



**CORO NEW YORK LEADERSHIP CENTER**  
**FELLOWS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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

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**Cliff Archey**

B.A., History  
Wake Forest University, 2009

Cliff's educational and work experiences have continually pushed him to seek opportunities for public service and broad institutional change. While attending a high school in Washington, DC that was located directly between the business sector and subsidized housing in the district, Cliff was exposed to problems facing low-income communities and was immediately infused with the desire to find solutions to those problems. Throughout his time at Wake Forest University, Cliff studied the historical inequities facing many throughout our country and volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Samaritan House for the homeless, and organized a service trip to the Louisiana Bayou as avenues to help confront these inequities head-on. Cliff has devoted his last two years to trying to combat educational inequity in low-income communities as a Teach for America corps member. In his two years teaching at a low-income high school in Charlotte, NC, Cliff saw first-hand the cumulative damage that poverty, institutional obstacles, and a poor education can have on individuals and whole communities. Despite these obstacles, Cliff's students experienced some of the highest growth in the district for Civics and Economics last year. Due to this first-hand success, Cliff believes that education is the key to making real societal progress within low-income communities, but feels that tackling the problems facing these communities in the long run requires a more widespread and far-ranging approach. Cliff became a Coro fellow to learn about the institutional structures and policy decisions that shape New York and hopes to use his experience to pursue education policy, urban development, public law, or non-profit consulting within New York City.



**Molly Beckerman-Rodau**

B.A., English  
Suffolk University, 2011

Molly's education, work and life experiences have made her uniquely aware of and committed to social justice issues—particularly education reform. After earning her GED at 16 and relocating to south Florida from suburban New England, Molly became more aware of the education inequalities that exist in America. Exposure to these inequities prompted Molly to begin teaching adult literacy and GED prep classes. This work allowed her to use her personal experience to help others and to see firsthand the profound difference that even the most basic education can make in a person's life. While attending Suffolk University, Molly served as an AmeriCorps Student Leader in Service and worked at the S.O.U.L.S. Community Service and Service Learning Center as the Community Partnerships Coordinator. At S.O.U.L.S., Molly was able to work directly with local non-profit organizations to help identify and meet the needs of the Boston community. As a leader among her peers, Molly focused on helping students to understand the importance of social justice work and of being active, engaged citizens. Molly graduated *summa cum laude* from Suffolk University with a degree in English Literature. After Coro, she plans to work as a NYC public school teacher before earning a Masters in public policy. Molly believes that every day is an opportunity to learn and to grow. She is committed to becoming a change agent in the field of education reform and is confident that Coro will give her the space to develop into a strong, effective leader who is capable of creating real and lasting change.



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**Charlotte Johnson**

B.A., Spanish  
Skidmore College, 2007

Teaching in the New York City Public School System for the past four years and striving to find ways to ensure the city's students have the best education possible, Charlotte has become deeply committed to public service and social justice through education. In the spring of her junior year at Skidmore College, Charlotte tutored and taught underserved Spanish-speaking adults in the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. community. After seeing the inequity these adults faced as a result of lack of education and English-speaking skills, and wanting to have more of an impact in the public service arena, Charlotte applied to Teach For America. After being accepted to the program, she spent two years teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade at P.S. 58 in the Bronx. There she saw the severe educational inequity that is so unjustly common in our public school system; she also learned firsthand that education truly is the great equalizer, especially in underserved neighborhoods and communities. Inspired to be more deeply and effectively involved in public education reform, Charlotte made the change to teach at a charter school to broaden her sense of the public education options in New York City. At Excellence Boys Charter School, an all-boys charter school in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Charlotte saw that excellent schools can have a dramatic impact on the communities and students they serve. She has spent the past two years creating curriculum, developing school culture and learning as much as possible about how high-achieving schools in low-income neighborhoods function and flourish. Charlotte learned about the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs during her first year of teaching and is now very excited to be a part of the Coro community. As a Coro Fellow, Charlotte hopes to expand her knowledge of the private and public sectors and gain skills that will help to broaden her impact on education reform in New York City.



**Isaac Lara**  
**2011-2012 Edison Fellow**

B.A., Political Science  
Columbia University, 2011

Growing up in a single-income household in New Jersey, Isaac understands the value of hard work. His mother's frequent unemployment and struggle to make ends meet inspired him to serve low-income minority communities. Isaac attended Columbia, where he graduated *cum laude* and was awarded the George William Curtis Prize for excellence in public speaking. On campus, Isaac worked for two years at the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School, helping researchers collect data on educational inequality in the tri-state area. He later applied the lessons he learned there by voluntarily collecting dozens of calculators from classmates and donating them to Harlem high school students. At Columbia, Isaac also served as Chairman of Latino Heritage Month, leading a committee in coordinating various Latino-themed events, and was honored with the King's Crown Leadership Award. Off campus, Isaac spent time at the NYC Office of Emergency Management, identifying best practices on disaster-related topics ranging from WMD to radiological emergencies. There, he explored ways to protect vulnerable communities such as the disabled, elderly, and the poor in the event of a citywide crisis. Isaac has appeared on CNN and CBS News to discuss the youth's role in public policy and was featured in Diversity Inc. Magazine as a "future Latino leader." Now at Coro, Isaac is excited to build relationships with other Fellows who are similarly interested in promoting social responsibility in New York City.



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**Bryan Lozano**

B.A., Political Science, Stony Brook University, 2008  
M.A., Public Policy, Stony Brook University, 2009

Philippine born and New York City raised, Bryan has always been committed to tackling systematic issues and serving the needs of underserved communities here and abroad. After completing his degree in public policy at Stony Brook University, he helped found a non-profit organization known as Pilipino American Unity for Progress (UniPro). Expanding his programs, Usapan and Community Building as far as the Midwest, Bryan aspires to create a model that can be utilized by other communities of color. Bryan has also worked in various capacities in public affairs, including immigration through Congressman Tim Bishop, disability and housing rights through a statewide housing education initiative, and non-profit inner city youth development as the first Activist for Social Development Fellow at the All Stars Project. Through his experience at Coro, Bryan hopes to further acquire and hone the skills necessary to provide sustainable positive change and impact to best empower his community. Upon completion of the Fellows Program, Bryan plans to earn a graduate degree in business to pursue a career in social innovation and entrepreneurship.



**Alexandra McArthur**

B.A., History  
Davidson College, 2009

Alexandra's interest in people, public policy, and government has been a constant in her life. She has explored this interest through internships with Woodward Communications LLC, the Town of Davidson NC, and the North Carolina Governor's Office. While a student at Davidson College, Alexandra founded and co-chaired a Women's Leadership Conference, served as a Speaking Center Tutor, as a First Responder in cases of rape or sexual assault, and as an executive board member of the Davidson Women's Committee. Her 2009 George C. Marshall Undergraduate Fellowship research culminated in a paper that investigated the interaction between a public figure, the media, and government policies. Alexandra graduated *Cum Laude* from Davidson College and became the first Fellow for Leadership Development at her *alma mater*. In addition to serving on the board of the North Carolina Disability Action Network and the National Disability Institute, Alexandra was named Ms. Wheelchair America 2011. In this role, she traveled to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities. Alexandra is thrilled to join the Coro and New York City community and to engage in issues of social justice, gender equality, and empowerment for people with disabilities.



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**Naima McQueen**

B.A., Psychology  
Mount Holyoke College, 2011

A native of Brooklyn, NY, with its varying neighborhoods and unique public school system, education and culture have always seemed to complement one another for Naima. From the time she began her freshman orientation at Mount Holyoke College, she devoted her passion and energy to social justice and cultural awareness on campus and in her personal life. During her sophomore year, Naima became involved in the Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program, one of twelve camps under the Summer Urban Program through the Phillips Brooks House Association on Harvard University's campus. For two summers, she served as a senior counselor, teaching a class of middle school girls and designing curriculum with a heavy focus on social identity development and its implications for educational attainment for underserved communities. This past summer, Naima returned to the Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program as one of the camp's directors. Her experience with there and at Mount Holyoke have only strengthened Naima's passion and commitment to social identity development, cultural awareness, and access to education. Through Coro, Naima hopes to further develop leadership and organizational skills that will contribute to her pursuit of a graduate degree in Community Psychology and further her work in communities that have been historically underserved and misrepresented.



**Francesca Procaccini**

B.A. Political Science; Italian  
Barnard College of Columbia University, 2010

Francesca is dedicated to strengthening international and cross-cultural cooperation to achieve dynamic solutions to global humanitarian problems. Her passion for foreign affairs began early, as she was born and partly raised in Italy, and has travelled the world expansively ever since. Francesca attended Barnard College, and concentrated her studies on political theory, international relations, and human rights. She graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and was an executive board member of Columbia University Amnesty International, with whom she advocated for the rights of refugees, Guantanamo detainees, and victims of military contractors' abuse. Upon graduating, Francesca worked for Amnesty International in Sydney, Australia where she assisted refugee families gain asylum by researching and publishing reports on the crises they had endured. She then spent time teaching at an orphanage in Tanzania, and established a free HIV testing and treatment program for the orphanage. She is now engaged in developing a nonprofit charity that supports the growth of the orphanage and provides educational sponsorships to the children there. Just prior to Coro, Francesca worked for a small economic and public policy consulting firm that specializes in advancing the water and energy systems of developing countries. Francesca hopes her Coro New York experience will help her better understand how different sectors can work collaboratively to advance social justice initiatives in the city. She plans on attending law school and pursuing a career aimed at harmonizing U.S. public and foreign policy with constitutional and human rights law.



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**Nina Scheinman**

B.A., International Relations, Tufts University, 2008  
M.S., Education, The City College of New York, 2010

Nina's interest in public service stems from observing the stark differences between rich and poor while growing up in Tanzania, East Africa. Her childhood experiences have fueled her desire to eliminate the gaps between rich and poor and understand how poverty specifically impacts women and children. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Tufts University, where she majored in International Relations. While at Tufts, Nina travelled to Sierra Leone, where she conducted a needs assessment for women impacted by the civil war. She worked with Youth Action International, an organization that strives to alleviate poverty in war-torn African communities. In 2008, Nina joined Teach For America, where she taught middle school in Brownsville, Brooklyn for three years. She also spent the summer preparing new teachers for the classroom through Teach For America's institute program. Nina strongly believes that education is the key to poverty alleviation and is passionate about ensuring every child has access to a quality education. Nina is excited to join the Coro community and hopes to use the tools and knowledge she gains to advance her understanding of how effective policy-making can improve the quality of education for all New York City children.



**Shabazz V. Stuart**

B.A., Political Science  
Tufts University, 2011

Shabazz is an aspiring social entrepreneur who harbors a deep interest in people and how they interact in social and political systems. During his years at Tufts University, Shabazz was involved in a series of leadership, non-profit and entrepreneurial activities. Initially, Shabazz focused on student policy, working with student government on issues related to campus culture, including residential life and diversity. As an organizing fellow, Shabazz worked on the Obama For America campaign, helping to register hundreds of new voters along with organizing various events, rallies and volunteer activities. Subsequently, Shabazz returned to Tufts to co-found the Tufts Roundtable, a major on campus media platform for discourse and the sharing of ideas. Shabazz would later found the Tufts Roundtable Commons (Tcommons), a dynamic social media utility designed to bring the benefits of Internet publishing to Tufts students, faculty and alums. In 2009, Shabazz worked with After-School-All-Stars, a Los Angeles based non-profit. There, as assistant to the national programs director, he authored high school dropout prevention curricula that were eventually distributed on a national scale. Shabazz is an avid blogger, photographer, social media wonk and political junkie. During his time at Coro, Shabazz hopes to learn how to work with various entities within the community to develop social and technological innovations that will empower citizens to better communicate and engage themselves in the political process.



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**Allison Szutu**  
**2011-2011 Moody's Fellow**  
B.A., Social Welfare  
University of California, Berkeley, 2008

After finishing her career as a collegiate athlete and a social welfare major, Allison spent a year working with two different non-profits in California specializing in adaptive sports for people with special needs. Her experiences confirmed her interest in community engagement and understanding the importance of empowering people to create change within their own lives. Moving to New York soon after, Allison joined City Year, an AmeriCorps program working to lower the high school drop out rate. Serving as a corps member for ten months, Allison tutored inner city youth and worked with students to develop leadership skills and civic awareness within their community. Staying with City Year for another year, Allison then specialized in helping to develop the curriculum for a service learning after-school program occurring within six middle schools. She also was the external affairs director of the One Harlem Community Service Day, while providing trainings and supporting the professional development of the 2011 corps. Allison has a strong passion for traveling and learning about other cultures. She hopes through her Coro experience to be exposed to different opportunities, learn more about public policy, and to gain insight into herself and what potential road she will want to take in the future.



**Shayne Wells**  
**2011-2012 Scott Family Fellow**  
B.A., Politics  
Oberlin College, 2011

Since high school, Shayne has been actively engaged in his hometown of Washington, D.C. His passion for public service and community engagement blossomed after meeting Adrian Fenty, his representative on the City Council. Soon after, at the age of fifteen, he began volunteering on Fenty's successful campaign for Mayor. He would eventually serve as a field manager for the campaign and work in the Mayor's Office during academic breaks from Oberlin College. Shayne's civic engagement and community service has not been limited to D.C. He volunteered on the mayoral campaign of Kevin Johnson in Sacramento, CA and was chosen to participate in the Oberlin Initiative in Electoral Politics, in which he served as a field manager on Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed's successful 2009 campaign. While at Oberlin, Shayne tutored children at a local elementary school and spent his fall break rebuilding homes in Waveland, Miss. after Hurricane Katrina. After a semester studying abroad in London, Shayne was a Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University in summer 2010. As a Coro Fellow, Shayne plans on using his wealth of experiences to contribute to the New York City community. Excited about this opportunity, Shayne hopes to gain even more valuable skills and knowledge, which will enable him to confront critical issues facing New York City.