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## 2009 Quick Facts

Location:	Cincinnati, Ohio 45221
Founded:	1819
Enrollment:	36,518
Affiliation:	NCAA Division I
Conference:	BIG EAST
Nickname:	Bearcats
Colors:	Red & Black
Home Field:	Nippert Stadium
Surface:	FieldTurf
Capacity:	35,000
President:	Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher
Alma Mater, Yr.:	Ohio State '68
Athletic Director:	Mike Thomas
Alma Mater, Yr.:	Colorado State, '83
Faculty Representative:	Dr. Fritz Russ

## History

First Year of Lacrosse:	2008
All-Time Record:	2-14-0
No. Yrs. in NCAA Tournament/Last:	N/A

## Sports Communications

Assistant AD/Media Relations:	Michael Harris
Associate SID/Lacrosse Contact:	Lara Thornton
Office/Cell:	(513) 295-4520
Email:	Lara.Thornton@uc.edu
Associate SID:	Ryan Koslen
Assistant SIDs:	Jeremy Martin, John Berry
Web Site:	GoBEARCATS.com
Sports Communications Fax:	(513) 556-0619
Mailing/Overnight Address:	2751 O'Varsity Way, Suite 860, Richard E. Lindner Center, P.O. Box 210021 Cincinnati, OH 45221-0021

## Key Phone Numbers

Athletics Department Phone:	(513) 556-4603
Lacrosse Office:	(513) 556-6042
Nippert Stadium Press Box:	(513) 556-1010

## 2009 Information

Letterwinners Ret./Lost	14/5
Starters Returning/Lost	12/0
2009 Captains	Patty Kelly, Lindsey Marshall, Natalie Starvaggi, Paige Stratton
Home Field	Nippert Stadium
2008 Record	2-14-0
Home Record	0-7-0
Away Record	1-7-0
Neutral Record	1-0-0

## Media Information

All game notes and statistics are posted in PDF format on the official University of Cincinnati Athletics website [www.GoBEARCATS.com](http://www.GoBEARCATS.com). Credentialed media members also can be placed on an e-mail listserv by contacting UC women's lacrosse contact Lara Thornton.

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## EDITORIAL

Cincinnati Sports Communications Department

## EDITOR

Lara Thornton

## CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Harris, Nick Jefferys, Kim Sykes,  
Jeremy Martin, Maggie McKinley

## DESIGN

Lara Thornton

## PRINTING

Post Printing  
Minster, Ohio

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Brett Hansbauer

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGES

Andrew Higley, Lisa Ventre, UC Photographic Services, Jon Braude, Wayne Litmer, Mike Cox, Carol Mattingly, Mayhew and Pepper Photography, Cincinnati Bengals, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

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Cincinnati's Sports Communications staff would like to extend its thanks to all BIG EAST and opponent sports information offices, and all members of past sports information staffs that have assisted in compiling information that is integral to the production of this guide.

Any corrections or additions are welcome and should be directed to Lara Thornton at [lara.thornton@uc.edu](mailto:lara.thornton@uc.edu).





# the UNIVERSITY

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The University of Cincinnati traces its origins to 1819, the year in which Cincinnati College and the Medical College of Ohio were chartered. In 1870, the City of Cincinnati established the University of Cincinnati, which later absorbed the earlier institutions. In 1906, the University of Cincinnati created the first cooperative education program in the United States through its College of Engineering. For many years, the University was the second-oldest and second-largest municipal university in the country. In 1968, UC became a "municipally sponsored, state affiliated" institution, entering a transitional period culminating on July 1, 1977 when UC became one of Ohio's state universities. The University of Cincinnati is classified as a Research Extensive University by the Carnegie Commission, and is ranked as one of America's Top 25 public research universities.

## Academic Excellence

At the University of Cincinnati, excellence is a hallmark of the academic programs. *U.S. News and World Report* ranks 12 UC programs among the Top 10 in the country, while another 26 programs are listed among the Top 50 in the nation.

*Money Magazine's Elite Values in Higher Education, Kaplan's Unofficial, Unbiased Insider's Guide to the 320 Most Interesting Colleges, Octameron's College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School for You and Yahoo's Internet Life* have all ranked the University of Cincinnati's programs among the best in the nation.

Undergraduate students in any college may apply to the University Honors Scholars Program. If selected as an Honors student, the rewards for being an outstanding student include smaller classes, honors housing, special advising, and scholarships worth up to \$60,000 over four years.

UC's cornerstone scholarship program is Cincinnatus, which awards more than 1,400 scholarships totaling over \$11 million.

## Cincinnati Firsts

UC has been the source of many contributions to society, including:

- the first electric organ
- the first oral polio vaccine
- the first observations of the National Weather Service
- the first safe anti-knock gasoline
- the first antihistamine
- the first use of lasers to remove brain tumors
- the first bachelor's degree program in nursing and first emergency medicine residency program
- the first degree program offered via satellite



## Mission Statement

The University of Cincinnati is a public comprehensive system of learning and research. The excellent faculty have distinguished themselves world wide for their creative pedagogy and research especially in problem solving and the application of their discoveries. The University system is designed to serve a diverse student body with a broad range of interests and goals. It is a place of opportunity. In support of this mission, the University of Cincinnati strives to provide the highest quality learning environment, world renowned scholarship, innovation and community service, and to serve as a place where freedom of intellectual interchange flourishes.

## Cincinnati Sports Firsts

- Cincinnati hosted one of the first night football games in the United States in 1923.
- George Smith, captain of the 1934 football team, wore a device to protect a facial injury, a fore-runner of the facemask.
- In 1961, Hank Hartong became college football's first soccer-style kicker.
- UC was the first school to make five consecutive appearances in the men's basketball Final Four, 1959-63.

## A Look at the University

- In fiscal year 2006, UC earned more than \$332 million in grants and contracts. Research funding has quadrupled in the past 20 years, and the University's National Science Foundation ranking has climbed from a placement of 76th to 45th in the nation.
- UC's annual endowment is \$1.185 billion, ranking 54th in the U.S. and 17th among public institutions.
- UC offers 98 doctoral degree programs, 170 master's degree programs, 167 bachelor's degree programs, and 139 associate degree programs.
- The Carnegie Commission has designated UC as a Research Extensive University.
- The University of Cincinnati has an economic impact of over \$2 billion annually on the state's economy.
- The University of Cincinnati is the home of cooperative education. The first co-op program in America was offered at UC in 1906, and UC's co-op program is now the second largest in the country.
- The University of Cincinnati is the Greater Cincinnati area's second-largest employer with 9,000 employees and ranks seventh in the state of Ohio.
- UC's library system contains over three million books and subscriptions to 39,787 periodicals — ranking it among the top research libraries in the country.

University of Cincinnati

# all-american CITY

The City of Cincinnati provides the perfect complement to the UC educational experience.

Cincinnati and the surrounding area provides recreational and leisure time activities to meet about every interest — from rock climbing, canoeing and camping for outdoor enthusiasts to theatre and arts for the culturally inclined.

Cincinnati is truly a major league city. Fans flock to the waterfront to attend games and events at a pair of new venues — the Bengals' Paul Brown Stadium, opened in 2001, and the Reds' Great American Ballpark, opened in 2003.

The variety of museums and galleries, fine dining, festivals and events, attractions and sports, parks, recreation facilities, and shopping are the reasons millions visit the Queen City year after year.

Kings Island theme park and the world-renowned Cincinnati Zoo are just two major attractions that are on the list of "must see" items on any trip to Greater Cincinnati.

Numerous concert facilities attract big-name entertainers and acts to the Cincinnati area. The Ohio River offers a variety of scenic views and entertainment options.

Five-star dining, revolving circular restaurants, and riverboat dining are just a few of the succulent options that Cincinnati offers. Its visitors find themselves coming back for classic "Cincinnati-style" chili, tasty barbecue ribs, and local homemade ice cream.

Annual surveys of the area's quality of life resulted in Cincinnati being listed as the most livable city in North America.

Cincinnati and the tri-state area are the corporate headquarters of 10 Fortune

500 companies. Major corporations, such as Procter and Gamble, Chiquita Brands, and Kroger, make Cincinnati their home while carrying the city's trademark to worldwide marketplaces.

The corporate community has strong ties to UC and provide a wealth of employment opportunities.

Cincinnati is one of America's truly spectacular cities. Its character provides a prime place to enjoy all the best in life. It is a great place to visit, an even better place to live and learn.

## Cincinnati at a Glance

**City Population:** 332,252 **Metropolitan Area Population:** 2.1 million

**Fortune 500 Company Headquarters:** 10 **U.S. CMSA Rank:** 24th **Television Market:** 32nd

- Cincinnati is ranked in the Top 10 by *Fortune Magazines* as a great place to live and work due to its variety of cultural, recreational, entertainment and sports activities, its excellent and affordable housing and its low crime rate.
- *Esquire Magazine* ranked Cincinnati No. 7 on its list of "Cities that Rock."
- Cincinnati's Fine Arts Fund, the oldest in the nation, ranks among the top three in the U.S. for total dollars raised by a united arts campaign.
- Over 100 museums and galleries are located in the Greater Cincinnati area.
- Cincinnati's over 20,000 acres of city and county parks give it one of the largest park systems (per capita) of major U.S. cities.
- Cincinnati's list of festivals and events include Oktoberfest-Zinzinnati (the world's second-largest next to the original in Munich), the internationally famous Tall Stacks reunion of historic riverboats, the Cincinnati Flower Show, Riverfest, Kidsfest, A Taste of Cincinnati, and the Black Family Reunion.
- The Cincinnati Public Library along with the Hamilton County Library combine for the third largest total circulation on the U.S.

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# university PRESIDENT

## dr. nancy ZIMPHER



Nancy L. Zimpher – a widely recognized leader in higher education, civic engagement, economic development and urban education reform – serves as the president of the University of Cincinnati,

one of the nation's top public research universities. She became UC's 25th president and its first woman president in October 2003. Under her leadership, UC embarked on an unprecedented consultation process that involved a wide spectrum of the university's stakeholders and resulted in the strategic vision, UC21: Defining the New Urban Research University.

Under President Zimpher's direction, the university continues to make significant strides in its UC21 vision to become a leading urban research institution for the 21st century. The university has experienced enrollment growth to over 36,500 students, increased retention and graduation rates, improved student satisfaction and enhanced national rankings – including breaking into the Princeton Review's 2008 best colleges list. These achievements have been accomplished through a number of strategic actions that President Zimpher implemented, among them restructuring the university's decision-making process and introducing comprehensive state-of-the-art business practices; raising admissions standards while growing enrollment and maintaining the university's deep commitment to access and a diverse student body; introducing a series of academic reforms related to Strategic Enrollment Management, program offerings and performance-based budgeting; redesigning mechanisms for research support and opportunities for commercialization on intellectual property; as well as transforming decanal leadership through the completion of several national searches.

Additional examples of President Zimpher's achievements at UC include:

- Completion of the final phases of a \$1.7 billion, 15-year capital transformation of the urban UC campus in Uptown Cincinnati;
- Creation of a university Academy of Fellows for Teaching and Learning;
- Initiating the largest campaign in UC history;
- Stepping up freshman innovations, an assessment center and undergraduate research opportunities;

- Establishment of UC's new Center for the City, designed to facilitate innovative and productive partnerships that leverage university and public expertise to work toward the betterment of the community;
- Chairing the Uptown Consortium, a five-member partnership in neighborhood development that involves five of the largest employers in the Uptown area surrounding the UC campus; and
- Founding of Strive, a Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky partnership focused on college access and success. President Zimpher is a co-founder of this partnership, which involves higher education institutions in the region, urban P-12 school districts in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, as well as business, civic and nonprofit organizations.

Prior to her arrival at UC, Dr. Zimpher served as the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she led the university from 1998 to 2003, developing The Milwaukee Idea strategic vision and holding a faculty position in the School of Education. Prior to her appointment in Wisconsin, she was the Executive Dean of the Professional Colleges and Dean of the College of Education at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. During her career at OSU, she worked in various administrative positions and engaged in research and development efforts concerned with improving the preparation of teachers, especially teachers for urban contexts.

President Zimpher is highly engaged on the national and regional level and remains committed to an active role as a thought-leader in the 21st century. She serves as past-chair of the Board of Directors for National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the nation's primary alliance of public universities as well as the oldest higher education association in the United States, now consisting of 215 members. Dr. Zimpher also chairs a national network of presidents called the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), an organization committed to the urban agenda and the role of urban-located universities in their communities. In November 2007, she represented urban universities at the launch of the Blueprint for American Prosperity at the Brookings Institution. In addition, she serves as the BIG EAST representative to the Division I Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and on the national board for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). A past president of a national education reform network, The Holmes Partnership, she has previously served on the Executive Board of the National Council for Accreditation of

Teacher Education and the AACTE, on the board of the American Council on Education (ACE), as chair of NASULGC's Commission on International Programs and as Project Director for a U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Grant.

Dr. Zimpher participates on numerous state, regional, civic and community commissions and boards. Presently, she co-chairs the Ohio Board of Regents' Articulation & Transfer Advisory Council. She serves as chair of the board of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Cincinnati Business Committee, co-chairing its Education Task Force; serves on the boards of the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC), and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

Dr. Zimpher is the co-author and co-editor of books on university leadership as well as books on teacher education and urban education. She also has authored and co-authored many monographs, book chapters, and academic journal articles related to academic leadership, school/university partnerships and teacher education, and in many instances her co-author has been her husband, Dr. Kenneth R. Howey, a research professor in education at UC. She often is sought after as a key participant at both national and international conferences, making numerous presentations for groups such as ACE, NASULGC, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), and Association of Teacher Educators (ATE).

She is the recipient of numerous awards including the People of Vision Award from Prevent Blindness Ohio; the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's Chief Executive Leadership Award; Ohio State University's Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award; the Urban Appalachian Council's Kinship Award; the Association of Teacher Educators' Distinguished Research Award; the AACTE's Edward C. Pomeroy Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teacher Education; and Virginia Commonwealth University's Distinguished Woman Scholar Award. In 1998, she was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and she has been recognized with the YWCA's Women of Achievement award in Columbus, Milwaukee and Cincinnati.

President Zimpher holds a bachelor's degree in English education and speech, a master's degree in English literature, and a PhD in teacher education and administration in higher education, all from The Ohio State University.

## university board of trustees



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Chair



C. Francis Barrett,  
Esq.



Margaret E.  
Buchanan



Robert E.  
Richardson, Jr.



Gary Heiman



Sandra W.  
Heimann



Thomas H. Humes



Jeffrey L. Wyler

Stanley Chesley  
Photo not available

# director of **ATHLETICS**

## mike **THOMAS**



A 23-year veteran of college athletics administration, Thomas was named as the University of Cincinnati's Director of Athletics on October 20, 2005. Since taking the reins of the department with 18 teams and 560 student-athletes, Thomas has

championed student-athlete development and significant external growth, while also authoring a detailed plan for competitive success in the BIG EAST Conference and on the national level.

In May of 2006, Thomas introduced his vision for Bearcats Athletics, aptly titled CATAPULT. Thomas's five-year vision for UC's 18-sport intercollegiate program was launched on the six-month anniversary of his hiring as AD. The plan focuses on three main initiatives: winning BIG EAST team championships, high-level academic achievement, and a comprehensive integration with the UC Campus and Greater Cincinnati Community.

CATAPULT - an acronym for championships, academics, and together - sets a goal that in the next five years UC will win a BIG EAST championship in every sport; UC's student-athletes will lead the general student body in graduation rate and grade-point average; and UC's student-athletes and coaches will engage the Cincinnati community in service.

By the end of 2007-08, the second year under the CATAPULT plan, UC's sports teams continue to make marked improvement in academics as 13 of the 18 sports programs achieved a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher and the student-athletes continued to graduate at a rate 10 percent higher than the overall student body. Those numbers will continue to grow as more and more students receive the benefits of the recently expanded and redefined academic services office and NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills program. In 2007-08, Cincinnati was second in the 16-member BIG EAST with five teams garnering BIG EAST Academic Excellence Awards for posting the highest grade-point average in their respective sports (football, men's cross country, women's golf, women's swimming and diving, and indoor track and field).

"It is exciting to see our student-athletes and staff working together and making significant progress in so many areas, so quickly" says Thomas. "We will continue to progress as we work towards our collective goals in the three components of our CATAPULT program."

### the mike thomas file

#### personal information

Wife: Jenifer  
Children: Vince, Joey, Mick, and Meredith  
Education: Colorado State (1983),  
B.S. in business administration  
Western Illinois (1986),  
M.S. in athletics administration

#### experience

Years	Positions	School
1985-86	Marketing and Promotions Associate	Iowa
1986-93	Assistant Director of Athletics	Denver
1993-00	Associate Director of Athletics	Virginia
2000-05	Director of Athletics	Akron
2005-08	Director of Athletics	Cincinnati

A total of 302 student-athletes from UC's 18 sports were named to either the Bearcat or the Topcat Honor Roll. To qualify for the Bearcat Honor Roll, a student-athlete must have earned a grade point average between 3.0 and 3.49 for the quarter, while Topcat honorees must maintain between a 3.5 and a 4.0 GPA.

The football team made program history in 2007 under first-year head coach Brian Kelly as the team tied the school record for single-season wins (10), ranked in the final Associated Press Poll for the first time (No. 17) and captured its second straight bowl victory, winning the Papajohns.com Bowl vs. Southern Mississippi.

The UC baseball team also posted a historic year in the spring as it finished second during the regular season with a school-record 39 wins and made its first trip to the BIG EAST Tournament title game.

All told, UC Athletics produced five all-Americans, two all-Region selections, and 31 all-BIG EAST honorees in 2007-08.

In 2006-07 UC's men's soccer team became the first Bearcat squad to claim a BIG EAST title, winning the Red Division of the league's regular-season race.

"Spreading the Bearcats' message is vital to our continued brand building efforts and our charge to reach out to our fans, alumni, and sports fans and share the excitement of being a Bearcat" says Thomas. "I am very proud of the strides that we are making in all areas of UC Athletics. Our achievement is coming as a result of working together as a team. Our student-athletes and staff are setting the bar high and then reaching their goals, which is fun to be a part of."

In March 2007 UC Athletics was recognized in the 2006-07 Diversity in Athletics Award, presented by the Laboratory for Diversity in Sport at Texas A&M University. The award recognizes the NCAA Division I athletics departments that excel in various areas of diversity. UC was recognized for the graduation of African American male student-athletes. UC was one of just 10 programs nationwide to earn the Diversity in Athletics Award for the graduation of African American male student-athletes.

As expenses continue to rise in the world of college athletics, the University of Cincinnati has kept pace and made historic leaps in 2007-08.

The football program established new records for sellouts (3) and ticket sales revenues, while the development area, better known as UCATS, reached all-time highs for donors (3,000 - a 50 percent increase over the previous year) and donations to the annual fund. In just three years at UC, Thomas has seen the average attendance in football skyrocket as it has almost doubled (16,016 to 30,246).

Three months before the first football game of 2008, season ticket sales for UC football broke the all-time record (8,400) and finished with over 11,500 season ticket holders.

Beginning in the fall of 2008, all UC teams will be outfitted exclusively in adidas footwear, uniforms, training apparel, and accessories as the department signed its first across-the-board shoe and apparel contract. The four-year, \$14.5 million contract aligns UC with other adidas marketing partners such as the NFL, MLS, and an 11-year exclusive all-league partnership with the NBA.

Prior to coming to UC, Thomas spent five years as the Director of Athletics at the University of Akron and seven years as associate athletic director at the University of Virginia, an institution known for achieving impressive success both academically and athletically, before bringing that model to Akron. Virginia finished in the top 25 in the Director's Cup in each year of Thomas' tenure there while at the same time was in the top ten nationally in student-athlete graduation rates.

Under Thomas' direction, Akron rose from last place to second among Mid-American Conference schools in the Director's Cup annual rankings. Simultaneously, Akron vaulted from last to second place in the MAC Academic Achievement Awards.

Thomas increased the financial base of the Akron athletics program through increasing corporate sponsorship levels by 500 percent and boosted annual giving to athletics to its highest level in the school's history. Community support was rallied, with marked increases shown in football and basketball attendance.

Support services and facilities for academic support for student-athletes were significantly increased, which resulted in a significant improvement in grade point averages and graduation rates of UA student-athletes.

Thomas coordinated over \$140 million in facility construction and renovation, including \$25 million in capital improvements at Akron, including a new indoor fieldhouse, a football practice complex, and a softball facility. He also was instrumental in the initial fundraising and planning stages of the new football stadium which is under construction on the Akron campus and set to open in the fall of 2009.

Recognized for his administrative acumen by his peers, Thomas presently serves on several national and conference committees, including the NCAA Division I Championship/Sports Management Cabinet (where he also serves as the NCAA men's basketball liaison to the cabinet), the NCAA Postseason Bowl Licensing Subcommittee, the NCAA Men's Basketball Issues Committee, and he also chairs the BIG EAST Championship and Competition Committee. Thomas has also previously served as a member of the NCAA Division I Championships/Competition cabinet, the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Issues Committee, the NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet, and the Division 1A Athletics Director's Association Legislative Review Committee.

Twice during his career, Thomas has received distinction for his efforts and dedication as a director of athletics, garnering the General Robert R. Neyland Outstanding Athletics Director Award in 2005 at Akron and then again in April of 2008 at Cincinnati.

Prior to his experience at Virginia, Thomas spent seven years at the University of Denver as assistant athletic director for internal operations, and one year at the University of Iowa in marketing and promotions.

Thomas, 48, received his B.S. degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University in 1983, and his M.S. degree in Athletic Administration from Western Illinois University in 1986. He and his wife, Jenifer, have four children: Vince, Joey, Mick, and Meredith.

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# uc's CATAPULT

## CATAPULT

**CHAMPIONSHIPS ... ACADEMICS ... TOGETHER**

BIG EAST Championships in every sport within the next five years, continued leadership by UC student-athletes in academics, and community engagement are the main goals of CATAPULT, an action plan for University of Cincinnati athletics unveiled by Director of Athletics Mike Thomas.

Thomas' five-year vision for UC's 18-sport intercollegiate program was launched six months into his tenure at UC. The plan focuses on three main initiatives: winning BIG EAST team championships, high-level academic achievement, and a comprehensive integration with the Greater Cincinnati Community.

"It is critically important for our student-athletes, past, present and future, along with our coaches, staff, alumni, and fans to know that we are 100 percent committed to being a championship program within the BIG EAST," said Thomas. "Setting specific goals will keep all of our stakeholders focused on where we need to go. The title of the program, CATAPULT, is truly symbolic of what our department is poised to do over the next five years, which is to leap over the rest of the BIG EAST, and go all the way to the top."

The basic components of CATAPULT are:

**CHAMPIONSHIPS:** UC will win a BIG EAST championship in every sport within the next five years. The Bearcats picked up their first BIG EAST championship in 2006 as the men's soccer team captured the regular-season title before both the football and volleyball teams captured regular-season titles in 2008.

**ACADEMICS:** UC student-athletes will set the pace academically by continuing to lead the general student body in graduation rates and over a five-year period outperform the general student body in grade point average. UC student-athletes are graduating at a 59 percent rate, which exceeds the 49 percent rate of school's general student body and is on par with the national student-athlete rate of 62 percent. In the most recent compilation of the grade-point averages, UC student-athletes posted an accumulated grade point average of 3.07 while the overall GPA of the UC student body was 2.969.

**TOGETHER:** UC student-athletes, coaches, and staff will respect and honor the privilege of competing as Cincinnati Bearcats. All participants recognize that UC's goals cannot be achieved without engaging the UC family and the Cincinnati community.



GoBEARCATS.COM

# community**SERVICE**

The Bearcats lacrosse program is committed not just to success on the playing field, but also to be a contributing member in the community.

Throughout the year, the team gives back to the community in a number of ways, from volunteering time around the holidays at the Drop Inn Center to visiting the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Other community service projects include Adopt a Family, Adopt a Troop, Toys for Tots, Sports Buddies, Cincinnati Kid Fest, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Ronald McDonald House, Winners Walk Tall, reading to school children and volunteering at a homeless shelter.

The Bearcats have given back to the lacrosse community as well. During the summer and fall, the team hosted several clinics for area youth. The Bearcats used two fall clinics and a winter camp to promote the game of lacrosse to the local community. Last summer, over 100 youngsters were in attendance along with members of the team and coaching staff.

The clinics, led by head coach Lellie Swords, Kari Pabis, and Lauren Schwarzmann, focus on teaching the basic skills involved in the game. Members of the team worked with groups of youngsters, breaking down fundamentals of lacrosse from passing and shooting to defending and goalkeeping techniques.



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# big east CONFERENCE

The 2008-09 academic year will be the 30th for The BIG EAST Conference. While the league has gone through membership changes since its birth, it has never been stronger. This academic year will mark the conference's fourth year as the nation's largest Division I-A conference.

The goals of the BIG EAST have never changed. The league aims and expects to compete at the highest level and does so with integrity and sportsmanship. The student-athletes of the member schools continue to maintain the league's proud tradition of success.

BIG EAST teams earned their share of recognition at the highest levels in 2007-08. Four women's teams advanced to their respective NCAA Final Fours: Connecticut field hockey and women's basketball, Notre Dame soccer and Syracuse lacrosse.

Individually in men's sports, Villanova's Bobby Curtis was the NCAA outdoor track champion in the 5,000 meters. Connecticut's O'Brian White won the M.A.C. Hermann Trophy, the highest individual honor in soccer. Two years ago, BIG EAST male and female student-athletes were Hermann Trophy winners.

In men's basketball, the BIG EAST tied its own record set in 2006 by earning eight NCAA Championship bids. BIG EAST women's teams have received eight NCAA invitations in each of the past two years. The combined 16 men's and women's berths in 2008 was an NCAA first.

The quality of BIG EAST football has never been more balanced. Six of the league's eight squads were nationally ranked in 2007. For the third straight year, the BIG EAST representative in the Bowl Championship Series won its BCS bowl game.

The BIG EAST continued to produce student-athletes who were at the forefront of athletic and academic achievement. Nineteen BIG EAST players were chosen to their respective ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Teams, including eight first-team selections.

The BIG EAST became the nation's largest Division I-A group in 2005-06 when five new members began competing. The new schools were: University of Cincinnati, DePaul University, University of Louisville, Marquette University and the University of South Florida.

BIG EAST institutions reside in nine of the nation's top 34 largest media markets, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Tampa, Pittsburgh, Hartford, Milwaukee and Cincinnati. With its newest members, BIG EAST markets contain almost one fourth of all television households in the U.S.

Since opening its doors in 1979, the league has won 25 national championships in six different sports and 125 student-athletes have won individual national titles.

The BIG EAST has always been able to boast that some of its best students are also some of its best athletes. More than 370 student-athletes have earned academic all-America honors. Last year in football, Louisville quarterback Brian Brohm, who finished his career as the BIG EAST's career passing leader, was one of the league's eight first-team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America team picks.

Also, Connecticut's Rebecca Lobo, one of the most heralded women's basketball players in the history of the sport, was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Hall of Fame in 2008. Lobo, a two-time BIG EAST Player of the Year, led the Huskies to the 1995 NCAA national championship.

The BIG EAST has enjoyed tremendous basketball success, especially in this decade. In 2003-04, Connecticut became the first school in NCAA history to win the men's and women's NCAA titles in the same season. In '02-03, the BIG EAST became the first conference in NCAA history

to win the men's and women's titles in the same year when the Syracuse men and the Connecticut women captured their respective national championships. In men's basketball, BIG EAST squads have won three of the last 10 NCAA championships. BIG EAST women's teams have taken five of the last nine NCAA titles.

Proactive movement has been a signature strategy for the conference that was born in 1979. The BIG EAST continually turns challenges into opportunities to become stronger.

In the spring of 2001, the BIG EAST added women's lacrosse and rowing to its growing list of sports. The first women's golf championship was held in the spring of 2003. In 2007, the league conducted its first women's lacrosse championship tournament. In 2009-10, the BIG EAST will begin sponsorship of men's lacrosse, its 24th sport.

The BIG EAST became a reality on May 31, 1979, following a meeting of athletic directors from Providence College, St. John's, Georgetown and Syracuse Universities. Seton Hall, Connecticut and Boston College completed the original seven school alliance.

While the membership has both increased and changed, the focus of the BIG EAST has not wavered. The conference reflects a tradition of broad based programs, led by administrators and coaches who place a constant emphasis on academic integrity. Its student athletes own significantly high graduation rates and their record of scholastic achievement notably shows a balance between intercollegiate athletics and academics.

Any successful organization needs outstanding leadership. Michael Tranghese, the league's first full-time employee, and for 11 years the associate to Dave Gavitt, became Commissioner in 1990. In his first year, he administered the formation of The BIG EAST Football Conference.

For 2009-10, the BIG EAST will undergo one significant change. Tranghese has announced that he will step down from his position on June 30, 2009.

The league has long been considered a leader in innovative concepts in promotion and publicity, particularly regarding television. Those efforts have resulted in unparalleled visibility for BIG EAST student athletes. The conference has enjoyed long-standing relationships with CBS, ESPN, Inc. and ABC.

While BIG EAST basketball games are regular sellouts at campus and major public arenas, including the annual men's BIG EAST Championship in Madison Square Garden, attendance figures also are significant in soccer, women's basketball and baseball games.

More than 550 BIG EAST student-athletes have earned all America recognition and dozens have won individual NCAA national championships. The BIG EAST has been well represented in U.S. or foreign national and Olympic teams. Several athletes earned gold medals in each of the last six summer Olympiads.

The BIG EAST has its headquarters in Providence where the conference administers to more than 5,500 athletes.

## The BIG EAST Conference

222 Richmond Street, Suite 110  
Providence, R.I. 02903

(401) 453-0660 • Communications

(401) 272-9108 • Switchboard

(401) 751-8540 • Fax

www.BigEast.org

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# BIG EAST™

## CONFERENCE



# academic SERVICES

The Academic Services Office works with coaches, faculty and administrators to help make the student-athlete's academic and athletic experience as enriching and rewarding as possible. The office helps student-athletes keep abreast of the eligibility requirements of their particular colleges, assists with the coordination of class schedules, and monitors their progress in their respective programs and toward graduation.

Weekly meetings with academic advisors are set up for student-athletes to better monitor their academic progress and assist with adjustment to college. Tutoring and educational assistance are also readily accessible.



## NANCY HAMANT ACADEMIC CENTER

The opening of the Richard E. Lindner Athletic Center pays huge dividends for student-athletes in terms of academics as the building houses the spacious Nancy Hamant Academic Center on the entire fifth floor.

The center, named in honor of the longtime faculty athletics representative, gives student-athletes a variety of ways to fulfill their study needs. The large study room is furnished to accommodate a variety of study habits and features 71 computer stations, a 50-person study room, five group meeting rooms and over 14 individual tutor rooms.

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# 2009 OUTLOOK

The University of Cincinnati lacrosse team begins the 2009 season in similar territory as last season, starting a new era by competing in the BIG EAST conference. With realistic expectations, a mix of new players, and the ballyhoo related to the inaugural season behind them, the Bearcats will bring a tenacious style of confident play to the field.

Cincinnati returns 14 letterwinners from last year's squad, combined with 15 newcomers, giving head coach Lellie Swords the benefit of depth. After Season One with strong opponents, Swords built a competitive fall schedule that helped her young players mature and allowed her returning players to polish their skills.

Among the many differences from the inaugural season of play, the 2009 team should have more speed and game awareness. The attackers are expected to be more dynamic and use their finishing skills to contribute and take pressure off of senior midfielder Lindsey Marshall, who led the 2008 team with 30 goals and 32 points. Junior Shannon Lynes is the top attacker returning statistically, with 12 goals and 14 points a season ago. She is joined by junior Jess Kazaks (seven goals, nine points) and freshmen Laura Simanski and MacKenzie Parsons, both of whom were named all-America honorable mention as seniors in high school.

While Marshall anchors the midfield, she is surrounded by sophomores Lynsey Burton (19 goals, 22 points), Natalie Starvaggi (eight goals, 13 points), and Allison Bell (six goals). Sophomores Lauren Kelly (30 ground balls) and Paige Stratton (26 gb), as well as talented freshman Laura Beth Zinkand, set the base for a strong group on defense. Returning goalkeeper Jenn Mott will be challenged by sophomore Haley Marvine and freshman Katherine Russo for the starting nod.

With one season down, UC has a talented roster with depth that will give the Bearcats an opportunity to improve its 2-14-0 overall record in 2008 and enter BIG EAST play with confidence.



Lellie Swords and Kari Pabis

## 2009 ROSTER

NO	NAME	HT	POS	CL	Hometown/Last School
1	Natalie Starvaggi*	5-3	M	So.	Loveland, Ohio/Mount Notre Dame
3	MacKenzie Parsons	5-3	M	Fr.	Hudson, Ohio/Hudson
4	Lori Banky	5-6	M	Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon
6	Kylie Ramsland	5-4	A	Fr.	Catonsville, Md./Chapelgate Christian Academy
7	Jess Kazaks	5-1	A	Jr.	Patchogue, N.Y./Ohio University
8	Laura Simanski	5-4	A	Fr.	Reisterstown, Md./Roland Park
9	Gabby Sinmaz	5-4	M/D	Fr.	Dublin, Ohio/Dublin Jerome
10	Jenn Doran	5-10	A/M	Fr.	Venetia, Pa./Peters Township
11	Lynsey Burton	5-3	M	So.	Smithtown, N.Y./Ohio University
12	Maggie Hague	5-8	A	Fr.	Dublin, Ohio/Dublin Coffman
13	Cathy Hebert	5-4	D	Fr.	Lutherville, Md./Roland Park
14	Ali Mattingly	6-0	A	Fr.	Davidsonville, Md./South River
15	Shannon Lynes	5-5	A	Jr.	Ellicott City, Md./Ohio University
16	Karen Skelton	5-9	M	So.	Worthington, Ohio/Thomas Worthington
17	Paige Stratton*	5-3	M	So.	Annapolis, Md./Annapolis
18	Gwen Branscome	5-2	M/D	Fr.	Pylesville, Md./North Harford
19	LB Zinkand	5-4	D	Fr.	Timonium, Md./Notre Dame Prep
20	Steph Cox	5-5	M	So.	Pasadena, Md./Chesapeake
21	Lauren Kelly	5-5	D	So.	Timonium, Md./Ohio University
22	Jamie Desautels	5-5	A	So.	Westminster, Md./Westminster
23	Allison Bell	5-7	M	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Sycamore
24	Patty Kelly*	5-6	D	So.	Timonium, Md./Maryland
25	Lindsey Marshall*	5-5	M	Sr.	Hilliard, Ohio/Ohio University
26	Rachel Mercier	5-4	M/D	Fr.	Catonsville, Md./Chapelgate Christian Academy
31	Tiffany Smith	5-3	D	So.	Willoughby Hills, Ohio/Robert Morris
33	Katherine Russo	5-9	G	Fr.	Westminster, Md./Winters Mills
42	Lauren Houck	5-9	A	Fr.	Bel Air, Md./CM Wright
45	Haley Marvine	5-10	G	So.	Alpharetta, Ga./Chattahoochee
97	Jen Mott	5-5	G	Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Sycamore

Head Coach: Lellie Swords

Associate Head Coach: Kari Pabis

Assistant Coach: Lauren Schwarzmenn

Volunteer Assistant: Adam Paulus

\* 2009 Team Captain



Natalie Starvaggi



Lynsey Burton



Lindsey Marshall

# player PROFILES



**allison BELL**

M | 5-7 | So. | Cincinnati, Ohio [Sycamore]

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**2008:** Started 10 games at midfield ... tallied six goals ... picked up 15 ground balls and caused eight turnovers ... scored first career-goal in UC's historic first win over Saint Mary's (Calif.) ... took one shot and notched a goal at Johns Hopkins ... recorded two multiple-goal games, at Howard (2) and at Louisville (2).

**Sycamore High School:** Accounted for 116 goals, 22 assists, 39 ground balls, and 49 draw controls in 66 games as a three-year starter ... a two-time all-America honoree ... scored 53 goals and added eight assists to lead the Lady Aviators to the state championship in her final campaign ... captained head coach Ed Clark's squad to an unblemished 20-0 record in 2007 ... tallied 30 goals and helped on seven others as a junior ... garnered first-team all-Greater Cincinnati Lacrosse Association, all-district, and all-state in each of her final two seasons ... compiled a 73-11-5 record in four seasons as a prep.

**Allison Christine Bell:** Born on May 4, 1989 ... daughter of Jennine and Dan Bell ... member of American Sign Language Club ... majoring in Exploratory Studies.

## BELL STATISTICS

Season	GP-GS	G	A	PTS	GB	DC	CT
2008	16-10	6	0	6	15	12	8



**lynsey BURTON**

M | 5-3 | So. | Smithtown, N.Y. [Ohio University]

11

**2008:** Started every game at midfield ... scored the first goal in program history at the 22:10 mark on a free position shot at Vanderbilt ... tallied second-most goals, finishing with 19 ... recorded 22 points ... took 56 shots, 39 on goal for a .696 shots on goal percentage ... notched seven multiple goal games, at Vanderbilt (2), against Robert Morris (2), at Navy (2), vs. Duquesne (3), at Loyola (Md.) (3), against Davidson (2), and UC-Davis (2).

**2007 (Ohio):** Attended Ohio University and decided to transfer after lacrosse program was disbanded.

**Smithtown West High School:** Earned four letters in lacrosse and three in soccer ... tallied 110 goals, 105 assists, and 380 ground balls during her four-year career ... received the squad's MVP honors in each of her final two seasons ... a two-time all-Suffolk County pick ... participated in the 2005 Empire State Games ... started on the Bulls' soccer team for two seasons, earning all-league honors as a senior.

**Lynsey Nicole Burton:** Born on Oct. 10, 1988 ... daughter of Karen and Gary Burton ... member of the National Spanish Honor Society ... brother, Brad, plays collegiately at Bryant University ... majoring in Health Sciences.

## BURTON STATISTICS

Season	GP-GS	G	A	PTS	GB	DC	CT
2008	16-16	19	3	22	16	25	4



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## steph COX

M | 5-5 | So. | Pasadena, Md. [Chesapeake]

# 20

**2008:** Started 15 games at midfield ... scored three goals in first two games of the season ... finished the season with seven goals and three assists ... picked up 14 ground balls.

**Chesapeake High School:** A three-sport athlete ... received all-county honors from both the *Baltimore Sun* and the *Maryland Gazette* after each of her final two years ... named all-county by the league's coaches after her junior and senior seasons ... named to the 2006 all-Galaxy Team.

**Stephanie Elizabeth Cox:** Born on Sept. 26, 1989 ... daughter of Kelly and Mike Cox ... majoring in Psychology.

### COX STATISTICS

Season	GP-GS	G	A	PTS	GB	DC	CT
2008	16-15	7	3	10	14	11	9



## jamie DESAUTELS

A | 5-5 | So. | Westminster, Md. [Westminster]

# 22

**2008:** Started 15 games at attack ... tallied 27 points, scoring 10 goals and handing out seven assists ... scored three goals in UC's historic first win over Saint Mary's (Calif.) ... also dished out an assist against Saint Mary's ... scored two goals at Navy ... tallied a goal at Johns Hopkins ... scored two goals and had one assist at Howard and against UC Davis.

**Westminster High School:** Concluded her career with 68 goals and distributed 53 assists ... played on four regional championship teams ... named to the *Baltimore Sun* All-Carroll County team following her senior season ... finished her senior season listed among the Top 10 scorers in Carroll County.

**Jamie Danielle Desautels:** Born on June 7, 1989 ... daughter of Gillian and Terry Desautels ... majoring in Exploratory Studies.

### DESAUTELS STATISTICS

Season	GP-GS	G	A	PTS	GB	DC	CT
2008	16-15	10	7	17	14	6	4

