ANA BONILLA’s passion for community service and outreach was greatly influenced by her childhood living in public housing with her recently immigrated parents. This experience fostered a deep connection to issues of affordability in Los Angeles. A UEPI affordable housing internship in the summer and fall of 2007 allowed Ana to apply her life experiences and UEPI training to assist the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing and Housing LA network in working towards a major housing campaign victory. Ana’s passion for social justice carried over to her semester abroad in Brazil where she focused on Community Mental Health through solidarity and empowerment. On-campus she has worked for the Occidental Orientation program for the past three years. As a senior, Ana became Orientation Coordinator and assisted in programming five days of events to aid in the transition of all of the new students to campus. After graduation, Ana will start work as an Assistant Canvass Director for the Fund for the Public Interest in Los Angeles.

ANDREA “DREA” CHICAS focuses on community-based education, alliance-building, and mobilizing to promote youth empowerment. At Occidental, she served as Curriculum Director and Mentor for Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE) for three years. She is also a Values and Vocation Fellow and a Princeton University Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow. During her study abroad program in 2007, she organized Dominican female entrepreneurs to hold their first community fair. Drea has interned at ACORN, Children’s Defense Fund, and Peace Over Violence in Los Angeles. In 2009, Drea co-founded Families and Communities Evolving (FACE), an organization dedicated to repairing broken families through restorative work. Drea is the proud daughter of Salvadoran immigrants who fled the civil war in the 1980s. Losing three uncles who were guerilla fighters in the war, she carries forward their legacy through a life-long struggle for justice, peace, and equity. She also honors the life of her aunt Vilma, the woman warrior who also fought in – and survived – the Salvadoran civil war.

MARGOT SEIGLE Originally inspired to work for progressive change after volunteering in rural Honduras for a summer during high school, UEPI major Margot Seigle has since fought for social justice locally and abroad. Locally, she tutored at schools in Highland Park, helped engage Oxy students in the local community, and interned with the Progressive Jewish Alliance. Nationally, she worked for immigrant rights with the National Immigrant and Justice Center in Chicago and campaigned for Barack Obama as a volunteer field organizer in rural Virginia. Her senior comprehensive project focused on the impact the campaign had on rural communities and how Obama’s Organizing for America can continue to engage these communities. Abroad, she supervised high school volunteers in rural Honduras, planned a trip to bring fifteen Oxy students to work on a sustainable agriculture project in Nicaragua, and is currently selling fair trade organic jewelry made by Indigenous women of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Margot has received a Projects for Peace Grant to return to Honduras this summer, where she will start a youth program focusing on health and environmental issues.

KARINA VANDERBILT History major Karina Vanderbilt developed a life-long goal of empowering youth to create social change as a result of four years of social justice work and community involvement at Occidental. Long devoted to fighting hunger, as a first year she relaunched a Center for Community Based Learning (CCBL) project called Project EDEN to cook and share a weekly meal with homeless and food insecure in the Eagle Rock neighborhood. Karina has also worked as a Project Manager for the CCBL, at a downtown affordable housing developer, and volunteered in El Salvador, Ecuador, and Guatemala. During her junior year, she received a $10,000 grant from the Donald A. Strauss Foundation to design and teach a social justice class at Franklin High School. The class, Project FORCE (Franklin and Oxy Raising Community Education for Social Change), covered local and global issues such as food justice and genocide. Karina plans to join Teach for America in New Mexico and work with Guatemalan youth to create a book on women’s experiences during the Guatemalan Civil War.

Program

Reception

Welcome

ROBERT GOTTLIEB
DIRECTOR OF UEPI

Campaign Semester

Participant Recognition

CAROLINE HELDMAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICS

Community Action

Awards Presentation

ANA BONILLA, UEPI SENIOR
PRESENTER TBA

ANDREA CHICAS, UEPI SENIOR
PRESENTED BY MARTHA MATSUOKA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF UEPI

MARGOT SEIGLE, UEPI SENIOR
PRESENTED BY ALEXANDRA PUERTO
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

KARINA VANDERBILT, HISTORY SENIOR
PRESENTED BY ALEXANDRA PUERTO

Closing

Thank You

Special thanks to Audio-Visual and Media Services, Facilities Management Department, Hospitality Services, and the Registrar Office.