

# OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE



2011-2012 Annual Report



Replete with copper leaves, glass elements, and figurines forged out of metal, artist Heather McLarty's new entrance to Jack Kemp Stadium (between Swan Hall and Alumni Gymnasium) was unveiled during Homecoming & Family Weekend this fall as part of the College's commitment to public art.





# 2011-2012 Annual Report



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## From Jonathan Veitch

Occidental's newly adopted strategic plan capitalizes on Oxy's strengths with the goal of becoming the most distinctive urban liberal arts college in the country



*We are not hedging our bets:  
Occidental College will continue to  
embrace the transformative nature  
of a liberal arts education.*

### **The long celebration of Occidental's 125th**

anniversary that began last April has provided not just an occasion to look back with pride, but an opportunity to develop a shared vision of the future. The College's new strategic plan, formally adopted last spring, sets a series of clearly defined objectives to capitalize on Oxy's strengths with the goal of becoming the most distinctive urban liberal arts college in the country.

It is an ambitious vision. But so was the notion of creating a college on the outskirts of a small, ramshackle city in 1887. Based on two years of thoughtful, often passionate debate by the entire Oxy community, our plan has a compelling focus and a momentum that we believe will prove irresistible. Its main objectives are to:

**Foster** innovation in the core and disciplinary curricula that engages students in integrated intellectual inquiry, including new and emerging areas of study.

**Expand** the breadth and depth of opportunities for students to engage in experiential and academic activities that are directly connected with the environment, cultural, economic, political, scientific, and social institutions, issues, and programs in Los Angeles.

**Enhance** a cosmopolitan campus culture in which students, faculty, and staff are actively engaged with and at ease in many different countries and cultures through academic programs, community engagement, admission, research, and service.

**Advance** a commitment of inclusive excellence that will continue to attract and develop accomplished students, faculty, and staff who evidence diversity in thought, socioeconomic status, gender, race, ethnicity, and nationality.

**Engage** alumni, parents, neighbors, and friends through stronger connections to the campus, and expand participation and support.

In these pages, you'll read about the work done this last year to begin the implementation of the strategic plan. Central to the task ahead is Oxy's ability to reinterpret the liberal arts tradition at a time when its value is being questioned. We are not hedging our bets: Occidental will continue to embrace the transformative nature of a liberal arts education. The liberal arts and sciences are more relevant and powerful today than ever before.

**Jonathan Veitch**  
*President*





*Veitch dines with a gathering of student leaders prior to the start of Orientation at the Annenberg President's House on Aug. 20, 2012.*

1. Adrian

2. Nicola

3. Cathy

4. Chris

5. Taylor

6. Drew

**1 Adrian Almaguer '15**, a diplomacy and world affairs major from Houston, had never heard of Occidental until the Admission Office sent him a bookmark in the mail. It stood out among the barrage of college solicitations, so he looked it up and swiftly realized that Occidental was a perfect fit, from its interdisciplinary approach to its small class sizes. Almaguer enjoys learning and the outdoors, combining both in his summer work as a camp counselor.

**2 Nicola Schulze '13**, a diplomacy and world affairs major (with a media arts and culture minor) from San Mateo, transferred to Oxy from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo her sophomore year because she wanted smaller class sizes and closer relationships with her professors. She is active in O-Core, Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE), and Delta sorority. She loves the community feel of Oxy, and is happy to have found her way here.

**3 Cathy Oak '13**, a biology and art history double-major from Fullerton, has been an Orientation Team participant for the last three years. One of the main reasons she enrolled at Oxy, she says, was the chance to do undergraduate research at City of Hope Medical Institute. Oak plans to work abroad in Germany for a year before returning to study for the MCATs. She intends to practice medicine in Thailand and Cambodia, with hopes to eventually teach it as well.

**4 Chris Monteath '13**, a DWA major from Franklin, Tenn., loves to dance. Not only is he president of Pulse, Oxy's hip-hop club, but he's also active in Dance Production, the College's biggest club (with more than 300 participants), as a choreographer, dancer, and president. Oxy's diverse offerings drew Monteath to the College. He hopes to pursue a career that involves dance, marketing, or public relations. Whatever the future may hold, he has his feet firmly planted in L.A.

**5 Taylor Nakamura '15** arrived at Oxy from Wailuku, Maui. When he's not working toward a degree in economics, he enjoys breakdancing and surfing. Drawn to Oxy for its small community and generous financial aid, Nakamura hopes to use his Occidental experience as a lawyer or businessman in the future. His goal? To make a good enough living to travel the world in his free time.

**6 Drew Van Vleck '15** is a geology major from Ashland, Ore. She is active in the Occidental community as the co-social chair of Delta Omicron Tau, a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative, and O-Team leader. She's also a guard on the women's basketball team, all the while holding down a job as a barista at the Green Bean (Oxy's hugely popular student-run coffee-house). Her future plans include working with a land-conservation company.



# OXY INITIATIVES

## Curricular & Scholarly Transformations

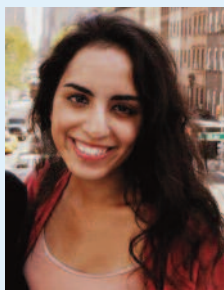
### Fostering innovation in core and disciplinary curricula engages Oxy students in integrated intellectual inquiry

#### Components of the Core program are being re-envisioned

as an array of team-taught, multidisciplinary, experimental courses that will allow communities of students and faculty to engage in intense intellectual exploration and synthesis around “some of the ‘big questions’ of human experience,” as Core program director John Swift, English and comparative literary studies professor, puts it.

Funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Labs for the Liberal Arts will give freshman participants an essential experience of the liberal arts, jump-starting the College’s mission of producing students who can analyze and synthesize complex material, develop and communicate new knowledge, take risks, tolerate ambiguity, and embrace difference. The Labs will also give faculty space for experiment, discovery, and innovation, serving as incubators for the development of new initiatives for general education.

Immigration, revolution, health, and community will be the focus of the four Labs offered in 2012-2013. In the fall, students may choose between the California Immigration Semester, a hands-on inquiry into the realities of immigration taught by faculty from the departments of sociology, Spanish, and critical theory and social justice; and Revolutions: Africa and Beyond, a transnational exploration led by faculty from diplomacy and world affairs and history. This spring, Lab choices will be Health and Humanity, taught by faculty from philosophy, religious studies, and economics; and the Los Angeles Community Semester, staffed by the departments of politics, critical theory and social justice, urban and environmental policy, and ECLS.



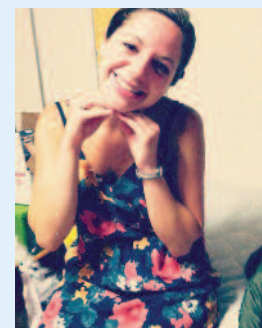
*“CIS has changed the way I look at all the different communities we interact with on a daily basis. It opened my eyes to the struggles immigrants face today, and how important the immigrant issue is today in the United States.”*

**Dina Yazdani '15**, a diplomacy and world affairs major from Portland, Ore., on Oxy's California Immigration Semester.



**Hyun Su Kim '13**, a biology major from Cypress, explains his research to an attendee at the Undergraduate Research Center's annual Summer Research Conference inside the Cooler on Aug. 3, 2011. Undergraduate research, with close student-faculty interaction, is a mainstay of the academic calendar year-round. Nineteen Occidental students were selected to present their research on subjects ranging from geology to linguistics at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research held March 29-31, 2012, at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. Over the last seven years, 189 Oxy student researchers have been invited to the NCUR. The conference, which began in 1987, now hosts 2,000 students and their faculty mentors from colleges and universities across the country.

When juniors **Lauren Siverly** of Federal Way, Wash., right, and **Julie Xu** of Northville, Mich., complete their degrees in 2014, they will become Oxy's first graduates with a degree in Latino/a and Latin American studies. The major was added to the Occidental curriculum this year, drawing on the resources of 11 different departments, from history, politics, and Spanish to music and psychology. “We believe we have put together an exciting and visionary new program that addresses 21st-century pedagogy and a wide range of issues that exist outside our front door here in Los Angeles, one of the world's major Spanish-speaking cities,” says Dolores Trevizo, professor of sociology. The new major will provide an interdisciplinary view of the history, geography, societies, cultural landscapes, and political and economic struggles of Latin Americans throughout the hemisphere, including inside the United States.





**Joshua Mun '12**, an art history and the visual arts major from Honolulu, installs his artwork in the Arthur G. Coons Administrative Center on March 9, 2012. Titled *Flesh and Bones*, Mun fashioned the piece out of beeswax, cheesecloth, and wood for associate professor Mary Beth Heffernan's Sculpture II class.



**Awadagin Pratt**, renowned virtuoso pianist and Occidental's Hume Fellow in the Performing Arts, offers **Joseph Wei '13**, an English and comparative literary studies major from Los Angeles, a master class at the keyboard during his Oct. 27-29, 2011, residency at the College. Pratt capped his visit with a solo recital of classical and jazz works in Thorne Hall. Pratt joins an impressive roster of Hume Fellows (brought to campus through the G. William Hume Fellowship in the Performing Arts) that includes opera star Frederica von Stade and percussionist Evelyn Glennie. Over his nearly 20-year Oxy career, Hume taught music, speech, and history, and served as dean of students and director of Thorne Hall.



**Adrianne Wadewitz** is one of three Mellon Postdoctoral Fellows at Oxy's Center for Digital Learning + Research. She is investigating the language of sensibility in 18th-century children's literature using data mining. A longer version of her article was first published in *The Chronicle for Higher Education* online.

**I relish my job as a digital humanities postdoc at Occidental.** It offers everything I want in a digital humanities position: time for research, flexibility to experiment with my teaching, and the opportunity to spread the word about how technology can invigorate teaching and revolutionize research in the humanities. Postdocs are relatively rare in the humanities compared to the sciences, and postdocs at liberal arts colleges are even rarer.

As a postdoc in the Center for Digital Learning + Research, I have access to many parts of the College, the freedom to pursue unconventional research methods and pedagogy, and the luxury to develop my own projects; however, I was not equipped for budgetary meetings, redesigning classroom spaces, and speaking to faculty across the disciplines. Much of what I was trained to do in graduate school—research in a targeted area, participate in scholarly discussions, and craft carefully written work—prepared me to speak to specialists inside my field, not to scholars, librarians, and administrators about a wide range of issues. One day I need to be able to help a math

professor integrate problem-solving software into his calculus class, the next I need to be thinking about how the renovations to a building on campus will allow professors to use more data visualization software, and the following I need to be discussing the open access movement and its relationship to the library budget.

I am both a faculty member, because I teach a freshman writing seminar, and an administrator, because I assist faculty. While this dual role can be challenging, both for me and for my colleagues, my liminal position can be very liberating. My class, for example, is not bound by disciplinary constraints precisely because the college views my position as one that encourages pedagogical experimentation. Currently, the course includes texts, photos, radio broadcasts, and Internet sites; the range of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction is prodigious. I am not required to cover any particularly period or genre, as I might be in an English department, so I am free to explore questions about how media shape our understanding of the world. I can also see if it works to

have my students record modern ballads or use Tumblr to create photo essays.

Showing faculty and students the benefits of databases like ECCO or content-management system/exhibition software like Omeka is perhaps the part of my job that I enjoy the most. These new tools enable completely new forms of scholarship, and teaching and sitting down with faculty to explore the possibilities for their own work and teaching is exhilarating. Negotiating the role between "IT help" and "digital humanities postdoc" is perhaps the most difficult. I adore introducing people to new technology, because I love seeing their excitement and sense of discovery; however, they also need to learn how to use it on their own. Kind, personalized service is highly valued at liberal arts institutions, and it sets them apart from the sometimes-faceless research universities. However, digital humanities postdocs cannot be IT help—they have to be something more. Creating a space in which faculty see us as peers who help them reimagine their scholarly lives with new digital tools is essential.



# OXY INITIATIVES

## Los Angeles

**L.A.'s environment, culture, economy, politics, institutions, issues, and programs provide boundless opportunities**

**Six Oxy students spent the spring semester** working with some of the nation's top scientists to track the evolution of stars, develop intelligent computer vision, improve fuel cell efficiency, and other innovative research projects. The students secured research internships with Caltech and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as part of the Student Independent Research Program.

Inca Dieterich '12, a biology major from Ketchum, Idaho, explored the possibility of Earth's microbes contaminating other planets. "Working at JPL has given me the opportunity to be around people who are constantly engaged in conversation," she says. "There is an ever-present sense of



collaboration that allows the scientists and engineers to fuse their minds into a powerhouse for [inventing] the ideas of a century." Simran Sangha '14, a geology major from Pasadena, helped to map Martian lava flows and was excited about "the prospect of collaborating with so many experienced scientists and being given a chance to contribute."

Other interns included Brian Bumpas '12 (a mathematics major from Pasadena), Christian Kendall '13 (chemistry; Jenks, Okla.), Jorge Munoz '13 (physics; Austin, Texas), and Daniel O'Connor '14 (biology; Ithaca, N.Y.)

More than three dozen Oxy alumni have gone on to professional careers with JPL, including Diane Evans '76, director for the Earth Science and Technology Directorate, and Michael Sander '63, recently retired manager of the Exploration Systems and Technology Office.



*"Freestyles are essential to the rap diet, and Common fed the audience well. His freestyles were imaginative, humorous, and generated a roar from the crowd with any shout-out to 'Occidental!' There were even mentions of Pauley residence hall and the yellow liquor store—proof that Common did his homework on Occidental."*

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Occidental Weekly writer  
**San Van Buren '14**, reviewing 2012's  
Springfest headliner



**Hundreds of Oxy students**, faculty, alumni, and staff fanned out to more than 20 locations across Los Angeles on Saturday, January 28, to weed and plant gardens, work phone banks and canvass neighborhoods, and clean, repair and paint, as part of the College's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Last year, almost half of Oxy students participated in service learning or community service, including 37 service-learning courses offered by 14 academic departments.







Associate professor of biology **Dan Pondella '87 M'92** is spearheading a project to build a sophisticated new marine biology research complex in San Pedro. The proposed 28-acre oceanfront campus would serve as the new home for the Southern California Marine Institute, a consortium of 11 college and university campuses. "This is a completely unique project, and our work on this is unlike any other marine lab we know of in the world," says Pondella, president of the institute's board of directors and chair of Oxy's biology department.

**Occidental's Urban & Environmental Policy Institute** will use a \$225,000 grant from the California Endowment to instill a culture of healthy eating in local schools. The grant will fund an Urban & Environmental Planning Institute/Healthy School Food Coalition effort to educate families, educators, and communities in the Boyle Heights and Figueroa Corridor neighborhoods about menu changes in school cafeterias in the Los Angeles Unified and Long Beach school districts.

"The quality and source of school food is going through major changes in places like the Los Angeles and Long Beach school districts, thanks in part to the community organizing and coalitions that we've helped facilitate at UEPI," says Robert Gottlieb, UEPI director and the Henry R. Luce Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy. "Transforming the culture around healthy food and healthy eating is the next great challenge."

"UEPI's work with parents and students has been instrumental in creating healthy eating environments in schools," says Jennifer Ybarra, program officer at the California Endowment, a private foundation that aims to expand access to affordable and quality healthcare in underserved communities and to promote health for all Californians.

**More than 100,000 Angelenos bicycled, walked, and Metro'ed** to CicLAvia on April 15, an Occidental-sponsored event that closed 10 miles of Los Angeles city streets to motorists. College cyclists wheeled to the downtown event on streets with and without bike lanes and along the Los Angeles River, which was full of wildlife after a recent rain. Dozens of Oxy participants navigated a car-free route that ran through Boyle Heights, Little Tokyo, and East Hollywood.

Oxy also helped bring the event to Los Angeles.

"Occidental sponsored a bike summit in 2009 and a street summit in 2010 where advocates from around the city came together, and where plans to create L.A.'s very own CicLAvia were hatched," says **Jorge Gonzalez**, dean of the College and vice president of academic affairs. (CicLAvia is a play on the Spanish word *ciclovía*, meaning "bike path.") The concept began three decades ago in Bogota, Colombia, which closes some of its streets every Sunday for cyclists and pedestrians.

At a press conference with Gonzalez, Los Angeles Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa** (shown, *right*, with Gonzalez) announced that he had given the green light for a \$16-million bike-share program that will put 4,000 rental bicycles at 400 kiosks throughout the city. Green minds think alike: The College established its own bike-share program in 2010 for Oxy students, faculty, and staff.





# OXY INITIATIVES

## Global Culture

Through academics, community engagement, admission, research, and service, faculty and staff bring the world to Oxy



As a professor of economics at Oxy from 1926 to 1941, John Parke Young '17 “was very successful in finding outside funding for academic programs and international economic conferences,” recalls his daughter, Cathie Young Selleck '55. “That’s why he wanted to fund those same kinds of programs from his estate.” The John Parke Young Fund—created following the passing of Young’s widow, Marie S. Young, in 2007—culminated a lifelong wish of Selleck’s father that the Young family’s assets be used to bolster the College’s efforts in becoming a truly international campus, attuned to the areas of international relations and global economics.

The College took a giant step forward toward the realization of Young’s wishes with the arrival this fall of **Sanjeev Khagram** as the inaugural John Parke Young Chair in Global Political Economy. The Ugandan-born Khagram has taught at Harvard Business School, Stanford and, most recently, at the University of Washington. He started teaching at the College in August, joined by new DWA assistant professor Hussein Banai (*page 10*).

Derek Shearer—former U.S. ambassador to Finland, Chevalier

Professor of Diplomacy and World Affairs, and director of Oxy’s new McKinnon Family Center for Politics and Global Affairs—calls the pair “world class by any standard, with international reputations and contacts.”

Khagram was drawn to Oxy in part, he says, because of the College’s singular approach to global education. “We have a diplomacy and world affairs department—a standalone department for international relations and international studies. That doesn’t exist at any other liberal arts college in the country.”

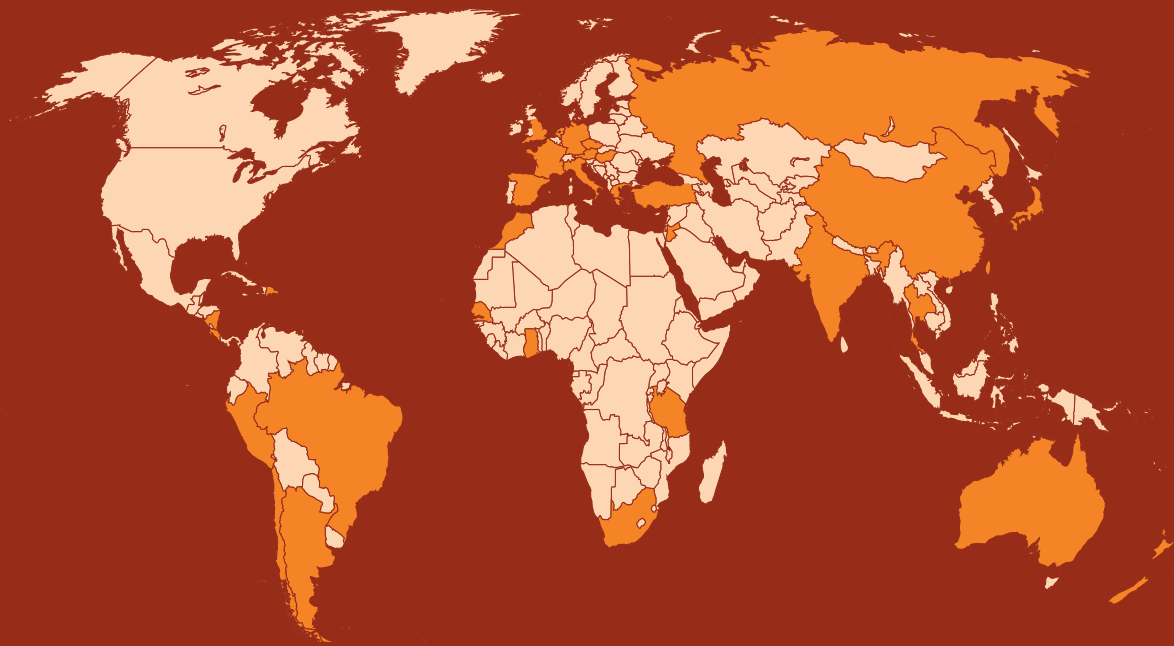
**John Gardner**, former United Nations Development Programme deputy assistant administrator, was recently appointed as the third director of Oxy’s U.N. program, succeeding Ambassador John Hirsch, who retired last spring. (He’s also the father of **Natalie Gardner**, a member of Oxy’s Class of 2016.)



Building on Occidental’s century-old ties with China, Occidental President **Jonathan Veitch** and Chancellor **Yingxing Hong** of Nanjing University signed an agreement on Dec. 8, 2011, to promote the exchange of students, faculty, and teaching and research materials. An Occidental delegation subsequently flew to Nanjing to explore a possible collaboration on environmental issues with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, “so we will be wasting no time in seeking to deepen our ties with this outstanding university,” said Veitch, who met with Chancellor Hong in Nanjing in May 2011.

“This agreement will make it possible for Nanjing University, as one of the top-ranked institutions of higher learning in China, to enhance its partnership with Occidental College and promote academic and cultural exchanges among the faculty and students,” said Chancellor Hong, a prominent economist. Almost 40 percent of Oxy’s international students are from Asia.





A total of 230 Oxy undergraduates studied abroad for a semester in 32 countries on five continents in 2011-2012.

#### Africa & Middle East

Ghana (Cape Coast, Legon)  
Jordan (Amman)  
Morocco (Rabat)  
Senegal (Dakar)  
South Africa (Cape Town, Durban)  
Tanzania (Arusha)  
Turkey (Istanbul)

#### Asia

China (Beijing, Hong Kong, Nanjing)  
India (Hyderabad)  
Japan (Tokyo)  
Taiwan (Taipei)  
Thailand (Khon Kaen)

#### Europe

Austria (Vienna)  
Czech Republic (Prague)  
England (Bristol, Cambridge, London, Norwich)  
France (Montpellier, Paris)  
Germany (Berlin)  
Greece (Athens)  
Hungary (Budapest)  
Italy (Rome)  
Netherlands (Amsterdam)  
Russia (St. Petersburg)  
Spain (Granada, Madrid, Salamanca)

#### Latin America

Argentina (Buenos Aires)  
Brazil (Fortaleza, Sao Paulo)  
Chile (Santiago, Valparaiso)  
Costa Rica (Monteverde, San Jose)  
Dominican Republic (Santiago)  
Nicaragua (Managua)  
Peru (Lima)

#### Oceania

Australia (Melbourne, Townsville, Wollongong)  
New Zealand (Dunedin)

A \$50,000 exploratory grant from the Henry Luce Foundation supported a year of planning to develop a new **Occidental-China Environment Program**, building on Oxy's historic ties to Asia and the expertise of its Urban & Environmental Policy Institute. "The new Luce grant will provide Oxy students and faculty with an extraordinary opportunity to work with Chinese institutions on environmental issues, especially on climate change and air quality issues," says professor of American Studies Xiao-huang Yin, who led the planning effort with assistant professor Martha Matsuoka '83 and UEPI director Robert Gottlieb, the Henry R. Luce Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy. Adds Yin: "It also will help us better understand a critical aspect of the U.S.-China relationship, which has become unarguably the most important bilateral tie in our rapidly and increasingly globalized world."

*"We think our identity is in the title on our business card. But it doesn't make a difference what you do. At the end of the day, everything you do is in service to another human being."*

**Howard Behar H'05**, founding president of Starbucks International and former president of Starbucks North America, speaking to a capacity crowd in Mosher lecture hall on Feb. 22, 2012. He urged attendees to draw up a strategic plan for their lives and a "big, hairy audacious goal." Behar's BHAG? "To nurture and inspire the human spirit every day."



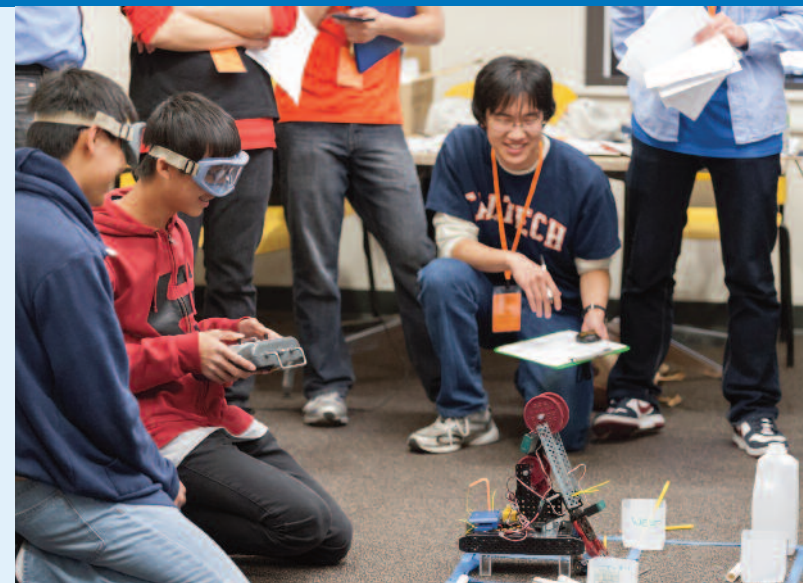
# OXY INITIATIVES

## Inclusive Excellence

Oxy is committed to attracting and developing accomplished students, faculty, and staff who embody all aspects of diversity



Four tenure-track scholars with impressive backgrounds in teaching and research—**Hussein Banai**, **James Edward Ford III**, **Andrew Jalil**, and **Cheryl Y.M. Okumura**, left—joined the Oxy faculty as assistant professors this fall. ■ Banai, an assistant professor of diplomacy and world affairs, received his Ph.D. from Brown University. He is a co-author of *Becoming Enemies: U.S.-Iran Relations and the Iran-Iraq War, 1979-1988*. Fluent in Farsi and Arabic, his research interests include international political and legal theory, human rights, democratic theory, diplomacy, and Arab and Persian intellectual history. ■ Ford (English and comparative literary studies) received his Ph.D. from the department of Africana studies at the University of Notre Dame. His research interests include African-American literature, black radicalism, W.E.B. Du Bois, psychoanalysis, ethics, and Messianism. ■ Jalil (economics) received his Ph.D. in economics from UC Berkeley. He will be teaching intermediate macroeconomics and an advanced macroeconomics course on policy since the Great Depression this year. In 2004, he received the *Wall Street Journal* Prize for Top Brown University Graduate in Economics. ■ Okumura (biology) received her Ph.D. from UCLA in microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics in 2007. Most recently she was a postdoctoral fellow at UC San Diego and a lecturer at San Diego State University. She has also worked as a teaching assistant at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., as well as at UCLA and Pomona.



Occidental hosted the **Los Angeles Regional Science Olympiad**—a rigorous K-12 science, engineering, and technology competition—on February 25 on campus. Students from 131 private and public elementary, middle and high schools competed in astronomy, chemistry, engineering and other subjects.

House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** and Rep. **Xavier Becerra** (D-Los Angeles) met with President Jonathan Veitch and leaders and students from other Southern California colleges May 23 to discuss college affordability and student loan interest rates. At a campus press conference afterward, newly minted Congress-Bundestag Fellow **Juan Germán '12**, right, called on Congress to continue to fund low-interest loans “to help students like myself afford this kind of elite education.” Germán, a diplomacy and world affairs major from Providence, R.I., attended Oxy on a mix of institutional aid, loans, and Pell grants. Currently, 78 percent of all Oxy students receive some form of financial aid.



Growing up amid the Southwest's stark beauty, **Margeau Valteau '13**, right, has always been keenly aware of the natural world. “I was raised to respect the environment,” says the Window Rock, Ariz., native. “There’s a saying in my culture: ‘Walk in beauty.’ That’s the lifestyle we’ve lived.”



While the Navajo Nation is home to some of the world's greatest natural wonders, it also has high rates of poverty. So it's no surprise that Valteau—an urban and environmental policy major and Oxy's first Native American student body president—is interested in social and environmental justice issues.

The daughter of a retired high school teacher and business administrator, Valteau plans to work in Washington, D.C., on environmental issues after graduation.



# Getting to Know Oxy's Class of 2016

The 530 students who make up the Class of 2016 joined 44 transfers from such schools as Brandeis, Berkeley, and Northeastern for the start of Oxy's 126th academic year on Aug. 29, 2012—the first day of classes.

A talented and diverse group, they represent 35 states, 24 countries, and hometowns ranging from New York City (population: 8.24 million) to Ferryville, Wis. (population: 176). Forty-two percent of the class is made up of students of color, including 26 percent coming from underrepresented groups.

More than half come from outside California; 5 percent are international students. Some 30 languages are spoken fluently by first-year students, from Amharic to Vietnamese.

Members of the class have a median SAT score of 1960 and ACT score of 30. Fifty-eight percent come from public high schools; 20 percent receive federal Pell grants for low- and moderate-income families; 12 percent are the first in their family to attend college.

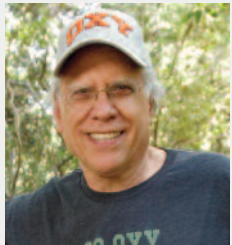
Classmates are athletically competitive (55 percent participated in high school sports, from badminton and fencing to squash and snowboarding) and community-minded (65 percent participated in public service, addressing everything from animal protection and global warming to international human rights and affordable housing).

More than half of the class plays a musical instrument, sings, dances, or acts; another 10 percent paint, sculpt, draw, or make films.



# Oxy125 The Year in Awards

## Faculty and students make Oxy proud with accolades, advances, and academic excellence



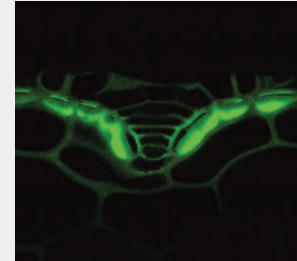
The California Studies Association bestowed its 2012 Carey McWilliams Award on **Robert Gottlieb**, the Henry R. Luce Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and director of Oxy's Urban & Environmental Policy Institute, on April 28. "It's particularly heartening for me to receive an award in Carey McWilliams' name since I've always seen him as a model of the activist researcher and public intellectual," says Gottlieb, who joined the Oxy faculty in 1997. McWilliams (1905-1980) is best known for his writings about the condition of California's migrant farmworkers, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the discrimination by employers, Realtors, and police against African-Americans and Mexican immigrants in Los Angeles.

**Fake Fruit Factory**, Occidental professor of film emerita Chick Strand's 1986 documentary about the lives of young female Mexican factory workers, was selected by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington as one of 25 American films to permanently preserve in its National Film Registry as cultural, artistic, and historical treasures. Using a moving camera at close range to create vivid images that verge on abstraction, Strand (who died in 2009 at age 78) takes an expressive look at the everyday lives of the female workers, who create ornamental papier-mâché fruits and vegetables. The film's audio captures snatches of conversation to evoke, in her words, "the spirit of the people."

Under the terms of the National Film Preservation Act, the Librarian of Congress annually names 25 films to the National Film Registry that are "culturally, historically, or aesthetically" significant. Strand joined the Occidental faculty in 1970 to create the College's first filmmaking program, and taught at Oxy for 25 years.



Occidental psychology professor **Nancy Dess** was elected president of the American Psychological Association's Division 3: Experimental Psychology. Division members are employed in such settings as universities, colleges, industry, and government—united by their commitment to the development of experimental psychology as a science. Dess' work is rooted in the ancient underpinnings of mammalian behavior. Her focus is on eating and emotion—their interactions and role in human problems such as anxiety, depression, and eating disorders.



**The National Science Foundation** has awarded \$1.16 million in grants to six Occidental biology, chemistry, and physics professors to continue their research into the mysteries of dark matter and the building blocks of cell structure. Physics professor Daniel Snowden-Ifft was

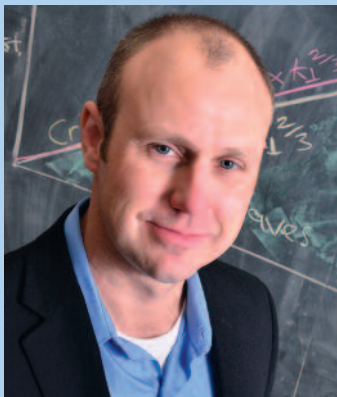
awarded a three-year \$840,000 grant to continue his research to detect dark matter, and chemistry professor Eileen Spain and biology professors Renee Baran, Gretchen North, Joseph Schulz, and Shana Goffredi received a \$318,771 grant to buy a laser-scanning confocal microscope, which allows high-resolution images such as this one to be captured from lightly prepared or living material.



**A \$250,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation** will promote undergraduate research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences in partnership with local arts and cultural institutions. The three-year grant provides both academic and hands-on opportunities for students, including new Cultural Studies Program courses for freshmen, research seminars, internships, and summer research fellowships.

**Nine Occidental seniors won prestigious Fulbright scholarships** to work and study abroad during the 2012-2013 academic year. Those teaching abroad are Ryan Allman, Colombia; Brian Bumpas, Taiwan; Micah Farver, Thailand; Leah Glowacki, Turkey; William Holmes, Korea; and Anne Wolfstone, Austria. Those conducting research abroad are Cecilia Prator, Australia; and Meghan Whalen, Finland. Juan Germán turned down his Fulbright to become a Congress-Bundestag Fellow in Berlin.





In October 2011, President Barack Obama '83 named **Greg Howes '93** one of 94 recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to scientists and engineers in the early stages of their research careers. Howes, an assistant professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Iowa, researches kinetic astrophysical plasma turbulence. Scientists must understand the behavior of plasma, which is ubiquitous in space, to interpret a large body of astronomical observations.

"It is inspiring to see the innovative work being done by these scientists and engineers as they ramp up their careers—careers that I know will be not only personally rewarding but also invaluable to the nation," Obama said in a written statement. "That so many of them are also devoting time to mentoring and other forms of community service speaks volumes about their potential for leadership, not only as scientists but as model citizens."

Howes says he was "delighted" by the award, and also gave credit to his research collaborators. "It's great to get recognition, and my colleagues at UI and other collaborators have played a large role," he says. "While our research does not have an immediate impact in our daily lives, it extends our knowledge of how our universe works from a fundamental point of view."

The award capped a big year for Howes. In February 2011, he received a \$1-million, five-year National Science Foundation Faculty Career Development Award grant. He will use the funds to study the near-Earth solar wind, which influences phenomena such as the northern lights and can interfere with satellite-based communications systems.

Attorney **Andrea Nieves '07**—a fellow at the Durham, N.C.-based Fair Trial Initiative, a nonprofit group that recruits and trains lawyers to work on death-penalty trials—was recently awarded a Luce Fellowship, which seeks to improve understanding of Asia among potential leaders in the United States. She is the 15th Luce Scholar from Oxy since the award was initiated in 1974, and the College's fourth winner in as many years.

A native of Pleasant Hill, Calif., Nieves graduated from Occidental with a bachelor's degree in American studies and from New York University with a law degree. As a Luce Scholar, Nieves is working with the Commission for Involuntary Disappearance and Victims of Violence (KontraS) in Jakarta, which was founded in 1998 to establish Indonesia as a just and democratic country where people are free from fear, repression, and discrimination.

"I want to get a more international perspective before going forward with the rest of my career," Nieves says. "I think I'll be a better attorney if I can work with a different population and develop skills to work with diverse communities."



**Fay Walker '13**, a diplomacy and world affairs major from Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., was chosen as one of 54 Truman Scholars from 48 colleges and universities nationwide last spring. Awarded by the Washington, D.C.-based Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, the scholarship provides up to \$30,000 for graduate study and recognizes students for their smarts, leadership potential, and desire to work in government or public service.

Oxy's 13th Truman scholar, Walker will attend Columbia University for a master's degree in international affairs with a specialization in urban planning and gender policy. She then plans to move to Bangladesh to help address gender and environmental issues that affect the poor.

The Truman scholarship is Walker's latest academic award. Past honors include a Richter scholarship to research female political leaders in Argentina, and a Young Fund Grant to conduct independent research on Muslim women in Thailand.

Walker is co-founder of Oxy's Food Justice House, a College residence where students live in an environmentally sustainable way. She has also been involved with the College's Youth Coalition for Community Action, which brings college and high school students together to grow community gardens and work on food-justice issues.



**Libby Evans Blanchard '06** received a highly competitive, all-expenses-paid scholarship to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Cambridge. The first Oxy graduate to receive the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship, Blanchard is one of 90 people worldwide to receive the annual award.

The annual Gates Cambridge Scholarship, similar to Oxford University's Rhodes scholarship, is awarded for intellectual ability, leadership capacity, and a person's desire to provide community service and apply his or her talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others. Blanchard is pursuing an M.Phil. in environment, society, and development. The interdisciplinary degree will help her continue her work in safeguarding the environment while also creating better jobs and working conditions for people in the developing world. "My lifelong interest is in addressing extreme poverty while creating development policies that mitigate biodiversity loss," Blanchard says.

The daughter of a U.S. National Park Service ranger, Blanchard grew up in Hawaii Volcanoes, Yellowstone, and Rocky Mountain national parks, so good stewardship of the environment comes naturally to her. "Growing up in these pristine areas, I saw the importance of conservation," Blanchard says.

As a Richter International Fellow at Occidental, she investigated the social and environmental controversies of boundary fences in African national parks. And as a Lilly Endowment Fellow, Blanchard examined community-centered conservation at Namibia's Cheetah Conservation Fund.

Since graduating from Oxy with a bachelor's degree in English and comparative literary studies, Blanchard has led international development and conservation initiatives at Sustainable Harvest, a Portland, Ore.-based importer of certified organic and fair-trade coffee founded by David Griswold '84. As the company's director of farmer development programs, Blanchard and her team raised more than \$4.4 million for livelihood-improvement programs and have overseen development projects in 11 countries.

"This program is the next step to prepare me for a career creating effective policies that reinforce poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation—two of the most critical global challenges of our time," Blanchard says.



# The Year in Celebration

## Founders Day 2012 launched a yearlong commemoration of Occidental's storied history and future potential

### Occidental kicked off a yearlong

celebration of its 125th anniversary April 20, 2012, with a nod to the past—an 1887-style carnival in the Quad, complete with Ferris wheel—and an ambitious vision of the future delivered by President Jonathan Veitch.

"If you had asked me in 1887 to judge the chances of this small Presbyterian college located on the dusty outskirts of Los Angeles, I'm afraid I might have bet against it," Veitch told an audience of 375 alumni and other dinner guests in Remsen Bird Hillside Theater.

The celebration also featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Samuelson Alumni Center and a series of panel discussions by distinguished alumni on the future of Wall Street, online entrepreneurship, and the business of movies.

The Founders Day dinner also provided a forum for Board of Trustees chair John Farmer to announce three major gifts:

**\$5 million** from Sonnet and Ian McKinnon '89 for the McKinnon Family Center for Politics and Global Affairs.

**\$4 million** from the Ahmanson Foundation for the renovation and expansion of Swan Hall, thanks to Bill Ahmanson '85 and his sister, Karen Hoffman '77.



**Bruce Steele '71**, Occidental's environmental health and safety manager, shares a laugh with professor of biology emeritus **John McMenamin '40** at a Founders Day exhibit.

**\$3 million** from Steve Hinchliffe '55 and his wife, Ann (Hoffmann) Hinchliffe '57, to endow student scholarships.

Hinchliffe paid tribute to the lasting impact of Occidental faculty, particularly the late economics professor Laurence de Rycke—"a formidable figure. Yet Larry not only became my mentor but a good friend and profoundly affected my life and career," said Hinchliffe, founder and president of the Leisure Group.







Featuring the work of more than 30 practicing alumni artists from around the world, the Oxy125 Alumni Art Exhibition opened on March 22 for a month-long run to help launch Occidental's year-long 125th-anniversary celebration. Two alumni came to campus on the day of the opening to create their work for the exhibition. **Libby Gerber '03** built one of her clay columns in Mullin Gallery; **Kenturah Davis '02**, who created a gallery wall drawing of Janet Stafford '52, one of Oxy's first African-American graduates, discussed her work and her influences in Weingart Gallery.

## \$5,000,000

*One of the largest gifts from living individuals in Oxy history, Sonnet and Ian McKinnon '89's pledge will help build the McKinnon Family Center for Politics and Global Affairs at Johnson Hall. Construction is underway on the \$10.2-million renovation, to be completed in 2013.*



**Ian McKinnon '89**, managing partner of Ziff Brothers Investments, spoke of his admiration for Oxy President Jonathan Veitch and his leadership as an additional reason for his support: "Jonathan is exactly the right person to lead us to the next level of excellence."

Occidental's new **Samuelson Alumni Center**—the first permanent home for the Alumni Association since its organization in 1894—was unveiled on Founders Day, April 20, with a gala ribbon-cutting ceremony that combined love, laughter, and warm tributes to Sally (Reid) Samuelson '48, *far left*, and trustee Jack Samuelson '46, *second from left*, who oversaw every detail of the Center's planning.

The Center "symbolizes both the College's renewed commitment to its alumni and Jack and Sally's generous lifetime of service to Occidental," said President Jonathan Veitch (*center*), who joined the Samuelsons, Oswald, and Alumni Board of Governors president Silva Zeneian '01 for the ribbon-cutting).



Current Glee Club member **Sam Carton '14**, *left*, a music major from Bedford Corners, N.Y., sings alongside **Tom Wilson '70**, a student of legendary conductor Howard Swan, during a tuneful reunion of "Swan Years" alumni (1934-1971) on March 31 in Booth Hall.

## 2011-2012 The Bottom Line

**Amos Himmelstein, vice president for finance and planning, examines the College's balance sheet**

**Occidental College continues** to demonstrate healthy operating margins and strong fundraising results despite the slow national economic recovery. Oxy's fundamentals remain solid, as demonstrated by a number of highlights in the financial statements for the 2011-2012 academic year.

### **Fundraising**

Occidental has invested new resources and generated new energy in its Institutional Advancement office. The current and future financial viability of the College greatly depends on the ability to raise needed funds for both the endowment and annual operations. Private gifts, grants, and contracts have seen a steady increase in recent years.

### **Strategic Plan**

With a new strategic plan in place, Occidental is now directing resources toward strategic goals and objectives and not simply conducting business as usual. The Business Office spent most of the 2011-2012 year analyzing where savings can be realized,

allowing for a reallocation of resources to strategic priorities. Prudent management of precious resources resulted in an operating surplus of more than \$4.6 million. This is the third year in a row that the College has seen an operating surplus.

### **Endowment**

Building Occidental's endowment is high on the College's list of priorities. Growth through gifts and shrewd investing is essential to realizing the College's current vision and remaining competitive with our peers. During a particularly volatile period in financial markets, the investment portfolio



*The College continues to attract a strong pool of well-qualified candidates for admission. The demand for an Occidental education remains undiminished.*

was relatively flat, bringing a return of -0.1 percent for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Although far from the positive double-digit return produced in 2010-2011, the result did outperform the -0.3 percent average return for the College's benchmark group of more than 400 colleges and universities throughout the United States. In 2011-2012 Occidental added nearly \$8 million in new gifts, pledge payments, and matured life income and annuity contracts to the permanently restricted endowment. This marks a significant improvement over the \$4.7 million average annual increase seen over the last 10 years.

### **Enrollment**

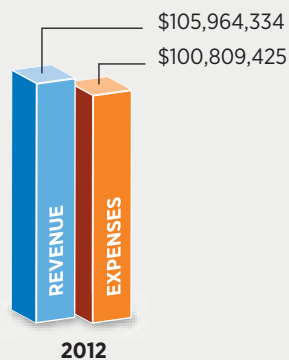
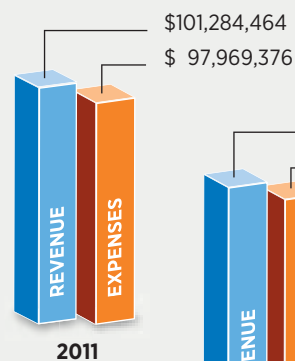
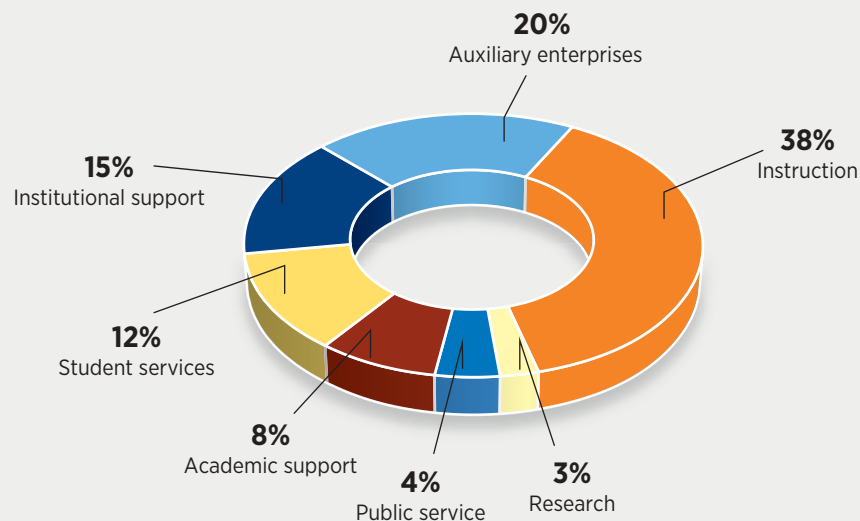
Occidental continues to attract a strong pool of well-qualified candidates. More than 6,130 students applied for admission to the Class of 2016, a new record. Total student enrollment in 2011-2012 was a robust 2,132. Of equal significance is the College's continuing ability to hire outstanding new faculty, including four tenure-track positions in 2011-2012. The demand for an Oxy education remains undiminished.

**Amos R. Himmelstein**  
*Treasurer and CFO*

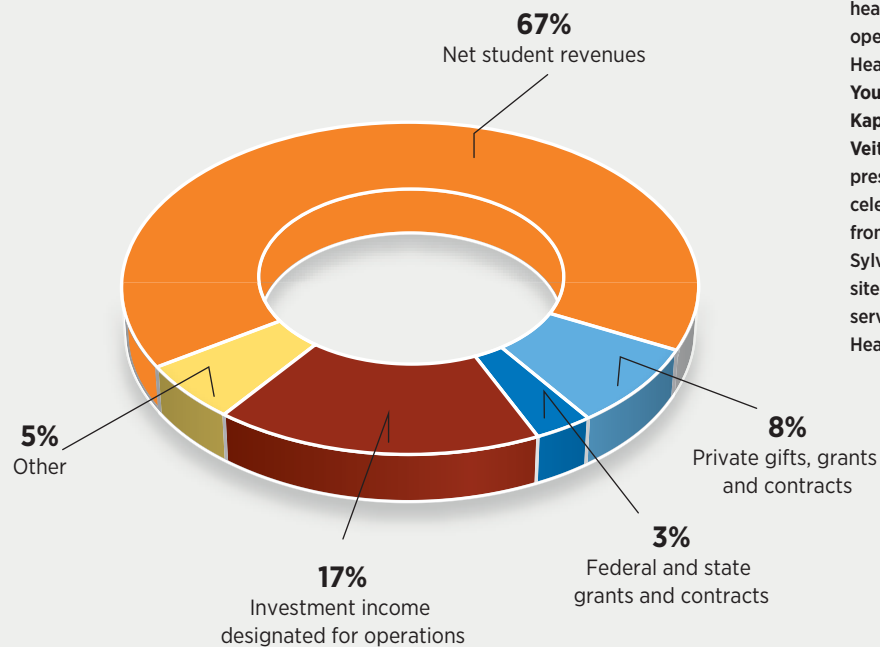


*With a new strategic plan in place, Occidental is now directing resources toward strategic goals and objectives and not simply conducting business as usual.*

### 2012 Operating Expenses



### 2012 Operating Revenues



## 16

New endowment funds established in 2011-2012 to support scholarships, Career Development Center programming, academic research and development, student mental health services, and general operations. Above, Student Health Services director Rick Youngblood, attorney Gary Kaplan '71, President Jonathan Veitch, and outgoing ASOC president Michael Clegg '12 celebrate a \$1-million donation from the estate of Mose and Sylvia Firestone to expand on-site psychiatric and counseling services at Oxy's Emmons Health Center.

## 2011-2012 The Year in Giving

Shelby Radcliffe shares her Oxy story—and applauds philanthropy's transformational power



**5**

Number of consecutive years of giving required to qualify for McMenamin Society membership. A total of 3,908 members gave \$7,070,430 in 2011-2012. Leading the way are the gift society's namesakes, **Addie (Grant) McMenamin '40** and **John McMenamin '40**, with 71 straight years of support for Oxy.

**8,421**

Total donors to Occidental (including 5,511 alumni and 1,458 parents).

**Occidental has much to celebrate** during its 125th anniversary year. The pride was palpable on April 20—Founders Day—that kicked off our yearlong observance. Even though I had just arrived at Oxy from Lewisburg, Pa., I could feel the growing sense of momentum that has developed under Jonathan Veitch's visionary leadership. Firmly anchored in Oxy's past, strategically focused on the College's future, Jonathan has created a real sense of excitement from Eagle Rock to Nanjing.

That sense of great things ahead is reflected in giving to the College. The 2011-2012 year was the fourth-best fundraising year in Oxy history, despite the slow recovery of the national economy. Those gifts have added to Oxy's institutional momentum. They made it possible to provide more financial aid for talented students, improve counseling services at Emmons Health Center, fund innovative new Core courses, provide life-changing internships for students, and more.

We are tremendously grateful to Oxy's alumni, parents, and friends for their generous support. Each donor is part of a remarkable tradition of 125 years of giving that have made Oxy what it is today. With a new strategic plan in place and a renewed sense of direction on campus, there are many more opportunities to make a real difference. Chief among them will be building the College endowment—essential to ensuring that Oxy not only maintains but continues to build on its status as one of the country's best colleges of the liberal arts and sciences.

I could not be more excited about the future of the College. I moved across the country to be part of it. That's my Oxy story. Every gift to the College creates a new Oxy story. We are thankful to everyone whose gifts have the power to transform students' lives. That's the Oxy story that will never change.



**Shelby Radcliffe** is Oxy's vice president for institutional advancement. She joined Oxy's senior staff in March 2012, after 15 years of service to Bucknell University. Radcliffe attended Mount Holyoke College and Penn State as an undergraduate and recently completed a master's in education from Bucknell.





### Gifts by Source (Total: \$20,316,554)

Alumni	\$ 9,846,094
Parents	\$ 1,096,980
Friends	\$ 441,075
Faculty, Staff, and Administration	\$ 602,232
Bequests	\$ 1,769,693
Trusts	\$ 1,445,256
Corporations	\$ 563,584
Foundations	\$ 4,400,761
Other	\$ 150,879

Total trustee giving in 2011-2012 was \$6,753,083, which includes \$1,431,931 in influenced gifts through foundations and corporations.



### 78

Percentage of students who received financial aid from Oxy this year, including 328 endowed and 31 annual scholarships.

### 1,536

Donations to support Oxy athletics through Tiger Club. For those of you keeping score, football led all individual sports with \$69,311 in support, followed by track and field/cross country (\$58,218), baseball (\$58,096), volleyball (\$55,786), and men's basketball (\$39,820).

### 1

Number of gifts for waterless urinals, which have now been installed in five buildings on campus (with a sixth, Johnson Hall, coming on board next fall).

### \$10,000

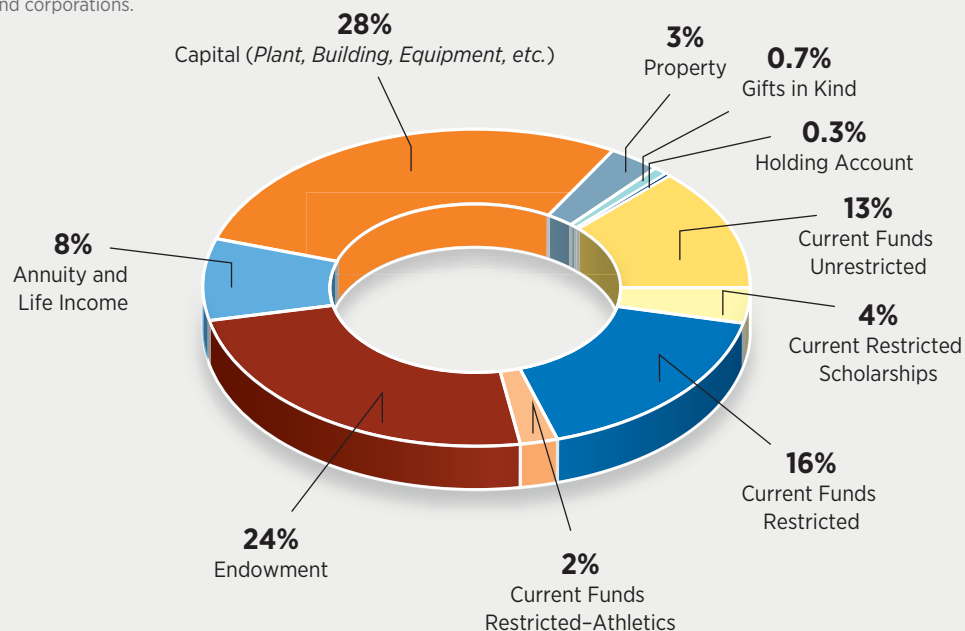
Largest unrestricted employee gift in 2011-2012. (By the way, it was not designated for waterless urinals.)



### 78

Members of the Founders Court, which recognizes cumulative gifts to Occidental totaling \$1 million or more. Among the oldest names on the list: philanthropist Norton Clapp (caricatured here by President Remsen Bird), whose family's support underwrote Oxy's Mary Norton Clapp Library in the 1920s.

### Gifts by Kind (Total: \$20,316,554)



With this report, Occidental gratefully acknowledges gifts and gift commitments received from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012. Information contained in these pages is accurate to the best of our knowledge (the figures provided are audited). In the preparation of such reports, however, errors occasionally occur despite our best efforts. We welcome your corrections. Please notify the Office of Annual Giving (800-359-9151, [annualgiving@oxy.edu](mailto:annualgiving@oxy.edu)).

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