

undergraduate research newsletter

summer edition (issue 9)
july 26th, 2010

wednesday luncheon
july 28th at noon in lower herrick

dietary restrictions?
email urc@oxy.edu



featured speaker:

Susan Pramov

Office of Fellowships Advising

**A panel with faculty and students on
the many national awards available to
students in a variety of fields.**

spotlight on research
student projects in progress

Kamini Kuchinad, Chemistry '12 on living in the lab

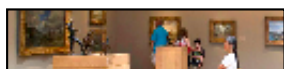


Research has been—and will continue to be—a big part of Kamini Kuchinad's undergraduate experience. She has been researching since her first year at Oxy, though this is her first time participating in the Summer Research Program. She thinks that "it's a lot different during the summer... I feel like I'm finally getting the hang of it." What she's working on now is a project in the chemistry department that looks at phospholipid bilayers, which is what most cells are made of." The project has a strong potential for medical implications; it may influence current information about drug delivery and anesthesia. Though all the members of Kuchinad's lab are working on related topics, her project is separate. She's working with a particular lipid that often gives researchers trouble: "it's very finicky

and doesn't like to work with anything, so a lot of people just get to a certain point and stop." Her research focuses on a "specific stage where the two different layers of the bilayer come together... we're looking at different lipids, and ... I've been pushing through and trying to go in depth, do more varied research." What Kuchinad has been working on this summer has given her a lot of background information for research she's hoping to continue in the fall. As far as her day-to-day research process goes, she says it's fairly independent; "It's a lot of putting in the time that you want to put in." Even so, she still ends up putting in the kind of hours that look a lot like a full-time work commitment. When she thinks about post-college plans Kuchinad still has "a ton of ideas about what to do," including a big pending decision about grad school vs. med school. In fact, she's hoping that doing research can help her narrow down her choices. "Doing this research now is super important because I need to figure out whether I like research before I go to grad school." But as she says herself, "There are lots of possibilities." She still has plenty of time to decide.

fun weekend ideas
upcoming events in the LA area

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



**norton simon
museum**

it's free!
411 w. colorado blvd
pasadena

**free performance
julius caesar**

thursday, july 29th 7:00 pm
garfield park in south pasadena
shakespearebythesea.org



free outdoor movie screening of



all about eve

saturday, july 31st
8:30pm
one colorado ctyard,
41 hugus alley

oldpasadena.org

visit our online calendar for more:

departments.oxy.edu/urc/about/calendar.htm