

## STUDENT COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD

### **YEUN-WEN LEE '05**

Wen has loved her four years at Oxy! During this time, she has partaken in many of the wonderful opportunities available on campus. These include the Environmental Club, No Bull, the Environmental Stewards, the Glee Club, KOXY, O-Team, and ResLife. She is a proud Biology major (with an Environmental emphasis) and a double minor in Music and Education. This past summer she received a Mellon grant through UEPI to study the environmental effects of cattle grazing in Wyoming, the research from which formed the basis of her Senior Honors Project. She resides in the lovely suburb of Temple City (14 miles east of Oxy) and plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy after graduation. She is absolutely thrilled and touched to be receiving this flattering award today, and would like to thank everyone in the UEP department who has offered her support and guidance during the past few years. Yay for UEP!

### **MARIA-ISABELLA P. PRACK (aka "Izzy")**

Izzy was born and raised between Salzburg, Austria and Honolulu, Hawai'i. The exposure to other cultures and ways of life was the starting point to her desire for learning more about what is going on in the world. Oxy and UEPI have provided her with the tools she felt she needed to make a change. Everything she learned in the UEPI coursework has shown her that getting educated and getting involved are the most effective and fulfilling ways to contribute to change. She has become increasingly active in different aspects of life on and off campus through the Orientation program, the Office of Student Life, the Residence Hall Association, Alpha Sorority, and most recently my internship with Strategic Actions for a Just Economy. Her hobbies include surfing and anything that allows her to be active outdoors. She is very interested in politics, languages, travel, and poetry (Emily Dickinson). After graduation in May she hopes to take one or two years off to work and travel and then attend graduate school for Masters in Urban Planning or a Masters in Business Administration. Ultimately, she aspires to get into politics in the state of Hawai'i.

## ALUMNI COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD

### **CATALINA MENDIOLA**

Catalina graduated *cum laude* from Occidental in June 1994 with a major in psychology and a minor in politics. For the past 10 years she has put both her psychology and politics degrees to good use on a daily basis -- agitating people with one-on-one meetings, identifying and training grassroots leaders, organizing public "actions" to hold politicians accountable, helping people to see the world differently so they can change it. Catalina was born in Mexico. She came to Oxy after graduating from Bakersfield High School, where she excelled as both a student and as a track star. At Oxy, she co-directed the Olive Branches tutoring project. And she organized an adult literacy project back in her hometown of Frazier Park. She found her true "calling" during her senior year, when she did a community organizing internship with the Southern California Organizing Committee, an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. People who meet Catalina for the first time might think she's quiet and shy. But she's passionate about injustice, angry when people are mistreated, and committed to helping people making things better. The low-income tenants she worked with at the Coalition for Economic Survival in LA, and the people in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, where Catalina has worked for the past several years with Valley Interfaith, know that Catalina can be as tough as nails when necessary to get people fired up. Now Catalina is back in LA working as an organizer with LA Metro, working with people to change their communities. For fun, she likes to read, hike, take photographs, and dance. She's also learning to play the violin.