

THE OXY CAMPAIGN

FOR GOOD

OXY Occidental College

NORRIS HALL OF CHEMISTRY RENOVATION CASE STATEMENT

OUR PURPOSE: TO ENSURE OXY'S STANDING AS THE PREMIER LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Through The Oxy Campaign For Good, we seek investments to strengthen our faculty research capabilities and ensure exceptional learning opportunities for the next generation of outstanding scientists. Your partnership will enable Occidental to attract and retain premier teacher-scholars, and to modernize our facilities to support cutting-edge discovery. Providing state-of-the-art laboratories, equipment and teaching resources will ensure that students' classroom activities are complemented by meaningful experiences in the lab — an invaluable asset for all Oxy students and a significant advantage for those who go on to pursue advanced degrees and careers in the sciences.

THE SCIENCES AT OXY: GIVING OUR STUDENTS A CRITICAL EDGE

Occidental's distinguished tradition in the sciences is being carried forward by faculty who are leaders in their fields, and by students and alumni who regularly earn prestigious national and international recognition for their work.

Today, more Oxy students major in the sciences than in the social sciences or arts and humanities. Strategic investment in our science division benefits a large and diverse cohort of students. Oxy has one of the most representative liberal arts college science programs in the country. Almost two-thirds of science majors are women, and 40 percent are students of color. Occidental is a leader among peer institutions in the number of science degrees awarded to both students of color overall, and to students from underrepresented communities.

Oxy students graduate with research experience that is typically out of reach for undergraduates at large research institutions. Our mission is to ensure that every student can access meaningful research opportunities and work closely with our esteemed faculty in laboratory settings. This experience provides a critical edge for Oxy graduates who pursue advanced degrees and careers in the sciences.

"As the first person in my family to attend college, I discovered a possible path through graduate education and toward a career in research thanks to my participation in Oxy's undergraduate research program."

- Michael Kwan '20, doctoral candidate in physics at the University of Maryland

In an increasingly complex world, the need for ethical scientists is greater than ever. Through an Oxy interdisciplinary liberal arts education, students develop the ability to analyze complex scientific problems within a broader, holistic context, an essential skill for addressing today's most pressing societal issues. And our emphasis on a peer learning model prepares our young scientists for the interchange that is so essential among research teams in real-world lab settings.

OXY'S CHEMISTRY FACULTY: INNOVATIVE SCIENTISTS AND TEACHERS

Research is at the core of Occidental's Chemistry curriculum. Through their teaching and in their own investigations, our faculty are breaking new ground in using chemistry to help solve critical challenges in environmental science, medicine, technology, and a range of other disciplines. Meet four of our outstanding professors:

Michael Hill

Department Chair; Fletcher Jones Foundation Professor of Chemistry

- A member of the Oxy faculty since 1994 and head of the department since 2014.
- Helped develop what could be a new alternative to Lasik eye surgery--reshaping the cornea on a molecular level, a technique that also could have other medical applications.

Emmanuelle Despagnet-Ayoub

Associate Professor of Chemistry

- Joined Oxy in 2018 after more than a decade at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France; holds a joint appointment as a technologist at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.
- Working to fight climate change by developing a new technique to convert CO₂ into fuel and minimizing its production through the development of more efficient energy storage devices.

Eileen Spain

Carl F. Braun Professor of Chemistry

- Faculty member since 1995; honored as an ACE Fellow by the American Council on Education in 2018, and as a Cottrell Scholar by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement in 2015.
- Teaches quantum mechanics, spectroscopy, and nanochemistry.

Andrew K. Udit

Professor of Chemistry

- Research in chemical biology focuses on perturbing coagulation with virus nanoparticles, and catalysis using enzymes.
- Faculty member since 2005; has received grants from the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund, the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, the Research Corporation, the NSF, and the American Heart Association.



OUR VISION: A STATE-OF-THE-ART NORRIS HALL

The College is committed to ensuring that our faculty and students have the technology, space, and resources they need to teach, learn, and perform cutting-edge research. To meet that goal, we are planning an exciting and much-needed renovation of Norris Hall of Chemistry. The building, which opened in 1960, has served our campus well, but — aside from recent safety upgrades — it has not undergone significant renovations in more than 30 years.

With the support of our Board of Trustees and extensive input from our faculty, we are preparing to modernize Norris Hall of Chemistry with new technology and reimagined spaces that will facilitate the discovery and collaboration that are hallmarks of scientific innovation.

The project will be the single largest capital project funded through The Oxy Campaign For Good, and it represents the continuation of an investment in Oxy's people, programs, and places that the campaign has made possible.

Renovations will include expanded and redesigned teaching labs; state-of-the-art faculty research labs and new offices; new spaces to encourage collaboration, creative thinking, and problem solving among students; and an entirely new Academic Mastery Program center.

"We are already modernizing the ways we approach our science and our research," says Raul Navarro, an assistant professor of chemistry, "and with these critical renovations, Norris Hall of Chemistry will finally reflect those new approaches."

In short, the renovations will at last bring Norris Hall of Chemistry in line with our scholars' leading-edge research and teaching, and enable us to fulfill our mission to provide exceptional learning opportunities.

"Occidental students shall lead the way toward a fuller, richer understanding of our universe and our environment. We can empower these future scientists to develop new tools and technologies that will transform our lives and improve our society."

— Trustee Soroosh Shambayati '86 H'13

To learn more about how to support this high priority of The Oxy Campaign For Good, please contact Zeke Segerstrom '21 in the Office of Institutional Advancement: zsegerstrom@oxy.edu or (323) 259-2559.



AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR GOOD, OXY SEEKS IMMEDIATE INVESTMENTS IN THESE CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

Faculty Research Labs

Renovated laboratories with new equipment and cutting-edge technology will help Oxy attract and retain leading scientists.
\$1.5 million named lab opportunity

Teaching Labs

Expanded and redesigned labs will incorporate new instructional technologies and foster faculty-student partnership and mentorship.
\$1.5 million named lab opportunity

Academic Mastery Program Center

A brand-new 2,200-square-foot space will be configurable for classroom teaching or tutoring, lectures or receptions, and it will have three large doors that allow a seamless transition to an outdoor courtyard.
\$2 million named space

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectrometer Lab

This state-of-the-art lab will house Oxy's NMR Spectrometer, allowing for advanced research and more hands-on experience for faculty and students.
\$1 million named lab opportunity

Academic Mastery Program Center Patio

\$750,000 named space

Lecture Rooms

\$500,000 named spaces

Faculty Offices

\$150,000 named spaces

Meeting Spaces

\$100,000 named spaces

Lab Renovation Fund

Investments in the renovation of teaching and research labs will provide students and faculty with access to facilities that support and inspire their work.
Gifts of \$100,000 or more will be recognized on a donor wall