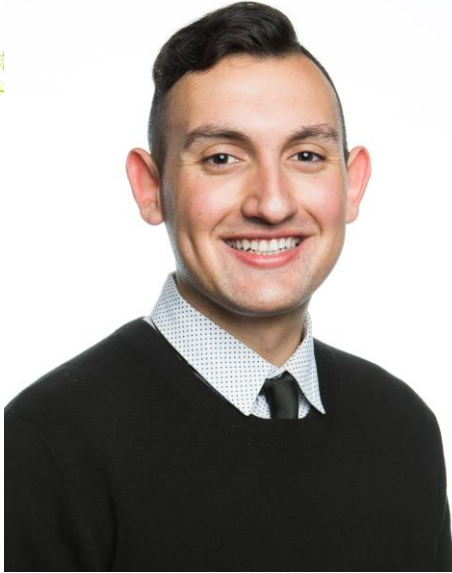


**Casa Joaquin Residents  
2015- 2016**



**Alberto Ruiz  
Political Science and History  
1st year**

**Career Interest:** Attend law school to study International Law to pursue a career in the field of International Relations.

As a Northern California native, Ruiz was born and raised here in the East Bay in Concord, CA about at 30 minute drive from Berkeley. He is a son to two first generation immigrants who immigrated from Mexico and Italy both in the 1970s. He has one older brother who is currently serving in the U.S. Army Airborne Division In Vicenza, Italy. The hard working ethic instilled in him from his grandfather and both of his parents has really gotten him off to a great start at Cal despite facing the hardships of being a first generation college student and has given me much momentum to be the best student.

Ruiz fell in love with history and political science in high school due to a phenomenal educator who professed the subjects with such passion that it really inspired and ignited the passion and drive that he now has for these majors. It is his ambition and dream to help bring about the necessary improvements in justice, peace, and equality to many of the politically and criminally dangerous places in a time of great social, economic, and political strife within in the world.



**Alonso Santos-Gonzalez  
Conservation and Resource Studies  
2nd Year**

**Career Interest:** Water Resource Management

Alonso Tonatiuh Santos-Gonzalez was born and raised in Fresno, California. He is a passionate musician, athlete and advocate for environmental conservation. He plans on learning more about himself as well as the world around him through international travel, most likely through Latin America. After, he hopes to one day return to the Central Valley and work with his community and help them solve water issues, as well as applying his knowledge to help against future water crises on a local as well as global scale.

At UC Berkeley, Alonso is the Co-Chair of Mariachi Luz de Oro, a student run, self-taught musical group, and is able to stay connected to his culture through this musical medium. Among other things Alonso enjoys spending time with his family and is grateful that his abuelitos are just a Bart ride away. Alonso is currently content with life, but wishes he had more time to pursue his other educational and artistic passions. His life goal is to be a well-rounded person with the tools to accomplish anything life throws at him.



**Alx L. Pareja**  
**Pure Mathematics**  
**2nd Year**

**Career Interest:** Alx Pareja is interested in a career as a quantitative analyst at a hedge fund, or doing research on artificial intelligence.

Alx was born in Atlatlahucan, Morelos, a small town in the southern region of Mexico. At the age of 5 he emigrated to the United States. After moving around to different areas, his family settled in the city of Watts in Southern Los Angeles. During Alx's time in school his teachers noticed his interest in math, and with their help Alx learned about college and STEM careers. The support Alx received made him a strong believer in helping those who struggle in math or science and encouraging them to pursue a career in STEM. Alx volunteered as a math tutor during the summer in his high school and was involved with UCLA MAPS, a group that advocates for social justice and encourages minorities to pursue a higher education.

Alx has a wide variety of interests. He is an avid guitar player and gives free lessons to anyone who is interested in learning to play. Currently, Alx is the treasurer of Mariachi Luz de Oro, a student run, self-taught, group that performs traditional Mariachi music at numerous events in the Bay Area. Alx also enjoys examining patterns in games and puzzles. His main academic interests are math, in which he is pursuing a B.A, and computer science. Alx plans to work in both tech and finance industries before heading to graduate school to do a masters or PhD in applied mathematics.



**Ana Lilia Quiroz**  
**Public Health**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Ana Lilia Quiroz grew up in Hayward, California only thirty minutes away from Berkeley. She is originally from Sinaloa and Jalisco Mexico. She takes great pride in her Mexican heritage. She lives with her parents, older brother, and puppy. Her family is her everything, and are her driving force.

As a Berkeley student, she is involved with EOAP and La Raza. She is an intended public health major with a minor in Chicano studies. She works for Costco in Hayward, where she spends the majority of her free time. She hopes to get more involved with the Latin@ community more before her time here at Cal comes to an end. She hopes of helping other and inspiring fellow students of color to pursue a higher education.



**Ciclady Rodriguez**  
**Media studies**  
**3rd Year, Transfer**

**Career interest:** Ciclady is interested in working for a newscast TV network.

Ciclady Rodriguez is interested in pursuing a career in the broadcast news business. Her interest in the media started arose from this his past summer she interned as a field producer/reporter at the City of Fairfield's Government Access Station, Channel 26.

Ciclady is one of 23 students selected to be part of the 2015-16 Student Advisory Committee to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. As a committee member, she provides information on the quality of student life and influences decisions being made on student services. As a member of the UC Berkeley Destination College Advising Corps, she is researching and putting together a resource guide to provide scholarship information and academic resources to first-generation underrepresented high school graduates.

Ciclady is also the current Executive Scholarship Intern for UC Berkeley's Latino Business Association. In 2012 she was cast for an independent film where she was able to work alongside, cast from the Walking Dead.



**Cinthya Cortes**  
**Math**  
**1st Year**

Cinthya was born in Michoacan, Mexico; came to the United States when she was 6 years old. Grew up in a single mother home but is very family oriented. She settled in Los Angeles but moved multiple times due to financial struggles. However she was able to overcome many obstacles and worked hard throughout her primary school as well as multiple jobs to help her mother financially.

When in high school she participated in multiple sports teams including Basketball, Cross Country, and Students Run Los Angeles. As well as multiple school clubs ranging from cultural to community oriented. She was able to hold a number of office positions in these groups, demonstrating her leadership abilities. Her high school experiences highlighted her abilities to perform at a high level outside her outstanding performances in the classroom. She has now continued her higher education at the University of California, Berkeley pursuing her love for Mathematics. Cinthya continues to push boundaries demonstration that social constraints as an AB-540 Hispanic woman coming from a low income, single parent home. She hopes to engage in a wide variety of activities in her next four years and go off to Grad school after her years at Berkeley.



**Dante Alvarado-Leon**  
**Business Administration**  
**3rd year**

**Career Interest:** Dante is interested in pursuing entrepreneurship, and launching his own company successfully in the near future.

Dante grew up in what many people commonly refer to as “La Frontera,” the border, which is at the crossroads of two distinct countries, the US and Mexico, in the cities of Tijuana and Chula Vista, which have shaped him. One side is filled with people’s dreams and hopes of opportunity and employment, and the other side is plagued with the nightmares and realities of a developing world: violence, corruption, and poverty. Essentially, he describes it like the two sides of a coin.



Coming to the U.S. for an education, presented Dante with a gateway of opportunities. He learned to dream big, to aspire for greater things, and most importantly, to want to develop opportunities for others. During high school, he played soccer, was part of the Academic Decathlon team, and he founded the STEM club at his school. This past year, he launched his first company and interned at Facebook over the summer, where he had the chance of developing the whole branding for one of their programs. He was also a Coding as a Second Language (CSL) Fellow earlier last year at Google, in which he had the opportunity to lead an eight-week program to teach Computer Science to over 30 underrepresented minority students in a high school in South San Jose in partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. Dante enjoys using his education and the power of social entrepreneurship to evoke change, to inspire, and help those around him. He lives by the words of President Roosevelt, "Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground."



**David Buenrostro**  
**Political Science**  
**3rd Year, Transfer**

**Career Interest:** David is interested in immigration policy and education within the US and wants to attend law school.

David is studying political science with an emphasis in international relations in order to familiarize himself with international issues and global migration. He is currently a Peer Academic Advisor for Casa Joaquin Murrieta, a multi-ethnic leadership development and housing program for first-generation, low-income students of color. He is also involved with the Youth Empowerment Program that works with young people who are caught up in our country's complex immigration system. Before transferring to Cal, David attended Mt. San Antonio Community College (Mt. SAC) in the City of Walnut. He was actively involved with the Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition, which seeks justice for undocumented immigrant communities and LGBTQIA communities of color by pursuing and advocating pro-immigration policies. During his time at Mt. SAC, David was also part of Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success (I.D.E.A.S), an undocumented student-led campus organization focusing on the struggles of undocumented students in higher education. The group also provides resources to ensure these students thrive while at Mt. SAC and graduate.

David interned at the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration, where he gained valuable insight into the inner workings of government and policy in the United States. During the internship, David studied American political thought and economics at George Mason University. As a Cal in Sacramento Fellow, David will be completing a two-month full-time internship in Sacramento this summer.

### **Dulce Karina Walton Molina**

Dulce Karina Walton Molina was born in Acapulco, Guerrero. At the age of 11, she came to the United



States with her family and settled in Fairfield, CA. She learned the implications of her immigration status her senior year of high school. Six years ago, while attempting to complete a college application, a college advisor told her she wouldn't be able to continue without a Social Security Number. The lack of resources also hindered her decision to apply to college. She enrolled at Solano Community College and graduated in 2015 with an A.A in Liberal Studies Elementary Teach Prep, A.A Universal Studies in Communication, and an A.A in Social Science. She is now in her first semester at UC Berkeley, working towards her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology.

Dulce strives to make educational resources available to young people of color, especially in undocumented communities. Education policies are not inclusive because there is little to no diversity in positions of power. The lack of representation for people of color means the needs are not being met.

Therefore, she aspires to work for the US Department of Education in the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development. She would like to conduct evaluations and provide funding of federal educational programs that directly affect students of color in low-income communities. Working for the US Department of Education as an educated Latina will allow Dulce to bring a new perspective that will be reflective on the programs and services that are implemented nationwide.



### **Edgar Ibarra**

**Career Interest:** Edgar plans to become a professor of physics and use his influence to change the face of physics.

Edgar Ibarra was born in San Bernardino, California and moved to Ontario, California when he was 10 years old. Edgar visited Mexico every summer. His parents are from Jalisco; Edgar is very fond of his roots and is discovering himself at Berkeley. Edgar is the second oldest, with an older brother attending CSUSB. Edgar's younger sister and two baby brothers are his biggest

motivation to succeed at Berkeley.

Edgar has been involved in a variety of student organizations aimed at equity, accessibility, and inclusivity in higher education and in STEM. Currently, Edgar is involved with Compass where he works with graduate students to increase the retention and success of students of color in STEM, and empower them to become leaders in their communities. Edgar has acted as a mentor to many incoming freshmen in STEM. Furthermore, Edgar has been involved with similar programs at other universities and helped to hold the first ever Assembly Conference, where groups like Compass can all gather and help each other achieve our goals. Edgar also does research under professor Crommie and investigates materials at the monolayer level. Edgar plans to research nanostructures in graduate school and their implications for health or computer applications.

Edgar is grateful for the salvific role education played in his life and hopes to extend that privilege to as many people as possible.



### **Elmer Diaz**

#### **Computer Science**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

**Career Interest:** Elmer is interested in working as a software engineer after graduation. He wants to work at a tech company where he will be able to thrive and contribute to solving real-world problems using the skills of a computer scientist.

Elmer Diaz was born in a small town called San Carlos Sija in the state of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. At the

age of 4, he came to the United States with his parents in search of new opportunities for everyone. After living in Michigan for three years, he moved to the Bay Area where he has been living since. Elmer is an AB540 student, who has been able to move towards his goals, despite experiencing the many difficulties of being an undocumented student. His main inspiration is his family. He has seen his parents work multiple jobs constantly in order to provide for him. He works hard in school to someday repay them.

Elmer, now a third-year, is working constantly towards his computer science degree. He enjoys all his classes, and he has found a lot of beauty in this field. Before, coming to college, Elmer did not know much about computer science. However, after his first programming class, he knew that this is what he wanted to do.



**Estefany Rodriguez**  
**Public Health**  
**2nd Year**

**Career Interest:** Estefany hopes to work one-on-one with patients in clinics and then do healthcare or prevention policy work for the government. Her current career goal is to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as she prepares for Med school.

Estefany learned not only patience and perseverance from taking care of her younger sisters, but also of the key importance of being part of diverse and supportive communities. Currently interning at Berkeley City Hall for the Chavez-Dolores

Committee, she serves as a resource liaison between UC-Berkeley and the City of Berkeley. She connects health, law, and performing student organizations with community events. Aside from her internship, she is also an active member of a student organization, Chican@s in Health Education (CHE). Due to previous experience with negative health consequences from industrial polluters within her community and a waning healthcare system, she is deeply fond of CHE's mission: to develop ways to effectively deliver free healthcare services to underserved communities through a common language and a peer-centered framework. She is also ecstatic to have the privilege to visit her hometown South Los Angeles this spring, to do field work with community health partners, as part of a Public Health class. As a first generation college student, she keeps her family close to her heart and hopes to pursue her ever-evolving interests with a moral compass. Aside from her career interests, extra-curricular involvement, and academics she loves tinkering with social media, blog sites and videography.





**Geraldine Gudino Garcia**  
**Media Studies & English**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Year**

**Career Interest:** Geraldine is interested in working in the media industry, either as an editor or an advertisement consultant.

Geraldine Gudino Garcia was born in Michoacán, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States when she was five years old. She grew up in the Eastern Coachella Valley with her five brothers, seven sisters, and mother. Geraldine advocates for cultural awareness

in the media industry and is passionate about making a change in the portrayals of minorities in the industry. She aspires to attend graduate school and pursue a master's degree in business, concentrating on advertising. Her ultimate goal is either to work in the publishing industry as an editor, focusing on working with authors of color, or to work in the advertising industry and help change the stereotypes of minorities and the lack of minority representation in the industry. She is currently exploring her passions in media by being involved in the Berkeley Fiction Review and taking a website design course.



**Gloria V. Basulto**  
**Sociology**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Transfer**

**Career Interest:** Gloria is interested in pursuing a career in law. She aspires to be able to give a voice to under-represented communities who fear government retaliation.

Gloria was born in Guadalajara, located in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, however at the age three her mother and family immigrated to California, in hopes of a better future. She is the oldest of four children, and raised by a single mother. Transitioning from city to city was a way of life until her family finally settled in the city of El Monte. Gloria experienced many challenges and

barriers growing up, one being the inability to attend a University out of High School. As a low-income AB540 student, it was a luxury she could not afford.

However while attending Rio Community College the Dream Act was initiated, with the help from her family, friends, and counselors she graduated and successfully transferred. With the love and fascination for human interaction and their impact on external & internal

conditions in society, she decided to major in Sociology. Gloria is involved in multiple clubs/organizations in school to promote social justice in the under-represented class. Gloria also interns at Centro Legal de la Raza, and with the supervision of attorney's is able to provide communities of color with low-cost legal advice on state employment and housing regulations/laws.

After which she will be attending law school, with a background in sociology and a law degree she aspires to become a public advocate. Gloria believes in order to establish a more concrete future for generations to come, policies and reform programs should be able to meet the needs of all communities, including minorities.



**Guillermo A. Chacaltana**

**Biochemistry**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year junior transfer**

**Career interest:** Guillermo is interested in both Medicine and Research in hopes of helping treat underrepresented communities. His primary goal is to serve uninsured families as a primary care physician.

Guillermo grew up in a small town in Lima, Peru and at the tender age of 7 his family was forced to migrate to the United States. Guillermo experienced the hardships of growing up as an undocumented and uninsured child in his hometown of Lynwood, CA at a very young age. Despite being undocumented and unable to afford going to a 4-year university, Guillermo continued his education post-high school at El Camino Community

College in Compton, CA. After successfully transferring to UC Berkeley, Guillermo began pursuing a degree in the Biological Sciences with an emphasis in Biochemistry. He aspires to attend Medical or Graduate school and pursue a career in research.

Guillermo has volunteered at a rehabilitation center where his parents currently work at and also devoted his time tutoring students in Chemistry at his community college. His willingness and devotion towards helping others is evident in his professional and extracurricular work.



**Ian Howerton**

**Legal Studies**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

**Career Interest:** Criminal Defense attorney

Ian Tamir Howerton is interested in being a Criminal Defense attorney.

Ian use to be a Resident Assistant for the third and fourth floors of Davidson Residence Hall. Currently Ian is a third year U.C. Berkeley student that has recently committed my major to Legal Studies, and therefore is a Pre-Law student. Ian was born and raised in

Sacramento, California for his entire life, however he did live in Arizona for two years at the age of four. Before Ian was a Resident Assistant in UC Berkeley, Ian held a position of College Orientation Leader (CalSO Leader), and became comfortable dealing with student needs. For Ian's free time he enjoy's working out at the gym, or eating out my friends.

**Isabelle Gudino**

**Anthropology**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year, Transfer**

**Career Interests:** Isabelle is interested in attending medical school after she graduates. Her experience with diverse cultures has led her to want to become a doctor and practice medicine in developing countries.

Isabelle was born in Upland California, primarily raised in Rancho Cucamonga. She is a first generation student whose family immigrated from Jalisco, Mexico. Isabelle is the first in her

family to attend a University after high school. She was a part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society at her community college and took advantage of networking with professors.



Isabelle was recruited by Dr. Marc Meyer to serve as a research assistant in his investigation of the evolution of the axial skeleton of Australopithecus Sediba, an extinct species of human ancestor. She used thin plate spline (TPS) landmark software to collect biometric data from vertebrae of primates and humans. Isabelle compared the data with the fossil bones in an effort to help understand patterns of loco motor and postural behavior in the extinct hominids.



**Isamar Ochoa**  
**American Studies**  
**4rd year**

**Career Interest:** Isamar Ochoa is interested in the world of Politics. She hopes to run for office one day to make substantial change in underprivileged communities.

Isamar grew up in the heart of the bay in Hayward, California and is the first in her family to attend a four-year university. Although the path to Berkeley was not easy she hopes to use her experiences to help other Latinas and Latinos. Her career goal is to run for office and improve the educational system and educate and improve the working conditions of the blue-collar working class. She believes everyone should have access to quality education and that all people despite their backgrounds should have the opportunity to be in a safe working environment and continue to learn and work on their cognitive development

**Itzel J. Martinez**  
**Electrical Engineering and Computer Science**  
**3rd Year**

**Career Interest:** Itzel is interested in working for tech companies as a software engineer in Silicon Valley.

Itzel J. Martinez was born in Mexico but grew up in Downtown Los Angeles with her mom and two brothers. She is a first generation college student and is a strong advocate for higher education. She hopes to inspire students to get involved in the STEM field by traveling to different low-income communities and expose students to the world of technology and computer science. Itzel is really passionate about using technology to provide low-income students with opportunities to achieve higher education. She loves to give back to her community by volunteering to be on high school panels where she shares her experience as a student in STEM.



The first year of college Itzel discovered her passion for Computer Science and decided to pursue a career in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Throughout her years in college Itzel has interned at



the International Computer Science Institute, and Lawrence National Berkeley Lab. She is currently the Internal Vice President for the Hispanic Engineers and Scientist club on campus and organizes over ten events for over 40 students throughout the year. Itzel will be graduating this upcoming year and hopes to study abroad during the spring semester of 2017. This summer she will be interning at Pandora as a Software Engineer.

**Jennifer Vasquez**  
**Sociology, Minor in Cal Teach**  
**3rd Year**

**Career Interest:** Jennifer is interested in pursuing a teaching degree in mathematics and also becoming a college advisor for high school students. In doing so, she hopes to help bridge the inequality gap between low-income and affluent communities.



Jennifer grew up in a multi-ethnic, low-income apartment complex in a West Los Angeles neighborhood that was predominantly Latino, White and Asian due to the UCLA apartments being on her street. Although she was surrounded by so many college students, she did not receive information about college until she was a senior, but she was able to enjoy the amenities that these students brought with them, such as stores being very accessible and crime being very low as opposed to other low-income neighborhoods. She was brought up in a Oaxacan household where she was able to find, embrace, cultivate and better understand her roots as a Mexican-

American and Oaxacan womxn. She is the oldest between her and her brother and the first in her family to attend a University.

Jennifer has worked with local primary schools, Washington and Thousand Oaks Elementary, as a math tutor for third grade classes with a diverse classroom environment to bridge the gap of the said “most difficult” subject. She has also worked at a secondary school, Willard Middle, as a mentor for students of communities of color. She hopes to give back to her community and hopefully influence her students to attain a higher education. Currently, she is a co-director of the Inside the Living Room internship, a student run organization at UC Berkeley, which works alongside the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC) to assist immigrants and refugees through a variety of tasks, including but not limited to: political, LGBT, or domestic violence asylum, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), residency, English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship classes. She is also a peer advisor at Cal Teach, where she advises her peers on how to complete the minor or the credential program without getting

overwhelmed during the rigorous process of becoming a STEM teacher. Outside of school, she enjoys going hiking, playing soccer, reading, blogging and taking photographs of landscapes.



**Jesus Soto**  
**Psychology**  
**3rd Year**

**Career Interest:** Jesus's career interests range from becoming a psychologist/counseling, to education, and working with juveniles in the prison system.

Jesus was born in a small town in Jalisco, Mexico, and his family moved to California when he was five years of age. Even as a child Jesus remembers his parents encouraging him and supporting him to strive for an education; after all the chief aim for moving was, the

pursuit of a brighter future filled abundant opportunities. Jesus is involved in his church, sports, tutoring and just recently as a research assistant. Although Jesus is still not entirely sure what he wants to pursue yet, he knows that his vocation his to be involved in helping others and giving back to his community because this is what he finds satisfaction in.

**Juan Lazo Bautista**  
**Interdisciplinary Studies Field: Environmental Sustainability**  
**4th Year, Spring Transfer**

**Career Interest:** Juan hopes to pursue advocacy work in underrepresented communities.

His goal is to bring awareness about environmental sustainability to indigenous communities like his own and beyond.



Juan was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of five, finally settling down in Santa Ana, California. He is very fond of his Mexican and Zapoteca indigenous roots and credits his community for the preservation of his culture in his life. Juan is the youngest of three. His two older sisters, along with his parents are his greatest supporters and motivation to pursue a higher education.

Juan is currently researching indigenous practices of environmental preservation with the aim of writing his senior thesis. His passion for community building

drives his extracurricular work: serving as an advisor to Casa Joaquin Murrieta, mentoring undocumented school students at Berkeley High, facilitating monthly community events with the Youth Empowerment Program, interning for the East Bay Sanctuary on legal assistance to newly arrived immigrants and partaking in UC Berkley's Raza Caucus. Juan strongly believes in the power of people and relationships to enact change. These factors motivate Juan to serve those that have afforded him the privileges he enjoys today.

**Karen V. Gallardo**  
**Integrative Biology**  
**4th Year, Transfer**

**Career Interest:** Karen is interested in being an ecologist and teaching children about wildlife conservation.



In ten years, Karen sees herself working as a biologist and educator for a non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, such as the Audubon Society. She learned to value our planet and its natural beauty through her camping and hiking experiences as a child. Children are curious and, if introduced to nature early on, they can learn to love it. Because they are the future leaders and decision makers of tomorrow, Karen has become interested in communicating the importance of nature conservation to them through first-hand experience of the outdoors.

Karen has had many experiences engaging children in biology, from being an outdoor science camp counselor, to volunteering at the Lawrence Hall of Science, to teaching little neighbors, cousins, and friends about birds, spiders, plants, and the ocean. She loves to see their perspective change from "spiders are icky," to "they're so cool" (because they really are)!

She is currently working on her Honor's thesis on the soundscape ecology of Hawaiian tropical forests, but has also done research in marine biology and animal behavior.

**Kristy Drutman**  
**Urban Studies, Society & the Environment**  
**3rd Year**

Kristy was born and raised in Corona, California. She is passionate about environmental justice, particularly how low income communities and communities of color are building resilience against systems of oppression which make them extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. After a few years of participating in spaces of social and



environmental justice through groups such as Students Against Fracking and the California Student Sustainability Coalition, Kristy has been exposed to the power and excitement of student organizing and collective liberation in the Bay Area, the nation, and worldwide. She is now involved with other students within the College of Natural Resources and the College of Letters and Science working to establish the Students of Color Environmental Collective, focused on providing resources, healing, and community to students of color who wish to pursue careers related to 'sustainability.' Environmental spaces are typically not lead or dominated by students of color on campus so it is

Kristy's hope that moving forward in her last years at Cal to establish more institutionalized support for these students through mentorship and resource sharing.

Kristy also developed a recent passion for the Pilipinx diaspora this last summer while she was interning in Washington D.C. for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. After finding a support network of Pilipinxs who were also pursuing careers in public policy, she realized the significance of reconnecting with her cultural roots while completing her degree. This became even more apparent as she recognized the impacts of climate change that continue to threaten the lives of her family members abroad. She was selected among eleven other fellows across the nation to participate in Kaya Collaborative's 2016 summer fellowship focused on pairing Pilipinx diaspora youth with internships at social ventures throughout the Philippines. The goal of the fellowship is to allow students to deconstruct their identities and experiences as Pilipinx Americans back in their homeland and to invest in a longer, deeper commitment to give back to the country. As a

Pilipinx womxn, Kristy is learning to embrace her identity through organizations such as the Partnership for Pre-Professional Pilipinxs that aims to provide networks and resources to Pilipinxs, a particularly underrepresented minority on Cal's campus. Kristy is excited for what the future holds and what types of intersectional work she will be able to get involved with during and after her college years.



**Leo Alva**  
**Legal Studies**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Year**

**Career Interest:** Leo is interested in attending a pre-medical post-baccalaureate program for two years before starting medical school.



Leo was born in Zihuatanejo, Guerrero and he moved to the US in March 1992. He was raised in Modesto, California. Leo is a 4th year studying Legal Studies and also pursuing the Public Policy Minor. Leo has had work experience in public policy and education.

His interest in legal studies mostly arose from his previous experience of being undocumented; however, his career goal is to pursue medicine. After completing medical school and residency, he plans to focus on serving the underserved populations that he identifies with, especially immigrants and transgender individuals. His life experiences have helped him understand the difficulties of not having access to healthcare, and have helped him conceptualize these experiences within a context of creating inclusive, accessible health care for all people, regardless of gender identity or immigration status.



**Leslie Koko Gutierrez**  
**English and Rhetoric Double Major**  
**3rd Year, Transfer**

**Career Interest:** Leslie is interested in pursuing law in the public sector. She hopes to become a litigation lawyer and be able to lobby in Washington D.C., in hopes of establishing a nationwide free public education from Pre-School to a Bachelor's Degree, in the hopes of creating a more educated society with an equitable education system.

Leslie was born in Whittier, California where she lived prior to attending the University of California, Berkeley. She is a first generation student, and the first in her family to attend a University of California school. Leslie's parents are immigrants from Mexico and her first language was Spanish. After having to undergo eight years of English Second Language, (ESL) courses and seeing a Speech Language Pathologist, Leslie fell in love with reading and writing, to the extent that she chose to seek English as her major during her academic career.

Transferring from Rio Hondo College (RHC), in Los Angeles county. Leslie was involved in the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College (ASUC). While part of ASUC, she served as a Senator at Large, and the first ever Senator of Student Success, which was created after the Student Success state-wide initiative for community colleges. In her role as the Senator of Student Success she was part of campus wide administrative committees such as; the Student Success Taskforce, the Student Equity Meeting, and the Planning Fiscal Committee. Leslie also established a peer mentoring program, the Peer Advisory Leaders (P.A.L.s), to help first generation students like herself, that lacked familial guidance and understanding of the higher education system. P.A.L.s has become departmentalized and is now part of the First Year Success Center and the Student Life & Leadership

Department. Leslie was also part of the RHC, Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), Chapter and is a HSF Scholar.

At UC Berkeley, Leslie is a member of the Latino Pre-Law Society (LPLS), the English Undergraduate Society (EUA), and Latinos Emerging in English (LEE) and works part time as a Security Monitor at the Bancroft Library, a special collections library in UCB.



**Lidia Monterroso**  
**Molecular Biology and Biochemistry**  
**2nd Year**

**Career Interest:** Lidia is pursuing a career in Dentistry

Lidia is 20 years of age and for the past 9 years has lived in the Bay area. She came from Guatemala when she was 11 years of age, making her a Dream Act student. She's an intended MCB major and wants to pursue a career in dentistry inspired by the hard work of her father and mother.

To get closer to her goal while helping the community she is volunteering at the Berkeley Free Clinic as a dental assistant and coordinator. Her goal is to stay connected to her roots and help out her community with their oral care; not only her community here in the bay area, but back in Guatemala as well.



**Lissette Macias**  
**Psychology**  
**2nd year**

**Career Interest:** Lissette hopes to become a teacher and would love to teach math at the high school level.

Lissette Macias grew up in Hayward, California not far from Berkeley. She lives with her family who she considers her biggest blessing-her mother, two younger siblings, and their three dogs. She is from Zacatecas, Mexico which is her favorite place in the world. She is proud of her roots and feels blessed for being brought

up in a Latino household for the values that she has learned.

As a Berkeley student, she is involved in various organizations. She is part of the social committee for a club on campus called Hispanic Engineers and Scientists (Join! You don't have to be an Engineer or a Scientist!). She is also a math tutor for the Student Learning Center which has influenced her to consider a math degree instead of psychology, though she has not yet decided. She is a mentor for the Youth after School program which serves middle school students in the Berkeley area. She is also part of the Student Ministry Team for Newman Hall, a Catholic Church near campus. She has worked as the listings coordinator for "The Village Realtors" and still works with them every once in a while when she goes back home. She also works as Assistant House Manager for Cal Performances. She hopes to continue to be involved and learn from all the great

organizations she is part of and the amazing people in them and to never give up in pursuing her dreams of teaching.



### **Luciano Zuniga**

#### **Social Welfare and Public Health Double Major 2nd Year**

**Career interest:** Luciano is interested in the community health and health policy. His goal is to make healthcare more effective in lower income communities and creating gateways for equitable health access.

Luciano Zuniga was born in Sacramento, Ca, specifically in the South Sacramento district. An area pivotal in its diversity, as well as lower income barriers effecting necessities like public education and overall health. He grow up in a single parent household, alongside his mother, sister, grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is both Hispanic and Filipino and takes pride in both cultures.

Public health hits home for Luciano and since coming to Cal he has discovered just how important preventative medicine is for communities like that in which he grew up in. This inspired him to look into the cross sectionalism of Social Welfare and Public Health. Being the first in his family to attend college and financially sustaining himself by becoming a Gates Millennium Scholar, grounds him in the work that he does at the university level. He is involved with the Pilipino Association for Health Careers as the External Affairs Coordinator and his main project of planning a Minorities in Health Conference provides opportunities for those underserved who are interested in the health field.



**Marisa Johnson**  
**Legal Studies and Ethnic Studies**  
**2nd Year**  
**Career Interest:**

Marisa was born and grew up in the quiet, agricultural town of Madera, California in the San Joaquin Valley. She was raised in a bicultural household, where her Mexican roots and Black roots seamlessly and beautifully engaged with one another. Her parents often talked to her and her siblings about their people's histories but early on, Marisa realized that her formal schooling didn't cover those histories which she found so important. It is this dilemma which has led her to seek truth in all instances and to take everything with a grain of salt. Her decision to study both ethnic studies and legal studies comes out of her passion for learning about the ways in which race is deeply rooted within American society and how to change and confront systems of oppression. She is still exploring career options but hopes to attend grad or law school and eventually work within her community and other disenfranchised communities.

Berkeley and the Bay Area are completely different from her hometown but she loves the lifestyle and the creativity that many people have. She is interested in astrophotography as a hobby as she is always inspired by the beauty of nature and especially the night sky. Marisa likes listening to and appreciates underground hip-hop as well as Kanye West. She also likes basketball, running, traveling, practicing her Spanish and reading poetry by Rupi Kaur and Nayyirah Waheed.



**Marlyn Janeth Banuelos**  
**Double Major: Media Studies and Film**  
**2nd year**

**Career interest:** Marlyn is determined to attend a Graduate School for Journalism after graduating from UC Berkeley in May 2018. She is specifically interested in Sports Broadcast Journalism with the purpose of becoming a sport analyst for ESPN or SportsCenter.

Marlyn Janeth Bañuelos was born in Pasadena, California to an older brother, a mother and a father, and has a German Shepherd named Bruce Lee. She is passionate about female representation in the sports



industry both in and out of the field, ring, court, and studio. She is currently a Sport Supervisor for Softball with Cal Intramural Sports; she has previously worked with UCB's various Sport Clubs and NCAA Athletics. She enjoys conditioning and training at the gym and boxing as a recreational activity. She is also a member of the Greek sorority, Tri Delta, whose philanthropy is based on helping St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Regardless of her academics, work, and extracurricular activities, when Marlyn goes back home to Southern California, she continues to show her resilient work ethic by helping out in her family-owned restaurant, The Ranch House. After accomplishing her goals, she hopes to create a scholarship foundation specifically for underrepresented female athletes who are minorities. She is a strong, independent, and passionate woman unafraid of fighting through life's unexpected obstacles.



**Monica Ortiz**  
**Sociology**  
**3rd year**

**Career Interest:** Monica is interested in the legal field. She hopes to open her own non-profit organization one day in her community in Richmond, CA.

Monica grew up in the hopeful city of Richmond, California. She has two younger siblings, one brother and one sister. One of her goals is to set a good example for her younger siblings and support them in order for them to follow and achieve their dreams. Her career goal is to receive her Juris Doctor title and use it to help give back to her community through helping parents with immigration issues and children seeking asylum.

She believes family comes first and every family deserves to stay together regardless of their legal status.

Monica volunteered at Social Justice Collaborative, a non-profit organization that gives immigrant families legal representation in immigration and criminal court. She interpreted during consultations with clients and asylum interviews. Many of the stories she was exposed to from these families have touched her heart and inspired her to help as many families as possible.



### **Patricia Calzado**

#### **Economics**

#### **2nd Year**

**Career Interest:** Patricia is interested in working as an economist in the private sector as an investment banker or marketing manager.

Patricia J. Calzado Real was born in Mexico City and grew up in West Valley City, Utah with her two younger sisters and her parents. She is a first generation-low income student at the University of California, Berkeley. She is currently a sophomore double majoring in Business Administration and Economics. Her career

path is in Investment Banking or Corporate Finance within the healthcare or tech sector.

She is a strong advocate of financial literacy and money management programs in communities of color as these resources and information are often not available to them. Patricia is the current Assistant Manager of Casa Joaquin and other roles include Volunteer Income Tax Assistant, and Financial Services Clerk at UC Berkeley. She loves to dance Mexican Folklore and help young leaders of color succeed at UC Berkeley and beyond!

### **Reinere Jude Ruiz**

#### **Public Health**

#### **3rd Year**

**Career Interest:** Reinere is interested in being a physician-leader for underserved communities. He aspires to practice medicine and public health to improve access and quality of care in disadvantaged populations.



Reinere Jude Ruiz was born in Ilocos Norte, Philippines, and he immigrated to the United States with his family in 2003. He grew up in the Inland Empire, a region rich in culture but confronted with a variety of health and social disparities. Having experienced and witnessed these inequities motivates Reinere to return, provide culturally and linguistically responsive care, and uplift the circumstances of diverse communities.

Reinere graduated from Rancho Verde High School as the Class of 2013's Valedictorian and Student Body President. At UC Berkeley, he is a member of the Biology Scholars Program, a recipient of the Cal Alumni



Association Leadership Award, and a health coach at the UCSF Mabuhay Health Center. In 2015, he was selected to participate in the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. As a patient advocate, he had the opportunity to serve low-income, minority families and work to establish health for all.

**Rodrigo S. Beteta**  
**Political Science and Peace and Conflict Studies**  
**1st Year**

**Career Interest:**

Rodrigo was born in San Salvador, El Salvador and immigrated to the United States at the age of 6. He grew up in Koreatown, Los Angeles, a diverse community in the heart of the city. Rodrigo has one older brother, and they are the first to go to college in their family.

Rodrigo attended Hamilton High School Music Academy, attaining Academic Honors, District and State Bilingual Recognition, and the Los Angeles Unified School District High School Instrumental Major for his musical skills on the flute, percussion, piano, and electronic music.

Rodrigo is a current elected steering member for the California Dream Network, a nonprofit student based volunteer organization that advocates in the state of California for immigrant rights issues through community education and public policy lobbying. He currently works under the Undergraduate Office of Research and Scholarships as Administrative Assistant for the Undergraduate Researchers of Color program.



**Rosaura A. Serrato Lomeli**  
**Business Administration**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> year**

**Career Interest:** Rosaura is interested in pursuing a career in the international business sector that will allow her to travel and explore the world.

Rosaura A. Serrato was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and raised in Salinas, California with her two younger siblings. Since a young age, she has been passionate about working with youth in pursue of a higher education. She was part of the founding chapter of the East Coast College Tour (ECCT), an organization that focuses on broadening the horizons of low-income high school students by providing the opportunity to explore

Ivy college campuses, visit national monuments, and explore major cities in the east coast.

At Cal, Rosaura has been involved with similar programs, such as Young Entrepreneurs at Haas (YEAH). She is an IAP scholar and ambassador at UC Berkeley. She is also part of the Latino Business Student Association (LBSA), which is the organization through which has helped her succeed academically and professionally. This year Rosaura started a new organization with her co-founder, Kaitlen Nguyen called DiversaTech, which mission is to inspire interdisciplinary students to excel in technology careers and create an inclusive environment for people of all backgrounds to collaborate. She is excited to see to embark on this new journey.



**Uche Okoye**  
**Public Health**  
**Junior**

**Career interest:** Uche is interested in attaining a doctorate in epidemiology. She hopes to one day work in West Africa, improving the everyday health of those living in slums.

Uche is a graduating junior born and raised in Los Angeles. She is the last child of Nigerian parents, studying public health here at Berkeley. As a Nigerian-American, Uche strives to help both the underserved in the U.S and Nigeria. She has focused her career goals on helping people with

non-clinical health problems, health problems that are highly ignored when it comes to underserved populations.

Uche is currently working on research that focuses on the impact of anticipatory race threat on cardiovascular disease in African American women. She also briefly worked on research regarding child marriage in Northern Nigeria. In addition, Uche previously worked in Nairobi, Kenya focusing on issues of women's health and sanitation in a slum called Mukuru. Through this experience, she learned the importance of impact evaluations: determining the social and medical impacts of charity and/or government interventions. She strives to start a small NGO that will focusing on providing impact evaluations to agencies interested in starting and maintaining interventions in low-resource communities.





**Wendy Cardenas**  
**Sociology/Education minor**  
**4th Year**

**Career interest:** Wendy is interested in helping under-resourced communities similar to hers and plans to attend law school in a couple of years.

Wendy Cardenas was born and raised in Watsonville, California with her three brothers and parents. Wendy was inspired by her family and community to work really hard to become a lawyer one day. As someone who is also interested in social justice, Wendy has been interning at a non-profit, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, where she has had the opportunity to work with unaccompanied minors from Central America. This experience sparked and solidified her interest in attending law school. Wendy also interns at the Death Penalty Clinic, which is part of the clinical programs Berkeley Law offers to their law students. As an undergraduate intern in the Clinic she has the opportunity to research, organize documents and input important legal evidence to their database.

Wendy is interested in expanding her legal knowledge therefore has taken on different opportunities related to law. After she receives her B.A. this upcoming May, she plans to take two years off to gain more work experience and study for the LSAT. Wendy plans to apply to law school in two years and hopefully attend the school of her dreams.