

# President Zimpher

All-University Farewell Reception

April 28, 2009

It was mid-May, 2003, when I first laid eyes on Trustee Jeff Wyler, then-chair of the committee in search of UC's 25<sup>th</sup> president. He flew up to Milwaukee to meet me. Well...he didn't really fly the plane, as I had thought, but he did de-plane as UC's first and best ambassador, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fast forward 69 months, the way Tony Perzigian counts tenure around here, and you have one grateful and admiring president trying to conjure up just the right way to say thank you and farewell to so many friends and colleagues here present today.

We quote Woody Allen all the time, that 90 percent is just showing up. First, thank you so much for just "showing up!"



I think the best place to start is with this outstanding group of committed leaders with whom I have had the privilege of serving, including four board chairs (George Schaefer, Phil Cox, Jeff and now Buck Niehoff), and all those who have gone before. Of course, Mr. Niehoff is pretty amazing in his own right, now leading the search for UC's 27<sup>th</sup> president, co-chairing our billion dollar Proudly Cincinnati Campaign along with Otto Budig of our billion dollar campaign, and along with wife, Patti, served as both landlord and now benefactor for where Ken and Fletcher and I have had the privilege of calling "home."

In their wisdom, the Board of Trustees has tapped Monica Rimai to serve as Interim President. The Board could not have made a stronger statement about its commitment to UC's forward momentum than to have chosen Monica for this role. Of course, she now wears two hats, as both Interim President and Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance. What would Cincinnatus have done if he had simultaneously had to wield his plowshare and uphold the patriotism of Rome? And when's the last time you've been compared to someone as brave and courageous as Cincinnatus, Monica? I couldn't ask for a better friend and soul-mate than you have been, Monica, over the past decade. All this talk about "shoes to fill;" I'd walk in your shoes anytime!

So hats off to our UC Board of Trustees, the UC Foundation Board and its leadership, and the many colleagues I have come to know as friends and partners...

- From the Governor's office and the Chancellor of the University System of Ohio, my friends in Articulation and Transfer, and colleagues at universities across Ohio;
- To the Mayor's Office and the County Commissioners and our delegations to the Ohio General Assembly and the United States Congress;
- From the Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce to the CBC, 3CDC, all the membership of our Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Strive Collaborative to boost high school graduation and the regional planners of Agenda 360 and Vision 2015;

- To our charitable friends in the United Way, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the many community representatives here today — each of whom has profoundly touched my life and that of this great university.

But most of all, thank you to the current and emeriti faculty and staff, students and alumni, Presidents Emeriti Henry Winkler and Joe Steger, and donors and friends for your amazing commitment to UC, its past, its present, and most importantly, its future.

And on a personal note, let me recognize the many people it takes to keep this university's president up-right and functioning:

- To Jennie Maye, for your tireless housekeeping efforts both at the office and at Edgecliff Point and Maha's welcoming ways;
- To my wonderful leadership team — the Cabinet, the deans, and of course, my team in the President's Office — Sandy Smith, who deftly handles whatever matters are sent her way; Cheryl McDonald, the outward face to our many constituencies; Marianne Kunnen-Jones, who as editor and special events coordinator probably knows me better than I know myself; and lastly but most importantly to Ken and Fletcher, who just keep giving and giving of their unconditional support for the wild and crazy, rough and tumble life of a university president.

To all present here today, my profound gratitude and respect for what you do every day to make our world a truly better place.

And now to attempt capture everything I know and love about the University of Cincinnati, I have sought help from an unsuspecting source. In the many stages of separation from UC...one chorus keeps ringing in my head;

*Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens;  
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens;  
Brown paper packages tied up with string;  
These are a few of my favorites things.*

*When the dog bites,  
When the bee stings,  
When I'm feeling sad,  
I simply remember my favorite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.*

Look not for unrhymed iambic pentameter, lyrics or song; here's my Top 10 list of my favorite things:



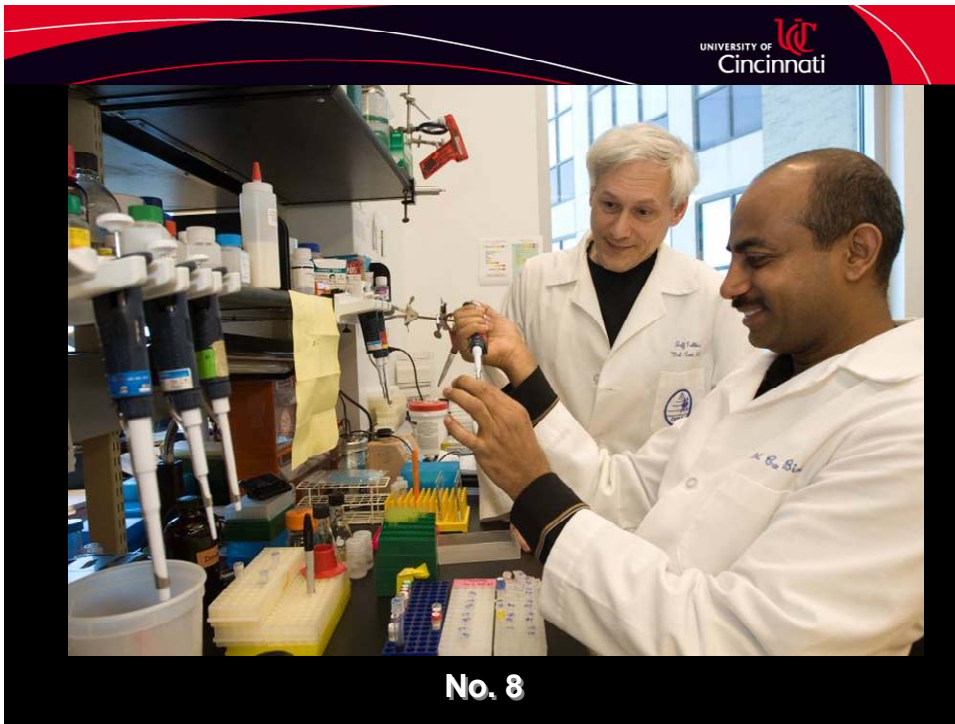
### **No. 10 - Bearcat Pride**

When the Bearcat roars,  
When we do the MainStreet Stride,  
When we rise to sing the Alma Mater,  
I simply remember that We're All UC!



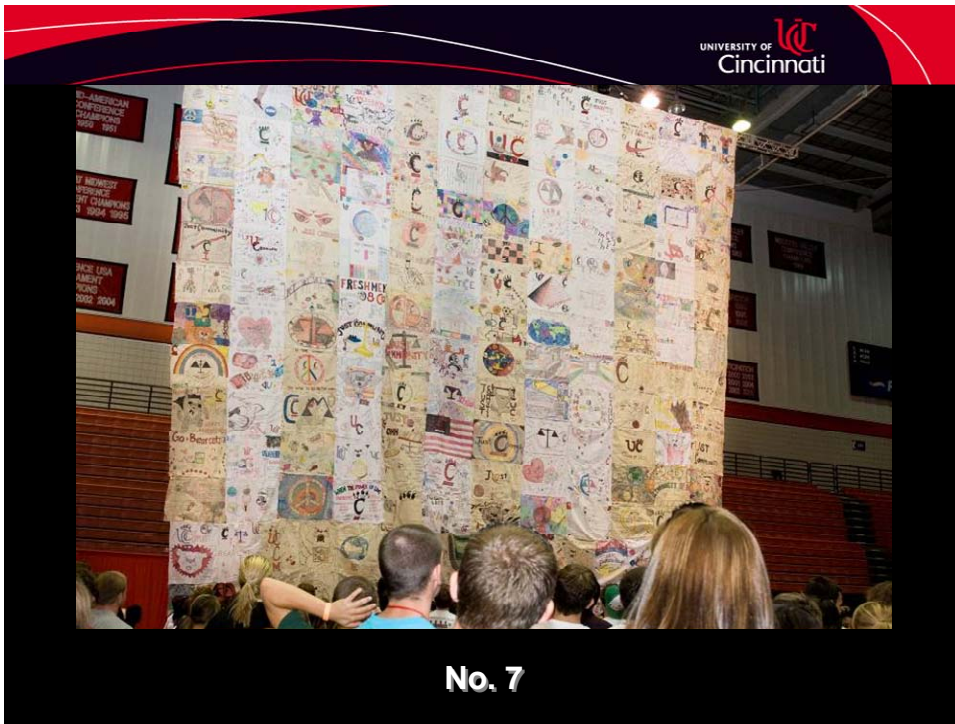
### **No. 9 - Commencement**

Commencements year-round,  
Convocation in the fall,  
Cincinnatus in the winter,  
Campus visitation days and summer orientation,  
These are the rituals of our lives,  
And these are a few of my VERY favorite things;



## No. 8 - Academics

Digs in Greek ruins and robots in water;  
Nano chips, zebra fish, and solar houses;  
Poets and artists and the built environment,  
Street-scapes and Broadway, and Pianopalooza,  
Academic excellence and break-through research,  
These are a few of my favorite things.



**No. 7**

### **No. 7 - The Just Community Banner**

Hoisted high above the Fifth Third Arena at Convocation,  
Patch by patch, orientation class by orientation class,  
Lifting up UC's commitment to diversity,  
I simply remember to remember.



## **No. 6 - Shared Governance**

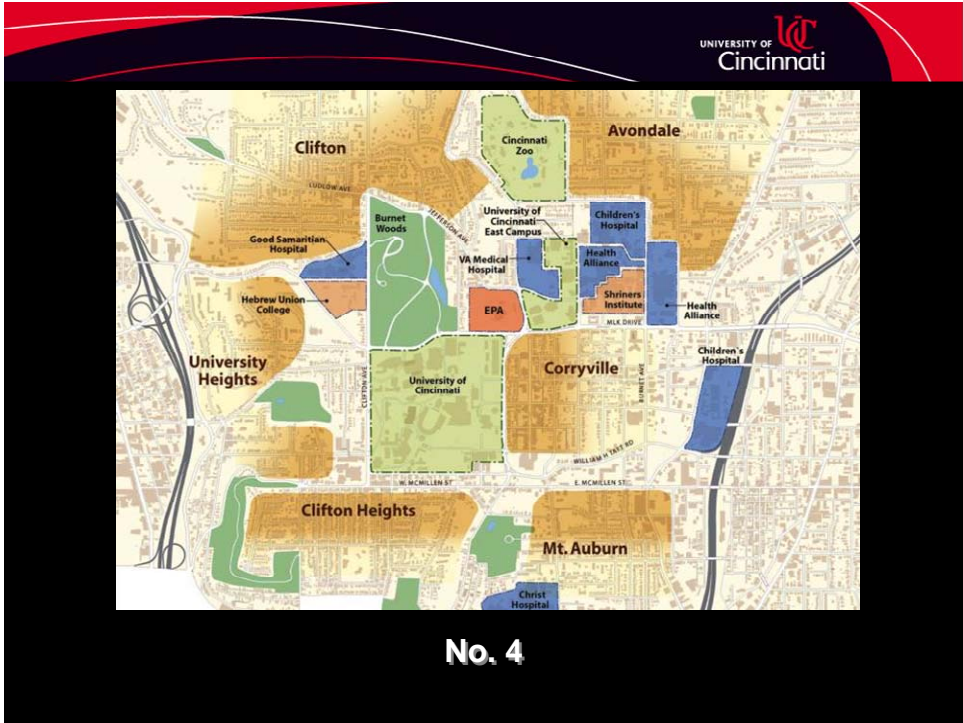
Student government, faculty governance,  
Committee upon committee, officer induction,  
Elections, saying hello and saying goodbye,  
Our student leaders, quite simply, are my favorite thing!



**No. 5**

### **No. 5 - Athletics**

Orange juice and FedEx, and athletes galore,  
C-Paws and Rallycats, cheerleaders I adore,  
Bands and the dance team,  
Coaches and fans,  
We are UC!



**No. 4 - Uptown**

Corryville, Avondale, Clifton Heights too;  
 Auburn and University Heights, Fairview there too;  
 These are our neighborhoods, places to be;  
 Partners in UpCo, STEM now at Hughes,  
 These are my favorite neighborhoods too.



### **No. 3 - Community Engagement**

One more child graduated and ready for work,  
Living in Cincinnati or Northern Kentucky, too,  
Know that we care about you and our future too,  
Linking Strive and Agenda 360,  
To a better community for all.

THIRD YEAR ENGINEERING STUDENT  
MICHAEL ALEXANDER HAS ALREADY ADDED  
PROJECTS IN CARROLL, GEORGIA, MICHIGAN,  
AND TORONTO TO HIS RESUME.

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**Cincinnati**

**No. 2**

## No. 2 - Co-op

Placing students at the center,  
With all that that means,  
Co-op, and interns, and experiential learning too,  
Life-changing ways to work and learn,  
These are a few of my favorite things.



## No. 1 - The Faces of UC

Bearcats and people-cats,  
Faces I love,  
Faculty, students, staff and friends,  
Sharing and living and learning together,

*When the dog bites,  
When the bee stings,  
When I'm feeling sad,  
I simply remember my favorite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.*

Thank you!

When the Bearcat Band enters, please join us in singing the Alma Mater.

I'm Nancy Zimpher, and I'm Proudly Cincinnati.





