The History Department is pleased to announce the Billington Student Research Fellowship in US History, which will fund two summer research fellowships for undergraduates conducting archival/primary source research in US History. This is a competitive fellowship and History majors who have completed their junior year will be given some preference in the process. All projects related to the history of the United States from its colonial era to the recent past are eligible. The Billington Student Fellows will participate in the ten-week Summer Research Program offered by the URC. They will also receive stipends ($390/week), subsidized on-campus housing, and a small budget (up to $500) for research expenses. Faculty sponsors who work with students over the summer will receive a stipend of $1000.

The deadline for the Billington Student Research Fellowship is 4pm on Tuesday, February 12, 2015. Application forms, project proposal, personal statement, budget, and faculty mentor’s recommendation are due in the URC office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday February 12, 2015 at 4pm. Additional information and application materials will be posted on the History Department & URC Websites.

Please direct any questions about the Billington Student Research Fellowship to Lisa Sousa, History Department at lsousa@oxy.edu

About the Billington Fund at Occidental College
The Billington Student Research Fellowships are made possible by the estate of historian Ray Allen Billington and supplemented by a grant from the Times Mirror Foundation. This generous fund brings a distinguished Billington Professor to Occidental College and the Huntington Library every other year. The Billington Student Research Fellowships follow in the tradition of supporting teaching and learning at American liberal arts colleges.

Objectives of the Billington Student Research Fellowship
Research in archival, oral history, or other primary source materials stands at the heart of the historical discipline. Through this competitive summer research fellowship, Occidental History Department offers students an extended opportunity to engage in original historical research and analysis. Billington Student Research Fellows will gain advanced research skills by conducting original historical research in archives, oral history projects, or other special collections in the Los Angeles area.

Support
Billington Student Research Fellows in US History will receive a (taxable) stipend of $390 per week for ten weeks of research. Depending on financial need, fellows who choose to live on campus will be charged $50/$90/$120 per week. Generally, the amount awarded for summer research is taxable, but the College is not obligated to withhold taxes or send a 1099, so students should retain a copy of their contract as part of their tax records. Since individual tax liability depends on each individual's circumstances, Fellows should contact a personal tax advisor with any questions or concerns. In addition, there is $500.00 available to cover research expenses.

Expectations
The Billington Student Research Fellowship Program expects close collaboration between Billington Student Fellows and their faculty mentors, as well as interaction between Fellows with their peer researchers in the summer program. Cross-disciplinary exchange will also be facilitated by attendance at the URC’s lunchtime plenary gatherings, featuring guest speakers, lab tours, and roundtable discussion.

**Billington Student Research Fellows are expected to:**
- Make a full-time exclusive commitment by for ten weeks, from May 27 through Aug. 2.
- Participate in research ethics training
- Participate in all URC area meetings and plenary gatherings
- Attend regular on-campus meetings with the mentor
- Participate in the assessment effort
- Submit an abstract of the work for posting to the OxyScholar and History Department webpages
- Submit a five to ten page final report to the URC, the History Department, and the faculty mentor before receipt of the final stipend payment and by August 15, 2015.
- Present the results of their research at the Oxy Summer Research Conference on July 29, 2015.
- If appropriate, present at the fall SCCUR conference in November 2015. Fellows may also consider presenting their work at the NCUR meeting in Spring 2016.

**Selection Process**
Applicants will be considered by a committee of History Department Faculty members. Students who are selected will be notified before Spring break if possible so that all applicants can make their summer plans accordingly. Factors considered during the selection process are:
- The quality of the proposal, including a demonstrated knowledge of the proposed primary source collection.
- The strength of faculty support
- An effective personal statement
- An academic history consistent with the ability to do the proposed research

**Application Process**
Students who would like to apply for the Billington Student Research Fellowship should develop an outline of their project and approach a faculty member with whom they would like to work to discuss the feasibility of collaborating with her or him over the summer. Many faculty members prefer that student research be closely aligned with their own work. After you and your potential faculty mentor have agreed to apply for the Billington Student Research Fellowship, you can open an application cover sheet.

**Each application must include:**
- Cover sheet (available on History Department website under the Billington link)
- Proposal (must include discussion of the site where you will do your research and the collections that you will use there)
- Personal Statement
- Proposed Budget (if research expense support is requested)
- Mentor's letter of recommendation (form available on History Department website under the Billington link and on URC Website) specifying his/her role in mentoring you on this project.
All materials submitted as part of the application must use 8.5” x 11” paper, single sided, with 1-inch margins and using Times New Roman or Arial type font no smaller than 11 point and with at least 1.5 line spacing. Paper clip pages together — please do not staple!

Proposals should be approximately three pages. You should describe the research question you intend to investigate, the archive, library, or special collection that you plan to work in, the specific sources that you will consult, and the methods you propose to use. Explain why your project is important, and what it contributes to understanding of the subject. Literature citations should be included where appropriate (for tables and figures as well as quotes or paraphrased evidence). The proposal should be written to be understandable to a non-specialist.

A Personal Statement of no more than two pages should indicate your preparation (for example, relevant course work completed) to undertake the project, and how this fellowship fits with your educational and career plans.

In addition, a one-page Budget with justification/explanation of each proposed expense is required if support for supplies, local travel, etc. is requested. Research expense support will be limited to a maximum of $500.00; please bear this in mind as you discuss the feasibility of your project.

Pursuant to federal law and College policy, all research involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the College’s Human Subjects Research Review Committee before research begins.

Your Faculty Mentor’s Recommendation (form available on History Department website under the Billington link) must include a description of her/his role in mentoring you in your project. Mentors are expected to be available to the Fellow on a continuing basis, to meet regularly with them in person or via Skype, and to provide support and guidance in carrying out the research project and preparing a final report, poster, or other culminating project. You may submit a confidential hard copy of the faculty recommendation in a signed, sealed envelope with your application with you, or your mentor may submit the recommendation by email to urc@oxy.edu.

All application materials are due in the URC office by 4pm on Thursday, February 12, 2015.

The two student Billington Fellows will be notified by Spring Break so that all applicants can make their summer plans accordingly. Please direct any questions about the Billington Student Research Fellowship to Lisa Sousa, History Department at lsousa@oxy.edu.

Guidelines for College Subsidized Room and Board Support
Billington Student Research Fellows are eligible for subsidized on-campus room and board. Room and Board support for those students choosing to live off-campus is not available. The Undergraduate Research Center (URC) advisory committee has recommended that summer research students living on campus contribute up to $1200 (depending upon financial need) toward the cost of their summer room and board package. Room and Board is available from Monday, May 25th through Saturday, August 1st. On-campus housing may be available in weeks prior to and shortly after the program, however there will be no subsidies offered for those weeks and arrangements must be made directly through Residence Life.