

# undergraduate research newsletter

summer edition (issue 8)  
july 19th, 2010

## wednesday luncheon

july 21st at noon in lower herrick

dietary restrictions?  
email [urc@oxy.edu](mailto:urc@oxy.edu)



## featured speaker:

**Eric Frank, Dean of the College and  
Professor of Art History and the Visual Arts**

Donatello in Los Angeles:

The Prophets of the Florence Bell Tower

The Florentine artist Donatello is arguably the greatest sculptor of the Italian Renaissance.

For the first time, one of his most important works was on exhibition outside of Italy at the J. Paul Getty Museum this past Spring. Professor Frank will discuss this work in the context of its original location, as one of the sculptures for the Bell tower of the Florence Cathedral.

## spotlight on research student projects in progress

want to be  
featured?  
email [larios@oxy.edu](mailto:larios@oxy.edu)



### Victoria Rutledge, Geology '11 on why geology rocks

This summer, Victoria Rutledge is studying the history of the world—though while she's working, you won't find her with any history textbooks. Her weeks are spent in the geology laboratory, where she is conducting a paleomagnetic study of rock samples from Victory Pass. Paleomagnetism allows the researcher to determine a very specific age for a sample, helping place specific geologic events (in this case, the formation of the south San Andreas Fault) in their proper chronology in geologic history. Explains Rutledge, "It's like doing archival research for a history project. You want to fill in all the gaps of knowledge... The point of a lot of geology is to create a picture." The samples Rutledge is studying, once collected, are measured for the direction and magnitude of the magnetic field they acquired when they were first deposited. Because magnetic minerals capture whatever magnetic field the earth had at the time they cooled from lava flow into solid form, magnetism is "an excellent indicator of when the rocks were deposited." The lab process involves working with Oxy's cryogenic magnetometer, one of only a handful of such machines in the entire world. Working in such a unique research situation has not only enabled Rutledge to hone "a very specialized skill set," but has given her a chance to get a little philosophical about her work. "Geologic time has allowed me to put so much in perspective. When you think of the world being 4.6 billion years old, it's like, 'Hmm, maybe this bad day is not so bad.' I really think Geology is just fascinating." Now, the actual data collection part of the research is almost complete, Rutledge can focus on bringing everything together for the paper and presentation due at the Summer Research Program's end.

## reminder

researchers:  
**paychecks**

will be   
available for  
pickup this  
friday,  
july 23  
after 10:30

## fun weekend ideas upcoming events in the LA area

need help getting around?  
plan your trip on public transit at metro.net



### competitive improv comedy!

thursdays 8 pm  
college team  
fridays and saturdays 8 pm  
professional team



free screening of  
**before sunrise**  
friday, july 23  
screening starts 7:30,  
distant lands  
56 s. raymond avenue, pasadena  
[www.oldpasadena.org](http://www.oldpasadena.org)



**eagle rock  
farmer's market**  
sundays 9 am - 2 pm  
2700 colorado blvd  
fridays 5 pm - 9 pm  
2100 merton ave