Facts
and Impacts

Cool Things Smart Students Should
Know About UC Riverside

54
Facts
and Impacts
You’ve got an important choice ahead of you. Where are you going to college next year? Your college experience is going to be about so much more than coursework, it’s going to be about the people you’ll meet, the opportunities you’ll be given and the experiences you’ll have. It’s about the person you want to be when you earn your degree and the impact you want to have on the world.

UCR is proud to be a university with not only world-class academic programs, award-winning faculty and groundbreaking research, but also a well-earned reputation for community involvement. Starting on campus and reaching across the globe, our students are passionate about making a difference.

Get to know UCR a little better on the following pages — our programs, our people, our impact — and find your place here, too. We can’t wait to welcome you to UCR!

Are you ready to attend UCR? SIR today at my.ucr.edu.
1. Healing Inland Southern California

The UCR School of Medicine, California’s first public medical school in more than 40 years, celebrated the graduation of its inaugural class in 2017 — and all 40 members of the class were matched to a residency program! 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 the medical school called the Thomas Haider Program at the UCR School of Medicine — with up to 24 seats in each medical school class filled by students who attended UCR for at least six consecutive quarters and completed their bachelor’s degree at UCR!

medschool.ucr.edu

2. Empowering Future Leaders

Over 1,000 Inland Empire residents have gone to college thanks to UCR alumna Dr. Manuela G. Sosa (’66). In 1998, Sosa and her husband, Randy, co-founded The Inland Empire Scholarship Fund (IESF) to provide scholarships, academic guidance, career advice and college admission assistance to low-income Latino students in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Sosa’s own life was the inspiration for the organization’s founding. She’s a first-generation high school and college graduate. A transfer student from San Bernardino Valley College, Sosa earned a degree from Loma Linda Dental School after graduating from UCR and became the first practicing female dentist in Riverside.

iesfbecas.org, alumni.ucr.edu
At a Glance: School of Business (SB)

Programs: 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), and a Ph.D. program.

Network Building: 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.


business.ucr.edu, http://www.ucr.edu/about/rankingsandfacts.html

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 ski lift tickets and rent gear for your own outdoor adventure.

excursions.ucr.edu
5. More Than 450 Flavors!
Find your perfect fit among UCR’s more than 450 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 work with Student Life to start your own! 
studentlife.ucr.edu

6. Going Green
Sustainability is a way of life at UCR, from the utensils used in campus dining to the solar panels found across campus, including 9,600 solar panels recently installed in parking lots 30 and 32 expected to generate about 7.6 million kWh in the first year of operation. The Sierra Club’s 2017 Cool School’s Ranking listed UCR 35th out of 227 universities for its energy-saving and sustainability efforts. UCR is also included in The Princeton Review’s 2017 list of the Top 50 Green Colleges, recognizing schools that share superb sustainability practices, a strong foundation in sustainability education and a healthy quality of life for students on campus. UCR also ranks No. 2 in the UC system for on-site renewable energy.
sustainability.ucr.edu, http://www.ucr.edu/about/rankingsandfacts.html
princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide

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. Make friends, get involved with a campus group, learn about other cultures, try new foods and get free goodies at these weekly gatherings. 
aspb.ucr.edu

8. Your Success = Our Reward
At UCR, your success is a priority from orientation through graduation — and it shows. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) named UCR the winner of its 2016 Project Degree Completion Award at its annual meeting in November 2016. The award identifies and honors institutions employing innovative methods or programs to increase retention and graduation outcomes and/or close achievement gaps for all students or specific groups of students. This national nod affirms what matters most here — student success.
ucrtoday.ucr.edu/42262

Being a successful student means being well 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 overall 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, develop the lifelong skills and behaviors that lead to success.

[ bewell.ucr.edu ]

10. **Heavy Medal**

MIT Chemistry Professor and UCR alum **Richard R. Schrock** (’67) 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 a global population that’s expected to reach 8 billion by 2025. This initiative brings together all 10 UC campuses and leaders in disciplines including medicine, climate science, public policy, social science, biological science, humanities, arts and law. It’s pushing the boundaries of policy, research and service to find ways to increase food security, locally and globally.

[ sustainability.ucr.edu ]
12. **City Lights**

Downtown Riverside is a vibrant place for dining, shopping, arts, entertainment and lodging. Topping any visitor’s must-see list is **The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa**, a world-renowned AAA-Four Diamond hotel 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. Enjoy concerts, musicals, comedy and more at the Fox Performing Arts Center and Riverside Municipal Auditorium, two beautiful venues built in the 1920s. 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.

[missioninn.com, riversidelive.com, riversideartswalk.com](http://missioninn.com, riversidelive.com, riversideartswalk.com)

13. **Discovery Starts Here**

Alum **Joshua Olivia** (’15) 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)
14. On the Field

The 2017 professional baseball season saw six Highlander alumni taking to the field in the major and minor leagues.

**Matt Andriese**, pitcher, Tampa Bay Rays
Andriese pitched for The Highlanders from 2009–2011 before being signed by the San Diego Padres. He began his professional career with the Lake Elsinore Storm. Andriese was traded to the Rays organization during the 2014 season and made his major-league debut with the team in 2015.

**Rob Brantly**, catcher, Chicago White Sox
Brantly played for The Highlanders in the 2009 and 2010 seasons before being drafted by the Detroit Tigers. He’s since played for the Miami Marlins, Chicago White Sox and Cincinnati Reds organizations. He made his major-league debut with Miami in 2012. The White Sox re-signed Brantly at the end of 2016.

**Joe Kelly**, pitcher, Boston Red Sox
Kelly played three years for The Highlanders before being drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in 2009. He made his major-league debut with the team in 2012. Kelly was traded to the Boston Red Sox in 2014 and was part of the team’s starting rotation in 2017.

**Dan Runzler**, pitcher, Pittsburgh Pirates
Runzler began his professional baseball career with the San Francisco Giants organization, which drafted him in 2007. He made his major-league debut with the team in 2009. Runzler has since played with the Arizona Diamondbacks, Minnesota Twins and Pittsburgh Pirates organizations. He’s currently a free agent.

**Marc Rzepczynski**, pitcher, Seattle Mariners
Rzepczynski played for The Highlanders from 2004–2007 before being signed by the Toronto Blue Jays. He’s since played with the St. Louis Cardinals, Cleveland Indians, San Diego Padres, Oakland Athletics, Washington Nationals and Seattle Mariners organizations. Rzepczynski made his major-league debut in 2009 with Toronto and was part of St. Louis’ World Series champion team in 2011.

**Chris Smith**, pitcher, Oakland Athletics
Smith began his professional career in 2002 with the Boston Red Sox. He later played with the Milwaukee Brewers, Seattle Mariners, San Diego Padres and Oakland Athletics organizations. Smith made his major-league debut in 2008 with Boston. During the 2017 season, 36-year-old Smith became the oldest player in Oakland’s history to make his first major league career start. He’s currently a free agent.

gohighlanders.com
15. Renewable Nanopower for the Win!
UCR doctoral student Peter Byrley was UC's 2016 Grad Slam champion for his talk “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 UCR in the forefront of innovation.
gradslam.universityofcalifornia.edu

16. The Pursuit of Happiness
Sonja Lyubomirsky, professor of psychology and director of the university’s Positive Activities and Well-Being Laboratory

What She’s Up To: Lyubomirsky has dedicated her research to the study of human happiness and how people can lead happier lives. Her research earned Lyubomirsky a spot on Business Insider’s list of “The 15 Most Amazing Women in Science Today.”

What She Says About Her Research:
“The short answer is that I have had terrific, supportive colleagues and absolutely fantastic students. The Department of Psychology at UCR is exceptional; I can’t imagine being anywhere else.” sonjalyubomirsky.com psychology.ucr.edu

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. You can even drink juice made from oranges grown on campus! So that sweet and juicy California navel orange you had for lunch today had its roots right here at UCR!
cnas.ucr.edu
18. **Food for Thought**

Having consistent access to healthy, nutritious food is essential for success in school and in life. UCR has a number of programs to support students facing food insecurity, including R’Pantry, which offers emergency food to students in need. Student groups and individual students support R’Pantry through food drives, fundraisers and by volunteering their time. Another source of food on campus is the R’Garden community garden. Some of the fruits and vegetables grown in the R’Garden are given to R’Pantry. Students are also welcome to pick fruits and vegetables for free, and are invited to help harvest or plant new crops.

[go.ucr.edu/rpantry, rgarden.ucr.edu](go.ucr.edu/rpantry, rgarden.ucr.edu)

19. **In the Zone**

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) has tutoring, workshops and mentorship programs to help undergraduate students excel in their classes. The center’s Transfer Success Programs provide dynamic programming to support the success of transfer students. Stop by the Transfer Student Success Zone to meet with other transfer students and attend special events.

[arc.ucr.edu](arc.ucr.edu)

20. **What’s Your Career Readiness Score?**

From your first day on campus to graduation, 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. Get connected with international career opportunities using our UniWorld Online and GoinGlobal software. Join us for our job discovery panels and networking events where you can meet recruiters from top organizations like City of Hope, Facebook, PepsiCo, Google, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, NASA – Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NVIDIA, Northrop Grumman and the Peace Corps. Students also have exclusive access to SCOTjobs, with online job listings that will fit every Highlander’s needs. It’s your career — prepare to launch!

#UCRCareerReady
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.

[Link](cnas.ucr.edu)

22. **At a Glance: 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.

**Undergraduate Programs:** Beginning in fall 2018, GSOE will be enrolling incoming students in its first undergraduate major — education, society and human development. If you’re interested in a career in education, this new program will introduce you to issues, policies and practices of education and learning.

**Graduate Programs:** UCR offers master’s, doctoral and teacher credentialing 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, SEARCH 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.

[Link](education.ucr.edu)

23. **Star Power**

Transformative research from UCR’s **School of Business** is changing the way companies groom their next generation of top talent, cultivate an environment of extreme performers and gain a competitive edge. In their latest study on extreme performance in the workplace, **Haibo Lu**, assistant professor of management, and researchers from INSEAD business school showed that product designers who collaborate with stars are more likely to emerge as stars themselves than designers who collaborate with non-stars.

[Link](ucrtoday.ucr.edu/42862)
Building for the Future
Dating back to its start as the Citrus Experiment Station, UCR has long been at the forefront of research and innovation. State-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms and lecture halls are essential to helping our students and researchers succeed. Classrooms across campus have recently been upgraded with new multi-media equipment, and furnishings that better facilitate discussion and collaboration. Construction continues on the five-story Multidisciplinary Research Building 1, which will house 56 researchers and their teams when it opens next year.

ucrtoday.ucr.edu/49215
ucrtoday.ucr.edu/49626

A Mind of Their Own
Someday drones may have more control over their missions. Researchers at UCR received a $1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop artificial intelligence for drones. The technology, being developed by a team led by Amit Roy-Chowdhury, professor of electrical and computer engineering, could allow the drones to act on their own, for example by zooming in on a certain object. This innovation could be instrumental for environmental and security monitoring, or for search and rescue missions.

ucrtoday.ucr.edu/49421

Hot Arts Scene, Cool Culture
It’s true — SoCal has a hot arts scene. Part of the heat emanates from the UCR ARTSblock 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 United States), and check out a screening, concert or lecture at the Culver Center of the Arts.

artsblock.ucr.edu
At a Glance: College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS)

Culture: In CNAS, faculty and students work side-by-side in an interdisciplinary environment that flows easily among the life, physical, mathematical and agricultural sciences. 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.

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

Emerging Technology: UCR science has achieved international recognition in many fields. For example, a UCR research project led by physicist and professor 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) explores 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.

cnas.ucr.edu

A Place for Fun and Fitness!

Open an average of 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. It also offers fitness and recreation classes, cooking demos, swim lessons, sponsors the Ropes and Outdoor Excursions programs, and is home to the intramural sports program. And all UCR students are members! This means more ways for you to get fit — and more ways for you to have fun!

recreation.ucr.edu
29. **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 and cultural celebrations. 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. housing.ucr.edu

---

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

**Programs:** UCR is the only public policy program in the entire UC system that offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in public policy. 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 nonprofit 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:** 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. 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
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 the 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

32. Campus of Firsts

UCR consistently ranks among the nation’s most ethnically diverse universities. Our campus’ welcoming environment is supported in part by the Ethnic & Gender Programs offices, many of which are groundbreakers. UCR is the first campus to have a professionally staffed black student resource center (African Student Programs, 1972). We’re the first UC campus to open an office focused on serving Native American students (Native American Student Programs, 1980). UCR is the first campus in California to have a professionally staffed LGBT student center (LGBT Resource Center, 1993). We’re the home to the first Middle Eastern Student Center in the nation (MESC, 2013). Beyond these innovative supportive programs, UCR is the first public university to offer gender-inclusive housing, the first UC campus to offer a Native American history PhD, the first university in California to offer an LGBT studies minor and the first university in the world to have an endowed American Indian chair.

diversity.ucr.edu

31. Housing Innovation

Students in the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering have developed a new durable and eco-friendly construction material that will be used to construct relief shelters and low-cost housing in the Philippines. The team, called Husk-to-Home, uses rice husks and recycled high density polyethylene (HDPE), both abundant waste products in the Philippines, to create a termite-resistant composite material similar to particle board. Husk-to-Home has been awarded grants from the Environmental Protection Agency for this innovative material and is partnering with the International Deaf Education Association (IDEA) to construct the new homes in areas recovering from a 2013 earthquake and super typhoon.

ucrtoday.ucr.edu/45207
34. 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:** UCR is only UC campus to offer an undergraduate degree in creative writing and one of the few universities in the nation to offer a PhD in dance.

chass.ucr.edu

35. Coolly Collected

UCR’s libraries are home to dozens of notable collections covering literature, politics, history, religion and more. Learn about the past’s vision of the future in The Eaton Collection of Science Fiction & Fantasy featuring personal papers, fanzines, comic books and manuscripts. Explore the history of the Tuskegee Airmen through a collection comprised of personal papers of Tuskegee Airmen, papers of Tuskegee Airmen memorial organizations, photographs, books, artifacts, and research materials compiled by scholars and independent researchers. Become immersed Japanese hip-hop culture in The Dexter Thomas Jr. Collection of Japanese Hip Hop, which includes CDs, manga and magazines.

library.ucr.edu

36. Reaching Toward Infinity

UCR astronomers have discovered a galaxy located far, far away — 30 billion light years away, to be precise. The galaxy, z8-GND-5296, is the oldest and most distant 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 percent 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
37. 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 complete and track at least 54 predetermined traditions to earn a medal upon graduation.

studentlife.ucr.edu
tartansoul.ucr.edu

39. True Believer
UCR students benefit from 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 television series including The Secret Life of Muslims (Vox), The Leftovers (HBO) and Rough Draft (Ovation). His New York Times best-selling fifth book God: A Human History, hit shelves in the fall.

rezaaslan.com
creativewriting.ucr.edu

38. At a Glance: Marlan and Rosemary 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 world leader in areas including 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.


engr.ucr.edu, http://www.ucr.edu/about/rankingsandfacts.html
40. 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 the Block Party music festival and continues with three weeks of Highlander Welcome programming. Throughout the year, be sure to check out annual traditions Homecoming and the Spring Splash music festival; show your Highlander Pride on R’Day; and take part in all of the other on-campus events that make everyone feel welcome and connected with the campus community.
rside.ucr.edu

41. An Evolution Revolution
Young Hoon Oh, lecturer of anthropology
What He’s Up To: Climbing Everest! As part of the fieldwork for his anthropology dissertation, Oh, UCR alum (‘16) and anthropology lecturer, climbed the world’s tallest peak. Oh’s dissertation, “Forces of the Unknown: Subjective, Intersubjective, and Presubjective Community in Himalayan Mountaineering,” focused 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

42. The Professor and the Global Economy
Sean Jasso, professor of practice
What He’s Up To: Jasso, a professor in the School of Business (SB), devotes his time to teaching UCR students about the world’s economy and the business world on a global level. He recently lead students on a residency program in Shanghai and Ho Chi Minh City to experience first-hand Asia’s emerging markets.
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. **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 study abroad.

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

---

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)). Discover what it’s really like to be a student at UCR and keep up with all of the latest campus news — including important admission updates — by following UCR admissions on Facebook (@UCRAAdmissions), Instagram (@lifeatucr), Snapchat (@ucradmissions), Twitter (@UCRAdmissions) and YouTube ([Life at UCR](http://youtube.com/LifeatUCR)).

---

45. **Leader in Action**

**Karthick Ramakrishnan**, professor of public policy and political science, associate dean for the School of Public Policy

**What He’s Up To:** Ramakrishnan’s research focuses on civic participation, immigration policy and the politics of race, ethnicity and immigration in the United States. He directs the National Asian American Survey, is founder of AAPIData.com, a board member for The California Endowment, chair of the California Commission on APIA Affairs and adjunct fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. In 2015, he was named one of 25 **Leaders in Action** by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), a list recognizing leaders who take important action every day to lift up Asian American and Pacific Islander communities around the nation.

**What He Says About His Research:** “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.”

[karthick.com](http://karthick.com), [publicpolicy.ucr.edu](http://publicpolicy.ucr.edu), [aapip.org](http://aapip.org)
The Professors and the Portobello Mushrooms

Mihri and Cengiz Ozkan, professors of engineering

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, “Bio-Derived, Binderless, Hierarchically Porous Carbon Anodes for Li-Ion Batteries.”

What They Say About Their Research: “It truly represents the flagship of progress. [If] we do very well, we can define the next big change in the technological revolution.”

engr.ucr.edu

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 to 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
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 up 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, burrito, sushi or pizza and remain a Highlander.

studentlife.ucr.edu
tartansoul.ucr.edu
49. **From UCR to the Capitol**

Two UCR alumni are currently representing the Inland Empire as legislators — **Jose Medina** in Sacramento (’74, ’84) as assemblymember for the 61st Assembly District and **Mark Takano** (’10) in Washington, DC as congressman for the 41st District.

Medina earned his BA in Latin American Studies and MA in History from UCR. He was a teacher with the Riverside Unified School District, member of the Riverside City Teachers Association, member of the Jurupa Unified School District Board, member of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees and a representative to the state council of the California Teachers Association (CTA) prior to his election to the California State Assembly in 2012. He led the effort to ensure UCR’s School of Medicine received $15 million of full and continuous funding through the state budget.

Takano earned his MFA in Creative Writing for the Performing Arts from UCR. He taught in the Rialto Unified School District and served on the Riverside Community College District’s Board of Trustees. In 2012 Takano became the first openly gay person of color to be elected to Congress. He serves as vice ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and as a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

50. **University Honors: Pillars of Excellence**

Students in the University Honors program engage with faculty through special courses; connect with fellow Honors students in first-year, transfer and upper-division living-learning communities; and take part in faculty-mentored research. Honors students have the opportunity to create and publish their own undergraduate research capstone project.

honors.ucr.edu
We Produce the Coolest Graduates!

Your Highlander family includes more than 110,000 alumni making an impact in media, science, technology, sports, local government and more.

UCR Alums With Cool Careers

- **Mark Andrus ('78)**
  Screenwriter of Academy Award-Winning *As Good as It Gets*.

- **Steven Breen ('92, T.C. '94)**

- **Cory Butner ('05)**
  Competed in 2014 Winter Olympics; silver medalist in the 2012–2013 bobsledding World Cup.

- **Jamie Chung ('05)**
  Actress first seen on MTV’s reality show, *The Real World: San Diego*. She’s appeared in films including *Sorority Row*, *The Hangover Part II* and *Sucker Punch*, and on the TV show *Once Upon a Time*.

- **Paul Cook (M.A. ’00)**
  United States Congressman representing California’s 8th District.

- **Michael Devirian ('66)**
  Mission Control for the Mars Mariner and Lunar Lander Missions from 1966–1970. He was also the operations manager for the Hubble Space Telescope and Camera Installation.

- **Elizabeth George ('70, T.C. '73)**
  *New York Times* and international bestselling author of crime and young adult novels.

- **Michael Huerta ('78)**
  Chief of the Federal Aviation Administration.

- **Shola Lynch (M.A. ’95)**

- **Nakul Dev Mahajan ('02)**
  Choreographer for TV shows including *So You Think You Can Dance* and *The Office*.

- **Brenda Martinez ('10)**
  Competed in 2016 Summer Olympics; 2013 bronze medalist World Track and Field Championships.

- **Carol Kwang Park ('11)**
  Writer and award-winning journalist.

- **Anthony Rendon (Ph.D. '00)**
  Speaker of the California Assembly, assemblymember for 63rd assembly district.

- **Shah Selbe ('04)**
  *National Geographic* explorer.

- **Brendan Steele ('05)**
  PGA golfer with three tour wins in his career.

Learn more about our cool alumni at [alumni.ucr.edu](http://alumni.ucr.edu)

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
Congratulations Graduates!

The Education Trust recognized UCR in 2017 for its high African American graduation rates. Supportive resources like mentorships and academic enrichment programs, nurturing relationships developed through student groups, and a range of leadership and development opportunities offered through African Student Programs are helping African American students succeed at UCR.

ucrtoday.ucr.edu/44994

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 earn a world-class degree. It also means that if you think college is too expensive, think again. More than 86 percent of UCR undergraduate students receive financial aid; 70 percent of those that receive it have their full fees covered by grants and/or scholarships, according to UCR’s Financial Aid office. 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 $455 million in grant, loan, work-study and scholarship aid for the 2017–18 academic year to undergraduate students, according to the Financial Aid office. With programs like the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan and Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) program, there are many ways you may be able to fund your education.

finaid.ucr.edu
That’s a glimpse into the story of UCR.
But there’s a lot more to know, learn about and discover. We hope you’re curious enough to uncover more about our university and the impact you can have here.

Begin Your UCR Story!
SIR today at my.ucr.edu.

Be Financially Well
In addition to helping you secure the scholarships, grants and loans that make a UCR education affordable, our Financial Aid office can also help you develop the skills you need to make good financial decisions in college and beyond. The Financial Wellness Program hosts workshops, shares tools and offers resources that will teach you how to navigate the financial aid process, create a budget, understand credit and more. go.ucr.edu/finwell

Visit UCR!
Get a feel for campus life by scheduling a free tour or taking a 360-degree virtual tour. visit.ucr.edu

Ask questions and get the latest posts, pics and updates from UCR.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
@UCRAmissions
@lifeatucr
@ucradmissions
@UCRAmissions
Life at UCR
lifeatucr.tumblr.com
admissions.ucr.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
@UCRiverside
@ucriversideofficial
@UCRiverside
@UCRiverside
ucr.edu
54 Facts and Impacts

Cool Things Smart Students Should Know About UC Riverside

#MyUCRHeart