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## **Mellon Foundation Aids Undergraduate Research and Information Skills at UC Berkeley**

BERKELEY – Next fall Berkeley undergraduates will tackle re-designed research assignments with training provided by a four-year \$749,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Berkeley's Library, in partnership with the Division of Undergraduate Education and the Undergraduate Division of the College of Letters & Sciences, will do pioneering work to encourage research-based learning. Mellon Faculty Fellows will lead students into the famous (but sometimes formidable) library collections that span more than thirty locations across the campus and include hundreds of online databases.

According to Christina Maslach, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Co-Principal Investigator, "Instructional innovation has often been the result of individual faculty entrepreneurs. The Mellon project allows us to expand that strength by linking faculty with librarians, instructional technologists, assessment experts, graduate student instructors – all of the partners who together can have a greater impact on student learning than each can alone. Our current focus is on large enrollment core courses, because that's where we can make the greatest difference in the quality of the undergraduate experience over the next few years."

The Mellon Library/Faculty Fellows for Undergraduate Research project offers annual Summer Institutes where Faculty Fellows participate in an intensive series of workshops and individual consultations that address information literacy, new instructional technologies, student research, and pedagogical strategies – all vital components to providing stimulating and substantial research experiences for undergraduates. Through peer learning, hands-on instruction, and discussions with librarians and experts in instruction, faculty explore the scholarly and teaching uses of digital resources and print collections as part of the curriculum of large enrollment courses.

After completing the Institute, the Fellows will introduce what they have learned into the courses they teach and continue to work closely with teams of librarians, instructional technology specialists, and other campus academic staff to develop curricula, teaching, and assessment tools.

This grant builds on a 2003 award of \$138,000 from the Andrew Mellon Foundation to fund a pilot project for thirteen Fellows which resulted in significant revisions to undergraduate courses and research assignments across the disciplines at Berkeley. Fellows attending the 2003 Summer Institute commented, "I now have a coherent methodology for teaching research that I did not have before," and "this Institute experience has been a milestone for me, both in my own learning and what I have to offer future students." The 2003-2004 courses and the work of future Fellows are aligned with the campus priorities of integrating research and the use of library collections into an inquiry-based undergraduate education, providing opportunities for students to explore complex problems that draw from multiple fields, and developing undergraduate information literacy competencies, specifically in large enrollment courses.

The project strengthens the collaboration between Berkeley's University Library, Division of Undergraduate Education, Office of Education Development, Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center, and Education Technology Services. Contact for the project

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