

## 2008 Orientation Leader Directory

### **Cristina Avena**

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Cristina is currently a sophomore at Steinhardt, majoring in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology and minoring in American Sign Language. Her hometown is Hamilton Square, New Jersey. In her free time she enjoys watching movies and attending baseball games. Her favorite team is the New York Mets. After graduating from NYU she will continue on to graduate school. After completing her MA she would like to work as a Speech Language Pathologist with children.



### **Diane Castelucci**

Childhood Education/Special Education

Diane just graduated from Steinhardt with a degree in Childhood Education and Special Education. She also minored in American Sign Language and concentrated in English & Creative Writing so she can answer your questions about lots of different courses. This is Diane's fourth (and final!) summer working as an Orientation Leader and she's looking forward to meeting the incoming students and welcoming them to the university!

### **Cassie Castner**

Childhood Education/Special Education

Cassie Castner, having grown up in a small town just outside of Philadelphia, PA, dreamed of living in New York City and NYU gave her that opportunity. She is studying Childhood/Special Education with a liberal arts concentration in Art History. She has enjoyed her NYU experience so far and looks forward to the years that come.



### **Jamie Chlebowski**

Media, Culture, and Communication

Jamie hails from the shores of New Jersey. She just finished her Freshman year as a Media, Culture, and Communication major here in Steinhardt and is minoring in production through Tisch. She loves living in New York, and exploring the city is always an adventure. In her spare time, she likes to watch *The Hills*, take long walks in the park, and throw spontaneous dance parties. Her life is like a television sitcom - ridiculous and predictable. This past year she served as the Programming Chair for the Steinhardt Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and she is looking forward to being an Orientation Leader this summer!

## Angelica Conway

Childhood Education/Special Education

Angelica Conway has completed her third year as a Childhood/Special Education major with a Spanish concentration. She has served as a member of the Steinhardt Undergraduate Student Government since she was a freshman and by the time she graduates she will have been an Executive Board member for three years (Vice President 2007-2009, Secretary 2006-2007). Angelica is also involved in a number of community service organizations on campus and will serve as a Co-RA of the community service floor (NYU C.O.R.P.S.) in Weinstein for the upcoming year. Angelica also has had multiple jobs throughout her time at NYU and has also been student teaching for the past year, with one more year to go. She is extremely excited to be an Orientation Leader this summer and can't wait to meet so many new students!



## Brian Cooper

Music Technology

Brian is currently a sophomore in Steinhardt's Music Technology program. His hobbies include playing his tuba, recording music, digital signal processing, and computer programming. When he's not busy with his various NYU-related obligations, Brian can be found biking, checking out live music venues, and wearing goofy hats around the city.

## Natalia Daniel

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Natalia is entering her junior year at NYU Steinhardt. She loves NYU thus far and hopes to show the incoming class just how much fun it is around here. One of the things she likes to do is go to Barnes & Noble, sip some coffee and just chill in one of those big comfy chairs. She also likes movies, restaurants, and pretty much exploring the city. She can't wait to meet everyone and make them feel right at home here in the city.



## Kari Edgens

Communication Studies

Kari just graduated from NYU Steinhardt, and this is her second year as an orientation leader. She's a southern girl from Nashville, TN, and loves it...but she needs the excitement of the city to keep her entertained. You'll rarely find her without a camera, book, and iPod because she loves photography, literature, music, and movies (but that one's less transportable). She loves road trips, and no distance is ever too far for her to go. She also enjoys traveling, summer, fountain Coke, most foods, quoting Will Ferrell movies, and on rare occasions, running. She can't wait to start the summer and is so excited to be an OL and meet new people!

## **Patricia Gounardes**

Communication Studies

Patricia is studying Communications at NYU. Her goal is to make it big in the sports media industry. She is currently working in the press office of The New York City Comptroller where she is learning first hand the rough and tumble of New York City politics and media.



## **Jackie Grasso**

English Education

Jackie is from Manalapan, New Jersey. She is a secondary English education major. She really loves eating, playing video games, hanging out with friends, shopping, and cheerleading. She tries to be as involved as possible in the NYU, as well at the NYC, community. She has cheered on the NYU cheerleading team and is in a sorority here at school.

## **Ross Iosefson**

English Education

Ross is beyond delighted to return to the Square as an Orientation Leader this summer! Born in Brooklyn, NY and raised a stone's throw away on Long Island, Ross studies English Education here in Steinhardt, and holds a minor in Anthropology. Ross actively participates in Residential Life at NYU, as a Carlyle Court RA and a member of the Regional Board of Directors of NEACURH. He wishes the very best to all first-years and transfer students joining the Steinhardt family and can't wait to meet you all!



## **Telia Kapteyn**

Communication Studies

Telia Kapteyn came to NYU from Atlanta, Georgia, to pursue a major in Communication Studies and a minor in Education. She currently has an apartment in the East Village and spends her free time running and doing yoga. Telia loves her job as a Junior Account Executive at a PR Firm uptown, and hopes to work in the PR industry when she graduates in December.

## **Zelena Khan**

Communication Studies

Zelena is from the Bronx, NY. She is currently a junior in Communications Studies, pursuing a career in entertainment business and corporate communications. She is a member of the African Heritage Month Committee, Fashion Business Association, and the Opportunity Program's Student Visual and Literary Arts Club.





### **Lera Kotok**

Piano Performance

Lera will be a senior majoring in Piano Performance at Steinhardt this Fall. She loves the many opportunities for study at NYU and takes a potpourri of classes as electives. As a commuter, Lera has really come to know the city in her commuting adventures since Freshman year, and she is excited to share her experiences with the incoming Freshmen and transfer students. Lera spends the majority of her time practicing the piano and reading, but in her spare time she enjoys making jewelry, performing, and exploring the city with friends.

### **Elisabeth Kruse**

Applied Psychology

Elisabeth is an Applied Psychology major and member of the class of 2011. As a native New York City resident, she adores city life and is thrilled to be a part of the NYU community. She has played soccer for 13 years, loves to read, and loves writing poetry. She hopes to one day earn a Ph.D. in psychology and pursue a career in either psychological research or clinical psychology. And as a natural advice-giver, she is thrilled to join the Orientation Leader team!



### **Jonathan Lind**

Vocal Performance

Jonathan Lind is a Senior in the Vocal Performance Program with a concentration in Musical Theatre. This is his first year as an Orientation leader, but don't let that fool ya; he can register on Albert like a fiend! A born and raised southerner, Jonathan hails from the great state of Texas.

### **Oren Margolis**

Music Business

Oren Margolis is a rising junior originally from Lawrenceville, NJ. He is a Steinhardt Deans Scholar, sings around campus and the city, and also works as an Admissions Ambassador. This is Oren's second year as an OL, and he is unhealthily excited to welcome the class of 2012 and transfer students to NYU and to show them how awesome it is to go to school in New York. He will also do everything in his power to make sure that his department consistently dominates Dicey Decisions. Oren is studying abroad in Prague this Fall, but is certain that he will leave behind a rich and lasting legacy.



### **Reyna McMahon**

Foreign Language Education

Reyna is looking forward to her junior year in the Teaching and Learning program, majoring in French Education. After spending an amazing semester in France, Reyna is back in New York City and excited for orientation! She enjoys jogging, reading in Central Park, and traveling to glorious places such as Ireland and Greece. She is eager to meet all the incoming freshman and transfers, answer any questions, and help you have an incredible experience here at NYU!



**Michelle Nabatian**  
Nutrition & Dietetics

Michelle, an upcoming junior, has an everlasting obsession for peanut butter, whether it is with bananas, celery, apples, ice cream, or just by itself. She loves shopping but if you give her a credit card, do not expect anything to be left over. Michelle is looking forward to meeting the incoming students (Facebook her!) and hopes to help them get as excited about NYU and New York City as she is!

**Megan O'Brien**  
Music Education

Megan is a rising junior studying music education with a concentration in voice. She grew up in the Northern Virginia area, about thirty miles outside of DC. When she is not in class, she enjoys assistant conducting the NYU Children's Choir, singing at St. Joseph's University Parish or with the Choral Arts Society at NYU, planning community outreach and social activities as the secretary of NYU's collegiate chapter of CMENC, and performing with the musical theater group A Class Act, founded by music education majors.

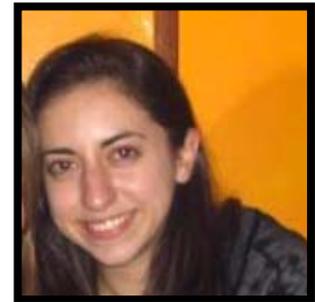


**Ted Ou-Yang**  
Music Business

Ted Ou-Yang hails from Columbus, Ohio. Born a true Buckeye baby, Ted is an undergraduate Music Business major, class of 2011. He is indeed a Renaissance man who plays both the violin as well as Ice Hockey. Spending way too much time involving himself with multiple jobs and hunting down internships, Ted's only social hobby is to sleep as much as possible with his 10-minute power naps during the day and lengthy dreams over the weekends. Don't be afraid of his awkward comments at times, he's just being friendly.

**Katie Pennachio**  
Studio Art

Katie is from outside of Boston. She comes from a family of intense Red Sox fans, although she doesn't watch much baseball herself. She likes to paint, dance in elevators, and eat good food around New York.



**Suzanne Pergal**  
Vocal Performance

This fall, Suzanne will be a sophomore in Vocal Performance concentrating on Classical Voice. She is very excited to be studying in Prague in September. She is from Gloucester, Massachusetts. Along with singing, she enjoys studying languages, sustainability, and exploring new parts of New York!

## Alexandra Pitre

Childhood Education/Special Education

Alexandra is currently a double major in Early Childhood Education and Psychology. She's originally from Westchester, NY, and she came to NYU because ever since she was little, she's been in love with this city. In her free time she loves to bake for her friends, read a good book, go see a movie, or watch Grey's Anatomy reruns. She's really excited to spend the summer in the city and for her upcoming junior year at NYU!



## Akshay Ramanathan

Communication Studies

Akshay is a communications major and is going to be a sophomore in Steinhardt. He is from Overland Park, Kansas. People give him a hard time about being from Kansas, but the area where he lived and went to high school is very nice. He thinks it was awesome that Kansas University won the NCAA tournament this year. NYU was his dream school and he is thrilled to be here. Steinhardt is a great school and he is excited to be a part of that as well. He wants to be as involved with the department as possible and really get to know his class and the people in his major. He got his housing assignment for next year and was lucky enough to get a sweet room in Water Street in the Financial district for next year. Overall he is a really nice guy, very personable, and always ready to make some new friends.

## Ian Riccaboni

Communication Studies

Ian will begin his senior year this fall and loves all that New York and NYU have to offer. Ian is excited to tell you about all his experiences as a Steinhardt Undergraduate Student Government officer, NYU Dean's Scholar, and NYU baseball player. This is his second year as an orientation leader.



## Ryan Rockmore

Foreign Language Education

Ryan is very excited to be spending this summer in New York City after an amazing freshman year at NYU. He's a Spanish Education Major and is minoring in Linguistics. He absolutely loves Ballroom Dancing (he is a member of the NYU Ballroom/Latin Team) and recently became a brother in the Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity. Other hobbies and interests also include going to Broadway shows, exploring the city and enjoying everything it has to offer. Ryan found four of his current best friends at his orientation and hopes he can help everyone start his/her own memories and experiences as well.

## **Amy Rosenfield**

Communication Studies

Amy is entering her senior year as a Communications major with a music minor, and is excited to be back for another summer of orientation. She is from Old Lyme, CT and loves the contrast that NYC offers to her hometown. When she is not practicing or studying, Amy spends much of her life people-watching in Washington Square Park. She is looking forward to exploring Greenwich Village with you this summer.



## **Marita Schneider**

Communication Studies

Marita is going to be a junior at NYU this fall. She is from upstate New York and is super excited to spend her summer in the city. She loves studying at Starbucks, all day shopping trips in SOHO, and Sunday brunch in the West Village. Marita had an amazing time at orientation and is thrilled to help you all have a similar experience. She has loved everything about NYU and can't wait to spend the summer here making sure you are all prepared for a fantastic first year!

## **Heidi Schoenenberger**

Educational Theatre

Heidi Schoenenberger is going into her second year as a student in the Educational Theatre department. She is from Freehold, New Jersey. In her spare time she enjoys dancing, baking, and all types of theatre. In the future she hopes to teach theatre to children in grades K-12.



## **Ali Taylor**

Studio Art

Ali is a senior in Studio Art from the San Francisco Bay Area, and she is so excited to be an Orientation Leader! She's a huge fan of Steinhardt and is going into her second year as President of the Undergraduate Student Government. In addition to being a full-time movie nerd, lame joke teller, and tootsie roll enthusiast, she is a full-time lover of NYU and can't wait to meet new students this summer!