

LIAM DIXON (UEP)

Urban and Environmental Policy major Liam Dixon, a Seattle native and committed environmentalist, developed a passion for food sustainability while studying abroad in Thailand. There, he witnessed the human and environmental consequences of modern, globalized agriculture. Since returning from Thailand, Liam has been committed to a number of sustainable food efforts. Over the summer, Liam worked on a small, organic farm, where he helped grow a wide variety of tasty fruits and vegetables. He also interned with Great City, an organization attempting to cultivate healthy communities through urban agriculture. These experiences propelled Liam to become a leader of Occidental's on-campus fruit and vegetable garden. As the garden manager, he enjoys sharing his passion for growing healthy food in an environmentally friendly way with friends and community members. This semester, he helped develop an elementary school garden in the Eagle Rock community. Post-graduation, Liam will be starting a farm of his own. He is already imagining the delicious food, happy customers, and healthy practices that will hopefully come to characterize the project.

CASEY OGDEN (UEP)

Urban and Environmental Policy major Casey Ogden feels fortunate to have been able to contribute to the UEP department and Occidental community in a variety of ways. As President of the ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund, she oversaw the funding and implementation of innovative student- and faculty-run projects including energy audits, additions to the bike share program, Campus Dining sustainability programs, and the new food Justice House. This year, Casey also served as the student chair of the UEP Faculty Search Committee, representing the students' interests in the process of choosing a new professor for the department, which proved to be challenging but very rewarding. After graduation, she plans to move to the Bay Area and (hopefully!) find a job in urban planning or a related field.

SAMANTHA SENCER-MURA (CTSJ)

Community-based learning has been a central component of Critical Theory and Social Justice major Samantha Sencer-Mura's college education. Through the Campaign Semester program she worked on the Obama campaign in her hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Coming back from that experience with the belief that education must be about moving beyond oneself, outside the classroom, and into the community, she worked at the Center for Community Based Learning as a Project Manager, an Education in Action Facilitator, and an intern for the Northeast Education Strategy Group. She also addressed social justice and social identity as a Resident Advisor for the Multicultural Summer Institute and as a facilitator for the Intergroup Dialogue Program. Her interest in community-based learning and organizing took Samantha, to Thailand with a program focused on development and globalization, and to South Africa where she conducted independent research on the effects of the World Cup on racial inequity after apartheid. She has interned at Neighborhood Legal Services in Pasadena and at 826LA, a creative writing and tutoring center in Echo Park. Samantha is currently developing an alternative education domestic study program in which college students travel around the US studying community organizing in various regions. She will help lead the pilot project for this program, the "Mississippi Social Justice Road Trip," this summer. She feels unbelievably indebted to and humbled by all those who have supported her on this journey.