

ALESSANDRO M. MOROSIN '05

Alessandro Morosin is a young journalist, activist and writer who moved to Los Angeles from the San Francisco Bay Area in order to begin a journey of studying the world in order to change it. He has spent the past four years of that journey at Occidental College, where his interests have led him to complete the Urban and Environmental Policy major, as well as pursue various activities in labor activism, writing and editing for the campus newspaper, the anti-war movement, and research and advocacy around the American so-called justice system.

Taking the advice of a professor, he enrolled in the Union Summer program in Chicago the summer of his freshman year, where he wet his feet in the labor movement working for Local 1 of the Service Employees' International Union.

In February of 2003, Morosin co-organized a campus-wide walkout against the anticipated US invasion of Iraq, which drew participation from about 400 students, faculty, staff and administrators. He continues to organize anti-war events on campus with the Oxy Conscious club and bring his fellow students to demonstrations, though he remains frustrated in the anti-war movement's dwindling intensity in the two years since the war began.

ELLEN M. ROGGEMANN '05

An advocate before puberty, Ellen Roggemann remembers spending time at summer camp untangling hooked fish as other campers squealed around her in disgust, and teaching her friends about recycling during recess. However, it was her experience abroad in Thailand that introduced her to the growing international people's movement that has since inspired her thoughts and actions. The stories of those who instantly welcomed her into their homes caused Roggemann to question her definitions and assumptions and examine her role in global injustice while introducing her to a deep sense of community.

After surviving her reintegration into U.S. society, Roggemann worked as a community organizer with ACORN-Florida, studied the fair trade movement in England and Germany as a Richter Scholar, and continued organizing an awareness raising campaign on rice trade issues with the Educational Network for Global and Grassroots Exchange (ENGAGE).

Roggemann is an Urban and Environmental Policy major, a member of Oxy Conscious, and a director of GROW. She also enjoys baking and cooking delicious vegan goodies (especially for non-vegans), singing, writing, traveling, and doing things that do not require sitting still. She would like to thank all of her friends for listening to and sharing in her excitement about rice, her family for encouraging her to follow her passion to places far from New Jersey, her mother for being a strong, loving, and fiery woman, her cat for being fuzzy, yoga for keeping her sane, Peter Dreier and Robert Gottlieb for all their advising and for allowing her to graduate, and all of the people in Thailand, Europe, and the United States whose dedication, zeal, and compassion serve as a constant inspiration.

MOLLY C. RUSSELL '05

Starting her sophomore year, Molly Russell became an active member of Occidental's Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC). She currently is a member of the active Union Made Sweat-free Apparel Committee.

Working with six other devoted students, Russell is working on getting clubs, departments and the school to follow Oxy's ethical garment purchasing policy passed in 1995 through meetings, campus wide education (speakers/LA sweat-shop reality tours/films) and modeling sweat-free purchasing. SLAC is currently creating a website on how to buy sweat-free clothing, and is working with ResLife to get the policy in the RA manual. They are also working with the Office of Student Life to create a presentation/experiential learning for O-week about the issue of sweatshops in LA, and the need to support sweat-free union made apparel. Apart from labor issues, Russell participates in Woman and Youth Supporting Eachother (WYSE) as a mentor to Alyssa Vasquez, an eighth-grader at Arroyo Seco Middle School. Russell is also an RA in Wylie Hall.

During her junior year, Russell was a leader of Oxy Organize that was formed out of the UEP 310 Community Organizing course. She worked in a team effort with students to bring a more sustainable public transportation method to students on campus, including a free shuttle to the Gold Line and maps of how to catch the DASH and Metro Bus lines. This past summer, Russell worked as an intern for the West Oakland Food Project, a community based organization devoted to bringing fresh produce to communities in West Oakland. Russell headed up the creation of a free community shuttle to and from the weekly Saturday Mandela's Farmers Market.

Upon graduating in May, Russell plans on working in alliance with a sweat-free advocacy group to further her goals in abolishing sweatshops.