The spring 2022 Best of UC was produced and written by staff at The News Record – the independent student news organization at the University of Cincinnati.
CELEBRATING YOUR FAVORITES

Each of us, whether student, faculty or staff, have our favorite spots in and around the University of Cincinnati (UC). Maybe your favorite site is characterized by smell, like the rich aromas coming from Adeep India, Fortune Noodle House and Rohs Street Cafe. Maybe you’re drawn to lighting, like the natural sunlight beaming through the floor-to-ceiling windows in On the Green and the Lindner College of Business. Or rather, maybe you’re not drawn to a place but a community, like those fostered at a football game or a gathering for Bearcats Support Network.

Wherever you find yourself in and around campus, The News Record is elated to celebrate those spaces through our 2022 edition of Best of UC. Each winner was chosen by you, members of the UC community. For nearly five weeks, you voted on our site for categories like best campus building, best Indian food, best coffee shop, best dessert and so much more. Within these pages, you’ll find your winners and what makes them special spots to the Bearcat family.

David Rees
Editor-in-Chief
FAVORITE ATHLETES

Vanessa DiNardo

Hailing from Strongsville, Ohio, a mere three hours from Cincinnati, forward Vanessa DiNardo has become the face of soccer in Clifton.

Scoring a team-high of nine goals in her senior 2021 season, DiNardo received 2021 American Athletic Conference (AAC) All-Conference Second-Team at the season’s end. However, DiNardo isn’t unfamiliar with the accolades; in 2018, she picked up AAC All-Rookie Team, followed by AAC All-Conference First Team in 2019.

For her fourth season wearing red and black, DiNardo changed her jersey number to 3 in respect to her late teammate, Allyson Sidloski, who the Bearcat community tragically lost before the 2021 season.

“What we overcame is more important than our record at the end of the season,” Sidloski said.

DiNardo, returning for her fifth season in 2022 as a graduate student, will continue being a leader for the Bearcats in Gettler Stadium.

Desmond Ridder

As a leader of the Bearcats football team that has set a standard for years to come, Desmond Ridder has given the program some of the most memorable moments in history. Whether it be defeating a ranked Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, winning back-to-back American Athletic Conference (AAC) Championships or making a College Football Playoff semifinal appearance, Desmond Ridder was at the heart of it all.

The Louisville native reached 44 wins in his career, threw a Cincinnati program record of 87 touchdowns and earned back-to-back AAC Offensive Player of the Year awards.

During the 2021 season, Ridder and the Bearcats offense scored over 40 points in every home game but two. The remaining two had totals posted at 28 and 35, a tally that still had the song “pump it up” echoing through the streets of Clifton for hours on end. Over the last three years, the electricity surrounding Cincinnati football would not have been possible without Ridder, who will go down in history as one of Cincinnati’s most talented and exciting athletes ever.

The News Record
BEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Bearcats Support Network

Being a college student is hard, and Bearcats Support Network is here to help. Focused on fostering an empathetic and inclusive community on campus to help create conversation about mental health, Bearcats Support Network is genuinely here for everyone. Their weekly support groups give all University of Cincinnati (UC) students a chance to safely express their worries, hopes, fears and day-to-day moments in a nonjudgmental environment.

In addition to weekly support groups, the organization also hosts specialty events throughout the year, such as their “Self-love Kickback” for Valentine’s Day and a “Black Poetry Slam” for Black History Month. Creating a safe space for all students to express themselves emotionally has built a strong affinity for the organization. Destigmatizing mental health is a big job, and Bearcats Support Network is making mental health a priority for all students at UC.

Emma Segrest
Features Editor

BEST CAMPUS BUILDING

The Lindner College of Business

The Lindner College of Business is the newest building on campus, opening in Fall 2019. In addition to housing the University of Cincinnati’s (UC) business college, the 225,000 square foot building features numerous seating areas, several private study areas and a Starbucks available for students of any college to use.

Specifically for business students, the Lindner College of Business includes The Johnson Investment Counsel Lab, where students can practice their finance skills on a simulated trading floor. Also, the Kautz Attic provides business students a space to focus on themes of entrepreneurship and innovation in a state-of-the-art setting.

In addition to the building’s modern design being the sleekest spot on campus to study, the green roofs, abundance of natural light and use of an underground water capturing system make the Lindner College of Business the most sustainable building on campus and a bellwether of what’s to come under the university’s 2019 Sustainability + Climate Action Plan. Thanks to this emphasis on sustainability, the building earned UC’s West Campus its first Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Joe Frye
Life & Arts Reporter

BEST DINING HALL

On The Green

On The Green is one of the newest dining halls on campus, located right next door to Marian Spencer Hall. Natural lighting from floor-to-ceiling windows wraps around the building to create a welcoming atmosphere for all University of Cincinnati students to enjoy. The hall is home to multiple selections of food stations. On The Green has it all, from the delicious treats at the bakery to hot and ready stir fry.

Keeping vegan or gluten-free students in mind, On The Green has many plant-based options to choose from. The hall is also home to various foods under their “Eat Well” category, meaning foods lower in calories, saturated fat and sodium. Their consideration for students who have certain meal restrictions is demonstrated in their mission statement regarding their passion for health and wellness: We’re committed, we’re passionate, we’re proud, we’re connected.

Joi Dean
Life & Arts Editor

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BEST RESIDENCE HALL

Daniels Hall

The University of Cincinnati (UC) students have spoken, the cult classic Daniels Hall has been deemed the best residence hall of 2022. This particular type of residence hall is likely what comes to mind when you imagine the college dorm experience. Housing over 700 students on 12 floors with approximately 70 residents per floor, UC students put their Daniels Hall pride and popularity over practicality. While students could choose a residence hall with in-room bathrooms and a little more square footage, Daniels’ suite-style cozy quad layout brings residents together. Take a walk down one of the hallways, and you’re bound to pass open doors and smiling faces, establishing a welcoming and social atmosphere. The hall also provides study and community lounges, kitchenettes on every floor and a good amount of storage space. Daniels Hall residents have had a strong first-year community honor and are not afraid to voice their respect for years to come.

Kathleen Hornstra
Multimedia Director

BEST APARTMENT COMPLEX

The Deacon

The Deacon has served as a premier apartment complex at the University of Cincinnati since its construction only two years ago. Home to over 1,000 students at the university, the complex holds 351 spacious units, all of which come pre-furnished, with cable and high-speed WiFi to its residents.

It's easy to see how the Deacon has become a preferred place of residence. Its extensive list of amenities includes an outdoor pool, laundry unit, movie theater, 24-hour gym, arcade lounge, study rooms and many more – not to mention it's merely a three-minute walk from the west side of campus.

The Deacon also sits down the street from the Greek houses on Clifton Avenue and is around the corner from many restaurants and shops that sit along Calhoun and W. McMillan Streets, making it the perfect location to stay near the hustle and bustle of busy city life.

Emma Balcom
Managing Editor
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BEST INDIAN FOOD

Adeep India

Paneer makhni, chicken shahi korma, garlic nan and much more – Adeep India’s catalogue of savory, warm dishes is unparalleled. With a vast rolodex of Indian dishes, Adeep has become a staple among University of Cincinnati students. The menu boasts crave-worthy curry and masala entrees, with classic sides like naan and vegetable samosa. Popular dishes include chicken tikka masala, saag paneer and chicken curry.

Located on W. McMillan, Adeep is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

David Rees
Editor-in-Chief

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

Drunken Tacos

With a variety of delicious appetizers, tacos, fajitas and more, the University of Cincinnati community voted Drunken Tacos as the best Mexican food. Located at 200 W. McMillan St., less than a block away from campus, the restaurant is known for its unique and modern twist on classic Mexican favorites, as well as its margarita selection. Some alcoholic favorites include the Inhorita, a classic margarita, and the Pink Lady, a strawberry twist on the drink. Students can stop by from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, or from noon to midnight on Sundays to try out the menu.

Allison Kiehl
News Reporter
THANK YOU
NEWS RECORD READERs!

ADEEP INDIA
2022 BEST INDIAN FOOD WINNER
It’s no surprise that Fortune Noodle House was voted best Chinese food. Even if you’ve never eaten here, there’s a chance you walk right by it every day. Tucked into the corner of Calhoun and Clifton Ave., this restaurant is famous for its hand-pulled noodles and customizable “ma la” stir fry. They boast a vast menu with Sichuan favorites like dan dan noodles and street noodles and other East Asian classics like orange chicken, mapo tofu and egg drop soup.

Fortune Noodle House is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. all week except for Sundays and is available for delivery, dine-in and pickup. This restaurant is just steps from CCM, Siddall Hall and other University of Cincinnati (UC) classics like the Rohs Street Café. Whether you’re coming home from class or grabbing lunch after coffee, Fortune Noodle House is a UC favorite for a reason. Come grab a classic take on some of your Asian favorites at 349 Calhoun St.

Ben Lewton
Opinion Reporter

When University of Cincinnati (UC) students think sushi, Izen’s Drunken Bento always comes to mind. With half-price sushi and astonishingly cheap daily drink specials, how couldn’t it? The restaurant offers a vast array of options with an unbeatable bang-for-buck ratio. From the namesake bento box, you’ll be guaranteed speedy service and a reasonable check.

Here, there isn’t a bad table. Whether you’re sitting by the bar watching the masters roll your sushi or leaving your mark alongside everyone else’s on the woodblock wall, you never have to worry about what to do while waiting for your sushi. A staple of Clifton and UC life, Drunken Bento has been a Best of UC winner for the past several years.

Zachary Jarrell
News Director

2022 Best of UC best Chinese food, Fortune Noodle House. David Rees | Editor-in-Chief

2022 Best of UC best sushi, Drunken Bento. Josh Harf | TNR File Art
BEST BREAKFAST

Hangover Easy

Located just a block off of the east side of campus, Hangover Easy’s expansive menu of breakfast foods has served as the hangover cure for Clifton partygoers since it opened its doors in 2014. Originally established at OSU in 2002, the restaurant has since expanded to college towns all over Ohio and become the breakfast of champions for students the morning after.

Open seven days a week from morning until mid-afternoon, Hangover Easy’s menu includes breakfast skillets, omelets, mimosas, and even various lunch and dinner options. Fan-favorite meals include the Dirty, the Sloppy Seconds and the Struggling To Get Up Sweets, although any item makes for the perfect pick-me-up to turn a lazy morning into a productive one.

Find Hangover Easy at 13 W. Charlton St., steps away from Daniels and Turner Halls, and right down the street from Ladder 19.

Emma Balcom
Managing Editor

BEST COFFEE SHOP

Rohs Street Café

Situated on the southwest corner of campus by Good Plates Eatery and Clifton Heights Tavern is Rohs Street Café, a place to study, meet new people and drink coffee. Rohs is a favorite among local musicians, designers and University of Cincinnati students, and you’d be lucky to find a free table while classes are in session.

Not only is Rohs a coffee shop, but you can book the space for a meeting or listen to music when they have Jazz Jam Session Nights on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. The community Rohs has created is fueled by Deeper Roots Coffee, which is brewed right here in Cincinnati. Lattes, cappuccinos and drip coffee are all on the menu, plus brewed tea and matcha.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rohs has opened their community space, doubling the size of the café and allowing for better social distancing. The space is still open until around 6:30 p.m. each night, with the café closing at 9 p.m. most nights of the week. You’ll usually find people at Rohs until close, still sipping on coffee and talking with friends, new and old.

Bryn Dippold
Features Reporter
Adriatico’s

Voted best pizza time and time again, Adriatico’s is home to a large menu of pizzas, zonis, subs, salads and more. What makes this classic pizza joint stand out are the plethora of pizza sizes, including the monstrous 18-inch by 24-inch Bearcat pizza. The joint also carries a variety of specialty pizzas with toppings including bacon, sausage, ham, pineapple, cheese and veggies.

Located on W. McMillan, Adriatico’s is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to midnight on Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

David Rees
Editor-in-Chief

Clifton Heights Tavern

Self-described as the “relaxed bar in the heart of Clifton,” Clifton Heights Tavern has grown to be a University of Cincinnati (UC) staple. Their Thursday karaoke nights hosted by DJ Kev, along with their $1.50 drinks for Friday happy hour, have made Tavern a frequent stop on most UC students’ nights out. Including a dancefloor, pool table, darts board and outdoor seating, Tavern offers something to fit everyone’s interests.

Situated on W. McMillan, Tavern is prime real estate for students living in the CUF area and is also a short distance from Short Vine and Ludlow. DJ Kev’s killer tracklist has become an iconic part of UC weekend nights, so much so that a follow back from DJ Kev on Instagram is worthy of bragging rights. Clifton Heights Tavern takes its role as a college bar with pride and does its best to make it an experience for all.

Emma Segrest
Features Editor
BEST BAR

Clifton Heights Tavern

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Emma Segrest
Features Editor

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**BEST DESSERT**

**Graeter’s**

This may come as no surprise to most Cincinnatians, but the Queen City staple was voted, once again, the best of the best. Founded in 1870 by Louis C. Graeter, the famous ice cream chain has been serving the area with 55 family-owned stores for over 150 years. Ever wonder what makes the beloved ice cream so delicious? Graeter’s is the last ice cream still crafted in French Pots, making only 2 ½ gallons of one flavor at a time. As the pot spins, the cream freezes to edge. A blade then scrapes the chilled cream back into the middle, preventing air from being mixed into the final product.

This past December, Graeter’s decided to add ‘Boldly Bearcat’ to their permanent menu ahead of the University of Cincinnati’s College Football Playoff game, the Cotton Bowl. Boldly Bearcat was created to help the university celebrate its 200-year history, initially a limited seasonal flavor, only available during January and February. However, Bearcats fans asked, and the ice cream store listened. Boldly Bearcat consists of a creamy mascarpone ice cream, Oreo cookies and Graeter’s signature chocolate chips. Grab a pint at the Clifton store, located at 332 Ludlow Ave.

*Kathleen Hornstra Multimedia Director*

**BEST VEGETARIAN FOOD**

**Good Plates Eatery**

While other restaurants closed their doors, Good Plates Eatery opened theirs for takeout just in time for the fall semester of 2020. Both meat-eaters and vegetarians can find a homey meal here, guaranteed. Offering American-style sandwiches, bowls and salads, Good Plates serves wholesome meals with little twists that offer extra flavor – think cilantro yogurt sauce or red pepper relish. Its vegetarian options are no afterthought, and many of the bowls can also be made vegan.

They know their customer base; Good Plates offers local beers, seltzers and even canned cocktails like Moscow Mules and Bloody Mary’s to top off any meal. Or, if you need a quick lunch before class, there are plenty of non-alcoholic seltzers and sodas ranging from La Croix and Bubly to Big Red and Ale 8, too. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Good Plates is a great vegetarian option for students to try. If you’re not too keen on dining in, this pandemic-born business offers takeout and delivery options as well.

*Emily Chien Opinion Reporter*
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