Students studying in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) are learning about a variety of countries, cultures, developing insights, gaining knowledge, and developing skills that prepare them for the increasing globalization of the world. The student body itself offers a miniature world of diverse cultures that provides the basis for its “internationalized education.” U.S. News and World Report ranked UCR as 3rd in racial diversity among the top public universities nationwide.

CHASS is the largest college at UCR and has the most diverse student body (Asian/Asian American: 36%; Black/African American: 9%; Chicano/Mexicoan/Latino: 30%; Filipino/ Pacific Islander: 5%; Native American: 1%; White/Caucasian: 19%).

CHASS is home to seven humanities departments (Comparative Literature & Foreign Languages, English, Hispanic Studies, History, Media and Cultural Studies, Philosophy and Religious Studies), six arts departments (Art, History of Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Music and Theatre), and seven social sciences departments (Anthropology, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Women's Studies). It offers a panoply of majors and interdisciplinary programs that beckon students to explore the world.

The Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages helps bridge the gap between cultures and allows students to enter
Dear Friends,

We’re excited about our new motto, “At Home in the World.” As roses bloom and bougainvillea cascade from the trees in our part of the world, I thought I would relay to you a few of the CHASS faculty’s thoughts on what the motto means for them, for CHASS and for UCR.

Anthea Kraut, Assistant Professor of Dance thinks of her “home department - dance - and the incredibly diverse array of scholarly and choreographic projects being conducted by our students, all of them motivated by a concern for the politics and practices of moving bodies at home and in the world.”

Joseph Childers, Professor of English and Anil Deolalikar, Professor of Economics and, by the way, incoming Associate Dean for the Social Sciences, move on from the departmental focus to CHASS. Deolalikar writes, “We …are striving (quite successfully, in my opinion) to be ‘global’ and all-inclusive not only in terms of diversity of disciplines, students, and country coverage but also in terms of perspectives (e.g., mainstream, structuralist, Marxist, globalist, post-modernist, etc.) that we bring to study social issues and problems. This catholic approach is what makes us at home in an increasingly diverse, multi-cultural, and rich world.” Childers continues, “CHASS has students from all over the world, from Santa Monica to Seoul, from Vladivostock to Victorville. But we also prepare people to go out into the world, with knowledge of it, and with an understanding of its exigencies and demands. We emphasize to our students that their home, wherever it might be, is very much a place in the world, contributing to it, and partaking of it. And, conversely, the world is their home, a place that they can work toward creating the feeling of peace, comfort, and safety for themselves and for those with whom they share that space. It is not so much that the CHASS experience creates global citizens, as it makes our students aware that, indeed, that is what they are already.”

Finally, Toby Miller, Professor of Media and Cultural Studies and Justin McDaniel, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies write about UCR as a whole. Miller says, “For me, the expression ‘At Home in the World’ captures something of the UCR project – that through a judicious but also exciting mix of language, society, the media, politics, the self, and the economy, students can confront the emerging forces that shape their lives with confidence and flexibility.” McDaniel’s thoughts are perhaps the most comprehensive: “UCR’s diversity… informs a new way of approaching the study of the human arts. Here the global constantly informs the local and the local is a reflection of new global realities. Our students largely come from California, but in their local homes, their parents are more than likely speaking Khmer, Spanish, Korean, Persian, German, or Tagalog. They grew up living in ‘One Nation Under God,’ but were surrounded by Buddhist temples, Botanicas, Hindu Mandirs, shrines to the Virgin of Guadalupe, and Sikh Gurdwaras. While our scholars certainly teach American history and English literature, they also teach Brazilian film, Russian music, Indonesian politics, Thai ritual, Japanese art, and French literature. Collectively, we realize that the ‘circumstances of our tenure’ cannot be divorced from our location at the Northern most point of Latin America and the Eastern most part of the Pacific Rim. As we encourage our students to look out and learn about the world and its needs, we are being watched by the world that needs to believe that there are places in which peoples of different ethnicities and religions can not only learn about each other, but from each other.”

Enjoy the season and come visit any time.
Chicana/Latina Faculty Conference

UCR’s Chicana/Latina faculty gathered for the first time at UCR to mentor CHASS students on pursuing their academic careers on March 4th. This historical event brought wisdom that would benefit Chicana/Latina students interested in careers as academic scholars. The panel consisted of Alicia Arrizon, Professor and Chair of Women’s Studies; Amalia Cabezas, Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies; Vanesa Estrada, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Tiffany Ana Lopez, Associate Professor of English; and Jennifer Najera, Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies.

UCR is Dancing

UCR is Dancing is an annual production that showcases original choreography by UCR Students. During a sequence of five composition classes, dance students explored a variety of dance techniques and selected a particular technique to develop into a performance. Professor Neil Greenburg directed this year’s production, which was showcased from March 6th-8th. The choreographers included: Ada Dunne, April Franco, Taylor Garcia, Wendy Garza, Sondra Kazama, Chelsea McDonald, Carlos A. Ortiz, and Serena Yang.

Access to Justice in the Inland Empire

Access to Justice in the Inland Empire, which was organized by Piotr Gorecki (History) and CHASS, addressed a number of policy issues and questions that affect access to the justice system in the Inland Empire. This conference, which was held on March 8th, was divided into two sessions: the morning session tackled the shortage of judicial positions, and the afternoon session discussed the above issues and their impact on access to the courts. The panel was comprised of distinguished judges and lawyers practicing in the Inland Empire.

Rethinking Marxism: SURPLUS/EXCESS

Analyses traced surplus back to the social and connected it to the causes of the division of labor. This study unveiled a series of questions: What marks surplus/excess? What is the status of surplus? What are the differences between surplus labor, surplus meaning, and surplus jouissance? On April 4th-5th, scholars and students gathered at UCR to examine the theoretical and material impact of surplus/excess in today’s world. Surplus/Excess was sponsored by UCR’s Center for Ideas and Society, Rethinking Marxism, and the Association for Social and Economic Analysis (AESA).

Riverside International Film Festival

CHASS was one of the sponsors of this year’s Riverside International Film Festival held on April 11-20th. The City of Riverside welcomed the international film community to enjoy some of the industry’s most innovative filmmakers and aspiring directors for a rich and assorted artistic experience. The Riverside International Film Festival attracted numerous entries from France, Germany, China, Japan, Korea, and India and from across the nation.

Tomás Rivera Conference

Painter Alfredo Arreguin and author Lauro Flores received lifetime achievement awards for Visual Arts and Chicano Literature, respectively, at the 21st annual Tomás Rivera Conference on April 24th. The conference honored the memory of Tomás Rivera, UCR’s chancellor from 1979 to 1984. Rivera was a Chicano poet and the first Hispanic chancellor in the UC system. The central theme of the conference was America Viva (America Live). Juan Felipe Herrera, Tomás Rivera Chair in Creative Writing, organized the conference.
new worlds through the languages and cultures they study. The Department of Religious Studies introduces students to different views of both the material and spiritual world. The Department of Media and Cultural Studies pushes students to analyze the different cultural perspectives presented in media productions. The program in Global Studies looks at problems and policies that influence the development of the entire world. SEATRiP (Southeast Asia: Texts, Rituals, Performance) offers students an in-depth vision of the region, not only in terms of its geographic location, national boundaries or political and economic issues, but also in terms of its cultural components and its ethnicities, identities, homelands, and histories. The new Public Policy major brings world-class research to analyzing social and environmental problems, engaging students in a dialogue with policy makers and planners, and creating a group of students trained in policy analysis who can pursue careers in local/state government agencies and political organizations.

CHASS has a number of research centers concerned with our place in the world. The California Center for Native Nations (CCNN), for example, links the studies of CHASS majors with the resources available through the culture of Native Americans. CHASS has also added the Center for Iberian and Latin American Music (CILAM), a research unit that presents students an "interdisciplinary spirit, embracing the entire musical heritage of Iberia and Latin America." With its website, online journal, and external activities in which students can engage, CILAM is able to bring aspects of other cultures to UCR students. The Institute for Research on World-Systems (IROWS) organizes collaborative research among social and physical scientists on long-term, large-scale social change and its ecological, geographical, and epidemiological causes and effects. IROWS pursues comparative research on the rise and fall of civilizations, long-term processes of globalization, and climate change. The Center for Women In Coalition (CWIC) is the research, policy, and activist wing of the Department of Women's Studies. CWIC is committed to scholarly, policy, and activist engagements with women, gender, and sexuality issues as these are constituted through class, ethno-racial, national, geopolitical, religious, and linguistic differences. In so doing, CWIC follows the creative and powerful paths of intervention forged by natives, immigrants, U.S., and postcolonial women of color, as well as women based in the global South. The Center for Asian Pacific America supports research in Asian American studies in the broadest sense. The Center for Ideas and Society’s mission is to foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research, pedagogy, and creative production in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences locally, nationally, and internationally. The Center is distinguished from other humanities research institutes by the importance it attaches to work in the arts and social sciences for humanistic interdisciplinary collaboration, as well as by its emphasis on intellectual history and the exploration of the social context of ideas, artifacts, and events. CHASS majors and research centers all bring their own visions of how students can be "at home in the world."

Yet, we ought not forget the CHASS professors who also help expand their students' world’s views in their classes. In the Ethnic Studies department, Assistant Professor Anthony Macias explores the cross cultural connections between Mexico and the United States. Christopher Abani, Professor of Creative Writing, brings the poetry and writing of different cultures to his classrooms: Twentieth Century British and American Literature, Gender Studies, Jazz and West African Music. Eric Schwitzgebel, Associate Professor of Philosophy, maneuvers students through both Eastern and Western philosophy. These are just three examples of the many opportunities CHASS faculty provide students by opening doors into other cultures and perspectives.

A physical manifestation of the College’s focus on the larger world and the interconnectedness of programs is the new Interdisciplinary Building that opened in Winter 2008. With this addition to the growing College, students are able to thrive within the innovative programs that connect their studies to the outside world. It is the home for Theatre, Women’s Studies, Creative Writing, Ethnic Studies, Media and Cultural Studies, and Religious Studies departments. It also houses Interdisciplinary Programs which include Global Studies, Labor Studies, SEATRiP, Public Policy, Asian Studies, Liberal Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Latin American Studies, and Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The California Center for Native Nations is on the 3rd floor. The Media Library locates in Room 2117.

With these past and present endeavors, and future accomplishments to come, CHASS now claims the motto, “At Home in the World.” Through the programs in humanities, arts, and social sciences, students are able to learn about the world and issues concerning it. With the broad spectrum of classes, and the many interdisciplinary programs, students are able to incorporate the real world into their lives, making students at the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences feel very much "at home in the world."
Thomas Cogwell, Professor of History and the Chair of the UCR Academic Senate, has been selected as one of fifteen people in the UC system to receive a President’s Research Fellowship in the Humanities. The honor means up to $25,000 in funding and time to pursue a scholarly project.

John Fischer, Distinguished Professor and Chair of Philosophy, was chosen to deliver the Fall 2008 Houriani Lectures. The Houriani Lectures are given every two years by philosophers working in either ethics or Islamic philosophy. The endowment was generously left to the University of Buffalo Philosophy Department by the late George Houriani and provides an award of $12,000 to the speaker.

Robert Rosenthal, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, was named a University Professor by the University of California Regents. The title of University Professor is reserved for scholars of international distinction who are also recognized as scholars and teachers of exceptional ability.

Michele Salzman, Professor of History, is one of five UC researchers honored by the American Philological Association for developing course materials for sixth and seventh grade social studies teachers about the world of late antiquity, which includes the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of Christianity and Islam.

V.P. Franklin, Distinguished Professor of History and Education, is an editor for the Journal of African American History, the leading journal of African American history. Franklin’s work was published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was established in 1915.

Michele Jaquis, Guest Lecturer for the Department of Art, co-directed and edited a documentary about autism titled Recovered: Journeys through the Autism Spectrum and Back. The documentary, produced by the Center for Autism and Related Disorders in Tarzana, is scheduled for release on DVD for the month of February. A premiere screening was held in April during Autism Awareness Month.

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Laila Lalami’s new book, Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits, deals with illegal immigration and is a topical selection for this year’s Writers & Books event in Rochester, NY, “if All of Rochester Read the Same Book…”

Susan Straight’s short story, The Golden Gopher, from this year’s Los Angeles Noir collection (Akashic Books), received a 2008 Edgar Award for Best Short Story. Straight also became the 50th person honored as Alumnus of the Year in the 92-history of the Riverside Community College District.

Yolanda T. Moses, Professor of Anthropology and Associate Vice Chancellor for Conflict Resolution, is an editor of Sustainability: The Journal of Record, published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

Associate Professor of Dance History and Theory, Jacqueline Murphy’s book, The People Have Never Stopped Dancing: Native American Stage Dance and Modern Dance History, has been awarded the 2007 De La Torre Bueno Prize by the Society of Dance History Scholars (awarded annually to the “Best Book in the Field”). The de la Torre Bueno Prize is awarded annually to a book published in the English language that advances the field of dance studies. Named after José Rollins de la Torre Bueno, the first university press editor to develop a list of titles in dance studies, the Bueno Prize has recognized scholarly excellence in the field since 1973.

David Swanson, Professor of Sociology, was named Interim Director of the Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development, effective January 1 through July 1.

Dwight Yates, Lecturer for the Department of Creative Writing, was among forty-two recipients of the prestigious 2008 Literature Fellowships in Prose from the National Endowment for the Arts. Winners were selected by a panel of eleven professional writers. This year’s prize was $25,000.
Center for Iberian and Latin American Music

The Center for Iberian and Latin American Music (CILAM) was established at the University of California, Riverside in 2004 to foster research and performance in an interdisciplinary spirit, embracing the musical heritage of Iberia and Latin America. CILAM’s founding director is Professor Walter Clark. The Center’s activities include maintaining its website, an online scholarly journal, and organizing Encuentros/Encounters, an annual conferences that focuses on music from Iberia and Latin America. This year the conference featured music from the colonial Philippines. An all-day conference on April 25 featured leading scholars from the Philippines and United States. Encounters concluded that evening with an appearance by the renowned Loboc Children’s Choir. Other events that week included a Wednesday at One presentation of Romantic piano music from the Philippines by Dartmouth pianist Sally Pinkas, and on April 24, the UCR Philippine Rondalla Ensemble also performed at the Dean’s Patio Concert Series at Noon.

Mayupatapi

Mayupatapi, which means “Riverside” in the Quechua language, is also the name of the UCR Andean Music Ensemble. The ensemble, which includes undergraduate and graduate student members from a number of academic departments, perform regularly on the UCR campus as well as in the greater Riverside and Southern California community.

Jonathan Ritter, Assistant Professor of Music, is the director of Mayupatapi. He received his M.A. (1998) and Ph.D. (2006) in Ethnomusicology from UCLA and his B.A. (Summa Cum Laude) in American Indian Studies from the University of Minnesota. He was awarded the Charles Seeger Prize in 2002 by the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Hyperstruction Studio

UCR recognizes that today’s higher education students may not learn as effectively through the more traditional methods of teaching. In a quest to improve students’ own personal learning experiences, UCR has opened the first “hyperstruction studio” in the Surge Building. The studio serves as an incubator that provides instructors and students with a unique way to teach and learn through collaboration and the use of instructional technology. The technology in the hyperstruction studio includes five video outputs, a four-plasma-panel video wall, a mobile interactive whiteboard, a 3-D projector, and two high-resolution video projectors.

The furniture in the studio, designed to foster collaborative learning, include chairs and tables that are color coded so that students can be divided into teams, and the floor has contrasting color schemes for similar purposes. The studio also allows students and professors to communicate via tablet PC’s. This room was designed to create a more dynamic learning experience as well as give the student and professor a more expansive role in the overall instruction, where every activity is geared toward a technology world.

For more information, contact ming.yang@ucr.edu
Daniel V. Polk, Samantha Wilson, and Bryan Yeh were chosen to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI) in New Orleans from March 14-16. Former President Clinton established CGI in 2005 to challenge college students to undertake global problems with realistic solutions.

Brian Judson, Sociology and Spanish major; Thomas McCandless, Business Administration major; Daniel Mejia, Chicano Studies and Sociology major; John Orrell, Economics Administration major; and Fabian Villegas, Political Science major, presented their Unobtrusive Observation study to Professor Robert A. Hanneman’s Sociology 004 class on March 5th. Their research focused on describing student patterns of interaction in public spaces on campus. Graduate students Kirk Lawrence and Kevin Huntley mentored the undergraduates; Professor Hanneman supervised the study.

Vanessa Hua, a first-year Master of Fine Arts student, has won first prize in the Atlantic Monthly student fiction contest. Her entry, "What We Have is What We Need," will be published in the American Literary Review in May.

Fred Lee, first year Psychology major; Vincent Yu, fourth year Philosophy major; Shawn Lu, second year Business major; and Sarah Lui, third year Business major participated in the 12th annual collegiate martial art tournament at Stanford University on March 1st. Lee won two gold medals competing in the Intermediate Straight sword and Traditional Openhand competition, and Yu won one silver and one bronze medal competing in the Beginning Traditional Weapon and Beginning Traditional Openhand. A total of nine students represented UCR.

CHASS Staff Giving Back...

Tracy Cordova, an administrative assistant in the CHASS Dean’s Office, has been a committed volunteer with Soldiers’ Angels, a nationwide nonprofit organization, for two years. Cordova also volunteers at the Wylie Center, a multi-service center in Riverside for children with special needs.

Reginald Cortez Woolery, Curator of Education for the UCR/California Museum of Photography, has been developing interpretive programs and activities to improve the museum-going experience for visitors of the Sweeney Art Gallery, the UCR/California Museum of Photography and the future Culver Center of the Arts.

Ray McNamara (picture right), Music Director of the Department of Dance, is widely known for the cultural diversity he brings on campus through his expertise as a steel drum (pan) musician. Along with arranging, recording and producing music for the Dance department, he occasionally performs on campus on Fridays. McNamara won the Pan Solo Competition, which was held at the Caribbean Treehouse in Los Angeles in 2006.
David Sides (Music, B.A., ’07) has converted popular Hip hop and R&B songs into piano compositions. He currently has thirty-five songs, with seven reaching one million views on You Tube. His greatest achievement is his rendition of “Apologize,” a song originally played by One Republic.

Robert R. Edwards (Comparative Literature Ph.D., ’72) explored the interaction of love doctrines and sexual desire in medieval texts from the Augustinian and Ovidian traditions in his book The Flight from Desire: Augustine and Ovid to Chaucer. Edwards is currently a Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University.

Thomas Neff (Photography, B.A., ’76) photographed 180 people affected by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. During his stay in New Orleans, he volunteered in the sheriff’s department. Neff is currently a Professor of Photography at Louisiana State University.

Paul Niwa (Economics & Journalism, B.A., ’92) has created many inspirational works for national and international television networks concerning Asian American identity. Niwa is currently an Assistant Professor of Journalism at Emerson College in Boston. As an undergraduate at UCR, Niwa won two Golden Mikes for his documentaries.

Ivy “Ewell” Eldridge (B.A., Liberal Studies, ’99) was elected Teacher of the Year for Eastvale Elementary, where she teaches first grade, and the Corona-Norco Unified School District. Eldridge has been teaching for ten years.

Linda Kelly (M.A., Political Science, ’90) was appointed City Manager of Sonoma, California in January. Kelly has twenty years of local government service from serving as Town Manager of Fairfax to assisting the City Manager of the City of Atherton.

Christine “Bleyenburg” Tapia (B.A., Economics, ’96) was promoted to Senior Business Development Manager for Travel Zoo Inc. in November 2006.

Forrest S. (Woody) Mosten (B.A., Political Science, ’69) is an attorney and internationally known mediator and advocate of conflict resolution methods to settle disputes. He spoke at UCR on Wednesday, May 7 in the Alumni and Visitors Center discussing “Conflict and Peacemaking: From Kindergarten to the Middle East” in the first lecture of what will become an annual event, the Forrest S. Mosten Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies Lectureship. He is donating $5,000 annually to fund the lecture series and student internships with organizations that promote peace building or conflict resolution in an effort to support peace studies at UCR.

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