

THE IDEA IS HISTORY



Architectural rendering of UCen 1, circa 1966

Designed in the modern international style, with some Spanish Colonial Revival influence, the patterned concrete brickwork and the low pitched roofs, covered walkways, and patios all gave the early building a unifying character with the rest of campus. The architects, from a firm in Santa Barbara, included Wallace Arendt, Glen Mosher, and Robert Grant. They designed UCen I, the Marine Science Lab, Music II, Library IV, and the University House.



In 1966, the University Center was created as a much needed cultural space for students on campus. Realizing the need for a place where students could gather and relax, discuss ideas, and integrate their education into a broader cultural context, the University Center became a hub for student life and a home away from home for the campus community.

Originally the UCen housed a post office, a bookstore, several places to dine, a convenience store, and an information desk.



LEADING THE WAY



ROBERT LORDEN 1963-1977

Upon his graduation in 1949, Bob was offered a position as Assistant Graduate Manager of Associated Students for UCSB. In 1952, he became the Graduate Manager of Athletics and Director of Student Activities and in 1963, became Executive Director of ASUCSB, overseeing the Bookstore and Food Services. After a national search Bob was chosen as the Director of the UCen. He helped found KCSB student radio, initiated a student health plan, and improved the Daily Nexus. In 1970 he assumed supervision of the Storke Student Media Building. From 1973-77 he negotiated and signed all contracts for rock concerts held in Harder Stadium and elsewhere on campus and later he oversaw events held at the new Events Center.



ALAN KIRBY 1977-2012

Alan Kirby enjoyed a career of over thirty years at UCSB as Director of both the University Center and the Events Center. He was instrumental in getting UCen II and the MultiCultural Center built, adding an indoor food court and concert venue to the building, a theater for campus events, and office space for Associated Students and Graduate Student Association. He has multiple advanced degrees, including a Master's degree in Educational Psychology from Ball State University and a Ph.D. in Counseling from the University of Florida.



GARY LAWRENCE 2012-2021

Gary Lawrence became the University and Events Center Director in 2012. His career began as the UCen Marketing Coordinator in 1996 and he went on to accept an Assistant Director position in 1999. After five more years he became the Associate Director to Alan Kirby. When Alan retired, Gary accepted the position of Director of the Student Union, the Thunderdome, and Distribution & Logistical Services. He retired in 2021. Prior to his career at UCSB, he was a basketball coach in Switzerland and Cyprus for 14 years. He has a BS in Business Administration and Management from Canisius College.

LOUIS REYNAUD 2022-2025

Louis Reynaud became the Associate Director of University Center in 2019 and the Director of the UCen, ECen, and DLS in 2022. Prior to this appointment, he had an illustrious career as a basketball coach for teams at UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, Rice and Houston Universities. Twice named Bay Valley League Coach of the Year, Dean of Students at both St. Patrick-St. Vincent and De La Salle high schools, and a long history of involvement with Catholic Charities and Caritas Youth Camp, Louis brings an extensive background in education and service to students. He has a Master's degree in Health and Physical Education from St. Mary's College.

UNIVERSITY CENTER
50
Anniversary
1966-2016

UCen
YOUR STUDENT UNION