

## Living-Learning Community Themes 2012-13

Aligning with our community's values, the five living-learning community themes for 2012-13 will be: space, place and sound; sustainability; social justice; the natural world; and honors. Where do you see yourself?

**The Space, Place and Sound Community:** Have you ever wondered about the variety of spaces humans construct? Or, have you pondered your place in the universe? How have ideas about space and place changed over time? How can art, performance or music transform a contemporary space into a sacred space or magnificent space? How can we measure and think about different dimensions, scales, series, and patterns? What turns a space into a place of belonging, a home? Explore these questions through the context of history, art, architecture, music, the cosmos, and even the imagination in this LLC.

**The Sustainability Community:** Do you think USD can become a carbon neutral campus? Can environmental awareness be expressed in art or poetry? What is ecological stewardship? How can the sciences, social sciences and humanities collaborate to create an environmentally sustainable world? Explore these questions with your peers in the context of positive environmental change and practice "green living." Whether you are interested in sustainable fisheries, cultures of environmentalism or graphic depictions of environmental living, this LLC invites all interested in sustaining our environment.

**The Social Justice Community:** What is activism? Is it human nature to value social justice? Are we genetically inclined to think about justice? How can you link your academic experience to justice issues? Analyze these questions with your peers in both contemporary and historical issues of peace and justice in local, national and global contexts. Together, you will live, learn and investigate social activism, social change and the philosophical foundations of justice. Through service, immersion and relationship-building opportunities, you will be encouraged to make more just and sustainable lifestyle choices that promote the common good.

**The Natural World Community:** Are you interested in all dimensions of scientific thinking? Have you ever wondered about the responsibilities scientists have to the local, national and global community? Is science and discovery displayed in the visions of artists and actors? Can a biologist and a philosopher contribute to the advancement of science? If you are interested in all aspects of human discovery, this LLC will explore common questions about scientific discovery, ethical and responsible science, and the consequences of scientific knowledge. Throughout your first year you will explore fundamental questions about the sciences through multiple lenses.

**The Honors Community:** A community of first-year Honors students dedicated to academic excellence. It will serve as your connection to a challenging and rewarding liberal arts education, as you join a vibrant, exciting, and diverse community of scholars to explore the universe of human knowledge. You will learn to make your own connections among a vast range of classes, disciplines, and ideas, and turn old knowledge into new insights. The Honors LLC is no ordinary first-year program; it marks the beginning of a life-long quest for knowledge, enlightenment, self-improvement, and social progress.