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. And if you’re after a great education to jump-start a great career, you need the facts about the University of California, Riverside. We’ll start you off with a bonus fact. Since opening its doors to the first 127 students and 65 faculty members in 1954, UCR’s been a place for innovative thinking, breakthrough research, and real-world solutions. From discovering the most distant known galaxy to creating solutions to prevent the spread of diseases that threaten millions of people. It’s been a place where you can learn from inspiring faculty who get undergrads involved in their research and truly enjoy teaching. Where you can follow in the footsteps of graduates who collect “hardware” — a Pulitzer here, a Nobel Prize there. And the type of place that brings students from all around the world together, into the classroom, promoting individuality and respect. Read on to uncover the next 54. Perhaps, you’ll discover your place at UCR.

Go to www.My.UCR.edu now to create your personal portal to learn about UC Riverside.
Get the Facts

Read all 54 or just browse using our color-code 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 490 organizations and is a leader in the nation for serving our community!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACADEEMICS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The UCR School of Medicine Healing Inland Southern California</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At a Glance: School of Business Administration (SoBA)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Closer Look: UCR’s Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Closer Look: UCR’s Center for Research in Intelligent Systems (CRIS)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Delicious Movement!</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something Bright, Something New.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Roots</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smells Good to Us</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At a Glance: Graduate School of Education (GSOE)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Best Ideas Under the Sun</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At a Glance: College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At a Glance: School of Public Policy (SPP)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Data and Visualization</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At a Glance: College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something Valuable Comes This Way</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At a Glance: Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Front Row Seat to the World’s Emerging Markets</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knock Knock!</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Honors: Pillars of Excellence</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to the Next Generation</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cool Alumni Careers: Michael Huerta, ’78</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Medal</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe at Home</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color Categories Legend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT LIFE</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Outdoor Adventures</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Than 31 Flavors!</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Nooners</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-being. Empowerment. Life. Learning.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World-Class Cinema</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundbreaking Unity</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ready! Set! Network!</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Feasts</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Place for Fun and Fitness!</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home, Sweet Home Away from Home</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a Hike – To the “C”</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’re One of Us Now!</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Us. Friend Us!</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagpipes and Beyond</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number One in the Nation!</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable Education</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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!

www.medschool.ucr.edu
2. **Cool Alumni Careers**

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.

alumni.ucr.edu

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3. **Extreme Outdoor Adventures**

At UCR, adventure is around the corner. Swim, ski, or snowboard at Big Bear Lake in the morning and camp at Joshua Tree National Park the same night. Looking for something even more adventuresome? Try skydiving at Lake Perris Indoor Vertical Wind Tunnel, or head west and surf Huntington, Laguna, and Newport beaches.

excursions.ucr.edu

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4. **At a Glance: School of Business Administration (SoBA)**

**Culture:** UCR boasts the largest undergraduate business administration program in the entire UC system along with a full-time Master of Business Administration (MBA), Flex MBA, Master of Professional Accountancy (M.P.Ac), Master of Finance (M.Fin.), as well as a Ph.D. in Business Administration.

**Career Watch:** Students are prepared to be leaders that conduct basic and applied research, have experience working locally and globally, and have successful careers in a global economy.

**Facts to Remember:** The school is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International and included in the *Princeton Review* as one of its “Best 295 Business Schools for 2015.” The undergraduate business program has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* 33rd overall among all public universities and 56th among all universities nationwide.

soba.ucr.edu
5. **More Than 31 Flavors!**
If you can’t find something that rings your chimes, we have over 490 student organizations ranging from AAMS (Academic Association of Medical Sciences) to Zeta Phi Rho fraternity – start your own!

(studentlife.ucr.edu)

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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)

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7. **Wednesday Nooners**
Hang with your friends or meet new ones at live concerts, get-togethers, giveaways, and activities every Wednesday during the fall and spring quarters — at noon — at the heart of campus, by the Bell Tower, for FREE!

(aspb.ucr.edu)

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8. **A Closer Look: UCR’s Center for Research in Intelligent Systems (CRIS)**
Computers have become ultra fast but what will it take for them to become “smart?” CRIS is developing computer systems that are intelligent and can communicate and interact with other intelligent systems, both human and artificial. CRIS is an interdisciplinary program that spans across seven different UCR academic departments.

(cris.ucr.edu)

Being a successful student means being well on the inside and out. UCR’s **Student Health and Wellness Services** is made up of a unique group of peer educators, mentors, and professionals committed to health and well-being. No matter what you are going through, you have a place to go. Get involved. Get informed. Feel better. And most importantly, feel better about being you. well.ucr.edu

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

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. **World-Class Cinema**
Grab some popcorn while you take in the Riverside International Film Festival, which features the best in independent film from around the globe. With a strong international community in Riverside, the festival often draws on relationships with sister cities in China, India, Japan, and Korea. [riversidefilm.org](http://riversidefilm.org)

13. **Safe at Home**
World Series champion Troy Percival has come home to coach UCR men’s baseball. Percival grew up near Riverside and played for the Highlanders before being drafted by the California Angels (now known as the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim). A four-time All-Star, Troy was 7 for 7 in post-season save opportunities during the Angels’ 2002 championship run! [gobighlanders.com](http://gobighlanders.com)

14. **Something Bright, Something New.**
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](http://entmuseum.ucr.edu)
15. The Professor and the Strongest Shrimp in the World

Chemical and Environmental Engineering Professor David Kisailus

What He’s Up To: Professor Kisailus studies nature to produce new materials that are stronger, lighter, tougher, smoother, and thinner. He’s researching the mantis shrimp — a 4-inch long crustacean found in tropical waters that has a club-like arm that strikes underwater faster than a 22-caliber bullet — to improve the strength and lighten the weight of military body armor, and vehicle and aircraft frames.

What He Says About His Research: “My hope is that we can truly learn from these organisms how to design, optimize, and synthesize engineering materials that display properties that we as engineers can only dream of.”

http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/21670

16. The Pursuit of Happiness

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. **Groundbreaking Unity**

The Middle Eastern Student Center (MESC) is the newest addition to UCR’s family of Ethnic and Gender Program Offices that provide students with opportunities to engage in cultural growth and development, preparing students to lead and succeed in a global community. MESC serves as a space of education, community, inclusion, expression, and celebration of all Middle Eastern cultures. Conceived by students, MESC launched in 2013 and is a first of its kind in the UC system! [mesc.ucr.edu](http://mesc.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.

20. **Ready! Set! Network!**

Jumpstart your future by making the Career Center a regular stop during your undergraduate career. Starting with Meet The Firms in the fall and ending with the Last Chance Job Fair in the spring, UCR’s Career Center provides a series of on-campus events where you can meet recruiters from top corporations like ESPN, PepsiCo, and GEICO. Students and alumni also have access to SCOTjobs for online job listings that will fit every Highlander’s needs. It’s your career. Prepare to launch! [careers.ucr.edu](http://careers.ucr.edu)

21. **Smells Good to Us**

UCR researchers have identified three safe compounds that mimic DEET, a common active ingredient in insect repellents, and could one day be used to prevent the transmission of deadly vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, West Nile virus, and other mosquito-borne pathogens — diseases that threaten millions of people around the globe.

The three compounds that were identified repel mosquitoes by blocking mosquito olfactory receptors (their sense of smell) and are cheaper to produce in large quantities than DEET. Olfactor Laboratories, the company formed by UCR Professor Anandasankar Ray, is currently testing its first product, The Kite Mosquito Patch, in Uganda. [entomology.ucr.edu](http://entomology.ucr.edu)
22. At a Glance: Graduate School of Education (GSOE)
Culture: The coming generations of teachers and education scholars will face many unknown challenges. In our Graduate Degree Programs, UCR’s GSOE combines research and service in an environment of collegial instruction to develop the creative thinkers and leaders this future will require. In our cohort teacher preparation program we ensure personal attention and professional network building by placing students in groups of only 10 to 12 with one supervisor.

Career Watch: UCR provides an undergraduate minor, masters and doctoral degree in the GSOE program. Students will develop a results-oriented approach to education and will have a strong local network of alumni who can serve as mentors and contacts.

Facts to Remember: Our experienced faculty includes three Distinguished Professors, two Spencer Fellows and nationally-recognized experts in statistics, memory, language development, higher education, autism, history and learning-disability research.

education.ucr.edu

23. 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

24. Visual Feasts
You’ve heard Southern California has a hot art scene? It’s all true, and part of the heat emanates from the UCR ARTSblock. See the latest out-of-the-box art at the UCR Sweeney Art Gallery, visit the UCR California Museum of Photography, one of only six in the United States, and check out what’s going on at the Culver Center for the Arts. It’s cool history in downtown Riverside, spiced up with cutting-edge contemporary arts and culture. Come for an opening party and hang out with the artist, or grab coffee afterwards at a nearby spot and argue about “What is art, anyway?”

artsblock.ucr.edu
25. **Weird Weather Shopping**

Weird weather turns us into irrational shoppers. Psychologists have long known that people tend to think the future will resemble the present. For example, shoppers who buy groceries on an empty stomach tend to buy more food than shoppers who have a full stomach. It turns out that this phenomenon can be surprisingly pervasive and affects even massive purchases like cars and homes. UCR Professor of Marketing Jorge Silva-Risso and his colleagues found that abnormal weather can dramatically shape our buying habits. People are far more likely to buy SUVs with four-wheel drive when it’s snowing, or overvalue homes with swimming pools when the sun is scorching — and often end up lamenting the purchases later.

[ucrtoday.ucr.edu/8068](http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/8068)

26. **The Best Ideas Under the Sun**

Soaking 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 thirteen off-grid solar-powered benches 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, 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. The center also offers fitness and recreation classes, sponsors outdoor excursions, 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)
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. In fact, researchers at UCR are sharing a $50 million grant from the NASA Astrobiology institute to determine how oxygen developed on Earth by studying ancient rocks.

cnas.ucr.edu

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**
Heard those scary stories about finding college housing? Relax, we’ve got plenty of room(s). And as a first- and second-year student, you’re guaranteed housing. Residents of our all-inclusive residence halls can join in more than 1,500 residential life activities, including live music, barbecues, game shows, dances, sports tournaments, hall-to-hall competitions, community service projects, and cultural celebrations. After your first year, make the move to one of UCR’s six 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!

[link to housing.ucr.edu](http://housing.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.

[link to 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 $5.4 million grant that will train and educate underrepresented minorities in the STEM fields on big data and address problems with the NASA workforce.

[www.engr.ucr.edu](http://www.engr.ucr.edu)


We’re not just a great university with lots of opportunities — we’re a very friendly place with the rankings to prove it. From placing 7th on U.S. News & World Report’s list of most diverse universities in the nation to being named to Huffington Post and Campus Pride’s list of the Top 25 most LGBT-Friendly and the Top 10 Most Trans-Friendly Colleges in the U.S.

And, for three consecutive years, UCR has been recognized as a “Military Friendly School” by Victoria Media.

No matter what walk of life you are from, you’re always welcome at UCR!

[diversity.ucr.edu](http://diversity.ucr.edu)

34. **The Professor and the Prestigious Award**

Associate Professor of Biology Cheryl Hayashi

**What She’s Up To:** Professor Hayashi, a biologist at UCR and a national expert of the genetic structure of spider silk, won a “Genius Award” from the MacArthur Foundation, one of the most prestigious awards in the country. Spider silk has remarkable properties — lighter than cotton, stronger than steel, and biodegradable. Give Hayashi some time and spider silk may start showing up in such products as body armor, rope, fishing line, surgical sutures, and athletic wear.

**What She Says About the Research:** “Whatever I discover about [spiders] today leads to more questions tomorrow. In this young field, where so much is unknown, a new piece of information leads you unexpectedly to a completely new area of spider research. The spiders have a way of keeping my research going.”

[biology.ucr.edu](http://biology.ucr.edu)
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. **Something Valuable Comes This Way**

UCR’s Eaton Collection of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and Utopian Literature is the world’s largest publicly accessible collection of its type and received a $3.5 million gift from the estate of science fiction enthusiast and photographer, Jay Kay Klein. As the largest gift ever received by the UCR library, the funds will seek to digitize over 66,000 of Klein’s photos and identify any unknown subjects in his photographs.

eaton.ucr.edu

37. **Reaching Towards 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. **Take a Hike — To the “C”**

High in the hills above UCR, about 1,500 feet up the east side of the Box Springs Mountains, looms a huge block-letter “C,” 132 feet high and 70 feet wide. The “C” — one of the largest concrete-block letters in the United States stands for “California.” Today the “C” continues to be a symbol of pride and is taken care of by current students and alumni. Keep up with all of the Highlander traditions at [http://studentlife.ucr.edu/ucrtraditions/ucrtraditions.html](http://studentlife.ucr.edu/ucrtraditions/ucrtraditions.html).

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

**Culture:** BCOE celebrated its 25th year as one of the nation’s top ranked graduate and undergraduate engineering programs. BCOE combines academic and research excellence with individual attention and mentoring, and the opportunity for undergraduate research and internships. 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. [bournsdifference.ucr.edu](http://bournsdifference.ucr.edu)

40. **True Believer**

UCR creative writing professor and #1 *New York Times* Best Selling Author (*Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*), Reza Aslan, will be hosting a new CNN series. The show will debut in 2016 and is tentatively titled *Believer*. In each episode, Aslan will immerse himself into a new religion each week to experience life as a true believer. [creativewriting.ucr.edu](http://creativewriting.ucr.edu)
41. You’re One of Us Now!
Your UCR experience kicks off with Block Party, the biggest welcome social of the year, and continues with Highlander Welcome. Throughout the year, be sure to check out Heat, Homecoming, Spring Slash, R’Day and all of the other on-campus events that make Highlander life so amazing. At UCR, there is an activity that will make everyone feel welcome and connect you with other students with the same interests. Go Highlanders!
side.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
43. **Your Front Row Seat to the World’s Emerging Markets**

Get on board to see the world! UCR students have access to many global programs that provide opportunities to students of all majors, both undergraduate and graduate. They are able to gain international exposure by seeing first-hand the most important, dynamic and emerging markets in the world. The International Student Resource Center (ISRC) supports and promotes international students on their wellness and personal growth.

44. **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](http://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](http://facebook.com/ucradmissions), on Twitter at [@ucradmissions](http://twitter.com/ucradmissions), and on Instagram at [@lifeatucr](http://instagram.com/@lifeatucr).

45. **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](http://publicpolicy.ucr.edu)
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.”

[www.engr.ucr.edu](http://www.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? 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
Where Poetry Lives: Juan Felipe Herrera Becomes 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 by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. He is the first Chicano named to that post and will serve a one-year term. 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.”

After being inspired by a poem written by a fifth grade class, Herrera shares that his poetry project for the one-year appointment will be centered on hope, encourage interactivity, and promote individuality.
51. **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*
- **Steven Breen ’92**
  Two-time Pulitzer Prize-Winning Cartoonist
- **Pedram Salimpour ’90**
  Senior Vice President at CareNex Health Services
- **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

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52. **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.

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53. **Number One in the Nation!**

In 2014, *Time Magazine* ranked UCR as the Number One university in the nation according to the White House administration’s proposed college assessment criteria, including graduation rate, tuition, and percentage of students who receive a Pell Grant. UCR is ranked Number Two in *Washington Monthly*’s annual ranking of universities who have a positive impact on both the global and local community. admissions.ucr.edu/WhyUCR/ourRankings
**54. Affordable Education**

But what does that mean to you? Well for starters, it means that you don’t have to go to a hugely expensive school to get a world-class degree. It also means that if you were thinking of skipping college because you thought it was too expensive, you might want to think again.

There are lots of 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 $330 million annually in grant, loan, work-study, and scholarship aid each year. And, with programs like the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, we’re doing all we can to help our students fund their education.

finaid.ucr.edu

**Apply Now!** Don’t miss your chance to receive the financial help that you and your family deserve. Applying for financial aid is a lot easier than most people think.

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 be just what you want to know.
Facts and Impacts

Cool Things Smart Students Should Know about UC Riverside

54

Facts

and Impacts

#mygiftwillbe