

UC|21 – Achievements

Goal 1 – Place Students at the Center

- **Tuition Holds Steady** – After two consecutive years of no tuition increases for undergraduate students, tuition again remains flat as fall quarter 2009 opens. Even though state legislators passed a budget allowing universities to raise tuition 3.5 percent in 2009-10 and 2010-11, UC has declined to raise tuition at this time, except for graduate and professional degree programs.
- **Awards for Progress** – The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange recognizes UC with its annual Best Practice Award for institutionalizing improvements resulting in higher retention and graduation rates. Since the inception of UC|21, retention rates have risen 7 percent as have graduation rates.
- **Quarters to Semesters Conversion** – The Board of Trustees approves switching from quarters to semesters, effective in 2012, to help provide consistency across the state's public universities and allow for smooth transfer of credit from campus to campus. The University System of Ohio called for the calendar change in its 10-year strategic plan.
- **Piloting Regional Rate** – The colleges of Business, Applied Science and Allied Health Sciences pilot a new “metropolitan” tuition rate close to in-state tuition for out-of-state undergraduate students residing in the 42 counties of Kentucky and Indiana adjacent to Cincinnati. The new rate led to enrollment growth from Northern Kentucky and Eastern Indiana.
- **Law Ratio** – The College of Law's 9.7:1 student-faculty ratio ranks first among Ohio law schools and in the top 10 among American law schools.

Goal 2 – Grow Our Research Excellence

- **Rankings Rise** – In the latest National Science Foundation report, UC ranks No. 18 in federal research expenditures, up from No. 28 the previous year. The new ranking, based on expenditures for fiscal year 2007, places UC above institutions such as the University of Virginia, Indiana University and Purdue. In the category of total research expenditures, UC ranks No. 23, up from No. 40 in 2006.
- **Record High** – UC reaches an all-time high in research funding in 2008 at \$353 million, \$20 million more than the previous year. Colleges showing significant increases include the College of Engineering and the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences.
- **Elite Designation** – UC, with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, University Hospital and the Cincinnati Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, wins a \$23 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health. Only 60 such awards and designations are expected to be given by 2012. The CTSA national consortium brings major research institutions together with the common focus of speeding the time it takes for laboratory discoveries to become real treatments for patients.
- **Connecting Researchers** – UC and Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation (CCRF) agree on an information technology strategy to optimize electronic communication and data-sharing among their researchers. The first step establishes a private network link between UC and Cincinnati Children's, enabling the rapid transfer of data between researchers at each site.
- **Bio-Diesel Production** – Utilities Services teams with College of Engineering Professor Ming-Ming Lu to produce biodiesel in the basement of UC's central utilities plant. The effort re-uses waste oil from campus dining facilities to make bio-diesel fuel used by Utilities to produce electricity.

- **Multi-Lingual Visits** – International students and their families can now “visit” UC without the time and expense of getting here, thanks to online tours of campus now available in Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Turkish, Japanese and Italian. The tours can be accessed at: www.uc.edu/virtualtour/videowest/.
- **Center for Engineering Students** – Fund-raising and planning get under way for the construction of the Engineering Alumni Learning Center to serve as an area where College of Engineering students can study in groups, receive tutoring and interact with faculty. This facility is expected to provide a welcoming and supportive atmosphere in which students can learn about the profession of engineering, fundamental skills that are necessary for its practice, and adjust to the rigors of academic life and the engineering curriculum.
- **Seamless Transition** – A transfer articulation agreement, signed by Raymond Walters College and the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, allows students to begin study in RWC's two-year Electronic Media Technology program and then enter into DAAP's Electronic Arts program to complete a baccalaureate degree with no loss of credit.
- **Admissions Changes** – The university announces admissions policies to align with the state's strategic plan for higher education and mission differentiation. Effective in fall 2010, freshmen admitted to the Uptown Campus must meet academic success criteria, while those who don't meet the requirements will be referred to the university's regional campuses in Blue Ash and Batavia and to Cincinnati State. Associate's degree programs will move to the regional campuses.

- **Health Risks of Common Chemical** – Ongoing studies of the environmental pollutant bisphenol A (BPA) link this chemical commonly used in polycarbonate plastics to heart disease in women. Major news outlets around the world reported on this work as researcher Scott Belcher presented results of this and other BPA studies at the Endocrine Society's annual meeting.
- **Charting a Course** – Led by the Office of Research, the university in 2009 begins an update of its strategic plan for research. Input has been gathered from faculty and staff while the final plan will be presented soon to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- **Year of Celebration** – UC works with partners to honor the bicentennial of Charles Darwin's birth and the sesquicentennial of his work *On the Origin of Species*. Course offerings, speaking events and a virtual trip through Second Life to the Galapagos Islands helped to communicate Darwin's theories and stimulate conversation about the impact of his research.
- **Virus Research Finds Nobel Audience** – Detection and differentiation of influenza virus using carbohydrates earns chemistry doctoral student Dan Lewallen an invitation to the 2009 Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students. Lewallen, a mentor to high school and undergraduate students, was one of just 600 young researchers from around the world selected to attend the 2009 meeting, where he was introduced to 23 Nobel Laureates.
- **Top in Tax** – College of Law Associate Dean Paul Caron is named one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Tax and Accounting. His TaxProfBlog is one of The ABA Journal's Blawg 100.
- **Exhibiting Undergraduate Research** – The 2009 Undergraduate Research Poster Session showcases nearly 100 posters representing projects from 225 students.

Goal 3 – Achieve Academic Excellence

— **UC Up-and-Coming** – Within the space of two months, two major publications have used the term “up-and-coming” to describe the University of Cincinnati. *U.S. News & World Report’s* annual “America’s Best Colleges” issue listed UC as one of 18 “up-and-coming” institutions on the national universities list, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* showcased UC among five up-and-coming institutions managing ambitions during tough times.

— **Evaluators Impressed** – After completing its site visit, a team of assessors indicates that UC can expect to earn 10-year reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. The chair of the 12-member visiting evaluation team noted, “The team found a much improved university, a transformed university that better serves its constituents. You are all to be congratulated.” Similarly, Raymond Walters College completed a successful site visit with expected reaccreditation.

— **Two Tonys** – Two College-Conservatory of Music alumni win the theater industry’s highest honors at the 2009 Tony Awards. Karen Olivo clinched a Tony for “Best Performance by a Featured Actress” in her role as Anita in the Broadway revival of *West Side Story*. Matt Kraus, 2001 theater design and production alumnus, was part of the design team for *Liza’s at the Palace . . .*, which won a Tony for “Best Special Theatrical Event.”

— **Athletes and Academics** – In 2008–09, 11 of 18 Bearcat teams posted GPAs of 3.0 or higher with 10 of the teams improving their GPAs over last year. Men’s basketball, lacrosse and women’s soccer posted perfect Academic Progress Rates, as reported by the NCAA.

Goal 4 – Forge Key Relationships and Partnerships

— **STEM Opening** – A second school devoted to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines opens in Uptown as a result of the university’s partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools, Strive and the state. This one is a high school in the newly renovated Hughes Center across the street from campus. The first was at Taft Elementary.

— **Community Service Honor Roll** – The Corporation for National and Community Service names UC to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America’s communities, the highest federal honor for educational institutions in service-learning and civic engagement.

— **Top Docs** – *Cincinnati Magazine* names more than 100 UC faculty members “Top Docs” in its November 2008 edition.

— **Corporate Relations and Community Engagement** – Departing President Nancy Zimpher funnels \$1 million into partnership activities after convening a presidential working group to examine the vital issues of innovation, economic development and working with business and community partners.

— **Strive Model Expanding** – The Strive birth-through-career educational collaborative co-founded by UC for the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region receives a \$1 million investment from Living Cities to create a similar model in four cities involving four universities: California State University, Hayward, Calif.; Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis; University of Houston; and Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

— **New Hope for Hospital Gowns** – UC employs its design research capabilities to heal the many ills of the hated hospital gown. After a display of better gown options held in May, a regional industry partner may soon bring the gowns to market.

— **UC Health Launch** – UC, UC Physicians and University Hospital announced the formation of UC Health, www.uchealthnow.com, a new collaboration blending the region’s largest group of specialists with the area’s premier teaching hospital and trauma center. Together, they comprise more than 650 clinicians, a 650-bed hospital, 20 clinical locations across the region and a growing medical campus in West Chester, which includes a medical office building and UC Health Surgical Hospital (formerly University Pointe Surgical Hospital).

— **State Centers of Excellence** – As requested by Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut and the University System of Ohio (USO) strategic plan, UC identifies 11 centers of excellence: Design and Innovation; Neurosciences; Diabetes/Obesity; Environmental Health and Cancer; Pediatrics; Humanities (Classics, Creative Writing, and Philosophy of Science); Intelligent Air and Space Vehicle Energy Systems; Music and Theater Arts; Nanoscale Sensors; Sustaining Urban Environments; and Urban Transformation and Justice.

— **Top Rankings** – The most recent *U.S. News & World Report* rankings on graduate programs maintains five UC programs in the top 10: industrial design (6), interior design (3), criminology (3), pediatrics (3) and paleontology (7). In addition, *Forbes* magazine ranks UC among “America’s Best Colleges,” and for the third consecutive year, UC rates among the nation’s best, according to *The Princeton Review*. The annual college guide highlighted UC’s diversity, quality of life and “green” initiatives.

— **Prized Programs** – Yet again, the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning’s prestigious programs in architecture, interior design and industrial design earn top rankings in a national survey of architecture and design employers. In the *DesignIntelligence* annual poll of employers, UC’s architecture, interior design and industrial design were consistently ranked among the nation’s top three in their respective disciplines.

— **Prescription for Success** – Students in the James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy score higher than the national and Ohio averages on the National Pharmacy Licensure Exam (NAPLEX) as well as on the law portion of the exam.

— **Sharing Technology** – UC now hosts eight other institutions of higher learning and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for Blackboard course management and communication and is embarking on a pilot project to bring it to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) schools in the Cincinnati Public Schools. This shared service now serves over 55,000 external students throughout the State of Ohio, compared to 36,518 UC students.

— **Renewable Energy Production** – A new, three-year contract with GSF Energy, the landfill gas production company that extracts methane from Rumpke’s landfill, allows UC’s Utilities Services Department to purchase this landfill gas to produce renewable electricity in UC’s cogeneration plant. This electricity will improve reliability, reduce costs and allow UC to sell Duke Energy 50,000,000 renewable energy credits per year.

— **Trees for Tomorrow** – Working collaboratively with Hamilton County’s Park District, UC’s Utilities Services Department sponsors a student-led event to reduce the university’s carbon footprint by planting trees. Over 60 student and staff volunteers worked with parks personnel at the Glenwood Gardens to plant 2,000 seedlings— enough to absorb 1,200,000 pounds of carbon dioxide over their lifetimes.

— **Sharing Fitness Facilities** – UC’s Campus Recreation Center becomes the on-campus fitness center for Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and University Hospital.

— **Regional Action** – The Agenda 360 regional action plan, created with the active engagement of UC faculty and staff, is unveiled. UC experts served on the initiative’s planning teams, conducted research and served in leadership roles. Implementation of the plan, which is focused on the growth of the Greater Cincinnati economy, is underway with continuing participation from UC faculty and leadership.

Goal 5 – Establish a Sense of Place

— **Burnet Avenue Revitalization** – The parking garage is open, the LEED-certified headquarters for *The Cincinnati Herald* is ready for occupancy, the branding strategy for the Burnet Avenue is in place and plans for creating a vibrant retail and commercial district are being executed. The revitalization of Burnet Avenue is on track and gathering momentum.

— **Presidential History** – The nation's first African American president, Barack Obama, makes two stops on the UC campus during the campaign season, one just days before the election. In combination these events drew more than 50,000 people to campus, plus nationwide audiences via the news media.

— **Red and Black Makes Orange** – UC's football team wins the 2008 BIG EAST Conference Championship, the school's first outright conference win in football since 1964. The Bearcats' record-setting wins take them and thousands of their fans to the 75th Fed-Ex Orange Bowl – the first Bowl Championship Series appearance in UC history. Football season ticket sales rise by 44 percent in 2008 with attendance increasing 6 percent, while UC sets another record with six Bearcats selected in the NFL draft.

— **Environmental Impact** – Leaders in campus design and planning as well as utilities prepare a draft plan for reducing the university's carbon footprint as part of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. In the meantime, Dining Services successfully implements tray-less dining, reducing food waste by 35 percent and decreasing the amount of water that needs to be heated for dishwashing.

— **Welcome to UC** – On July 1, Human Resources initiates a new "on-boarding" process to welcome, guide and orient job candidates from the time they accept a position at the university until the day they start work so that all employment documents, keys, IDs, e-mail access, benefits decisions, and compliance matters are taken care of efficiently.

— **Ground-Breaking on Short Vine** – Developers break ground on a new, \$26 million Hampton Inn at a prominent intersection between UC's east and west campuses in July. The Uptown Consortium and other Corryville stakeholders welcome the construction of the 132-room hotel at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Short Vine at a time when financing for new development has slowed.

— **'Wild' Night** – More than 5,000 students, faculty and staff participate in the university's successful UC Night at the Zoo, providing support for Uptown partner, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, and an evening of camaraderie. Another zoo outing is planned for this fall.

Goal 6 – Create Opportunity

— **Record-Setting Enrollment** – As fall 2009 opens, UC expects to welcome the largest number of students in 28 years with projected enrollment of 38,700 students – a jump of more than 4 percent over the previous year. The freshman class, at a projected 6,000 students, marks the highest in UC's history and mirrors the record academic preparation of last fall.

— **More Than Halfway To \$1 Billion Goal** – The university launches Proudly Cincinnati, the most ambitious fund-raising campaign in its history with a goal of \$1 billion. Both Governor Ted Strickland and Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut attended the kick-off event in October 2008. As of September 2009, more than \$520.6 million has been raised.

— **Budget Improvements** – The budget plan for Fiscal Year 2010 marks the first time that UC uses a new, more inclusive Performance-Based Budgeting system that offers incentives for growth and efficiencies. The system, which rewards colleges and divisions for meeting or exceeding thresholds, will continue to be refined in coming years. Also a revamped and more user-friendly budget book is unveiled.

— **Leading State Awards** – UC again leads the state in winning Choose Ohio First Scholarship funding, winning \$3.5 million of the total \$13.3 million distributed statewide. The funding will extend scholarships in critical science, technology, engineering, math and medicine (STEMM) disciplines.

— **Diversity Council Takes Steps** – UC's Diversity Council holds its first annual Diversity Conference, attended by hundreds of students, staff, faculty and external participants. In addition, the council awards the first round of competitive grants to promote the recruitment and retention of minority students at UC. The awards totaled \$50,000.

— **Record-Setters** – Despite the current difficult economy, UC's donor count in Fiscal Year 2009 reaches 32,722 – the largest number in one year and the third consecutive year in which the count has risen.

— **Naming Honors** – Three UC libraries take new names. The reconstructed Health Sciences Library, named for former senior vice president and provost Donald C. Harrison, M.D., sits in the CARE/Crawley building in the heart of the Academic Health Center. The new Center for the History of the Health Professions, also on the health campus, takes the name of President Emeritus Henry R. Winkler. An endowment names the Robert A. Deshon and Karl J. Schlachter Library in the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning after two architecture alumni.

— **Conference Spotlight** – Successful national and international conferences hosted by departments in the McMicken College of Arts & Sciences and the College-Conservatory of Music attract hundreds of visiting scholars to campus and to Cincinnati. The ninth North American Paleontological Convention was hosted by the geology department and attracted over 500 paleontologists from nearly 30 countries to Cincinnati. The Midwest Economics Symposium was attended by 100 academic economists and hosted by the economics department. CCM organized the 14th International World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Conference.

— **Platinum in Ohio** – The Fernald Preserve Visitor's Center, which a team of UC faculty and students designed, wins a LEED Platinum rating for sustainable design, becoming Ohio's first such Platinum-rated project.

— **Teachers College Reopening** – The College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services celebrates the re-opening of Teachers College and the completion of its renovations. Its new facilities include a library, a video conferencing room with state-of-the-art equipment, a new center dedicated to science, technology, engineering, math and medical education, updated labs and new instructional computer labs.

— **Side by Side in Uptown** – UC and its partners in the Uptown Consortium complete a year of re-examination of the consortium's vision and mission in cooperation with the five community councils serving the Uptown neighborhoods. The recommendations, now being implemented, call for increased community participation in consortium decision-making and greater cooperation in advocacy.

— **Engaging Dialogue** – In the heat of the national debate on healthcare reform, UC hosted a timely Town Hall Meeting sponsored by U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown. More than 1,000 people attended the event in TUC's Great Hall.

— **Bond Rating Improves** – Standard & Poor's upgrades UC's financial outlook from negative to stable, following significant organizational improvements including a new institutional liquidity policy and enhanced internal audit functions. UC maintains an A+ rating.

— **Fund-Raising Excellence** – The UC Foundation wins a 2009 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)-WealthEngine Award for Educational Fundraising, an annual award that honors superior fund-raising programs across the country. The commendation recognizes UC for an overall improvement in fund-raising over the past three years.

— **International Plus** – UC and the McMicken College of Arts & Sciences' Department of Geography host five students this year in a joint undergraduate program with China's seventh-ranked Sun Yat-sen University. Twelve students are enrolled in the program that allows students to study two years each in China and Cincinnati, receiving two degrees while doing so.

— **Building Experience** – The region's youth enjoys the opportunity to experience the architecture profession at a hands-on summer camp in DAAP's top-ranked architecture program. The annual camp aims to foster greater awareness among younger students, and minority students in particular, regarding the possibilities for and requirements of a design career.

— **Satellite Nursing Program** – As UC and the University System of Ohio continue efforts to restructure higher education for broader accessibility, the College of Nursing BSN program serves as a model. Because of the college's BSN program at Clermont College, more than 30 students – primarily from Brown, Adams and Clermont counties – were able to realize their dreams of obtaining a bachelor's degree while remaining close to home.