



**OXY TRACKS**  
[vol 1]

# Occidental

COLLEGE

*of* Los Angeles



welcome to

# Occidental COLLEGE

Welcome to Occidental's Tiger Tracks. This is the first in a series of publications you will receive from us, each offering insights, opinions and perspectives on extraordinary aspects of the Oxy experience. Our mascot, Oswald the Tiger, will introduce you to fascinating, fun, and historic facts about campus. Enjoy the journey!

**Founded in 1887**, Occidental College is one of the oldest colleges in Southern California. A private, coeducational liberal arts institution with an enrollment of 1,800, the College offers a unique combination of interdisciplinary study, community-based learning, undergraduate research and off-campus programs. Oxy, as we are affectionately known, is not just in Los Angeles; we're of Los Angeles. The city serves as a laboratory for student learning. As one of the country's most prolific undergraduate research programs confirms, the phrase "learning by doing" applies here.

And Oxy students are adventuresome, independent and engaged. Far from passive, they initiate research projects, organize clubs, access internships around Los Angeles

and partner with community organizations.

Occidental derives its intellectual vitality from the city. The campus itself is located on a wooded hillside, offering the quiet seclusion of eucalyptus groves, sycamore and jacaranda trees. Yet the variety and mobility of Los Angeles encourage students' open-mindedness and freedom, important products of a liberal arts education. In ways that are as diverse as the city itself, the College utilizes Los Angeles and Southern California. The Urban and Environmental Policy Program, the California Semesters, Critical Theory and Social Justice major, Geology, Marine Biology, Film and Media Studies and the Center for Community- Based Learning are just some of the examples of the intersection between our curriculum and setting.



“Occidental is uniquely diverse, respectfully liberal, pleasantly congenial, and impressively eclectic.”



Occidental aims to create a **community** in which students experience a 'world that could be.' The College makes that possible through its rare combination of lively location, diversity and small community.



## intellectual life

It sounds like every professor's fantasy: smart, engaged students who actively participate in class, continue classroom conversations in dorm hallways and collaborate with one another as they work their way through a demanding syllabus.

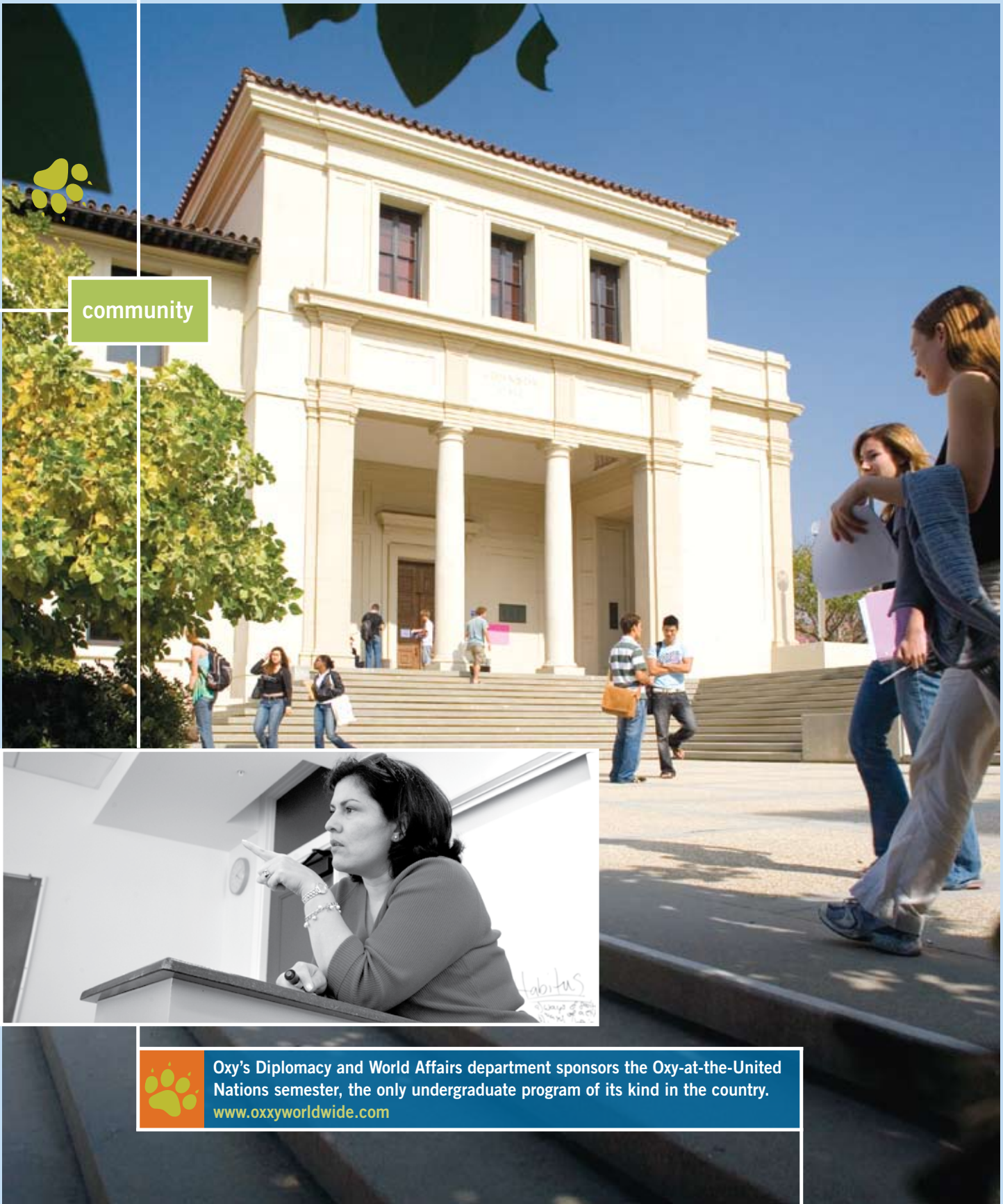
At Occidental you will learn to think critically, communicate effectively, and most importantly, gain an understanding of other cultures, ideas and perspectives. Our commitment to producing well-rounded liberal arts graduates is combined with a hands-on approach. Research, internships, field study and community-based learning are integrated into the curriculum, giving you the chance to apply what you learn in the classroom to the real world. Whether you pursue graduate school or a career, the skills you learn here will serve you for the rest of your life.

**Los Angeles shows real-world examples of the abstract ideas we are learning in class. It's the city of potentials. YOUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIMITED ONLY BY YOUR IMAGINATION.**

Classrooms are only one educational setting at Oxy. Faculty routinely integrate greater Los Angeles in their courses, syllabi and research. And Oxy students collaborate on research with their professors in the lab, at other Los Angeles-area institutions and even overseas. Over the past five years, more than 280 students have received funding to undertake joint research with faculty—research that often results in co-authored publication in peer-reviewed journals. Furthermore, community-based learning at Occidental, in which students apply what they learn in the classroom to community projects, serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff who are working toward solutions to pressing issues in the community, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. We are one of a handful of U.S. colleges chosen to participate in the Richter Summer Research Program, in which you can compete for a chance to pursue independent research or creative work anywhere in the world. Further, you can spend a semester on one of over 50 off-campus programs, from Argentina to Tanzania, including our renowned Oxy-at-the-United Nations internship.



community



Oxy's Diplomacy and World Affairs department sponsors the Oxy-at-the-United Nations semester, the only undergraduate program of its kind in the country.  
[www.oxyworldwide.com](http://www.oxyworldwide.com)

“We are here to help fulfill your **dreams**, to expose you to fields and disciplines you haven’t explored and give you the skills you need to succeed.” — Eric Frank, Dean of the College

**ACADEMIC OVERVIEW** The Core Program provides the intellectual foundation for Occidental’s commitment to excellence, equity, service and community. The first-year seminars comprise the centerpiece of the Core. In addition, students participate in the study of culture as embodied in the arts, sciences, humanities and social sciences. Students can choose to major in one of 30 departments, double major, declare a minor or pursue a self-designed course of study. In addition, select students may cross-register at nearby California Institute of Technology and the Art Center College of Design. All seniors are required to complete “Comps,” a comprehensive experience in their chosen major. By graduation, Occidental requires that students demonstrate familiarity with a foreign language and take courses in the fine arts, science and quantitative analysis.

## ACADEMIC MAJORS AND PROGRAMS

American Studies

Art History and the Visual Arts

*Emphases:*

- Film and Media Studies
- History of Art
- Studio Art

Asian Studies

Biochemistry

Biology

*Emphases:*

- Cell and Molecular Biology
- Environmental Biology
- Marine Biology

Chemistry

Chinese Language and Literature  
(minor only)

Classical Studies (minor only)

Cognitive Science

*Emphases:*

- Bioscience
- Computation
- Philosophy
- Psychology

Critical Theory and Social Justice

Diplomacy and World Affairs

Economics

*Emphases:*

- Economics for Business and Management
- Mathematical Economics

Education (minor only)

English and Comparative Literary Studies

French Literary Studies

Geology

*Emphasis:*

- Environmental Science

Geophysics

German Studies (minor only)

Group Language

History

Japanese Language and Literature  
(minor only)

Kinesiology

Latin American Studies (minor only)

Linguistics (minor only)

Mathematics

Music

Philosophy

Physics

Politics

Psychobiology

Psychology

Religious Studies

Russian Studies (minor only)

Sociology

Spanish Literary and Cultural Studies

Theater


Urban and Environmental Policy

Women’s Studies/Gender Studies



dreams



 Ten Fulbright Scholars were among Oxy's national award recipients in 2008. [www.oxy.edu/NationalAwards.xml](http://www.oxy.edu/NationalAwards.xml)



## campus living

Nestled in the hills of northeast Los Angeles, Oxy is located in Eagle Rock, a neighborhood with an eclectic population and small town appeal. Nearly 80% of students live in 12 coeducational residence halls, the newest of which opened in January 2008. More than just a place to live, residence halls serve as the center around which many Oxy activities—cultural, educational and social—revolve. The entire residence hall complex has undergone refurbishment and each is equipped with wireless access, computer labs, laundry facilities and meeting spaces. First- and second-year students are required to live on campus in these student-governed, coed halls. The first year experience centers around Living and Learning Communities, clusters of students who share their first year Core Seminar and reside near one another, thus bridging the time and space between the classroom and dorm room, connecting students with their professor and one another, helping to ease the transition to college and building a sense of place at Occidental.

At Oxy, student life is as varied and compelling as the students themselves. You can choose from over 100 clubs that are organized around shared interests such as culture, sports, languages, intellectual pursuits, or political and social issues. For example, you could manage a portion of the College's endowment with the Blyth Fund or screen the worst movies ever made with the Bad Movie Club. As a founder of intercollegiate competition in Southern

California, one-quarter of our students participate in 20 NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports on an Olympic training field and in a newly renovated gymnasium. Hundreds more compete in intramural and club sports including rugby, lacrosse and ultimate Frisbee.

Whether on the field or on stage, Oxy students support one another. Oxy's Dance Production, the annual show produced and performed by students, is one of the largest and best-attended events on campus. And students pursue a variety of music and theatrical opportunities, individually or in small and large ensembles. The Occidental-Cal Tech Orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall in 2008, while the annual New Play Festival features staged readings and workshop productions of student-written plays.

**DIVERSITY** Occidental has been a leader among liberal arts colleges for our multicultural student body and faculty. Diversity of race, income, religion, nationality and viewpoint challenge our students and prepare them to thrive in a complex world. Consistently ranked as one of the three most ethnically diverse liberal arts colleges in the United States, Oxy maintains a student population with nearly 40% students of color. Further, our faculty also reflect our multicultural community. Almost one-quarter are African American, Asian American, and Latino/a - and nearly half are women.



## OXY FACTS

Founded in 1887

Occidental's motto is:  
*Occidens Proximus Orienti,*  
*The West is nearest the East*

1877 students

56% women; 44% men

6% African American

13% Asian American

58% Caucasian

2% International

15% Latino/a

1% Native American

4% Declined to state

156 full-time faculty

Student-Teacher ratio: 10:1

Average class size: 21

Academic majors and minors: 38

On campus residence: 80%

Division III athletic teams: 20  
*(with women's lacrosse to begin in 2010)*

Clubs and student organizations: 103

Post-graduate successes: Our students have an impressive record of gaining admission to top graduate programs. We are ranked 23rd among liberal arts colleges whose graduates earn Ph.D.s. Since 1981, more than 600 graduates have attended medical and dental school.



Over 70 films and television shows have been shot on campus, including *Clueless*, *Made of Honor*, *Star Trek III*, *Criminal Minds* and *Beverly Hills 90210*. [www.oxy.edu/Movies.xml](http://www.oxy.edu/Movies.xml)



## admission/financial aid

“I had the most amazing **experience** when I visited Oxy. Everyone was so friendly and outgoing. Students would come up to me and say, “You look like a prospective student. Do you have any questions?” No one did that at any other school I visited.”

Oxy's mission aims to “prepare students for leadership in an increasingly complex, interdependent and pluralistic world.” This requires a student body of uncommon ethnic, socioeconomic, national and religious diversity, one that is dedicated to excellence and service.

**VISIT US** We hope you'll come and **experience OXY** for yourself. Among your visit options are:

- **Student led tours and admission information sessions** offered twice daily throughout the year and on Saturdays during each academic semester.
- **Evaluative interviews** for high school and transfer candidates are recommended, but not required. Seniors may schedule an interview from June until December each year and interviews for transfer candidates are available from June until February.
- **Overnight stays** in the residence halls are available for seniors and transfer candidates Mondays through Thursdays between late September and late April, except during school holidays and exams.
- **Classroom visits:** Professors welcome prospective students into their classes during the academic year.

**APPLY** At Oxy we evaluate each applicant individually and holistically, striving to understand your intellectual gifts, personal experiences, leadership potential and capacity to contribute to this community.

First year and transfer candidates may apply to Occidental using the Common Application and Oxy supplement or the Occidental application, all available online. As a first year candidate, you may chose to apply Early Decision (Nov. 15) or Regular Decision (Jan. 10); transfers may apply for fall enrollment (Oct. 15) or spring enrollment (Mar. 15). Nearly 5800 students applied for the Class of 2012 and 39% were offered admission.

**FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS** Occidental is committed to providing educational opportunities to qualified students from all academic backgrounds. Over 75% of students receive financial support from the College, offered in need-based financial aid and merit scholarships. In 2007-08, the average need-based financial aid award totaled \$24,289. Merit scholarships range from \$7,000 to \$20,000, renewable annually. During the 2008-09 school year, tuition at Oxy will total \$36,160 and room/board is \$10,270.

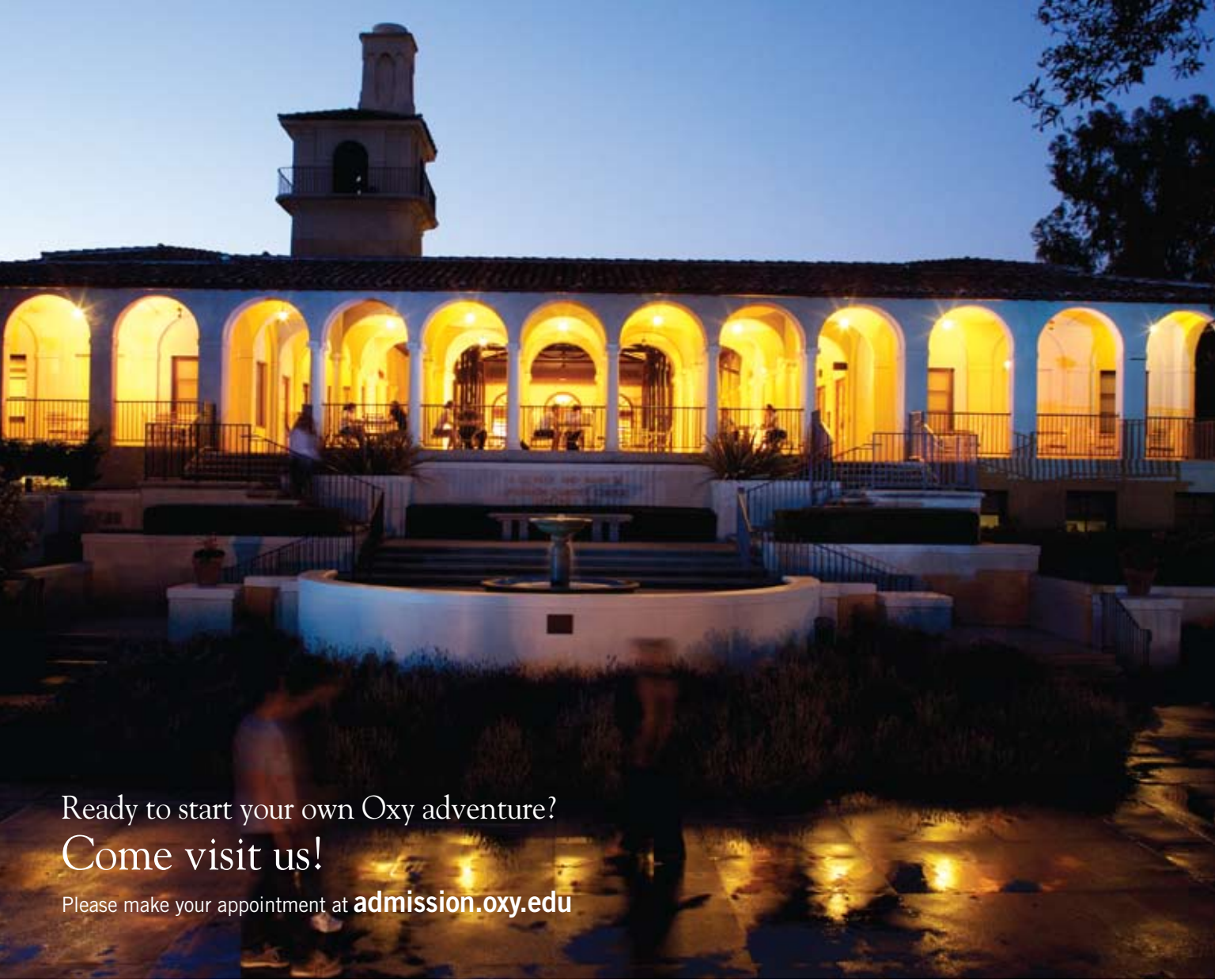


experience



Two presidential candidates have attended Occidental:  
Barack Obama '83 and Jack Kemp '57. [www.oxy.edu/Obama.xml](http://www.oxy.edu/Obama.xml)





Ready to start your own Oxy adventure?  
Come visit us!

Please make your appointment at [admission.oxy.edu](https://admission.oxy.edu)

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