

CESAR FRANCIA

College of Arts and Science

Bachelor of Arts, May 2010

Major: International Politics

Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service

Master of Public Administration, May 2011

Dual Degree



Cesar Francia is majoring in International Politics with a minor in Italian. In the fall of 2009 he will begin working on his Master's in Public Administration. His interests in foreign affairs and policy go hand in hand with his passion for service and volunteerism.

Growing up in Caracas, Venezuela, Cesar was challenged to rationalize the cruel paradox of an impoverished populace in a country blessed with rich oil reserves. Both of his parents were born into humble households, yet succeeded against all odds, giving Cesar the opportunity to move to the United States at age fourteen to pursue his educational goals. It was through community service in the U.S. that he found his niche, realizing that his life

mission was to give back and become an advocate for the underserved and disenfranchised.

Cesar has focused his work primarily on the welfare of children. He has worked and volunteered for various organizations that operate with this mission, such as the Miami Children's Museum, Miami Beach Parks and Recreation, Big Brother's Big Sisters and Stand-Up for Kids. Through his involvement in these organizations and the Miami Community Church, Cesar launched the "Social Interaction Bringing Lasting Influence and Nurturing Growth" (S.I.B.L.I.N.G.) project, a comprehensive service initiative that leveraged the enthusiasm of his peers to provide better educational and recreational opportunities for underserved children in the local community. Growing up in a large family, Cesar values the mentorship of his elders -- especially his siblings -- which inspired the project's name. S.I.B.L.I.N.G. has given children young mentors to look up to, renovated public spaces into vibrant after-school recreational areas, and initiated a variety of development and social activities. The organization has been awarded a grant through the NYU Reynolds/Youth Venture "Be A Changemaker Challenge."

Traveling for international education and volunteer work has been the key to Cesar's global perspective. He has learned a great deal during his travels between Venezuela and the United States and spent his first year at NYU in Florence, Italy, where he volunteered for the Center for Peace and Human Rights. He taught Spanish and English to local elementary and middle school students and focused on issues around tolerance, diversity and globalization. In the summer of 2007, he attended a summer program sponsored by the Global Institute for Leadership and Civic Development in the Czech Republic, an organization dedicated to developing leaders capable of realizing ground-breaking innovation. Here, he honed his leadership skills before being offered the tremendous opportunity to return as their Student Coordinator the following summer.

Since his arrival in New York City, Cesar has interned with the largest human rights organization in the United States, Human Rights Watch. At HRW, Cesar became familiar with the day-to-day activities of a nonprofit organization and participated in major fundraising events.

Cesar has also become invested in community development on campus and throughout the city. He volunteers in the Friends Shelter and helps provide hospitality for 12 homeless men and women referred by the Neighborhood Coalition for the Homeless, staying overnight with the guests in a safe, warm, and clean environment once each month. Cesar has received various accolades in his short career at NYU, including two President's Service Awards and the NIA Award for Community Activism.

Cesar is currently a field intern in Rwanda for Miracle Corners of the World, where he is helping to plan the opening of a community center in the Bugesera District. He is also mentoring a group of young entrepreneurs, facilitating leadership trainings, building an Advisory board, and representing the organization before the government and other organizations. In the fall of 2009 Cesar will begin his studies at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. He also looks forward to serving as a Senator-at-Large on the Student Senate Council and the University Committee on Student life.

CESAR A. FRANCIA

EDUCATION

New York University, College of Arts and Science, New York, NY

Candidate for Bachelor of Arts, May 2010

Major: International Politics

Minor: Italian Literature

New York University, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, New York, NY

Candidate for Master in Public Administration, May 2010

HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

- NYU Reynolds Undergraduate Scholarship in Social Entrepreneurship, 2008
- NYU President's Service Award, 2008
- Hale/Chavez Community Activism Award, NIA Awards, 2008
- 1st Place Business Model Presentation, ATHGO Global Forum: United Nations Headquarters, 2008
- 1st Place Bronze American Rhythm, Harvard Invitational Ballroom Competition, 2008
- 1st Place Pre-Bronze American Rhythm, Yale Ballroom Dance Competition, 2008
- OSA Alternative Breaks Program: Outstanding Participant, 2008
- GSP Dean's Circle Scholar, 2007-2008
- Dean's List, 2006-2007
- Honorable Mention in the Speech category, Miami Herald Silver Knight Awards, 2006

WORK EXPERIENCE

NYU Office of Residential Education, New York, NY

Resident Assistant at Palladium, Aug. 2008 – Present

- Implement social, educational, academic and informational programs that engage community members and foster a pleasant living and learning environment
- Spearhead the "Dancing in the Streets of New York" Explorations Floor and facilitating events related to the theme
- Act as a resource to residents and provide them with information regarding university activities and enforcing policies and regulations

Human Rights Watch, New York, NY

Children's Rights & Americas Division Intern, Oct. 2008 – May 2009

- Researched the legal framework of child labor laws in Latin America
- Transcribed interviews that provided content for an HRW report
- Translated and revised documents from English to Spanish
- Updated and maintained the media contact lists

NYU Office of Undergraduate Admissions, New York, NY

Admissions Ambassador, Jan. 2008 – Present

- Lead tours of campus facilities for prospective students and parents
- Assist with on-campus events and greet visitors at the Welcome Center
- Assist with general office duties and answer the main phone line in the Admissions Office
- Participated in informational panels to represent the student body

NYU Office for Development and Alumni Relations, New York, NY

Stewardship and Special Events Intern, Sept. 2007 – May 2008

- Assisted in the logistics of event planning: developing guest lists, mailing invitations, confirming attendance, creating name badges and table cards
- Edited correspondence from the Office of the University President and the Senior Vice-President for Alumni Relations
- Contributed in on-site preparations: setting-up registration table at the venue and transporting gifts for donors, plaques, medals, etc.

Human Rights Watch, New York, NY

Human Resources and Fellowship Intern, Sept. – Dec. 2007

- Assisted with new hire orientations and intern selection, assembled orientation packets, screened fellowship and internship applications and circulated resumes
- Responded to job and internship inquiries, coordinated placements and created and maintained personnel files
- Reviewed monthly insurance invoices and personnel reports for accuracy and assisted in various other office duties

City of Miami Beach, Miami Beach, FL

Recreation Leader I, Parks & Recreation Dept., June – Aug. 2007

- Led various activity programs at indoor or outdoor recreation centers and playgrounds.
- Assisted in planning, organizing, and promoting recreation and social activities for all age groups.
- Insured safe conditions of facilities and equipment and the adherence to safety rules and adapted programs to meet the needs and interests of the children.

Villa La Pietra, New York University in Florence, Italy

Assistant to the Collections Care Coordinator, Sept. 2006 – May 2007

- Lead tours of the historic house, art collection and gardens upon learning the Acton's family history and background on the displayed artwork.
- Cataloging artwork, updating the conservation projects database and offering general clerical help at the office.
- Provide assistance to guests during the receptions that followed various events at the Villa: lectures, musical performances, conferences and readings.

Miami Children's Museum, Miami Beach, FL

Museum Educator, June 2006 – Aug. 2006

- Lead tours of museum facilities for various groups and summer camps.
- Developed arts n crafts, theatrical and musical workshops and engaged children in special hands-on projects.
- Facilitated educational and didactic simulations at the various thematic exhibits.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Friends Shelter, New York, NY

Oct. 2007 – Jan. 2008

- Transform a school's gym into an operational homeless shelter by setting up cots, refreshment table and other living arrangements.
- Providing guests with blankets, sheets, dinner and breakfast and other logistical support to ensure a safe and comforting evening.

NYU Alternative Spring Break, Monte Christi, Dominican Republic

Spring Break 2008

- Volunteered at the Orphanage Outreach headquarters, consisting of interaction with the children through recreational games and English lessons
- Coordinated and facilitated a day camp for the children of a local school in the plantation villages

President's C-Team, New York, NY

Sept. 2007 – Dec. 2007

- Provided tutoring services every Saturday at the Grace Church School through the Go-Project mentoring program.
- Assisted children in elementary school with math, reading and writing.

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Miami Beach, FL

Aug. 2005 – May 2006

- Served as a mentor to a second grade student at South Pointe Elementary
- Provided help to my mentee with homework and special assignments
- Spent quality time playing field games and other forms of entertainment

Stand-Up for Kids, Miami Beach, FL

Apr. 2005 – May 2006

- Served as the Spokesperson for the organization's national Don't Run Away Program
- Gave presentations on teen homelessness in middle schools and high school around the Miami Dade area.

Miami Beach Community Church, Miami Beach, FL

Aug. 2002 – 2006

- Served as the Assistant Sunday School Teacher and prepared lesson plans and theatrical biblical representations
- Facilitated arts-n-crafts workshops and entertainment for the children
- Spearheaded the renovation of the facilities.

ACTIVITIES

NYU Student Senators Council/University Committee on Student Life

Senator-at-Large, Fall 2009 – Present

- Advocate for the protection and promotion of the interests, rights and responsibilities of students in all aspects of life at the University.
- Participate in discussions of proposed changes in University policies and structure affecting student life at the University.
- Responsible for bringing to the attention of the Senate all matters concerning student life at the University.

Miracle Corners of the World, Bugesera District, Rwanda

Field Intern, May – Aug. 2009

- Supervising the construction of the MCW community center
- Training the Youth Leadership Team that will lead the center's daily operation.
- Supporting the team in designing curriculum for the center's educational activities.
- Preparing the center to operate smoothly beyond construction.

Global Leadership Program, Prague, Czech Republic

Student Coordinator, Summer 2008

- Promotion, Recruitment and interviewing candidates to the program.
- Maintaining communication with the participants and sending information on behalf of the Global Institute
- Facilitating workshops at the Leadership Retreat
- Serving as the Teacher's Assistant (TA) for the Philosophies of Leadership course
- Helping participants navigate the city of Prague and solving issues within the residence hall

NYU Alternative Spring Break, Monte Christi, Dominican Republic

Site-Leader, Spring 2009

- Assisting in the recruitment phase by reading applications and interviewing applicants
- Holding regular meetings to provide pre-departure information and planning fundraisers
- Coordinating group fundraisers and individual ways to raise funds to alleviate costs

- Moderating group reflection sessions

GOLD Leadership Program: Civic Engagement Track, New York, NY

Participant, 2007-2008

- Attended several sessions about active citizenship, addressing community needs and cross-cultural communication.
- Helped coordinate the annual Youth Leadership Conference, by developing the theme, workshops and running them during the conference.

Educational Center for Peace and Human Rights, Florence, Italy

Volunteer at Resource Center, Teacher's Assistant, Spring 2007

- Catalogued and updated the database of materials: videos, magazines, videos, brochures, etc
- Gave language lessons to elementary and middle school students while teaching them about diversity, tolerance, peace and human rights.

PUBLICATIONS

- Cesar A. Francia, *Harmony of the Arts: Aesthetic Sensibility and Mass Tourism in Florence, Italy*(2007) (published at the online GSP web journal: Helios)
- Cesar A. Francia & Claudia Perez-Pellicer, *Teaching Tolerance Through Language* (2008), Service Matters