

justice, which she explored as a Program Assistant at Food Forward and has continued to engage on-campus as a RESF (Renewable Energy & Sustainability Fund) Committee Member. Her experiences as an intern at LAANE (LA Alliance for a New Economy) and LA Voice, led Sam to a passion for community organizing which she translated to her position as an Education in Action Facilitator at the CCBL (Center for Community Based Learning). This experience encouraged her to co-found Oxy-AWARE (Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere) and pursue her research interest in white anti-racist organizing. Sam is exceedingly grateful for the radical love and support of mentors, friends, and communities that have guided her throughout her time at Oxy.

**JARRON WILLIAMS** (Urban & Environmental Policy and Economics) has always been enthralled by the social change that can come from policy reform. Inspired by his professors at Oxy, he found himself actively working alongside leaders and activists to make sustainable policy changes within the Oxy community, which began during his tenure as the ASOC Chief of Staff, VP of Academic Affairs, and VP of Finance. Jarron's passion for policy reform instigated the expansion of the Textbook Reserve Program, reduced the student budget deficit by 30%, and cultivated student relationships with the Eagle Rock community. He also developed community diversity and inclusion programs, using resources associated with his RA position. In addition to his work on-campus, Jarron traveled abroad to investigate the challenges that Hong Kong healthcare providers face as environmental illnesses increase. His findings focused on industry cost, new projects to mitigate pollution in low-income communities, and future projects. He is grateful for all the guidance and support he has received throughout his time at Oxy.

**AMANDA ZEIDNER** (Urban & Environmental Policy Major and Education Minor) has found her passion and academic interests in community-based planning and organizing around women's economic rights. Through her work as an organizer at CLUE, a Values and Vocation Fellow, a Program Assistant for the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life, and a steering committee member for the Campaign to Legalize Street Vending, Amanda has worked alongside countless brave and enthusiastic seekers of justice in Los Angeles who inspire her daily. She hopes to continue her work fighting for both gender justice and place-based equity at UCLA next year where she will be getting her Masters of Urban and Regional Planning. She is hugely grateful to UEP, her Occidental professors, her classmates and friends, her co-workers, her endlessly supportive family, and her mentors who have modeled how to be planners that utilize justice and equity rather than red-tape.

# UEP INSTITUTE & DEPARTMENT OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

## End of the Year Celebration and Awards Ceremony

May 3, 2018  
3:00pm



Urban & Environmental Policy Institute  
OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

# PROGRAM

## Welcome

Bhavna Shamasunder, Assistant Professor  
J. Mijin Cha, Assistant Professor  
UEP Department

## Appreciation

Graduating Research Assistants  
*PRESENTED BY*  
Megan Bomb, Project Director & Adjunct  
Professor; Jessica Tovar, Project Director,  
Moving Forward Network  
Urban & Environmental Policy Institute

## Community Action Award Presentation

**JOSCELYN GUZMAN**

*PRESENTED BY*

Celestina Castillo, Director  
Center for Community Based Learning

**MCKENNA MANESS**

*PRESENTED BY*

Valerie Lizárraga, Program Coordinator  
The Occidental Partnership for Community  
Engagement

**SAMANTHA ROYALL**

*PRESENTED BY*

Amy Tahani-Bidmeshki, PhD  
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow,  
American Studies

**JARRON WILLIAMS**

*PRESENTED BY*

Savannah D'Orazio '18  
Biology, Education Minor

**AMANDA ZEIDNER**

*PRESENTED BY*

Bhavna Shamasunder  
Assistant Professor, UEP Department

## Senior Class Gift Presentation

*PRESENTED BY*

UEP Class of 2018

## Closing

Special Thanks to Facilities Management  
Department, Hospitality Services, & SPITZ

## About the Awardees

**JOSCELYN GUZMAN** (Religious Studies Major and Education Minor) has dedicated herself to making a positive impact on her community, and her passion for educational equity is evident in her work. She taught sexual education in high schools throughout Los Angeles through Peer Health Exchange (PHE), worked as a college advisor at Belmont High School, volunteered for the Center for Community Based Learning's (CCBL's) annual Day at College leading tours and classes for a group of fourth graders on campus, completed weekly arts and crafts projects with two classes of differently-abled students at Delevan Drive Elementary school, and served as an "Education in Action" (EIA) facilitator through the CCBL for ED300 where she collaborated with three community partners who work in education to benefit the people in their communities. Additionally, Joscelyn has been committed to building community among and helping support her fellow first-generation college students by connecting them to each other and to the resources available to them at Oxy. Her work over the past four years is a testament to her upbringing in a household that values education and community, and although she is being named as the recipient of this award, she wants to recognize everyone (her family, friends, people she has worked with, etc.) who made her work possible.

**MCKENNA MANESS** (Urban & Environmental Policy Major and Public Health Minor) is excited to pursue activism and community-based work after Occidental. Her time with the UEP department has been filled with valuable experiences, priceless education opportunities, and wonderful people. She has participated in labor, anti-racism, anti-sexual assault, and queer justice activism throughout her time on campus. She worked for Foothill Unity Center, MEND, and with Recycled Resources as a junior in the Community Public Health Internship. She is an active member of the Public Health Club and Synchronized Swimming Club at Oxy. She interned for the California Nurses Association on their single-payer healthcare campaign. For the past year, she has worked as the Northeast LA Initiatives Coordinator for the Office of Community Engagement, recruiting a student volunteer group to work at Recycled Resources' drop in center in the clothing and hygiene closet. She also helped organize Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and organized workshops on voting rights as well as natural bodycare. She has loved this position so much and is proud to pass it on to the new coordinator. After Oxy, she is returning to Santa Cruz to hopefully work in public health, especially with the homeless population. She enjoys meeting new people and working for collective liberation.

**SAMANTHA ROYALL** (Urban & Environmental Policy and American Studies) has spent her time at Oxy engaging issues of social justice both on- and off-campus. Her work demonstrates the emphasis she has placed on bringing theory into practice; as such her pursuits and experiences have been varied. In her first year at Oxy, Sam's interests were centered on food and environmental