

## *About the Awardees*

**MIRANDA CHIEN-HALE (GEOLOGY MAJOR, UEP MINOR)**, has worked to bring students, faculty, and staff together to address environmental issues on campus. As member of the ASOC Renewable Energy & Sustainability Fund for the past three years, now serving as president, she has participated in several environmental initiatives, including projects aimed at reducing paper towel waste on campus, increasing alternative transportation opportunities for students, and awareness raising. Miranda has also been involved in UEPI's Farm to Preschool program, and Oxy's China-Environment program. Last summer, she spent time in Hong Kong and Shanghai, China, learning methods and strategies communities are using to address air pollution, and has continued this work throughout her senior year. Overall, she is excited by Oxy's progress towards environmental sustainability and appreciative and inspired by the motivated, supportive students, faculty, and staff who are committed to making the school more sustainable. Miranda plans to attend graduate school in the fall at Duke University to study water resource management.

**ELIZABETH "LIZ" LITTLE (PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR)**, was introduced to InsideOUT Writers in the fall of her sophomore year. InsideOUT Writers (IOW) uses writing as a catalyst to provide programs and services for currently and formerly incarcerated youth and young adults with the long-term goal of reducing recidivism. Liz helped create and lead the first IOW-OXY partnership in which a group of Oxy students plan and facilitate weekly "enrichment sessions" at the IOW office with formerly incarcerated youth. Liz also interned with InsideOUT Writers during the summer of 2011, assisting with case management and researching potential community partners and funders. In addition, Liz has helped organize Incarceration Awareness Week for the past two years. After graduating with a degree in Psychology, Liz will work for City Year Los Angeles and teach inside juvenile halls for InsideOUT Writers. She is incredibly thankful to the administrators and students who helped with these projects and would like to give special thanks to Professor Zamorano, for overseeing the IOW-OXY partnership, and to her current partnership members Makenzie Brandon, Breiana Caldwell and Doug Pentland.

**CAITLIN RUPPEL (UEP MAJOR)**, a native of Northfield, MN, first became involved in working to address social justice and community health issues as a summer intern for the East L.A. Community Corporation following her sophomore year at Oxy. While studying abroad in Costa Rica, her research on youth access to unhealthy foods and the impact of sugary beverages on oral health inspired a passion for food justice. Since returning to Los Angeles, Caitlin has built upon these experiences by contributing to the local movement for sustainable and equitable food practices as UEPI's Farm to Preschool and Healthy Food Policy Intern. Following graduation, she intends to continue working on food access in the Los Angeles area and hopes to return to Costa Rica before pursuing a Masters in Global Public Health. She would like to thank the UEP department, UEPI staff, and her friends and family for their tremendous support and encouragement during her time at Oxy.

**EMMA SORRELL (UEP MAJOR)**, a native of Kansas City, Missouri, came to Oxy for the UEP program. Her involvement in campus sustainability began during her freshman year, when her UEP 101 professor, Beth Steckler, encouraged her to undertake an action research project. Motivated by efforts to reduce disposable container use in the Marketplace, Emma decided to pursue a project to implement the Eco-Clamshell Pilot Program with Amy Munoz in the fall of 2010. Following her work with Campus Dining on the Eco-Clamshell program, Emma was hired as the Student Intern for Sustainability Research and Implementation. Emma maintains the Real Food Challenge database, and enjoys learning about local and sustainable food sources. She also manages the Eco-Clamshell program, researches and implements new programs in sustainability, and is a member of the College's Sustainability Group. Emma was also a member of the Environmental Stewardship Task Force in the summer of 2011. She is thrilled about the expansion of the Eco-Clamshell program to cover all residential students, and wishes to see the program continue to grow. She looks forward to graduating and hopes to continue working on institutional sustainability in the future.

**MARGEAU VALTEAU (UEP MAJOR, BIOLOGY MINOR)**, from Window Rock, Arizona, has worked with the Center of Community-Based Learning as an Education-in-Action (EIA) Facilitator since spring of her sophomore year. As an EIA Facilitator, she has worked with professors from the Sociology, UEP, and Economics departments to help implement community-based research/projects. This year, she assisted other EIAs with their projects as the EIA Coordinator. Margeau was the 2012-2013 ASOC President, in which she served as the student liaison for the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, Dean of Students, and the President of the College. She also oversaw the implementation of the Experimental College of Occidental (ExCO) and other Senate initiated projects. In addition, Margeau was part of the search for a new faculty position in Native American Studies. After graduation, Margeau will work as a Program Assistant for the US Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C for two years before pursuing a master's degree. Margeau is thankful for the support from UEP, Biology, ASOC, CCBL, many faculty and administrators, and her fellow classmates.

**JESSICA WELTY (UEP MAJOR)**, Jessica Welty is a Tucson native who has helped develop the public health program at Occidental. As the Community Health Engagement Student Assistant, Jessica helped assess student interest in public health, drafted a proposal for the public health minor, and brought speakers to campus to talk about public health issues. Jessica currently serves as the Education in Action facilitator for the public health practicum class. In this role, she evaluates potential sites and works with community partners to develop student internships. Jessica has also been an active member of Vagina Monologues, and this year she assumed the role of co-president, giving her an opportunity to work with an amazing group of womyn in both a personal and political context. Jessica would like to thank the UEP and UEPI departments for the honor of receiving an award., She would also like to thank her friends and family, especially her sister and her father. Without their support, she would not be where she is today.