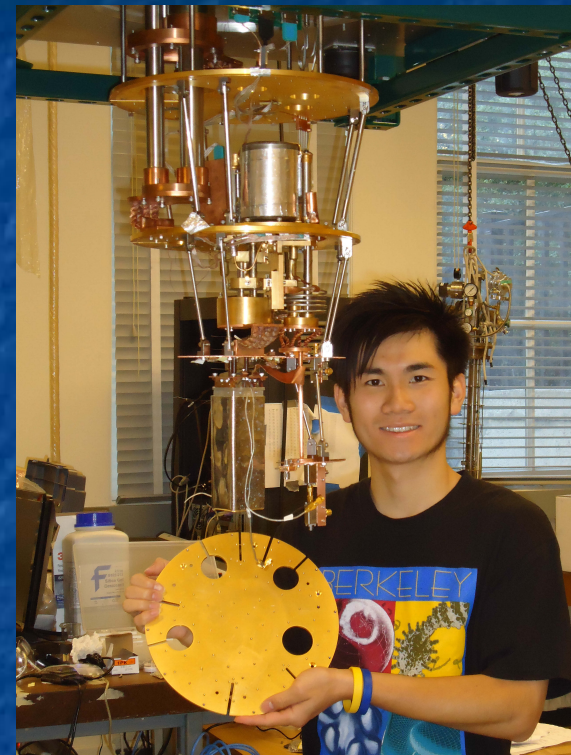
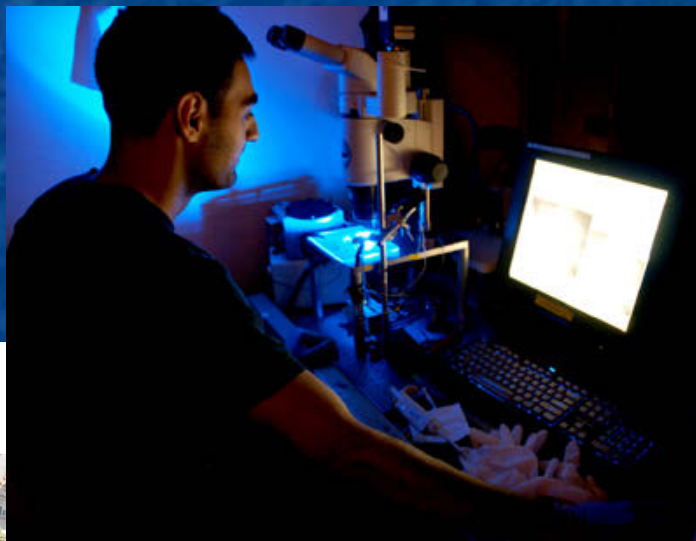


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**Getting Started in Undergraduate  
Research**

# Why do research?

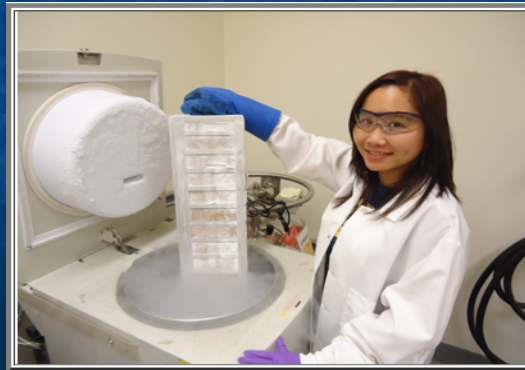




# Why do research (cont.)?



An elated Jenna having caught dinner in Sukamaju Village.



Nova retrieving her muscle samples from  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  liquid nitrogen tank.

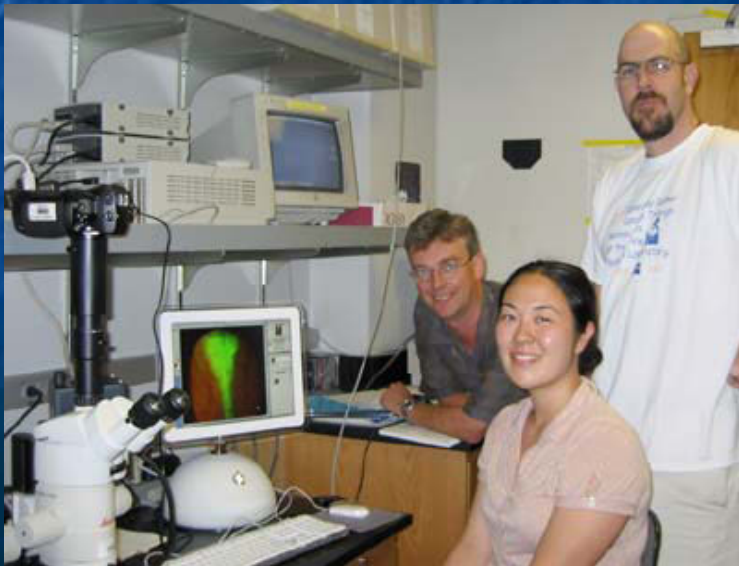


Isabella by Micha Ullman's Book Burning Memorial. August-Bebel-Platz, Berlin, Germany.

# Two kinds of research:

## 1) Apprenticeship

- help with a professor's research
- make connections
- gain skills
- lab v. non-lab disciplines

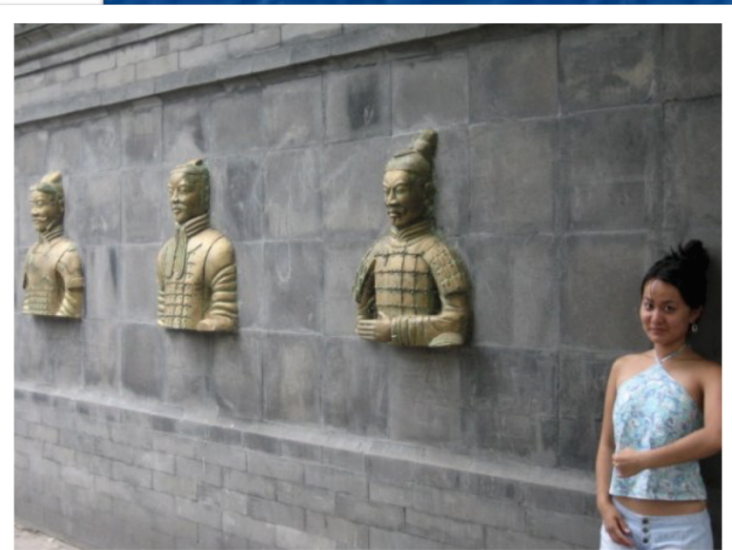




# Two kinds of research:

## 2) Independent

- carry out a project of your own design
- Choose the topic, go deep
- Be first author
- Challenge yourself



# How to get units for your research (to stay sane, and *shine*)

## Honors thesis

- Graded, in your major (ex. H195A and H195B)

## Independent Study

- Ungraded, social science/humanities (199)

## Research Units

- Ungraded, sciences, engineering, psychology (99 or 199)



# Finding a mentor: 3 routes

- Apprenticeship programs
- Through classes:
  - go to office hours
  - mobilize contacts
- “Strategic doorknocking”



# “strategic doorknocking”

- 1) Find faculty with interests close to yours via web search, networking, faculty expertise DB
- 2) Check the “grapevine” – what is s/he like to work with?
- 3) Read an article, then meet with top candidates

## Agenda:

- Apprenticeship: ask about *their* work
- Independent: solicit feedback on *your* idea
- Both: establish your credibility: resume, recommendations/reference, transcript

- 4) Pop the question! Make clear

- “Contract”
- Why s/he is best match

AND/OR via email:

Do research, establish credibility, stage 4



Resources for finding and  
working productively with  
mentors, asking for  
recommendations, and more

<http://research.berkeley.edu/>  
“resources” page

# Why participate in a formal research program?

- Peer support
- Staff support
- Structure
- \$: travel, more time for research, equipment, supplies, debt reduction
- recognition!!
- Extras: GRE prep, Grad admissions help, public speaking and publication opportunities





# How programs vary

- Eligibility:
  - GPA
  - demographics
  - year in college
  - discipline/s or topic
  - future plans
- Apprentice/Independent
- Timeline: summer, academic year
- Commitments
- Amount of \$
- Which extras
- size of cohort
- Amount and type of guidance, and from whom
- **At least one program for everyone!!**

# How to apply—application components

- Deadlines mostly \*\*mid- to late January\*\*

Apprentice: motivation, qualifications

- Transcript
- Essay
- Sometimes recommendations

Independent: plan, motivation, qualifications

- Proposal + supporting documents
- Transcript
- Recommendation/s

Both:

- Read web site carefully
- contact staff
- show drafts to everyone early and often!
- apply to multiple programs



# Where to find the programs?

**RESEARCH.BERKELEY.EDU**

Programs at Berkeley for Berkeley students: Search by

- program name
- deadline
- discipline
- GPA
- citizenship
- college
- financial need

Programs away from Berkeley for Berkeley students

- Commuting distance (UCSF, CHORI, etc.)
- Paid summer apprenticeships at other Universities

Please ask me lots of questions!