Turning Fifty

Twenty-five campus buildings.

Twenty-five historical moments.

by Jesse Colin Jackson and Catherine Liu
The charter class of UC Irvine consists of 1000 men and women. A central cafeteria is planned that can accommodate 450 people at one time.

Bob Dylan goes electric.
US Troops in Vietnam total 250,000.

Kreiger Hall

The College of Arts, Letters and Sciences is home to Humanities, Fine Arts, Biological Sciences, Social Sciences and Physical Sciences at UC Irvine. Vija Celmins is a Lecturer in Art.
Mesa Court

From 45 pages in 1965, the UC Irvine student catalogue reaches 372 pages and features pen and ink calligraphy and drawings.

Aretha Franklin records and releases “Respect.”
At UC Irvine, English majors can focus on Literary Criticism, Writing or Comparative Literature.

Berkeley community members take over an empty lot owned by the University of California, turning it into People’s Park.
Non-resident tuition is $400 per quarter (or $2509 in 2016 dollars).

President Richard Nixon establishes the Environmental Protection Agency.
An undergraduate advisory committee made up of students in the School of Humanities is formed to “directly advise the Dean.”

With the 26th Amendment, President Nixon lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.
The UC President’s Work-Study Program provides part-time employment for all students who demonstrate financial need.

Sacheen Littlefeather accepts Marlon Brando’s Oscar for best actor in The Godfather.
Baseball team wins its second National Championship in a row.

The Dow Jones Industrial average closes the year at 616.
The UC Irvine Writing Project is established: the 13th site of the California Writing Project.

The Ford Fairmont, an American compact car, is produced on the Ford Fox platform.
Jacques Derrida delivers the Wellek Library Lectures, Memoires for Paul de Man.

Apple Computers releases its Superbowl commercial for the Macintosh, directed by Ridley Scott.
Five out of thirty professors in the Department of English and Comparative Literature are women.

Margaret Thatcher is elected Prime Minister for a rare third term in Britain.
UCI alumni Greg Louganis wins his fifth Olympic diving medal.

Benazir Bhutto, first Islamic woman prime minister, is chosen to lead Pakistan.
Men’s water polo team wins its third NCAA Division I title.

The Berlin Wall falls as East German soldiers abandon their guard posts and Berliners surge past checkpoints to scale the wall.
UC Irvine students can study abroad in programs located in a wide variety of countries from Denmark to the former USSR, from Beijing to Jakarta.

The 1990 World Cup is hosted by Italy with West Germany beating Argentina 1-0 in the final to win the tournament.
The third annual OC Pride celebration takes place on UC Irvine campus, with 2500 in attendance for two days of music, dancing and political and cultural education in Aldrich Park.

Magic Johnson announces that he is HIV positive.
1992

Kaba Modern, an innovative Asian American Hip Hop dance crew, is founded by Filipino American students.

The Maastricht Treaty is ratified, establishing the foundations of what will become the European Community.

McGaugh Hall
Arthur Erickson Architects
The 1994-95 women’s basketball team wins the Big West Conference tournament title, shattering all expectations.

Grunge music legend Kurt Cobain dies by suicide.
The UC Irvine Department of Art History moves from the School of the Arts to the School of Humanities.

The World Trade Organization is formed and the Grateful Dead play their last concert.
The German Department hosts distinguished Visiting Scholars, including Wolfgang Martens (Munich) and Anna Kuhn (UC Davis).

President Bill Clinton signs welfare reform into law.
UC Irvine continues to support a unique major in Interdisciplinary Arts: students design their own course of interdisciplinary study under the guidance of a faculty advisor.

The Kyoto Protocol Agreements, designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming, are signed in Japan. Implementation is to begin in 2005.
Sir John Houghton delivers the Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellows lecture on global warming.

California voters recall Governor Gray Davis and elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.
Chairman of the Irvine Company Donald Bren and UC Irvine agree that the Law School, founded in part with his donation of $20 million, would not bear his name.

Around the world, stock markets plunge, stoked by fears of global financial meltdown caused by subprime mortgage debt.
Earth Systems Sciences at UC Irvine sponsors a popular two-day event called “Let’s Talk About Water,” featuring documentary film screenings as well as a discussion about the film Chinatown.

Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States.
The School of Humanities is home to 2085 undergraduate majors and 405 graduate students.

The European Union approves a financial rescue package for Ireland, reeling from the effects of the global financial crisis.
As part of the University’s 50th anniversary celebrations, President Barack Obama addresses the UC Irvine graduating class of 2014 at Angel Stadium.

Moving into the next fifty years, UC Irvine will continue on the daunting project of creating a world where seven billion people can not only survive, but also flourish.