#mygiftwillbe

54 Facts and Impacts

Cool Things Smart Students Should Know about UC Riverside
54 Facts From 1954 Until Today

Ok. Time to take your college search to the next level. Time to ask yourself, “What will my gift be to the world?” – and then blaze a path to get there. If that includes a great education and career, you need the facts about the University of California, Riverside. Since opening in 1954 to the first 127 students, UCR has been a place for innovative thinking, breakthrough research, and real-world solutions – from discovering the most distant known galaxy to preventing the spread of diseases. It’s a place to learn from inspiring faculty, engage in hands-on research, and follow in the footsteps of graduates who are difference-makers – including Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winners. UCR brings students together from all around the globe to learn, grow, and lead. Read on to discover 54 of many fascinating UCR facts. One day your success story may be one of them.

What will your gift be?

It all starts here.

Have you applied to UC Riverside? Remember to log into your my.UCR.edu admissions portal to keep updated on the status of your admission.
Get the Facts. Read all 54 or just browse using our color-coded system to navigate academics, people, and student life at UCR. You’ll discover everything from our high rankings among universities to our lively student body that includes more than 445 organizations and is a leader in the nation for serving our community!
The UCR School of Medicine: Healing Inland Southern California

The UCR School of Medicine, California’s first public medical school in more than 40 years, welcomed its charter class of 50 students in August 2013. The mission of the new medical school is to improve the health of the people of California and to serve Inland Southern California by training a diverse workforce of physicians. UCR also provides a unique portal into medical school called the Thomas Haider Program at the UCR School of Medicine – with up to 24 of the 50 seats filled by students who attend UCR for at least six consecutive quarters and complete their bachelor’s degree at UCR!

medschool.ucr.edu
2. Cool Alumni Careers
The sky’s the limit! Michael Huerta, ’78, is one of over 100,000 UCR alumni and has been named the chief of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to serve a five-year term. This follows his previous positions as the FAA’s Official Deputy Administrator and Managing Director of the 2002 Winter Olympics.

3. Outdoor Excursions
At UCR, adventure is around every corner. Get SCUBA certified, join an outdoor trip, or help out with a beach cleanup. Or, design a custom trip just for your group, and we’ll lead it. Stop by Outdoor Excursions at the Student Recreation Center to sign up for a trip, take a leadership workshop, get discount lift tickets, and rent gear for your own outdoor adventure!

4. At a Glance: School of Business
Culture: UCR boasts the largest undergraduate business program in the entire UC system along with a full-time Master of Business Administration (MBA), Flex MBA, Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc), Master of Finance (MFin), as well as a Ph.D. program.

Career Watch: The School of Business has a strong culture of engagement with industry, the community, and alumni. Being a part of honors chapters such as Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma, and other business associations on campus builds students’ professional networks with future employers.

Facts to Remember: The school is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. The undergraduate business program has been ranked 77th Best Business Programs nationwide by U.S. News & World Report 2017.

excursions.ucr.edu

alumni.ucr.edu
5. More Than 445 Flavors!
Find your perfect fit among UCR’s 445+ student organizations, including Alpha Delta Pi, Circle K International (community service), Black Student Law Association, Muslim Student Association, Rhythm and Brains, The Society of Women Engineers, the Kindling Intellectual Development Program, and so many more. Or – start your own!
studentlife.ucr.edu

6. A Closer Look: UCR’s Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT)
Inside the laboratories at CE-CERT, engineers and scientists are searching for solutions to some of the world’s more vexing environmental problems. While one CE-CERT group measures emissions from ship engines, another studies the chemical changes as those emissions become smog, and yet another studies how that smog disperses from the harbor into the air basin. Other CE-CERT groups are investigating how to turn waste material into fuel and new ideas for how to get us from “here to there” while reducing pollution.
www.cert.ucr.edu

7. Wednesday Nooners
Enjoy FREE live concerts, get-togethers, giveaways, and activities every Wednesday at noon by the Bell Tower during the fall and spring quarters.
aspb.ucr.edu

8. Your Success = Our Reward
At UCR, your success is a priority from orientation through graduation – and it shows. UCR was named a national finalist for the 2016 Project Degree Completion Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AACSU). This award recognizes institutions that apply innovative approaches to improve retention and degree completion. This national nod affirms what matters most here – student success.
ucrtoday.ucr.edu/42262

Being a successful student means being well on the inside and out. UCR’s **Student Health and Wellness Services** is a network of highly trained health professionals, peer educators, and community partners committed to your health and well-being. No matter what you are going through, you have a place to go. Get involved. Feel better. And most importantly, develop lifelong skills and behaviors that lead to success.

well.ucr.edu

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10. **Heavy Medal**

MIT Chemistry Professor **Richard Schrock**, who graduated from UCR in 1967, didn’t set out to win the 2005 Nobel Prize in chemistry. He simply aspired from age eight to get involved in chemistry, which he later studied at UCR. He chose to attend UCR for its undergraduate research opportunities. That foundation led Schrock to his work in producing the first useful catalyst for metathesis, a lab method used in making drugs for hepatitis C, osteoporosis, AIDS, and other diseases, and, of course, to a Nobel Prize.

alumni.ucr.edu

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11. **A Delicious Movement!**

Change starts at home! UCR has accepted the challenge to find solutions that will aid in sustainably and nutritiously feed the world’s population that is expected to reach 8 billion by 2025. This initiative brings together all 10 UC campuses and leaders in medicine, climate science, public policy, social science, biological science, humanities, arts and law, among others. It’s pushing the boundaries of policy, research and service to find ways to increase food security, locally and globally.

sustainability.ucr.edu
12. Bright Lights, Big Awards
Downtown Riverside is a vibrant place for dining, shopping, the arts, entertainment, and lodging – including The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, a world-renowned AAA-Four Diamond hotel. It’s famous for its beauty, rich history, annual Festival of Lights, and status as “Best Historic Hotel” as awarded by USA Today and Historic Hotels of America.
missioninn.com

13. Olympic Runner – Team USA
UC Riverside alum (‘10) and three-time All-American Brenda Martinez represented the United State at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, advancing to the semifinals in the 1,500-meter race. Martinez was a star in NCAA competition, and later won the bronze medal in the 800 meters at the IAAF World Champions in Moscow in 2013. Like many UCR students, she was the first in her family to attend college.
ucrtoday.ucr.edu/39138

14. Discovery Starts Here
Recent UCR Graduate Joshua Olivia has found a new firefly species while on a Mother’s Day hike. While UCR has been credited with finding around a dozen new insect species a year, how cool is it that an undergraduate student was able to make such an important discovery? Keep looking, Joshua!
entmuseum.ucr.edu
15. **Renewable Nanopower for the Win!**

UCR doctoral student Peter Byrley is UC’s 2016 Grad Slam champion for his talk on “Renewable Nanopower: The New Age of Earth Abundant Electronics.” His research focuses on creating smaller, more powerful microprocessors using graphene instead of silicon. Each year, graduate students from all UC campuses compete to sum up their research for a general audience in just three minutes. The winner gets bragging rights, a monetary award, and a wide audience for their work. Congrats to Byrley and his peers for keeping UC in the forefront of innovation.

gradslam.universityofcalifornia.edu

16. **The Pursuit of Happiness**

**What She’s Up To:** Sonja Lyubomirsky, a professor of psychology at UCR, has earned a spot on Business Insider’s “The 15 Most Amazing Women in Science Today.” The list highlights women in science who have done amazing work in their field and have already been included in the Business Insider’s list of top 50 scientists. Lyubomirsky has dedicated her research to the study of human happiness and how people can lead happier lives.

**What She Says About Researching at UCR:** “The short answer is that I have had terrific, supportive colleagues and absolutely fantastic students. My graduate students in particular are the drivers of my research and they inspire and engage me every day. The Department of Psychology at UCR is exceptional; I can’t imagine being anywhere else.”


17. **Real Roots**

During more than a century of discovery, scientists at UCR’s Citrus Research Center and Agricultural Experiment Station have earned worldwide recognition for the study of plant sciences, environmental and natural resources, and pest management. Every orange, lemon, lime, and mandarin orange found on your grocer’s shelf has a genetic connection to the trees at our Citrus Research Center, which was established in 1907. We’re also home to the Citrus Variety Collection, a living citrus museum with some 900 varieties of citrus, the largest collection in the world. So that sweet and juicy California navel orange you had for lunch today had its roots right here at UCR!

cnas.ucr.edu
18. **45 Years and Growing**
UCR’s family of Ethnic and Gender Program Offices are a great source of pride, since inclusiveness and diversity are hallmarks of our university. African Student Programs and Chicano Student Programs both celebrate 45th anniversaries in 2017, so prepare to celebrate their rich history and continual student support at special events all year!

csp.ucr.edu, asp.ucr.edu

19. **What’s The Rush?**
The California gold rush is known around the world. Until now, though, firsthand accounts were not easy to find. Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, UC Riverside and its Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR) will digitize more than 50,000 newspaper pages from the era of the “49ers.” “These papers will be invaluable to all kinds of researchers,” said Brian Geiger, Director of the CBSR.

cbsr.ucr.edu

20. **What’s Your Career Readiness Score?**
From entering to exiting UCR, the Career Center should be a regular stop during your undergraduate career. Explore professional/career options through a series of on-campus events, personalized career counseling, career fairs, and job search skill-building workshops. Join us for our job discovery panels and networking events where you can meet recruiters from top organizations like Facebook, PepsiCo, Google, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, NASA – Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Northrop Grumman, Peace Corps and more! Students also have exclusive access to SCOTJobs, with online job listings that will fit every Highlander’s needs. It’s your career – #UCRCareerReady. Prepare to launch!
careers.ucr.edu

21. **Improving Solar Energy Efficiency**
How do you coax solar cells to generate more power so solar energy could be made cheaper? Ask UCR chemist and Chemistry professor Christopher Bardeen, who has discovered a way to boost solar efficiencies by 30 percent or more. By combining inorganic semiconductor nanocrystals with organic molecules, he has succeeded in “upconverting” photons in the visible and near-infrared regions of the solar spectrum. This upconverted photon is readily absorbed by photovoltaic cells, generating electricity from light that normally would be wasted.
cnas.ucr.edu
Graduate School of Education (GSOE): Boosting America’s Competitive Edge

As a nationally recognized expert in K-12 education, Thomas Smith, UCR’s GSOE Dean, is collaborating with CalTEACH-SMI, a UC system-wide partnership that encourages undergraduate STEM majors to pursue careers in K-12 education to grow the number of qualified science and mathematics teachers and restore America’s competitive edge in these areas.

Graduate Programs: UCR provides masters, doctoral, and teacher credentialed programs that prepare students to become outstanding classroom educators, researchers, and educational leaders. Students have opportunities to work with some of the nation’s top researchers, and receive a results-oriented education with experienced faculty and nationally recognized experts in statistics, memory, language development, higher education, autism, history and learning disability research.

Hands-On Help, Research, and Training: The GSOE’s SEARCH Center serves families of all incomes with children on the autism spectrum and also conducts vital research on autism. The first center of its kind in the UC system, it is designed to help families navigate the variety of services and treatments available for autism spectrum disorders, and to train the next generation of autism researchers and educators.

education.ucr.edu

UCR Professor’s Affinity for Optical Sensors Helps Diabetics

Professor of Bioengineering Jerome Schultz

What He’s Up To: A founding professor of the Bioengineering Department, Jerome Schultz celebrated the 35th anniversary of his research in medical sensors that could eliminate the need for diabetics to use needles for blood glucose checks.

What He Says About Teaching: “Every day I have the opportunity to meet with students and excite their imagination for becoming innovators of the future.”

www.bioeng.ucr.edu

Hot Arts Scene, Cool Culture

It’s true – SoCal has a hot arts scene. Part of the heat emanates from the UCR ARTSBloc in downtown Riverside. See the latest art at the UCR Sweeney Art Gallery, visit the UCR California Museum of Photography (one of only six in the U.S.), and check out what’s going on at the Culver Center of the Arts. Enjoy a concert or show at the Fox Performing Arts Center, or catch the latest art installation at The Riverside Art Museum. Stroll the Riverside Artswalk the first Thursday of each month from 6-9pm. It’s cool history in downtown Riverside, spiced up with cutting-edge contemporary arts and culture.

artsblock.ucr.edu
25. **Star Power**  
UCR does world-class research in all of its schools – not just the sciences. In his latest study on extreme performance in the workplace, **Haibo Liu**, an assistant professor of management in UCR’s School of Business, and researchers from INSEAD business school have shown that product designers who collaborate with stars are more likely to emerge as stars themselves than designers who collaborate with non-stars. The findings may help companies groom their next generation of top talent, cultivate an environment of extreme performers, and gain a competitive edge.  
[ucrtoday.ucr.edu/42862](http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/42862)

26. **The Best Ideas Under the Sun**  
Soak up the sun! UCR students are flexing their power and taking advantage of the California sun by using solar rays to recharge their portable devices. UCR has off-grid solar-powered benches on campus and a solar farm that provides the university with about three percent of its energy.  
[www.scrise.ucr.edu](http://www.scrise.ucr.edu)

27. **A Place for Fun and Fitness!**  
Open 18 hours a day on average, UCR’s 155,000 square foot **Student Recreation Center** features a two-story weight room, an indoor climbing wall and boulder, large swimming pool and spa, tennis courts, and an indoor running track. It also offers fitness and recreation classes, cooking demos, swims lessons, sponsors the Ropes and Outdoor Excursions programs, and is home to the intramural sports program. This means more ways for you to get fit – and more ways for you to have fun!  
[recreation.ucr.edu](http://recreation.ucr.edu)
28. At a Glance: College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS)

Culture: At CNAS, faculty and students work side-by-side in an interdisciplinary environment that flows easily among the life sciences, the physical sciences, the mathematical sciences, and the agricultural sciences. Today’s science is done without rigid disciplinary boundaries, and this college threw out those walls years ago. Here you can study and do research in any science field that seems interesting with no red tape because we’re all the same college.

Career Watch: The ability to recognize and address changes in the water supply or predict devastating natural disasters gains greater importance as the earth’s population grows. Research in earth science will become more important as there is a growing shift to conservation of the earth’s resources.

Fact to Remember: UCR science has achieved international recognition in many fields. For example, a UCR research project led by physicist Jing Shi is among the 32 Energy Frontier Research Centers pursuing fundamental advances in energy production. With help from an interdisciplinary team of researchers from seven universities, “Spins and Heat in Nanoscale Electronic Systems” (SHINES) will explore the interaction of spin, charge, and heat to achieve significantly higher energy efficiencies in electronic devices, laying the groundwork for energy technology for the nation.

29. An Evolution Revolution

Student and Major: Young Hoon Oh, Doctoral Student in Anthropology

What He’s Up To: Climbing Everest! As part of the fieldwork for his anthropology dissertation, Oh climbed the world’s tallest peak! Oh’s dissertation, entitled “Forces of the Unknown: Subjective, Intersubjective, and Presubjective Community in Himalayan Mountaineering,” focuses on the types of communities mountaineers create and the transformation of Sherpa society after nearly a century of aiding hundreds of international climbers.

What He Said About the Research: “I’ve studied the biographies of mountaineers who wrote about this as a religious or spiritual experience. I’m trying to talk about that kind of experience from a social science perspective and how it influences mountaineering community relations.”

anthropology.ucr.edu
30. **Home Sweet Home Away from Home**

There’s no place like home – or your new home away from home. There are three all-inclusive Residence Hall communities on campus for first-year students with study lounges, computer labs, and more than 1,500 activities, including live music, barbecues, dances, sports tournaments, hall competitions, community service projects, cultural celebrations, and more! After your first year, make the move to one of UCR’s campus apartment communities, like Glen Mor, which includes a swimming pool, fitness center, dining venue, and computer and gaming lounges – enough to make anyone feel at home! Schedule a tour to see for yourself, or take a virtual tour at [tours.ucr.edu](http://tours.ucr.edu).

31. **At a Glance: School of Public Policy (SPP)**

**Culture:** UCR is the only public policy program in the entire UC system that offers an undergraduate degree and Master of Public Policy program. This interdisciplinary program allows students to fulfill their requirements by taking courses from 12 departments from film and visual culture, to political science.

**Career Watch:** Students are prepared to be leaders in government, politics, and public affairs with non-profit or private sectors through internships with the County of Riverside Executive Office, Riverside County Transportation Commission, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

**Fact to Remember:** Students who pursue an undergraduate public policy major have the opportunity to specialize in two of six tracks that range from health/population policy to international/foreign policy.

[spp.ucr.edu](http://spp.ucr.edu)
32. **Big Data and Visualization**

UCR is dedicated to making the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields as diverse as possible. As a result of these efforts, NASA has awarded the university a nearly $4.5 million grant that will train and educate underrepresented minorities in the STEM fields on big data and prepare them for STEM careers, including those in the NASA workforce. [ucrtoday.ucr.edu/28942](ucrtoday.ucr.edu/28942)

33. **All-Inclusive**

No matter who you are or where you’re from, you’re always welcome at UCR! We consistently rank among the nation’s most ethically diverse universities ([U.S. News and World Report](https://www.usnews.com/), and have been named to [Huffington Post](https://www.huffpost.com/) and [Campus Pride’s](https://www.campuspride.org/) list of the Top 25 most LGBT-Friendly and the Top 10 Most Trans-Friendly colleges in the U.S. For four consecutive years, UCR has also been recognized as a “Military Friendly School” by [Victory Media](https://www.victorymedia.com/). Our research is also inclusive and outreaching. The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and AAPIData.com, a research project of UCR, have announced a data challenge to gain more knowledge about the AAPI community to ultimately help address issues concerning this community. [diversity.ucr.edu](diversity.ucr.edu), [ucrtoday.ucr.edu/39001](ucrtoday.ucr.edu/39001)

34. **Developing the World’s Tastiest Avocado**

The University of California launched the Global Food Initiative to address food issues confronting the world, including availability, security, sustainability, and nutrition. At UCR, where researchers have played a major role in helping California become the agricultural powerhouse of the nation, UC Cooperative Extension (CE) subtropical horticulturist Mary Lu Arpaia is improving the in-demand avocado to satisfy consumers seeking healthful and tasty foods, while meeting needs of California growers. Led by Arpaia, UCR’s avocado breeding program has released four varieties while reducing harvesting and maintenance costs thanks to its consistent production on more compact trees. [promise.ucr.edu/profile-sustainability-arpaia.html](promise.ucr.edu/profile-sustainability-arpaia.html)
**35. At a Glance: College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS)**

**Culture:** CHASS uniquely combines the arts, humanities, and social sciences into a single college so that students can explore human life and meaning from many perspectives. Our motto is “At Home in the World.” Our students are the most diverse in the UC system. They bring the world to campus, and we study it together.

**Career Watch:** UCR’s global studies major prepares students to live and find careers in an increasingly interconnected world. Students study transnational interactions and engage in the designs for cosmopolitan governance.

**Fact to Remember:** Along with Stanford, Carnegie-Mellon, USC, and Brown, UCR is one of the few universities in the United States to offer an undergraduate major in public policy and the only UC campus to offer an undergraduate degree in creative writing.

chass.ucr.edu

**36. Calling All Sci-Fi and Fantasy Fans**

The Eaton Collection of Science Fiction & Fantasy at UCR is one of the world’s largest collections of science fiction, fantasy, horror, utopian literature and related genres, starting with the 1517 edition of Thomas More’s *Utopia* and including first editions of many seminal works including Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1818) and Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* (1897). Located in the Tomás Rivera Library, the collection is visited by scholars from around the world, and features more than 300,000 items, including books and fanzines, full runs of many pulp magazines, film and shooting scripts, comic books, and collectible ephemera and regalia, including cards, posters, pins, and action figures.

eaton.ucr.edu

**37. Reaching Toward Infinity**

UCR astronomers have discovered a galaxy located far, far away — 30 billion light years away to be precise. The galaxy, named z8-GND-5296, is the most distant and oldest galaxy ever discovered. Because light travels at about 186,000 miles per second, the galaxy is seen as it was just 700 million years after the Big Bang, when the universe was only about 5% of its current age of 13.8 billion years.

This is great news because this expands our understanding of the evolution of the galaxies throughout the age of the universe!

astro.ucr.edu
38. **Tartan and Traditions**

UCR takes pride in R’school spirit. We wear UCR gear on Wednesdays for R’Day, cheer on our athletes alongside our UCR Highlander Pep Band, hold true to four core “Tartan Soul” values (Integrity, Accountability, Excellence, and Respect), and honor decades of campus traditions with our Highlander Traditions Keeper program, where students who complete and track at least 54 predetermined traditions before graduation get a medal upon graduation. studentlife.ucr.edu (then UCR Traditions tab), tartansoul.ucr.edu

39. **At a Glance: Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE)**

**Culture:** As one of the nation’s top ranked graduate and undergraduate programs, UCR’s BCOE combines academic and research excellence, individual attention and mentoring, and the opportunity for undergraduate research and internships. BCOE does first-class research, and is a leader in the world in some areas like energy generation storage and distribution. Our professional development program emphasizes early engagement in professional activities by undergraduates.

**Career Watch:** BCOE graduates are highly sought after, and many have become leaders in industry and academia. BCOE’s business informatics major offers a unique blend of highly technical Computer Science coursework with courses in Business. Its graduates leave UCR uniquely prepared to address technical issues in the industry. Starting salaries in engineering are among the highest in any field.

**Fact to Remember:** *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Bourns higher than any engineering college of its size among public universities across the nation. engr.ucr.edu

40. **True Believer**

UCR students benefit by being taught by some of the most respected and accomplished faculty in the world, including UCR creative writing professor, Reza Aslan. He is a #1 *New York Times* best-selling author (*Zealout: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*), scholar of religions, commentator, recipient of the prestigious James Joyce Award, and producer for *The Leftovers* (HBO), *Of Kings and Prophets* (ABC), *Rough Draft* (Ovation), and *Believer* (CNN). creativewriting.ucr.edu rezaaslan.com
41. You're One of Us Now!

You’re a Highlander now, so join in all the fun! Your experience as a UCR student starts off with Block Party, the biggest welcome social of the year, and continues with Highlander Welcome. Throughout the year, be sure to check out Homecoming, Heat (our big multiplex music festival), Spring Splash, R’Day and all of the other on-campus events that make everyone feel welcome and connected with the campus community.

rsid.ucr.edu

42. The Professor and the Global Economy

Continuing Lecturer of Management Dr. Sean Jasso

What He’s Up To: Dr. Sean Jasso devotes his time to teaching UCR students about the world’s economy and the business world on a global level. He embarked on an educational journey to Beijing and Ho Chi Minh City as a part of the UCR SoBA China/Vietnam Global Program.

What He Says About Taking Students Abroad: “We get to see the students for who they are outside of their school work, and we can really prepare them for competing in a very fierce environment outside of the university. And our students are very well prepared to do that.”

soba.ucr.edu/global
Leader in Action
Professor and Associate Dean, School of Public Policy
Karthick Ramakrishnan

What He's Up To: Associate Dean and professor Ramakrishnan has been named one of the 25 Leaders in Action by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP). Also, in 2014 he started serving a four-year term on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

What He Says About Living the Promise: “The kinds of research we do here must be informed by real-world problems. It’s both — letting the world know what UCR does and also being informed by the outside world.”

publicpolicy.ucr.edu

Experience the World
At UCR, your education is not limited to our beautiful campus. Discover the world by going abroad on one of our international programs. Students earn academic credit abroad and can choose full-year or short-term programs in a wide range of majors. Best of all? Studying in a different country doesn’t have to be expensive! Many Education Abroad programs offer exceptional value at costs comparable to staying at UCR, and you can use UCR financial aid, scholarships, and grants to go abroad.
eoa.ucr.edu

Follow Us. Friend Us!
The best eats, housing events, sports, and spotlights at UCR and in Riverside are available at Life at UCR, a blog written by UCR students for prospective Highlanders (lifeatucr.tumblr.com). To keep up with all of the latest campus news (including important admission updates) follow UCR admissions on Facebook at facebook.com/ucradmissions, on Twitter at @ucradmissions, on Instagram at @lifeatucr, and on Snapchat at @ucradmissions.
46. **Knock Knock!**
Who’s there? UCR’s Learning Communities – spend your first year at UCR interacting with faculty, graduate student teachers, and peer educators in one of our many learning communities on campus. There are many benefits of joining a learning community, like starting your learning experience on the right track, exploring majors, discovering potential career choices, maintaining a higher GPA, and finishing your degree in a shorter period of time.

[firstyear.ucr.edu/learning.html](http://firstyear.ucr.edu/learning.html)

47. **The Professors and the Portobello Mushrooms**
Professors of Engineering Mihri and Cengiz Ozkan

**What They Are Up To:** Professors Mihri and Cengiz Ozkan, engineers at UCR, are turning Portobello mushrooms into batteries that may be used in your cellphones and electric cars. With long-lasting batteries in high demand, the Ozkans looked to mushrooms due to their low cost, high porosity, and environmental friendliness. Another added benefit is that cellphones may see an increase in run time rather than a decrease. The research findings have been outlined in a paper recently published by the Ozkans titled, “Bio-Derived, Binderless, Hierarchically Porous Carbon Anodes for Li-Ion Batteries.”

**What They Say About Research:** “It truly represents the flagship of progress. I feel if we do very well, we can define the next big change in the technological revolution.”

[engr.ucr.edu](http://engr.ucr.edu)
What’s the deal with the Highlanders? No, the UCR founders weren’t Scots. A write-in campaign in
the 1950s, led by the men’s basketball team, was begun for the name “Hylanders,” suggested by freshman Donna
Lewis. The name was changed to its current spelling and won easily. Turned out to be a pretty good choice, since
the Box Springs Mountains were known as the Highlands, and UCR has the highest-elevation campus of the
UCs. Scottish street names — Aberdeen and Inverness — began sprouting all over campus. Plus, it’s fun to be a
Highlander — who else has a bear with a kilt to cheer teams to victory? Who else has their very own Tartan plaid,
registered in Scotland to represent our UCR family, where each color represents the four core values of “Tartan
Soul”: integrity (blue), accountability (white), excellence (gold), and respect (black)? And what other school has a
33-member bagpipe and drum corps? Don’t worry, you can still nosh a bagel, a burrito, sushi, or pizza and
remain a Highlander.

studentlife.ucr.edu
tartansoul.ucr.edu
Where Poetry Lives: Juan Felipe Herrera, U.S. Poet Laureate

UCR emeritus Juan Felipe Herrera – known for chronicling the bittersweet lives, travails and contributions of Mexican Americans – was named U.S. Poet Laureate in 2015; he was the first Chicano named to that post. This follows his two-year appointment by Governor Jerry Brown as California Poet Laureate. A son of migrant farm workers, he joined the UCR creative writing faculty in 2005 and credits the university in helping him achieve his dreams. “This appointment as poet laureate of the United States wouldn’t have been possible without being at UC Riverside, the California Arts Council and Governor Brown,” Herrera said. “We are all poets, and this is for all of us.”

In addition to publishing more than a dozen collections of poetry, Herrera has written short stories, young adult novels, and children’s literature.

creativewriting.ucr.edu

University Honors: Pillars of Excellence

Students in the University Honors program will enjoy the benefits of a living-learning community, small classes and exclusive scholarship opportunities. This program cultivates a culture of contribution and celebrates diversity and global citizenship!

honors.ucr.edu
We Produce Happy Graduates!

There are a lot of rankings on which to base your college decision. But it’s hard to argue with this one: happy graduates. UCR is currently listed among the top universities in the United States in terms of alumni happiness, success, and career preparation!

The study was conducted by The Alumni Factor, whose mission is to “give prospective students and their parents a more empowering, performance-based method of measuring and choosing colleges.”

UCR Alums With Cool Careers

Carol Kwang Park ’11
Writer and Award-Winning Journalist

Brenda Martinez ’10
Bronze Medalist in the 2013 World Track and Field Championships

Mark Takano ’88, ’10
United States Congressman

Jamie Chung ’05
Actress on shows like The Real World: San Diego and Once Upon a Time

Nakul Dev Mahajan ’02
Choreographer for shows like So You Think You Can Dance and The Office

Shola Lynch ’95
Writer, director, and award-winning filmmaker

Steven Breen ’92
Two-time Pulitzer Prize-Winning Cartoonist

David Albers ’90
Founder and President of BioEnergy Solutions

Jerry Swain ’89
Founder of Jer’s Handmade (jers.com)

Mark Andrus ’78
Screenwriter of Academy Award-Winning As Good as It Gets

Susan Atherton ’77
Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross Bay Area

Learn more about our cool alumni at alumni.ucr.edu

Welcome to the Next Generation

The New America Foundation hailed UCR as one of the six “Next Generation Universities,” a report that recognizes schools for success in enhancing student outcomes and maintaining robust research profiles despite economic pressures. The report highlights UCR’s commitment to put the needs of students first and maintaining an inclusive environment where students from all socio-economic backgrounds may prosper.

What He Said…

UCR has plenty to brag about, but it’s nice when respected national leaders compliment us, too. Don’t just take our word for all that we offer – check out what he said, too:

…”(UC Riverside students are) as bright and engaged as any students I’ve taught at Harvard or Berkeley, and also determined to give back to their communities and their society. UCR has the energy of an underdog that knows it’s winning the race that’s worth winning. I wish we could clone UCR all over America.”

Robert B. Reich
UC Berkeley professor,
Former U.S. Secretary of Labor,
Best-selling author
54. Affordable Education

But what does that mean to you? Well, for starters, it means that you don’t have to go to a super expensive school to get a world-class degree. It also means that if you think college is too expensive, think again. More than 85% of UCR undergraduate students receive financial aid; 70% of those that receive it have their full fees covered by grants and/or scholarships. UCR students who borrow federal loans graduate with an average student loan debt of $21,500 – just 1/5 of the actual total cost of tuition and housing.

There are many ways to pay for college. Some, like scholarships and grants, you don’t have to repay. Others, like loans, you will repay. You can also earn money through work-study or student employment. UCR distributes more than $369 million in grant, loan, work-study, and scholarship aid each year to undergraduate students. With programs like the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan and the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) program, there are many ways you may be able to fund your education.

finaid.ucr.edu

Apply for Financial Aid Now! Don’t miss your chance to receive financial aid help. Applying for financial aid is a lot easier than most people think. File your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or Dream Act Application every year, even if you don’t think you’ll qualify. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

www.fafsa.ed.gov
So, That’s the Story of UCR –

Or at least the first 54 pieces of the story. There’s a lot more to know, learn about, and discover. We hope you’re interested, and that you’ll be curious enough to start uncovering the next 54 facts that will lead you to UCR and to your own success story.

Let’s Connect!
Ask questions and get the latest posts, pics, and tweets.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
Facebook.com/UCRAAdmissions
Instagram.com/lifeatucr
Twitter.com/UCRAAdmissions
ucradmissions
lifeatucr.tumblr.com
admissions.ucr.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
Facebook.com/UCRiverside
Youtube.com/UCRiverside
ucr.edu

Visit UCR on Campus or Online!
Get a feel for campus life. Schedule a free tour or take a 360° virtual tour at admissions.ucr.edu/visitucr

Have you applied to UC Riverside?
Remember to log into your my.UCR.edu admissions portal to keep updated on the status of your admission.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented herein. However, all information is subject to change. Please check with the appropriate organization, department, service provider, or website for the most up-to-date information. (16/17 – 35K)
#mygiftwillbe
54 Facts and Impacts

Cool Things Smart Students Should Know about UC Riverside

#mygiftwillbe