

# University sponsors annual Band Day

By Jathan Fink  
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At the University of Cincinnati vs. Akron game last Saturday, 900 musicians performed on the field of Nippert Stadium for the 12th annual Band Day, an event sponsored by the UC Bearcat Bands and the Athletics Department.

Band Day is a tradition between many colleges according to Terren L. Frenz, director of the UC band. This year, there were eight high school bands that played during the half-time presentation.

"Getting the high school bands to come to UC for Band Day is no easy task," said Frenz. "Preparation for Band Day has to

start months before the day of the event."

Planning began when the Athletics Department told Frenz what football games would be best for the annual Band Day.

"Then we have to check the schedules of local high school bands to find out what day would best work for the event," Frenz said.

UC sends invitations to 400 area high schools, with the promise of free admission to the game, free lunch

for the band members and the opportunity to play with a college band, Frenz said.

According to Percussion Director Nick Angelis, the 200 members of the UC band begin rehearsals for Band Day early

on.

"The UC band begins rehearsing for the event at a three week band camp called Higher Ground prior to the beginning of the school year," Angelis said.

While there are usually upwards of six high school bands that perform on Band Day, the most that Frenz could remember participating was 14.

"Usually, the bands that participate come from smaller schools. The reason for this is that larger schools like Lakota [East and West] usually have their own big events and they are typically scheduled out for the season prior to getting the invitation," Frenz said.

One of the reasons UC puts on Band Day every year is that the event serves as a great recruitment tool, according to Frenz.

"This allows high school stu-

## Band Day by the numbers

- 900 musicians performed at the game
- Invitations were sent to 400 area high schools

Source: Dr. Terren Frenz,  
UC Band Director

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dents to have the opportunity to see what playing with a college band is like, and that it gives them the incentive to get involved with the band when they do get to college," Frenz said.

David Martin, assistant director of the UC band, said the visiting high school students get to participate in more than just the half-time show. This year the UC band held a 20 minute pre-game concert at Sigma Sigma Commons an hour and a half before the game.

"A little later the visiting students were invited to attend a pep rally at Sheakley Lawn in Varsity Village," Martin said,

"These combined events give them the entire college band experience."

"It takes several weeks to rehearse the music for each show, of which there are three," Angelis said. This weekend the band performed the third program.

The combined bands performed music from the 1970s, and songs included "MacArthur Park," "Spinning Wheel" and "Land of Make Believe."

"I like Band Day because it shows high school students the difference from their own program and college," Angelis said.

"There is a lot of competition in high school band. In college, students participate out of a sheer love of being in the band," Angelis said.

Angelis said he was involved in bands for 15 years before coming to UC two years ago. He has

taught at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst as a staff member for four years, and then in Georgia with the Bands of America.

"I feel that it is a special vehicle for people in music, because band members carry special feelings with them for the rest of their lives," said Angelis. "The feelings of pride and love of the music never die."

Angelis said he encourages everyone who wants to join the band to do so, but adds that students are asked to make a one-year commitment to being in the program.

"Students who are part of the band often make life-long friends, a family of sorts, among their fellow band members," Angelis said. "We try really hard to find a spot for anyone who wants to be involved."