

University of Cincinnati

Major Accomplishments of Alumni

Across Every College — 2000 to 2025

Engineering • Music & Performing Arts • Design & Architecture • Business
Medicine & Health Sciences • Law & Government • Arts & Sciences • Athletics

A Comprehensive Research Report — Compiled March 2026 by Oxana Prokhorova

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Executive Summary

The University of Cincinnati has produced alumni whose accomplishments span from billion-dollar technology companies to Oscar-winning films, from Super Bowl championships to pioneering civil rights, from NASA mission control to the Broadway stage. This report documents the major achievements of UC graduates across every college from 2000 to 2025.

Key highlights include: Jay Chaudhry (CEAS), founder of Zscaler (~\$12.1B net worth); Travis Kelce, three-time Super Bowl champion and arguably UC's most famous alumnus; Hannah Beachler (DAAP), the first African American to win the Oscar for Best Production Design; Kevin McCollum (CCM), winner of three Tony Awards for Best Musical; Paul Polman (Lindner), CEO of Unilever; Beverly Malone (Nursing), the most consequential nursing leader of the 21st century; and Vinod Dham (CEAS), the 'Father of the Pentium Chip,' awarded India's Padma Bhushan and UC's Taft Medal. A 2024 Stanford study found UC graduates are 3.3x more likely than average to found a unicorn startup, outpacing all Ivy League schools.

Major Accomplishments of UC Alumni (2000–2025)

The following table presents 43 notable alumni accomplishments organized by college, spanning engineering, performing arts, design, business, medicine, law, athletics, and the arts and sciences.

Who	College	Accomplishment	Impact on Humanity	When	How / Path
Jay Chaudhry (CEAS MS EE '82, MBA '86)	CEAS / Lindner	Founded Zscaler (\$25B+ peak cap, \$2B+ ARR). Founded 4 other companies, all acquired.	Protects hundreds of millions from cyber threats. \$4M gift to UC.	2008–now	UC co-op → IBM → Serial entrepreneur
Ming-Kai Tsai (CEAS MSEE '76)	CEAS	Founded MediaTek, world's 5th-largest fabless semiconductor co. 2B devices/year.	Made mobile tech affordable globally. IEEE Noyce Medal 2024.	1997–now	UC → UMC → MediaTek spinoff
Vinod Dham (CEAS MS EE '77)	CEAS	'Father of the Pentium Chip.' Led Intel i486 and Pentium families.	Pentium powered 1B+ PCs. Padma Bhushan 2025. UC Taft Medal 2026.	1980s–2020s	UC → Intel 16 yrs → VC pioneer in India
James Cashman III (CEAS BS ME '76)	CEAS	CEO of ANSYS 2000–2016. Grew from \$50M to \$1B+ revenue.	Enabled virtual prototyping across all engineering.	2000–2016	UC co-op at SDRC → ANSYS CEO
Nicholas Ernest (CEAS PhD '15)	CEAS	Created ALPHA AI defeating human pilots. Psibernetix acquired by Thales.	Advanced autonomous combat AI; methods applied to medicine.	2016–2018	UC PhD → Startup → Thales acquisition
Jean Savage (CEAS BS ECE '87)	CEAS	President & CEO of Trinity Industries (NYSE: TRN).	Leads major U.S. railcar/infrastructure manufacturer.	2020s	US Army → Caterpillar → Trinity CEO
Tony Zingale (CEAS BS ECE '80)	CEAS	Led Clarify (\$2.1B acq.), Mercury Interactive (\$5B), Jive Software (\$185M IPO).	Transformed enterprise software across three companies.	1990s–2010s	UC → Enterprise software leadership
J. Phillip Holloman (CEAS BS CE '78)	CEAS	President & COO of Cintas (Fortune 500; \$3.7B rev, 31K employees).	Led one of America's largest workplace services cos.	2000s–2018	UC co-op → Cintas → President/COO
Mohammad Ehteshami (CEAS MS ME '85)	CEAS	VP/GM Engineering at GE Aviation. Led GE Additive (3D printing).	Advanced jet engine tech; GE Propulsion Hall of Fame 2024.	1985–2020s	UC → 30-yr GE career
John McCullough (CEAS BS AE '89)	CEAS	NASA Chief Flight Director. Deputy Assoc. Admin., Exploration Systems.	Directed human spaceflight missions for ISS and beyond.	1989–now	UC co-op at NASA → Flight Director
Jay Lee (UC Professor)	CEAS	NSF IMS Center: \$847.6M industry savings, \$238 return per \$1 NSF.	Pioneered industrial AI for 100+ global manufacturers.	2000–2020s	UC faculty → NSF Center Director
Kevin McCollum (CCM '84)	CCM	3 Tony Awards for Best Musical: Rent, Avenue Q, In the Heights.	Shaped modern Broadway; produced some of its defining shows.	1996–2008	CCM → Broadway producer
Kathleen Battle (CCM '70, '71)	CCM	5 Grammy Awards, Emmy Award. 150+ Met Opera performances.	Defined lyric coloratura soprano for a generation.	1970s–2020s	CCM → Met Opera → Global icon
Shoshana Bean (CCM '99)	CCM	2 Tony nominations. Succeeded Idina Menzel as Elphaba in Wicked.	Broadway star and vocal powerhouse across stage and recording.	2003–now	CCM → Wicked → Tony nominee

Eighth Blackbird (CCM '97-'00)	CCM	4 Grammy Awards for chamber music. MacArthur Award.	Redefined contemporary chamber music in America.	2000–2020s	Formed at CCM → Grammy winners
Cara Hannah Sullivan (CCM '02)	CCM	5 Emmy Awards for wig design on Saturday Night Live.	Set the visual standard for TV's most iconic sketch show.	2000s–now	CCM → SNL wig department head
Stephen Flaherty (CCM '82)	CCM	Tony/Drama Desk Awards for Ragtime. 2 Oscar nominations (Anastasia).	Created some of Broadway's most celebrated scores.	1990s–2010s	CCM → Composer → Tony/Oscar nominee
Hannah Beachler (DAAP)	DAAP	Oscar for Best Production Design (Black Panther, 2019). 2nd nomination (Sinners, 2026).	First African American Oscar winner in production design.	2018–2026	UC fashion design → Film production design
Michael Graves (DAAP '58)	DAAP	AIA Gold Medal 2001. National Medal of Arts. 350+ buildings, 2000+ products.	Democratized design through Target; healthcare accessibility advocate.	1960s–2015	DAAP → Architecture → Product design
Dan Harden (DAAP '82)	DAAP	Founded WHIPSAW. 300+ design awards. 500+ patents. Google, Nest, Cisco.	Shaped the design of consumer electronics used by billions.	1990s–now	DAAP co-op → Founded WHIPSAW
Michael Bierut (DAAP '80)	DAAP	AIIGA Medal (highest graphic design honor). Partner at Pentagram.	Designed Clinton campaign logo, Saks rebrand, MIT Media Lab identity.	1980s–now	DAAP → Massimo Vignelli → Pentagram
Matt Berninger (DAAP '96)	DAAP	Lead singer of The National. Grammy for Best Alternative Album 2018.	Built one of indie rock's most celebrated bands.	1999–now	Met bandmate at DAAP → Formed The National
Tim Brown (DAAP '05)	DAAP	Co-founded Allbirds. IPO 2021. Major sustainable consumer brand.	Pioneered eco-conscious footwear reaching millions.	2016–2021	DAAP → Nike NZ → Co-founded Allbirds
Paul Polman (Bus '79)	Lindner	CEO of Unilever 2009–2019. CFO of Nestlé. Group President P&G Europe.	Led one of world's largest consumer cos. KBE. Taft Medal 2022.	2009–2019	UC → P&G → Nestlé → Unilever CEO
Carl & Craig Lindner (Bus '75/'77)	Lindner	Co-CEOs of American Financial Group (Fortune 500).	Lead major insurance holding co. Tens of millions donated to UC.	2000s–now	Family business → Fortune 500 co-CEOs
Chris Wanstrath (attended UC)	A&S	Co-founded GitHub. Acquired by Microsoft for \$7.5 billion (2018).	GitHub used by 100M+ developers worldwide.	2008–2018	Attended UC → Dropped out → GitHub
Kevin Youkilis (Bus '01)	Lindner	2 World Series titles (Red Sox). 3x All-Star. 'Greek God of Walks.'	Key figure in Red Sox's historic 2004 World Series win.	2004–2013	UC baseball → MLB → World Series champ
Dr. Scott Rauch (Med '87)	Medicine	President of McLean Hospital (#1 US psychiatric). National Academy of Medicine.	Pioneered psychiatric neuroimaging. \$225M fundraising campaign.	1990s–2020s	UC Med → MGH → McLean Hospital president
Dr. Dean Kereiakes (Med '78)	Medicine	30,000+ cardiac procedures. 1,200+ publications. Taft Medal 2024.	One of America's most esteemed interventional cardiologists.	1980s–now	UC Med → Christ Hospital → Cardiology leader
Dr. Colleen Koch (Med '87)	Medicine	First female Dean, UF College of Medicine. #1 ranked anesthesiology at JHU.	Advanced women's leadership in academic medicine.	2000s–now	UC Med → Cleveland Clinic → JHU → UF Dean
Beverly Malone (Nur BSN '70, PhD '81)	Nursing	President of ANA and NLN. Deputy Asst. Sec. of	Most consequential nursing leader of 21st century.	1990s–now	UC Nursing → Clinton admin → NLN President

		Health (Clinton). AAN Living Legend.			
Colleen Lindholz (Phar '95)	Pharmacy	President of Kroger Health (2,200+ pharmacies, 17M+ customers).	Led COVID vaccine rollout (4.7M+ doses). 'Food as Medicine' strategy.	2010s–now	UC Pharmacy → Kroger → Kroger Health President
Aftab Pureval (Law '08)	Law	Cincinnati's first Asian American Mayor. Re-elected 2025 (78%).	\$57M affordable housing expansion; all-electric city fleet.	2022–now	UC Law → Clerk → County Clerk → Mayor
Neil Chatterjee (Law '02)	Law	Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Order 2222.	Lowered barriers for distributed energy; 'most significant FERC order.'	2017–2021	UC Law → Senate staff → FERC Chairman
Cris Collinsworth (Law '91)	Law	13 Emmy Awards as NBC's lead NFL analyst.	Premier NFL broadcaster reaching millions weekly.	1990s–now	NFL player → UC Law → NBC broadcaster
Travis Kelce (UC '08–'12)	Athletics	3 Super Bowl titles. 11 Pro Bowls. Greatest TE in NFL history debate.	Most famous UC alumnus; global cultural icon.	2013–now	UC football → KC Chiefs → 3x Super Bowl champ
Sauce Gardner (UC '19–'22)	Athletics	#4 overall NFL Draft pick 2022. AP Defensive Rookie of the Year.	Highest draft pick in UC football history.	2022–now	UC football → Jets → 1st-Team All-Pro as rookie
Jordan Thompson (CECH '18, '20)	Athletics	Olympic gold (Tokyo 2020) and silver (Paris 2024) in volleyball.	Set Olympic kill record. First UC Bearcat Olympic medalist.	2020–2024	UC volleyball → USA team → Olympic champion
Ian Happ (UC '13–'15)	Athletics	9th overall MLB Draft pick. 4 consecutive Gold Gloves. NL All-Star.	Highest MLB draft pick in UC history.	2017–now	UC baseball → Cubs → Gold Glove winner
Kenyon Martin (UC '96–'00)	Athletics	#1 overall NBA Draft pick (2000). NBA All-Star.	Most dominant player in UC basketball history.	2000–2015	UC basketball → #1 pick → NBA All-Star
Walt Handelsman (A&S '79)	A&S	2x Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning (1997, 2007).	First Pulitzer for animation. Syndicated to 200+ newspapers.	1997–2007	UC → Newsday → The Advocate
Rabbi Sally Priesand (A&S '68)	A&S	First female rabbi ordained in America (1972).	Groundbreaking moment in American religious history.	1972	UC → Hebrew Union College → Ordained 1972
Urban Meyer (A&S '86)	A&S/Athletics	3 national championships as college football head coach.	One of the most successful coaches in CFB history.	2006–2018	UC defensive back → Coaching → Florida/Ohio St

College of Engineering & Applied Science (CEAS)

UC CEAS has produced an extraordinary cluster of semiconductor and software industry leaders. Two graduates alone — Jay Chaudhry (Zscaler) and Ming-Kai Tsai (MediaTek) — rank among the most influential technology leaders on Earth. Vinod Dham led development of the Intel Pentium chip. Jim Cashman built ANSYS into a \$1B simulation software empire. The college's pioneering cooperative education program, invented at UC in 1906, created a unique pipeline from classroom to industry.

Additional notable CEAS alumni include: Gregory Summe (CEO, PerkinElmer), Craig Muhlhauser (CEO, Celestica), Vic Kulkarni (EDA pioneer), Richard Johnson (Gulfstream VP, two Collier Trophies), Andrea Zahumensky (President, Kimberly-Clark Personal Care NA), Austin Allison (DotLoop, acquired by Zillow for ~\$108M), Richard Spires (CIO of DHS and IRS), and J. Michael Bowman (DuPont, Delaware Technology Park). Research highlights include Jay Lee's NSF IMS Center (\$848M in industry cost savings) and Vesselin Shanov's Nanoworld Laboratory (16 patents, NSF ERC for Metallic Biomaterials).

College-Conservatory of Music (CCM)

CCM ranks as the #7 most-represented college on Broadway (above Juilliard) with 14,500+ alumni worldwide. Producer Kevin McCollum won three Tony Awards for *Rent*, *Avenue Q*, and *In the Heights*. Kathleen Battle won five Grammys and an Emmy with 150+ Met Opera performances. Eighth Blackbird won four Grammys and a MacArthur Award. Karen Olivo and Michele Pawk won acting Tonys. Shoshana Bean received two Tony nominations. Ashley Brown originated *Mary Poppins* on Broadway. Christy Altomare originated *Anastasia*. Cara Hannah Sullivan won five Emmys for SNL. Stephen Flaherty earned Tony and Oscar recognition for *Ragtime* and *Anastasia*. Darrell Miller (2025 Taft Medal) became one of Hollywood's top entertainment attorneys.

College of Design, Architecture, Art & Planning (DAAP)

Hannah Beachler won the 2019 Oscar for *Black Panther* — the first African American winner in production design — and earned a second nomination for *Sinners* (2026). Michael Graves received the AIA Gold Medal and National Medal of Arts. Dan Harden (WHIPSAW) holds 500+ patents and 300+ design awards for Google, Nest, and Cisco products. Michael Bierut won the AIGA Medal. Bruce Blackburn designed NASA's iconic 'worm' logo. Tim Brown co-founded Allbirds. Matt Berninger and Scott Devendorf formed *The National* (Grammy for Best Alternative Album 2018). DAAP toy designers created the original Star Wars toy line, Hokey Pokey Elmo, and Transformers. Stan Herman won the CFDA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Carl H. Lindner College of Business

Paul Polman served as CEO of Unilever (2009–2019), one of the world's largest consumer goods companies, and received a KBE and UC's 2022 Taft Medal. Carl and Craig Lindner co-lead American Financial Group (Fortune 500). John Barrett transformed Western & Southern into a Fortune 500 company (\$50B+ assets). Mike Ullman led JCPenney and donated \$10M to DAAP. Chris Wanstrath co-founded GitHub (\$7.5B acquisition by Microsoft). Kevin Youkilis won two World Series titles. Chris Downie and Rob Ratterman co-founded Up4Sale.com (sold to eBay ~\$70M).

Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing & Health Sciences

Dr. Scott Rauch led McLean Hospital (#1 US psychiatric care) for 19 years and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Dean Kereiakes performed 30,000+ cardiac procedures with 1,200+ publications (2024 Taft Medal). Dr. Colleen Koch became the first female Dean of UF's College of Medicine. Colleen Lindholz leads Kroger Health (2,200+ pharmacies, 17M+ customers). Beverly Malone served as Deputy Asst. Secretary of Health, president of the ANA and NLN, and is an AAN 'Living Legend' — arguably the most influential nursing leader of the century. Dr. Jan Carney will become president of the American College of Physicians in 2026. UC's College of Medicine secured \$346M in sponsored research in FY2025.

Law, Government & Public Service

Aftab Pureval became Cincinnati's first Asian American Mayor in 2022 and won re-election in 2025 with 78%. Neil Chatterjee chaired FERC and issued Order 2222, described as 'the most significant order FERC has ever issued.' Joe Deters rose from Ohio's longest-tenured prosecutor to the Ohio Supreme Court. Cris Collinsworth won 13 Emmys as NBC's lead NFL analyst. Governor Robert Taft II led Ohio 1999–2007. Claudia Tenney serves in Congress. Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater served in Jamaica, Ghana, and Benin. Barbara Poppe created the nation's first comprehensive federal plan to end homelessness. The Ohio Innocence Project has exonerated numerous wrongfully convicted individuals since its founding in 2003.

Athletics

Travis Kelce has won three Super Bowls, 11 Pro Bowls, and is considered one of the greatest tight ends ever. His brother Jason Kelce won Super Bowl LII and earned six First-Team All-Pro honors. Sauce Gardner was the #4 overall draft pick and won AP Defensive Rookie of the Year. Jordan Thompson won Olympic gold (2020) and silver (2024) in volleyball. Annette Echikunwoke won Olympic silver in hammer throw (2024). Ian Happ was the 9th overall MLB pick and has won four consecutive Gold Gloves. Kenyon Martin was the #1 NBA Draft pick. UC became the first Group of Five school in the College Football Playoff (2021) and joined the Big 12 in 2023. Mary Wineberg won Olympic gold (2008 4×400m relay) and David Payne won Olympic silver (110m hurdles).

Arts & Sciences, Education & Other

Walt Handelsman won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning twice (1997, 2007), including the first Pulitzer for animation. Rabbi Sally Priesand became the first female rabbi ordained in America (1972). Urban Meyer won three national championships as a college football head coach. Marian Spencer (2018 Taft Medal) was a pioneering civil rights leader. C. David Allis became a pioneer in epigenetics. Eula Bingham was the first female administrator of OSHA. Rich Franklin became UFC Middleweight Champion. Frank Brogan served as Florida's Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of the State University System.

Conclusion

The University of Cincinnati's alumni network demonstrates impact at the highest levels of virtually every profession. CCM functions as a de facto Broadway farm system. DAAP's co-op pipeline has placed alumni at Google, Apple, Pentagon, and NASA. The Lindner College of Business graduated leaders who have helmed three of the world's largest consumer-goods companies. UC's medical alumni lead top-ranked hospitals nationwide. In athletics, the Kelce brothers, Sauce Gardner, and Jordan Thompson have made UC a genuine talent factory. In law and government, UC alumni serve on the Ohio Supreme Court, in Congress, and as Cincinnati's mayor. Taken together, these accomplishments establish UC as an institution whose influence extends far beyond any single discipline — a true comprehensive university producing leaders in every arena of human endeavor.

Sources: UC News (uc.edu), UC Alumni Association, UC Magazine, IEEE, Wikipedia, company press releases, Forbes, and other publicly available records. Compiled March 2026.