CORO

FELLOWS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Coro Southern California
Class of 2009-2010

Lanre Akinsiku, **University of California, Berkley, BA International Political Economy**

While at UC Berkeley, Lanre focused on Africa's rich history and complex contemporary issues. As a participant in the Public Policy and International Affairs program, Lanre performed extensive research on potential links between HIV/AIDS, income inequality, and gendered education in sub-Saharan Africa. Locally, he worked with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to increase the availability of social services to Oakland's largest immigrant neighborhood. After Coro, Lanre plans to pursue a degree in international law and work toward finding sustainable solutions to issues facing the developing world.

Jimmy Duong, **University of California, Los Angeles, BA History**

After UCLA, Jimmy dedicated two years to national service though Americorps by joining City Year Los Angeles. During his service years, he led a team of nine members at Hollenbeck Middle School in Boyle Heights. On June 9, 2009, Jimmy was honored with the 2009 Eli Segal Bridge Builder Award as the nationwide City Year Corps Member of the Year. Jimmy was raised in Alhambra, California, by a single mother who immigrated from Vietnam.

Sean Holiday**, The George Washington University, BA International Affairs; Loyola Marymount University, MA Elementary Education**

Since graduating summa cum laude from The George Washington University in 2006, where he was president of Class Council, Sean has taught 7th grade human-ties at Camino Nuevo Charter Academy through the Teach for America program. Striving to raise the expectations of urban students, his work as the humanities department chair included revising the middle school's reading and English language development programs. Prior to joining TFA, Sean served in Representative David Dreier's Washington, D.C., office for three years. He loves medieval literature, traveling, and living in his native Southern California.

Kelly LaMar**, University of Puget Sound, BA Business Leadership**

At University of Puget Sound, Kelly focused on environmental policy, serving on the Sustainability Advisory Committee and Facility Services Department to spearhead green initiatives across campus. Her accomplishments include an LEED Gold renovated house, a university pledge for carbon neutrality, and a revolving loan fund for future sustainability projects. Kelly also spent time in Kenya researching endangered species and helping to resolve tribal water conflicts. This experience led to Kelly's selection as the Coordinator of the International Student Mentor Program. Awarded the university scholarship for Corporate Social Responsibility, Kelly aspires to serve as a mediator between business and environmental interests.

Miracle McClain, **University of San Francisco, BA Philosophy**

A passion for public service and social justice led MIracle to volunteer as a California liaison for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign as well as for local school-funding measures. After college, she worked on the health-care program at The Alliance for Children's Rights, where she prepared research identifying recurring and systemic problems with Medi-Cal relating to foster youth. She is also a member of United Friends of the Children's Youth Advisory Board. After Coro, Miracle plans to pursue advanced degrees in law and public policy.

Ashley Nesby, **Michigan State University, BA Political Science**

At Michigan State, Ashley focused on Latin American/Caribbean Studies while working for the Women's Resource Center creating initiatives and campaigns for students and women on the issues of health, politics, image, and leadership. Ashley's passion for culture and learning led her to research poverty and the government in the Dominican Republic, organize the first minority drama club at MSU, and serve as an academic and cultural transition aide at Michigan State. She is concurrently enrolled in a master's degree program in public policy at USC, and hopes to work in foreign and social policy upon completion.

FELLOWS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Coro Southern California
Class of 2009-2010

***Clayton Rosa*, McDaniel College, BA Afro-Latino Studies**
A Boston native, Clayton is an alumnus of the Summer Pre-Graduate Research Experience Program (SPGRE) and Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (MURAP) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he researched identity politics in 2007. During SPGRE in 2008, Clayton researched Dominican immigrant workers' identities in the New York labor market and their influence on social inclusion and policy. Clayton's interests extend into the development of urban communities, the non-profit sector as a vehicle of social advancement, and identity politics.

***Frank Rodriguez*, University of California, Los Angeles, BA Political Science and Chicana/o Studies**
In addition to his double majors, Frank double minored in Labor & Workplace Studies and Civic Engagement. A native of Santa Barbara, California, he is the son of working parents who immigrated from Jalisco, Mexico two decades ago. An avid activist, Frank has participated as a member and leader of various student and community organizations dedicated to mitigating the issues that affect historically marginalized communities. Specifically, he focuses on labor and immigrant rights.

***Emily Sage Sipchen*, Middlebury College, BA International Studies in Latin America**
Emily Sage Sipchen developed her interest in Latin America during her childhood in Los Angeles and by working with community organizations, including Lamp and Community Partners. At Middlebury, Emily studied Spanish and Latin American history while serving as a member of the college's Community Judicial Board and a Peer Writing Tutor. She also studied abroad at Playa Ancha University in Valparaíso, Chile during her junior year. In Chile, Emily initiated literacy programs in shantytowns as an intern for a national non-profit organization. After earning two academic grants, she returned to Chile to interview former and current shantytown residents for her honors thesis on the history of impoverished urban communities in Chile.

***Parsa Sobhani,* University of California, Los Angeles, BA Economics.**
At UCLA, Parsa served two terms as the Finance Committee Chair of the Undergraduate Student Association Council as well as two terms as the Secretary-General of Model United Nations at UCLA. He also served as the undergraduate representative on the Academic Senate Council on Planning and Budget. Parsa has been involved as Secretary-General of Global Classrooms: Los Angeles, an education program of the United Nations Association of the United States of America which brings the study of international affairs to urban public schools.

***Neeta Sonalkar,* Northwestern University, BA Economics and International Studies**
At Northwestern, Neeta focused on Latin American politics and development, spending a semester abroad in Santiago, Chile. In college, she developed her passion for public policy as the Director and Resource Development Chair of National Student Partnerships-Evanston, a student service organization committed to helping local residents escape poverty. For the past year, Neeta has interned at Teach For America, supporting alumni social entrepreneurs and school leaders. An avid musician, Neeta is a longtime cellist and guitarist, and hosted a world music radio show on Chicago's WNUR 89.3.

***Elizabeth Willis,* Emory University, BA History & Theater Studies**
Elizabeth's passion for public policy stems from her concern for the environment and how society responds to local and global environmental concerns. She gained experience in the environmental sphere with Green Corps, a field school for environmental organizing, where she led several campaigns, including one to raise awareness on the issue of overfishing in New England. Most recently, she has worked with Waste Management, America's largest recycling and trash company, to implement recycling in multi-family residential buildings in Southern California.