

## MARIKA TSOLAKIS

Marika Tsolakis, an Urban and Environmental Policy major at Occidental College, has been heavily involved in global and community issues over the past four years. She has been a leader, most notably in her positions on the Board of Trustees's Buildings and Grounds Committee, and as a campus-wide senator. Marika was in the minority of voices on the committee pushing the Trustees to adopt LEED certification on the new building. Marika has also conducted research with fellow UEP seniors Jasmine Wade, Kether Hayden, and Lilia Pharazyn at Strategic Action for a Just Economy (SAJE). In her internship at the Community Coalition in South Los Angeles, Marika assisted in college prep programming and authored a survey distributed to over 4,000 high school students that helped to guide future campaigns. Her senior comprehensives, which will be used by the Community Coalition, centered on the integration of vocational education with college prep in South LA. In San Francisco, she worked with the African Immigrant and Refugee Resource Center and interned at multi-lingual afterschool programs for elementary and high school students. Marika has worked globally as well, protecting endangered sea turtles in her native Greece, studying independently at the Sorbonne in Paris, and studying culture, Wolof and multicultural education in Dakar, Senegal. Marika has learned from and given to each community she has visited.

## KAREN CALDERON

As a daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, Karen Graciela Calderon witnessed first-hand her mother's effort to maintain her family with the meager income she earned cleaning homes. She began to question U.S. foreign policy towards Latin American countries, leading her to study Diplomacy & World Affairs at Occidental College.

Throughout Karen's four years at Occidental, she was involved in various organizations such as Mecha/Alas, BSA, Oxy Conscience, W.Y.S.E., QSA and Amnesty International. During her second year, she attended the Chicano Youth Leadership Conference, where she empowered Latina/o students to find pride in their heritage and to apply to college. Karen worked alongside the leaders of the 1968 Chicano student walkout to help mentor and support student leaders of 2006 in their "lucha" (struggle). Karen's college experience enabled her to focus and feed her desire to make change at the ground level.

Karen recently completed a documentary on the New Sanctuary Movement, discussing the political history of the Central American "dirty civil wars" that resulted in a mass migration to the United States and the consequent formation of social groups to address the atrocities occurring throughout Guatemala and El Salvador. This summer, Karen will be working on immigration reform in Downtown Los Angeles with one of the leading organizations of the New Sanctuary Movement.