

# undergraduate research newsletter

summer edition (issue 6)  
july 5th, 2010

new  
place!

**wednesday luncheon**  
july 7th at noon in mosher 1

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



## featured speaker:

**Bevin Ashenmiller, Assistant Professor of Economics**  
How Economists See the Environment  
and Why You Should Care

Economics is the study of human behavior and how people make decisions. In this talk, Professor Ashenmiller will explain the basic assumptions that economists make, how those assumptions are applied to the Environment, and what Environmental Economists do when these assumptions fail.

## reminder:

**paychecks** will be available for pickup this **friday, july 9** after 10:30

## spotlight on research student projects in progress

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

**Anahid Yahjian, English and Comparative Literary Studies '11**  
on language and literature



Coming into the Summer Research Program, Anahid Yahjian had a head start on her project; she happens to be revisiting a topic she started working on almost a year ago. An ECLS major, Yahjian's research centers around a literary work: an 1891 Armenian novel whose title translates to "The Fool." Written by Raffi, who is "considered the Shakespeare of the Armenian community," the work is said to have inspired the Armenian revolutionary independence movement. According to Yahjian, "the work hasn't been approached academically beyond that...[but] I believe there is more to it." She is reading it in the original Armenian as well as in the English translation, the better to conduct an accurate literary analysis of the author's word choices and their intended effects. Her academic exploration of the subject at hand is hardly limited to the literary, however. Incorporating strong elements of philosophy, history, and linguistics into the project was, in Yahjian's words, "inevitable." In fact, the linguistics angle was where the idea for this research first started. When Professor Warren Montag, a linguist, found out that Yahjian speaks Armenian and Bulgarian, he suggested that she work on something that connects her linguistic abilities with her training as an ECLS major. With that advice, she "decided to give this project a shot and it just bloomed from there." Having grown up in Los Angeles as a member of the largest diaspora population of Armenians outside of Armenia, Yahjian has always been proud of where she comes from, but this project has allowed her to approach her heritage "beyond an emotional nationalistic sense, [instead] trying to approach that intellectually and academically." And, though she's been working on this particular topic for a long time, she insists that she hasn't gotten tired of it yet. "I'm re-reading the book, and finding new things every time I read it." It's a good thing, too, since she plans on turning it into her honors thesis. For right now, however Yahjian is "immersed in this whole summer research thing."

## fun weekend ideas upcoming events in the LA area

need help getting around?  
plan your trip on public transit at  [metro.net](http://metro.net)



free outdoor movie screening of  
**star trek**  
thursday, july 8th  
gates open 7:15, screening 8:00  
the grove  
189 the grove drive, los angeles  
[www.thegrovela.com](http://www.thegrovela.com)

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

## venice eco-fest

saturday, july 10th  
10 am - 9 pm  
windward ave &  
oceanfront walk  
[veniceecofest.org](http://veniceecofest.org)

