

Characterized by a shared commitment to public service, these Fellows have distinct ethnic and socio-economic perspectives, and unique interests. They have lived across the country and around the world, committed themselves to different causes and worked towards the resolution of issues facing our society today. The following is a summary of the experience they bring to Coro.



Vanessa Cortinas
Hometown: Los Angeles, California
B.A., Communication
Tulane University

Vanessa's passion and focus on the youth community was magnified during her time at Tulane. While an undergraduate at Tulane, Vanessa worked with intervention programs for at-risk youth as well as child advocacy through Teach For America. She also served her housing and residence community as a Resident Advisor in a unique urban living program. Upon completion of the Fellows Program, Vanessa plans to work in New York as a corps member for Teach For America or in the arena of Public Policy. Her long-term goals include pursuing a master's degree. She enjoys yoga, exercise and reading poetry.

After Coro...

One week after graduation, Vanessa Cortinas will depart to New York, NY. Vanessa is a 2003 corps member for Teach For America, she has been assigned as an elementary school teacher in the Bronx. Teach For America is a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic backgrounds who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to expand opportunity for children. Upon completion of her work in New York, Vanessa will be awarded a Master's Degree. After her two-year commitment she plans to apply for an MBA program with a concentration on non-profit management.



Jonathan Cowan
Hometown: Lake Oswego, Oregon
B.A., History
Bowdoin College

Jonathan served on Bowdoin's budget and financial priorities committee, was active in the campus Jewish community, and served as a leader in the new social house system, which replaced fraternities. He completed a summer research fellowship at Historic Deerfield museum where he explored museum interpretive strategies and the role museums play in communal identity. Jonathan worked for Congressman Tom Allen as the legislative assistant handling environmental, energy, and agriculture issues. Working with a coalition of nonprofits and other Congressional offices, Jonathan helped coordinate strategy to oppose broad environmental exemptions sought by the Pentagon. He enjoys hiking, running, reading, and traveling.

After Coro...

Jonathan has many interests and is as yet unsure where his career path will take him. Prior to Coro, he handled environmental issues for Congressman Tom Allen in Washington, DC. He cares about the environment, his Jewish cultural background, and is fascinated by politics. Jonathan is

open to a wide variety of post Coro opportunities that will creatively challenge him as well as allow him to use his writing and analytical skills.



MyLoc Dinh
Hometown: San Diego, California
B.A., Linguistics
University of California, San Diego

MyLoc Dinh majored in Linguistics with a specialization in English as a foreign language. After graduating, she taught secondary school students in Aomori, Japan through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. MyLoc worked as a writer and editor for a linguistics reference database, as well as a marketing coordinator for a Vietnamese radio station. She has volunteered for the United Nations Association, International Visitors Council, International Rescue Committee, and JET Alumni Association of Southern California. Her interests include the study of languages, Asian American issues, women's rights, theater, and debate. MyLoc's goals include furthering her awareness in linguistics, international relations, law, and education.

After Coro...

Due to her positive experiences on the Fellows program, MyLoc Dinh's interests in law and business have been reignited, and she intends to apply either to law school or business school after Coro. She hopes to learn, develop, and eventually teach practical knowledge about law and business to underprivileged communities, in order to more effectively promote social justice for those groups. In the interim, she is planning to look for relevant work experience to further her skills in analytical thinking. MyLoc also intends to pursue her commitment to the study of languages, women's rights, Asian American issues, and theater.



Elias Enciso
Hometown: Los Angeles, California
B.A. in Political Science and Chicana/o Studies
University of California, Los Angeles

Elias served as internal vice president of UCLA's Student Association Council, and organizer of the UC Affirmative Action Coalition. During his tenure, he took part in a successful campaign to repeal UC Standing Policies 1 and 2 - anti-affirmative action policies that preceded Proposition 209 (This campaign also called for the revision of admission policies). As part of La Familia, Elias helped in the development of an annual conference targeting Gay and Lesbian Latino Youth - the first one of its kind in the country. His future plans include attending law school and continuing to take part in community leadership. In his spare time, Elias enjoys hip-hop and learning French.

After Coro...

After the Coro Fellows Program, Elias Enciso hopes to work for non-profit organization that specializes in civil rights and community development or for the public affairs department of a for-profit company. Elias is currently applying to volunteer as a camp counselor with a camp for children with AIDS. In the future, Elias will attend law school and consider a career in local politics.

Jordan Henry
Hometown: Grand Rapids, Michigan



**B.A., Philosophy
Yale College**

Since graduating in 1993, Jordan has been a teacher in the public schools of Compton and Los Angeles, California. His experience as a teacher heightened his sensitivity and understandings of the obstacles facing low-income communities and families. This new awareness planted the seed to some of his future goals, which include changing public consciousness and politics in a manner that assists low-income communities and peoples. Jordan enjoys exercising, watching and playing baseball.

After Coro...

Jordan Henry looks back at his Coro experience with great satisfaction and looks forward to finding employment in Los Angeles' public sector. Of particular local interest to Jordan is downtown development, and the effect it inevitably will have on downtown's homeless population, homeless facilities, and homeless resources.



**Janelle Lin
Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska
B.A., Studio Art
Pomona College**

While in college, Janelle was active in the campus community and student government. As Community Affairs, Commissioner, Janelle organized a diversity of projects and speakers to engage the student population in service and activism. Following graduation, she continued developing her passion for the non-profit sector by coordinating a mentoring program for inner-city youth in Los Angeles and serving as a fellow in the Riordan Volunteer Leadership Development Program. Most recently, Janelle worked as a fundraiser and grant writer for the UCLA School Management Program, benefiting underperforming public schools in California. Janelle plans to attend business school to pursue a degree in non-profit management and hopes to someday lead a community-based youth organization.

After Coro...

In the fall, Janelle Lin will be moving to Boston to attend Harvard Business School and Harvard Graduate School of Education. She will be pursuing a joint MBA/Masters in Education in order to further her knowledge about general management and education policy for at-risk youth. Janelle hopes to return to Los Angeles in the future to lead a non-profit organization. She will also continue developing her passion for yoga and the arts.



**Claudia Medina
Hometown: Los Angeles, California
B.A., Sociology
Occidental College**

In response to information she collected for her senior thesis on gentrification in Echo Park, Claudia Medina started organizing tenant's right meetings because she found that the lower-class population in the community was being illegally and unfairly displaced. Currently, Claudia is very involved with helping tenants by referring them to legal aid organizations and by directing them on the procedures of the Los Angeles Rent Control Ordinance. She is also involved with various non-profit organizations in the community such as Inquilinos Unidos, Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council, and

ArtscorpsLA. Her long-term academic goals include a Graduate Degree in Public Policy and law school, while Claudia's professional goals include practicing law for a few years and possibly running for elected office.

After Coro...

After Coro Claudia will continue working with ArtscorpsLa, Inquilinos Unidos and Elysian Valley United. She also plans to spend much time with loved ones before beginning Law School at UC Berkeley with a focus on tenant rights.



Charles Moskowitz
Hometown: New York, NY
B.A., Economics and Philosophy
University of Pennsylvania

Upon his graduating in the class of 2000, Charles was employed in the Marketing department at the National Basketball Association (NBA) since. His work with the NBA exposed him to a broad range of areas including marketing, sales, event planning and public relations. Furthermore, it served as a vehicle for community work with underprivileged children through programs in Harlem ranging from basketball clinics to reading at an after-school program. He plans on attending law school beginning in 2003. Charles other interests include traveling and sports of any kind.

After Coro...

After Coro, Charles immediate plans include work on a democratic presidential campaign for the summer and law school in the fall, most likely at Fordham Law School in New York. Beyond these two commitments, he remains open to exploring opportunities.



Erica Shinohara
Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii
B.A., Diplomacy and World Affairs-Economics
Occidental College

Erica Shinohara graduated cum laude from Occidental College with Bachelors Degrees in Diplomacy and World Affairs and Economics for Business and Management. She produced two senior papers, one focused on the effects of microfinancing on women, the other concerning the effects of increased economic globalization in the North/South Korean reconciliation process. As an undergraduate, she volunteered in the Asian American Tutorial Project and served as a Multicultural Summer Institute Hall Coordinator. Erica interned at the United Nations in New York and spent six months studying abroad in Tokyo. As a 2001 Princeton Junior Summer Institute Fellow, she plans to pursue a joint degree in law and public policy.

After Coro...

After going through a once-in-a-lifetime experiential learning obstacle course, Erica will be heading off to the structured environment of Carnegie Mellon University Heinz School to get a Masters of Science in Public Policy and Management graduate degree. She is grateful to the Coro Fellows Program for helping her to realize that she must be able to "walk the walk and talk the talk" in engaging with different sectors of the public affairs arena to produce effective and creative ways to affect social change. Erica hopes to utilize both her Coro training and graduate-level quantitative skills to further economic

development efforts to help low-income communities become healthy, self-sustaining places to live.



Edward Takashima
Hometown: Sacramento, California
B.A., Public Policy Analysis
Pomona College

For the past year, Edward Takashima has worked for the Southern California Consortium on Research in Education, co-authoring a report on the conditions of education in the Los Angeles region. Previously, he has interned with the Speaker of the California Assembly and the Los Angeles Board of Education. As an undergraduate, Edward was active in local politics and was a leader in the student judiciary. Mr. Takashima plans to continue studies in public policy and pursue a career in public affairs.

After Coro...

After Coro, Ed will be working as Director for Special Projects at LA Tomorrow, a nonprofit organization chaired by Speaker Emeritus Robert Hertzberg. He plans to remain in Los Angeles until pursuing graduate and law school.



Star Wilbraham
Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia
B.B.A., International Business
James Madison University

Since graduating from James Madison University, Star Wilbraham has pursued her interest in advocacy, organizing and leadership development in a variety of settings. These include working for: the Center for Policy Alternatives, the United States Student Association, the US Department of Education, AmeriCorp, Hemlock Overlook Center for Outdoor Education, and Fairfax County Public Schools. Recently, she co-developed a series of outdoor/leadership skills workshops for women. In the future, Star hopes to utilize her various experiences to focus on ensuring women's rights at the international level. Other interests include traveling and adventure racing.

After Coro...

Star Wilbraham is not sure what job adventure is in store for her next. With over 10 years of experience in leadership development and management in a variety of settings, she would now like to focus on women's rights and/or capacity-building on the international level. Even though she believes she is an East Coaster at heart, location is not an issue if the right opportunity presents itself.