



2010 Intern

Mr. Robert Rigonan (Environmental Affairs)

Robert Rigonan is a San Diego native and a rising junior at the University of California at Berkeley (Cal). Robert is in the midst of obtaining simultaneous degrees in Society and Environment (with a concentration in Environmental Politics) and Geography with a minor in Public Policy. Robert expects to graduate in 2012, but not before he writes his honors thesis on the link between post-colonial geographies and poor environmental health. When

he's not cheering on his California Golden Bears, Robert serves as an active member of several student organizations, including: Building Sustainability at Cal, the ASUC Sustainability Team, the Berkeley Energy and Resources Collaborative, Cal Teach, and Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. When he happens to find free time, Robert enjoys taking mid-afternoon naps, reading about history, writing in his moleskine journal, cooking and consuming not-so-healthy food, watching reality television, listening to underground hip-hop, exercising, and drinking too much coffee.

Robert first sparked an interest in environmental studies when his 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Radford, showed a slideshow of her time in Brazil, where she worked for the Peace Corps. He felt inspired by the majestic beauty of the tropical rainforests and was left heartbroken after finding out that these precious landscapes were disappearing at a rapid rate. As a result of this experience, Robert enjoys formally teaching students of all ages about environmental issues. He is a firm believer in sharing his knowledge and passion with others, with the anticipation that students leave the classroom with a new perspective on our generation's environmental problems. Robert has aspirations to attend law school in order to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming an environmental attorney and lobbyist. He hopes to one day defend low-income and minority communities from environmental disparities through litigation and the construction of laws and policies that protect all socio-economic groups. Having flown in and out of San Diego International Airport countless times, Robert applied to the SDCRAA internship program with the desire to learn more about a place near and dear to his heart and the efforts it makes towards a sustainable future.