



[Dr. Alvin Crawford, left, was awarded an honorary doctorate at UC's spring 2018 undergraduate commencement on Saturday, April 28. Also pictured are UC President Neville Pinto, right, and Margaret Valentine, UC trustee.](#)

“When I look at you today, knowing your bond to our Bearcat mottoes — seek the highest and strength in unity — I feel the utmost hope and optimism about the future you will build,” Pinto said.

UC conferred more than 4,100 bachelor’s degrees and 529 associates degrees on Saturday to graduates as young as 18 and as old as 70. Another 1,900-plus advanced degrees were conferred at doctoral hooding and master’s recognition ceremonies on Friday. And on Saturday morning, President Pinto conferred a one-of-a-kind degree upon [Dr. Alvin Crawford](#): an honorary doctorate, the university’s highest honor.

Dr. Crawford was the longtime director of orthopaedic surgery at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. As a clinician, Dr. Crawford performed more than 27,000 procedures and became one of the nation’s foremost authorities on video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery. He went on to become a professor emeritus in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and an attending physician with UC Health. He is the founding director of the Crawford Spine Center at Cincinnati Children’s and in 2004 was

honored with the dedication of the Crawford Chair in Pediatric Orthopaedics and a subsequent chair in spine surgery.

In 2017, the Crawfords created an introductory Alvin H. and Alva J. Crawford Scholarship to support underrepresented minority UC medical students who are academically strong and demonstrate a financial need. An endowed Eminent Visiting Scholar in orthopaedic surgery has also been created.

“More than a healer, you are a hero and a humanitarian,” President Pinto told Dr. Crawford. “With a big heart, you exercise the highest compassion for the underserved. Your impeccable integrity and kindness inspire the many around you.”