

2020 GREEN CAREERS CONFERENCE

SCIENCE & RESEARCH PANEL

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Lauren D'Souza CMC'18

Sustainability Associate, Renewable Resources Group

Lauren is a sustainability associate at Renewable Resources Group, a private equity firm that invests in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and water banking in California, Chile, Mexico, and Australia. Lauren works on improving the sustainability of RRG's farms through environmentally-friendly agricultural practices, tracking environmental and social metrics on all assets for the firm's annual sustainability report, and managing RRG's farms as wildlife-friendly for conservation benefit. She also works significantly on social impact throughout the firm's portfolio, implementing programs to benefit the thousands of underserved farmworkers employed on the firm's agricultural assets. Lauren graduated from CMC in 2018 with a dual major in government and history.



Gator Halpern Pomona'12

Co-Founder and President, Coral Vita

Gator Halpern is the co-founder of Coral Vita, a startup with a mission to grow diverse and resilient corals to transplant into threatened reefs. Passionate about developing projects that can help create a better harmony between society and nature, Halpern was heavily influenced by his childhood near the ocean in San Diego. Gator and Sam Teicher, co-founder, met and became friends at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, where they both received Master of Environmental Management degrees. Their graduate studies and love for oceans inspired them to launch a company to solve global coral reef degradation. Through Coral Vita, they are restoring the world's dying reefs, which support up to 1 billion people through food, coastal protection and income. Halpern and Teicher were named one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs for 2018.



Erin Ristig CMC'15

Program Assistant, California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Erin is currently studying for her Masters in Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara, specializing in Coastal Marine Resources Management and Environmental Data Science. She also works for the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation on communication strategies to build awareness of and compliance with California's network of marine protected areas. Another portion of her work is with a team at NOAA involving research and data analysis around radar and app technologies to more efficiently patrol marine protected areas. Before beginning graduate school, Erin worked for nonprofits focused on forest conservation in the Western United States and global health; in addition to working on sustainable development projects in Mexico, Argentina, and Ecuador.



Oscar Romo

Founding Director, Alter Terra

Oscar was raised on a ranch in rural Mexico and from an early age learned to appreciate the value of conserving natural resources from an anthropological perspective. After working with government and multinational organizations for many years, Oscar founded Alter Terra, a nonprofit coastal and marine ecosystem conservation organization utilizing natural systems design to address environmental challenges in countries around the globe. By using the waste around them to develop innovative infrastructure solutions, the resulting production creates jobs, changes consumption habits, and encourages community ownership over improved wellbeing. In 2014, Oscar became an Ashoka Fellow. He is currently affiliated with UC San Diego.