The College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences is pleased to announce its Annual Theme for 2008-09: Religion. Conflicts between Islam and Christianity, Jews and Muslims, Shia and Sunni are, of course, all over the news, as are questions during this Presidential election cycle about the influence of religion in politics and on voters. During this academic year, we want to focus on both the clashes and the connections religious belief brings with it. Why is religion so appealing to some and so appalling to others? How might we discuss religion productively in a highly diverse world in which people bring unfamiliar religions into neighborhoods, worksites, classrooms, and even our families? In what ways do convictions and commitments close us to people who are different from us? And, conversely, in what ways do convictions and commitments enable us to be receptive to and converse with those unlike us? As June O’Connor, the Chair of the Religious Studies Department reminds us, for our students’ future lives, “Knowledge about religions will be a highly valued asset, enhancing understanding of various constituencies such as patients and clients, employers and employees, politicians and voters, friends and enemies.”
Dear Friends,

Another academic year is upon us! As I write, the University is preparing for convocation for its record-breaking entering class of over 5100 freshmen and transfer students. This past weekend, neighbors of the University could hear the boisterous sounds of the welcome barbecue as students finished moving into their dorm rooms and celebrated. The Fall Welcome and Orientation continues all week culminating in UCR’s 10th Annual Block Party.

Yet, it is not only students who are moving to Riverside this week. When the hiring season ended last year, CHASS had added thirty-six new faculty members to its roster; they are now busy settling into their offices, preparing their classes and meeting students and colleagues.

Among our new faculty are four distinguished professors. Mike Davis, from University of California, Irvine, joins the Creative Writing Department. As a MacArthur Fellow, social commentator, urban theorist, historian and fiction writer, he is perhaps most famous for his book on Los Angeles, *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*. John Perry, from Stanford University, joins the Department of Philosophy. A world-renowned philosopher, he is also co-host of the public radio program, “Philosophy Talk.” You can listen to him Tuesday evenings at 5:30 on KUCR or find past shows on the website: http://www.philosophytalk.org. Dick Hebdige, from University of California, Santa Barbara, joins the Department of Media and Cultural Studies. Professor Hebdige has published widely on youth subculture, contemporary music, art and design, and consumer and media culture. He will also serve as the new Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts in Palm Desert. Perry Link, the first Chancellorial Chair for Innovation in Teaching Across Disciplines, joins us from Princeton University (where his office was featured in the film *A Beautiful Mind*). A specialist in 20th-century Chinese literature, Professor Link’s home department is Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages.

In CHASS, we also made our first hire in Science Fiction Studies, Associate Professor Rob Latham, who joins the English Department and we hired two new faculty to support our program in Law, Science and Society: Agnieszka Jaworska, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Jana Grittersova, Acting Assistant Professor of Political Science. Please go to our website (http://chass.ucr.edu/faculty/newfaculty/) to find out about the rest of our new faculty. Click on their pictures to find out what they study and from where they hail. They are an impressive group!

In addition to the new faces, another change you will notice when you visit is the presence of a variety of new citrus trees and new benches. The new citrus trees extend the citrus grove from the back of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building into our courtyard. But the changes are not purely cosmetic. Instead, in CHASS we take seriously the idea that education happens both inside and outside of the classroom. Indeed, many of the most edifying and stimulating discussions students typically have occurred with professors and other students in informal settings. A true liberal arts education is one in which formal classes are simply part of the ebb and flow of a series of mutually enriching conversations that become the context for a student’s life. With the shade and ambiance we hope the trees provide, our new benches offer the setting and inspiration for this sort of education. We invite you to come sit with us and participate in it.

One last change. Up to now, the CHASS theme has been the responsibility of the Associate Deans. This fall, we shift it to our indefatigable Director of the First Year Experience Program, Dr. Geoff Cohen. Please read about his plans for the Religion Theme in this Newsletter. And welcome, all of you, to a new school year.

— Stephen Cullenberg

*CHASS Dean*
The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the CHASS Dean’s Office were awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant competition. The award will provide $514,875 over four years to fund an expansion of CHASS Connect, an interdisciplinary, first-year experience program for incoming CHASS freshmen. The award will allow CHASS Connect to serve an additional 225 students per year, doubling the total number of students served to 450. Students in CHASS Connect are enrolled in a year-long series of themed courses and structured study sessions. These courses foster a sense of community and provide students with assistance during the transition from high school to college through personal and academic support and peer mentorship. The award will also allow the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and CHASS Connect staff to conduct experimental research documenting the effectiveness of the program in retaining and graduating program participants.

CHASS received an additional $1 million from the Maxwell H. Gluck Foundation to continue funding the Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts through June 30, 2010. Since its inception at UC Riverside in 1996, the Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts has pursued its mission of integrating the arts within the broader community.

Evie Tole joined CHASS in June after serving UCR for three years as Executive Director, Principal Gifts in the Office of Development. She previously worked as Director of Development at South Coast Repertory as well as in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Additionally, she worked in Africa for eleven years.

The family of Oliver Johnson, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, has established the Oliver and Carol Johnson Endowed Award in Philosophy to honor his memory. This award will support a senior Philosophy major who has demonstrated a commitment to undertaking graduate studies.

After studying at Oxford University and Yale University, Dr. Johnson joined UCR as one of the founding faculty members in the Philosophy Department. Over the course of his distinguished academic career, he published six books on ethics and the foundations of knowledge. He is remembered at UCR for his leadership in the Philosophy Department as well as his involvement with the UCR Academic Senate and the UC system as a whole. To recognize his commitment and dedication to the University, an annual UC system-wide Academic Senate award for meritorious service was named in honor of Professor Johnson.

Dr. Yolanda T. Moses, (’76 Ph.D, ’75 MA Anthropology), Professor of Anthropology and Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Excellence and Equity at UC Riverside, has established the Yolanda T. Moses Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Anthropology. This scholarship will support undergraduate students from communities that are under-represented in the field of Anthropology. Students must demonstrate academic excellence and community engagement.

Dr. Moses has served as President of the American Anthropological Association, Chair of the Board of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, Past President of City University of New York/The City College, and President of the American Association for Higher Education. Currently, Dr. Moses chairs a National Advisory Board of a multi-year national public education project on Race and Human Variation sponsored by the American Anthropological Association with funding from the National Science Foundation and the Ford Foundation.
Professor O’Connor is currently teaching the Gateway to CHASS course on Religion, addressing among other topics the ways in which religions form the foreground or background for other academic enterprises. In another first year program, CHASS Connect, Professor Malcolm Baker (Art History), Professor Jennifer Hughes (Religious Studies) and Professor Jonathan Ritter (Music) explore a diverse set of aesthetic, religious, and spiritual practices. In the fall, Professor Baker’s looks at the complex relationship between the aesthetic and the devotional and focuses on the placement of sacred images in churches and museums. In the winter, Professor Hughes examines Aztec goddesses, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Brazilian female deities, and the many Latin American manifestations of the Virgin Mary. Finally, in Professor Ritter’s spring course, students will listen to and assess the intersection of sound and spiritual practice in the broadest sense of both of those terms. We are hoping that the CHASS Connect series students will present their discoveries to the college as a whole. Stay tuned to the CHASS F1RST or CHASS Annual Theme website for updates.

In addition to courses, we have planned a series of programs and events designed to encourage a college wide conversation about the role of religion in our lives, society and global community. Tied to the Annual Theme is the CHASS F1RST Book Program in which all entering freshman read the same book. This year’s book selection is UCR Art Historian Conrad Rudolph’s *Pilgrimage to The End of The World: The Road to Santiago de Compostela*. In it, Professor Rudolph chronicles the one thousand miles he walked along the medieval pilgrimage route from Le Puy in Southern France, over the Pyrenees, to Santiago and the tomb of Saint James the Apostle in northern Spain and from there to Finisterre on the coast of Spain. English 4 and 5 students will read the book in class and others will have the opportunity to discuss Professor Rudolph’s journey on October 23 from 2:10 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in HMSS 1500 where Professor Andrew Jacobs (Religious Studies) will offer his insights into the book and pilgrimages in general. Professor Rudolph himself will discuss his adventures on Thursday, November 6 from 2:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., also in HMSS 1500. Please join us for both events!

The CHASS Annual Theme will sponsor at least two more conversations with faculty and we urge you to put these on your calendars as well. On Thursday, January 29, 2009 from 2:10 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the author of *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam*, Professor Reza Aslan (Creative Writing) will look at the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca and on Thursday, February 19, 2009 from 2:10 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Professor Clifford Trafzer, Costa Chair of Native American History, will speak on Native American Religion. Again check the website for updates. We hope to add at least one more speaker for the Spring Calendar.

A few more events and programs to watch for are: a project by performance artists, Ron Athey in either November 2008 or March 2009; the “Sikhism in Global Context” Conference on December 4-6, 2008; the Holiday Concert in December 2008; “Rich: An Installation by Kyungmi Shim,” which will open at the UCR Sweeney Gallery on January 24, 2009; a conference and concert on the music of the California Missions in early 2009; and The Holstein Family and Community Endowed Chair Professor Ivan Strenski’s University Lecture in Spring 2009.

In closing, we turn to Henry David Thoreau. Ending his wonderful essay, “Walking,” he writes, “So we saunter toward the Holy Land, till one day the sun shall shine more brightly then ever he has done, shall perchance shine into our minds and hearts, and light up our whole lives with a great awakening light, as warm and serene and golden as on a bank-side in autumn.”

We welcome input on this and future annual themes. Please contact Dr. Geoff Cohen at geoff.cohen@ucr.edu
Please welcome our thirty-five new CHASS faculty members. For more information, please visit http://chass.ucr.edu/faculty/newfaculty/

Michael Alexander  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
Ph.D., 1999, Yale University

Heidi Brevik-Zender  
Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages  
Ph.D., 2006, Brown University

Rogerio Budasz  
Associate Professor of Music  
Ph.D., 2001, University of Southern California

Maudemarie Clark (TBA)  
Professor of Philosophy  
Ph.D., 1976, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Adriana Craciun  
Professor of English  
Ph.D., 1996, University of California, Davis

Mike Davis  
Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing  
M.A., 1980, University of California, Los Angeles

Jonathan Eacott  
Assistant Professor of History  
Ph.D., 2008, University of Michigan

Derick Fay  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
Ph.D., 2003, Boston University

Jana Grittersova  
Acting Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Ph.D., expected from Cornell University 2009

Katja Guenther  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Ph.D., 2006, University of Minnesota

Richard Heddie  
Distinguished Professor of Media and Cultural Studies  
M.A., 1972, University of Birmingham

Claire Hoffman  
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing  
M.S., 2004, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism  
M.A., 2005, University of Chicago Divinity School

Indridi Indridason  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Ph.D., 2001, University of Rochester

Agnieszka Jaworska  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Ph.D., 1997, Harvard University

Kelly Yoojeong Jeong  
Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages  
Ph.D., 2003, University of California, Los Angeles

Tabassum "Rushi" Khan  
Acting Assistant Professor of Media and Cultural Studies  
Ph.D. expected from Ohio University, Athens 2008

Jeanette Kohl  
Assistant Professor of Art History  
Ph.D., 2001, University of Trier, Germany

Rob Latham  
Associate Professor of English  
Ph.D., 1995, Stanford University

Brandon Lattu  
Assistant Professor of Art  
M.F.A., 1998, University of California, Los Angeles

Perry Link  
Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages  
Chancellorial Chair for Innovation in Teaching Across Disciplines  
Ph.D., 1976, Harvard University

Benjamin M. Liu  
Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies  
Ph.D., 1996, Harvard University

Matthew Mahutga  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Ph.D., 2008, University of California, Irvine

Tanya Nieri  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Ph.D., 2007, Arizona State University

Keun-Pyo Park  
Assistant Professor of Theatre  
M.F.A., 2006, University of Texas, Austin

John Perry  
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy  
Ph.D., 1968, Cornell University

Paul Ryer  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
Ph.D., 2006, University of Chicago

Marta Savigliano  
Professor of Dance  
Ph.D., 1991, University of Hawaii-Manoa

Aaron R. Seitz  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Ph.D., 2002, Boston University

Annmaria Shimabuku  
Acting Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages  
Ph.D. expected from Cornell University 2008

Andrea Smith  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Ph.D., 2008, University of Florida

Yuhki Tajima  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Ph.D., 2008, Harvard University

Caroline Tushabe  
Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies  
Ph.D., 2008, Binghamton University, SUNY

Jason Weems  
Assistant Professor of Art History  
Ph.D., 2003, Stanford University

Fariba Zarinebaf  
Assistant Professor of History  
Ph.D., 1991, University of Chicago
Alicia Arrizon, Chair and Professor of Women’s Studies, has been awarded the 2008 Award for Outstanding Book in Theatre Practice and Pedagogy by the Association of Theater in Higher Education.

Christopher Chase-Dunn, Professor of Sociology and Director of the University Honors Program, had his journal, *The Journal of World Systems*, approved for sponsorship by the American Sociological Association. Chase-Dunn is now the director of the Institute for Research on World-Systems.

Steven Clark, Professor of Psychology, has received the Undergraduate Honors Program Upper-Division Faculty Mentor of the Year Award. Clark’s students nominated him.

Juan Felipe Herrera, Professor of Creative Writing, published a new book, *Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems*, which includes poems from earlier collections with previously unpublished work. The book was favorably reviewed in August, where the reviewer compared the book to the Beat Generation and the likes of Allen Ginsberg.

Rickerby Hinds, Associate Professor of Playwriting, and the Black Voice Foundation received a $50,000 grant from Blue Shield to take part in a pilot campaign that focuses on the development and encouragement of healthy relationships among youth. Hinds’ theatrical production *Buckworld One* will be showcased.

John Kim, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and German, will begin a one-year fellowship at the University of Konstanz in Germany. After his return, Kim plans to establish a student research group between UCR students and the University of Konstanz.

Laila Lalami, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, will be reading her first novel, *The Outsider*, in the Literatures of the World. A panel of jurors of international literary experts selected the participating authors.

Juliet McMullin and Larry Wright were the recipients of teaching awards presented by CHASS. Wright was awarded a stipend of $5,000 through The McCauley-McSweeney Chair endowment, and McMullin was awarded a $5,000 stipend through Junior CHASS Teaching.

Pashaura Singh, Professor or Religious Studies, has been appointed to the Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies. Singh believes that the program will help break down barriers that exist between Sikhs and people who perceive them in a stereotypical manner.

Priya Srinivasan, Assistant Professor of Dance, was awarded The Gertrude Lippincott Award. This award is presented to authors for their outstanding English-language articles whose primary focus is on dance studies.

Jan Stets, Professor of Sociology, has taken on the role of Rotating Program Officer in Sociology for the NSF, which began in early August. Stets will moderate panels of scholars who look over grant proposals to decide which merit funding.

David Swanson, Professor of Sociology, is on a list of readings for planners that are preparing to take the certification assessment by the American Institute of Certified Planners. Swanson’s book, *State and Local Population Projections: Methodology and Analysis*, is a guide that helps create state and local population projections.

Karl Taube, Professor of Anthropology, has been recognized as the 2008 CHASS Distinguished Research Lecturer. Taube has had twenty-four lecture invitations from eight countries in eight years. He has also served as a consultant for many enterprises, such as the BBC Natural History Unit.

**UCR Pipe Band Takes First Place**

UCR’s Pipe Band won first place at the 143rd annual Scottish Highland Games in Pleasanton over Labor Day weekend. The UCR band placed first in quick march medley, timed medley, and overall in Pleasanton.

The Pipe Band is a volunteer organization composed of alumni, students, staff, and faculty associated with the University through Alumni and Constituent Relations. Playing in the Pipe Band also meets the performance requirement for a degree in music at UCR. As Pipe Major, Mike Terry directs performances at competitions and other public appearances and oversees the band’s business affairs.
**Students**

Jackie Filla, a Political Science graduate student, has received the 2008 John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation: Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for her proposal: “Institutional Design and the Use of Direct Democracy in Local Government Settings.”

Kevin Grisham, a Political Science graduate student, was selected by the National Collegiate Conference Association to serve as the Director-General for the first-ever international MUN conference in China in November.

Michael Robb, a Psychology graduate student, has been awarded a $10,000 Fred Rogers Memorial Scholarship on June 1. Along with the scholarship program, Robb will also be working with a mentor from the academy’s Children Programming Peer Group during the academic year.

Susana Sanchez is one of twenty-five students who received the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color for 2008-09. Sanchez is a third-year Chicano Studies major with a minor in History.

Samantha Wilson, a fourth-year Global Studies student, has been awarded a $10,000 Donald A. Strauss Public Service Foundation Scholarship, where she will carry out an independent service project in India.

**Alumni**

Melinda Blackman (Ph.D., Psychology, '96) published Mind Your Diet: The Psychology Behind Sticking to Any Diet. Blackman’s new book sold out during its first two weeks on Amazon.com. She is currently a Professor of Psychology at California State University, Fullerton.

Bryan Caron (B.A., Creative Writing, '01) recently published Jaxxa Rakala: The Search, his senior thesis with Susan Straight as his mentor. Additionally, Caron’s short film, My Necklace, Myself, premiered on July 11 at the Temeku Cinemas in Temecula.

Marlene Dobkin de Rios (Ph.D., Medical Anthropology, '72) was a consultant for the National Geographic Cable Network program, “Taboo,” drawing on her knowledge of anthropology, particularly culture and hallucinogens. Her new book, coauthored with Roger Rumrill, A Hallucinogenic Tea Laced with Controversy, was published in July.

Larry Friedman (B.A., History, '62), Professor of Philanthropic Studies, Professor of History Emeritus, and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Indiana University, is currently a consultant for the Obama campaign. He started out as a speech writer and more recently has been focusing on the Voter Protection division of the campaign. Friedman is the author of numerous books including Identity’s Architect: A Biography of Erik H. Erikson. He is completing another book called “Life is Extravagance: A Biography of Erich Fromm.”

John W. Remkus (B.A., Psychology & Philosophy, '70) was appointed City Manager of West St. Paul, Minnesota in April. Prior to this, Remkus served the City as its Finance Director for twenty-seven years.

**Doctorate Program in Ethnic Studies Now Accepting Applications**

With the nation’s demographics expected to change by 2050, the demand for Ethnic Studies is rapidly increasing. UCR’s Ethnic Studies department is poised to address the changing demographics not only via its undergraduate curriculum but by launching a new Ph.D. program that would produce researchers and policy experts who can focus on social problems and contemporary issues surrounding race, ethnicity, and democracy in the Inland region, in California, and in the nation at large. The Ethnic Studies department is now accepting applications for the Ethnic Studies Ph.D. program for admission in Fall 2009. UCR’s Ph.D. program is only the third Ethnic Studies doctoral program in the United States.

For more information, please visit http://ethnicstudies.ucr.edu/graduate/
California Indian Conference
Saturday, October 3-4
UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center for Ideas and Society
http://ccnn.ucr.edu/cic2008/

James Luna, “Four Ways”
Saturday, October 4
2:00pm - 3:40pm
UCR Palm Desert Campus, Auditorium (B100)
http://ccnn.ucr.edu

Fighting Fire with Fire: Religion, Nationalism and the Politics of Nation Building in South Vietnam’s 1963 “Buddhist Crisis”
Friday, October 24, 12:00pm
Location: INTN 3043
951-827-4530

“Medievalism, Colonialism, Nationalism: A Symposium”
November 7-8, 2008
Friday, November 7, 9am – 5pm
Saturday, November 8, 9am – 5pm
HMSS 1500
http://ideasandsociety.ucr.edu/CIS.html

A DOLL’S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen, in a new version by Frank McGuinness
November 13 - 15 & 20 - 22
Thursday - Saturday, 8:00 P.M..
Saturday, November 22, 2:30 P.M. Matinee
Directed by Eric Barr
Studio Theatre, ARTS 113
http://theatre.ucr.edu/performances/current_season/

Fall 2008 End of the Quarter Dance Showings
Monday - Friday, December 1 - 5
Times and venues vary
Free and open to UCR Students, Faculty and Staff
http://dance.ucr.edu/events/coming_events.html

UCR Chamber Singers and UCR Choral Society
Saturday, December 6, 8:00 P.M.
Dr. Ruth Charloff and Dr. Edward Brunner, Conductors
Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside
$10 General, $8 Students/Seniors, $6 Children
Parking: Free
http://www.events.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?key=thismonth&unit=2

UCR Wind and Jazz Ensembles Holiday Concert
Saturday, December 6, 8:00 P.M.
Bill Helms, Conductor
Location: University Theatre
$10 General, $8 Students/Seniors, $6 Children
http://www.events.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?key=thismonth&unit=2

You Can Make a Difference!
Contributions from alumni, friends and parents help the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences provide exceptional educational opportunities for our diverse students. If you would like to make a gift, please visit http://www.chass.ucr.edu/support/index.html or contact Evie Tole (evie.tole@ucr.edu) to discover ways you can support CHASS.

University of California, Riverside
College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences
3413 Humanities and Social Sciences Building
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521

8        Campus Events