The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) has selected its second annual theme for the 2007-08 academic year: Democracy.

Last year’s inaugural theme was Immigration, which scrutinized America’s past, present, and future as a country of immigrants. The program surveyed most aspects of immigration, including the transportation of African slaves and the way European immigrants treated Native Americans.

Much like last year’s theme, this year’s theme offers concentrated courses, events, and guest speakers that will allow students from all fields of study to delve deeply and explore the questions concerning democracy. Is the United States a true democracy? What encourages democracies to flourish, and what are its limitations? What obligations do citizens living under a democracy possess? How is democracy portrayed in art and literature?

A carefully chosen book accompanies each theme. This year’s “First Book,” given to all first-year CHASS students, is A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation, written by Catherine Allgor, Professor of History at UC Riverside.
Dear Friends,

With the 2008 election season off to an early start, it is fitting that this year’s theme for the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences is democracy. It is also fitting that our First Book, the book we give to all in-coming freshmen, deals with early American democracy. *A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation* by the Department of History’s own Catherine Allgor describes the crucial role Dolley Madison played in forging a solid basis for that democracy to grow. Come by the Dean’s Office for a copy of Professor Allgor’s book if you don’t already have one and look at the masterful study guide Professor of English, Vorris Nunley has written (available at http://www.chass.ucr.edu/CHASSTheme/resources/index.html).

The College is also offering a number of theme related courses this fall term including the Gateway Lecture on Democracy taught by Political Science Professor, John Medeiris, that is devoted to the question of what democracy really is or should be. The Department of Theatre is performing Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata*, the play in which Greek women try to influence events in the only way they can, given their exclusion from the democratic process. And Professor Freya Schiwy of the new Department of Media and Cultural Studies is presenting a wonderful film series called *Real to Reel: Latin American Film and Social Change: Democracy and the Media*. I encourage you to explore the CHASS website for these and other events.

The professors I’ve named are not the only ones examining democracy in CHASS these days, however. In an October session of the Randall Lewis Seminar Series, Political Science Professor Karthick Ramakrishanan presented the results of his study of civic and political participation in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Among his findings are that about half of eligible voters in the Inland Empire are closely following the presidential primaries. 32% of voters identifying themselves as Republican are currently undecided while 24% favor Rudy Giuliani. On the democratic side Hillary Clinton is currently winning with 35% of the voters over Barack Obama with 16%. You can find a copy of the full report at http://www.politicalscience.ucr.edu/reports/iesurvey-jul2007.pdf

Professor Ramakrishanan also examines civic engagement in his report. Here he finds that the rapid growth in the region in recent years has had a downside. Whereas 28% of long-term residents belong to civic organizations, only 19% of more recent residents do. In the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, we take part of our mission to be encouraging our students to become democratic citizens in this strong sense. They are bringing arts to area schools and community centers through the Gluck program, helping grass roots organizations through the Women’s Studies Department’s Women in Coalition, and flocking in droves to the new Public Policy major and minor. As you may know, Economics Nobel Prize winner, Amartya Sen was recently on campus for the Chancellor’s Distinguished Lecture series. Democracy is more than simply voting he reminded us. It is also engaging with others to articulate and strive for common goals and helping those without a voice to develop one. Dolley Madison would have agreed. Our students are engaged and we are proud of them as they become participatory and democratic citizens.
CHASS Welcomes...

Tim Phillips, new Director of Development, is working with the Dean of the College, the Assistant Dean for Development, and other faculty and staff on fundraising for CHASS and UCR ARTSblock. Tim joins UCR after working for Northwestern University, University of Illinois, and Lyric Opera in Chicago, and managing contributions and community relations for several large utility companies in Indiana and Chicago. He received his B.A. from Wabash College; studied history and architecture at Oxford University; and did graduate work in architecture and urban design at Ball State University.
Discovering the Core of Democracy...continued

Allgor received her Ph.D. and won the Yale Teaching Award from Yale University. Her fields of interest include early America, political women, and public history.

*A Perfect Union* is a political biography about the life and times of Dolley Madison, the wife of James Madison, the fourth president of the United States. Most Americans remember Dolley Madison as the woman who saved the portrait of George Washington from the White House during the War of 1812. Allgor’s book, however, reveals how Dolley’s popularity played an influential role during her husband’s presidency. Dolley was a charming hostess and a savvy politician who fully understood the importance of a political community and political relationships.

The First Book is used in most F1RST Year programs. This year the book is being used in one of the three CHASS CONNECT sequences: *Reconstructing Democracy*.

*Reconstructing Democracy* investigates the emergence and evolution of democracy in the United States. Professors will guide students through their exploration of the nature of American Democracy through the voices of racial/ethnic minorities. Reconstructing Democracy attempts to answer the following questions: What does democracy mean to a Native American who has been stripped of his sovereignty, an African American freed by manumission, or the Emancipation Proclamation, or a convicted felon in his prison cell? How has American democracy been changed by political expedience, economic desire, or racial prejudice?

CHASS CONNECT is a yearlong freshman experience program designed for the academic success for its first-year participants. Students benefit from the interaction with program faculty and graduate teaching assistants, focused and personalized advising, and peer mentorship. Additionally, democracy inspired this year’s Gateway Lecture. The annual Gateway Lecture is taught by a distinguished UC Riverside scholar who must lead one hundred thirty CHASS freshmen through the intricacies of the theme while introducing students to university life. Professor John Medearis will present this year’s Gateway Lecture and will venture to unearth the core value of democracy. Medearis, an Associate Professor in the department of Political Science at UC Riverside, received his Ph.D. from UCLA. His fields of interest include political theory, democratic theory, social movements, welfare policy, and social science methodology and philosophy.

The CHASS theme was established to help students, especially first year students, assemble their schedules around a central concept and observe the parallels between varying courses. This technique of specialized themed courses demonstrates the interdisciplinary essence of CHASS.

The Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development has been awarded a $154,452 grant for a two-year study on the association between urban design and sustainability. The study, “The Hope of New Urbanism: Energy Conservation and Sustainability through Urban Design,” will examine whether “new urbanism” residential design – a mix of housing and jobs within walking distance communities – increases energy efficiency by reducing the number of miles driven and commutes. *Juliann Allison*, Associate Professor of Political Science, is the principal investigator for the project. *Matthew Barth*, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of the Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT), and *Martin Johnson*, Associate Professor of Political Science and co-director of the UCR Survey Research Center, are co-principal investigators.
Muhamad Ali
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Ph.D., 2007, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu

Richard Arnott
Distinguished Professor of Economics
Ph.D., 1975, Yale University

Reza Aslan
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing
MFA, 2002, University of Iowa

Malcolm Baker
Distinguished Professor of Art History
Ph.D., 2003, University of Edinburgh

William Barndt
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Ph.D., 2007, Princeton University

Lindon Barrett
Professor of English
Ph.D., 1990, University of Pennsylvania

Heidi Brayman Hackel
Associate Professor of English
Ph.D., 1995, Columbia University

Erica Edwards
Assistant Professor of English
Ph.D., 2006, Duke University

Ebru Erdem
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Ph.D., 2006, Stanford University

Vanessa Estrada
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Ph.D., 2007, University of California, Los Angeles

V.P. Franklin
Distinguished Professor of History and Education
Ph.D., 1975, University of Chicago

Neil Greenberg
Assistant Professor of Dance
MFA, 2007, Sarah Lawrence College

Steven Hackel
Associate Professor of History
Ph.D., 1994, Cornell University

Sherine Hafez
Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies
Ph.D., 2007, University of California, Davis

T.S. Harvey
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Ph.D., 2003, University of Virginia

Alexander Haskell
Assistant Professor of History
Ph.D., 2005, John Hopkins University

Marta Hernandez-Salvan
Assistant Professor of Spanish
Ph.D., 2006, Duke University

Sherri Franks Johnson
Assistant Professor Religious Studies
Ph.D., 2004 University of Arizona

Liz Kotz
Assistant Professor of Art History
Ph.D., 2002, Columbia University

Laila Lalami
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing
Ph.D., 1997, University of Southern California

David A. Malueg
Professor of Economics
Ph.D., 1983, Northwestern University

Kristoffer Neville
Assistant Professor of Art History
Ph.D., 2007, Princeton University

Susan Ossman
Professor of Anthropology
Ph.D., 1991, University of California, Berkeley

Khaleel A. Razak
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Ph.D., 2001, University of Wyoming

Jeffrey Sacks
Assist. Prof. of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages
Ph.D., 2006, Columbia University

Todd Sorensen
Assistant Professor of Economics
Ph.D., 2007, University of Arizona

David Swanson
Professor of Sociology
Ph.D., 1985, University of Hawaii

Thomas Sy
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Ph.D., 2000, University of Michigan

Melissa Thorne
Assistant Professor of Art
MFA, 1998, California Institute of the Arts

Mark Wrathall
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Ph.D., 1996, University of California, Berkeley

For more information, please go to http://chass.ucr.edu/faculty/NewFaculty2007-2008_Web.pdf
Byron Adams, UCR Professor of Composition and Musicology, participated in the summer Berkshire Fine Arts Elgar at Bard conference. He was scholar-in residence for at the festival. His book, Elgar and His World, was connected to the festival.

Lynda Bell, Professor of History, and Scott Brooks, Professor of Sociology, were each awarded a 2007 CHASS Distinguished Teaching Award. The award is a testament to their dedication and teaching skills.

Paulo C. Chagas, Assistant Professor of Composition, worked for ten years as Sound Director of the Studio for Electronic Music of the WDR (West German Radio and Television Broadcasting) where he conducted extensive research into electronic and computer music, algorithmic composition, interactivity, multimedia, and sound spatialization. His theoretical work focuses on subjects like musical semiotics, music and media philosophy (Wittgenstein), new media, and music technology.

Robin DiMatteo, Professor of Psychology, mentioned in a CNN report that doctors who blame, ignore, and criticize their patients are not being supportive in their role as healers. Years of study have demonstrated that "patients do better when doctors are encouraging and supportive."

Mindy Marks, Assistant Professor of Economics, and Kate Spilde Contreras, managing director of UCR's California Center for Native Nations, discovered that tribal gaming has considerably decreased poverty and increased employment, incomes, and schooling opportunities for communities. Their research, Lands of Opportunity: Social and Economic Effects of Tribal Gaming on Localities, was featured in the September issue of Policy Matters.

Laura Sobrino, nationally renowned Mariachi virtuosa, founded the University's Mariachi Mexicatl in 2006. She is a pioneer in the field of mariachi, an art form that traditionally excluded women from musical performance. Sobrino is a lecturer in the Music Department.

Clifford E. Trafzer, Professor of American History, has been appointed the Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs for his dedication and drive to educate young scholars in American Indian Studies. Trafzer has worked efficiently with the American Indian community in ways that benefit both the community and UCR.

UCR Music Department Expands in World Music and Technology

The Music Department will debut with various programs that will broaden the studies of musical traditions and methodologies from European classical to world music and from historical musicology to ethnomusicology.

"All these activities are part of a concerted effort to raise the profile of the UCR Music Department and enhance its reputation as an attractive destination for those wishing to do foundational or advanced study in music performance and scholarship," stated Walter Clark, the Chair of the Music Department.
The College of Humanites, Arts, and Social Sciences technology team was a finalist for Computerworld’s “Best Practices in Business Intelligence” award for their revolutionary student advising and appointment system.

The team, who consists of James Lin, CHASS Chief Technology Officer; José Beruvides, CHASS Student Academic Affairs Manager; and Matthew Chu, Raymond Holguin, and Kelvin Mac, Programmer Analysts in the CHASS Dean’s Office, was nominated because of the team’s work in developing a student advising and appointment system that tracks academic records and other aspects of a student’s life as it relates to contacts with academic advisors. The system’s intent is to improve student retention by presenting academic advisors with the means to better analyze factors that keep students from graduating.

Lin also received a nominee award from the Executive Alliance “Information Security Executive West Award 2007,” which was presented in San Francisco on October 18th.

UCR ascended to 15th in Washington Monthly’s September issue of College Guide. Two hundred and forty-two universities and colleges were compared in the review. Instead of examining SAT scores and grade point averages, Washington Monthly asked, “What are colleges doing for the country? Do they promote the idea of service to the country? Do they foster scientific and humanistic research?”

Christine Balance and Sylvanna M. Falcon will be in residence, respectively, for the Music and Women’s Studies Department. Both students are UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellows. Balance received her Ph.D. in Performance Studies at New York University, and Falcon received her Ph.D. in Sociology, with an emphasis on Women’s Studies, at UC Santa Barbara.
Dr. Desdemona Cardoza (M.A., Ph.D., Social Psychology, ’79, ’82) became California State University, Los Angeles’ provost and vice president of academic affairs on July 1, 2007.

Edwin Allen (B.A., History, ’73) established a $50,000 endowment to provide the Tomas Rivera Library with a vast collection of fictional books. Allen is currently senior counsel at MARC Associates, a Washington-based government relations firm.

Randy Hough (M.A., Political Science, ’77) was elected vice president and secretary of the United States Chess Federation.

Christopher Hoa Lam (B.S., Business Administration, ’91) is currently CEO and President of Pucci Foods and operates an advanced facility in Hayward, California. He treasured his time at UCR and recently returned to give his wife and three children a tour of the university that provided the education and bonds that he considers important parts of his success.

Kevin Cramer (M.F.A., Theatre/Creative Writing, 2007) placed 4th in the 2007 Samuel Goldwyn Writing Awards Competition for his screenplay, Zen Dog in the Clouds. Finalists submitted feature-length plays and were chosen from a field of over 120 submissions from eight University of California campuses. Winners were announced on October 29th.

Ruben Barrales (B.A., Political Science/Administrative Studies, ’84), President and CEO of the San Diego Region Chamber of Commerce, was elected to join the Public Policy Institute of California board of directors.

Please nominate CHASS alumni for the Alumni Awards of Distinction. Nominees must personify the University’s tradition of excellence and service and contribute their knowledge and skills to better society. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2008 awards is December 1, 2007.

The UCR Alumni Association has honored alumni who have made a difference in the lives of others through profession, personal and community contributions for over twenty years.

For more information and nomination forms, visit: http://www.alumni.ucr.edu/about/alumni.html