reversed. Certainly no one wants to claim responsibility for careless mistakes. A new trial could reveal all of that.

“People can convince themselves that they are doing the right thing to the extent that they can no longer see the evidence neutrally,” Godsey explains. “The criminal justice system is resistant to admitting mistakes.

“Some prosecutors and judges kick, scratch and claw to keep an innocent person in prison. We’re capable of doing horrible things and being in denial about it. That’s what human beings are capable of. It’s a knee-jerk reaction.

“But prosecutors who unreasonably oppose post-conviction innocence claims,” Godsey continues, “are not doing so because they are corrupt or are attempting to keep innocent people in prison. Rather, I believe that they suffer from tunnel vision.”

He should know. At one time, he had the same condition.

For years, he made a reputation prosecuting federal crimes, including cases such as political corruption, hijacking and organized crime in New York. He also supervised FBI investigations, argued federal appeals and received a Director’s Award for Superior Performance from then U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

Innocence Project finds Godsey

Godsey gave it all up to move back to his hometown in Cincinnati for a criminal law professorship. Because he knew such positions only become available every 10 years or so, he grabbed the area’s first opening at Northern Kentucky University’s Salmon Chase College of Law.

What he did not expect to grab was the Kentucky Innocence Project. “The professor who had supervised it was taking a sabbatical,” Godsey recalls, “and I think they asked me to take it over because of my investigative background from being a prosecutor.”

He said “yes,” but still clung to a serious skepticism, reinforced the day students excitedly returned from meeting a prisoner, whom they claimed to know was innocent by the look in his eyes. “The look in his eyes?” he questions. “I was cynical, and I still am, about being able to tell innocence by looking in someone’s eyes.”

It did turn out he was innocent, and as time went on, Godsey admits, “I had my eyes opened to the reality of wrongful convictions of innocent people.”

In 2003, the UC College of Law needed a criminal law professor, and he packed his books. He also grew excited when he met people who had been working with the dean trying to create the Ohio Innocence Project (OIP).

Cincinnati City Councilman John Cranley and Godsey ended up co-founding the OIP with others that year. Soon Lois Rosenthal, Bus ’60, HonDoc ’08, and her husband, Richard, HonDoc ’08, began giving gifts that would total more than $2 million to endow the Rosenthal Justice Center and support the OIP.

Most states have an Innocence Project, usually located at a major law school, which is how the organization started. Ohio’s only Innocence Project is in Cincinnati.

Mark Godsey (left), OIP director, poses in front of the Ohio Statehouse in 2011 right before the state legislature passed a law promoted by the OIP to expand DNA use in criminal forensics. With Godsey are Clarence Elkins (center) and Robert McClendon, both freed by the OIP with DNA testing, after serving a combined 24.5 years in prison for murders in which both were innocent.

“The truth is humans are error prone, but DNA isn’t. We make mistakes, but science doesn’t.”

— Matt Katz, JD ’11, former OIP fellow
Project is at UC, where the staff normally comprises director Godsey, two full-time staff attorneys, one part-time attorney, one administrative director and 16 to 20 students (called fellows), who work full time in the summer and part time during the school year, primarily conducting research to identify Ohio inmates who are innocent.

“I worked on 40 or so cases, looking for evidence,” says Matt Katz, JD ’11, who chose UC because of the Ohio Innocence Project. “We also tried to keep up inmates’ spirits with phone calls and visits.”

He remembers a 2010 visit with inmate Raymond Towler at the Grafton Correctional Institution two months before Towler was exonerated. “His court date was that close, and I still wasn’t sure if we had the evidence we needed.

“He remained upbeat, but was getting frustrated because he had been down the road several times over nearly 30 years in prison. It was hard for me to leave him that day not knowing what would happen.”

Katz is now a public defender in Indianapolis. “The one thing from OIP that I use every day is the realization of how precious the investigation is. I look under a lot of rocks that I normally wouldn’t have looked under, but I know some piece of evidence is going to be found in a place no one would have expected. That is where we found evidence in the Ohio Innocence Project.”

Approximately 50 students apply annually for a one-year OIP commitment, but OIP attorneys can only oversee 20 at a time, says administrative director Jodi Shorr. The workload is heavy in that thousands of inmates have reached out for OIP assistance in the last 10 years, she says.

Consequently, the staff is very selective in taking cases. All clients go through extensive screening to determine if innocence seems likely and if enough new evidence would warrant a new trial.

**A staggering .004 percent**

The best “new” evidence, experts say, is DNA that was not previously tested. To consider it requires a new trial.

“Very small and degraded DNA samples can be tested successfully,” explains Julie Heinig, assistant laboratory director of DNA Diagnostics Center, the world’s largest DNA-testing provider and one that provides free unlimited testing for the OIP.

The easier DNA becomes to test, the easier it is to convict guilty criminals, exonerate the falsely convicted and highlight sloppiness that creates havoc in the field. “Some courts and attorneys are very accepting of DNA testing,” notes Heinig, one of the top DNA experts in the world, Godsey says. “Others don’t want to admit that a mistake was made in their courtroom. It’s very frustrating at times.”

In all, 6,650 inmates have sought OIP assistance during its 10 years of existence, and the staff determined they could potentially prove innocence for only 24 cases — a staggering .004 percent of the total. The rest were turned away. Nationally, such percentages are typical.

Of those 24, the OIP helped 16 get released from prison. Collectively, those 16 had served nearly 250 years incarcerated. Towler had served the longest, nearly 30 years — more than half of his life.

Although 16 were released on grounds of innocence, not all were exonerated, which would have meant they were officially declared not guilty and had their convictions expunged. Those who did not get to grasp that cherished prize had to settle for something less, such as a pardon, parole or a plea — in which case, their sentences were reduced or eliminated, but their convictions still stood.

In most states, a convicted felon cannot vote, possess a firearm, obtain certain professional licenses, serve on a jury or establish eligibility for government assistance, including welfare and federally funded housing. Felony records can further hinder employment, entering a contract to rent housing and the ability to do business with some banks. If the conviction carried any type of sexual misconduct, the person may have to publicly register as a sexual offender.

Because people working in the field are reluctant to upend the judicial system, exonerations can only occur. She has seen it happen 24 times in 10 years of existence of the Ohio Innocence Project.
are incredibly difficult to obtain, Godsey says. In some states, they can be impossible to obtain.

Eighteen states, including Indiana and New York, for example, have no evidence-preservation laws, according to the Innocence Project. Usually, that means an inmate’s innocence cannot be proven years after a conviction because the evidence has been destroyed, lost or contaminated, IP documentation shows.

“There are innocent people in jail right now because their evidence has been destroyed,” says public defender Katz. “It’s sad, but there’s not much we can do for them.”

For those few who do get exonerated, some of them can apply to the state for remuneration for lost wages. The ones who win have to fit a narrow range of criteria and follow a complicated legal process. Of the OIP cases, only three have received financial compensation.

**First exoneration**

In December 2005, Clarence Elkins was OIP’s first exoneration based upon DNA testing.

OIP took the case in January 2004 because Elkins had no prior convictions and not one piece of physical evidence linked him to the barbaric crime. No fingerprints. No blood. No particles of fabric. No fragments of nails or hair.

Court documents reveal that the prosecution relied solely on conflicting confessions from his niece, Brooke, a traumatized child who had been badly beaten, raped and left for dead. She had mercifully passed out during the act. The coroner had already tested, but had never been testing done on crime scene evidence that the deceased’s fingernails, as well as two pubic hairs found on Judith’s body and in Brooke’s underwear, all belonged to one man, but it was not Elkins. In March 2005, Godsey argued for a new trial.

Elkins’ lawyers tried to get a new trial or hearing, but the judge denied both.

By then, Elkins’ wife, Melinda, was on the brink of bankruptcy, having lost her job and their house, as well as borrowing $100,000 to try to get her husband out of jail early. In 2004, she called OIP asking for help.

The next year, OIP had more extensive DNA testing done on crime scene evidence that the coroner had already tested, but had never been presented in court, Godsey explains. The results showed that skin cells from underneath the deceased’s fingernails, as well as two pubic hairs found on Judith’s body and in Brooke’s underwear, all belonged to one man, but it was not Elkins. In March 2005, Godsey argued for a new trial.

Wrongfully convicted people OIP helped free

1. Gary Reece (freed 2005, served 25 years)
2. Clarence Elkins (freed 2005, served 15 years)
3. Chris Bennett (freed 2006, served 4 years)
4. Bruce Paul (freed 2008, served 14 years)
5. Robert McClendon (freed 2008, served 18 years)
6. Joseph Fears (freed 2009, served 25 years)
7. Nancy Smith (freed 2009, served 15 years)
8. Ray Towler (freed 2010, served 29 years)
9. Teddy Moseley (freed 2010, served 10 years)
10. Walter “Wally” Zimmer (freed 2011, served 12 years)
11. David Ayers (freed 2011, served 11 years)
12. Roger “Dean” Gillispie (freed 2011, served 20 years)
13. Bryant “Rico” Gaines (freed 2012, served 9 years)
14. Glenn Tinney (freed 2013, served 20 years)
15. Douglas Prade (freed 2013, served 15 years)

“Hands” is the name of this drawing done by exoneree Timothy Howard, whose work was displayed in a global art exhibit at the Innocence Network International Conference, hosted by the OIP.
It was denied, "meaning that Elkins would have to spend the rest of his life in prison for a crime that I knew he did not commit," the exasperated professor says. "This defeat was hard to fathom."

"The job can be agonizing. It's amazing when someone gets released, but for every one of those, there are dozens who didn't. It's a very difficult job when you are going against bullheaded people who won't admit that a mistake has been made. That's when it gets depressing."

In the meantime, Melinda, who had become something of a super sleuth over the years, began contemplating the neighbor's fishy response to her niece. Further investigation revealed that, at the time of the crime, the neighbor's common-law husband had been Earl Mann, who was serving time, in the same prison as Elkins, for raping three girls in '02.

Once Melinda informed her husband, Elkins knew it was up to him to get a DNA sample from Mann. The big moment came when Elkins saw Mann, all alone, extinguish a cigarette in a clean ashtray and walk away.

Elkins nervously slipped the butt into a clean tissue and hid it inside his heavy 1,900-page "Strong's Bible Concordance. " He waited another two weeks to obtain a new Ziploc baggie so he could mail the butt to his lawyer uncontaminated. All the while, he tried to remain inconspicuous because he suspected his action was against prison rules.

A few months later, in September '05, Godsey received a phone call confirming the saliva on the butt matched the unidentified DNA found on both victims.

"When I got that call, I was ecstatic," Godsey recollects vividly, "but soon, I grew concerned. The previous March, prosecutors had been so close-minded and arrogant in their beliefs that Elkins was guilty that I sensed they would never change their minds no matter what type of evidence we produced.

"The Elkins conviction had been a trophy of sorts for them, it seemed, and they appeared personally invested in making sure the case was not overturned. How Elkins sat there in his chair at the hearing and stayed calm while the prosecutors repeatedly pointed at him and loudly called him a murderer and rapist, I could not imagine. I could barely sit still myself."

When Godsey received the DNA results in September, he contacted then Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro to discuss his options. Petro spent a few weeks examining the case in detail, decided Elkins was innocent and expressed shock that the prosecution blocked his release.

Petro had no authority to overturn the case, but he quickly joined OIP in filing briefs on Elkins' behalf and "supporting his innocence,"
Godsey says, “He used his position as attorney general as a bully pulpit to pressure local prosecutors into doing the right thing. And that is exactly what happened next.”

Petro held a press conference. He admits it was a radical thing for the state’s top law enforcement official to do, basically “butting heads” with one of the prosecutors he would normally be supporting. “I didn’t understand the shortsightedness of the county prosecutor,” he says, “so I decided to go public.”

Things must have looked clearer then because Elkins was released in December 2005. In 2007, Mann was indicted. In 2008, Mann pleaded guilty to aggravated murder, attempted murder, aggravated burglary and rape, then was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

“I know of no other attorney general in the United States who has taken on an entrenched local prosecutor to fight for an innocent inmate,” Godsey says in quiet awe.

Petro returns the compliment: “Working with Godsey on the Elkins case was a pivotal experience for me. The absolute innocence of Clarence Elkins — a family man with no prior criminal record, who was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to life in prison — introduced me to a national nightmare.”

Changing the law, then the system

After Petro left office, he worked pro bono for the OIP, leading the effort to push a new Innocence Protection Act through the legislature and implementing eyewitness identification reforms, a DNA-preservation law, police incentives for the recording of interrogations and expansions in the original DNA law.

Those basic categories create avenues to reduce the majority of ways a wrongful conviction takes place. “It has been called a ‘national model’ and ‘one of the most important pieces of criminal justice legislation in Ohio in a century,’” Godsey says. “It will prevent an untold number of future wrongful convictions that we will never hear about because they will be prevented from happening in the first place.”

The OIP is recognized as one of the most active and successful Innocence Projects in the country, a point not overlooked by Innocence Project founder Barry Scheck. “The Ohio Innocence Project has become one of the premier projects in just 10 short years,” he says. “The number of people they have freed and the legislative reforms they have been able to get passed in Ohio have made them a national model — actually, an international model — for success.”

“We’re at the very beginning of reforming the criminal justice system,” adds Godsey, who serves on the national Innocence Network board. “It’s a civil-rights movement. In 50 years, it will be widely recognized as an international human right. True justice is a search for truth, requiring constant vigilance, and is ultimately the responsibility of every citizen.”

To promote the cause worldwide, Godsey often travels abroad to help scholars and attorneys set up Innocence Network organizations in their own countries, including India, the Czech Republic, Poland and Italy. In 2011, the OIP hosted the Innocence Network’s first international conference to consider global human rights related to wrongful conviction. Hundreds of people attended from four different continents, including a group of 100 representing the world’s largest gathering of exonerated persons.

Law Dean Louis Bilionis applauds the efforts of OIP staff and fellows: “The Ohio Innocence Project is transforming the way people think about our criminal justice system. Thanks to its work, more and more people are recognizing that our system is imperfect — that it makes mistakes and can produce injustices.

“And thanks to the Ohio Innocence Project’s leadership, people are coming together to confront the system’s shortcomings and weaknesses, admit and rectify its errors, and take lessons to avoid them in the future. The Ohio Innocence Project quickens consciences, raises consciousness and carries us all closer to justice.”

“No one is more grateful to the Ohio Innocence Project than the 16 people who are now free. Clarence Elkins sums it up nicely: ‘When I was in prison, seeing how hard the OIP students worked on my case inspired me and gave me hope, something I had not had for years. Whenever they came to visit me in prison, it was a blessing.’

“I’m not much on words, but I speak from the heart. I just want to say thanks to everyone. They changed my life.”

Although many people have contributed to the Ohio Innocence Project, Godsey is quick to point out, “No single family has done more for any Innocence Project in the world than Lois and Richard Rosenthal have done for us.” “The Rosenthals were so incredibly generous,” adds former fellow Matt Katz. Because OIP work is pro bono, gifts are necessary. In 2011, exoneree Clarence Elkins began giving $5,000 a year to the Ohio Innocence Project to establish the Clarence Elkins Fellows Scholarship, an annual award to the OIP team that “has worked the hardest and most diligently on its cases” — just as “the OIP fellows did on my case years ago,” he says.


Visit www.magazine.uc.edu/extra for details of each court case, Matt Katz’s OIP story, surprising statistics, reasons for wrongful convictions and false confessions, Jim Petro’s “Eight Myths that Convict the Innocent,” and a PDF of a colorful 276-page book of inmates’ artistic expressions.
Technology-driven revolution in engineering education

The Alumni Engineering Learning Center inverts education’s traditional model

By Tom Robinette
The elevator doors on the eighth floor of Rhodes Hall open to the future of engineering education. Step out and behold the aesthetics of an android’s dream: curving walls, open ceilings, high-definition monitors and complex formulas printed under large sheets of decorative glass. And every bit sparkles with the promise of unlimited possibility.

Welcome to the University of Cincinnati’s Alumni Engineering Learning Center.

“When we designed this facility, we wanted people to get off the elevator and say, ‘Look what UC is doing for undergraduate engineers.’ And through the generosity of alumni, I think we’ve succeeded,” says James Boerio, head of the Department of Engineering Education in the College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS). “This is probably the single biggest development in undergraduate education in the college since Dean Herman Schneider invented co-op in 1906.”

Boerio was a guiding force behind developing the center, which opened fall semester 2012. He and former CEAS dean Carlo Montemagno spent roughly two years researching how to better engage today’s engineering students and train tomorrow’s engineers. Using feedback from students and faculty while leaning on the experiences of alumni, the college set out to create a facility that would revolutionize its undergraduate education program with innovative teaching methods and the latest technology.

Support from alumni, industry and the university generated $7.8 million in funding — a substantial amount of which came from private donations to the project.

The grand plan started with a modest idea: build a sense of place. “First-year students can feel lost, especially at a large institution,” Boerio says. “We wanted a place where students would feel at home.”

With a beverage bar, stylish lounge and walls intended for students to write on them, the center is one of the most inviting learning atmospheres on campus. But what really helps the center stand out is its technology. Robert Fealy, Bus ’73, of technology-service provider AMX, donated more than $1 million of advanced software and hardware to the center. A prime example: The flagship classroom features seven projector-equipped tables and a central-command kiosk that allows the instructor to transmit any student project onto the main classroom display for group discussion.

Impressive as the gadgetry is, the center is more than the sum of its high-tech parts. It’s symbolic of a different philosophy. By design, the physical structure of the facility promotes collaboration. Student teams move from interactive lectures into recitation classrooms, which are often facilitated by peer-level tutors. Afterward, teams can apply the day’s lessons in the spacious open study area. If students need help, a nearby corridor is lined with engineering faculty offices.

A revamped curriculum also takes advantage of the college’s new 10,000-square-foot showpiece. First-year CEAS students are now required to take three engineering-specific courses that immediately immerse them in the collaborative experiences of the center. “In this new conception, you take the traditional model and invert it,” Boerio says. “We’re not doing the same thing over and over again. We’re changing things and improving things.”

In addition to Robert Fealy, the estate of Geraldine Constantine; Kenneth Glass, M(Eng) ’63, M(A&S) ’65; S. Jay Stewart, Eng ’61; and his wife, Judith, contributed major donations to the center.
Running barefoot through a wooded children’s park and wearing a red-and-white-checked dress, 5-year-old Yoo Jeong Lee smiles at a butterfly flitting by. "It looks like a monarch butterfly!" her friend Nethimi Penasivi exclaims. "In Sri Lanka, there are plenty of butterflies.”

Nearby, Abbott Hoffman-Suder and his twin sister, Lily Hope, are wading in a shallow stream, gathering rocks to build a house "for any creature ... or for any worm," they say quite seriously. "Look, it has a worm in it already!" Abbott excitedly announces as he pulls up another rock.

This little-known nook on campus offers children 10,000 square feet of rocks, grassy mounds and trees for exploring, climbing, digging and splashing — activities increasingly foreign to youngsters today. Beckoning them to participate are a water feature resembling a small brook, a sand pit serving as a beach, a “sensory” garden, a log fort, a tunnel, plus, of course, butterflies and worms. Pint-sized guests
easily share woodland adventures, as well as memories of their own cultures and neighborhoods.

Surprisingly, the fenced-in park, called PlayScape, is nestled in the center of UC's urban Uptown Campus, adjacent to the north end of French Hall within feet of college students rushing to classes. For the most part, the two groups are oblivious to each other.

Birds and squirrels, however, are finding this sanctuary, giving young learners all the more reason to delight in nature and science, say educators at UC's Arlitt Child and Family Research and Education Center, one of the oldest and most diverse preschool programs in the country and a research center within the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services.

The $401,000 PlayScape is a wheelchair-accessible outdoor play and learning lab developed in partnership with the Cincinnati Nature Center to promote children's unstructured play in natural settings. Dedicated in August 2012, it is believed to be the first architecturally designed outdoor play and learning environment on a college campus.

Although children think the PlayScape is fun, it isn't all play. A UC research team is analyzing how the play area cultivates a passion for learning, a stewardship of nature and an interest in STEM areas (science, technology, engineering and math). Supported by a $330,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the study involves Arlitt children, as well as Arlitt partner Clermont Child Focus.

Some discoveries have been surprising, says Victoria Carr, D (Ed) '01, associate professor of education and Arlitt director. "One thing that has emerged is the children's interest in maps.

What is this?

"There's a map in the center of the PlayScape. At first, children aged 3 and 4 would point at the map and ask, 'What is this?' By the end of their visit, they could tell us where they were in relation to the map and where features were located in the PlayScape, based on the map.

"Another discovery was around the adult perception of safety," she continues. "There was some controversy over 'fencing in' nature, but we've found that the fencing makes our teachers and parents more comfortable in letting the children engage in free play."

"They're also engaging in some risk-taking as part of their exploratory behavior," adds researcher Alan Wight, a graduate student in educational studies. "Parents are comfortable stepping back, and we get to see this risk-taking and adventure."

"In addition, creativity abounds in the nature center. Researchers Melissa Elchison, a graduate student in communication sciences and disorders, and Leslie Kochanowski, a graduate student in educational studies, say children pull pieces of the PlayScape — what the researchers call "loose parts" — into their world of imagination. "They're playing house, and all of a sudden, a tree stump turns into a TV/nature center," says Elchison. "They're persistent at problem solving when they work together, instead of calling the teacher to do it for them."

"We're finding development in so many areas of growth," adds Arlitt teacher Rachel Konerman, Ed '01. "While they're on a standard playground, they might gain some gross motor skills, but everything on the playground is level. The PlayScape has slopes and hills and rocks. So, even more than gross motor strength, we're finding that they're working on their coordination skills, because things are changing all the time."

Arlitt's PlayScape was initially supported by the Cincinnati Nature Center with a gift from the Harriet Williams Downey Fund at Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Grants from P&G and Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency provided additional support to the partnership. Private donations have come in from various UC donors, particularly International Paper Co. Foundation, Marihelen Millar, A&S '09, and Elizabeth King.
Surrounded by the stillness of a forest thousands of acres thick, it’s easy to forget you’re on the grounds of one of the University of Cincinnati’s most advanced teaching and research facilities, the UC Center for Field Studies (UCCFS). The renovated farm, roughly 20 miles northwest of UC’s Uptown Campus, blends high-level science with deep-woods know-how in what executive director David Lentz calls the most inspiring classroom ever.

“What the field station offers is important for research, but the educational opportunity that springs from that is tremendous,” Lentz says. “At any given time, probably at least a half to two dozen undergraduate and graduate students are working out here on invaluable research opportunities.”

Lentz, a professor of biological sciences in the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, isn’t the only one stirred by Mother Nature and driven to protect her. The support of donors who share the same passion for environmental education helped make the center possible. Since UCCFS opened in 2008, private donors have provided more than $1 million in funding to the center.

The field research station began as a partnership with the Hamilton County Park District on what used to be a Shaker farm amid the 4,000-acre Miami Whitewater Forest. For five years, countless faculty and students have visited the center to conduct the kind of work that just can’t be duplicated on an urban campus — research on plant populations; geological, geographic and archaeological fieldwork; as well as research of environmental processes in a changing landscape, including ecological, atmospheric and hydrological.

In addition to the inimitable gifts of nature at UCCFS,
researchers also have the latest technology at their disposal — automated weather stations, a water-quality sensor, advanced computer systems and a station-wide sensor array to record and relay environmental data in real time.

The unique eco-techno combination of experiences lends itself well to the STEMM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, math and medicine. In fact, the interdisciplinary research taking place among the center’s meadows, streams and woods represents a variety of UC colleges and academic disciplines, particularly environmental studies, biological sciences, geology, anthropology and geography.

“"There’s a whole avenue of research that couldn’t be done without the field station," Lentz says. "It’s absolutely essential. Plus, we have students who have never been out in the woods before. This gives them a valuable experience that they wouldn’t have otherwise.”

Four donors were specifically thanked at the center’s grand opening — John and Georgia Court, Elizabeth Martin and the late Martha Tuttle. The Court family has been particularly generous to UC. Donations made through the Courts’ foundation established an endowed chair of Ohio Valley archaeology and funded the construction of the Court Archaeological Research Facility addition at UCCFS, which was completed in May.

The women (right) are working inside the historic Shaker farmhouse (below), which was converted into an advanced teaching and research facility while maintaining original design elements. Inset at bottom, the new multiuse Court Archaeological Research Facility opened this spring thanks to donors.

Above, Allie Meier (left) traces leaves to determine their exact size while Susan Jaconis works on labeling, as part of associate professor Theresa Culley’s environmental field techniques course.
Covering the Gezi Park crackdown in midst of tear gas, a stampede, Molotov cocktails

CAUGHT IN THE CLASH

Journalist captures history in Turkey
by Barbara Blum

I

n the midst of a violent conflict between protesters in Istanbul and the Turkish government, a local man heaves a Molotov cocktail. Capturing the scene in words and photographs is Keith Rutowski, A&S '09, a graduate of the UC journalism program who decided to move to Turkey only a few weeks earlier.

His amazing photographs are a result of preparation and serendipity. After some contemplation, Rutowski and his bride, Allison Clarridge, A&S '11, decided they wanted to live abroad. "We are both passionate about travel," Rutowski says, "and my wife was interested in trying to teach English as a second language." His work as a freelance fact-checker for Smithsonian magazine and National Geographic digital media was easily transferable.

They arrived in Istanbul on May 15, 2013.

On May 31, the unrest in Turkey began after police broke up a protest against the demolition of a park — a traditional gathering point, a popular tourist destination and one of Istanbul's few remaining green public spaces. More broadly, some were also unhappy with the prime minister's policies.

Rutowski happened to be at the right place at the right time, but his preparation as a journalism student and News Record staffer made him ready to take on the challenge as an eyewitness to a world event. "It's no easy task. And while I've always had a deep respect for the great photojournalists who shoot resistance movements, uprisings and wars, my wonder and admiration for them has grown immeasurably since attempting to shoot this."

Rutowski's journalistic persistence and fortitude are partly the responsibility of former News Record columnist Charlie Stix, A&S '49, whose scholarship for journalism students benefitted Rutowski.

Stix is a story himself. Because of his strong support of UC journalism since 2005, one might expect him to be a longtime, hard-boiled reporter. The small, elegant man, however, was a vice president for U.S. Shoe for more than 30 years.

His commitment to the UC program stems from his time as a writer and columnist for the student newspaper in 1948 and '49. "I felt the News Record was the most important thing that happened to me at UC," Stix says. "It taught me so many things — how to handle people, how to handle disgruntled professors, how to handle administrative people."

Stix believes those life lessons learned while on the newspaper were so important, he wants students to benefit today. "It was very important for me to give back," says Stix, "and I was fortunate enough to be able to do it."

Pledges and planned gifts to the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences can be designated to a specific program or purpose, such as the journalism department. Stix recently started a scholarship program to support students interested in investigative journalism.

GEZI PARK, Turkey — I had only been living in Istanbul for little more than two weeks when I tasted tear gas for the first time. I spent most of the month of June in Gezi Park and the surrounding streets, trying to capture telling moments within the swirl of events.

It was a month with moments of clarity and bewildering contradictions. It is only now that I've begun to process what I saw and to try to make sense of what transpired.

After the first violent police crackdown on May 31, the crowds grew larger, messier and bolder. Demonstrators who had hoped to prevent the destruction of the roughly 9-acre park in the city center were still around, but they were now flanked in Taksim Square by individuals hoisting political party signs and demanding the prime minister's resignation.

I spent many evenings walking amidst the banners, vendor carts and dance circles, studying a scene that fluctuated between a festive celebration and a maelstrom of indignation and diverging agendas.

For a period of time, Gezi became a world unto itself, with an atmosphere distinct from the square and surrounding streets. While the streets served as a battleground for police and protesters, the mood in the park was stable and, at times, reflective. I would often wander past the makeshift library, weave my way among the tents offering free food and stop to watch a musician strumming a guitar or a couple quietly reading.

During the month, I stood among the police waiting near a 19th century palace for a potential confrontation and followed young people in helmets and goggles as they confronted police on main thoroughfares, then retreated, gaggling and eyes burning, into Istanbul's steep side streets.

Continued on page 29
Covering the Gezi Park crackdown

Photos shot by Keith Rutowski, June 3-18, 2013
I was caught in a stampede in Gezi when police fired canisters into a dense crowd. The park was so clogged with people that the walkways were obstructed, and people began to push in all directions as they tried to fight their way out. I thought there was a distinct possibility that I might suffocate or lose consciousness in the gas. In reality, this scene in the park probably lasted five minutes, but it felt endless.

These are far and away the most difficult circumstances I've encountered. I'm spending as much time in the field avoiding tear-gas canisters, stones, fireworks and Molotov cocktails as I am in composing shots.

In trying to get closer to the action, I have, on a few occasions, found myself caught in the middle of the confrontations. The confrontations have largely been occurring in open spaces where it's sometimes difficult to take cover, and even when you do find some, it doesn't always guarantee safety.

The defining moment during the protests came when one man chose to stand silent and motionless in Taksim Square for several hours until police moved in. A wounded man stumbled through the park after a police raid. To crush the movement, police fired tear-gas canisters at park protesters. A young man flung a Molotov cocktail at police. A boy read graffiti covering construction walls near the park.

Continued from page 26

For now, life in Istanbul has mostly returned to how it was before May 31. One reminder of the largest civil uprising in the history of the Turkish Republic occurs at around 9 p.m. every day — when people step out on their balconies with pots, pans, spoons and whistles to make certain that the events of the past few weeks are not forgotten.
When Clark Beck enrolled in UC’s mechanical engineering program 60 years ago, he knew he was going to catch hell. The dean had personally told him so.

Though Beck had stellar academic credentials, including an undergraduate mathematics degree from another college, Dean Howard Justice understood that earning respect and getting doors opened would be difficult for him. In short, racial segregation in 1951 would not overlook Beck’s African-American heritage.

When the dean reviewed Beck’s transcript, his pronouncement was honest, “You can come if you want to, but you’ll catch hell from both sides of the desk.”

Beck refused to let the dean’s warning deter him. He had just driven straight to UC after an engineering dean at another university insulted him. “He told me that my people could not be engineers,” Beck clearly recalls more than 60 years later, “and that, if I enrolled, I would not graduate.”

When given a choice, Beck decided that one dean’s honesty was better than another’s cruelty. Plus, UC had the added incentive of its renowned co-op program, which would help Beck pay tuition and fees in future years.

“Just because someone told me I couldn’t be an engineer, I decided I would be one,” the UC alumnus declares, “even if it killed me. And it almost did. When I graduated from UC, I vowed to never set foot on the campus again.”

Dean Justice’s words about “catching hell” had indeed been prophetic.

Beck’s vow, on the other hand, left room for a change of heart — as evidenced in the fact that his grandson Emory Beck-Millerton is currently a junior in UC’s mechanical engineering program. His grandfather had so highly recommended UC that it was the only program to which Beck-Millerton applied.

Over the years, the man who once left UC in anguish developed a fresh perspective, one that led him to recommend UC’s engineering program to hundreds of minority applicants and to even become a university donor.

A slow change of heart

Beck’s forgiveness of UC was gradual, but steady, a remarkable feat considering how intense his pain had been. For one, he could not afford to live on campus, and no place near campus would rent to him. Furthermore, co-op assignments were rare because only government installations or companies with large government contracts would hire African-American co-ops.

“There were no African-Americans in my classes,” Beck recalls. “None in Baldwin Hall with me. I didn’t dare miss a lecture because I had to study all by myself. The rest of my class studied together, and they were in fraternities together, but there was no socializing with me in general.

“I didn’t realize what a disadvantage I was at. We were seven weeks on, seven weeks off (alternating co-op terms) in an accelerated program. In such cases, it’s not good to study by yourself.”

The loneliness was exacerbated by hunger. “I had little money, and most meals were from canned goods my mother sent me in care packages (from Marion, Ind.). I’d eat half a can in the morning, set it on the windowsill outside in the winter cold, then eat the other half at night. I hated it when the classroom was quiet, and everyone could hear my stomach growl.

“I also hated the quiet because sometimes I had to cough so bad or sneeze from being so often sick with strep throat.” The lack of nutrition and treatment had turned the infection into a chronic illness.

“Those were terrible years. I had great hardships. I survived, but barely.”

Although Beck initially thought he was the only African-American in the entire college, he did discover a black colleague, Henry Brown, in chemical engineering. The two were the first African-Americans to graduate from the college in ’55.

After graduation, Beck began to appreciate that, despite his dark memories, UC actually left him well prepared for his profession. Within a few years, when acquaintances who had an African-American son asked him for advice on engineering, Beck suddenly found himself recommending UC to Sam Ewing, who went on to earn an electrical engineering degree in 1961.

In fact, Beck was an important factor in Ewing’s decision. Recalls Ewing, “Clark was among those giving me the good advice that if I studied hard, showed the instructors that I was serious and dedicated about being an engineer, and could make some friends, it could be done.”

Through the ensuing years, Beck acknowledges, “I came to champion UC, to recommend it highly.” Plus those recommendations led to greater involvement and leadership with the UC alumni group in Dayton, Ohio, where he had moved after graduation.

Next, he returned to UC to earn a master’s in aerospace engineering in 1969.

New kidney brings expanded perspective

Unfortunately, health concerns from his freshman year continued to plague him. Slowly, his chronic strep infection had spread to his kidneys and began destroying them. Dialysis became necessary, then a kidney transplant.

In the early 1970s, growing kidney failure landed him in intensive care, “right on the edge of consciousness,” he remembers. “I could hear people talking, and one lady said, ‘He looks like he’s dead.’” Beck assumed they were talking about his roommate until he realized that intensive care doesn’t have roommates. “They were talking about me,” he says somberly.

In 1972, he received a new kidney at Cincinnati General Hospital, now UC Medical Center. The procedure had only a 50 percent chance of the kidney working for at least six months, but the transplanted organ has been serving him well for more than 40 years, making Beck among the longest living survivors in the world with a functioning donated kidney (according to the United...
Beck is blunt about the effect on him. “I matured,” he says, noting that after his transplant, he saw the world differently. “It was better, rosier.”

As a student, he clearly experienced the hardships of social ostracism and academic isolation. But he had failed to recognize how he had cultivated his own similar unhealthy attitude. “I realized that the attitude I had when I graduated was not helping anybody, least of all myself. I came to realize that I could accomplish much more on the UC team and with others than I could alone.”

So shortly after his transplant, he and other early UC African-American alumni in engineering rallied to form a group called the “Pioneers,” providing engineering scholarships for minorities following in their footsteps at UC. Beck, now 84 and retired after a successful 33-year engineering career, also supports other UC scholarship efforts, mentors youth throughout southern Ohio and has served on the UC Foundation Board of Trustees. In 2005, UC presented him with an honorary doctorate.

Beck particularly values scholarships: “The best thing you can do for anyone is give them an education. You ask a question, mention a problem, and education is the answer. Education will enable people to understand each other better, take away misgivings and biases people have against one another.”

Decades after Beck had started donating to scholarships, his own grandson ended up being a beneficiary of both UC and National Science Foundation scholarships for minorities in engineering. As a Darwin T. Turner Scholar at UC, Emory Beck-Millerton embodies his grandfather’s vision for education. “The Turner Scholarship is a diversity award, so all ethnicities are represented,” the mechanical-engineering junior explains.

“One of the things that scholarship has provided me is more insight. Getting to talk to students who are of a different ethnicity than myself clues me in on where they’ve come from and what they’ve been through. It’s like my grandfather says, ‘You walk in other people’s shoes, and you know who and what they truly are.’”

Beck-Millerton, who plans to pursue a master’s in engineering and a doctorate in physics, values another piece of his grandfather’s advice. “He always told me to work in study groups and study teams. You can work on a problem by yourself, and if you’re constantly doing it wrong, you’ll never know unless someone tells you and maybe gives you another idea on how to solve the problem.

“And you can do the same thing for someone else. It’s pretty much been give and take here.”

His grandfather taught him well.

Clark Beck didn’t only recommend the University of Cincinnati to minority applicants who wanted to pursue a career in engineering. He also helped make it financially possible for them to attend. Beck has spent decades contributing to the Minority Engineering Program, the Darwin T. Turner Scholarship Fund, as well as the Pioneers Scholarship Fund, which he helped establish.

— M.B. Reilly, M (Bus) ’07, and Deb Rieselman

Clark Beck, right, was one of two African-Americans who helped break the color barrier in engineering. With him is his grandson, Emory, one of hundreds of minority students he has mentored.
The old man arrived at the University of Cincinnati early in the afternoon of Saturday, June 20, 1903. The campus was crowded with newly minted graduates, still clad in mortarboards and gowns from the morning commencement festivities and mingling with underclass students, while local dignitaries prepared for a big afternoon dedication ceremony that would feature speeches from Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson and first assistant Secretary of State Frank Loomis.

The university would soon officially dedicate four new facilities — Cunningham Hall (the wing attached to the southern end of McMicken Hall), Van Wormer Library, the Technical and Engineering Hall and the Athletic Field. For Cincinnati, it was an “A-list” event. The morning’s Enquirer was breathless:

A huge tent occupied the lawn between Cunningham Hall and the Van Wormer Library, sporting flags of the United States and Cincinnati, as well as red and black banners. The tent was empty when the old man arrived and would only fill when a procession, boasting all the pomp and regalia the young university could muster, wound its way down Clifton Avenue and up the hill onto the campus.

The elderly gentleman climbed the steps up to the stage and sat down to catch his breath, several rows back from the lectern. A young man, charged with guarding the stage seating, approached and directed the solitary guest off the stage back to the last row, at the very edge of the tent. Although the day was pleasant, there was a good breeze, and the tent flaps banged gently against the old man as he sat there — now in shade, now in sun, now in shade …

As the dedication parade arrived, the frail man in the back rose a little from his chair to behold the academics in all their be-robed opulence, the fresh-faced co-eds in their spring finery and the husky young men still chanting their class yells while Herman Bellstedt’s orchestra performed a coronation march.

The ceremony began a little late. It was 3 p.m. before UC board chairman Frank Jones called the assembly to order and Rabbi David Phillipson, HonDoc ’32, recited the invocation. Secretary Wilson spoke extemporaneously to the delight of the standing-room-only crowd.

Judge Rufus Smith made the official presentation of Cunningham Hall on behalf of his friend and banker Briggs Cunningham, who had funded its construction. Judge John Sayler then rose to present the Van Wormer Library building. As the judge approached the lectern, one of the university trustees, Samuel Trost, rose to call for a brief pause.

Trost, a wealthy cigar-box manufacturer, had grown up on Seventh Street and knew very well the butter-and-egg merchant from next door. He saw the 85-year-old man whom he called “Uncle Asa” sitting at the very back of the tent and brought him arm-in-arm to a chair at the front of the stage.

Perhaps it was his worn suit that distracted attention. Perhaps it was a rumor that he had taken ill and would miss the ceremony. Perhaps it was his seat at the periphery of the event. Whatever the reason, no one had noticed Asa Van Wormer, the donor whose generosity had paid for the new library being dedicated that day.

Thunderous applause greeted this discovery, and the cheering crowd demanded Van Wormer speak. Led to the lectern, he waved his arm up and down and

The 1901 portrait (above) of Van Wormer at age 84 was painted in color by Charles Webber.

Modest Man of Honor Nearly Overlooked

Aging farmer worth a surprising fortune almost kicked out of ceremony to honor him

By Greg Hand, A&S ’74
announced, “That’s all I can do.”

He returned to his seat, but told the man next to him, “This is the best time I have ever had.”

It is fitting that Cunningham Hall was dedicated on the same day as Van Wormer’s magnificent library, for the two men inspired each other to make their gifts. In the late 1890s, soon after UC had moved up the hill from the Charles McMicken estate on lower Clifton Avenue to its present campus, a delegation traveled out to Asa Van Wormer’s place on Winton Road. The new McMicken Hall had a north wing, the gift of Henry Hanna, who built a fortune in coal and real estate, and the directors sought a donor for the proposed south wing.

Cunningham, a banker, suggested that Asa Van Wormer was their man. Van Wormer had retired in 1885 to a small farm, but remained an active investor in stocks and real estate. He had assembled his fortune as a successful merchant selling butter, milk and eggs to markets in New Orleans. It was estimated his estate would be worth about $500,000.

The trustees made their pitch, and Van Wormer agreed to add a codicil to his will, providing for a south wing. Cunningham asked if Van Wormer wouldn’t donate the money right then, instead of waiting for his inevitable demise.

“I don’t wish to deprive you of that pleasure,” Van Wormer said. “You should build that building, Mr. Cunningham, and you will have no idea how you’ll enjoy seeing it go up.”

Still, Van Wormer modified his will, and left on a trip to California. He returned to discover that Cunningham had met his challenge and paid for the south wing.

Van Wormer contacted the university trustees and announced in 1898 that he would provide 1,000 shares of stock in the Cincinnati Street Railway Co. to fund a library for the University of Cincinnati.

He specified that the gift was made in memory of his wife, Julia, who had died the year before. The gift amounted to approximately $50,000 and didn’t quite cover the total cost of building and furnishing the library, but Van Wormer stepped up to cover the overrun.

On his death in 1909, at the age of 91, Van Wormer was buried in Spring Grove. The university’s Board of Directors voted to drape the library building in mourning for 30 days in his memory.

Greg Hand is the associate vice president for University Communications.

Visit www.magazine.uc.edu/extra to see Van Wormer slide show.
When Pete Scheifele joined UC’s faculty in 2007, he brought an important collaborator with him: his mixed-breed miniature pinscher/beagle named Otter. A highly trained show and service dog, Otter was at the center of the first project at Scheifele’s new lab, officially called the Facility for Education and Testing of Canine Hearing and Laboratory for Animal Bioacoustics, which bears the cute acronym FETCHLAB.

“When Otter was about 14 years old, he started to go deaf,” Scheifele says, “and he couldn’t hear his cues anymore. That was when I had just started FETCHLAB, and we were talking about canine hearing aids. Because he was so highly trained, Otter seemed like a good trial dog.”

For the next three years, Otter successfully wore his hearing aids and showcased his abilities on “The David Letterman Show” and the Animal Planet channel. Along the way, his achievements spurred a new field of research and development at FETCHLAB, part of UC’s Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders. Since then, the FETCHLAB team has fitted four dogs with hearing aids, tested hundreds of pooches for hearing impairments and earned a national reputation as canine-audiology experts.

That reputation led to partnerships with the Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force, where Scheifele, a Navy veteran, serves as an audiology consultant for military working dogs flying to Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2011, the government invited him to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio to serve on the first blue-ribbon committee studying post-traumatic stress disorder in such dogs.

FETCHLAB is also expanding educational opportunities in the field. This winter, UC will graduate the first class of audiologists with a certificate in animal audiology, the only such program in the world.

Locally, FETCHLAB continues to improve the lives of dogs, performing free hearing screenings to police dogs and installing noise-absorbing (and stress-reducing) sound panels in animal shelters. Scheifele credits their far-reaching efforts in canine audiology to two UC alums: Tom and Christine Carleton, who created the Otter Audiology Fund to support FETCHLAB’s work with dogs. “The Carletons were focused on the quality of life for dogs,” he says. “And the fact that we are making a difference in canine hearing really is attributable to the Otter Fund. They gave us the benchmark that we use for our purpose in life.”

Tom, A&S ’91, and Christine, A&S ’90, Carleton’s financial support has enabled FETCHLAB to serve a huge part of the community, “impacting students, veterinarians, soldiers, military working dogs, police dogs and the average pet owner,” Scheifele says. “They have made a huge impact.”
N’deye Ba is accustomed to achieving what many would consider the impossible. Originally from Senegal, Africa, her parents made tough decisions and sacrifices so that she and her siblings would have a better life than they did.

The agreeable alumna has taken that path one step further. N’deye, A&S ’13, has the distinction of being the first student to graduate after living in the Gen-1 Theme House, located across Clifton Avenue from campus in Stratford Heights.

Since opening in 2008, the house has served more than 100 first-generation, Pell-grant-eligible students. Because those students are considered at high risk for dropping out, UC’s Gen-1 house provides a 24/7 structured living and learning environment plus support services, such as mentoring, tutoring, professional counseling and monitoring of academic performance and social activities.

When N’deye (pronounced Nay) was a young girl, her parents moved to the U.S. to pursue the dream of a better life for the family, while she and her younger siblings stayed behind with their grandparents in Africa. The reunited family eventually settled in Cincinnati when N’deye was 10 years old. Her first languages were French and Wolof, the native Senegal language, so she learned English while attending Cincinnati public schools.

Unfortunately, her route to college after high school seemed as confusing as her initial efforts to navigate a foreign land — until she discovered UC’s Gen-1 house. “I had no idea what I was doing when I first got here, but the step-by-step process developed by the Gen-1 house helped me find who to talk with and where I needed to go,” she explains. “I even liked the curfew!”

Freshmen in the house must commit to earning a minimum GPA of 2.33 per academic semester and 2.50 GPA after completing their freshman year. Sophomores and juniors must commit to earning a 2.67 GPA per semester.

N’deye is using her education to pursue her dreams of heading a nonprofit organization. She earned her bachelor’s degrees in political science and international affairs in April. As she continues working on her master’s degree in political science at UC, she will serve as the resident graduate adviser for the Gen-1 house during the 2013-14 academic year.

“I really loved my UC experience. It was such a growing experience,” she says. “I have been able to do things that I never imagined I would be able to do, and I feel like I’ve really grown into a person that I’m proud of and that my family, especially my dad, can be proud of.

“For me, that’s the highlight, knowing that my family’s sacrifice did not go to waste.”

Donations and grants to the Gen-1 house support housing costs, meal plans and other services, such as N’deye’s service-learning trip to India last spring. She and her fellow students developed business models there for nonprofit organizations that rehabilitate women and girls rescued from the sex trade.

To see a list of supporters, visit www.magazine.uc.edu/extra.
National pharmacy leader enhances lives with humor, dedication and innovation

Prescription for a full life

by Angela Koenig

Four billion prescriptions a year land in U.S. medicine cabinets marked with warning labels that have probably prevented millions of medical mishaps and saved many lives, due to the caring and inventive genius of alumnus and professor emeritus of pharmacy J. Richard “Dick” Wuest.

In the 1970s, Wuest was instrumental in developing and copyrighting the system of using brightly colored auxiliary labels on prescription bottles — alerts and reminders like “Shake well” or “Do not drink alcoholic beverages with this medication.”

The system, Wuest says, started with a simple list on paper that became a universal system still used today. To educate retail pharmacists, Wuest and his team of pharmacists created charts to explain which types of labels went on which drugs. He also co-authored “The Family Guide to Prescription Drugs.”

During his UC career, Wuest, Pharm ’58, M (Pharm ’68), PharmD ’71, supervised the education of more than 2,600 pharmacy students and championed the development of a national licensure exam, for which the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy awarded him the Distinguished Service Award.

He also won the 2011 William Howard Taft Medal for Notable Achievement, UC’s highest alumni honor, which recognizes career accomplishments in the honoree’s chosen field.

“Dick has dedicated his life to the education of pharmacists and the development of the practice of pharmacy,” said Daniel Acosta, pharmacy dean at the time of his nomination. “His awards and recognitions are too numerous to list. Suffice it to say that he is an unselfish and caring individual who has helped many people establish successful careers in pharmacy.”

Those who know Wuest say that despite the seriousness he gives to his work, a spark of levity always accents it, as well. Wuest, it turns out, is a natural-born humorist and storyteller. Such was the case at the 2012 dedication of the J. Richard Wuest Family Pharmacy Practice Skills Center when the benefactor himself couldn’t pass up the chance to throw in a joke.

“Then the skeleton sits up and asks the pharmacist: ‘Hey doc, can you give me something to stop this coffin?’”

As usual, laughs from the audience prove that Wuest always has the right delivery, an asset he attributes to both his Irish heritage and growing up as a “short” young man. Being funny, he says, was necessary for “survival among older, bigger young men.”

Today, however, jokes are a gift he gives, not a protection he uses. The Cincinnati native grew up to become a man whom others look up to and who uses his humorous side to achieve higher purposes.

“You just get more done if other people are happy with the fact that you are around them,” he states. Experience says he should know. The James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy professor emeritus has more than three decades of experience in advancing the field and educating pharmacists, from 1967 to his retirement in 2001.

Wuest’s financial support of the college includes $25,000 to seed the Wuest Pharmacy Practice Fund, which has grown in excess of $60,000 with contributions from alumni, faculty and staff. This year, Wuest made a $500,000 contribution toward the new skills center. At the time of the center’s dedication, the college’s interim dean William Fant said, “Dick was instrumental in the development of our experiential training programs and pharmacy practice laboratories as pharmacy transitioned to a patient-centered profession.”

By Angela Koenig

Both Wuest and his wife, Suzanne Eastman Wuest, who is also a pharmacist, are devoted Bearcats fans with a blended family of adult children, all of whom attended UC: Cathy, Pharm ’85; Susan, A&S ’86; Diana, Bus ’87; David, Pharm ’91; and wife Debra, PharmD ’91; Douglas, Ed ’12; Erica, DAAP ’02; Chris, DAAP ’03; and Patrick, att. A&S ’02. The legacy now spans three generations, as granddaughter Meredith Bond graduated from the Winkle College of Pharmacy this spring.

University of Cincinnati UC Magazine October 2013
Athletes draw from all sorts of emotional wells to ready their minds for competition. UC soccer forward John Manga taps into an ocean of emotion from a horrific childhood.

Waiting for UC’s No. 9 in the undertow are memories of kidnapped parents, an older brother thought to have been murdered and unspeakable acts — rape, beheadings and suicide — that he witnessed as a child.

Manga, a 19-year-old sophomore, was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo in central Africa in 1994 just a few years prior to the First Congo War. By age 6, the war would reach his doorstep.

“When I was very young, things were pretty normal,” recalls Manga in a still-thick accent. “I went to school like every other kid. All my uncles played soccer at the professional level, and I was starting to pick up on it a little bit, too.”

During those calm years, before rebels invaded his hometown of Bunia, he and his three older brothers — Philip, Pierre and Jacob — shared a six-bedroom home with their parents Jonathan, a missionary, and Christine, a French teacher at the nearby school.

“We were a pretty wealthy family,” Manga says. “But when the civil war came, we pretty much went from having everything to having nothing.”

Abductions and murder

His father had left on a mission trip in January 2001, two months before all hell broke loose. The family had no idea it was the last time they would all be together.

“It was complete chaos,” says Manga of the invasion. “At first I didn’t realize what was going on. Then I started hearing gunshots, and I realized there was something definitely wrong.”

Christine and her four sons — the oldest, age 12 — fled for their lives. They would later find out that rebels shot their neighbors in the streets, set up camp in their home and were driving the family car. They also would come to discover that their father, Jonathan, had been kidnapped when he attempted to return to search for his wife and children.

Though sophomore John Manga rarely talks of his incredible path to UC, his story is one of escape, survival and salvation.
Mom and the boys found safety in a Catholic mission, which would become their refuge for the next two years. Until tragedy revisited. In June 2003, John’s brother, Jacob, left for school, but he never returned. Rebels had taken over his school. Until recently they assumed he had been killed.

That same summer, their mother left the mission with two other women to search for water. She, too, was abducted. Christine’s last words to her son, Pierre, were direct, simple and foreboding: “Take care of your brothers.”

It was a near impossible task considering all that was closing in on them. One day, for example, John, then 9, witnessed something he has never been able to put out of his head. Though it was too dangerous to venture outside even to use the outhouse, he had stepped out briefly to get some relief from the pungent smell of urine inside the mission. Peering from behind a tree, he watched a deadly fight between two men that ended with a severed head rolling across the ground.

Running for their lives — again
Within a week of their mother’s disappearance, Pierre grabbed his brothers and dashed for the nearby rainforest. His premonition proved lifesaving considering rebels soon stormed the mission and shot the priests when they refused to reveal the direction in which the boys had escaped. Pierre recalls the terrible time in an essay: “Because of the thickness of the rainforest, you had a better chance of not getting hit by the flying bullets. We were so tired. But for the first few miles, I could still hear gunfire, so I did not dare let them rest. I had to carry John a lot of the way as food had been scarce in the previous days, and he was pretty weak.”

Eventually alone in the jungle, the three brothers — already having endured the loss of half their family — were now forced to trudge 180 miles through the world’s second largest rainforest, a place known for its cobras, puff adders and pythons, just to name a few of the deadly snakes. They traveled for many days and nights while doing their best to ignore the screeches of baboons, grunts of wild buffalo and even the watchful eyes of a lion that was only 10 feet away, yet allowed them to scurry by unharmed.

“The moment I knew God was with us was when we made it to this fairly large river,” Pierre writes. “It was at the end of the rainy season, so it was full and moving quickly. There appeared to be no way to cross. I tried making a rope and holding onto it and the boys, but I nearly drowned us all.

“I remember sitting down and praying, and then just waiting. Several hours must have passed, and then God answered my prayers. A large tree fell across the river and formed a bridge. The boys and I climbed across on our knees.”

The Manga brothers finally reached a village near the city of Beni. Exhausted and hungry — but safe — they spent the next several months begging on the streets, until someone recognized them as the missing boys listed in a Red Cross bulletin. As it turned out, their father, who gained his freedom in Kenya, never gave up his search for his family.

A family reunited
After three years without their dad, the boys and Jonathan were reunited in March 2004. Even the joy of that moment, however, was robbed when they had to break the news about their brother and mother. Classified as refugees in Kenya and forbidden from working, Jonathan and his sons got by on handouts from an area church and resorted to applying for relocation to the United States, which came through in February ‘05.

John Manga was nearly 11 when their international flight touched down in the states and they settled, with the help of Kentucky Refugee Ministries, into an apartment in Lexington, Ky. Though his dad had multiple degrees in Africa, he could only find employment as a data entry clerk making $9 an hour. So they scraped by.

Jonathan, overwhelmed with trying to raise the boys on his own while battling post-traumatic stress disorder, slipped into a depression. Most nights they didn’t eat until 10:30 p.m. when Pierre returned from his job at KFC to feed them before doing his homework.

It was December 2006, and once again things seemed hopeless for the Manga brothers, not terribly unlike a few years prior when they were stranded next to the river with no way to cross. Only now, they were marooned in middle America, struggling to learn English and barely able to eat.

As Pierre puts it, “God was again faithful in answering prayer.” Only this time he didn’t send a tree. He sent a breast-cancer survivor and single mom whom the boys
school attack in which he was reportedly killed and was raised by another family in the Congo. They are hopeful he may join them in the U.S., too.

These days, when John isn't living on campus, he is staying with his parents in their apartment in Lexington, but he still sees Hollis about every other day. And he can count on seeing her in the stands of all his home games.

Found his 'peaceful place'

John credits soccer for helping him put his wrecked childhood behind him. He went on to lead his high school to the 2010 state soccer championship and was named Kentucky Mr. Soccer in '11. “Soccer is where I found my peaceful place,” he says.

On scholarship with the Bearcats, John chose UC over schools such as Louisville and Wake Forest, which also recruited him. He is currently an undecided major, but he is considering a degree in international social work so he can help others.

“John is just a delightful person,” says UC soccer coach Hylton Dayes. “He has seen so much of life at a young age, but he has never portrayed himself as a victim. I look at him as a survivor.

“He’s just a great young man and a very talented soccer player. Plus, his story is an inspiration to others.”

Due to injuries on the team last season, Manga, who is 6 feet 2 inches tall and 195 pounds, found his way to the field as a freshman, scoring his first goal in UC’s first conference game to help beat Pittsburgh. Dayes expects him to take on an even bigger role this year on a team the coach thinks could pace the league.

While John doesn’t say much about his past around the team, Dayes can’t help but notice when Manga allows the pain from his past to motivate his play.

“John is driven internally,” says Dayes. “There is no doubt when we see it come out on the field. It comes from his core. And when he is able to channel all that, he is tough to handle. He develops an edge and aggressiveness that makes him even more dangerous.”

In the 2012-13 academic year, UC distributed more than $6.7 million in scholarship support to hundreds of student-athletes in 19 varsity sports. “Donations are critical for UC to be able to attract the best, most talented and unique individuals,” says Dayes. “Those donations give kids like John, and any other kid out there, a tremendous opportunity.”
Starting with the 2015 football season, catching a game at UC’s historic Nippert Stadium will take on a whole new feel — especially for those cheering from one of the facility’s brand new suites or club seats.

Private donations and strong presales of premium seating will allow the $86 million renovation project to start in December 2013 following UC’s final home game. Highlighted by a new four-story pavilion that will wrap around the stadium’s west side, construction will last about 20 months so the gates can reopen by August 2015.

Upon returning, visitors will find a new press box and space for private suites, indoor club seating, as well as loge boxes. Total additional seating is expected to hit around 5,000, which will take a sell-out crowd at UC to roughly 40,000. Besides the new pavilion, the west concourse will also be renovated, including concession stands and restrooms. Improvements on the east side will include expanded and additional concession and restroom facilities along with enhanced spectator traffic flow by way of new skywalk connectors from the upper deck of
the stadium to O'Varsity Way's brick plaza, next to Sheakley Lawn. Those areas, according to renderings, would become part of an expanded eastside concourse available during games.

“Every fan, donor, alumnus and student who attends a game beginning in 2015 will benefit from the scope of this project,” director of athletics Whit Babcock said after the UC Board of Trustees formally approved the expansion plan in June. “This project exemplifies our desire to develop a top-notch college football game day experience and compete with the nation's elite.”

The 2014 season will be played entirely off campus, and UC officials have contracted to use Paul Brown Stadium during the transition year. Officials also point out that no university general funds are paying for the project. Instead, private donations and premium seating options will fund the project over a period of years.

Babcock says the new premium seating opportunities will generate enough revenue to cover the annual debt service for the project, as well as generate dollars to pay for additional facility improvements and scholarship opportunities. All 18 Founder's Suites in the new pavilion, though among the most exclusive in pricing, were spoken for during the silent phase of the project's fundraising campaign. The Founder's Suites cost $100,000 a year and required a 10-year commitment.

“We are excited by the support that the Nippert Stadium renovation and expansion project has received from the Greater Cincinnati community and beyond,” said Babcock. “Our UC supporters have certainly answered the bell. We have two years to continue these efforts, and we need the help of the Bearcat faithful. But we are well on our way.”

Each of the Founder's Suites will accommodate a couple dozen guests on the private fourth floor and will include retractable windows, a lounge area, a kitchenette, flat screen televisions with replay monitors and catering options.

Other premium seating packages include Patio Suites (a four-seat loge costs $16,000), the Founder's Club ($6,500 per seat) and Scholarship Club Seats ($2,500 each). Each multi-year option allows for a significant tax deduction and includes a range of amenities from open-air seating to complimentary food.

Get more details about the project and premium seating options at www.gobearcats.com/nippert or by calling 1-877-55-UCATS.
M ore than 100,000 UC alumni and friends share responsibility for the success of the history-making Proudly Cincinnati campaign. Yet for many dedicated alumni, “giving back” isn’t really tied to a campaign — it’s simply part of their lifelong relationship with their alma mater.

Moreover, they seem to share a common perspective: UC gave so much to them that they feel drawn to somehow repay it. That usually comes in the form of paying it forward, benefiting those who are following in their Bearcat footsteps.

**Rob Thornton**

**Alumni life a matter of balance**

In a way, the motivation behind Rob Thornton’s relationship with UC is to find a sense of balance. He gives back because of what UC has given him, knowing that the beneficiaries may be those Bearcats coming along years or even generations behind him.

“I’m inspired by those who have come before me,” says Thornton, Bus ’02. “I hope my involvement and giving back to the university will help instill the same spirit of service in the next generation and that, as soon as they’re able, they continue the tradition of supporting the institution that has given us so much.”

Thornton, a global account director with CenturyLink Business, was a deeply involved alumnus pretty much as soon as his degree was in hand. He quickly became a leader within the UC Alumni Association’s Young Alumni group (now known as the UC Young Professionals).

“Our undergraduate experience is really the first stage of a lifetime relationship with the university,” he says. “When I consider my closest relationships today and then think about the impact UC has had on those relationships, I’m compelled to be involved and give back.”

Thornton’s generosity affects a multitude of UC family members through an array of initiatives. His roots in the men’s honorary Sigma Sigma have translated into support for the Jed Small Legacy and Danny Dell scholarships, as well as the creation of the Bearcat statue in Varsity Village. He helped fund the recent renovation of Alumni Hall, the large meeting space inside the Myers Alumni Center. He supports the football program and the expansion of Nippert Stadium while being a three-sport season ticket holder. And he provides interview coaching for students in the Lindner College of Business sales program.

“I feel we should put back into the world, at the very least, what we have taken from it,” he says. “To a great degree, opportunities made available to us came about due to selfless acts of giving from others — our parents, teachers, friends, family and, at times, even complete strangers.”

For Thornton and his wife, Kendra, A&S ’01, many of those opportunities and much of what they have received in life came directly and indirectly from the choice to attend UC. Offering time and resources in return provides that sense of equilibrium and the means by which new students can write their own UC story.

“Whether it is financial gifts, creating a co-op opportunity, hiring loyal Bearcats upon graduation or simply being an ambassador for UC, we can enormously impact our university and alumni network in a positive way,” he says.
Bob and Phyllis Favorite
Distance no problem for UC couple

When you live in State College, Pa., it’s an understatement to say that Penn State looms large over everyone and everything. You’d have to be a pretty hardy, dedicated, passionate couple of Bearcats to stand out from all those Nittany Lions.

That actually sums up Bob and Phyllis Favorite very well. They met and fell in love as students at UC in the early 1970s. Once married the fall before their 1975 graduation, they moved where work took them. Eventually that became State College. Yet the lack of proximity has never been an obstacle when it comes to being actively engaged with their alma mater.

“We were both active on campus in our own ways,” says Bob, Eng ’75. “UC provided us with a good education, and we were fortunate to have great mentors. Because others cared, we also came to care.”

The Favorites financially support their colleges, Bearcats Athletics (UCATS and the football program’s 1200 Club) and the UC Alumni Association, of which Phyllis is a member of the Board of Governors. They travel extensively — making the day’s trip back to campus for home football games, meetings and big events, as well as attending many Bearcats road games.

“Technology has made it easier to stay in touch,” says Phyllis, Ed ’75. “Before, as out-of-towners, it was mostly a matter of learning about UC through my brother, who is also an alum and lives in Cincinnati, from occasional mailings and the rare newspaper article. But now I’m able to be a member of the UCAA board from a distance. I contribute what I can with the hope of helping the alumni association reach more and more alumni.

“From both of our perspectives, being involved is just a decision, and then a commitment to that decision.”

For the Favorites, a big part of that lifestyle is their “UC ambassador” role, which they take quite seriously. “We promote UC whenever and wherever we can,” Bob says. “Our friends in State College know for certain that we’re Bearcats.” They are excited to gently educate others — in Pennsylvania and elsewhere — one person at a time if necessary, using Internet blogs, watercooler talk and heartfelt conversation with fellow alumni.

Giving back in various ways is a form of repayment for how the UC experience has influenced their lives, they each say.

“We’re investing in UC,” Phyllis adds. “We don’t feel we’re special in any particular way. We just see the need for support in higher education in general. If we want students to care and become loyal alumni, we must exhibit that care as alumni ourselves. And we find we always get back more than we give.”

The Latin term alma mater translates to “bountiful or nourishing mother,” and the Favorites take that to heart, which drives their traveling, giving and volunteering in support of UC.

“We are deliberately attached to UC,” says Phyllis. “To detach and never feel that tug on the heart for our alma mater is a foreign concept to us. We liken it to switching mothers — pretty tough to do.”

Bob Favorite and Phyllis Snape met and fell in love at UC. Married for nearly four decades, the couple continues to show their affinity for the university that not only brought them together but has also played a significant role in their lives.
For Sean McCabe, the value of being involved and giving to others was instilled in him from an early age. Growing up in Wheeling, W.Va., McCabe, Eng ’09, became an Eagle Scout while compiling an impressive academic resume and developing a desire to study engineering in college. UC was not on his radar until he happened to hear about and research the co-op program — then it became his front-runner. Still, he would need scholarship help to make it work financially, particularly given out-of-state tuition. Such assistance came together, McCabe enrolled and flourished at UC, and he became an alumnus with a cause.

“Scholarships are a passion of mine,” he says. “Without the scholarships I received, I wouldn’t have become a Bearcat.”

McCabe, a senior business analyst for Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati, became a key volunteer with the UC Alumni Association’s Young Professionals group, reinvigorating the Kacher-Bloom Scholarship that supports an outstanding upperclassman while memorializing two UC undergrads who lost their lives in 1985. His giving history with the UCAA includes many gifts to the William Howard Taft Society fund.

He also was active in student government at the university and college levels. Those activities, plus his degree work and co-op experiences, helped McCabe realize that he was becoming closer to his school and enjoying productive college years largely because people who came before him had made it possible.

“I realized while I was in school that those groups were important, and I feel it even more today,” he says. “Recently I helped develop the College of Engineering and Applied Science Alumni Association’s strategic plan and became the new VP for “future alumni engagement” where I’ll help bridge the gap between alumni and students. I think that will drive a greater sense of loyalty and pride for these lifelong Bearcats.”

Just as the Proudly Cincinnati campaign’s $1 billion-plus total is really about the impact rather than the dollars, McCabe’s monetary gifts to scholarship funds and his college, as well as his gifts of time and expertise to support UCAA’s Young Professionals group, CEAS’s College Advisory Council and UC’s Honors program, are fulfilling because of the ultimate results.

“There’s a lot of impact from my giving back,” he says. “Students are furthering their educations thanks to scholarship programs to which I contribute. Alumni can meaningfully reconnect with their university and each other through various alumni activities I support. And our future alums are learning, as I did, about the network of graduates that stick together as a family, which the Alumni Association oversees.”

When UC provided a scholarship to enable Sean McCabe to enroll in 2004, it gained a lifelong benefactor and ambassador for the cause of funding scholarships for others.
As Lamar Cole’s career has progressed, he has found himself gaining greater affection for the University of Cincinnati — the people he has met and the lessons he has learned through his UC connections, as well as a growing understanding of how the dots connect in his life.

This alumni perspective has made Cole, Bus ’94, more gratified to give back to his alma mater in the ways that mean the most to him. That gratification grows even further when he considers the impact of his actions.

“My time as a UC student was one of the greatest experiences of my life — and it was way too short,” says Cole, an assistant vice president with Huntington Bank in Cleveland. “I established relationships through my activities on campus and in my fraternity. Then after graduating, my career took me back to my native Cleveland. I learned that the best way to keep living the UC experience is to intentionally seek out ways to remain involved.”

Not long after his graduation and relocation, Cole led the effort to bring together a group of Cleveland-area African-American alums for an unofficial reunion of sorts. Many were friends from Cole’s days at the University of Cincinnati, while some were products of different eras at UC. Some even came up from Cincinnati.

One of those friends was Bleuzette Marshall, A&S ’92, Ed ’01, M (Ed) ’09, who happened to work in UC’s development office at the time and is now UC’s interim chief diversity officer. She joined others to do something similar in Cincinnati — first as a cookout in a park off-campus, then as an official part of Homecoming on campus. These activities, traced largely to Cole’s leadership, helped relaunch the group now known as the UC Alumni Association’s African-American Alumni Affiliate (4A).

“When we moved into the UCAA environment, the effort gained momentum and became much broader in scope,” Cole says. “Many of us took on unofficial roles as ambassadors for the group and for greater alumni engagement in general.”

For Cole, being an ambassador includes spreading the word about UC’s successes and advantages, giving regularly to the UC Alumni Association and the Darwin T. Turner Scholarship Fund, and putting C-Paw license plates on his car, knowing that most of those fees go toward funding additional scholarships.

“I’m investing in the university that invested in me,” he says. “My marketing and management degree has opened career doors beyond what I might have dreamed possible. Furthermore, I aspire to be the best and to be associated with the best. Giving back contributes to UC’s resources in its quest to be the best — the nation’s premier public urban research university.”

Cole believes that generosity from alumni produces ripple effects through the entire UC community while highlighting the commonality of the student experience.

“The more our individual and collective giving back empowers UC to attract talented students, support students in need and energize our alumni to this purpose, the more all of us stand to gain,” he says.

Lamar Cole shows his pride on his clothes and his car — with a Bearcat license plate.
Behind the scenes: How Homecoming happens

by Keith Stichtenoth, Alumni Affairs associate director

Homecoming is one of UC’s grandest days each year. Students can enjoy a full week of activities, and thousands of alumni return from near and far. Pageantry, nostalgia and excitement fill the campus. And the football team tries to win one for the Red & Black.

This year, Saturday, Oct. 19, is the big day. But what about the weeks and months beforehand? Here’s a glimpse at what makes Homecoming happen:

Plan your work, work your plan

Homecoming is presented by the UC Alumni Association with help from the UCAA-affiliated Student Alumni Council (SAC). Starting in January, SAC’s Homecoming Committee holds regular meetings all the way until Homecoming Week. Subcommittees manage key elements such as the weeklong student activities, the king and queen nomination and selection process and parade planning.

In July, representatives from more than two dozen departments, units, colleges and student organizations — from public safety and facilities to student life and university communications — begin meeting monthly to coordinate the maze of event logistics facing them.

Each Homecoming also carries a theme largely created by and geared toward the students. This year’s theme is “Once Upon a Homecoming,” chosen in the spring from various possibilities considered by SAC and various UC staff members.

I love a parade

For generations, the annual Homecoming Parade has been a treasured campus tradition. The hour-long spectacle features around 60 entries, including about 15 floats and numerous marching bands. Grand marshals this year are basketball great Oscar Robertson, Bus ’60, HonDoc ’07, and his wife, Yvonne, Ed ’56. The parade requires street closures from Calhoun Avenue (where the parade sets up) to Clifton Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Thousands of Bearcats cheer along the parade route while panels of judges assess the floats for best expression of the Homecoming theme and school spirit, as well as the high school bands for best-in-show.

When is Homecoming?

The UC Alumni Association cannot select the date for Homecoming until the athletic conference releases its schedule in early March, but this year, the Oct. 19 date essentially “chose itself,” since the prior home game against Temple was tabbed for national TV on Friday night, Oct. 11.

As for game time, ESPN’s contract provides flexibility to see how certain matchups will best fit into various time slots. UC usually doesn’t know until 12 days out what time a Saturday conference game will start — and once per season, that window can shrink to six days. The fact that it is Homecoming does not affect the channel’s choice, so the UC Alumni Association manages a flexible schedule.

Schedule

Homecoming Kickoff Party
Friday, Oct. 18
Featuring Athletic Director Whit Babcock and Coach Tommy Tuberville
Myers Alumni Center Free to all UC alumni

Homecoming 2013
Saturday, Oct. 19
UC vs. UConn game (TBD)
Parade four hours prior to kickoff
Bearcat Blitz pre-game festivities at Myers Alumni Center
See uc.edu/homecoming for details.
Alumni honored for achievements

The UC Alumni Association honored five remarkably accomplished alumni at the UC Distinguished Alumni Celebration in June. The event and its awards provide an annual opportunity to celebrate the many contributions and overall excellence of UC alumni in countless fields of endeavor throughout the world.

For more about this year’s honorees and the opportunity to nominate alumni for the 2014 awards, visit www.uc.edu/alumni/dac.

UC President Santa Ono touted the many reasons why he calls UC the #HottestCollegeInAmerica, including “alumni like those we honor tonight, who graduate, then go out and change the world.”

The Jeffrey Hurwitz Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recipients were (from the left) Rob Richardson Jr., Eng ’02, JD ’05, and Bob Coppola, CECH ’00. Joining them is Mosaic Award recipient Jeffery Burgin, A&S ’97.

Dr. Joseph Broderick, MD ’82, right, is pleased to receive the William Howard Taft Medal for Notable Achievement with his father, Dr. Joseph Broderick. The elder Broderick, called “a terrific role model” by his son, began the family tradition of practicing medicine. They are among two dozen physicians in three generations of the Broderick family, most of whom have ties to UC.

Bill Keating Jr., Bus ’76, JD ’79, received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award, honoring his leadership on various initiatives that have enhanced the alumni experience for his fellow Bearcats. He said he continues to be inspired by a sign he had seen on a dorm wall years ago, which read, “If you want a degree, go to class. If you want an education, get involved.”

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

1920
Jimmy Nippert, ’23, p. 4
Bob Hynes, ’25, p. 4
Louis Nippert, ’26, p. 4

1940
Margaret Grogg Pifer, ’42, p. 2
Saul Marmer, ’48, p. 2
Charles Stix, ’49, p. 26

1950
Elizabeth Mason, ’50s, p. 5
Barry Bishop, ’54, p. 4
Clark Beck, ’55, p. 30
Henry Brown, ’55, p. 30
Otto Budig, ’56, pp. 6, 13
Yvonne Robertson, ’56, p. 46
Dick Wuest, ’58, ’68, ’71, p. 36
William Hines, ’59, ’64, p. 3

1960
Sue Driver Lantzer, ’60, p. 5
Oscar Robertson, ’60, p. 46
Lois Rosenthal, ’60, p. 15
Sam Ewing, ’61, p. 30
Jay Stewart, ’61, p. 21
Bob Deddens, ’63, ’67, p. 5
Kenneth Glass, ’63, ’65, p. 21
Carla Andrews, ’65, p. 3
Steve Wilson, ’66, ’68, p. 6

1970
Craig Fitzpatrick, ’70, p. 5
Helen Klug Eifflenbein, ’72, ’96, p. 2
David Litt, ’72, p. 3
Buck Niehoff, ’72, pp. 6, 12
Robert Fealy, ’73, pp. 13, 21
Greg Hand, ’74, p. 32
Bob Favorite, ’75, p. 43
Phyllis Snape Favorite, ’75, p. 43
Bill Keating Jr., ’76, ’79, p. 47
Ray Vegso, ’76, p. 2
Barry Bortz, ’77, p. 9
Anne Nethercott, ’77, p. 9

1980
Mark Fields, ’80, p. 3
Dr. Joseph Broderick, ’82, p. 47
Todd DeGarmo, ’82, p. 13
Cathy Wuest, ’85, p. 36
Susan Wuest, ’86, p. 36
Diana Wuest, ’87, p. 36

2000
Bob Coppola, ’00, p. 47
Victoria Carr, ’01, p. 23
Rachel Konerman, ’01, p. 23
Rob Richardson Jr., ’02, 05, p. 47
Rob Thornton, ’02, p. 42
Erica Wuest, ’02, p. 36
Patrick Wuest, ’02, p. 36
Chris Wuest, ’03, p. 36
Sean McCabe, ’09, p. 44
Marihelen Millar, ’09, p. 23
Keith Rutowski, ’09, p. 26

2010
Allison Claridge, ’11, p. 26
Matt Katz, ’11, p. 15
Thomas Richards, ’12, p. 8
Douglas Wuest, ’12, p. 36
N’deye Ba, ’13, p. 35
Meredith Bond, ’13, p. 36
Known for big hats and a big heart, Dolly Cohen was easily recognized in Cincinnati’s social, cultural and philanthropic circles, including those at the University of Cincinnati. Born Dolly Lurie in Pennsylvania, she met her future husband, A.B. Cohen, in the lobby of a Pittsburgh hotel where she was selling anti-tuberculosis stamps for the Red Cross and he was a shoe salesman. The couple married in 1920 and lived in Boston, then moved to Cincinnati in 1926, where their son, Ralph, was born and where A.B. would become president of U.S. Shoe Corp., headquartered here.

At UC, Dolly’s name was most recognized for funding the Mrs. A.B. “Dolly” Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1961 — two awards that are still given annually. Here, she poses with 1965 A&S winner Jean Winston. Dolly also made assorted UC gifts as needs arose — for instance, sponsoring an essay contest in 1962 and buying an emergency ambulance for the UC Student Health Service in 1967.

A.B. died in 1970, and cancer took Dolly 10 years later. Nevertheless, the impact of her generosity remains and grows.

See a photo gallery of Dolly and her hats, plus a list of all Cohen Award winners at www.magazine.uc.edu/extra.
Invested in each other to aspire, advance, achieve

Congratulations to President Santa Ono, the leader who is making UC the #HottestCollegeinAmerica

Investiture was April 2013. See extensive photo gallery: www.magazine.uc.edu/extra
It’s a unique brand of know-how. It’s the confidence that comes from learning with the best minds and in the best organizations.

In short, Cincinnati Smart is who you have become. It’s a competitive edge for more than 268,000 living alumni and 42,650 students.

It’s smart on a whole different level.

Tell us your story at uc.edu/smart