

professors for their endless inspiration, her friends for their laughter, and her strong immigrant mother, Rosa, for her unequivocal support.

GRACE SPONAUGLE (Urban and Environmental Policy) has found her passion in fighting for social and legal change, particularly in the realm of reproductive rights. During her time at Occidental she has taken advantage of internship opportunities through the UEP and Politics department, working at organizations such as the Southern California Association for Non-Profit Housing, Planned Parenthood, and Bet Tzedek Legal Services. These internships have shown her how to tackle a wide range of social inequities through legal battles and policy reform. Outside of academics, Grace was involved with the community through her role as an RA and assistant coach for the women's soccer team. For her senior year, she wanted to put all of the skills that she has developed at Occidental into action, focusing on sex education policy reform in her home state, Utah. She is extremely grateful to her mentors, the UEP faculty, friends, and family for all of the support and guidance they have provided over her three years at Occidental College.

DIEGO ZAPATA (Biology) was born and raised in the colorful streets of Northeast and East Los Angeles and was greatly shaped and molded by the diversity and resiliency of his community. Since high school, Diego has engaged and advocated for his community. As a UEPI Community Food Systems Intern, he was very active in facilitating the revival of several local school gardens. With the help of fellow peer, Samantha Herdman, Diego helped spearhead the Community Investment Procurement Metrics to help Occidental support local and multi-generational businesses through their procurement systems. He also played a very important role in the revival of Occidental Students United Against Gentrification (OSUAG) to continue needed discourse and leverage for the Principles of Neighborhood Development. Most notably, Diego served as the first director of Food, Energy, and Sustainability Team (FEAST) as a student service. His experiences at Occidental were full of many opportunities granted to him by his mentors and peers for whom he is indelibly grateful. He hopes to dedicate the rest of his life fighting for a more equitable and sustainable Los Angeles and global food system for the underprivileged.

UEP INSTITUTE &
DEPARTMENT
OXY Occidental College

End of the Year Celebration and Awards Ceremony

April 30, 2019
5:00pm



Urban & Environmental Policy Institute
UEPI OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

PROGRAM

Welcome

Bhavna Shamasunder,
Associate Professor and Chair;
J. Mijin Cha, Assistant Professor,
UEP Department

Appreciation

GRADUATING RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Bhavna Shamasunder,
Associate Professor and Chair,
UEP Department

Community Action Award Presentation

SAMMY HERDMAN

PRESENTED BY

Amy Muñoz, Associate Vice President,
Hospitality Services

AMBER ROMAN

PRESENTED BY

Jessica Tovar, Project Director,
Moving Forward Network, UEPI

GRACE SPONAUGLE

PRESENTED BY

Martha Matsuoka, Associate Professor, UEP;
Executive Director, UEPI

DIEGO ZAPATA

PRESENTED BY

Megan Bomba, Project Director, UEPI;
Adjunct Professor, UEP

KELSEY A. MARTIN

Presented by
Celestina Castillo, Director,
Center for Community Based Learning

Closing

Thank you

*Special Thanks to Facilities Management
Department and Hospitality Services*

About the Awardees

SAMMY HERDMAN (Biology with an environmental science emphasis) is passionate about environmental conservation, food justice, and the intersection between them. As the Campus Dining Lead Intern for Sustainability Research and Implementation and the President of ASOC's Renewable Energy & Sustainability Fund, she was able to apply the environmental science and community organizing knowledge she gained in her interdisciplinary biology concentration to a variety of efforts on and off campus. Throughout the years she regularly organized educational events about environmental justice and increased the amount of local, organic, fair trade and humane food served in the dining facilities. With the support of her mentors and collaboration with peers, she designed the Community Investment Procurement Standards to guide Campus Dining's business relationships with businesses in Northeast LA. With the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund, she assisted in campus greening projects and initiated an investigation into student food insecurity on campus. Sammy is grateful to the Occidental community for inspiring her to be a leader, and to her mentors for their indispensable support.

KELSEY A. MARTIN (Sociology) The mentorship that Kelsey received over the past four years from staff, faculty, and community members inspired a passion to pursue community-based pedagogy in her professional and personal life. She is dedicated to creating and fostering community-based scholarship that is founded on reciprocity and decolonizing knowledge hierarchies. Kelsey's own research focuses on the intersections of indigeneity, community-based learning, and archiving. After graduating, Kelsey will be the Community Learning Specialist at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. At Whitman, she will be responsible for pursuing the College's burgeoning efforts to connect Whitman faculty and students with regional organizations and networks for mutual learning and mutual benefit.

AMBER ROMAN (Urban & Environmental Policy) entered Oxy knowing she wanted to major in Urban & Environmental Policy. Brought up in Huntington Park, CA, her worldview was changed when, at the age of 15, she joined the youth component of Communities for a Better Environment, an environmental justice organization located in her hometown. Since then, she's been able to expand her drive for equity through organizing, supporting Boyle Heights youths at InnerCity Struggle and currently, the Moving Forward Network based out of UEPI at Oxy. She has also taken her interests abroad to Japan, promoting intercultural connections as a Student Delegate under the Kakahashi Friendship Ties Program and furthering her urban, sociological, gender, & sexuality studies at Kanda University of International Studies near Tokyo. In addition, she sat on the Student Committee for UEP's faculty search this year. Amber thanks her Oxy