Part of what makes Occidental exceptional is the vast amount of undergraduate research opportunities the college has to offer. Over the summer this year, students from all disciplines and majors spent several months working with faculty on independent research projects. By doing so, they not only developed leadership skills and joined an intellectual community, but also furthered their career prospects and enriched themselves academically.

Each fellow is expected to have a full-time exclusive commitment to their research for the duration of ten weeks as they closely collaborate with faculty and mentors. Student researchers are paid $390 per week and attend research ethics training, meetings with peers and mentors, special gatherings, and assessments during the duration of their training.

Senior Hyewon No, a Biology major, conducted research into the role of autophagy in host cells in response to bacterial infection in hopes of, “providing another layer of understanding of how GAS infections persist in cells.” Research over the summer not only expanded her future career and research options, but it also expanded on what she learned in class.

“I think that doing research over the summer definitely provided a lot of context to the material that I have learned and currently am learning in my classes. It’s always great to be able to apply what you’ve learned in classes to the real world and vice versa to help consolidate all the information. It’s also made me realize that our professors at Oxy are all researchers themselves and are willing to share the same excitement and anticipation that we feel as student researchers!” At the end of their research period, students present their findings at the Oxy Summer Research Conference to faculty and fellow students.

Students from any discipline can apply for summer research at Oxy. Students in the natural sciences, social sciences and the liberal arts participated in summer research, sometimes even engaging in interdisciplinary research. While Hyewon conducted research in Biology, Senior Emma Zack, a sociology major, researched social attitudes toward arrestees expressed electronically in comments on mugshot.com, and found that, “most comments focused on these women’s bodies and appearance, and also made gendered remarks about their ‘madness/sadness’ or ‘badness’ rather than the typical ‘criminal’ label designated for men.”

If you are interested in applying for the 2014 summer research program, visit us in the Academic Commons for more information. Please note that deadlines on the Undergraduate Research Center’s website for summer research will be updated by mid-October. Until then, dates listed on that website apply to SRP 2013.
Academic Student Projects

Occidental maintains a fund for support of small academic projects performed by full-time degree-seeking students during the academic year. These funds may be used for consumables for an independent study project, comps research, or travel to local field research sites or research subjects. Supplies for art, video and performance projects, oral history, and education outreach in the local community may also be funded. Projects must be primarily academic in nature, although not-for-credit activities can receive support. Funds will be awarded to students on a competitive basis. Grants are limited to the range of $50 to $300 per project. The ASP grant is not intended to be the sole support for any project. There will be multiple proposal deadline dates for the 2013 – 2014 academic year. Applications are due by 4:00 PM on each due date. The two deadlines for the Fall Semester 2013 projects are September 12 (already passed) and October 10.

The early decision deadline for the Spring 2014 Semester is December 2 and the regular decision deadline (if funds remain) is January 27. Students can apply for project support by submitting an application to the Undergraduate Research Center, at the Academic Commons, 2nd floor, Old Wing, Room 253A. The application consists of a cover sheet that includes an endorsement by a faculty member, a project proposal explaining the project goal and an elaboration of the project’s importance and an explanation of the expected methodology, a one page personal statement, a one page budget of the project, and a letter of support from a faculty member. All work on the project must be completed within the academic year in which the grant is awarded.

Richter-ASP

The Paul K. and Evalyn E. Cook Richter Trusts have historically provided funds to support projects and/or travel that involve independent research or study with a significant intercultural or international emphasis.

The Richter-ASP projects will be smaller in scope than the traditional Richter Research Abroad awards, but might provide funding for short term travel to interview a particular population, observe natural or cultural events, or consult a specialized archive.

During the 2013 – 2014 academic year, the Undergraduate Research Center expects to make up to ten awards for research over winter break. These grants are not intended to be the sole support for any project. The deadline for applications is Monday, October 28, 2013 by 4:00 pm, with decisions and awards announced sometime in mid-November.

Students apply for project support by submitting an application to the Undergraduate Research Center, located in the Academic Commons, 2nd floor, Old Wing, Room 253A. Participants are expected to share the results of their project with the community at large in a public presentation.

Public presentations can be in the form of a class presentation, an article in the Occidental Weekly, or other presentations approved by the URC.

Richter ASP award recipients should also note that they will be expected to submit a written report and turn in receipts and an expense report to the URC by Feb 21, 2014.
ASP Conference Travel

Many scholarly organizations offer students the opportunity to present their results at local or regional conferences. Occidental is no exception. A limited amount of funding is available for students to attend conferences for presentation of results of their academic projects. Modest conference fees and travel expenses are available upon application to the Undergraduate Research Center for students who are presenting the results of their research work.

The work to be presented must have been completed while the student was an Occidental student. Grants are limited to the range of $50 to $300 per project. The ASP grant is not intended to be the sole support for any project. Only limited funding for travel expenses is available. In order to make this opportunity available to more students, long-distance travel (including to the East Coast) is generally not supported by this fund.

The URC will provide funding for the Southern California Conference of Undergraduate Research (SCCUR) and NCUR conferences (read below for more information on SCCUR). SCCUR is an annual opportunity open to students in all fields. The National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) may only be partially supported by the college as it is not local. You must submit an application for support at least four weeks before the conference, and documentation of the student’s acceptance as a presenter must be included.

Southern California Conference of Undergraduate Research (SCCUR)

The SCCUR is an undergraduate research conference that takes place each November at a college or university in the Southern California area. Occidental traditionally has one of the largest contingents of student-presenters at this day-long conference. This year, the conference will take place on November 23, 2013 at Whittier College. The deadline for submission of abstracts is October 7, 2013 (so hurry up!).

Students should discuss their presentation with their research mentor, and then go to the website at: http://sccur.whittier.edu/abstract.htm to submit an abstract. After you are notified that your abstract is accepted, you will need to register for the conference. The URC will provide the conference fee for all student presenters and faculty mentors that register for the Early Bird Registration before November 4th. After you are notified that your abstract is accepted, you will need to register for the conference. When you register, be sure you indicate that you are: i) Registration Type: 4-yr College or University Student, ii) Institution: Occidental College (not Oxy), and iii) Pay with payment code: oxy2013. Please note, if you pay for registration out of pocket we will not reimburse you. You can find related forms on the URC website.
Announcements!

Upcoming Deadlines

**ASP:**
- **Fall:** Oct 10
- **Spring:** Dec 2
- **Science Scholars:** Nov 11
- **Richter-ASP:** Oct 28
- **Summer (SRP):** Feb 11

Note: all deadlines are by 4 PM

Contact Us

Phone: (323) 259-1414
Email: urc@oxy.edu
Website: www.oxy.edu/undergraduate-research-center

New Location!

We are now located in the Academic Commons. Find us in the Old Wing next to the Cumberland Room after passing through the gallery.

Information Sessions

Summer Research Program:

- **October 9**
  - 10:30 - 11:30 AM
  - Dumke Commons (Swan)

Richter-ASP & Young Student Grants Q&A:

- **October 10**
  - 12:00 - 1:00 PM
  - McKinnon Center for Global Affairs Conference Room, Johnson Hall 201

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/OxyURC