



CORO FELLOWS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Coro Southern California – Class of 2011-2012

***Ella Barrett*, University of Oregon – B. Ed. Family and Human Services, Minor in Business Administration**



Ella was involved in the Oregon Student Association and the United States Student Association during her studies at the University of Oregon. There, she focused on civic engagement, social justice, and financial equity in education. Through eight accredited Family and Human Services internships, she administered risk assessments and needle exchange for clients at risk of HIV/AIDS, wrote an extensive micro-finance loan-counseling curriculum for women in rural India, and delivered queer ally trainings across campus. Ella received Centurion and Ray Hawk Awards at the University of Oregon for her leadership and activism. She plans to continue organizing for change within the LGBTQ movement.

***Joaquin Beltran*, California State University, Los Angeles – B.A. Political Science**

Originally a music major, Joaquin took leave from college to run his family business where he learned the importance of community, shaping his passion and goals for public service. Upon returning to CSULA, he changed his major to Political Science and began organizing for Obama for America. Inspired to make a difference on his campus, he successfully ran for Student Body President. After graduating, he created the Public Affairs Strategy for the LA Regional Small Business Development Centers Network. Driven by his parents' struggles to persevere, Joaquin continues to empower the underserved and hopes to use his experiences to create innovative industries that benefit communities.



***Mica Bumpus*, Texas A&M University – B.S. Public Health and Minor in Asian Studies; Alliant International University – Secondary Science Teaching Credential (Biology)**



At Texas A&M, Mica managed programs for disadvantaged individuals within her community. She developed a passion to serve underrepresented individuals through advocacy of education, health, and policy change. Mica's studies in China prompted her to research gender equality and economic development within the country. Upon graduating with honors, Mica taught high school Biology and Biotechnology in Oakland through Teach for America. She then led the AmeriCorps project through Teach for America, which secured over \$3.2 million in funding. After Coro, Mica plans to pursue a joint degree in Public Health and Public Policy.

***Wesley G. Farrow*, University of Michigan – B.A. Economics and B.A. Psychology; California State Dominguez Hills – Teaching Credential**

Wesley studied Economics and Psychology at University of Michigan's Honors College. He went on to spend a year in the nonprofit sector; working in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and East Africa. Wes then joined Teach for America and moved to Los Angeles to work in secondary Special Education. Outside the classroom he worked to improve UTLA governance through developing NewTLA, and spent this past summer as a leadership fellow at LAUSD. In his community, Wes serves on the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council. He is dedicated to improving access to education through social entrepreneurship and public policy.



***Jasmine D. Hill*, University of California, Los Angeles – B.A. Communication Studies**



Jasmine graduated with honors from UCLA. Born in Chicago and raised in the Oakland Bay-Area, her UCLA experience allowed her to pursue her interests in advocacy and political action. Working first as an organizer in the Afrikan Student Union, she actively advocated for issues including educational access, retention, police brutality, and campus climate. Due to these efforts and her effective leadership with campus administration, Jasmine was elected to serve as the 2010-2011 Student Body President. In the future, Jasmine hopes to affect positive change and politically engage low-income communities.

***Veronica D. Joseph*, Boston College – B.A. Hispanic Studies, Minors in International Studies, History; Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles – M.A. Elementary Education**

At Boston College, Veronica's focus on equality and diversity legislation led her to create several student task forces and lead campus debates that fostered dialogue with BC's leaders, resulting in university policy changes. Upon graduating with honors as a McNair Scholar, she joined Teach for America, teaching middle school English in Los Angeles for four years. Veronica helped improve school-wide instruction by designing curricula, creating intervention programs, and leading professional developments. She obtained her master's degree in education from Loyola Marymount-LA and aspires to lead and promote education reform of public school systems through educational law and public policy.





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Chris Margaronis, University of California, Riverside – B.A. Political Science and International Relations



Chris' political experience on campaigns and as a congressional staffer working for a California Democrat has provided him with a unique perspective on society's ongoing challenges. After playing baseball in college, he traveled throughout South America learning the culture and studying Spanish. Chris then moved to Washington, D.C. where he worked on the 2008 presidential campaign as a paid staffer. After two years of service as a congressional staffer working on energy, transportation, and education issues, he is ready to apply his experience to improving California.

Iain S. Padley, Richmond, The American International University in London – B.A. International Relations

Iain pursued his undergraduate degree in the UK and Egypt to better understand policy implementation on a global scale. He supplemented his studies by traveling in Asia, Africa, and Europe to witness the effects of policy initiatives on local populations. These experiences led him to found a policy institute at Richmond University and serve as the head of the Richmond International Society. Following graduation, Iain moved to California and worked in the private sector and the labor movement. After Coro, Iain hopes to pursue a law degree and continue to study the impact of international governance on local communities.



Emily Pflaster, American Jewish University – B. A. in Behavioral Sciences



As a Director for Grassroots Campaigns, Inc., Emily developed strategic plans and tactical details and trained and developed staff. Her efforts culminated in donor relationships between over a million citizens and a variety of issue-based clients. While at Grassroots Campaigns, Emily led teams of canvassers and outreach specialists to rebuild an environmental organization from 5,000 into 350,000 members, instrumental in halting the rollback of clean air protections. A cum laude graduate of American Jewish University, Emily plans to study policy and law, and hopes to work with organizations to realize their most effective and ethical potential.

Helen Pollock, Claremont McKenna College – B.A. International Relations

At CMC, Helen focused on the politics and languages of the Middle East. She spent eight months in Jordan studying Arabic and interning at the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy. Helen's interest in international and domestic public policy led her to specialize in redistricting and survey research at the Rose Institute. For her honors thesis, she investigated conflicting security and economic interests in the US nuclear export policy. As President of CMC's Rotaract chapter, Helen coordinated health and education service projects locally throughout Southern California and internationally in Peru and Jamaica. Helen aspires to join the U.S. Foreign Service as a political officer.



Grace Snodgrass, University of Maryland, College Park – B.A. Print Journalism, B.A. Government and Politics; Pace University School of Education – Master of Science for Teachers



As an honors student studying journalism and government at the University of Maryland, Grace developed a passion for children's issues; she particularly focused on ending educational inequity for our nation's low-income students. She joined Teach For America in 2006 and began a transformative five years teaching middle school students literacy in the South Bronx. Drawing on policy experience with the Maryland General Assembly, Educators 4 Excellence and The Mind Trust, and an extensive non-profit professional experience with Teach For America, Grace hopes to leverage her leadership and collaboration skills to create and implement solutions to the challenges students face in underserved communities.

Drew Steinberg, Haverford College – B.A. ; University of Southern California – Master's of Public Policy

At Haverford College, Drew studied religion and its affects on society. A grant from Haverford's Center for Peace and Global Citizenship allowed her to research Islamic faith-based schools in London, England and examine their effects on the development of social cohesion or isolationist ideologies. Drew interned with the U.S. Department of State, the Port of Los Angeles' Homeland Security division, and the LAPD's counterterrorism bureau. She received her B.A. from Haverford College and a Master's in Public Policy with a certificate in homeland security from USC. Drew hopes to become involved in international and security policy.

