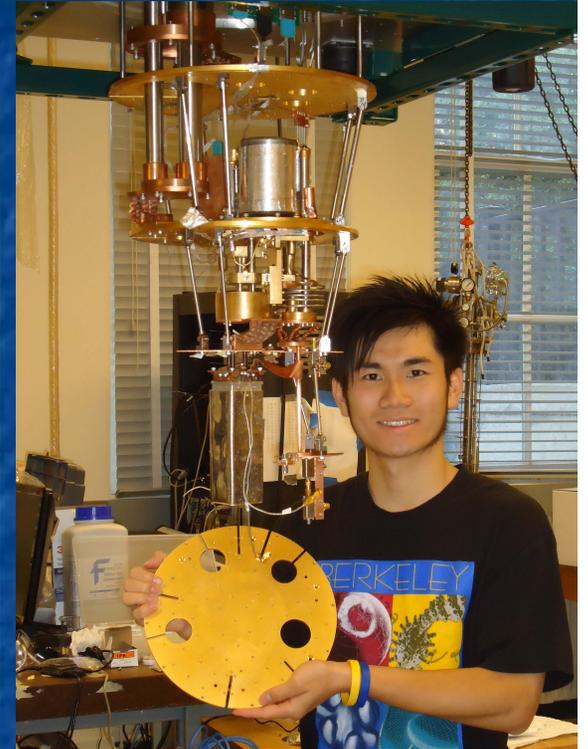
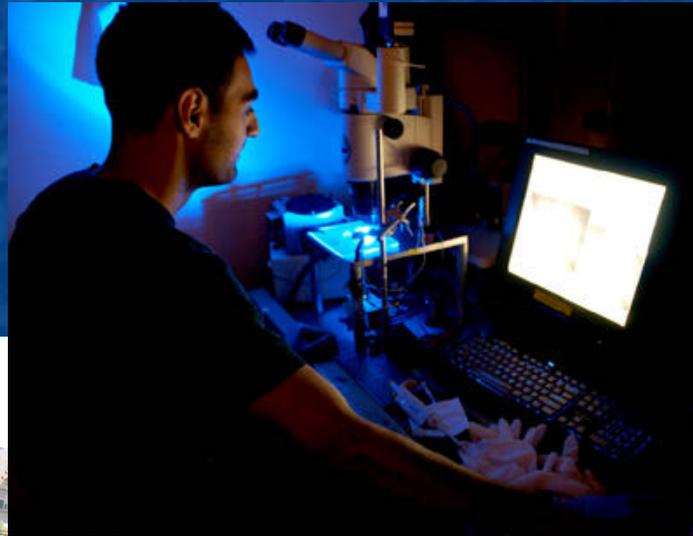


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## Getting Started in Undergraduate Research

# Why do research?



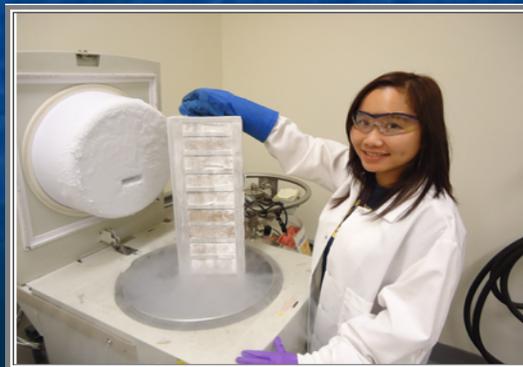
# Why do research (cont.)?



An elated Jenna having caught dinner in Sukamaju Village.



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

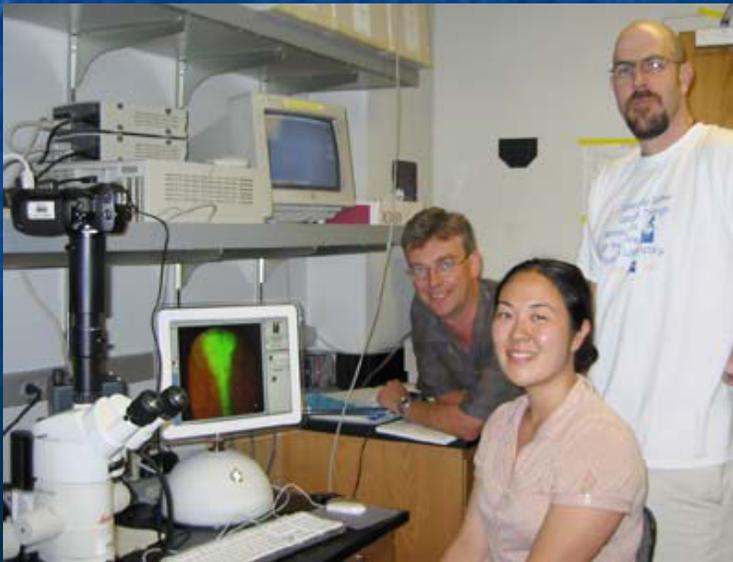


Nova retrieving her muscle samples from  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  liquid nitrogen tank.

# Two kinds of research

**1. Apprenticeship:**  
help a professor  
carry out his/her  
research

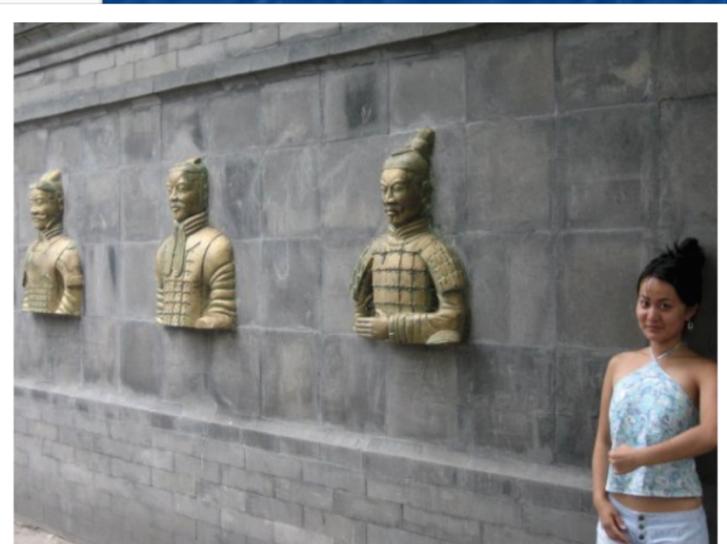
- get connected to mentors
- learn essential research skills
- understand the research process



# Two kinds of research

**2. Independent:**  
carry out a project of  
your own design

- Spread your wings
- go deeper into a topic you choose
- be first author on a publication/presentation



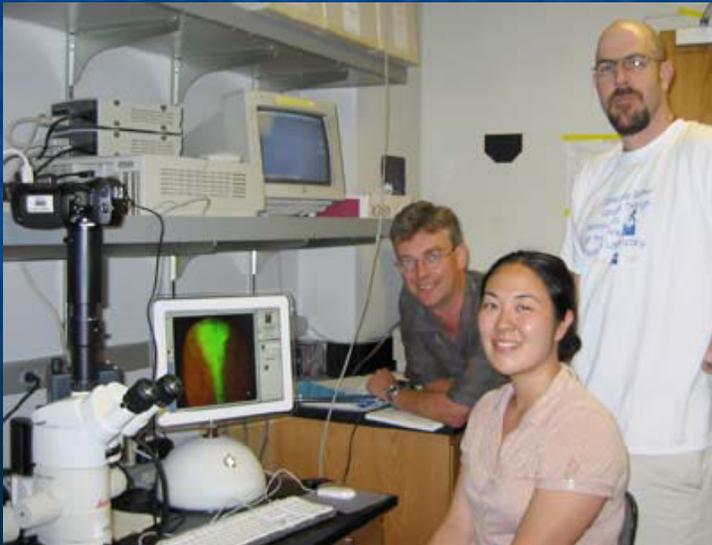
# Research in Lab v. Non-lab settings

- **Lab settings**

- all begin as apprentices
- Independent=take piece of lab's work as your project

- **Non-lab settings**

- 1<sup>st</sup> research experience can be independent (your own idea)
- Apprenticeship still useful for connections, experience.



# How to get units for your research

(to stay sane/healthy, and to *shine*)

- Honors thesis (graded, in your major)
- Independent Study: Ungraded, social science/humanities
- “Research Units”  
(ungraded – sciences, engineering, psychology: 99 or 199)

# Finding a mentor

- Via an apprenticeship program
- Through classes: go to office hours, then “mobilize contacts”
- “strategic doorknocking”



# “strategic doorknocking” to find a mentor

- 1) Search out faculty with interests close to yours.
- 2) Find out: what are they like to work with?
- 3) Meet with top candidates. Agenda:
  - Apprenticeship: ask about their work
  - Independent: solicit feedback on your idea
  - Both: establish credibility with resume, reference, transcript, professional attire and approach
- 4) Compare several; choose favorite; pop the question!
  - Clarify “contract”
  - Clarify why s/he is best match
- 5) Via email: Do research (1+2), establish credibility, explain your interest, request meeting to discuss possibility of ... (state your own avail);  
formal business email.

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, time, equipment, supplies, debt reduction
- recognition!!
- Extras: GRE prep, Grad admissions help, public speaking training, and publication opportunities



## How programs vary

- Eligibility: GPA, first generation, income, ethnicity, what year in college, which discipline/s, future plans
  - Apprentice/Independent
  - Timeline: summer, one semester, academic year
  - Commitments
  - \$
  - size of cohort
  - Location – at or away from UCB
- 
- Bottom line: There IS at least one program for everyone!!

# How to apply—application components

## Deadlines:

mostly \*\*early to mid spring\*\* --prepare in fall

## Components:

- Transcript
- Some: essay re: future plans, past obstacles
- Recommendation/s
- For independent research: proposal, supporting documents

## When you find a program:

- Read web site carefully, attend info sessions, meet w/ prog. coordinator, prepare app early, get several rounds of feedback, apply to multiple programs

# What are they looking for?

- Focus, motivation, drive, enthusiasm
- Improving trend on transcript
- Solid recommendations
- Dependability
- Biography – program would strengthen your profile for future plans

# Where to find them

[Research.berkeley.edu](http://Research.berkeley.edu)

- Programs at UCB for Berkeley students
- Programs away from UCB for Berkeley students

Please ask me lots of questions!