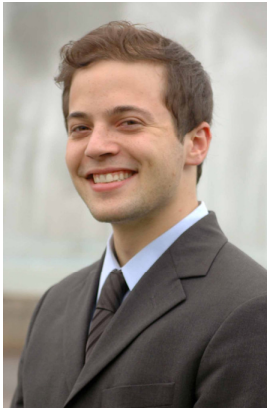




CORO NEW YORK LEADERSHIP CENTER FELLOWS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

2 0 1 0 - 2 0 1 1 B I O G R A P H I E S



Daniel Abramson

B.A., Politics
Oberlin College, 2010
Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Daniel spent his college years engaging in a combination of political activism and entrepreneurial endeavors. His interest in politics and social entrepreneurship is driven by an underlying desire to help improve his community. Last summer, Daniel volunteered in his home district on Brad Lander's successful City Council Campaign. Currently, he is interning at a Brooklyn-based sustainable counter-top manufacturer called IceStone. At Oberlin, he was awarded the Cole Scholarship in Electoral Politics and the Creativity and Leadership Fellowship. In his free time, Daniel is an avid cyclist, an amateur cook, and a frequent concertgoer. A passionate advocate of his hometown, Daniel plans to continue to engage in Brooklyn civic life by serving on his local community board, using skills and connections from Coro to work for reform and transparency from within the party apparatus.



Farhan Banani

B.A., Literature and Cultures in English
University of California at Los Angeles, 2010
Hometown: Plainview, NY

During his time at UCLA, Farhan focused extensively on youth development and mentorship programs where he realized that the need for these programs stemmed from a systemic lack of access to resources in marginalized communities. After working at length for several service organizations on campus, Farhan was elected Community Service Commissioner of the student government. As commissioner he oversaw over five hundred volunteers in twenty service organizations, all working to bring those resources to the greater Los Angeles community by focusing on issues such as hunger and homelessness, education and literacy, and preventive health care. Working for under-served communities in this capacity only furthered Farhan's interest in community development and public service. Farhan graduated cum laude from UCLA with a degree in Economics. Through his experience in Coro, Farhan hopes to learn about different entities that play a part in economic and social development. Farhan is excited to put his Coro training to use to push for policy initiatives that address the socio-economic inequality in New York. He is particularly interested in housing issues, as well as issues that affect the South Bronx.



Imani Farley

B.S., Athletic Training
George Washington University, 2006
Hometown: Shaker Heights, Ohio

A high school athlete that was prone to injuries, Imani pursued athletic training/sports medicine at the George Washington University but never forgot about the community in which she lived. Throughout her time in the District of Columbia she tutored students and worked with community organizations to stay connected to the DC community. After college she worked as a fitness specialist for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in Arlington Virginia. There she served as a personal trainer, taught Yoga and fitness classes. While working for Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) a non-profit organization that provides internships to minority students on Wall Street, fortune 500 companies and corporate law firms, Imani connected to minority college students. As program coordinator, she served as a liaison to SEO's partner firms while co-managing the SEO-U pipeline programs. During her time at SEO she longed to become connected to the New York community and focus her attention back to health. Her desire to merge her interests in public health disparities and public affairs sparked her to come to Coro. She hopes to create critical conversations and mobilize individuals to eliminate health disparities in minority communities, through her work, research and photography. Imani is an avid photographer, artist, dancer, personal trainer and athlete, who enjoys mentoring students on her free time. After she finishes the Fellows Program, Imani is committed to increasing equity in the healthcare system in New York City and empowering young leaders to continue working to make our city a better place.





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Quanice Hawkins

B.A., Sociology
University of California at Berkeley, 2010
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

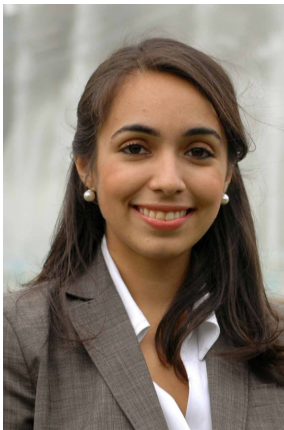
As the first in her family to graduate from college, Quanice understands that the urban communities that she was raised in throughout Los Angeles County are sufficiently lacking resources necessary for upward mobility. Having first hand experiences in foster care, Quanice became heavily involved in the child welfare services in Alameda County. While at Berkeley, she served as a Youth Advocate for Casey Family Programs, was a dedicated member of California Youth Connection and a faculty content trainer for the Breakthrough Series Collaborative on ILP Transformation. In all of those positions she consulted with professionals in addition to assisting youth in advocating for themselves, applying for higher education and employment. Quanice was also a peer advocate for MISSEY Inc. where she served commercially sexually exploited young women. All of her work is centered on supporting and serving vulnerable populations and helping them exercise the power of their VOICE. Quanice is confident that Coro will give her best tools to serve her community on a larger scale. Upon graduation from Coro, Quanice plans to continue being an active, engaged community member; she plans to use the tools and knowledge of New York City civic life she learns from Coro to help achieve her goal of directing a progressive organization.



Christian Laurence

B.A., Aging Studies
Ithaca College, 2008
Hometown: Natick, MA

Christian's education and work experiences have provided him with a deep commitment for social justice and how communities can create positive change. At Ithaca College, Christian synthesized his studies of the diversity of the rapidly growing elder population with the social, economic, political, and cultural issues related to health and health care. As a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar, Christian cultivated his passion for social justice. He organized community support culminating with authoring a grant proposal to secure the necessary funding to establish a sustainable campus-wide student led diversity peer education program as well as coordinated a campus-wide educational outreach awareness program to defy common misconceptions of aging and elders. Prior to Coro, Christian worked in various capacities with several policy organizations in Washington, DC, including: Wider Opportunities for Women, the Medicare Rights Center, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the Congressional Budget Office, among other places. Recently, Christian served as an AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate with the Miami Coalition for the Homeless, helping to strengthen alliances to establish community gardens to provide our homeless neighbors with affordable, nutritious food. After Coro, he hopes to earn a graduate degree in public policy and law to advance his understanding of how effective policy can address social injustices while empowering others to help themselves. Christian is committed to being a leader in New York City, and is excited to join Coro's engaged alumni community. After participating in the Fellows Program, he plans on earning a joint degree in public policy and either law or public policy.



Flora Mendoza

2010-2011 Moody's Foundation Fellow

B.A., Latin American Studies, Humanities
Yale University, 2008
Hometown: Milford, PA

Flora is a professional musician and actor with a deep-rooted commitment to political art as a medium for education and social justice. Based in New York City, she has held a various positions in the non-profit sector while pursuing a career in the performing arts. Most recently, she worked in public health as a donor recruitment coordinator for DKMS, the world's largest bone marrow center. Using her trilingual skills to chair a nationwide initiative to diversity the registry's donor pool, she organized grassroots campaigns in communities of color while developing comprehensive marketing and public relations strategies. Floras academic research and artistic collaborations have taken to her to classrooms and theaters throughout the world. As a Coro Fellow, Flora hopes to broaden her experience in the public and private sectors. She currently freelances as a cultural marketing consultant. Flora is interested in developing skills to understand and tackle issues of affordable housing and gentrification in New York, and she is excited to use the Coro network as a resource in her continued work with DKMS in New York.





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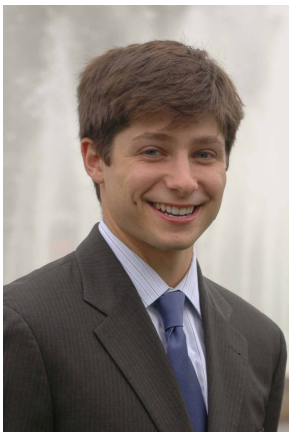
2 0 1 0 - 2 0 1 1 B I O G R A P H I E S



Thomas Nardini

B.A., Political Science
Middlebury College, 2008
Hometown: New York, NY

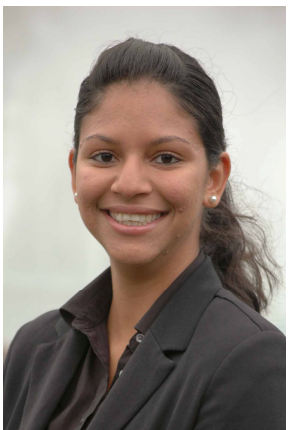
A life-long New Yorker, Max has always desired to serve New York communities in need. For the two years preceding Coro, he was Development Director for Santa Maria School, an inner-city elementary school located in the East Bronx. He led the school's development, marketing, and fundraising initiatives and raised over \$160,000 in foundation, corporate, and individual donations. A continued interest in facilitating positive change in New York prompts his participation in the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs. Max graduated from Middlebury College in 2008 and received the graduation honors of Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, and Highest Honors in Political Science. For his Political Science coursework and interest in the law, he also received the Jon M. Groetzinger and Elinor Lee Groetzinger Award. At Middlebury, Max was President of the Student Government Association and was elected to give the Student Commencement Address. Max enjoys hiking, swimming, reading, and picnicking in Central and Prospect Park. Max hopes to further develop the leadership skills and professional network to help him influence policy and create change in his hometown. He is particularly interested in exploring and addressing reform in social services and education in New York.



Jeremy Rogoff

B.A., Political Science
Washington University in St. Louis, 2010
Hometown: Narberth, PA

Jeremy's college career was marked by an unlikely combination of media, public policy research, and baseball. After attending Trinity College (CT) for one year, he transferred to Washington University in St. Louis, and quickly joined the baseball team and *Student Life*, the University's student-run newspaper. While on staff, Jeremy's reporting ranged from investigative articles on the professor tenure process to coverage of the 2008 Vice Presidential Debate. He later co-founded *Political Beats*, a talk show that combined two of his favorite pastimes: politics and music. The show would go on to become the first simulcast program in the University's history. In his senior thesis, Jeremy explored how renewable energy incentives affected renewable energy development in the American states. He also served as a three-year starting pitcher on the baseball team, where he earned both national and league-wide honors. Jeremy graduated Magna Cum Laude from Washington University in 2010 with a major in Political Science and a minor in Spanish. Jeremy hopes to leverage his Coro Fellows experience to shape policy around critical environmental issues facing New York City; he is also excited to work with Coro alumni in various sectors to help reach the city's sustainable energy goals.



Maryann Rosa

B.A., International Political Economy and History
Fordham University, 2010
Hometown: Bronx, New York

Maryann's curiosity to learn the root causes of socioeconomic and systemic issues in her underserved community drives her commitment to public service. During her time at Fordham University, she served as a Client Advocate and Community Partnerships Manager at LIFT-The Bronx. LIFT is a national non-profit organization that trains college students to work one-on-one with low-income families and individuals to secure employment, housing, and navigate the public benefits system. To further understand transparency in government agencies, Maryann worked for the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC), an organization that works closely with The Bronx Borough President's Office, researching key economic trends for the borough's first economic summit bringing for-profit, non-profit, and public sector agencies together. Maryann also studied social change and sustainable development while living in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Maryann brings a deep commitment to public service and passion for social justice to Coro. A Bronx native, Maryann is passionate about empowering New York City communities. Following her year as a Coro Fellow, Maryann plans on becoming a public interest lawyer and working to strengthen New York communities.





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2 0 1 0 - 2 0 1 1 B I O G R A P H I E S



Matthew Spector

B.A., Communication Studies, Business Institutions
Northwestern University, 2010
Hometown: Livingston, NJ

Matthew graduated magna cum laude from Northwestern University in 2010 with a major in Communication Studies and a minor in Business Institutions. While at Northwestern, Matthew wrote for and served as the managing editor of the Daily Northwestern, helping navigate the changing world of college journalism while developing new business opportunities for the 130-year-old publication. His experiences inside and outside the classroom encouraged him to look deeper into urban communication in the context of the city of Chicago. Matthew's honors thesis, "Chicago 2016: Understanding the Olympic Bid Through the Context of Place Branding," studied the impacts of events like the Olympics and cities' Olympic bids on urban identity, development and communication. He will publish his research findings in fall 2010. Matthew studied global communication during his undergraduate career in Copenhagen, London and Paris. He plans to use his experiences at Coro to understand changing urban values from local and global perspectives, and how to use these lessons to help the underserved. After Coro, he plans to pursue a master's degree in communication and urban transformations. In his free time, Matthew is a traveler and culinary adventurer. Matthew is excited to become a member of the collaborative Coro community, and is excited to shape the city's future by contributing to new and innovative approaches to security, public health and sustainability.



Margaux Weeke

B.A., Political Science, History
Fordham University, 2010
Hometown: San Francisco, CA

In pursuit of her desire to attain an encompassing view of how policy decisions operate on a micro and macro level, Margaux became involved in a variety of diverse and enriching activities while she completed her undergraduate studies at Fordham University. She used her employment and experience as an avenue to study governance and politics from a multiplicity of perspectives in support of her aim to find the most effective ways to implement progressive change. As a paralegal for the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, Margaux dealt personally with crime victims, police officers and eyewitnesses. Exploring politics on a state level, Margaux interned for the Press Office of New York Governor David A. Paterson and gained insight into the relationship between media and politics. On a national scale, she traveled to Denver in 2008 and worked for NBC News during their continuous coverage of the Democratic National Convention. Margaux intends to pursue a Masters of Public Administration degree following the Coro experience and hopes to influence and effectively realize progressive policy in New York City, particularly in the criminal justice field. After her participation in the Fellows Program, Margaux hopes to work for organizations that empower New Yorkers and link individuals to action. She is excited to immerse herself in NYC civic life, and hopes to become a lifelong New Yorker.



Andrew Wilkes

B.S., Business Management
Hampton University, 2007
M.Div., Masters of Divinity
Princeton Theological Seminary
Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Andrew Wilkes is a concerned citizen and clergyman. Three experiences drive his commitment to public service: reading Jim Wallis' *The Soul of Politics*, witnessing the promise and peril of globalization in a trip to China, and hearing Mayor Cory Booker speak at Princeton University. He has worked as a Freedom Schools teaching intern for the Children's Defense Fund, a policy and organizing fellow for Sojourners, and as a policy intern during the first administration of Newark Mayor Cory Booker. Infused with a strong sense of personal mission, Andrew is committed to making cities more efficient and equitable spaces. Upon graduating from Coro, Andrew plans to contribute to the civic life of New York City. Andrew plans on contributing to the civic life of New York City by working for a faith-based community development organization; he hopes to use skills from Coro to improve the service capacity of faith-based community development organizations in New York.

