

## **THE 2011-2012 MILLER CENTER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD**

The Miller Center Undergraduate Research Award is modeled on the University's Harrison Undergraduate Research Award, and will provide \$4,000 to an undergraduate student and \$1,000 to his or her faculty advisor (typically a scholar from the Miller Center's Academic, Public, or Policy Programs) for completion of a major research project to be carried out during the summer of 2011 and the 2011-2012 academic year.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH AT THE MILLER CENTER**

The Miller Center is a national, nonpartisan center with the mission to research, reflect, and report on American government. Our scholars engage in research and writing in political history that provides unparalleled insight into contemporary public policy debate. We are the sole source in the country of the oral histories of each presidential administration since Jimmy Carter's, and the annotated transcripts of the secret White House recordings made by Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. Access to our scholars, as well as [www.americanpresident.org](http://www.americanpresident.org), the Miller Center's comprehensive online reference resource of the American presidency, makes the Miller Center a unique venue for conducting student research.

Students can choose as an advisor one of the faculty members of the Academic Programs – which includes the Governing America in a Global Era (GAGE), Presidential Oral History, and Presidential Recordings programs – to conduct research in a broad range of disciplines, including, but not limited to, presidential studies, American history, political science, foreign affairs, policy studies, law, political economy, and sociology.

There are also opportunities for undergraduate research in our Public and Policy Programs. For example, the Miller Center National Discussion and Debate Series debuted in 2007 with a discussion of Iraq moderated by *The NewsHour*'s Margaret Warner; subsequent debates have explored energy, health care, the costs of higher education and Iran. Students could write white papers that would serve as foundational documents to inform future programmatic work.

Students might also pursue research projects that dovetail with one of the many conferences the Miller Center hosts. These events assemble public figures, scholars and experts to discuss centrally important policy issues, such as climate change governance, higher education reform, the state of the world economy, and national security strategy. For example, in October 2010, the Miller Center's David R. Goode National Transportation Policy Conference and consequent published report resulted in a White House briefing requested by President Obama. Another opportunity might be conducting background research for a future National Commission. The Miller Center has hosted ten such commissions since 1981; the most recent was the National War Powers Commission, co-chaired by former Secretaries of State James A. Baker, III and Warren Christopher, which issued its report in July 2008.

Students also have the option of choosing their advisor from non-Miller Center faculty. Faculty advisors from grounds should work within disciplines related to the work of the Miller Center, and the research project should centrally utilize the Miller Center's resources (e.g. our archives, presidential recordings, [www.americanpresident.org](http://www.americanpresident.org), or commission reports). However, students choosing advisors from among Miller Center faculty will be given preference for this award.

## **THE AWARD PROCESS**

We will post the application for the Miller Center Undergraduate Research Award at <http://millercenter.org/about/students> in January 2011. The deadline to apply will be in Friday, April 15, 2011. Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision in May 2011.

Students should identify and meet with their faculty advisor to discuss their proposed project early in the process of developing a proposal. The faculty advisor will write a letter in support of the student's proposal. A full list of Miller Center faculty is at <http://millercenter.org/about/staff>. Students are encouraged to contact Anne Mulligan ([acm8k@virginia.edu](mailto:acm8k@virginia.edu)), the Coordinator for Academic Programs, who can suggest pairings with relevant Miller Center faculty and give general advice on research topics.

Many research projects require approval by one of the University's Institutional Review Boards. All applicants, regardless of proposed research topic, must send an abstract of their research and inquire whether their project requires IRB approval to [irbsbs@virginia.edu](mailto:irbsbs@virginia.edu); use "Miller Center Research Award" in your subject line. You will receive a reply indicating whether your proposed project requires IRB approval and, if so, what steps you need to take to obtain that approval. You must submit a copy of the IRB's response with your award application.

Awardees are expected to create a bibliography of relevant background materials, read and research the topic, establish contacts with professionals in the field, and produce a final product (e.g., final paper, creative project, presentation) that summarizes his or her findings. An interim report will be due in November 2011, and the final project must be submitted to the Miller Center in April 2012 (along with a one page assessment from the faculty advisor and a brief report from the student accounting for expenditure of award funds). Students should be prepared to present their projects in the spring, and their advisors will be expected to attend the presentation.

Information about all of the Miller Center's Programs and their work is at [www.millercenter.org](http://www.millercenter.org). You can find out more about the Award and will be able to download the application at <http://millercenter.org/about/students>.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Anne Mulligan at [acm8k@virginia.edu](mailto:acm8k@virginia.edu).