

Urban and Environmental Policy Major **MEREDITH ABOOD** grew up in Stockton, California, a conservative, lower-income multiracial community in the Central Valley. It is here where she first became interested in social justice and community development. Since coming to Occidental, Meredith has been able to engage in matters that she cares about both globally and more locally in Los Angeles. Internationally, Meredith researched indigenous rights and sustainable development in the Aeta community of the Philippines. She also studied abroad in the Amazon region of Brazil where she conducted an independent project on Agricultural Cooperatives. At a local level, Meredith has worked as a community-organizing intern for ACORN and currently serves as a graphic design consultant for their new organization ACCE. While working for ACCE/ACORN she participated in their foreclosure-fighter campaign and mixed-income housing campaign. After graduation, Meredith eventually aims to return to Stockton to start organizing in her hometown. She would also like to find her way to Lebanon and explore her roots even further.

Politics major **ELISSA CHANDLER** has been interested in food sustainability and cooking for as long as she can remember but the passion really kicked into high gear during her semester abroad in Paris. While in Paris she observed a culture that views meals as indispensable time spent with friends and family and a culture that is very in touch with seasonality and regional cuisine. Upon returning to Occidental she established the FEAST vegetable garden to be the jumping off point for all sorts of food sustainability conversations. A semester later she started Well Fed, a student-run restaurant, with fellow senior Giulia Pasciuto as a place for students to come together and enjoy produce from the garden and good conversation. She also had the opportunity to work with Terri Wahl of Auntie Em's on a community supported agriculture project where she learned about small farms in Southern California and about all sorts of crazy produce! She feels lucky to have attended a college with such an enthusiastic and dynamic student-body and faculty that helped make all this happen.

Critical Theory and Social Justice major **JESSICA NINA PINE'S** dedication to coalition building and community empowerment and resistance has been greatly influenced by her international background, and particularly by the years she spent living in Nepal. Her involvement at Occidental is reflective of her dedication to social justice both in and outside of the classroom. Nina has been a Programming Assistant for the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life, student coordinator of The Buddhist Meditation Group, and a Values and Vocations Fellow. Nina has also been on the executive board of The Student Labour Action Coalition and The South Asian Student Association, and has been on the student advisory board for the Centre for Gender Equity. She has also been involved with the Centre for Community Based Learning, as a Project Director of HEARTS [Happily Engaging in the Arts] and as the Occidental Queer Symposium intern. Nina hopes to one day return to her community in Kathmandu to work in grassroots anti-human trafficking efforts and education reform.

Urban and Environmental Policy Major **DEREK SINGLETON** has worked to promote sustainability both on and off-campus. On-campus Derek collaborated with Professor Matsuoka to generate the Climate Change Public Participation Plan for Mayor Villaraigosa. With the help of Jason Lehman, Derek created the Occidental Student Solar Subcommittee to mobilize student support for the newly approved 1 MW solar array. Off-campus Derek worked as a policy researcher analyzing potential consumer markets and government incentive programs for the solar start-up Imani Energy. Derek has also demonstrated a strong commitment to public education with his work on the Yes on CC campaign to pass a parcel tax to supplement public school funding in Pasadena. Derek also tutored low-income students performing below grade level requirements to ensure their future academic success.