OUR UNDERGRADUATES
Dean’s Message

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CHASS Theme: Sustainability
Dear Friends,

I write as winter makes itself known with its first cold days - or with what pass for cold days in Southern California. Despite the on-going budget cuts, it was an exciting fall for us.

First, in September we heard that President Obama had nominated History Professor, Catherine Allgor to the board of trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. Once confirmed by the Senate, Professor Allgor will begin a six-year term, assisting in the determination of graduate fellowships for secondary school teachers in American history, American government, and social studies. Professor Allgor, as you may know, is a renowned scholar of early American history. An expert on Dolley Madison and other women of the early Republic, she has taught us to regard these women as Founders in their own right. “The President” History Chair, Tom Cogswell says, “could not have made a finer choice.”

Second, in the beginning of October, we celebrated the naming of the MaryLu Clayton Rosenthal Dance Studio, the product of a gift to CHASS from Distinguished Psychology Professor Robert Rosenthal and his family in memory of his late wife. Mrs. Rosenthal was a musician and dancer and, fittingly, the gift in her name endows scholarships in music, dance and theater. The world knows of the Rosenthal or Pygmalion effect because of Professor Rosenthal’s seminal research. Yet, here in CHASS as Theatre Chair, Eric Barr noted, we will see another Rosenthal effect, the effect of this gift on the capacities of our students to fulfill their aspirations.

Another benefit of the Rosenthal gift is that it allows us to restart our Dean’s Patio concerts, the first of which we held just as the weather turned and forced us to hold it off the patio and inside. Nonetheless, the concert was stunning with music by a piano, violin and viola trio, which played Mendelsohn, the UCR Collegium Musicum, which played early modern German music and the Orkes Pantai Barat/ UCR Keroncong Ensemble, which played Indonesian urban folk music. For some reason, I picked Mexican food for the lunch menu, but the choice just symbolizes the diversity that has come to be CHASS.

Finally, this fall we received $600,000 in Chancellor’s Strategic Investment Funds. We’ve distributed these across the college as seed funding to a wealth of projects we think have the potential to bring in extramural grants and contracts. We’ll keep you posted on the results, but for now enjoy the work of two of our undergraduates in Creative Writing and Anthropology. We exhibit some of their writing and research in this newsletter and do so with infinite pride.

— Stephen Cullenberg

Dean of College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Ars Poetica

Winner of 2010-2011 Birk Hinderaker Award and 2010-2011 William Henry Willis Award

To remember you, I use my hands—these hands that curl around a notebook and spread it like wings against the tabletop. Notice how my fingers bend, how some spread, how some mold together. How certain patches of skin pinch against pen so that when my hand unfurls, indents shadow where the fingers used to rest, pale-yellow and red hollows, a pomegranate shell after the seeds are removed. I use them to relearn you on paper, shape your eyelids with the skins off grapes, sculpt your kneecaps with two sand-dollars, and count thirty-two teeth from the pebbles in my backyard. Outside the coffee shop window, birds rest on power-lines. A homeless man walks by in a jacket that is alive, ballooned with wind. I work until the only part of the sun you can see is its scalp, highlighting the horizon in orange. My hand presses hard against the paper, the fingers wanting to sink through and bring meaning to this body. I do this to everything I know, as if the sunset highlights a line, as if birds are notes stringing the sky into a musical score, as if the air from my hands moving across this page can be the wind in a coat, bringing life to a still thing with one breath.

Omission

Your teacher wrote a sentence on the blackboard, forgot the second parenthesis. It hung there, dangling like a fish hook that your eyes kept circling.

You want it the way it’s supposed to be: two halves hovering, like hands, meant to hold. Like the shape of your father’s palms around a basketball as he tossed it to you, or that of your mother’s as she came outside with a pitcher of cantaloupe juice.

Parentheses come in twos. Their sleeping bodies curved in bed. The air in between, unspoken.

Two hands are steady clasping a face. Take one away and it becomes one hand cupping a cheek, an act of love that, when sped up, becomes a slap. Incomplete, it takes on a new meaning, looks like the first letter of “custody,” a word you didn’t know and had to look up after finding the papers.

It is open-ended, like the beginning of an “S.” “Separation,” longer than a pause in a sentence.

That night in the kitchen when your mother slapped your father, his own hand rose like a question mark as he wondered whether to spring back and bring the close. And you almost wished he’d hit her because then at least there would be balance. Not this fear of something left hanging with no end.
Introduction

Situated in venerable antiquity, China exhibits a rich, extensive history as grand as its geographic expanse. However, China soon found itself grappling with maintaining long-standing tradition and yielding to acculturation. As the twenty-first century approached, China began to undertake the monumental task of catalyzing their rates of economic and industrial progress. This aggressive push towards development also signaled an increased cultural adaptation to Westernized society.

Portrayals of China in forms of visual media mass-produced for pedagogical and leisure purposes in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries exhibit the emergence and development of neocolonialism. In examining twenty-first century issues of National Geographic magazine featuring China, representations of China’s economic and industrial progress (or lack thereof) suspend China’s developments in a state of flux. By depicting China as continually in progress, the magazine reaffirms the United States’ position as a developed world power. Additionally, the magazine maintains U.S. superiority by claiming that China enacts social progress by becoming increasingly Westernized at the expense of traditional Chinese and local non-Chinese cultures.

“To See is to Know:” Education and Entertainment

The stereocard peaked in popularity during the early twentieth century. Both the stereocard and National Geographic distinguish themselves from other media forms because their audiences valued the forms’ explicit intent, which was to provide means of both education and entertainment. Although twentieth-century stereocards focused on China’s antiquity, and contemporary National Geographic issues focus on China’s modernization, both of these practices of visual representation rest on neocolonialist assumptions.

“To see is to know” was the slogan of the Underwood and Underwood Company, one of the most prominent American distributors and publishers of stereocards and other photographic images at the turn of the twentieth century. A stereocard featured two simultaneously taken images mounted side-by-side on heavy cardstock with a brief essay or caption on the back. When viewed through a stereoscope, the subject matter of the stereocard images would be presented in an almost three-dimensional manner. The stereoscope’s unique ability to create phenomenally distinct spatial depth within an image undoubtedly contributed to the prominence of stereocards among middle- and upper-class Americans in classrooms and living rooms during the early twentieth century.

In the case of stereocards depicting China, the texts that accompanied the images took note of the peculiarities of certain aspects of China and would often mention or situate the subject matter in relation to the United States. For example, an Underwood and Underwood stereocard (circa 1901) depicts people sitting among several camels in China (Figure 1). The
China Still Rising (continued)

caption for the stereocard labels these camels as China’s “substitute for railways,” suggesting that the use of railroads in Western societies superseded China’s act of employing camels for transportation. Thus the caption reveals the overt extent to which American mass-produced media practiced neocolonialism through their control over textual and photographic representation of other countries.

While the stereocard declined in popularity and ceased publication by the middle of the twentieth century, National Geographic still continues with monthly publications to this day. First published in October 1888 by the National Geographic Society, National Geographic magazine emerged as a professional and popular means to promote science. In attempting to posit itself as both educational and entertaining, National Geographic emphasized the high standards and quality of the photographs that would accompany the text in the magazine. These photographs would be both aesthetically stunning and faithfully representative of their subject matter in order to reinforce the veracity and alleged objectivism of the magazine’s overall goal to represent the vast scope of global diversity.

The stereocard and National Geographic magazine were hailed for their ability to provide opportunities for education as well as leisurely entertainment. What would initially seem unsettling or almost overwhelmingly unusual or curious in a stereocard or National Geographic would be ameliorated by the text – either through captions, articles, travelogues or other supplementary material – that rested on safe and familiar terms and acted as an explanatory and interpretive intermediary for the subject matter.

Conclusion

The post-2000 issues of National Geographic attempted to shy away from marveling at the wondrous antiquity that traditionally characterized China and instead...
study and frame how China itself attempted to leave behind any iconic remnants indicative of its historic past. The physical and nostalgic welfare as well as the issue of cultural identity (of both Chinese and non-Chinese) were at stake. This was due to the act of larger national entities posited the trade off of these social aspects in favor of industrial, economic and political advancement and a (hopefully) heightened reputation in the eyes of the international community. From the stereoscopes of the early twentieth-century to the National Geographic stories of the twenty-first century, depictions of China shifted from remarks about enduring cultural archaism to a focus on China’s contemporary efforts to modernize and embrace a more Westernized society. The twenty-first century stories in National Geographic also revealed that in discarding traditional lifestyles, China took the same imperialistic approach to its minority populations that National Geographic took to visually represent China.

Even as National Geographic gradually expands its perception of other cultures, the publication still retains its stronghold and dominance by selectively and carefully portraying its (subtle) relationships with other countries. National Geographic continues to encode neocolonialism in their publications, although their current efforts are not as overt as seen in earlier forms of mass produced visual media (such as stereocards). Further exploration of National Geographic magazine as a form of educational and entertainment media is necessary to start to understand how the two characteristics are intertwined and manipulated to distinguish the publication from other forms of visual media or journalism.
Monica Florian Scholarship

Monica Florian (’70 Political Science) was the second woman inducted in the Building Industry Hall of Fame in 2002. To commemorate the honor, she established a scholarship endowment for UCR students studying Political Science, saying she wanted to thank the school for “the wonderful education and experiences” she received. She added that the gift is also serves as a thank you to the “organizations who gave me scholarships that helped make my education at UCR possible.”

After earning her bachelor’s degree from UCR, Florian served as an urban planner for the County of Riverside and as Assistant Planning Director for the city of Huntington Beach. She then move to The Irvine Company, where she rose to the position of Senior Vice President for Environmental Affairs before retiring in 2004.

This fall, the Political Science Department will award scholarships totaling $1,500 from the Monica Florian Endowment. One of the most recent recipients of the Florian scholarships is Kristina Frolova (’11 Political Science; pictured above, center of back row), Frolova used the funds to support herself while serving as an intern at the White House, an opportunity she said she would have had to forfeit if she had not received the scholarship. She says the experience “…not only affected me deeply as a person, but was the most meaningful of my undergraduate career.” Frolova recently graduated from UCR and plans to attend law school with a focus on international law.

Forrest S. Mosten Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies Fund

When Forrest S. “Woody” Mosten (’69 Political Science) turned 60 years old in 2007, the Los Angeles attorney and master mediation trainer decided a worthy way to celebrate the milestone was to create the Forrest S. Mosten Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies Fund.

The fund supports both a lecture series and internships for students interested in pursuing a career in conflict resolution and peace studies. The 2011 Mosten Lecture, held on May 12 at UCR and featured Abigail Disney, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, who spoke on “Women as Peace-Builders.”

Mosten is in constant demand as a master mediation trainer, individual supervisor for practicing mediators, and trainer of other conflict resolution trainers. He is also a popular presenter at mediation and law conferences throughout the world.

The 2012 Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies Lecture will be on April 26, 2012 and features Dr. June O’Connor, UCR Professor Emerita, whose interests focus on peace studies and peace-building. Dr. Bronwyn Leebaw, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UCR, whose research focuses on international and transitional justice, will join Dr. O’Connor in dialog following the lecture.

If you would like more information on the Mosten lecture or if you would like to support this annual lecture series, please contact Marie Schultz at 951-827-4365 or marie.schultz@ucr.edu.
Acclaimed composer, scholar and musician Nors Josephson ('65 Music) and his wife Waltraut donated $25,000 to UCR to create an endowment to support scholarships for CHASS Students. The endowment will be named for his father, Glen E. Josephson, who moved his family from Palo Alto to Riverside in the 1950s to be close to the new UCR campus that was then under construction. Josephson said his father loved UCR and was very proud that both of his children graduated from the school.

Josephson received his B.A. in Music from UCR in 1965, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley with a specialization in music of the Catholic Church. His teaching assignments took him to Smith College and then Cal State Fullerton where, as Professor of Music, he developed new music curricula, including innovative courses in rock and roll and in world-wide ethnic music. Following his retirement in 1992, Josephson and his wife, Waltraut, resettled in Germany.

Josephson visited UCR in October where more than 100 students, faculty and staff enjoyed a private piano recital in which he performed music by some of his favorite composers, including a former colleague, Neil Raines.

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.ucr.edu/giving or contact Marie Schultz (marie.schultz@ucr.edu) to discover ways you can support CHASS.

Patrick Todd, a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at UC Riverside, has won a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship awarded jointly by the Theological Faculty of Innsbruck University and the Munich School of Philosophy, funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

Neal Matherne, a Ph.D. student in ethnomusicology, has been chosen to receive an Institute of International Education (IIE) Graduate Fellowship for International Study that will support 12 months of dissertation research in Manila.

Giselle Sorial, a senior majoring in women’s studies and public policy, was one of two students invited to speak at the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in the spring. Her subject was the gender voting gap. Her adviser is Amalia Cabezas, associate professor of ethnic studies.

Two CHASS graduate students have received fellowships from the UC Pacific Rim Research Program. Phuoc Duong, a doctoral candidate in anthropology, received $15,000 for his research project, “Hoc De Lam Gi? Tracking Economic Development, Education and Class (Re)Production in Contemporary Vietnam.” His dissertation adviser is Christina Schwenkel, associate professor of anthropology. Russell Skelchy, a doctoral candidate in music, received an award of $8,030 for his research project, “Waljinah: Keroncong, Identity and Modernity in Indonesia.” His dissertation adviser is Rene T.A. Lysloff, associate professor of music. Duong and Skelchy were among 19 graduate students who were awarded a total of $240,635 in Advanced Graduate Research Fellowships to support a year of research.
Catherine Allgor, professor of history and Presidential Chair, has been nominated by President Barack Obama to the board of trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. The White House announced Allgor’s nomination on Sept. 6. Her appointment requires confirmation by the U.S. Senate before she begins a six-year term.

Professor Benjamin Bishin of the political science department received the 2011 Bailey Prize from the American Political Science Association at their Seattle conference this past summer. The prize is named after author Robert Bailey, who pioneered the study of gay and lesbian politics, and is awarded annually for the best LGBT related paper presented at the previous year’s meeting.

Anil Deolalikar, co-director of the One Health Center of the UC Global Health Institute, along with Patricia Conrad of UC Davis, led a group of six faculty from UC Riverside and UC Davis to Kenya, Tanzania and India Sept. 4-13. The purpose of their visit was to explore research and educational collaborations between the One Health Center and institutions in those countries.

Robert Essick, professor of English emeritus, is a recipient of the 2011 MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching) Award for Exemplary Online Learning Resources. Essick; Morris Eaves of the University of Rochester; and Joseph Viscomi of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill were recognized for their work on the William Blake Archive.

Playwright Charles Evered has written a new play related to the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. “TEN” tells the story of a woman at a train station in New Jersey who still waits for her husband to get off the train she put him on 10 years ago, on Sept. 11, and the local police officer who tries to help her move on. The play premiered on Sept. 10 at the Solley Theater at The Arts Council of Princeton in New Jersey.

A book by Ann Goldberg, professor of history, has been awarded the DAAD prize for the best book published on German history, political science and other social science in 2009-10. Her book is entitled “Honor, Politics, and the Law in Imperial Germany, 1871-1914.”

Deborah Wong, professor and chair of the Department of Music, was the keynote speaker Oct. 15 at the Asian-ness and Woman-ness in Music conference at Ewha Womans University, the largest women’s university in the world, in Seoul, South Korea. Her topic was “Women Improvise: Solos in North American Taiko.”
2011-2012 CHASS ANNUAL THEME: Sustainability

Sustainability: What does it mean? Robert Solow, an economist, reminds us that “Sustainability is a vague concept. It is inexact. At best it is a general guide to policies that have to do with investment, conservation and resource use.” According to the UN’s Brundtland Commission, it means “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs (1987). The Sustainability Development Educational Panel which advises the Prime Minister of Great Britain defines it as “enabling people to develop the knowledge, values, and skills to participate in decisions…that will improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future.” John Cook, UCR’s Sustainability Coordinator defines it as “an ecological, sociological and economic practice that restores the financial and natural capital of the planet as it meets the needs of various populations around the globe.”

The 2011 – 2012 CHASS Freshmen will be introduced to questions about Sustainability through Henry David Thoreau’s Economy (the first chapter of Walden) during their Orientation. The reading and discussion questions will be available from the Annual Theme Web-site. Prof. Juliet McMullin, Anthropology, will introduce a cohort of CHASS Freshmen to the cultural processes involved in contemporary sustainability practices and projects through an examination of food security, health, the built environment, social justice, education, and any new issues students discover during the course. In their CHASS Connect sequence, Farah Godrej, Political Science; Geoff Cohen, English and CHASS FIRST; Susan Straight, Creative Writing will try to answer the question: Are we the Earth’s Stewards?

Over the course of the year, we will draw on voices and concerns from across the campus. Please join us in our exploration of Sustainability and the possibility of moving towards what Thoreau would call “the chief end of Man.”