

Legacies Set in Stone:

The People Behind the Buildings

A Brief History of UCR

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The Citrus Experiment Station

“...the most important day in the history of Riverside”

Securing the Agricultural Industry of Southern California

Founded in 1907, the Citrus Experiment Station (CES) was a research center operated by the University of California. Initially focused on soil management problems, CES would eventually be best known for fruit cultivation and experimentation, including the development of the famous Citrus Variety Collection.

Citrus Variety Collection

Began in 1910 with just 500 varieties of citrus, the UCR Citrus Variety Collection now encompasses virtually all of the commercially important and historic citrus varieties in the world, surpassing 1000 varieties.

Visiting the Original Site

Although the original building is gone, CES's original site can still be visited today. It now houses A. Gary Anderson Hall, one of the first buildings constructed on the land that would eventually become the UCR campus.

Mascots of UCR

The Class of 1958 Makes History

Lady McTavish of Walpole (“Buttons”)

Lady McTavish was a pedigreed Scottish Terrier and an “unofficial” living mascot often found cheering for UCR at sports games.

A Bear By Any Other Name

The first class of students at UCR ('58) wanted to follow in the tradition of UCLA and Cal by choosing a bear mascot. A popular choice was the “Cub,” which was also the title of the student newspaper. However, many students worried it was too diminutive compared to UCLA's bruin and Cal's golden bear.

The Hylanders & Scotty

While many options were proposed (rams, bison, raiders, eagles, friars, and scorpions among them), a winning option was nominated by freshmen Donna Lewis— the “Hylanders.” It was a compelling option for several reasons: the Box Spring Mountains behind UCR are known as the Highlands, and UCR has the highest elevation of any campus in the UC system. UCR's “Cub” grew to become Scotty, drawn from the Scottish association with the highlands.

“The Swarthmore of the West”

From Small Liberal Arts College to R1 Institution

The Citizens University Committee (CUC)

Founded in 1948 by Riverside community leaders, CUC was instrumental in advocating for a UC campus to be built in Riverside.

Opening the College of Letters & Science

UCR was initially envisioned as a small liberal arts college, without graduate-level study, professional schools, or research requirements for faculty. Provost [Gordon S. Watkins](#) and system-wide UC President [Robert Gordon Sproul](#) worked together to build and equip the campus.

The Spieth Administration

Provost [Herman Theodore Spieth](#) succeeded Watkins and changed the trajectory of UCR forever, deciding to combine the College with CES, and convert the campus from the liberal arts model to a research university matching the other UC campuses. Essentially creating “one university, many campuses.”

The Barn

A Place for Music, Food, and Community

An Original Part of UCR

The Barn was originally built in 1917 as a functioning barn and horse stable to accompany the Citrus Experiment Station. In 1955 (a year after UCR opened), the Barn was converted first to a student dining hall, and later to a [full fledged](#) dining and music performance venue. The Barn has hosted many famous performers over the years and served as an important part of student social life on campus.

A New Beginning

In 2018, the Barn underwent a massive renovation. This \$30 million project expanded the Barn's offerings to include an outdoor bar, an entertainment stage, and an exclusive faculty/staff restaurant called The Stable. However, some things remain the same: the Barn's original 1917 roof was preserved and can be viewed in the restored dining room. Now fully reopened, the Barn remains an integral part of UCR's history.



Rupert & Jeannette Costo

Scholars, Activists & Philanthropists for Native American Studies

A First in the Nation

Most well known for co-founding the American Indian Historical Society in San Francisco, Rupert & Jeannette Costo would go on to make history by creating the first academic endowment focused on Native American Studies. The Costos also have a deep connection to Riverside; Rupert Costo, a Cahuilla man, was also one of the main advocates for a UC campus to be built in the city.

Notable Achievements

- Establishment of the Costo Endowed Chair in American Indian Affairs (currently held by Dr. Clifford Trafzer)

Tributes on Campus

- Costo Hall (houses UCR's Ethnic & Gender Centers)
- Costo Library of the American Indian (in Rivera Library)

Tomás Rivera

The First Chicano Chancellor in the UC System (and really, the country)

A Poet in the Ivory Tower

Rivera served as UCR's third chancellor from 1979-1984. Recruited at just 44 years old, Rivera was a Mexican American author, poet, and educator whose values and determination would leave a lasting legacy on this campus.

Notable Achievements

- Rivera's novel *...y no se lo tragó la tierra* is widely considered one of the first classics of the Chicano Civil Rights movement.
- Establishment of a master's degree in business administration

Tributes on Campus

- Tomás Rivera Library
- Annual Tomás Rivera Conference
- Tomás Rivera Endowed Chair of Creative Writing (currently held by Prof. Alex Espinoza)



Ivan Hinderaker

The Longest Serving Chancellor at UCR

Leadership in Turbulent Times

Hinderaker became UCR's second Chancellor in 1964, amidst the era of civil rights and anti-war protests across university campuses. Even within the administration, UCR was fractured— faculty were upset at losing the liberal arts model, and the CES and the College of Letters & Science had been combined in theory only, not in practice. Hinderaker had a long journey ahead of him to create a united and cohesive university, yet he did so across his 15-year tenure.

Notable Achievements

- Construction of the Carillon Tower (the "Bell Tower")
- Establishment of the UCR/California Museum of Photography

Tributes on Campus

- Hinderaker Hall
- Ivan's Coffee Shop



UCR's Chancellors

Herman Spieth (1956-1964)

Ivan Hinderaker (1964-1979)

Tomás Rivera (1979-1984)

- **First Chicano chancellor in the UC system**

Ted Hullar (1985-1987)

Rosemary Shraer (1987-1992)

- **First female chancellor in UC system**

Raymond Orbach (1992-2002)

France Córdova (2002-2007)

- **First female Hispanic chancellor in UC system**

Timothy White (2008-2012)

Kim Wilcox (2013-2025)

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