

2021 Student Community Action
Award Presentation

KIMBERLY DELGADO

PRESENTED BY
Andrea Lynn Mateo '21

ARIA DEVLIN

PRESENTED BY
J. Mijin Cha, Assistant Professor, UEP

RUBY FERHAWK

PRESENTED BY
Sasha Monterroso '21

KAYE JENKINS

PRESENTED BY
Amy Muñoz, AVP, Hospitality Services

CHIAKI MA

Presented by
Raquel Garza, Health Education
Manager, UEPI

SALMA ROJAS

Presented by
Pablo Saleta '19

EVELYN WASSON

Presented by
Rosa Romero, Program Director, UEPI
Adjunct Faculty, UEP

SARAH YI

Presented by
Jenny Low, Former Sustainability
Coordinator

About the Awardees

Kimberly Delgado (Diplomacy and World Affairs Major, East Asian Studies minor) is originally from Inglewood, CA a few miles away on the I-10 South from Occidental's campus. Her family always recognized and supported her education. Along the way, she found opportunities and community for herself when equity in education could not be reached in LAUSD. Her experience compiled of circumstance, drive, and sheer luck allowed her to achieve her educational goals. Since arriving at Occidental, Kim experienced and worked as a student, RA, and TA in the Multicultural Summer Institute along with other students with marginalized identities. She committed to dialogue and community driven social justice spaces with her work as a tutor and Supporting Youth of Color Co-Coordinator in the Neighborhood Partnership Program. Outside of these spaces, Kim worked in multiple jobs to support her family in the given pandemic. Despite this, she is resilient and still found the time and energy to build community, love, and healing inside and outside of constructed institutional spaces. She is thankful for all that supported her in this experience.

Aria Devlin (Urban and Environmental Policy, Interdisciplinary Writing minor) found and explored her passion for environmental justice, community-based action and conservation at Oxy through the UEP department and in the FEAST garden. During her first semester, she was hired at the FEAST garden where she began to care for 13 chickens, having never seen one before in her life. For three years, she explored sustainability in the FEAST garden and put tools and ideologies learned from class into practice. Through her work, she established organic kitchen compost collections from residence halls and kitchens around campus, including the Marketplace and the Green Bean. She trained under the founder of the garden, Bruce Steele, and learned how to maintain three different forms of compost. She further spread that knowledge through composting and garden care classes to fellow Oxy students, as well as local middle and high school students.

Aria continued to adapt and engage her community during the pandemic, through remote programming, workshops and conversations along with maintaining Oxy's garden spaces, and coordinating guest speakers for the community.

Ruby Ferehawk (Mathematics, Urban and Environmental Policy minor) is from Los Angeles, California. She is interested in how mathematics and data analysis intersects with the social sciences and, more specifically, urban policy and urban planning. After Oxy, she hopes to either enroll in a Master's in Urban Planning program or do more research in the field of computational social science. Ruby has been involved in many organizations on campus. Most notably, Ruby is the president and founder of the Transfer Student Union, a student organization that works with various Oxy offices to create an intentional and student-centered transfer experience. She was also a tour guide and Senior Fellow at Oxy's Admissions Office. She is also involved in Greek life at Oxy and has been an officer in Kappa Alpha Theta for two years. In her summer's at Oxy, she has participated in both the HCC's [InternLA](#) program as well as the URC's Summer Research Program. In InternLA, Ruby worked as a Development Intern at Brave New Films, a non-profit that makes social media videos and short films about social justice issues. In her summer research, Ruby explored if affordable housing residents in California have equal access to quality schooling using social science data. In her free time, she loves hiking, hanging out on the quad with friends, and exploring the many Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Kaye Jenkins (Urban & Environmental Policy, History minor) began working with Campus Dining as the Lead Sustainability Intern as a sophomore in January 2019, and since then has taken every opportunity to get involved in food and sustainability projects on campus. Through her position with Campus Dining, Kaye tracked Oxy's sustainable food purchasing, and created events and material to familiarize students with Oxy's food systems. Her experience as the Lead Sustainability Intern

culminated in making a recommendation that Oxy continue to use the Real Food Challenge metrics after its Campus Commitment ended in 2020, and to pilot their newest standards.

As a UEP major, Kaye also spent time learning about community organizing and environmental justice, which she built upon at her internship at UNITE HERE Local 11 in the Fall of 2019. Over the summer of 2020, Kaye was a part of the first group of participants in the UEPI Urban Agriculture Internship. After working at Cottonwood Urban Farm all summer, Kaye designed a comps project around urban agriculture policy in Los Angeles, interviewing farmers and researching policy initiatives. She loved the people and organizations that this project familiarized her with, and hopes to keep working towards local agriculture in community spaces in her career.

Kaye's work in food and sustainability at Oxy would not be possible without the cohort of students working in sustainability, the guidance of Sharon Cech and Rosa Romero at UEPI, Amy Muñoz at Campus Dining, and the UEP department as a whole.

Chiaki Ma (Urban and Environmental Policy, ASTU and Japanese Studies minor) has dedicated her time to work for the community during her time at Oxy. She has worked as a Community Engagement Internship at UEPI, where she assisted in healthy food demonstrations for the Highland Park and Lincoln Heights Farmers' Markets in addition to assisting in educational programs about school gardening and healthy food choices at local grade schools. Her creativity and artistic ability has also proven useful to create graphics for UEPI that were distributed to the local community. This hands-on internship has taught her about the importance of food education and community action. Chiaki has also interned at Alliance for Community Transit (ACT-LA) to support programs that promoted a more equitable and transit-oriented L.A. She has had the pleasure of constantly engaging with the local community through duties such as petition signature gathering and event support for Metro Activation Day, an event that promoted

the use of L.A. public transit. She is incredibly grateful for all the staff at UEPI, including Raquel Galarza, Sharon Cech, Rosa Romero, and (former staff) Megan Bomba, who have all provided valuable mentorship and an abundance of support during her time at Oxy. She would also love to thank Sylvia Chico and everyone at the UEPI department for their continuous support.

Salma Rojas's (Urban & Environmental Policy, Spanish Studies minor) passion for community based work comes from the culmination of experiences growing up in a working class immigrant community in Arizona. Seeing how several discriminatory policies and employers treated her community, she grew passionate about social justice issues, such as immigrant and labor rights. In her first year at Oxy, she was introduced to Oxy's Student Labor Alliance, where she collaborated with students and campus workers to strategize around labor issues on campus. Her internship at Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), introduced her to how important grassroots organizing is in developing equitable policies. Working at Coalition for Economic Survival (CES), she learned about how essential community education is in combating harassment and other oppressive practices. She has also engaged in other spaces dedicated to cultivating a healing and engaging community, like working as a Resident Advisor and at the ROCK Coffee House. In academic, work, personal, and organizing settings, she deepened her understanding of intersecting systems of oppression and has become more fluent in the language and strategies that resist those systems. She has been pushed to think critically and grow in ways that would not be possible without the support of her community. She is incredibly grateful for all her teachers, mentors, coworkers, family members, friends, and peers that remind her of the power and hope our communities bring.

Evie Wasson (Urban & Environmental Policy) worked as a Community Food Systems Intern on various projects at UEPI during her time at

Oxy whether it was helping farmers market managers learn social media marketing or working with Raquel Galarza and elementary school parents on the Harvest of the Month initiative. The highlight of Evie's work at UEPI was when she, along with her peer Denham-Conroy, planned and taught gardening lessons to local students in Highland Park at Loreto Street Elementary. She loved teaching kids about how to grow food while also giving them time to play and explore. Increasing access for school children to green space and activities is something Evie hopes to continue doing. Her time at UEPI was one of her fondest experiences at Oxy. Evie also worked as a community-enhancing intern at the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator where she helped their enhancing community team on initiatives to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in cleantech startups. She assisted in organizing four LACI community events and creating a roadmap resource on DEI practices for startups to use in hiring and workspace environments. In the fall of her junior year, Evie interned for the community organizing team at the LA LGBT Center and was asked to join their Resistance Squad Leadership Council. She crafted hour-long training modules on community organizing and policy work for the center's volunteers and continues to lead phone banks, campaigns, and fun activities for other LA LGBT Center events. Evie's work at the center alongside all of the other volunteers has created tangible policy change in LA county! Community work is her passion because she has seen firsthand how individuals' and communities' voices and hard work can positively impact people's lives. She is incredibly grateful to Rosa Romero, Raquel Galarza, Sharon Cech, Megan Bomba, fellow students, professor, and Los Angeles community members for supporting her growth and leadership during these last four years.

Sarah Yi (Urban & Environmental Policy and Computer Science) was first drawn to Occidental College by the unique offering of the UEP major and student-led service, the Food, Energy, and Sustainability Team (FEAST). Throughout the years at Oxy, she developed her passion for sustainability, as well as environmen-

tal and social justice. During her time at FEAST, she implemented various organizational tools to conduct the newly formed student service in a professional and efficient manner, as well as coordinated events with the pursuit of sustainability and community access to resources in mind. With Oxy Ecosentials, Sarah has worked to collect donations from students at the end of each semester (which diverts waste of unused/reusable items) to then sell to students at extremely affordable prices (most notably through Oxy Eco's textbook program that sells books for up to 20x less than original prices), as well as donate resources to other community organizations. With the UEPI, Sarah has worked as a Summer Community Food Systems Intern that assisted four local farmers' markets to support the growth of and access to these spaces via SNAP/WIC/Market Match program promotion. That same summer, Sarah also served as a Web & Social Media Assistant for the Moving Forward Network (MFN), where she assisted the publication of posts and other administrative tasks, which supported the MFN's efforts in connecting and sharing practices amongst green organizations nationwide to advance environmental justice, specifically freight transportation system improvements. She is also currently working as a Research Assistant with the UEPI and is analyzing arrests data from the Glendale Police Department to measure and compare different demographic statistics. Sarah is honored to have the privilege of accepting this award, and she is deeply appreciative to her mentors and supervisors for having given her the opportunity to grow, learn, and develop from a student with an interest in sustainability to a passionate undergraduate that dedicates herself to environmental/social justice, community elevation, and equity. She is deeply grateful to everybody involved at the UEPI for their support and guidance, especially Professors Seva Rodnyansky, Mijin Cha, Peter Dreier, and Sylvia Chico, as well as her student mentors, Diego Zapata and Isabella McShane.

Thank you

Special thanks to the presenters for their recorded presentations and UEPI student staff Siana Park-Pearson for the creation of the tribute video.



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