The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) prides itself on its eager learners and its insistence on academic excellence. One part of this excellence is the intellectual vitality housed in its 22 interdisciplinary programs. Sometimes these programs thrive as cross-disciplinary curricula sustained by professors from across the College. Sometimes they develop into departments in their own right.

Our interdisciplinary departments include Ethnic Studies, Religious Studies, Creative Writing, and Women’s Studies. The newest, however, is Media and Cultural Studies (MCS). Begun as a minor in Film and Visual Culture (FVC) in 1993, FVC became a major in 2000 with a primary focus on the historical and theoretical examination of film, video, television, multimedia and visual culture and a secondary focus on production. By 2006, the program had 152 majors and conferred over 20 degrees a year.

Because of its success, the program proposed a new Department of Media and Cultural Studies, which was approved during the 2006-07 academic year. Chaired by Professor Toby Miller, MCS now has a founding full-time faculty of four and is in the process of adding five more either full or part-time faculty as well as three full-time staff. The Department also has a new home on the third floor of the new Interdisciplinary Building.

Although FVC ceased to exist as a continuing program with the emergence of MCS, existing
Dear Friends,

The rains have come and gone (at least for the time being); the snow-capped mountains rise stunningly above the Box Springs; the new CHASS Interdisciplinary Building is up and running and Winter Quarter is well under way!

Before I tell you a little bit more about our interdisciplinary programs, I’d like to announce the winners of the two CHASS teaching prizes. The first is Professor Lynda Bell of the History Department who has been awarded the Patricia McSweeney McCauley Chair in Teaching Excellence. The Chair was created in 1993 to encourage excellence in teaching in CHASS and is reserved for senior professors. Professor Bell has been a CHASS faculty member since 1989 with research interests that focus on the social and economic history of late nineteenth and early twentieth century China. Her enthusiasm for China makes its way into her classes where students claim they’ve never been as fascinated by history and where World History has never come so alive. The Chair brings with it a stipend of $5000 as does the other teaching prize in the college, the Teaching Award for Junior Faculty. The winner of this prize is Sociology Professor, Scott Brooks. Researching the intersections of race, class, and gender in the lives of inner city men, Professor Brooks’ students call him, not only awesome and cool, but deeply informative, challenging and helpful.

Now, regarding interdisciplinary studies in CHASS. First, let me tell you that the new building is wonderful. Departments such as Creative Writing, Women’s Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Religious Studies, once crammed into small quarters in Watkins or the Humanities and Social Sciences Building, are now spreading out in new digs with new resources. Students are finding their way to new classrooms with cutting-edge technology and only steps away from faculty offices. Three of the four recently established programs that we profile in this newsletter are also housed in the new building. The new Department of Media and Cultural Studies is on the third floor. Its founding faculty of four led by Chair, Toby Miller, is in the process of incorporating five new members to compose a faculty of nine by the academic year’s close. SEATRIP or South East Asia: Text, Rituals, in Performance is close by, with an assortment of interdisciplinary faculty from different home departments, including Music, Comparative Literature, History, Women’s Studies and Anthropology. And in the same vicinity is Global Studies, a cross-disciplinary program that explores historical and current events and processes of a transnational character.

While the programs in South East Asia and Global Studies may be the clearest manifestations of the international flavor of CHASS these days, other programs are equally global in nature. Indeed, I am pleased to make one more announcement before ending this letter. We have adopted a motto for CHASS that now appears on our website: At Home in the World. Not only does our student body rival the United Nations in its range of cultures, ethnicities, and perspectives. So too, our curriculum is designed to help students find their home, and become leaders, in an increasingly complex, multinational society as our country struggles to find its own place in an increasingly global environment.
The Thai Digital Monastery

Justin McDaniel, Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian and Religious Studies, is the principal investigator of the Thai Digital Monastery (TDM) project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). TDM is a monastic digital library that will include film and audio, as well as documents and archives, and disseminate information about monasteries. McDaniel has over 13 years of extensive experience on the subject matter. He is also an advanced reader of Sanskrit and PA li, and has near fluency in spoken and written Lao, Tai Lue, and Thai.

Writers Week

Writers Week 2008, which was held on February 5-8th under the direction of Professor Susan Straight and Professor Charles Whitney, invited well known writers to UCR. Each day focused on a different aspect of writing, with categories in poetry, history, biography/memoir, Diaspora, and California noir. Writers, such as Alex Espinoza, Catherine Allgor, and many more, spoke about their publications and answered questions. Renowned author, Joyce Carol Oates, writer of numerous novels, short stories, poems, and plays, was chosen for the keynote Chancellor’s Lecture in University Lecture Hall.

In fall of 2007, Dean Stephen Cullenberg started the Dean’s Patio Concert Series at Noon, a series of luncheon and performing art events to promote faculty, students, and staff involvement in the arts.

This series, meant to stage student and faculty coordinated performances, provides entertainment as well as a chance for faculty and staff to get together. CHASS is currently the largest college on campus, and in the midst of busy schedules, Dean Cullenberg has created an event for faculty and staff to come together under the name of the arts.

Past events included the duo “Hermes’ Invention” with Jürgen Hübscher and Tobias Schmitz on October 11th, where the two renowned musicians from Switzerland played a wide variety of plucked-string instruments, and mezzo-soprano Kate Butler who performed on November 29th.

Upcoming concert series will feature Mayupatapi on March 10, Ronadalla on April 24, and Mariachi Music and Folklorice Dance on May 5. For more information on the Dean’s Concert Series at Noon, visit http://chass.ucr.edu/announcement/deans_concert_series/index.html
majors will be able to complete their program of study and receive their degrees. “The reality,” Professor Miller says, “is that graduates of such programs rarely work in cinema – if they work in ‘the industry’ it’s mostly in television. And with technological and ownership convergence, all the media are blurring – and film as a medium is being transformed. Students need to learn about games, TV, the Internet, in fact, all the media if they are to operate effectively as both citizens and workers.” Miller says he is excited about the new department, “We have so many resources, exciting new faculty, and energetic students.”

Another relatively new interdisciplinary program in the College is SEATRiP, (Southeast Asia: Text, Rituals, and Performance). SEATRiP brings together faculty and students who are actively engaged with the history, languages and expressive cultures of Southeast Asia. It combines a strong faculty in the performing arts, humanities and social sciences with strong language programs in Indonesian, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Thai. Currently the program offers an undergraduate minor and an M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies. In each case, it provides excellent preparation for students interested in pursuing studies or career options in the field.

Two other new interdisciplinary programs in CHASS are Public Policy and Global Studies.

Public Policy is the study of policy making: how policies can serve the public interest; how they should be designed and implemented to affect individuals and communities; and how they should be monitored and evaluated. Both the Public Policy major and its minor provide students with a rich set of research, analytical, and management skills that are transferable across disciplinary lines and applicable to diverse issues and areas.

The Global Studies major comprises a broad, multidisciplinary study of events, processes, and problems that transcend national boundaries. The major is concerned with the study of globalization in its current socio-cultural, political, economic, ecological, demographic, and biomedical manifestations, but it also provides students with a historical sense of earlier trends towards globalization.

Students majoring in Global Studies explore transnational issues of global governance and security, global history, migrations, economic systems, global social movements, global health and environmental sustainability, global consequences of new technologies, global literature, and popular culture and media.

Incorporating multiple disciplines to study new fields of knowledge, CHASS is growing both physically and intellectually.
Christopher Abani, Professor of Creative Writing, has been nominated for the distinguished Pushcart Prize for his poem "Sanctificum." The Pushcart Prize acknowledges the best poetry, short stories, and essay published by small presses.

Susan Straight, Professor of Creative Writing, was awarded the prestigious Lannan Literary Award for Fiction, which also includes a $150,000 prize. The Lannan Foundation was established in 1989 to recognize writers who contribute to English-language literature and demonstrate potential for future works.

Catherine Allgor, Professor of History, was featured during a PBS documentary on the life and legacy of Andrew Jackson, the nation’s 7th president. Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil and the Presidency aired on Wednesday, January 2nd at 9:00PM.

Eric Schwitzgebel, Associate Professor of Philosophy, joined forces with Russell T. Hurlburt, Professor of Psychology at the University of Nevada, to explore consciousness in their book Describing Inner Experience? Proponent Meets Skeptic.

Alicia Arrizon, Professor and Chair of the Department of Women’s Studies, shares the 5th annual Modern Language Association Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Culture Studies for her book Queering Mestizaje: Transculturation and Performance.

Henry Snyder, Professor Emeritus of History and Director of UC Riverside’s Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research, received a National Humanities Medal for his extensive research project documenting the output of the press of the British Isles and North America in the early modern period. President George W. Bush presented Snyder with the medal on November 15, 2007.

Justin McDaniel, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, received the 2007 Teaching Innovation Award. He, and Bradley Hyman, fellow recipient and Professor of Biology, lectured on their approaches to teaching on November 28th in Bourns Hall.

Howard Wettstein, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the UCR University Honors Program, presented his paper, “Rational Religion: Gulen’s Middle Way,” at the International Conference on Peaceful Coexistence: Fethullah Gulen’s Initiatives for Peace in the Contemporary World, at Erasmus University in Rotterdam in November, 2007.

Anita Beatrice Scott, Assistant Professor of Dance, recently hosted the first bi-coastal DISTURBANCE, an improvisational, cross media, cross-discipline artistic event. Scott also recently participated in the first dance week at In Media Res, an online forum aimed at promoting online dialog among media scholars and the public about contemporary media scholarship.

Anil B. Deolalikar, Professor of Economics, Mary Gauvain, Professor of Psychology, and Ellen A. Warfella, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, and Distinguished Professor of Psychology, are three of nine UCR researchers that have been named 2007 AAAS fellows. Fellows are chosen for their scientific or social efforts to advance science or its applications.
Steven Brint, Associate Dean of CHASS for Student Academic Affairs, recently launched the web feature Scenes from a Classroom, which provides recognition for outstanding professors, and he hopes it will encourage discussion about teaching and learning in CHASS. Each quarter there will be a group of 5 minute video clips highlighting the teaching practices of a CHASS professor and 5 minute video clips of the professor discussing his or her teaching practices. With help from Jim Brown, Director of UCR Video Productions, and James Lin of CHASS, the first Scenes from a Classroom series was broadcasted on September 2007. Professors Roger Ransom (History), Juan Felipe Herrera (Creative Writing), Michele Salzman (History), and Rickerby Hinds (Theatre) are currently featured.

Inspired by Scenes from a Classroom, Associate Dean Brint also created Minds Alive, which highlights the achievements of outstanding CHASS students. Its premiere feature is on Brian Tan, a Political Science major, who produced and directed Incrimination. Its second feature is on Greg Goalwin, a History major, who was recently admitted for graduate study at Cambridge University. Incrimination, Tan’s student-produced film, premiered in a free public screening on January 31st in the University Lecture Hall. Although the Film & Photography Society (FPS) had a meager $700 budget, they were still able to produce a Hollywood-worthy live action motion picture. Tan, President of the Film & Photography Society and Director of Incrimination, commented, “Not only is it our goal to entertain, delight, and interest students about the filmmaking process, but we aim to show them that nothing, no matter how ambitious or far-fetched, is ever impossible.”

For his senior essay, “Conflict, Consensus, and the Cross: Christianity and Its Role in Politics,” Goalwin selected two areas of academic interest and combined them to provide a comparison of religious violence in two well-known eras: the Roman Empire and modern Northern Ireland. Goalwin’s research suggests that state policies and levels of international security influence the intensity of religious conflict. Goalwin credits the University Honors program and faculty members for encouraging him to be involved in scholarship and research programs. Goalwin was accepted into the Modern European History Program at Cambridge University.

Upcoming features on Minds Alive will recognize the work of a Psychology student who is doing graduate level research; a Political Science student who was awarded a major public interest fellowship and was recently drafted to play professional soccer for the L.A. Galaxy; and a History student who is completing important research on the labor movement in Mexico.

For more information on Scenes from a Classroom and Minds Alive, contact Associate Dean Steven Brint or visit: http://chass.ucr.edu/
Neal Tognazzini (picture left top), a 2005 graduate, is expected to receive his Ph.D. in Philosophy from UCR. Tognazzini's work is debuting as the lead article in the highly prestigious journal Philosophy and Public Affairs. Tognazzini has taught various courses at UCR, including God, Introduction to Logic, and Formal Logic.

Jin Hee Yoo, a student of Music and Culture with a focus on Indonesian arts, received a scholarship from the Indonesian government. Yoo has been studying the Javanese gamelan under a master musician for the past two years and is planning to return to Indonesia to continue her studies in music.

Gabriela Jauregi (picture left bottom), an MFA graduate, is currently residing in Munich for two months at the Villa Waldbera. Jauregi is writing a novel with help from her mentors in the Creative Writing Department, while awaiting the publication of her book of poetry, Controlled Decay, in June.

Patrick Linder, a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Anthropology, was awarded a $30,000 research grant from the UC Labor and Employment Research Fund for his dissertation research project, "The Immigrant Enclave and Social Difference in the Coachella Valley: Labor and Housing as Indicators of Internal Distinction."

CHASS New Staff

CHASS welcomes all new staff members to the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences who joined CHASS since Fall 2007.

- Jana Bernard, Administrative Assistant (Sociology Department)
- Penny Bushey, MSO (Media & Cultural Studies Department)
- Cynthia Cardenas, Administrative Assistant (UCR/California Museum Photography)
- Tracy Cordova, Administrative Assistant (Dean’s Office)
- Cassandra Cortez, Student Affairs Officer (Performing Arts Administration)
- Jennifer Dorado, Museum Preparator (UCR/California Museum Photography)
- Jamile Johnson-Grandison, Administrative Assistant (Dean’s Office)
- Tina Mendoza, Academic Advisor (Sociology Department)
- Michael Molinar, Administrative Assistant (Performing Arts Administration)
- Angelica Perez, Museum Preparator (UCR/California Museum Photography)
- Brandy Quarles-Clark, Financial Assistant (Media & Cultural Studies Department)
- Lilia Ramos, Administrative Assistant (Dean’s Office Student Affairs)
- Kelsey South, Administrative Assistant (History Department)
- William Sovich, Academic Advisor (Psychology Department)
- Alaxis Timothy, Administrative Assistant (Dean’s Office Student Affairs)
- Tanya Wine, MSO (Economics Department)

Did You Know?

Jimmy Lau, a CHASS peer advisor, is the first RA to be living in the new CHASS Pre-Business Theme Hall. The Pre-Business Hall introduces business students residing in the hall to the rigorous lifestyle of the business world.
Niel Aitken (Creative Writing, M.F.A., ’06), an award-winning poet, is the founding editor of *Boxcar Poetry Review*, an online journal that allows aspiring poets to post their creative works online. Aitken was awarded the Philip Levine Prize and will have his first volume of poems published by Fresno State University Press.

**Jason Fried** (Political Science, B.A., ’95) is the Political Organizer for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) for the West Bay area in California where he assists workers in hospitals, long-term care facilities, public services locations, and property services.

**Rina Gonzales** (Political Science, B.A., ’99) has been employed as City Attorney for the City of Riverside in conjunction with her current position as Board Member of the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association and Inland County Legal Services.

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**Tiffani King** (Psychology, B.A., ’05) co-founded Triune Mortgage Inc. in November 2005 and serves as the company’s Chef Financial Officer.

**Russell Paulsen** (Political Science, B.A., ’89) is Executive Director of the Hurricane Recovery Program for the American Red Cross where he is helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

**Judge Ronald Stovitz** (Political Science, B.A., ’64), former president of the UCR Alumni Association, has been elected to serve as an alumni representative for the UC Board of Regents. His two-year appointment will begin July 1, 2008.

**Doris N. Sutton** (Sociology, B.A., ’63) is the Vice President of the non-profit Center for Sutton Movement Writing and speaks publicly about the center and Sutton SignWriting. Sutton also hosts a poetry website (www.soulsite.com), selling her poetry books with proceeds donated to deaf literacy programs.

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**New Alumni & Visitors Center**

The UCR Alumni Association opened the new Alumni and Visitors Center on October 27, 2007. Located on Canyon Crest Drive, the Alumni Center serves as the front door to UC Riverside, displaying achievements of past graduates and welcoming the accomplishments of present and future students.