The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, which encompasses 19 academic departments and many research centers, offers a wide assortment of disciplines that attracts students of all ethnic backgrounds and faculty specializing in various fields. CHASS is home to many of the world’s finest historians, sociologists, political scientists, linguists, psychologists, economists, artists, novelists, philosophers, musicians, dramatists, and literary scholars.

It is in part its focus on interdisciplinary studies that makes CHASS an incredibly intellectually diverse college. CHASS students are ethnically diverse as well with 39.2% Asian American, 27.7% Latino/Chicano, 19.2% Caucasian, 7.6% African American, and 0.3% Native American. The remaining 6.0% either fall into the category of “other” or choose not to reveal their ethnic background. In addition to being ethnically diverse, CHASS also has a healthy balance of male (43%) and female (57%) students, as well as 155 male (57%) and 115 female (43%) faculty.

UC Riverside is proud of its reputation as one of the most ethnically diverse public research universities in the nation, ranked third by U.S. News and World Report. Students of many ethnic identities can be seen sprinkled within lecture halls and discussion sections or relaxing in the Commons.

more Diversity on page 4

CHASS: The Most Diverse College Among UC Campuses

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more Diversity on page 4
Dear Friends,

Walking around campus you have doubtless seen the array of new buildings under construction. Two of these are CHASS buildings: the new Psychology Building above Parking Lot 6 and the new Interdisciplinary Building across from the Arts Building. The Psychology Building will house faculty offices, seminar rooms, dry labs, a computer lab and a vivarium. The Interdisciplinary Building includes 100 faculty offices and thirteen new classrooms. If you go downtown, you will see the new banners officially marking UCR ARTSblock, consisting of the Sweeney Art Gallery, the UCR California Museum of Photography, and soon, the Culver Center for the Arts. Please look at page 3 for pictures of these new facilities. See page 5 for an article on our creative demolition of the Wurms Building.

Of course, buildings are only as important as the programs they house. We are expanding our dual tradition of innovation in research and commitment to learning. In CHASS we are tremendously proud of all of our existing programs, but here I’d like to tell you about two new ones. The newly revitalized California Indian Nations Center will draw on CHASS’s expertise to research issues of significance to Native Americans, to work with tribes to establish archives and museums, preserve languages, complete oral histories and support creative works in drama, dance, music, film and material culture. We have also begun planning for the Center for Law and Science in Society (CLaSS). CLaSS will draw on the expertise of faculty in both CHASS and CNAS to research the role of theoretical, natural scientific, and social scientific knowledge in the law as well as to examine issues in humanitarian and international law.

As the lead article in this newsletter emphasizes, CHASS is the most diverse College in the most diverse of all UC campuses. We are especially proud of the fact that not only are we a diverse campus, but we are also one that emphasizes the excellence and success of our all our students. This fact was recognized in a front page story of the LA Times on January 15th and in the March 23rd Chronicle of Higher Education story on UCR’s success in serving low income and diverse students. In recognition of the campus’s commitment to diversity, we were recently named as one of the few Hispanic-Serving Institutions by the U.S. Department of Education.

Finally, I’d like to draw your attention to our new hiring initiatives. Our cluster hire in Middle East/Islam has drawn an exciting group of candidates to campus and we are very excited about the new faculty who have accepted our offers of employment. Altogether, we are hiring in approximately 18 fields, drawing a wealth of new teachers and scholars to the College to complement the astonishing faculty we already have.

Look for new hiring and program initiatives in these pages next term. New Buildings, New Programs, New People….These are indeed exciting times to take a stroll across campus and CHASS.

Stephen Cullenberg
Dean
**UCR Receives Bond Trust**

UCR will receive $92 million through Proposition 1D, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act, which was passed by California voters in the November 2006 General Election. The measure allocates $3.1 billion towards California’s colleges and universities to construct new buildings and related infrastructure, alter existing buildings, and purchase equipment for use in these buildings. The University of California’s ten campuses will receive $890 million.

CHASS will receive a total of $10,940,000, including $8 million for working drawings and construction of the Culver Center for the Arts; $2 million for equipment for the Psychology Building; $940,000 for the CHASS Interdisciplinary Building.

The statewide ballot measure authorizes $10.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund the repair and upgrade of public schools that include K-12, community colleges, and state universities. Problems that Proposition 1D aims to resolve include helping public K-12 schools, colleges, and universities relieve overcrowding in classrooms, improve earthquake safety, fund vocational educational facilities, make needed repairs on aging buildings, and build new classrooms to accommodate the growing student enrollment in California’s public education system.

Furthermore, the passage of Proposition 1D will provide financial support towards the expansion of the availability of quality health care to undeserved populations in California through the Programs in Medical Education (PRIME) being developed at several UC campuses. The measure will provide facilities and state-of-the-art equipment for increased enrollments in the program.

The approval of Proposition 1D serves as an important step in helping the UC system fulfill its public mission of strengthening economic growth and quality healthcare throughout California.

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**Sweeney Art Gallery Under New Leadership**

On December 18, 2006, Tyler Stallings began as the new Director of the Sweeney Art Gallery. Former Chief Curator and Curator of Exhibitions of the Laguna Art Museum, Tyler has originated exhibits with a wide array of themes, from art and technology to identity politics and popular culture. Tyler earned his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 1992, and has since been immersed in the art world. He brings with him a great amount of experience, both in working with art itself and art in relation to the community. "His experience in engaging the local community will serve us well with the Sweeney Gallery’s new location in downtown Riverside," said Stephen Cullenberg, Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.
An advantage that UC Riverside has in attracting minority students is the local area itself, which boasts a significantly large African-American and Latino/Chicano population. In 1996, state law banned the use of race, ethnicity, and gender as a factor in college admissions. At UC Riverside, however, administrators and faculty have been dedicated to reaching out to eligible applicants in the local Riverside community, one that is rich in ethnic and cultural diversity. The campus has developed programs specifically designed to aid minority students transition to college, one of the many factors that make UC Riverside the campus of choice for many African-American and Latino students.

As reported in the January 15th 2007 issue of the Los Angeles Times, “UCR has the highest percentage of African Americans of any of the ten UC campuses and the highest percentage of Latinos except at the small, new Merced campus.” This year, the number of students from minority groups attending UCR greatly increased. African-Americans represent 7.4%, and Latinos 25.4% of the student body. Compared to the statistics last year, African-Americans represented 5.4% and Latinos 24.5% of the student body. UCR continues to be the melting pot of all the UC campuses.

Additionally, CHASS is the most ethnically diverse of the UC Riverside colleges. Although the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences traditionally attract a more diverse body of students than the Sciences, CHASS continues to add new majors and research areas to entice students with a wide array of interests. In addition to the majors in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, CHASS offers programs in African American Studies, Asian Literature and Culture, Asian Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano Studies, Creative Writing, Ethnic Studies, Film and Visual Culture, Global Studies, Latin American Studies, Music and Culture, Native American Studies, Public Policy, Russian Studies, Business Administration, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Studies, among others. Students can also choose to pursue a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, which allows them to create a program uniquely tailored to their personal interests.

CHASS’s commitment to diversity has also manifested itself in a number of new initiatives to ensure that all incoming students will succeed academically, regardless of individual racial, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds. The CHASS Connect and First Year Experience programs have been highly successful in improving the retention rate and overall performance of students. The results of these programs are evident in a recent study conducted by Associate Dean David Fairris who found that the students who did participate in CHASS Connect showed statistically significant improvements in GPA’s, test scores, and units completed per year.
UCR has united its three arts venues, the UCR/California Museum of Photography, the Sweeney Art Gallery, and the planned Culver Center of the Arts, into an integrated complex on one city block in downtown Riverside. The new UCR/ARTSblock will bring art exhibitions, live performances, and other special events to the Riverside and Inland Empire communities. The Culver Center, which will include performance and research space, plus a screening room, inter-media studio, and computer lab, is expected to be completed in Spring 2009.

As its first project, ARTSblock sponsored a joint performance and demolition piece entitled “Live Building,” featuring the dismantling of downtown Riverside’s Wurms Building by New York-based artist and sculptor Jason Middlebrook. Middlebrook plans to reuse parts of the Wurms Building and its furniture in the construction of the Culver Center.

“This is a great way to kick off the Culver Center and I congratulate UC Riverside and artist Jason Middlebrook on the sustainable and artistic nature of the project,” said Riverside City Council member Don Betro. “I look forward to the completion of the Culver Center and the exhibits, performances, and classes that the UCR ARTSblock will bring to the city.”

For the first time since its inception thirty years ago, Writers Week, the Creative Writing Department’s annual celebration of writers and their work, was extended to two weeks to accommodate the number of writers who wished to participate. From February 1st – 14th, UC Riverside hosted over thirty writers, including Nobel Prize Winner Wole Soyinka, UCR alumnus and lecturer Alex Espinoza, poets Dorianne Laux and Joseph Millar, and other members of the Creative Writing faculty and the literary community. The two weeks of readings, workshops, and performances gave both students and faculty the opportunity to participate and interact with other professionals in the field.
John Briggs, Professor of English, was awarded a $105,000 grant from the NEH to lead a faculty seminar on the prose of Samuel Johnson, Abraham Lincoln, and Winston Churchill at Boston University this coming July. He also received $45,000 from the National Writing Project to fund the 2006 Inland Empire Writing Project Summer Institute for K-12 teachers.

Richard Sutch, Professor of Economics, was elected Honorary President of the International Economic History Association at its meeting in Helsinki last August.

Carl Cranor, Professor of Philosophy, his book *Toxic Torts: Science, Law and the Possibility of Justice* set the agenda for the 14th Annual Philosophy Conference at UCR.

Christopher Chase-Dunn and Ellen Reese, Professors of Sociology, were awarded a $30,000 research grant from the UC Labor and Employment Research grant for their research project, “Can Participation in Social Forums Help to Revitalize the U.S. Labor Movement?”

Charles Evered, Assistant Professor (UCR and Palm Desert Graduate Center), penned an episode of “Monk” that was aired in December in a special black and white and color feature.

Jonathan Green, UCR/CMP Director, along with Guest Curator Trisha Ziff produced the exhibit “Revolution and Commerce: The Legacy of Korda’s Portrait of Che Guevara,” which continues to travel around the world.

Rickerby Hinds, Assistant Professor of Theatre, premiered his play *One Size Fits All* in January with UCR’s Department of Theatre.

Justin McDaniel, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, was re-elected as the Chair of the Thai/Lao/ Cambodian Section of the Association of Asian Studies Spring 2004-present.

Yolanda Moses, Professor of Anthropology, Vice Provost for Conflict Resolution, and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Excellence and Diversity, was presented the American Council on Education – Donna Shavlik Award.

Stella Nair, Assistant Professor of Art History will complete her NEH Fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University.

James Parr, Professor of Spanish, has been elected president of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Karthick Ramakrishnan, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was chosen for a residential fellowship at the Russell Sage Foundation.

Deborah Wong, Professor of Music, was elected President of the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Yenna Wu, Professor of Chinese and Director of the Asian Languages and Civilizations Program at UCR, received the UCR Academy of Distinguished Teachers Award in 2006.

Faculty Books


Featured Book

*Inlandia: A Literary Journey Through California’s Inland Empire*

By Gayle Wattawa (Editor). Forward by Susan Straight, Professor of Creative Writing. Includes works by Creative Writing faculty members Alex Espinoza, Michael Jayme (Jaime-Becerra), and Dwight Yates.
Staff

CHASS Facilities Planner Dan Rockholt’s photographic art piece is on display in a multi-artist exhibit at the Karpeles Manuscript Library & Museum in Santa Barbara. He was interviewed on CNN concerning his role in the recent documentary Brats: Our Journey Home on January 7th. The documentary chronicles the lives of several individuals who grew up on military bases at home and abroad.

Nine CHASS advisors, Mike Atienza, Susan Braddock, Gabrielle Brewer, Terry DeAnda, Gloria McGuire, Linda Nellany, Gerardo Sanchez, Dorine Cabrera-Ramos, and Barbara Wotherspoon, attended the National Academic Advising Association National Conference in Indianapolis. Funding for the trip was provided by Dean Stephen Cullenberg.

Students

Kevin Cramer’s (Graduate Student, Creative Writing) full-length screenplay, “The South Alabama Game” was produced in Pittsburgh by BabyTape/Mind over Media productions.

Ahalya Satkunaratnam (A.B.D., Dance History and Theory) is a recipient of the Fulbright and Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award for her research on Bharata Natyam dance practices in Sri Lanka.

Highlanders Won Big West Conference Championships

The UCR Women’s Basketball Team, made up entirely of CHASS undergraduates, won the 2007 Big West Conference Tournament and regular season titles. They made their second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament, nearly upsetting Arizona State University which was ranked 10th nationally at the time. Over 150 faculty, staff and family members helped set an attendance record at the “CHASS Night” on January 18th as UCR crushed arch-rival UC Irvine.

2006-07 UC Riverside Women’s Basketball Team

Back Row (Left to Right): Assistant Coach Seton Sobolewski, Assistant Coach Lindsey Foster, Kemie Nkele (JR, Liberal Studies), Amber Cox (SO, Studio Art), Katerina Glyniadaki (SO, Interdisciplinary Studies), Tainoisouti Lott (SO, Film & Visual Culture), Jessie Schmuckal (FR, History/Administrative Studies), Assistant Coach Cathy Bogh Coate, Head Coach John Margaritis. Front Row (L to R): Jaleesa Conner (FR, CHASS Undeclared), Ronéy Friend (SO, Studio Art), Jacqueline Coble (SO, CHASS Undeclared), Seyram Gbewonyo (SO, Interdisciplinary Studies), Brittany Waddell (FR, CHASS Undeclared), Vanessa Campillo (JR, Liberal Studies), Chanel Foster (SO, CHASS Undeclared), Courtney Good (JR, Business Administration), Shynell Foree (SO, CHASS Undeclared).

Rod Pacheco (pictured right), ’80 B.A. Political Science, was sworn in as District Attorney of Riverside County in January. Pacheco was the first Latino Republican elected to the California State Assembly.

Glen Pettigrove, ’04 Philosophy Ph.D., was awarded the Baumgardt Memorial Fellowship by the American Philosophical Association.

Ed Blakely (pictured right), ’60 B.A. History, was appointed by New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin to lead Katrina recovery efforts. Blakely addressed the public about his plans for New Orleans reconstruction on January 25th in a conference at the Mission Inn. The conference was sponsored by the Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development, which was founded at UCR in 2003.

In connection with its 2007-08 theme of Democracy, CHASS announces its F1RST Book, given to all incoming CHASS Freshmen. The book is A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation by CHASS’s own Catherine Allgor, member of the Department of History. Called “a rousing tale of ambition, gossip, and policy told with empathy and understanding by Catherine Allgor,” A Perfect Union is a finalist for the 2007 George Washington Book Prize.