

# **Coro Southern California**

## 2003-2004 Class of Coro Fellows

*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.*

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**Micah Bycel**  
**Hometown: Los Angeles, California**  
**B.A., History**  
**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

*Micah D. Bycel recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he majored in History. Since graduation, Mr. Bycel has been volunteering on a collective farm in Israel where he was exploring his cultural and spiritual ties to Israelis. During his time in Madison, Mr. Bycel served as Photo Editor of the The Badger Herald and co-founded Peace for Israel-Palestine. Mr. Bycel has worked at overnight summer camps for most of his life due to his strong belief in the positive impact that overnight camping has on individual development. After Coro, Mr. Bycel plans to engage in work that will help to make the values of liberty, community, equality and justice stronger anchors in individual life and society.*

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**Kareen Espino**  
**Hometown: Los Angeles, California**  
**B.A., Arts in History**  
**UCLA**

*Ms. Espino recently graduated from UCLA with a BA in History, where she became involved with an organization that serves the medically underserved. Through this involvement Kareen became aware that medications alone are not enough; that there needs to be effective public policy implementation to address many of the causes of illness. To explore the realm of policy making, she interned for 6 months in Washington, DC, with the House Judiciary Committee and the University of California, Federal Government Relations Office. There she was exposed to politics, policy, public relations, and consensus building. This experience reinforced her desire to combine medicine and public policy to become a more effective leader and advocate for the needs of medically underserved communities.*

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**Gloria Gasca**  
**Hometown: Los Angeles, California**  
**B.A., Government, Psychology**  
**Georgetown University**

*Ms. Gasca graduated from Georgetown University in May 2003, with a double major in Government and Psychology. It was at Georgetown that she led such roles as president of MEChA, member of Alpha Phi Omega, and other volunteer experiences that reinforced her abilities to be a team player. Gloria was born and raised in Los Angeles and takes pride to live in a community that strives for their excellence. Ms. Gasca was inspired during her time as a Research Assistant for Georgetown University/NIH's sponsored grant entitled DESARROLLO (Developing Educational Supports And Reading Resources Of Limited English and Literacy Of parents), and plans to continue her studies in child development/public policy in order that she work with early education programs such as Head Start.*

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**Benjamin Golombek**  
**Hometown: New York, New York**  
**B.S. Broadcast Journalism**  
**Northwestern University**

*Mr. Golombek attended Northwestern University, where he received a B.S. in Broadcast Journalism and minored in African-American Studies. He has interned at the South-Florida Sun-Sentinel and at RBC Dain Rauscher. During his time at college, Benjamin worked with the Harlem R.B.I. program and spent extensive time tutoring through the America Reads program. After Coro he plans on participating in Teach for America and then receiving a masters in public policy and a law degree. In his free time he likes to read, watch New York sports teams and play the piano.*

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**Rusty Hicks**  
**Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas**  
**B.A., Political Science**  
**Austin College**

*In conjunction with his studies at Austin College, Rusty worked with a consortium of local municipalities to coordinate environmental and criminal justice programs. Complimenting his interest in politics and international economics, he interned with a Member of Parliament focused in economic policy in the United Kingdom. Prior to coming to Coro, Rusty was a James H. Dunn Fellow in the Office of the Governor in Illinois. As Human Services point person through a historic gubernatorial transition, Rusty's primary focus included child welfare, disabilities issues, Medicaid/Medicare, and aging population. Rusty hopes to continue the study of these and other topics in graduate school resulting in a public policy career.*

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**Kimberly Jo**  
**Hometown: Burbank, California**  
**B.A., Political Science**  
**UCLA**

*Ms. Jo is a member of the Burbank and the Los Angeles Korean-American communities. She graduated from UCLA with a major in Political Science and minor in Public Policy. During her undergrad, Kimberly worked at the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the U.S. DOT, Inspector General's Office, Appleseed Academy, RISARC Healthcare Consultants, and a research group at UCLA Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics. Post Coro, she will apply for 4-year programs in Law and Public Policy and hope to serve in the government sector to formulate effective policy and programs for her communities. Kimberly enjoys playing tennis, traveling, and Dodger games.*

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**Dylan Kendall**  
**Hometown: Los Angeles, California**  
**M.A., Museum Studies**  
**University of Leicester**

*In 2000, Dylan Kendall co-founded the Open Museum of Los Angeles, an alternative museum organization designed to involve community participants in the exhibition process and to create more accessible and inclusive museum exhibitions. Ms. Kendall completed her Masters Degree in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester and her Bachelor of Arts degree from U.C.L.A. Ms. Kendall is committed to using the arts and cultural activities to increase awareness and understanding among all people. This commitment results from her experiences as a professional artist as well as from the years she spent traveling in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.*

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**Christopher Lucey**



**Hometown: Playa del Rey, California**

**B.S., Business Administration**

**Mount Saint Mary's**

*Christopher Lucey is a 30 years resident of the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Lucey is the oldest of seven siblings. He serves on boards of directors ranging from non-profit Institutes to advising chief executives. During the past 12 years, Mr. Lucey has served as an advisor to EDD, EDC, WIB and the FTB of California. He has co-launched and managed projects with IBM, Oracle, Sun America and Amgen. He attended Mt. St. Mary's College and the Wharton School of Business. He also enjoys volleyball, skiing and reading. Mr. Lucey seeks to launch a think tank in Los Angeles in 2005.*

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**Gina Semenza**

**Hometown: Gardena, California**

**B.A., Political Science**

**Loyola Marymount**

*Gina Semenza graduated from Loyola Marymount University in May 2003, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and minor in Theater Arts. At LMU she was Vice President of Belles, an all women's community service organization. She visited and tutored children on a weekly basis at Nickerson Gardens in Watts, CA. Also, she often visited Juvenile Hall and spoke with the kids there. On campus she was a very strong disability awareness activist. In 2001, she had the opportunity to study abroad at Oxford, England. She interned at the Loyola Western Law Center on Disability Rights and worked on the Learning Rights Project, an advocacy program for children with learning disabilities. She is on the Governor's Committee for Employment of Persons with Disabilities and is a member of the Youth Leadership Program, serving for the last several years as a program assistant and counselor. She is a public speaker for disability awareness. She enjoys arts and crafts, soaps and handwriting analysis. Post Coro plan is to attend graduate school and study Public Policy.*

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**Ryan Smith**

**Hometown: Culver City, California**

**B.A., Political Science**

**U.C.L.A.**

*Ryan graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a degree in Political Science and an emphasis in International Relations. As an undergraduate, Ryan served as a columnist for the UCLA Daily Bruin and Nommo Magazine as well as the African Student Union, Internal Public Relations Coordinator. Mr. Smith has dedicated much of his activism on access and retention in higher education issues, serving as a peer counselor for incoming and dismissed students at UCLA as well as organizing for the successful repeal of SP-1 and SP-2, in the University of California system. Ryan has also worked in Mexico City, Mexico with La Casa Hogar Para los Ninos, a center dedicated to orphaned youth and interned with the Fowler Museum of Cultural History working on Chicano and African art exhibitions. He plans to pursue a degree in law and enjoys reading, writing as well as anything athletic.*

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**Bryant Tan**

**Hometown: San Francisco, California**

**B.A., Asian American Studies**

**U.C.L.A.**

*Bryant Tan is a Burmese-Chinese American from the Tenderloin of San Francisco. He graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Asian American Studies and a minor in Public Policy, and hopes to pursue a future that will bring justice to the lives of*



*our society's most underserved and marginalized communities. As a student leader, he actively worked on campaigns for pro-affirmative action policies, admissions reform, immigrant workers rights, corporate divestment from Burma, and undergraduate curriculum reform. An artist, writer, activist, and dreamer, Bryant continually challenges himself and others to think critically about the world and to work for social change.*

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**Don Waisanen**

**Hometown: Corona, California**

**B.A., Political Science/Communication Studies**

**Westmont College**

*Don grew up in Scotland and England and moved to California when he was 15. He has developed particular interests in both politics and the media. As a media coordinator at the Genocide Prevention Center in Washington D.C., he produced several television shows and lecture series events monitoring violations of international human rights law. He has also worked in radio and business development. He hopes to pursue graduate degrees in law/public affairs, theology and time permitting drama after Coro. He loves playing tennis and performs with the improvisational theatre group the Orange County Crazyes.*