Trailblazing research, mind-blowing technology, high-octane academics, turbocharged athletics ... and an anteater.
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From dusty ranch to research mecca, UC Irvine has traveled a remarkable path in its half-century history. Dedicated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 and opened to students a year later, the campus is now ranked as the best young university in America and fourth-best in the world.

In its gallop to academic stardom, the Anteater Nation has also earned international acclaim – including three Nobel Prizes and a slew of Pulitzers – and attracted a litany of luminaries, from the Dalai Lama and Jordan’s Queen Noor to chimp expert Jane Goodall and even a few zombies.

Launched with just 1,589 students and 119 professors, the campus today boasts more than 28,000 undergrad and graduate
degree-seekers and nearly 22,000 employees (second only to Disneyland as Orange County’s largest workforce), adding $4.3 billion annually to the local economy.

Lured by UCI’s burgeoning reputation, would-be freshmen shower the school with admission applications, more than almost any other U.S. university, enabling the campus to pick a diverse and stellar student body.

The pages that follow highlight UC Irvine’s scientific and medical breakthroughs, academic prowess, literary masterpieces, athletic triumphs, colorful student life, thoughtful community service and much more.

A UC Irvine engineer helped design the world’s lightest material, a metal mesh that is 99.99 percent air, yet structurally tough. Made from strands of nickel 1,000 times skinnier than human hair, the mesh can sit atop a dandelion but also withstand considerable pressure.

When former President Bill Clinton spoke on campus in 2012, he delighted the crowd by flashing the Anteater “Zot” hand sign.

Toyota tested the nation’s first commercial-ready, hydrogen-powered fuel cell car at UCI’s National Fuel Cell Research Center.

UC Irvine founding architect William Pereira also designed LAX, part of the Kennedy Space Center and the L.A. County Museum of Art.
First public university in Nobel Prize history to have professors win in two fields during the same year. In 1995, Frederick Reines snagged the Nobel in physics for detecting neutrino particles, and F. Sherwood Rowland shared the chemistry prize for discovering that aerosol sprays were destroying the ozone layer, which led to bans on chlorofluorocarbons.

F. Sherwood Rowland

A Series of Firsts

Alumnus Roy Fielding invented HTTP, the now-ubiquitous Internet abbreviation for hypertext transfer protocol. Before HTTP, computer users typed “get” and a Web address to retrieve information.

Pioneered the first stem cell therapy to be tested on humans with spinal injuries and the first embryonic stem cell treatment that enabled paralyzed rats to walk again.

World’s first sewage-powered hydrogen fueling station for hydrogen cars.

Youngest school to gain membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities.

The nation’s first interdisciplinary academic department – Earth system science – to focus on climate change. ESS also created the first detailed map of glacier movements across Antarctica.
Research and academics that serve the world
Exploring everything from malaria mosquitoes to dwindling water supplies, UC Irvine scientists have helped transform the campus from a fledgling university influencing its surrounding community to a world-class research institution serving the entire planet. On a daily basis, the school’s programs, faculty, students and alumni are making a difference in the lives of people across the globe.

Water research

If Noah were planning for a flood today, he might want to consult with UC Irvine’s vast reservoir of water experts. Dialed in to NASA satellites and global weather data, they help nations predict and grapple with monsoons, droughts and everything in between. They’ve tracked groundwater depletion in India, analyzed urban runoff in California and chronicled the disappearance of enough Middle Eastern water to fill the Dead Sea, among other projects.

The goal is to promote smarter use of water resources and environmental protection. Working from a town known for grassy greenbelts, swimming pools and decorative fountains, about 80 UC Irvine professors from various departments are involved in the university’s extensive water research projects.

UC Irvine Center for Hydrometeorology & Sensing director Soroosh Sorooshian (center) works with UNESCO, NASA and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to monitor heavy rainfall and predict floods.
Malaria research

This tiny bloodsucker, the *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito, is currently a major source of malaria in India and the Middle East. But UC Irvine vector biologist Anthony James and the Pasteur Institute in Paris used genetic engineering to breed mosquitoes unable to infect people with the disease. The research could put a major dent in malaria, which affects up to 500 million people a year and kills nearly 1 million, mostly infants, children and pregnant women.

To help control Argentine ants, one of the world’s most destructive pests, UC Irvine researchers concocted a synthetic ant body scent that causes the insects to decapitate one another.

Described as “delightfully glum,” UC Irvine hydrologist Jay Famiglietti documents how humans are using water faster than it can be replenished. His work has been featured in a documentary film and multiple news stories.

UC Irvine political scientist and water policy expert David Feldman studies how communities deal with conflicts over water. He believes computer models can help educate the public about the consequences of water use. “It can’t be done top-down,” he says. “It has to be bottom-up because each person has a tangible role in water use.”
A squid skin compound brewed by UC Irvine’s Henry Samueli School of Engineering could help soldiers avoid detection by infrared cameras and night-vision equipment. “Our long-term goal is to create fabrics that can dynamically alter their texture and color,” researcher Alon Gorodetsky says. “Basically, we’re seeking to make shape-shifting clothing—the stuff of science fiction—a reality.”

Once a global leader in math and science education, the U.S. has plunged to the bottom third among industrialized nations. Enter UCI’s Cal Teach program, which produces skilled math and science teachers in four years instead of five. “Kids through the sixth grade are little scientists; they’re very curious about the world and how things work,” says Al Bennett, dean of UCI’s School of Biological Sciences. “For some reason, that curiosity gets beaten out of them, but we can help by educating highly qualified and motivated teachers.” Above, Khanh Tran, who is pursuing a chemistry degree and teaching credential through Cal Teach, checks student work at a Santa Ana high school.

3 D Printing

A velociraptor skull, resin casts of human hands (complete with fingerprints) and a plastic octahedron are among the objects created by UC Irvine’s futuristic three-dimensional printers, a vanguard in the next wave of manufacturing. The school’s RapidTech program, the nation’s only nonprofit dedicated to 3 D printer training for community college and university students, has churned out medical devices, architectural models, drum sets and more for Boeing, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Army and hundreds of small companies and academic laboratories.
The list of topics runs the gamut, from business contracts to the physics of zombies. Through UC Irvine Extension, the campus expands its educational reach via specialized career programs, online classes and personal enrichment courses open to the general public.

Founded in 1962, UC Irvine Extension currently dishes up 3,200 courses a year to more than 40,000 students across the globe. Among the program’s accomplishments and innovations:

- Entirely self-funded, with revenues totaling nearly $70 million a year. About a third of the income is forwarded to the university’s main schools and central operating budget.
- Boosted the number of online courses offered to UC Irvine undergrads by 33 percent between 2009 and 2012, resulting in a 71 percent enrollment jump.
Partnered with the AMC cable network to create an online course that uses zombies in the popular “Walking Dead” TV series as a springboard for lessons in math, physics, social sciences and public health.

In 2002, played an integral role in developing the University of California’s first online master’s degree program, the Master of Advanced Study in Criminology, Law and Society.

Launched UC Irvine’s first massive open online courses (MOOCs), including two of the first five MOOCs to be recommended for credit by the American Council on Education.
Discover. Teach. Heal. UC Irvine Health lives out this medical mission with a trifecta of trailblazing research, topnotch physician training and nationally renowned patient care.

The epicenter of the program is UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange, home to one of America’s 50 best med schools for research and a high-tech hospital that consistently ranks among the nation’s elite – including No.1 in Orange County.

Here are some snapshots of UC Irvine Health’s remarkable accomplishments in the fields of human memory, stem cell research, cancer treatment, geriatrics and diversity.

UC Irvine Medical Center is rated 30th in the nation for geriatrics, 47th for kidney disorders and 48th for urology by *U.S. News & World Report*. Other specialties that have made the magazine’s annual top 50 list include gynecology, cancer, digestive disorders and ear, nose and throat.
Prime-LC

In 2004, eight medical students came to UC Irvine as pioneers in the nation’s first university program to improve the health of poor and disenfranchised Latinos.

UC Irvine’s five-year Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community (PRIME-LC) combines Spanish fluency and Latino culture classes with rigorous medical training and graduate study in a related field, such as public health or business administration. Students are expected to become healthcare leaders for the Latino community.

Prime-LC’s groundbreaking work led to the creation of similar programs across the nation.

“As Latinos become the largest population group in California and the largest minority group in the nation, meeting this group’s medical needs takes on even greater importance in terms of the overall public health.”

Dr. Alberto Manetta, senior associate dean of educational affairs in the School of Medicine

Thiago Halmer and three other PRIME-LC students traveled to his native Brazil to help treat people who stutter. Halmer also organized high school workshops to encourage disadvantaged students to become doctors.
UC Irvine Douglas Hospital

Filled with natural light, the seven-story UC Irvine Douglas Hospital is designed to create a calming and therapeutic environment for patients and visitors alike. Debuting in 2009, the $500 million teaching hospital replaced a 1960s-era building as the centerpiece of Orange County’s only university medical complex.

The hospital was named after M.A. Douglas, an Orange County real estate tycoon who grew up in a tiny, dirt-floor cabin built from railroad ties in Colorado. The Orange resident’s estate donated $21 million to the hospital after his death, the largest single cash gift in school history.

Loaded with state-of-the-art equipment, the hospital aims to bolster UC Irvine’s reputation for high-caliber patient care, breakthrough medical research and top-tier training for the doctors of today and tomorrow.

“There is no question that in our region, we are the hospital of choice for the treatment of serious and complex cases.” Terry A. Belmont, CEO of UCI Medical Center
Potential cures for blindness, stroke, diabetes and other afflictions are in the works at UC Irvine’s Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center, a cutting-edge laboratory at the forefront of its field.

The center’s research has attracted nearly $100 million in funding and paved the way for human testing that could revolutionize the treatment of disease.

Dr. Henry Klassen is investigating the use of stem cells to repair damaged retinas, which could restore sight in people with macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa.
Neurobiologist Hans Keirstead's embryonic stem cell research enabled paralyzed rats to walk again, a world first. A human version of that spinal cord therapy won FDA approval for clinical trials in 2009, the first such experiment in North America.

In her 20-year quest to cure Huntington's disease, a fatal brain disorder, Leslie M. Thompson has studied fruit flies and helped identify the gene that causes the ailment. Now she is working on stem cell treatments, an effort that earned her the Huntington's Disease Society of America's 2009 research award.

The husband-wife team of Aileen Anderson and Brian Cummings pioneered a groundbreaking stem cell therapy being tested on humans with spinal cord injuries. Two of the study's three paralyzed patients reported increased sensation six months after injections of neural stem cells at a Swiss hospital.

“One of the strongest stem cell centers in California. … It is an ideal atmosphere for a stem cell scientist who wishes to collaborate with the best in the field.”

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
UCI MIND

By 2020, aging baby boomers will swell America’s elderly population to one out of every five people, a 50 percent jump over today. The changing demographics underscore the importance of UC Irvine’s innovative and longstanding research into brain aging, memory loss and elder abuse.

Leading the charge in these efforts are UCI MIND, the university’s Institute of Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders, founded in 1995, and the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect, a School of Medicine geriatrics spinoff that sprang to life in 2003.

Carl Cotman, founding director of UCI MIND, has been a whirlwind of Alzheimer’s research over the years. Among other things, he uncovered the trigger for Alzheimer’s memory loss, as well as two counteragents – vitamin E and exercise.

Drs. Frank LaFerla and Mathew Blurton-Jones (from left) recently launched a stem cell study designed to counteract Alzheimer’s disease. In tests on mice, the stem cells acted like “fertilizer for the brain,” improving the animals’ memory, LaFerla says.

Elder Abuse Forensic Center

UC Irvine’s Elder Abuse Forensic Center, the first of its kind in the nation, brings together legal experts, doctors, social workers and police to help research, prevent and prosecute elder abuse. Established in 2003 by Dr. Laura Mosqueda and UCI’s geriatrics department, the center has reviewed more than 800 abuse cases, been honored by the U.S. Justice Department and inspired similar programs in other cities and overseas. It also serves as the official clearinghouse of information for the National Center on Elder Abuse.

Dr. Laura Mosqueda received a U.S. Justice Department award for her work to prevent abuse and neglect of the elderly.

A class that teaches coroners how to investigate elder deaths was launched in 2008 by the Elder Abuse Forensic Center.
In the battle against the Big C, aka cancer, UC Irvine’s Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center looms large. Dr. Richard Van Etten, formerly of Tufts Cancer Center, is the newly appointed director. He leads a team that combines the expertise of researchers, surgeons, oncologists, pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, nurses and other specialists to tackle the disease on all levels.

Backed by a staff that is internationally known for its work in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, the center is one of just eight U.S. institutions in the National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Genetics Network, which analyzes the link between genes and cancer. Other Chao research focuses on developing safe cancer prevention drugs and conducting clinical studies on preventing colon, liver, oral, prostate and pancreatic tumors.

Chosen as one of only six U.S. institutes to lead a chemoprevention network to speed the development of anticancer drugs.

Research funding comes from the National Cancer Institute, the National Institutes of Health and various public and private agencies.

The Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center is Orange County’s only NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center.

One of just 41 cancer centers in the nation – and the only one in Orange County – designated for excellence by the National Cancer Institute.
From rooftop **solar panels** to the world’s first sewage-powered hydrogen **fuel station**, UC Irvine is committed to shrinking its carbon footprint through innovative **research**, energy-miser building **design** and award-winning sustainability programs.

On the academic front, nearly 200 professors research and teach such topics as ocean health, water resource management, atmospheric chemistry, energy conservation, climate change, land-use planning and environmental law. The campus offers a minor in global sustainability, and its Earth system science department helped pioneer the interdisciplinary study of how humans affect the environment.

The campus is also a mecca for renewable energy research. Its National Fuel Cell Research Center and UC Irvine Combustion Laboratory have won support from the likes of NASA, Toyota, Westinghouse, Southern California Gas Co., the state Air Resources Board and the U.S. Department of Energy.

But the university does more than just teach and preach sustainability. Since the 1980s, UC Irvine has adopted green building practices and technologies across campus, installing a cogeneration power plant and nearly 5,000 solar panels. And its internationally recognized Smart Labs Initiative turned energy-guzzling research labs into conservation poster children, slicing power consumption by 60 percent.

As a student, An Vinh Tran’12 helped saturate the campus with “hydration stations,” which reduce waste by letting students fill water bottles for free. In its first year, the program dispensed 60,000 gallons of filtered water, the equivalent of 475,000 plastic bottles.
The UC Irvine campus is a living renewable energy laboratory. Solar panels atop the Natural Sciences II building are among the alternative energy sources powering the school.

Composting, recycling and waste-reduction programs have produced dramatic results, including “zero waste” at three campus dining spots.

In 2011, UC Irvine’s National Fuel Cell Research Center opened the planet’s first sewage-powered hydrogen refueling station. Drivers of hydrogen-powered cars can exit the 405 Freeway and tank up with converted sewage that gets the equivalent of 70 miles per gallon.

Water conservation efforts on campus exceed state standards by 30 percent.

Named to Princeton Review’s 2014 Green Honor Roll and Sierra magazine’s top 10 “Coolest Schools” for four years running.
A model program to generate and store power on campus won APPA’s 2013 Effective & Innovative Practices Award.

UC Irvine’s Connectivity Lab enables students to simulate electricity brownouts and test smart-grid technologies.

A dozen student organizations focus on sustainability, including: **The Green Initiative Fund**, which supports social, environmental and economic sustainability efforts on campus; **PowerSave Green Campus**, a student-driven energy-efficiency education program; **Real Food Challenge**, which campaigns for a more sustainable food system; and the **Summer Institute for Sustainability Leadership**, a pioneer program that cultivates environmental activism and leadership among incoming students.
Culture
As one campus English professor recently quipped, you can’t swing a dead anteater in a room of notable new authors without hitting a UC Irvine alum. The school’s highly rated M.F.A. writing program, taught by an array of visiting poets, novelists and core faculty, has churned out a who’s who of literary talent, including:

Alice Sebold, bestselling author of The Lovely Bones
Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Chabon, whose works include The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay
David Benioff, writer-producer of HBO’s “Game of Thrones”
Aimee Bender, author of The Girl in the Flammable Skirt

Author E.L. Doctorow wrote much of The Book of Daniel at UC Irvine.
Tucked seasonally along the edge of Aldrich Park, the portable, open-air New Swan Theater hosts an offbeat annual Shakespeare Festival. With seating for just 125 people, the tiny jewel of a theater debuted in 2012 with Bard plays set in exotic locales, such as the American Wild West and Mussolini-era Italy.
Distinguished Professor of English and comparative literature Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o is an internationally acclaimed novelist, essayist, playwright, journalist, editor and social activist from Kenya. In the 1960s, while imprisoned without trial because of his writings, Ngũgĩ penned an entire novel on toilet paper. His other works include *Weep Not, Child*, which is largely credited with opening Western eyes to post colonial Africa.

One of the best regional journals of writing, photography and graphic art is UC Irvine’s *Faultline*, produced by M.F.A. writing students.

Movies filmed at UC Irvine include “Conquest of the Planet of the Apes,” “Poltergeist,” “Silent Movie” and “Oceans Eleven.”
The wheels of justice may turn slowly, but not at UC Irvine. In just a few years, the new School of Law went from blank-slate startup to legal rising star. Since it debuted in 2009 as California’s first new public law school in four decades, its faculty has consistently ranked among the nation’s top 10 for scholarly impact, joining such rarefied company as those at Yale, Harvard and Columbia.

Students in the inaugural class of 2012, who all received full-ride scholarships, passed the California bar at a rate of 90 percent, second only to Stanford among state law schools. And the class finished behind only Yale in the percentage of graduates landing clerkships with federal judges.

Small classes and hands-on learning – working on behalf of real-life clients in UC Irvine’s robust pro bono program and in-house legal clinics – are cornerstones of the school’s mission to create “the ideal law school for the 21st century.”

“By every measure, we are succeeding in creating a top law school, with a faculty ranked among the best in the nation and students who have done superbly in passing the bar, gaining prestigious judicial clerkship, and landing impressive jobs in every area of legal practice.”

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky
Armed with customized iPads, digital stethoscopes and other high-tech gadgets, UC Irvine’s School of Medicine is reinventing the traditional medical school curriculum. In 2010, it launched the nation’s first completely digital, interactive medical school learning environment – nick-named iMedEd – using tablet computers and handheld ultrasound devices. Med students now receive fully loaded iPads, putting at their fingertips all the information they need to read, study or review, including textbooks and 3D anatomy programs. The tablets also store podcasts of lectures and a wealth of other instructional materials.

Outside the classroom, students use their iPads to record and display data from digital stethoscopes, bedside diagnostic units and encrypted patient medical records.

The multimedia approach seems to be a success. The first students in the iMedEd Initiative scored 23 percent higher on their national exams than previous classes.

The iMedEd Initiative was selected as a 2012-13 Apple Distinguished Program.

“By having all aspects of our medical school curriculum on the iPad, learning becomes a 24/7 opportunity no longer tied to the classroom or a desk. We believe our students are learning better than they have in the past.”

Dr. Ralph V. Clayman, dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine

Each year, the School of Medicine educates more than 400 students and trains about 600 residents and fellows.

The med school has 26 departments, ranging from basic science to clinical, medical and surgical specialties. It also has research, clinical and teaching relationships with the VA Long Beach Healthcare System and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

Under UC Irvine’s innovative iMedEd Initiative, students use iPads to store digital notes, outlines, data, diagrams and podcasts of lectures.
Paul Merage School of Business

Finding the Edge in a Global Economy

By combining the academic strengths of the University of California with the entrepreneurial spirit of Orange County, the relatively young Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine has catapulted into the top 5 to 10 percent of business schools worldwide.

Boasting a world-class faculty, a strong alumni network and tight-knit corporate relationships, the school offers one-on-one mentoring from outside business executives and in-depth experiences in real-world business issues. Students graduate as leaders with an exceptional ability to help grow their organizations through strategic innovation, analytical decision-making, information technology and collaborative execution.

In 2012, the Financial Times ranked The Merage School’s Executive MBA program No. 10 in the U.S. and No. 44 in the world. U.S. News & World Report rated the program No. 25 in the nation.

Not content to rest on its laurels, the school continues to innovate. In 2013, it launched a one-of-a-kind new major – the Master of Science in Biotechnology Management, which instills tools for managing the business side of scientific breakthroughs. The school also broke ground on its stunning new campus center, a $50 million “innovation gateway” replete with high-tech classrooms, a trading technology lab, conference facilities and a breathtaking 4,000-square-foot terrace.
Students in Action
Whether fostering Middle East peace or breaking a Guinness record for the world’s biggest dodgeball game, UC Irvine students engage in a multitude of activities, from the silly to the sublime. A sampling:

**Wheelchair Project**

UC Irvine engineering students partnered with Free Wheelchair Mission, a nonprofit that distributes low-cost mobile chairs to disabled people in poor nations. Working on a prototype rigged from mountain-bike tires and a plastic lawn chair, UCI students refined the wheelchair’s footrests, brakes and overall design.

**Orangewood Guardian Scholars**

In California, where less than 10 percent of foster children go to college and fewer than 2 percent graduate, UC Irvine works with the Orangewood Children’s Foundation to help about six students a year obtain financial aid, housing, jobs, academic counseling and tutoring. Since the program launched in 2000, only two of the school’s 40 Guardian Scholars have failed to graduate.

UC Irvine was featured as one of 10 campuses with great fraternity-sorority scenes at onlinecolleges.com.
Olive Tree Initiative

Founded in 2007 by a cadre of Muslim, Jewish and Christian students, this program aims to promote peaceful dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Members travel to the Middle East to hear perspectives from both sides, then share their insights and discoveries with fellow students and citizens back home. The effort has inspired spinoff chapters at UCLA, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego and San Diego State University.
More than \textbf{3,800} Anteaters set the Guinness world record for largest water-blaster battle during Welcome Week 2013.
From baseball to water polo, UC Irvine Anteaters are as fierce on the field as in the classroom. Since 2008, the school has racked up **13 conference titles** (in men’s and women’s soccer, women’s water polo, men’s tennis, men’s golf, men’s volleyball and baseball) and **two NCAA championships** (in men’s volleyball). Also, three players from the 2012-13 basketball squad, which finished the season with a **21-16 record** and advanced to the Big West Tournament championship, have signed **pro contracts** with European teams.
Number of UC Irvine national championship titles:

27
Peter the Anteater, UC Irvine’s celebrity mascot, does more than just cavort on the sidelines. He has visited the White House (where he posed with President George W. Bush), toured the governor’s office and even zoomed into outer space, hitching a ride aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. True to his Southern California roots, Peter has also undergone a series of cosmetic surgeries over the years, evolving from cuddly furball to 6-foot-9 stud with buffed biceps. Today he remains, if not the most unusual college mascot, at least the one with the longest tongue. Zot!
The anteater was officially chosen as school mascot in a 1965 student election. Second place went to “none of these,” followed by eagles, unicorns and seahawks.

Eight UC Irvine athletes made the Olympic team in 1980 but never participated because the U.S. boycotted the games.

Greg Louganis, who graduated from UCI in 1983, won four gold medals in diving.
Still Growing
A stunning historic clubhouse at the doorstep of California’s largest state park has been turned into a UC Irvine research outpost for biologists, astronomers, anthropologists and others. Nestled in a remote stretch of eastern San Diego County, the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center is being expanded to include a new laboratory building, student dorm and small apartment complex for long-term researchers. The center has already housed scientists and classes from UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the U.S. Geological Survey, among others.
Outfitted with a fireplace, couches, jumbo TV and cafe, the Newkirk Alumni Center offers Anteater alums a stylish and cozy new setting for reunions, networking, conferences, even weddings. Opened in 2013, the building has a first floor featuring a large conference room, a living-room-style den and the cafe. The second floor houses staff offices, an executive boardroom, a small meeting room and a mezzanine that leads to a rooftop view of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

“I want to ignite alumni passion about reconnecting with the place they received their education.”

Martha Newkirk, past president of the UCI Alumni Association
Miniature telescopes implanted in human eyes. Zigzag lasers. Vision-saving molecules. The brand-spanking-new Gavin Herbert Eye Institute at UC Irvine is a leading-edge center for the preservation of sight, with services ranging from simple eyeglass fittings to complex clinical trials aimed at reversing blindness.

Ten Gavin Herbert Eye Institute physicians landed on Best Doctors Inc.’s list of top American M.D.s, including the institute’s founding director, Dr. Roger Steinert, a world-renowned authority on cataract, cornea and refractive surgery.

The $39 million building, which opened in September 2013, is the first UCI structure to be funded entirely through private donations. No government money was needed.