

## *About the Awardees*

**ELIZA DORNBUSH '12 (BIOCHEMISTRY)**, a Seattle native, is a biochemistry major with a commitment to reducing Oxy's carbon footprint. She first became involved in campus sustainability as a student in Professor Vallianatos' UEP246 class, where she worked with other students to successfully launch Oxy's Bike Share program. That same semester, she worked with an ASOC senator to bring Zipcar to campus; she has since helped the program succeed by serving as Oxy's volunteer Zipcar coordinator. As president of the ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund and an appointed member of Oxy's Sustainability Committee, she has been thrilled to help oversee and fund many environmental efforts on campus in recent years. She has also personally spearheaded several sustainability initiatives, including implementing permanent used battery drop-off centers at the Bookstore and ResEd and helping to 'green' Orientation week. After graduation, Eliza will be working as a political consultant for a progressive (and environmentally-friendly!) firm in Washington state. She is looking forward to hiking, biking, composting, and walking her dog in the beautiful Northwest! She is also very thankful to the many administrators, faculty and staff members, and students who have helped her with these projects – she is very grateful for your passion and tirelessness in helping these projects become realities!

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR KAITLIN KELLY '12** was an Undergraduate Research Fellow for Summer 2010 during which she studied issues of sexual torture and masculinity at Abu Ghraib Detainment Center. During her semester abroad in Hyderabad, India she became further drawn to social justice issues through her courses and while volunteering at the Desire Society, an NGO focused on the care of children with HIV/AIDS. This year Kaitlin worked as one of the Project S.A.F.E (Sexual Assault Free Environment) Program Assistants and as a co-head director with four other amazing womyn for the WYSE (Women and Youth Supporting Each Other) program, a mentorship program which aims to empower young womyn to make educated decisions about their future. Kaitlin would like to thank the Religious Studies and CTSJ departments, as well as the ICC for their extraordinary support and guidance during her time as Oxy as well as her family for teaching her the importance of compassion, action and a good jean jacket.

**GIOVANNI SAARMAN '12 (ECONOMICS, MINOR SPANISH AND UEP)** is a Bay Area native who became involved with the initial efforts to start a student-run garden on campus during his first year at Oxy. As a committed FEAST leader, he has helped to grow the club from inception. His passion for sustainable agriculture drove him to enroll in the Agroecology Practicum at UC Santa Cruz during the summer of 2010 and, more recently, to help organize a 2-unit course on Sustainable Food Practices. The class is set to continue next fall and spring, hopefully to find a permanent home

at Oxy. In addition to his involvement with FEAST, Giovanni has served as a member of the ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund for the past two years, funding and implementing a variety of campus greening projects. As an Economics major with minors in UEP and Spanish, Giovanni plans to study environmental law after taking a year to WWOOF in Ecuador, work in the Bay Area, and travel with his family. Ultimately he hopes to work at the intersection of law, sustainable agriculture, and food policy.

Since graduating from Oxy, **MEREDITH MAYA ABOOD '10 (UEP)** has spent the last two years organizing grassroots campaigns in communities across California. She has worked on legislation and policy reforms related to affordable housing, bank accountability, environmental health, and local agriculture. Currently she serves as a tenant organizer with Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE) and is working to change city and county housing inspection policies. Maya also coordinates SAJE's digital media campaign and will be launching a website next month to feature stories of tenant's fights against slum conditions. Maya is originally from Stockton, California – a diverse, working class community in the Central Valley. Stockton, which struggles heavily with issues of crime, foreclosure, educational attainment, and economic development, provided Maya with her very first lessons in public policy and urban planning. Thanks to UEP and Oxy, Maya was able to build upon her early experiences and develop a greater understanding and passion for social justice and equity.

**KATHRYN GRIFFITH '11 (UEP)** graduated as a UEP major, Spanish minor in 2011. Since graduation, she worked on a few Ports and Goods Movement reports with Professor Matsuoka, and currently works at Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice-Los Angeles (CLUE-LA) and Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project. Kathryn does communication for CLUE, a non-profit that educates, organizes, and mobilizes the faith community to walk with workers and their families in their struggle for respect and dignity in the workplace and beyond. CLUE-LA has recently been involved in a few monumental victories including the Toll Trucking union election (the first union election at the Ports in the last 30 years) as well as the unionization of the first three Car Washes in the nation (in Santa Monica and South LA). Kathryn also works as a paralegal for Esperanza, a immigrant rights non-profit that provides legal rights classes and services to detained immigrants. She is responsible for reporting the monthly data for the Adult Legal Orientation Program, through which she goes to a federal immigration detention center. At the Mira Loma Detention Center she gives know your rights classes and individual consultations to ensure detainees make informed decisions and understand their potential defenses against deportation. She regularly talks with detainees that were directly influenced by the 287(g) and Secure Communities policing programs that she researched in her senior thesis. At Oxy Kathryn taught social justice-themed classes at Franklin High School, and worked as a tenants and civil rights organizer in Skid Row at the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN).