

CORO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Fellows Program In Public Affairs
Class of 2006



***Lauren Chianese*, University of Florida, BA History**

While attending the University of Florida, Lauren Chianese was the president of the women's lacrosse team and volunteered at a local school. After college, she joined Teach for America, a non-profit organization whose mission is to insure all students receive an excellent education. As a corps member, Lauren taught middle school in Los Angeles for two years. There she began to see the many difficulties that schools in areas of lower socioeconomic status must face and overcome on a daily basis. Lauren hopes to use her experience with Coro to continue to work towards equal education for all students, regardless of their economic situation. She would like to continue her education and get a master of public policy.

***Nicole Clark*, University of California, Los Angeles, Masters in Urban Planning**

Nicole Clark's passion for public affairs began during her undergraduate studies in political science and was enhanced by her graduate studies in community development. Her recent experience centers on fundraising for the Children's Museum of Los Angeles, where she was responsible for solicitation of annual funds, research and evaluation. She has participated in the NCCED Emerging Leaders Program, The UCLA Program Activities Board and actively volunteers for the LAULYP. After Coro, Nicole plans to develop a non-profit organization for inner-city youth. In her pastime, she enjoys traveling, crafts and reading.



***Chelsea Correia*, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, BS Education/Social Policy**

Chelsea Correia's interest in public affairs started as a high school intern for the Nevada State Assembly. She continued her interest in community development and philanthropy at Northwestern University by working as CompassPoint's Nonprofit Services Development Intern and participating in an Alternative Spring Break trip to Philadelphia. Her last year at Northwestern was spent working at Compass Media Group, a Chicago-based political consulting firm. Chelsea gained a global perspective through her time studying abroad in Prague and participating in service trips to Trinidad, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. At Northwestern, Chelsea was Member Educator of her sorority, Kappa Delta, and a TA for the Undergraduate Leadership Program.

***Karly Katona*, University of California, Berkeley, BA American Studies**

Karly Katona graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in American Studies and a minor in Public Policy. At Berkeley, Karly studies emphasis was on public, including a semester studying the AIDS pandemic in South Africa. Her senior thesis, entitled "Commidifying Compassion" evaluated the nature of American response to international disaster. During the past few years, she has interned at a mental-health institute, homeless center and health clinic in Berkeley. During her summers, Karly worked as a travel guide, community service leader, and intern for the Burmese Border Consortium. After Coro, Karly hopes to attend graduate school before pursuing a career in economic development.



***Joshua Lawson*, University of California, Los Angeles, BA Political Science**

While attending University of California, Los Angeles, Joshua Lawson was a Regents Scholar. He was an active campus leader, elected to serve on the Student Council, and held numerous other organizational positions. As a student, Joshua prompted a UC-wide investigation of student funding practices that had been in violation with the US Supreme Court mandate of viewpoint neutrality. Joshua is a collegiate national debate champion and two-time California gold medalist. His interests have prompted him to attend study programs at Oxford University, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the St. Andrews University in Edinburgh. He hopes to pursue a career in constitutional law and future public service.

***Dan Nieman*, Bank Street College of Education, New York, Masters in Elementary Education**

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Dan attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he earned a BFA in Graphic Design and Photography in 2001. An active leader in art based community outreach programs in college, Dan moved to New York as a 2001 Teach for America Corps Member, concurrently earning a Masters Degree in Elementary Education. He taught in Harlem for two years, and went on to be a founding teacher at an innovative arts based charter school in the South Bronx. He is looking to expand his experiences and skills relating to urban communities and urban planning.



CORO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Fellows Program In Public Affairs
Class of 2006



Alex Pugh, University of California, Santa Cruz, BA Environmental Studies

Alexander Pugh earned a BA in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz with a concentration on natural resource policy. Since graduating, he has focused on energy policy issues in the non-profit sector. Notable projects include preserving sensitive Arctic wetlands from oil interests with the National Audubon Society and researching infrastructure needs for the California State Hydrogen Highway with Energy Independence Now. Most recently, Alexander has worked to improve energy efficiency and sustainable building practices in affordable housing nationwide with Global Green USA. Post Coro, he intends to pursue a Masters in Public Policy and continue his work in both the public and private arenas.

Hugo Salazar, University of California, Irvine, BA International Studies and Political Science

Graduating with double honors in Political Science and International Studies from the University of California at Irvine, Hugo Salazar's academic and extracurricular involvement allowed him to gain meaningful research and practical experience on issues affecting the Latino community. Hugo has been involved as a coordinator and site supervisor at UCI's Global Connect outreach program; a participant at the Summer Academic Enrichment Program at UCI; a research assistant at the Department of Defense, a fellow at both the Public Policy and International Affairs Program at the University of Michigan and at the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, Duke University. Hugo plans to enroll in a dual-degree Masters program in Public Policy and Business Administration.



Francisco Antonio Sánchez, Occidental College, BA Geology

At Oxy, Francisco Antonio Sánchez was involved in campus life and activism, founding three campus clubs (Classics Club, Geology Club and MultiCultural Alliance), and created the most co-sponsored student-led event in Occidental history, the Voice Your Music Festival. After Occidental, Francisco took part in the Public Allies Apprenticeship Program, where he interned at the Inner City Law Center working on issues of sub-standard housing and government benefits. Francisco plans to pursue a law degree and a Masters in Public Policy to become an advocate for poor communities.

Juan Carlos Sanchez, University of California, Davis, Community and Regional Development

Juan Carlos, an immigrant of Mexico, is passionate about bettering the living conditions of underserved communities. As a Tutor coordinator of MESA, a Peer Counselor for the EOP Office, and a Board Member of the University of California, Davis' Student Recruitment and Retention Center, Juan Carlos actively helped maximize the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students. He also served on numerous positions on Associated Student government culminating with his election as Senator. Juan Carlos will continue his education with a Masters degree in public policy as he strives to become a more effective servant of the public good.



Melissa Wu, Princeton University, AB Sociology

A native of New England, Melissa found her home in New York City after graduating from Princeton University. Melissa has spent the last six years with The TEAK Fellowship, the start-up nonprofit organization that equalizes access to excellent educational opportunities by preparing talented low-income students for success in rigorous high schools. Melissa's experiences include an internship at Oxfam America, academic independent work on teenage pregnancy and children of immigrants, training at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, and Coro's Leadership New York program, have reinforced her ambitions for a career in the public interest and her belief that the critical concerns facing democratic society are interrelated.

Veronica Zimmerman, University of California, Los Angeles, BA International Development

As president of the Central American Student Association at UCLA, Veronica Zimmerman spearheaded the goal of establishing a specialization in Central American studies. She also worked for the Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program, an affiliate of the UCLA Labor Center. Before Coro, Veronica was an intern at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE), and Good Jobs First in Washington D.C. She hopes to pursue a joint degree in Urban Planning/Law with the goals of helping underserved communities reclaim their stake in development and policy, bringing about institutional accountability and a decent quality of life for working families.

