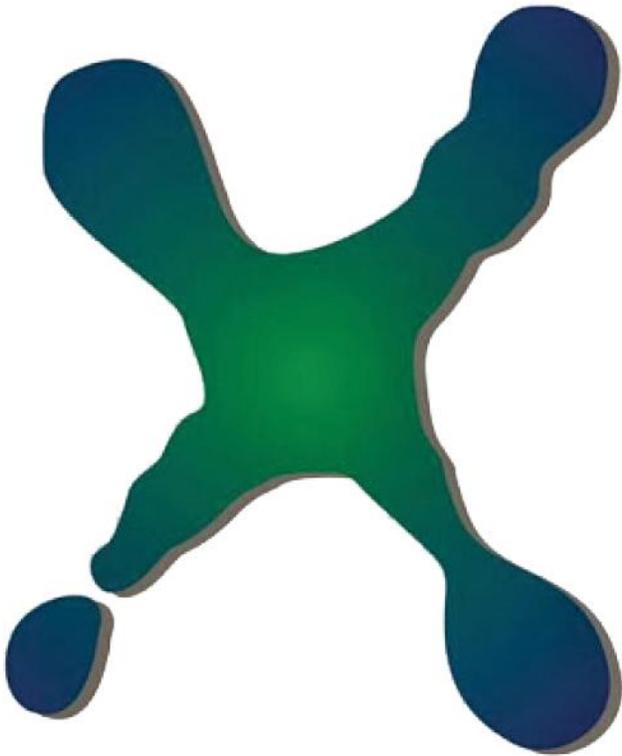


SWEATFREE TRIBE
INTERVIEW SERIES
PRESENTS



AN INTERVIEW WITH
Natalie Yoon

www.ethixventures.com

Maria Louzon shared a bit about your experience campus organizing around human rights issues. What organizations and/or experiences are you most proud of while you attended OSU?

When I was at OSU I worked closely with [United Students Against Sweatshops](#) (USAS). USAS taught me how to organize and work in solidarity with workers both in my community and abroad. I'm most proud of our campaign against Sodexo, the international food service provider that was abusing human rights on our campus. Throughout that campaign I learned so much about organizing strategy, the labor movement, coalition building, and the potential of student power to make real change happen.

What was your previous experience and understanding of the fair trade movement? Why do you support fair trade?

I always knew what fair trade was, but it wasn't until I reached college that I began to understand why it is so important. By working in the student-labor movement and studying international relations in school, I began to understand the international economy and how it affects workers and producers on a local level. I learned about exploitation in supply chains, lack of corporate accountability, and how international economic policies have devastated much of the world. Fair trade offers the alternative model to the current exploitative system. It demonstrates the solution to worker and producer disempowerment. It proves that we can and must do better. I support fair trade not just as a market, but as a movement to revolutionize the entire global economy to be centered around people, not profit.

What drew you to the National Organizer position and working as a full time activist at USFT?

I see so much potential in the coordinated organizing of young people, and I really wanted to continue to be involved after graduation. United Students for Fair Trade is a great example of a group of students that are dedicated to building power to make change happen. I honestly still can't believe that I got this dream position—I'm so grateful for each and every day that I get to do this work full-time! I'm so thrilled to be a part of this and support the student movement for fair trade and a just economy.

What's in store for USFT in the upcoming 2013-2014 academic year? Can you give us a sneak preview of some events or campaigns in the upcoming

academic year?

We just kicked off our [“Topple the TPP” campaign against the Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)! The TPP is a massive potential free trade agreement that threatens to make new rules for the global economy that will threaten human rights, the environment, and democracy. I'm excited to see trade justice issues brought back into the student movement, and I think this campaign will really highlight the need for fair trade policies. In addition to our movement against the TPP, this year we will be focusing on building a base of student leaders and structuring the organization in a sustainable way. Students will later determine the future direction of USFT and our next steps as an organization.

Want to read more? Read our interviews with other [Sweatfree Tribe](#) members.