

FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE 2010



Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

2010 FELLOWSHIP

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

BACKGROUND

The Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service (FELPS) inspires and connects emerging leaders through unique professional enrichment opportunities designed to assist them in developing successful careers in public service. Through twice-monthly sessions, fellows evaluate and refine their leadership skills and practices; discuss public service issues, trends and career challenges with experts in the field; craft a career plan based on personal assessments and professional goals; and build a network of talented peers and mentors who can offer support and guidance.

FELPS is sponsored by the Research Center for Leadership in Action at the NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, a nationally top-ranked graduate school for public service.

PROGRAM

The Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service is a seven-month program for a select group of 30 talented young public service professionals. Career development and speaker sessions held from November 2009 through May 2010 focus broadly on four questions:

- **Why public service?** FELPS encourages fellows to deepen their commitment to public service and explore the many exciting and challenging options that a modern-day public service career offers.
- **What's in my leadership toolbox?** FELPS assists fellows with clearly assessing their assets, knowledge base and skill sets. With this evaluation of their personal "tools," fellows have a greater ability to identify opportunities to expand key competencies at work and in their lives.
- **Who's in my network?** Beginning with their peer cohort, Fellows develop a wider network of relationships and a greater ability to tap those relationships to advance their work and careers.
- **What's my career map?** Fellows benefit from structured sessions with and guidance from Career Guides, who are established executives in various public service professions, and gain a more robust understanding of the complex terrain of public service.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All fellows work full-time in public service in the New York City area throughout the fellowship. Fellows must be recent college graduates and have the support of their employers to participate in the program. Applications for the 2011 Fellowship will be available in Summer 2010.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

The Research Center for Leadership in Action (RCLA) at NYU Wagner advances breakthrough scholarship on leadership for the public good and builds a deep and diverse pool of public service leaders through customized, experiential programs that both expand individuals' skills and strengthen the organizations in which they work. RCLA develops structured convenings where leaders explore the complexity of the challenges they face and together advance their efforts to make change possible. As an academic center, the Center conducts rigorous social science research, employing a variety of innovative and participatory methodologies to the issues of contemporary leadership.

Learn more about RCLA at <http://wagner.nyu.edu/leadership>.



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2010 FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWS

Nicole Bell	NYC Department of Small Business Services
Thomas Cannell	NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Sean Corlett	Brooklyn Democracy Academy
Samuel Darguin	Wildcat Service Corporation
Nate Frentz	Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law
Amanda Frick	Fifth Avenue Committee
Kelly James	Office of US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Samuel Johnson	Teach For America
Tanza Jones	NYC Children's Services
Natalia Lopez	United Way of New York City
Amanda Mercep	American Heart Association
Searcy Milam	Uncommon Schools
Katherine Minster	The Breast Cancer Research Foundation
Alma Moedano	MDRC
Rebekah Morris	Seedco
Jessica Mowles	iMentor
Aden Munassar	DreamYard Project, Inc.
Ly Nguyen	Public Interest Projects
Imad Olmos	NYC Department of Youth & Community Development
Rachel Pardoe	MDRC
Melissa Providence	Prep for Prep
Justin Smith	Teach For America
B. Esther Stein	Prep for Prep
Mariko Sugimori	Everybody Wins! Foundation
Sarata Toriola	Behind the Book
Katherine Toth	Office of the Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
Maritza Trejo	Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council
Diana Urquhart	Sanctuary for Families
Rebecca Wasserman	Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Tina Wu	Urban Justice Center

CAREER GUIDES

Josh Klainberg	New York League of Conservation Voters
Krystal Reyes	NYC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services
Dawn Saffayeh	NYC Children's Services
Sam Schaeffer	CEO - Center for Employment Opportunities
Leticia Smith-Evans	NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

ALUMNI GUIDES

Jeremy Tibbetts Coffey	MS 260 The Clinton School for Writers and Artists
Whitney Hampton	New York Cares
Allison Jones	St. James Elementary School
Mark Liu	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

PROGRAM STAFF

Moschell Coffey	Manager
Colleen SchwartzCoffey	Director





2010

FELLOWS



Nicole Bell

Strategic Programming Analyst, NYC Department of Small Business Services



Nicole Bell works as a strategic programming analyst at the NYC Department of Small Business Services in the Workforce Development Division. In this role, she works on the design and implementation of projects and policies that improve the operations and performance of the City's Workforce1 Career Center system. This system connects New York City businesses with qualified and trained jobseekers, taking a business-driven approach to helping New Yorkers find, prepare for and advance in in-demand jobs. Nicole works particularly closely with the Hunts Point Workforce1 Career Center as its designated Center liaison.

Prior to her current position, Nicole worked at SBS as a New York City Urban Fellow. During her fellowship she worked for the deputy commissioner of Workforce Development on a variety of projects, including forging more effective partnerships with the City University of New York and exploring career center sales and fulfillment processes. Nicole's experiences in the program reaffirmed her dedication to public service, and she looks forward expanding her exploration of the field.

Nicole graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Chicago in 2008, with a double major in Economics and in Law, Letters, and Society. While in Chicago, her experiences in and outside of the classroom reinforced her interest in the world of social policy and public service. Nicole volunteered in a local elementary school and an afterschool program, and upon returning from study abroad (in England and South Africa), she joined her university's newly founded Project HEALTH chapter. Nicole was drawn to the organization because of its guiding philosophy that social issues are not isolated and holistic support is needed to break the link between poverty and poor health. Volunteering in a health clinic, she worked to connect individuals with resources and supports such as housing, employment, children's programs and food pantries. Her belief in the interrelated nature of social issues was also reinforced through an internship at the Emergency Fund, a Chicago nonprofit that focuses on homelessness prevention.

In addition to her volunteer work, Nicole was a member of her college's parliamentary debate team for four years. Her past experiences also include internships at Time, Inc., Channel 13/WNET New York and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Nicole was born and raised in NYC, where she attended Hunter College High School. She enjoys being back in the city and taking advantage of all that it has to offer. Her interests range from theater to the Secret Science Club.



Thomas Cannell

Coordinator of Policy Projects, NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene



Thomas Cannell is the coordinator of Policy Projects at the Primary Care Information Project (PCIP, the mayoral initiative to digitize health care in NYC) within the NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. Tom joined PCIP in 2008 after the project successfully implemented electronic health records in the offices of high-Medicaid primary care practices. He is involved in a range of projects aimed at translating this technological extension into a public health success: reducing deaths from heart attacks and strokes in New York.

Tom's main task at PCIP is to organize physicians, health plans, labor unions and relevant city agencies into partnerships that will use the data, information and knowledge that this new system of electronic health records offers to create a business model for high-quality primary care. Currently, Tom works on a partnership with a labor health fund that will allow the members of that union to access information about which doctors in their neighborhoods deliver the best care and have an appetite for innovation. If successful, this project could serve as a model for health purchasing and coordination across the city.

Tom comes to the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene from a year studying religious organizations and their uses of public health expertise and US funding to prevent HIV in South Africa. Prior to that, Tom worked for the Louisiana Public Health Institute in New Orleans on a project to redesign the psychiatric care system after Hurricane Katrina.

Tom studied the history of science and medicine at Yale, graduating in 2006 with a focus on the history of community mental health. While at Yale, Tom spent a summer in South Africa studying AIDS funerals as a Charles Babcock Fellow. He also worked for the Center for Strategic and International Studies Global Health Program.

This study and work has left Tom with a focus on the role of social organizations in mediating the impact of information on social problems, in particular, the social determinants of disease and the use of health care.

Tom lives in Park Slope and likes running, checking books out of the library and eating greasy food.



Sean Corlett

Advocate Counselor, Brooklyn Democracy Academy



Sean Corlett is a passionate youth development professional with experience in various areas of the public service sector, including with international nongovernmental organizations; social service providers; and institutions of elementary, secondary and higher education. As an emerging leader in public service, Sean hopes to actively promote and integrate youth participation into educational curricula, policy and legislative development. Furthermore, he plans to contribute to public service movements and organizations that make transformative educational opportunities accessible to underserved youth both domestically and internationally.

Sean graduated from Wesleyan University with a degree in African American Studies and concentration in Public Policy. Due to his commitment to social justice and public service, he was recognized as a Service Career Fellow and Dwight Green Honoree. At Wesleyan, Sean founded and co-organized the Nagarote-Wesleyan Partnership (NWP), a student-directed initiative focused on transnational, collaborative youth participation. In 2007, Sean and other NWP members won a nationally competitive \$10,000 grant from the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Projects for Peace Foundation to finance a facilities restoration project. After his undergraduate commencement, Sean traveled to Nagarote, Nicaragua to manage and allocate the grant funds. His responsibilities soon expanded as he became the interim programs manager for the host NGO.

Now Sean works an advocate counselor at the Brooklyn Democracy Academy, a public transfer high school located in Brownsville, Brooklyn that was established through a partnership of the Jewish Child Care Association and the NYC Department of Education. As an advocate counselor, Sean supports powerful young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who have decided to reengage in their education and commit to earning their high school diplomas. Sean provides individual counseling to 25 students, plans and implements relevant programming, and advocates for students' well-being in and outside of the school building.

Sean grew up in Madison, Connecticut but will always be proud of his Boston ties and the Boston Red Sox, despite the taunting of students who support the New York Yankees. He appreciates his friendships, and balances work with a love of sports, music and dancing.



Samuel Darguin

Student Advocate, Wildcat Service Corporation



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

This quote serves as an inspiration to Samuel Karl Darguin, who originally hails from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. As a graduate of Stony Brook University, Sam is committed to education and the service of others. Inspired by an undergraduate internship in the Dominican Republic assisting workers in forming a union, Sam realized that upon graduation he wanted to spend his time working with a public service organization to give a voice to people who might not have one.

From holding informative programs as the director of Educational Programming for his beloved Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to being elected student government vice president, Sam has been a strong advocate on his campus and in his community. Immediately after graduating Sam went to work as a union organizer and became very involved with politics in his community by interning with his City Councilmen Leroy Comrie of Queens.

Currently Sam serves as a Student Advocate for Wildcat Service Corporation’s Learning to Work program at PULSE high school in the Bronx, NY. Sam enjoys speaking to his students and helping them prepare for their lives after graduation. Everyday Sam goes to work with one thing in mind: To change the life of students and inspire them to succeed because he understands that his success is directly linked to the success of his students.

In his spare time Sam travels to various countries including Ghana, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Tanzania, where he takes part in projects to help struggling communities gain self-sufficiency. Sam aspires to one day run his own nonprofit organization and become an elected official.



Nate Frentz

Grant Writer, Brennan Center for Justice



A professional nonprofit fundraiser, Nate Frentz has tackled some of society's largest problems. By writing grants for The Salvation Army of Greater New York, he won funding for a broad range of social service programs from soup kitchens and homeless shelters to after-school programs and anti-addiction services. In his current role as the grant writer for the Brennan Center for Justice, Nate promotes essential structural improvements in the institutions of government, from campaign finance reform to addressing the need for legal aid. Nate's proposals are leading to new sources of support and the expansion of several public interest projects.

Nate earned his BA in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated magna cum laude in 2005. During college, he volunteered as a teaching assistant in an Anthropology class at a public high school predominantly attended by students from low-income families. In 2004, Nate traveled to Ecuador where he supervised and mentored impoverished and underprivileged children at an orphanage in Quito. He also conducted social science research with the Diabetes Education and Research Center, a nonprofit organization providing universal education classes to diabetics in Philadelphia's inner city, where most cannot afford healthcare. These experiences instilled a social consciousness that drives Nate to devote his position of societal privilege to the service of marginalized groups.

Since moving to New York in 2006, Nate has served as a volunteer organizer with Citizen Action of New York, a grassroots political nonprofit in which he engages in a variety of efforts to advance public campaign funding bills in New York State. He frequently writes letters to newspaper editors and, most recently, he wrote an opinion piece for Salon.com explaining the possible ramifications of the current Supreme Court case *Citizens United v. FEC*.

Nate is a self-described chowhound, especially of food that is spicy or unfamiliar. He also likes to take a lot of walks and play fingerstyle guitar.



Amanda Frick

Single Stop Program Coordinator, Fifth Avenue Committee



Amanda Frick has been the Single Stop program coordinator at the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) in Brooklyn since August 2008. FAC is a 30-year-old South Brooklyn community development organization with programs in affordable housing, job training and placement, adult education, and community organizing. Amanda and her team help FAC participants access public benefits, financial counseling, legal assistance and free tax preparation services. In FY'09 FAC Single Stop helped 850 households access over \$1.9 million in public benefits ranging from Food Stamps to rent arrears. Amanda oversaw a 30 percent increase in program enrollment and a 19 percent increase in dollars returned to participants compared to FY'08. Amanda actively participates in professional associations such as the Welfare Reform Network and the Emergency Rent Coalition. She assists in grant writing, is responsible for Single Stop reporting and organizes FAC's annual Christmas Toy Drive.

Amanda graduated from North Carolina State University magna cum laude with a degree in Political Science. After stints as a Montessori teacher in Raleigh, NC, a nanny in Puerto Rico and a research assistant at the University of Missouri, she joined the Peace Corps in 2005. Intrigued since childhood by South American cultures and Spanish, Amanda was thrilled to receive an assignment serving as a youth development volunteer in rural Andean Peru. She learned invaluable project management skills directing a youth radio show, teaching English to English teachers and working in a special needs school. She became fluent in Spanish, organized state youth leadership camps with fellow volunteers, learned to love dancing huayno and eating all of the edible parts of many animals.

Outside of work you can find Amanda gardening, playing washers and otherwise enjoying her (relatively) quiet Brooklyn backyard. She is an avid reader and loves good food, whether it is from her own kitchen or from one of the plethora of stellar NYC restaurants. When city life loses its charm she visits her corn farm in Missouri and other exotic places.



Kelly James

Constituent Liaison, Office of US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



Kelly James is currently a constituent liaison in the NYC office of US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, where she works directly with New Yorkers on issues that relate to immigration or foreign affairs. In this position she relies heavily on the US Department of State and the US Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist her diverse constituency with issues that they encounter when travelling to the US or abroad, or immigrating to join their families in New York. In this capacity Kelly works closely with her colleagues in all levels of local government. She also meets with numerous advocacy groups and organizations dedicated to improving the immigration process as it affects individuals of different groups. In this way Kelly has gained a personal knowledge of the effects of any given legislation on individuals as well as the process of changing or initiating it.

Prior to joining Senator Gillibrand's office Kelly was a member of the staff of former US Senator Hillary Clinton in a similar capacity. Starting as a college intern with the former senator's office, she also took part in various outside activities, such as the 2008 presidential campaign. Throughout college Kelly worked as an intern in several political offices, including those of US Congressman Charles Rangel and NYC Mayor Bloomberg. As such, she liaised with the public as well as different internal components of each administration.

A graduate of New York University, Kelly has her BA in Political Science and is interested in continuing her studies in International Development and Foreign Affairs. Kelly currently lives in New York where she takes part in community groups such as New York Cares and Democratic Leadership for the 21st Century. A Pennsylvania native, Kelly enjoys outdoor activities such as skiing, and takes any opportunity she gets to travel near or far.



Samuel Johnson

Manager of the Career and Leadership Center, Teach For America



Samuel “Sam” Johnson works as a manager for Teach For America’s Career and Leadership Center (CLC), which supports and fosters the long-term career and leadership development of the organization’s alumni toward its ultimate goal to build a movement across all sectors to close the achievement gap. In his current role as a project manager, Sam is implementing a new and innovative data tracking and reporting infrastructure system and is working to develop a new board leadership initiative focused on helping alumni expand their impact as members of nonprofit boards. Additionally, he coordinates his team’s private sector work which includes managing partnerships with top consulting and finance firms and providing resources and opportunities to corps members and alumni interested in or currently working in business. Now in his fifth year at the organization, Sam is excited and motivated by his work to help build a movement dedicated to eliminating educational inequity in this country.

In summer 2008, Sam was selected as a StartingBloc Fellow. As a fellow, he studied social entrepreneurship and innovation with undergraduate students and other young professionals from across the globe by participating in the Institute for Social Innovation held at London Business School. Sam has continued to be involved with the organization working on the admissions and fundraising committees as well as on projects related to performance measurement and vision and mission development.

Before joining Teach For America in 2005, Sam attended Trinity College, where he received a BA in Economics. While at Trinity, Sam was selected by faculty to be a senior admissions associate and a teaching assistant. Additionally, Sam was a founding member of the Trinity Samba Ensemble and worked with a professor to organize and develop a music education program called “Inside the Music.”

A Denver native, Sam tries to spend most of his free time outdoors. He enjoys playing sports, reading about innovative education policy and traveling to new places.



Tanza Jones

Senior Policy Analyst, NYC Children's Services



Tanza Jones graduated from New York University in 2007. A C.V. Starr Scholar and Dean's List recipient, Tanza majored in History and Africana Studies, studied abroad in Brazil and Ghana, and worked to improve public-private partnerships while in Ghana. While at NYU, Tanza also served as president of the Minority Pre-Law Association (MPLA) where she fostered mentorship between MPLA's members, lawyers and law school students in NYC. In her role as president Tanza also organized MPLA's first book and toy drive for children served by the King's County District Attorney's Crimes Against Children Bureau, and implemented a roundtable discussion with Professor Derrick Bell, a scholar and professor at New York University School of Law.

Inspired by a question posed in her high school civics class as to whether citizens should be mandated to volunteer, Tanza decided to volunteer for the Bloomberg for Mayor campaign of 2001. As a volunteer Tanza engaged in policy discussions with New Yorkers from around the world, and these discussions heightened her curiosity about civic engagement in government in the US and abroad. This led Tanza to work as a volunteer and intern in NYC government and law enforcement, as well as with international governing bodies. As an intern at the Council on Foreign Relations, Tanza conducted research for the Council Special Report on Zimbabwe.

Tanza currently works as a senior policy analyst at NYC Children's Services, where she uses quantitative and qualitative analysis to enhance policy formation in key areas such as juvenile justice and performance financing. She also documents and synthesizes agency policies and procedures to verify compliance and monitor oversight. Tanza coordinates with agencies to achieve key outcomes, tracks success and challenges in carrying out policy initiatives, and presents findings and recommendations to internal and external management and stakeholders.

Outside of work Tanza was able to use her experience abroad to design and implement a women's symposium which allowed participants to build community pride, develop their abilities to create and sustain change, as well as recognize the importance of sharing their own stories with those in and outside their communities. Consequently, the Sadie Nash Leadership Project, a nonprofit organization that promotes leadership and activism among young women, awarded Tanza a certificate of excellence for "outstanding commitment and leadership within her community." Tanza has also mentored youth in foster care and is inspired by the ways in which these youth work through and eventually overcome challenges. Tanza continues to volunteer through various initiatives created by NYU Alumni and enjoys traveling, honing her creativity as a photographer, and playing board games.



Natalia Lopez

Manager of Volunteer Programs, United Way of New York City



Natalia Lopez is the manager of Volunteer Programs at United Way of New York City, a nonprofit organization that focuses on the areas of education, income and health in NYC. Natalia's main responsibilities include coordinating and supervising weekly volunteer projects for corporate groups, maintaining a volunteer Web site with the NYC Mayor's Office, and organizing annual drives to help benefit local community-based organizations. In June 2009, Natalia coordinated volunteer projects for over 600 employees from two major finance companies. The different range of projects included a job skills workshop for people transitioning out of the shelter system, a field trip for underprivileged children to a museum and a revitalization of a community garden. Over 15 organizations benefited from the volunteer projects.

Natalia graduated cum laude from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2006 with a BA in History and Political Science. In the spring semester of her junior year, Natalia interned at Women for Women International through The Washington Center in Washington, DC. As a development department intern, Natalia supervised volunteers, prepared materials for briefings and helped write an article for the organization's newsletter. As an undergraduate, Natalia also served as philanthropy chair for the sorority Theta Phi Alpha. During her term, Natalia organized fundraisers and volunteer projects with local organizations. Her sorority received the award for most philanthropic Greek organization on campus the year Natalia served as philanthropy chair.

In her free time, Natalia enjoys traveling throughout the US and around the world. She is fluent in Spanish and is currently looking at programs that will help her learn French. Natalia also volunteers with City Year and other nonprofits throughout the year. She currently works and resides in Manhattan.



Amanda Mercep

Community Relations Manager, American Heart Association



Amanda Mercep keeps current with health-related trends and has always enjoyed the challenge of presenting this information to others in ways that are powerful and persuasive. As community relations manager at the American Heart Association, Amanda has developed and implemented strategically aligned solutions to address community and corporate customers' needs as they relate to promoting health and preventing cardiovascular disease. Amanda is responsible for managing the American Heart Association's first Community Impact Grant, which provides seed money for projects of community-based organizations. She saw an opportunity to engage top-level volunteers while creating an added-value service and therefore launched the New York City's first Speakers' Bureau. As a direct result of Amanda's work, community organizations and corporations place a greater emphasis on health and wellness, as well as increase their fundraising efforts for the American Heart Association. Additionally, Amanda serves as the staff liaison for the Young Professionals, a group of energetic, passionate and talented individuals who seek to dedicate their time and talent to benefit the American Heart Association's mission, create awareness about initiatives, and raise dollars to support research.

Amanda's passion for health promotion led her to pursue a degree in Exercise Science at Skidmore College, where she graduated in 2007. As the publicist of the nutrition awareness group, Amanda found that effective delivery of health-related information could motivate a population as diverse as a college campus. Amanda was also the principal researcher of a 12-week study conducted at the college and worked with a team to identify several modifiable chronic disease risk factors that they then addressed with a specific nutritional and exercise intervention. She emerged as team leader of the study, taking responsibility for compliance to study protocol and modifying aspects of the project when obstacles arose. The team presented and defended study findings, and in May 2007, the study was referenced in *Prevention* magazine.

Early mornings before class, Amanda could be found on the river acting as coxswain for the men's crew team, and Sunday afternoons she co-hosted a radio show for the local college station.

When not working or reading the weekly NYTimes.com Health Update, Amanda is exploring different neighborhoods, cooking (sometimes overly ambitious) dinners or practicing (sometimes overly ambitious) yoga.



Searcy Milam

Associate Director of Recruitment, Uncommon Schools



Searcy Milam is currently in her second year as an associate director of Recruitment at Uncommon Schools, a nonprofit organization that starts and manages outstanding urban charter public schools that close the achievement gap and prepare students from low-income communities to graduate from four-year colleges and universities.

As an associate director of Recruitment, Searcy manages the database of candidate information and coordinates national interview days across the country. In spearheading online outreach for Uncommon, she works with the marketing team to maintain a competitive and informative Web site, partners with social media sites to target highly qualified individuals, and develops new approaches to the external use of video and other media.

Uncommon Schools looks for the very best teachers and leaders in the nation, and Searcy works with such candidates throughout the entirety of their interview process. She also has the good fortune of working from Uncommon's Brooklyn elementary schools twice a week, where the scholars are always inspiring.

Prior to working at Uncommon Schools, Searcy was a Teach For America corps member in East Los Angeles at El Sereno Middle School. During her time as a corps member, Searcy taught three different levels of middle school ESL as well as seventh grade English. Additionally, Searcy served on the school's five-person governing body, managed the teacher expenditure budget, and chaired the seventh grade house committee. At the end of her two-year teaching commitment, Searcy was eager to "change coasts" and move to New York City. She decided that in the fight against educational inequity, her skill set could be leveraged most effectively outside of the classroom. That said, she misses her students tremendously!

Searcy graduated from Rice University in Houston, Texas, in 2006 with a BA in English and Hispanic Studies. She was a recipient of the Distinguished Trustee merit scholarship and a participant in the Century Scholars Research Program. She studied abroad in Spain through the Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship program and discovered her interest in ESL education by tutoring elementary-age Spanish students. Her senior thesis analyzed post-dictatorship trends in 20th century Spanish and Latin American short fiction. In January 2010, she will begin pursuing her Master in Neuroscience and Education at Columbia University's Teachers College, in addition to working at Uncommon School.

Searcy grew up in the Mississippi Delta, a wonderful area rich in music, culture and history, but plagued by poverty and educational inequity. She enjoys reading and learning about all of the efforts taking place across the country to close the achievement gap. She loves traveling or reading travel memoirs when she can't get away.



Katherine Minster

Assistant Manager of Special Events, The Breast Cancer Research Foundation



Katherine Minster is the assistant manager of Special Events for The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF), a nonprofit organization founded by Evelyn Lauder in 1993 to fund lifesaving breast cancer research. BCRF currently funds over 170 breast cancer researchers across the globe in 28 countries. In her position at BCRF, Katherine has the pleasure of working primarily on the fundraising for the Foundation's major events. She is responsible for interacting directly with board members and major donors, along with assisting in the logistical planning process of events. Katherine continuously works to cultivate relationships with donors and new prospects. Through her creativity and persistence, Katherine has contributed significantly to the Foundation's Special Events department, which is responsible for raising approximately \$8 million each year. She is very interested in fundraising and learning more about better giving practices to help utilize donors' dollars to yield the highest returns. First drawn to fundraising and the nonprofit sector as a senior in high school, Katherine continues to be inspired and excited about the future of the nonprofit sector.

Katherine graduated from Cornell University in 2008 with a BS in Urban and Regional Studies and a concentration in Latino Studies. During her years at Cornell, Katherine spent a semester abroad in Rome, Italy. In Rome, Katherine studied Flaminio, a Roman neighborhood, and worked in a group of four to prepare a 100-page report with policy recommendations that was presented to municipal and resident groups and for which they received considerable praise.

While at Cornell, Katherine also actively explored and investigated the nonprofit sector in NYC. After the summer of her sophomore year, Katherine interned for New York Cares and the New York Restoration Project in their development departments. In these internships, Katherine learned about their donor databases and was given first-hand experience working with donors. The summer preceding her senior year, Katherine successfully completed the prestigious Gilda's Club Worldwide summer internship program. Through this program, Katherine assisted in the planning of the Junior Board's annual fundraiser, cleaning up their donor database and managing the processing of incoming gifts.

Katherine has lived in New York; Ontario, Canada; New Jersey and recently moved to SoHo. In her free time, Katherine enjoys traveling, reading, listening to music, watching films and exploring her new neighborhood.



Alma Moedano

Research Assistant, MDRC



Alma Moedano is a research assistant at MDRC, a nonprofit education and social policy research organization dedicated to learning what works to improve programs and policies that affect the poor. At MDRC, Alma has developed expertise in research of K-12 education whole-school reform strategies. As a member of multiple research teams, Alma enjoys the opportunity to work alongside senior researchers and to learn about the processes for conducting rigorous evaluations in order to address public policy questions.

For eighteen months, Alma's primary research focus has been an evaluation of high school reform in NYC, where between 2002 and 2008 over 20 large comprehensive high schools closed and hundreds of new smaller schools opened. She is co-authoring a report with findings from a school characteristics study that will describe trends in student enrollment patterns as well as compare characteristics of schools by size and selectivity during this period. Alma is particularly interested in the impact component of the project that will evaluate the effect of enrolling in new small schools on student outcomes.

A native of Yuma, Arizona, Alma traveled to the east coast for the first time to pursue her undergraduate studies at Princeton University. She graduated in 2008 with a BA from the Wilson School of Public and International Affairs with minor concentrations in Portuguese Language and Culture and Latin American Studies. In her senior thesis, Alma explored the intersection of formal and NGO-based early-childhood education programs available to the urban poor in Brazil by traveling to Rio de Janeiro to interview program directors, government education officials and professors at a leading Brazilian university.

A civically engaged student at Princeton, Alma was an active community service volunteer in the Student Volunteers Council, where she tutored an elementary school student, served as a Community Action Leader for freshmen orientation, and coordinated and participated in service break trips. In addition to her volunteer work, Alma served as a leader of multiple organizations that assessed university policies and practices and sought to increase student civic engagement and improve Latino campus life. Currently, Alma continues her interest in diversity-related issues as co-chair of the MDRC Diversity Council. In her personal time, Alma enjoys listening to country music, playing her clarinet with the Princeton University Band and visiting her family in Arizona.



Rebekah Morris

Program Specialist, Seedco



Rebekah Morris is employed at Seedco, a national nonprofit intermediary organization that helps low-income people and communities move toward economic prosperity. Rebekah works on the Asset Building team for the *EarnBenefits* program. *EarnBenefits* helps connect low-wage workers to work supports and public benefits such as Food Stamps, Medicaid and free tax preparation to help them maintain long-term employment and achieve financial stability.

As a program specialist, Rebekah works to ensure that community partner organizations running the *EarnBenefits* (EB) program have the tools necessary to provide high-quality client experiences. This involves the provision of technical assistance and long-term capacity building, along with operational support services to over 200 partners in cities across the country. Outside of her work with partners, she manages the training processes for the program, tests functionality of the EB screening tool, creates material for user manuals and tracks over \$400,000 of the \$1 million-plus program. She has been instrumental in evaluating national efforts in the Food Stamp Outreach Campaign and helping to adapt best practices for local conditions. Rebekah is also the coordinator of Seedco's Green Team, organizing a group of colleagues who are working to improve Seedco's sustainable practices.

Rebekah is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She earned a BA in Communications and Sociology. While going to school, Rebekah interned at Free Press, a small media reform nonprofit that works to promote independent media ownership and the diversity of voices in the media. She assisted with marketing the organization's National Conference on Media Reform.

Rebekah previously lived in San Francisco and Costa Rica before moving to NYC. Her favorite ways to spend free time are riding her bike around the five boroughs, finding quality cheap eats, and hunting for new music.



Jessica Mowles

Program Manager, iMentor



Jessica Mowles has always been passionate about bridging the divides of wealth, access and opportunity, especially among low-income youth. Currently, this passion manifests itself in Jessica's work as a program manager at iMentor, Inc., a mentoring nonprofit which connects 1,200 adult volunteer mentors with 1,200 low-income youth at 14 public high schools across NYC.

Originally from southern Virginia, Jessica grew up watching "Big Bird Goes to Japan" and yearning to explore other places and cultures. At 16, she accepted a full Davis Scholarship to the United World College of the American West, an international, social justice-focused high school in New Mexico. There, Jessica worked with the local community to develop several youth empowerment programs, and represented her school at the United Nations' Special Session on Children in May 2002. Jessica then attended Macalester College as a Davis Scholar, earning the Dorothy Dodge Scholarship, the Peter E. Wiseman Humanitarian Service Award, the Department of Multicultural Life Leadership Award, and Truman Scholarship finalist status. She graduated cum laude in 2008. Of all of these, supporting herself through college and being the first in her father's family to graduate from college are Jessica's proudest accomplishments.

While at Macalester, Jessica further explored her interests in human rights and social justice through various internships, including those at Human Rights Watch and Total Action Against Poverty, where she developed a summer college preparation program for first-generation college-bound students. Experiences abroad in South Africa, Costa Rica, Poland, and the Netherlands further shaped Jessica's sense of the ways in which the fight for global human rights relates to domestic struggles for social justice and equality.

After graduation, Jessica bridged these twin concepts as program coordinator at the National Conference for Community and Justice, where she created and facilitated a summer institute for social justice and human rights for diverse NYC high school students. Jessica then joined iMentor as a program coordinator in September 2008, managing 100 mentor-mentee pairs at public high schools in the South Bronx and East Flatbush. After a recent promotion to program manager, she now works with senior staff to strategize and execute iMentor's programming while supporting and supervising program coordinators.

Throughout her career so far, Jessica has sought to connect issues of social justice and human rights as well as bridge communities across the divides of access and opportunity. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in 2011. Jessica loves the color yellow, anti-racist queer feminism and Paula Deen.



Aden Munassar

Development Associate, DreamYard Project, Inc.



Aden Munassar is a development associate at the DreamYard Project, Inc., an organization which works to transform Bronx public schools and communities through the power of project-based arts learning. As the largest arts education provider in the Bronx, DreamYard impacts the social and intellectual growth of thousands of Bronx students through safe, positive and creatively challenging programs. Aden balances a variety of responsibilities, from writing grants to coordinating ongoing public relations including the organization's newsletter, Web site, e-blasts and annual report. She also assists the development director in implementing special events and projects, such as the organization's annual benefit. Furthermore, she is in charge of office management for the organization's new Art Center in Morrisania.

Aden graduated from Fordham University in 2008 with a BA in Political Science and Middle East Studies, focusing on Islamic political theory. She spent a summer semester in Yemen, where she studied Islamic history. While at Fordham, Aden became interested in issues of educational equity. For two years she interned at the Bronx Health Link, a health education program for Bronx residents, eventually serving on its board. She also taught English to Arabic-speaking immigrants as part of a summer program for her local mosque. While at Fordham Aden was a member of the Muslim Students Association, as well as the Fordham Club, a society that unites dedicated and motivated seniors during their final year, as well as provides important formal channels of student-administration communication and consultation.

Apart from work, Aden serves on the NYC chapter of the American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals, for which she manages all internal communication. She also volunteers as a member of Community Board 10. In her free time, Aden enjoys reading science fiction, spending time with family and friends, cooking and participating in her mosque, the Bronx Muslim Center.



Ly Nguyen

Program Assistant, Public Interest Projects



Ly Nguyen is the program assistant for the Fulfilling the Dream Fund (FDF) and Communities for Public Education Reform (CPER), both housed at Public Interest Projects (PIP). FDF focuses on promoting equal opportunity for all, whereas CPER supports education organizing as a key strategy for achieving educational equity in some of our country's most distressed schools and school districts. Ly's responsibilities include helping plan national conferences, interacting with donors, crafting proposals for funding and monitoring grantee activities. In her capacity as program assistant, she has an expansive view of the sector, interacting with an extensive set of grantee and donor partners throughout the country. Ly is thoroughly enjoying her work at PIP and expanding her knowledge of social justice issues.

Prior to her position at PIP, Ly worked as an intern in the Children, Youth and Families division at the William Penn Foundation where she had the opportunity to meet with community leaders and advocates dedicated to issues of education policy. She also spent a summer interning for the Philadelphia Free Library where she coordinated summer learning activities for children in South Philadelphia. These experiences exposed her to the issues and challenges faced by urban schools and solidified her passion and interest in issues of education equity.

Ly graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 2008 with a BA in Sociology and a minor in Asian American Studies. She also spent a semester abroad at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Throughout her time at Penn, Ly was deeply involved in both the local Philadelphia community and the Penn community. Ly volunteered as a tutor with the West Philadelphia Tutoring Project and the Center for Community Partnerships. She also joined Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed fraternity dedicated to community service. As a leader within the Asian Pacific American community at Penn, Ly served as Culture Show co-chair and then president of the Vietnamese Students Association. In these roles, she coordinated the organization's annual culture shows as well as organized events to educate and enlighten the greater Penn and Philadelphia communities about Vietnamese culture and history.

Originally from Oklahoma, Ly is enjoying living in New York and exploring everything the city has to offer, particularly the rich restaurant scene. She is an avid sports fan, especially of tennis and football. Ly recently started practicing yoga and is beginning training for a half marathon. Having spent a semester abroad in Hong Kong, she also very much enjoys traveling.



Imad Olmos

Associate Staff Analyst, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development



Imad Olmos is an associate staff analyst within the Capacity Building Division at the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). DYCD supports NYC youth by funding a wide range of quality youth and community development programs. The Capacity Building Division ensures high-quality program standards by strengthening nonprofits' organizational infrastructure and management, promoting professional development opportunities for nonprofits' staff to build knowledge and skills, and supporting data-driven decision-making as the basis for continuous improvement.

Imad manages the consulting contracts and provides technical assistance to the service learning and workforce development programs. The service-learning initiative provides youth with project-based community afterschool programming. The workforce development programs reengage disenfranchised youth and non-custodial fathers with their families and work to integrate them into the labor market. These major program areas account for over \$125 million of DYCD's contracted services. They include mayoral initiatives like Teen ACTION and the Young Adult Internship Program; federal headliners like the In-School and Out-of-School Programs funded by the Workforce Investment Act; and stimulus programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, such as the Fatherhood Re-entry Jobs Program.

Imad was a financial operations analyst within the Contract Agency Finance Division at DYCD before joining the Capacity Building Division. In that role he served as the key liaison between DYCD and its more than 1,100 providers regarding financial policy, procedures and related issues. Additionally, he supported executive agency staff, decisions and functions through advanced financial analyses and special projects.

Imad graduated from the City University of New York at Hunter College in 2008 with a BS in Accounting. On his days off, you can catch him enjoying the city's vast array of cuisine, culture and experiences, or at the airport just before setting off to a new destination.



Rachel Pardoe

Research Assistant, MDRC



Rachel Pardoe is a research assistant at MDRC, a nonprofit research organization dedicated to improving public programs and social policies. Her work there is focused on creating and evaluating programs to help people with disabilities attain education and employment. Rachel would like to continue her career in this field and hopes to concentrate on developing policies that best serve people whose lives are affected by mental illness.

Prior to working at MDRC, Rachel was employed as a case manager for families of adolescents placed in residential treatment centers by the NYC Juvenile Justice System and Department of Education. Her responsibilities included providing guidance and support, short-term counseling, and family skill development. Previous to this position, Rachel worked for YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities. There, she taught employment and social skills to adults with development disabilities. In 2007, she was awarded the YAI/NIPD Achievement of Excellence Award for her commitment to her work.

Rachel graduated from New York University in 2005 with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. While working toward her degree, Rachel held various positions in the public service sector. These included a case management position at an out-patient psychiatric treatment facility and a research assistant work-study job in the NYU cognitive psychology department. During her junior year, Rachel interned at the International Coalition for Clubhouse Development, a global organization that seeks to create communities for people with mental illness. She assisted in the creation and installation of the New York Clubhouse Coalition Employment Survey database. In the summer of 2003, Rachel was accepted to participate in the prestigious Stanley Scholars Internship Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

One of Rachel's favorite memories from college was studying abroad in Florence, Italy and travelling through Europe during her many return trips. Rachel is now a resident of Astoria, Queens. In her free time she enjoys exploring NYC neighborhoods, reading on the subway and preparing meals for her friends. She still tries to travel as much as possible; her most recent trip was to Oahu, Hawaii.



Melissa Providence

Program Associate, Prep for Prep



Melissa Providence would say that New York raised her! Born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens as the only child of parents who emigrated from Guyana, Melissa was taught very early that education was, and should always be, a primary goal in life. For a long time, its attainment was the only aspiration that would be tolerated in her home. Melissa began pursuing academics at an advanced level at age 11 when she was accepted into Prep for Prep, a highly selective leadership development program. There she began learning and developing social and academic skills that would prove critical for the rest of her life.

In 1997, Melissa left a crowded public school in Brooklyn and began attending Nightingale-Bamford School, a prestigious private institution on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Despite preparation from the Prep for Prep program, Melissa experienced a transition that was far from seamless, provoking in her many academic and social questions that would only be answered with time. While at Nightingale, Melissa developed a deep love for sports and for the arts, becoming captain of both the Varsity Basketball and Track teams, and also co-head of the school's Chorale Ensemble. She also addressed a growing personal desire for diversity awareness, acting as her school's representative on the board of an interschool diversity group, and as co-head the school's own diversity group, CAFE (Cultural Awareness for Everyone). Education had gone from being its own goal to being a gateway to myriad experiences.

After high school graduation, Melissa matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania where she continued to grow both academically and socially. Aside from falling in love with English and pursuing it as her major, Melissa also found time to participate in an a cappella group on campus, The Inspiration, and took a leadership role in a social action and community-oriented sorority, Zeta Phi Beta. Here she was able to explore the nonprofit sector and cater to many of the needs of those living in inner-city Philadelphia.

Melissa spent much of her post-undergraduate time pursuing her musical aspirations and gaining notable praise including music sales on iTunes, performances on both ABC and BET networks, and live shows sponsored by New York Fashion Week and *Billboard*.

For the past two years, Melissa has recommitted herself to the pursuits of community action and social service. She has, in a sense, returned home as first a college counselor, and presently, a program associate at Prep for Prep. She intends to build a career catering to the needs of underserved populations throughout the city that raised her and eventually start her own nonprofit organization.



Justin Smith

Program Director, Teach For America



Justin Smith currently serves as a program director for Teach For America in NYC. In his role Justin supports, coaches and manages 40 first- and second-year elementary teachers in both Department of Education and charter schools in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx. Justin focuses much of his time developing new teachers in the areas of elementary literacy, math, classroom management and student investment. In addition to his interests in early elementary literacy, Justin is passionate about education reform; in particular, improving teacher quality and growing the charter school movement as critical levers to closing the achievement gap in the US.

Justin is originally from St. Louis, Missouri and graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2006 with a double major in Political Science and International Studies and a minor in Spanish. In college, Justin worked on several local political campaigns, interned on Capitol Hill for US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky with the Les Aspin Center for Government and also interned for the Illinois League of Conservation Voters.

After graduation, he joined Teach For America as a kindergarten and first grade teacher at Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem. Justin was given the opportunity to design and present a professional development workshop on small group literacy instruction at the national Reading First convention in 2007 to teachers from across the country. Justin helped lead the movement toward more strategic and consistent data collection and assessment at his school to better meet students' needs. Justin's students achieved 1.78 years worth of reading growth and 93 percent mastery of New York State first grade standards in his second year of teaching. In 2008 Justin joined the staff of Teach For America after completing his two-year teaching commitment and earning a Master of Science in Teaching in Early Childhood Education from Pace University. While on staff, Justin trained incoming corps members as a curriculum specialist, teaching basic pedagogy at Teach For America's summer training Institute.

In his spare time, Justin enjoys exploring NYC to find new restaurants and attending live music and theatre performances. He is an avid runner and participated in the 2009 ING New York City Marathon.



B. Esther Stein

Assistant for Leadership Development Opportunities, Prep for Prep



B. Esther “Esty” Stein has a strong passion for human rights and women’s issues. As a result of her passion, she has had the opportunity to work directly with a number of organizations where she has gained experience working with various populations in the US and abroad. Esty received her BA in Sociology from Goucher College with a minor in Women’s Studies in 2006. While completing her undergraduate degree in Baltimore, Esty facilitated inner city kids in conflict resolution and peer mediation in addition to working as an experiential educator at a ropes course facility. Esty spent a semester abroad living in India where she mentored street girls at the Rainbow School, a local nonprofit that provides shelter, food and education for girls vulnerable to exploitation. After graduating, she was able to utilize and enhance the skills she acquired as a facilitator and abroad when she went to work for Outward Bound (OB). While working for OB, she utilized reality therapy to facilitate at-risk and adjudicated youth in character development, decision-making skills, social responsibility and enhanced self-confidence.

Esty left Outward Bound after receiving the World Partners Fellowship from American Jewish World Service, which sent her to work with RAINS, a grassroots nonprofit in Tamale, Ghana. During her fellowship, Esty assisted RAINS in facilitating workshops on HIV/AIDS and child trafficking for local community leaders. In addition to strengthening the Human Trafficking and Girls Education Departments by providing resources, she conducted research on domestic violence to document the need for a safe house and services for victims. Once she returned to the US, Esty worked for Landmark Volunteers facilitating summer volunteer programs for high school students. She then began work as a student life coordinator at the University of Hartford Hillel, where she developed and implemented programs aimed at creating a sense of community and civic engagement with college students.

Currently, Esty works as the assistant for Leadership Development Opportunities with Prep for Prep, an educational nonprofit based on the Upper West Side. In her free time, Esty volunteers with New York City’s Amnesty International Women’s Human Rights Action Team. She also is involved with Personal Democracy Forum, an annual conference and community Web site dedicated to developing dialogue and understanding between the technological and political communities.

Esty is interested in exploring how the Internet and social media tools are changing democracy and civic engagement. In the future Esty hopes to work in the field empowering communities at a grassroots level. She resides in Brooklyn, where she conducts vegan experiments in her kitchen. She has a Twitter (@estystein) and an almond addiction.



Mariko Sugimori

Program Coordinator, Everybody Wins! Foundation



Over the past eight years, Mariko Sugimori has worked with nonprofits that serve children. These experiences have enabled her to utilize her skills in program management, outreach, development and database management.

In high school she worked during the summers as a teacher's assistant at the Children's School of Science, which encourages children to develop a love and appreciation of science. While completing coursework in East Asian Studies and History as an undergraduate at New York University, she also served as an intern at Project Sunshine, an organization that provides free educational, recreational and social programs to children facing medical challenges. At Project Sunshine, Mariko worked on both the development and the program sides of the organization, researching grant opportunities and writing applications, supporting the staff with planning the annual gala, and organizing an alternative spring break program for UNC volunteers.

Upon graduating from college, Mariko joined the program team at the Everybody Wins! Foundation, which strives to increase the prospects of children in school by coordinating one-on-one reading exchanges with caring adults. As a program coordinator, Mariko is responsible for delivering the Power Lunch program in five NYC public schools by connecting those schools with major corporations in the city. In this role, she manages six employees and leads volunteer recruitment, training and management at 16 companies in Manhattan.

Mariko also volunteers at Upwardly Global, which helps highly skilled legal immigrants find work in America. When Mariko is not working, she enjoys knitting, skiing and (when she has access to a boat) sailing.



Sarata Toriola

Program Assistant, Behind the Book



Sarata Toriola graduated magna cum laude from Wheaton College with a BA in English. During her college career, Sarata took on several leadership roles both on and off campus. She worked as a teaching assistant at the Pinecroft Elementary School located in Norton, Massachusetts and led fourth and fifth grade students in various community service projects. She also taught English as a Second Language in Turkey at the Robert College summer camp. Sarata also founded Voices United to Jam, Wheaton's gospel and R&B singing group; chaired the College Hearing Board, Wheaton's student-run judicial body; and organized events for the Center for Intercultural Learning.

Following graduation, Sarata earned a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship to teach high school students in Korea. To motivate her students to improve their English skills, Sarata created original lesson plans centered on multi- and cross-cultural themes such as West African traditions, hip-hop music and American holidays. She also worked with Korean teachers to track students' progress in her classroom, identify challenges to learning and find creative solutions to maximize student potential.

Sarata is currently a program assistant at Behind the Book, a literacy nonprofit that brings books and their authors into high-need NYC public schools. As a program assistant, Sarata plans and coordinates author visits for De Witt Clinton High School in the Bronx, NY. She recruits and supervises volunteers to help Behind the Book teachers and staff during elementary school visits and special events. In addition to her program management responsibilities, she is also involved in the organization's fundraising efforts. She works alongside fellow staff and board members to organize special projects and events including Behind the Book's annual benefit, newsletter and various fundraisers aimed at young professionals and new supporters.

Sarata grew up in the Bronx, NY. She enjoys traveling and has visited numerous countries in Asia, Africa, South America and Europe. She also volunteers for a writing workshop for women of color in Brooklyn, NY.



Katherine Toth

Assistant to the Chief of Staff and General Counsel and LGBT Liaison,
Office of the Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer



Katherine “Kate” Toth graduated magna cum laude with a BA from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University. Her concentration was in International Politics and History and Political Theory. The topic of her senior colloquium was “Visionary Politics and Its Execution.” Kate was a member of the Dean’s Honors Society during her junior and senior years, during which time she traveled to Costa Rica and Brazil to perform community service. She was the President and Editor-in-Chief of NYU’s *Journal of Global Affairs*, the aim of which is to foster and continue dialogue on important global issues in the NYU community. Kate’s essay on the impact of military contractors on international governance was published in the *Journal of Global Affairs* during her last year of school.

While at NYU, Kate worked as program assistant for the Post-Conflict Peacebuilding program at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC), a think tank which works to enhance international responses to humanitarian crises and global security threats. During her tenure at CIC, she was noted as a research assistant in two of the Center’s publications: *Recovering from War: Gaps in Early Action*, a report for the UK Department for International Development; and *From Fragility to Resilience: Concepts and Dilemmas of Statebuilding in Fragile States*, a project for the OECD Fragile States Group.

After graduating, Kate served as the primary researcher for *New York Times* journalist David Rohde for his upcoming book on the US’s historical role and current nation-building efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Kate is currently special assistant to the chief of staff and general counsel, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) liaison for Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer. She is responsible for managing programs and coordinating priorities for the Chief of Staff and General Counsel. This includes the Civic Leaders of Tomorrow Public Policy Fellowship and the Borough President’s Immigrant Rights Task Force. She also has the opportunity to research and analyze a variety of topics including local and national legislation, policy positions and legal precedents. As the LGBT liaison, she develops and maintains relationships with key community stakeholders and government officials, organizes citywide events, and develops policy.

Kate takes the opportunity to travel whenever possible, whether it is abroad or within the US. She has spent time in Israel, Jordan, central Europe and parts of Latin America, and plans to continue to explore these and other countries. In her free time, she enjoys visiting museums and galleries – especially the Jackson Pollock pieces in the modern section of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Maritza Trejo

Lead Trainer, Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council



Maritza Raquel Trejo was born and raised in El Salvador. She comes from a family led and sustained by her beautiful grandmother Raquel Argueta Trejo. Her family's struggles and perseverance during and after the civil war impacted her life from an early age, giving her greater insight into the needs of others. Maritza's commitment to public service comes from those experiences and a strong sense of social justice.

In 2001 Maritza immigrated to the US. She graduated in December of 2006 from the University of California, Berkeley with a BA in Political Science. She also spent one semester abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, where she participated in a graduate-level seminar on Comparative Transitional Justice. While in college, Maritza worked as a research assistant for Professor Ruth Collier on a long-term comparative analysis of patterns of political participation and representation in six major Latin American countries. Maritza was also a co-founding member of Transfer Colectiva, a student-led support group for transfer students. She volunteered for the Oakland City Equal Access Office as an interpreter for Spanish speakers looking for services and translated official documents from English to Spanish. She also mentored a middle school student with the YWCA mentorship program.

For the past three years, Maritza has been working for the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council (RBSCC), a large Brooklyn-based community organization that develops affordable housing and provides a wide range of social services. Maritza's role as the lead trainer for the job training and education program consists of overseeing all soft and hard skills training-related activities and providing individual career counseling to program participants. Since working at RBSCC, Maritza has assisted with writing and editing the winning proposals for the job training program and a \$1.4 million grant to provide homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services. Although Maritza enjoys her job, she is looking forward to going back to school and expanding her skill set and experience in public service.

Maritza likes to bike to work and ride throughout Brooklyn. She enjoys trying different foods from all over the world. She is also an avid sports fan and follows Real Madrid F.C. and the Cal Football team (Go Bears!). Every year Maritza travels to El Salvador to spend time with her family.



Diana Urquhart

Manager of Program Evaluation and Data Systems, Sanctuary for Families



Diana Urquhart has worked at Sanctuary for Families, a leading domestic violence service provider in NYC, for nearly three years. She served as a program assistant and later coordinator of the agency's Economic Empowerment Programs before being promoted to manager of Program Evaluation and Data Systems. Her experience with both the program design and implementation level and greater agency-wide management level has trained her to focus simultaneously on both minute procedural details and larger policy and agency-wide implications. It has also given her a unique perspective on how nonprofit agencies should be run. She hopes to continue to build upon her professional experience in order to someday run her own nonprofit organization.

As the coordinator of Economic Empowerment Programs, Diana played an indispensable part in the creation and design of an innovative public-private sector demonstration project that is studying barriers to employment for a high-needs population – individuals leaving domestic violence shelters – and finding ways to help them overcome barriers and move into living-wage employment. Also during her time as coordinator, Diana took on the challenge of sharing her expertise on the intersection of domestic violence and poverty with others in the community. She presented at Fordham Law's Feerick Center for Social Justice on the connection between economic abuse, domestic violence and financial literacy, and co-facilitated two workshops at a conference on poverty hosted by the New York State Department of Social Services in Orange County, NY.

Diana is generally perceived by her colleagues as highly intelligent, knowledgeable, helpful and thoughtful, so when a position opened up in the agency's administration department, Diana was tapped by senior leadership to fill it. In her new capacity as Manager of Program Evaluation and Data Systems, Diana manages the planning and implementation of the Program Evaluation Initiative and oversees data management processes throughout the agency, including design, implementation, development, review and modification of both existing and new operations. She also collaborates closely with development, finance, executive and program staff in efforts to secure existing funding and advocate for new revenue sources.

Diana is an avid learner, committed to her own professional growth and development. She consistently augments necessary job knowledge with an understanding of the larger political context. To support that learning, Diana participated actively in several coalitions including the Welfare Reform Network and several of its subsidiary committees: the Taskforce on Domestic Violence and Economic Justice and the Policy and Advocacy Committee.

Diana volunteers regularly with Sanctuary for Families, as well as with New York Cares. She is a competitive tennis player, an avid reader and a college football enthusiast – go Hokies!



Rebecca Wasserman

Manager of Donor and Volunteer Relations, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation



Rebecca Wasserman is currently the manager of Donor and Volunteer Relations at the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, which is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. As the manager of Donor and Volunteer Relations, Rebecca oversees the organization's direct mail program, accounting for approximately \$1.2 million of the Foundation's annual budget. She provides information and support for current and potential donors and volunteers, and maintains the Foundation's participation in federal, state and local giving campaigns. Rebecca is consistently inspired by those living with or affected by spinal cord injury and paralysis, and is thrilled to be part of one the nation's leading health organizations.

Prior to joining the Reeve Foundation full-time in August 2008, Rebecca interned with the foundation for a year primarily working with the development department and the vice president of Advocacy and Government Affairs in Washington, DC. In addition, she interned at the Palms for Life Fund and Dress for Success Worldwide in New York.

Rebecca graduated from the George Washington University in May 2008, where she majored in Human Services and minored in Communications and Judaic Studies. During her four years in DC, Rebecca volunteered at various organizations including the HSC Pediatric Center, World Bank Children's Center, Community of Hope, IONA Senior Services, and City Dogs Rescue. Rebecca found her academic and service-learning experiences encouraging, yet felt strongly that more could be done on a larger scale, leading her to join the nonprofit sector full-time.

In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys being around family and friends, laughing until her stomach hurts, cooking, and exploring the city.



Tina Wu

Legal Advocate, Urban Justice Center



As a legal advocate at the Urban Justice Center, Tina represents homeless, near homeless, and low-income residents of NYC through the Homelessness Outreach and Prevention Project. Tina staffs the project's regular legal clinics at soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the city, where she provides general advice on issues such as public benefits, housing court, immigration rights and disability advocacy. Ultimately she offers full representation to clients entitled to public benefits at administrative hearings. Tina defends low-income New Yorkers' due process rights in accessing adequate and regular cash assistance, Food Stamps, and Medicaid benefits. Her work is part of the Homelessness Outreach and Prevention Project's combined efforts in impact litigation, research and policy advocacy.

Graduating magna cum laude from Yale in 2008 with a double major in Literature and Sociology, Tina is particularly interested in economic justice, social class, labor, employment and interdisciplinary studies of these issues. Tina wrote her sociology senior thesis on social class and its effects on family life and childhood, and her literature thesis on the intersecting themes of class and race in William Faulkner's novel *Absalom, Absalom!* The latter project won the Alvin B. Kernan Prize for best thesis in the literature department that year. Tina hopes to incorporate her current job experiences in further academic studies and professional pursuits.

Tina's professional experiences include internships at the International Center for Transitional Justice, where she researched reparation efforts and racial violence in the US, and the Human Rights Law Network in Delhi, India, where she wrote about Indian labor laws. At Yale she was a board member of the Yale Women's Center where she coordinated campus events, authored opinion pieces published in the *Yale Daily News*, and wrote about the intersection of class, labor and gender. She also led efforts to encourage awareness and dialogue on class inequalities on campus by founding the organization Class Matters. At graduation, Tina was awarded the Vicki Jackson Prize for service to Yale and New Haven.

A book lover at heart, Tina especially enjoys American literature and essays. She also enjoys independent films, art exhibits, cooking (and eating), and traveling. For the former, she has started a blog to compile reviews of food carts in New York and write about the vendors who run them. For the latter, she has set a goal to travel to all the national parks in the country – encouragement and co-travelers welcome!





FELLOWSHIP CAREER GUIDES



Josh Klainberg

Deputy Director, New York League of Conservation Voters



A native of Manhasset, NY, Josh joined the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) as a volunteer in the fall of 1995 and was hired as political director in January 1996. In 2005, he was promoted as the organization's first-ever deputy director. As deputy director, Josh oversees all political aspects of NYLCV's candidate education, evaluation, endorsement and election activities. Over the years, he has worked on message development, lobbying, advocacy and electoral campaigns on behalf of state and local legislation, budgets, ballot initiatives and NYLCV's endorsed candidates.

Prior to joining NYLCV, Josh worked on several local, state and federal campaigns in Nassau County, including for Thomas DiNapoli, Jon Kaiman and May Newberger. Joshua has a strong passion for service-learning, which was inculcated in him during stints in the American Legion's Boys' State program as well as the inaugural class of President Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps). He is still involved in service-related groups, serving as the treasurer to the Silver M. Society, an organization established over 70 years ago to honor both students and teachers for their years of dedication to Manhasset Public Schools.

Josh earned a BA in Urban Environmental Studies from Brandeis University and a Master of Urban Planning from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.



Krystal Reyes

**Senior Advisor for Children and Family Services,
NYC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services**



Krystal Reyes is currently senior advisor for children and family services in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services. She works on a range of policy issues that affect NYC's children and families, including child welfare and early childhood education. Prior to joining the Mayor's office she was a policy analyst at the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (CHCF) and helped create the Latino Coalition for Early Care and Education, an advocate group, to give a voice to the needs of Latino children in the early care system.

At CHCF Krystal also held the position of Outreach Coordinator and was responsible for developing and executing a plan to reach Latino parents with information on child care and early education. She worked to create partnerships with schools, nonprofits and other social service organizations to better meet the child care needs of the communities they serve.

Prior to joining CHCF, she was a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Fellow at the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (WHI). She worked closely with WHI staff to launch a national public private partnership to inform organizations across the country about Hispanic education issues and the importance of family involvement. The partnership focused specifically on the Hispanic family and resulted in the first-ever bilingual education toolkit for Latino families released by the US Department of Education.

She received a BA in Politics and Spanish Literature and a Master of Public Administration from New York University.



Dawn Saffayeh

**Assistant Commissioner of Strategic Resource Management and Reporting,
NYC Children's Services**



Dawn Saffayeh currently serves as the assistant commissioner of Strategic Resource Management and Reporting for NYC Children's Services. In her current role, she oversees the agency's management analysis and reporting, resource planning and revenue maximization offices.

She previously served at ACS as Commissioner Mattingly's senior advisor for Resource Management. Prior to joining ACS, Dawn was a senior budget analyst at the City Office of Management and Budget, and was responsible for oversight of ACS, as well as the Department of Youth and Community Development and the Department of Aging.

Dawn holds a Master of Public Administration from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Fairfield University.



Sam Schaeffer

Chief Business Development Officer, CEO – Center for Employment Opportunities



Sam Schaeffer is the chief business development officer at the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), a nonprofit that provides transitional employment and job placement for formerly incarcerated individuals. At CEO Sam oversees the organization's expansion efforts in jurisdictions outside of New York City, including (brand) new offices in Buffalo and Albany. He is also currently working on projects in Michigan and California to export CEO's transitional work model to these states. In addition to managing the implementation of these pilot expansion projects, he is developing a business plan to chart CEO's future growth.

Prior to joining CEO, Sam worked for five years for US Senator Charles E. Schumer of New York. As director of Economic Development, his issue portfolio included job development and retention, transportation, energy and social policy. He worked on projects including the rebuilding of Ground Zero, the development of the High-Tech sector in upstate New York and the creation of Senator Schumer's platform addressing African-American male unemployment, among many others. Sam authored numerous policy addresses and opinion pieces for Senator Schumer on topics ranging from infrastructure development to gay marriage.

Sam's first job in public service was for State Assemblyman Vito Lopez, chairman of the Assembly Housing Committee. He worked as a legislative assistant for one year and then as chief of staff for two years in a district covering Bushwick and Williamsburg, Brooklyn. In this job he learned a little about elections, housing policy and media relations, but he learned a whole lot about the importance of community organizing in local politics.

A native of Manhattan, Sam has lived in Greenpoint, Brooklyn since 2001. He is a graduate of Reed College in Portland, OR where he studied Classics and Religion. This degree – and his previous experience working as a French and Italian cook – prepared him for his current work in the governmental and nonprofit sectors.

In his free time Sam wakes up really early in the morning on weekends to compete in local bike races as part of the Sanchez-Houlihan Lokey Team. In the winter he makes sausage in his extra large Greenpoint kitchen.



Leticia Smith-Evans

Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund



Leticia Smith-Evans is currently a civil rights attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (“LDF”), where she advocates for racial justice through impact litigation in federal and state courts around the country, technical assistance, policy and advisory work – primarily in the education and juvenile justice areas. At LDF, Leticia serves as counsel in school desegregation and voluntary integration cases, provides legal and technical assistance to education systems and their governing bodies, analyzes proposed and existing legislation, and evaluates and responds to proposed and existing federal initiatives.

Immediately prior to joining LDF, Leticia was a litigation associate at the law firm O’Melveny & Myers LLP, where she represented clients before federal and state courts and quasi-judicial bodies. While there, she received a Legal Aid Society Pro Bono Award for outstanding pro bono contributions and multiple recognitions as Empire State Counsel for delivering pro bono services. Prior to joining the law firm, Leticia served as a law clerk to the Honorable Dickinson R. Debevoise of United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. She also served as a policy advisor and agency liaison for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle. As a policy advisor and agency liaison, Leticia primarily focused on Pre-k-12, higher education and workforce development issues. While in law school, Leticia was a summer law clerk with the Legal Aid Society’s Health Law Unit.

Leticia received a BA in History from Williams College. She received a JD from the University of Wisconsin, where she was awarded the Wisconsin State Bar/Law School Academic Award for highest achievement in constitutional law, the *Brown v. Board of Education* award for outstanding commitment to equal educational opportunity and social justice, and the National Association of Women Lawyers Award for service enhancing the legal profession. In addition, she received an MS in Educational Administration and a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on intersections of equity, diversity, law, policy and professional development.

Leticia’s teaching background includes serving as an adjunct professor of education law, a teaching assistant for various education law courses at the University of Wisconsin, and a public school teacher with the former New York City Board of Education – where she was the recipient of the Breakthrough for Learning Award for fostering high academic achievement in the students who attended her public school in Brooklyn, New York.

Leticia was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She has served and continues to serve on a number of nonprofit boards and committees, including at her alma maters – The Spence School, Williams College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.





FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI GUIDES



Jeremy Tibbetts Coffey

Spanish and ESL Teacher, MS 260 The Clinton School for Writers and Artists



Jeremy Tibbetts Coffey is a second-year middle school Spanish and English as a Second Language teacher at MS 260 The Clinton School for Writers and Artists. Jeremy's current interests are policies that affect students in NYC and beyond, and he has significant research experience in English Language Learner theory and practice.

Prior to his employment with NYC's public schools, Jeremy attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. At Rollins, Jeremy's experience can best be described as eclectic, as he was involved in varsity and intramural athletics, social justice issues, and the honors degree program. Jeremy majored in Spanish and minored in Education, and also graduated magna cum laude with an Honors BA after successfully completing an honors undergraduate thesis on the English Language Learner populations in three of Florida's most populated districts.

Jeremy was also a two-year member of the men's varsity soccer team and was an intramural assistant for two years. In addition to his athletic and academic responsibilities, Jeremy was an active member in the grassroots social justice organization IMPACT, which sought to spread awareness and inspire leadership throughout the Rollins community in areas of diversity, leadership and multiculturalism.

Jeremy is a February 2010 candidate for a Master of Arts in Education and Politics at Teachers College at Columbia University. Growing up as an international citizen, Jeremy spent his childhood in Asia, South America, Europe and the United States. He speaks Spanish fluently after attending a local school in Montevideo, Uruguay, where he spent his middle school years. He is an active follower of sports on both sides of the Atlantic, supporting the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars and Liverpool FC in the English Premier League. He lives with his wife and two puppies in the West Village.



Whitney Hampton

Manager of Children's and Corporate Programs, New York Cares



After growing up in Rockland County, New York, Whitney Hampton started her foray into public service after high school, when she completed a term of service of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. Ten months on the DC campus went by way too fast! After graduating with an English and Hispanic Studies degree from the College of William & Mary, Whitney accepted a job with KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit that builds playgrounds across North America.

Four years with KaBOOM! sent Whitney to 27 US states, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico and provided her with a really random, sometimes useful skill set (how to build a picnic table, what brand of sump pump is best, how to get through airport security really fast). The experience of working with community groups and private funders cemented a love of community development, while organizing one-day playground projects led to a strong belief in the power of volunteers and a solid proficiency in event management. Whitney also loved living in San Francisco during those four years, exploring the city and meeting lots of Left Coasters.

An itch to get back to the East Coast brought Whitney back to New York, when she accepted a position as Children's Program manager with New York Cares. Currently, Whitney organizes the volunteer projects involving Children's Recreation including sports, cooking and field trip programs.

Serving as a FELPS Fellow in 2009 was an interesting, fun and informative experience, and Whitney looks forward to broadening her experience through being an alumni guide. After five-and-a-half years in public service, Whitney is excited to re-energize her career and perhaps discover other ways to make public service a strong part of her life and career.

Right now, Whitney loves being back East, close to friends and family and her apartment in Fort Greene. Exploring her new neighborhood, reading, knitting, running and updating her Netflix queue all take up a significant part of Whitney's time, along with listening to music and cooking.



Allison Jones

Development Director, St. James Elementary School



Allison Jones is a passionate young professional committed to education equality and a sustainable public service sector. With almost six years of hands-on teaching in a variety of settings and direct engagement with the next generation of nonprofit leaders, Allison has become an expert at addressing the educational needs of under-served youth and ensuring the inclusion and success of young nonprofit professionals.

After graduating from Haverford College with a degree in Sociology and Education, she was awarded a fellowship by her alma mater to coordinate a leadership training program for underprivileged youth in Philadelphia. After that year, she took her passion for educational change back to her home city, NYC, where she is currently the development director for a Catholic school and is implementing student leadership programs that have garnered the attention of nonprofit leaders like Ami Dar, the founder of Action Without Borders/idealista.org. Allison's strengths include curriculum development and implementation, social media in education integration, project management, and outreach.

Allison is also dedicated to strengthening the nonprofit sector by learning more about the challenges the field faces and providing solutions. She is actively engaging the next generation of nonprofit leaders through her blog, Entry Level Living (entrylevelliving.wordpress.com) while reaching out to current leaders to help in making the sector more welcoming to younger employees. She has taken her passion offline as one of the founding partners of OnlyUp, a start-up that helps nonprofits recruit and retain young employees. Through these experiences Allison has developed a strong understanding of fundraising, networking and marketing.

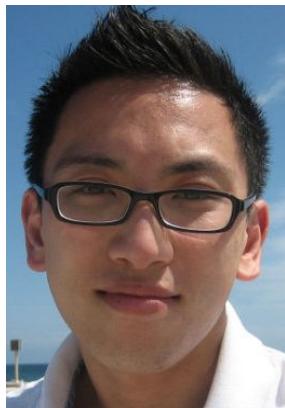
Her excellence as an educator and an advocate has not gone unrecognized. She has been awarded over \$70,000 in grants and fellowships including a \$5,000 start-up grant from Mobilize.org and has been featured in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, the *New York Daily News*, and the Rutgers-Newark School of Public Affairs magazine, *Civic Engagement*. She is also a syndicated blogger on Brazen Careerist, Damsels in Success, WEtv's Do Good Feel Good, and was selected as a Social Change Leader by Greater Philadelphia Cares and a 2009 fellow in the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service.

Allison is on the board of Artistic New Directions, a Manhattan-based nonprofit that provides rehearsal space and professional development for emerging performing artists in New York City, and is an active member of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. When not blogging or working she enjoys cooking and spending time with her five younger siblings.



Mark Liu

Practice Leader, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center



Mark Liu is a practice leader at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, a world-renowned organization dedicated to the progressive control and cure of cancer. Memorial Sloan-Kettering works toward this goal through programs of patient care, scientific research and community education.

In the department of Ambulatory Care, Mark supervises the day-to-day operations of a high-volume chemotherapy unit for adult outpatient services at the main hospital. In addition, he supervises the Bone Marrow Transplant clinics and their chemotherapy unit. Mark is also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and its local affiliate, Health Leaders of New York.

Mark graduated from Binghamton University in 2007 with a BS in Psychobiology and Sociology. His thesis explored ways of “Improving Cultural Competency of American Hospitals for Limited English Proficiency Populations.” While at Binghamton University, he served as the associate director of a student-led economic think tank, volunteered regularly as an emergency medical technician, and was president in community student government.

One of his major accomplishments was organizing an award-winning program to promote awareness and empower students to increase access to healthcare through his role in student government.





FELLOWSHIP STAFF



Moschell Coffey

Manager, Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service



Moschell “Mo” Coffey was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida. She has been working with the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service since July 2008. She first served as the project assistant for the 2009 Fellowship and now serves as the program manager. As program manager she runs the day-to-day operations of the fellowship, including assisting in the recruitment and selection of fellows, communicating with fellows and community members, developing session and program curricula, and working with the alumni network. Before joining FELPS, Mo served as the summer project assistant in the Office of the Dean at NYU Wagner. There she conducted research regarding student debt and public service education funding. She also helped NYU Wagner strengthen its commitment to diversity initiatives. Additionally, she helped coordinate the organization of the 2008 conference of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

A graduate of Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, Mo earned an honors BA summa cum laude in International Relations with a minor in Spanish. While at Rollins, Mo was involved in a peer education group that focused on social justice issues, and she also served as the coordinator for first-year student programs in the Rollins Office of Multicultural Affairs. In Winter Park, Mo continued her lifelong tradition of volunteer service by working at the Winter Park Community Center as a tutor for at-risk youth and at Dress for Success, a program that provides professional attire and support for economically disadvantaged women to help them reenter the workforce. In her undergraduate Honors Thesis, Mo conceptualized a model for examining US foreign policy decisions regarding aspirant political communities. She is specifically interested in how nonprofits and NGOs can address conflict situations, especially in the Middle East.

Mo is a candidate for a Master of Public Administration in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy with an International Policy and Management specialization at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. She lives in Manhattan with her husband and two whoodle puppies and enjoys football, TiVo, traveling, and exploring.



Colleen SchwartzCoffey

Director, Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service
Communications Manager, Research Center for Leadership in Action



As director of the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service, Colleen SchwartzCoffey oversees all outreach, recruitment and selection; program and curriculum development; alumni engagement; and evaluation.

Colleen also serves as communications manager for the Research Center for Leadership in Action, which is committed to building a deep and diverse pool of public service leaders and conducting breakthrough research on leadership as a collective achievement. Colleen develops and implements the Center's communications strategy. She is responsible for brand management; writing, editing and production of a broad range of materials; and Web site oversight and maintenance. She serves as the liaison with NYU's media office and drafts press materials. She also spearheads RCLA's outreach and marketing activities, including the monthly E-newsletter.

Previously, Colleen was the director of communications for the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington, DC dedicated to analysis of the movement of people worldwide.

She has also participated in the prestigious two-year nonprofit management fellowship at El Pomar Foundation, a private grantmaking foundation in Colorado. During this time, she served on the Awards for Excellence program, which recognizes outstanding nonprofits across the state of Colorado, and the American Council of Young Political Leaders program, facilitating exchanges between appointed and elected officials from around the world. She also contributed articles to *The Gazette*, the Colorado Springs newspaper; copy edited a book of poems entitled *A Sense of Place*; and volunteered for the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

Colleen holds a Master of Arts in International Print Journalism from American University and a BA in English from the University of San Diego.

Colleen grew up in Colorado as one of four children, and is happiest running around outdoors and exploring new places.



FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

The Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service is a program of the Research Center for Leadership in Action at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

The Research Center for Leadership in Action is committed to advancing breakthrough scholarship on leadership for the public good and developing a deep and diverse pool of public service leaders through customized, experiential programs that both expand individuals' skills and strengthen the organizations in which they work. As an academic center, RCLA conducts rigorous social science research, employing a variety of innovative and participatory methodologies to the issues of contemporary leadership.



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