Interested in conducting research with a professor?

We can make that happen!

The Summer Research Program is a 10-week on-campus program that provides participants with a study grant, optional on-campus housing, and the opportunity to engage in collaborative research. The program begins on May 28th and ends on August 3rd, 2019 with a conference on July 31st.

The SRP is the largest program the URC has to offer and it is open to students of any major!

TO APPLY:

If you are interested in applying, you should develop an outline of your project and approach a faculty member with whom you would like to work to discuss the feasibility of collaborating with her or him over the summer. Only tenure-track and continuing non tenure-track faculty who will be on-campus during the summer are eligible to serve as mentors. Many faculty prefer that student research be closely aligned with their own work.

For additional information on the Summer Research Conference and applications, please check out our website page at:

https://www.oxy.edu/undergraduate-research-center/summer-opportunities/oxy-summer-research-program

Deadline to apply: February 11, 2019 by 4:00 pm

Newsletter by Emma Harwood ‘21
On November 17, 2018 the Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR) was held at Pasadena City College. SCCUR typically draws 500-800 participants and Oxy traditionally sends one of the largest groups of students to the annual conference and this year was no different: 37 Oxy students had abstracts accepted to present at the conference and shared their work in both poster and oral presentation formats. The presentations were multi-disciplinary and ranged from the arts to the sciences.

Congratulations to all the presenters at SCCUR 2018! All of the Occidental students work was well-received by conference guests.

Among the 37 oral and poster presentations some of the topics were:

Elleni Bekele ’20 (Chemistry, Prof. Andrew Udit): Producing Cytochrome P450 Mutants for Biocatalysis

Amelia Blankenau ’21 and Kelli Kimura (Psychology, Prof. Patricia Cabral): Expectations to resist unsafe sex are related to sexual risk behaviors among college students

Marc Kawada ’20 (Chemistry, Prof. Jeffrey Cannon): Diastereoselective Synthesis of Unnatural Amino Acids via Auxiliary-Directed Enolate Alkylation


Robin Pounders ’19 (Psychology, Prof. Andrew Shtulman and Prof. Andrew Young): Conflicting Beliefs about Social Categories

The URC would like to thank all of the faculty who attended SCCUR. Your support of the students does not go unnoticed!
Project Title: Family First
Written by Dean Lin, produced by Raphael Gonzalez, and cinematography by Taylor Fuller
Mentor: Broderick Fox (Media Arts and Culture)

Question 1: What is your project about?
Dean: My Media Arts and Culture Comps is focused on anti-blackness and homophobia in Asian-American communities. I centered my film around the story of one particular family. As this script was drawn from my own raw, personal experiences, I am incredibly grateful for the Undergraduate Research Center’s help in bringing this project to life!

Question 2: What did the URC help fund?
Dean: The URC generously funded various props, equipment, and smaller things such as light bulbs and batteries. When you’re filming for hours on end, you cannot afford to have lights going out or things running out of power. Thankfully, the URC’s grant enabled me to buy the additional things we, as filmmakers, often forget about that are critical to making sure everything runs smoothly. The actors and actresses featured in my film are unpaid, so this grant also helped me pay for craft-services to keep my crew fed and happy.

Question 3: What advice would you give to students considering applying for an Academic Student Project.
Dean: I would say go for it! This grant helped my project become so much more professional and really eased the financial burden I was worried about before I began filming. There’s no better feeling than seeing something that you worked so hard on come to life exactly the way you wanted it to. The URC encourages students to attain their academic and creative goals across every major! Start that application!
Q1: As a highly supported recipient of URC funding, what did this grant help fund?

Aria: As a recipient of three funding opportunities from the Undergraduate Research Center I was able to further my research. With the funding for summer research in the summer of 2018, I was able to devote my time to analyzing data in order to reconstruct the past earthquake history on the Tetons Fault in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. The Undergraduate Research Center generously funded me money to present this research at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in December of 2018. Additionally, I became involved with a side project to reconstruct past summer temperature in high alpine lakes in the Tetons. The URC provided funding in order for me to spend Fall Break in Boulder, CO at the Institute of Alpine and Arctic Research at the University of Colorado Boulder running samples on a Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy for this project. While in Boulder I was able to talk to potential graduate school advisors and make connections for my future.

Q2: How did you come across this opportunity? What advice would you give to students interested in conducting research? How would you describe the application process? (How would you describe the role the URC played in making your research possible?)

Aria: I came across these wonderful opportunities from a recommendation from my advisor. The URC is a fantastic and under-utilized resource. These funding opportunities can help further an undergraduate’s career. My advice in applying is threefold: first, apply! Not enough people apply for these great opportunities and are missing out on one of the best resources at Occidental College! Secondly, I encourage applicants to start early. Although the application process is not too demanding, it is important to submit a thorough and strong application. This requires strong outlining and editing. My last piece of advice is really think through your proposal. There is so much creative freedom in research and having a well thought-out project not only is more fun for the researcher, but it is important for the scientific community that the research is apart of. I feel very lucky to have been funded by the URC so much. I am a huge fan and I wouldn’t be the researcher I am without their help. I strongly encourage others to take part in the opportunities the URC has to offer.
“My first comedy festival was a great experience since I feel like I am mining the groundwork for what I hope to pursue professionally. At Lady Laughs, through talking to the organizer, I was able to perform on a second show when someone dropped out, showing me she thought my material and performance was strong, but also advocating for myself gave me more stage time. It also was an interesting exercise in what jokes connect better with LA crowds compared to Madison, WI and vice versa. Plus, it is a great experience to perform stand-up comedy in a festival I was chosen to be in at 19 years old.”

**Dean, Aria and Molly received ASP funding.**
The Undergraduate Research Center helps expand the academic landscape for students, opening doors to opportunities beyond the classroom, Los Angeles, and California at large. Apply for Academic Student Project funding to make the enrichment of your academic experience possible! The URC provides up to $300 for ASP and up to $350 for ASP Conference travel.

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**THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER C A L E N D A R**

**DECEMBER:**

1st: Abstract application deadline for NCRC 2019. Check out the NCRC website for more info.

3rd: First Spring Semester ASP Deadline*

4th: NCUR 2019 Abstract Submission Deadline. For more info visit the NCUR 2019 website.

**JANUARY:**

24-26: NCRC 2019 Conference at Harvard University. Good luck Oxy presenters!

28th: Final Spring Semester ASP Deadline and ASP Conference Travel Application deadline for NCUR*

31st: Final day for Faculty to list their Summer Research Opportunity on the URC SRP Faculty Sponsored Opportunities webpage.

**FEBRUARY:**

4th: Fall Semester Funding final reports due, email to urc@oxy.edu

11th: 2019 Summer Research Program application deadline

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*All applications are due at 4:00 pm on deadline dates.

Note: The URC will be closed Dec 21, 2018 - Jan 6, 2019.

Happy Holidays!