

# The ADVANCE! Leadership Experience

## Meet the 2011 Participants

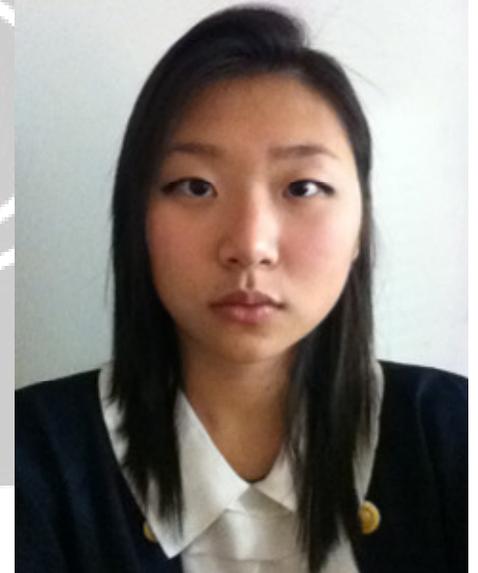
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**Hua Ling Zhao**  
Finance, Banking

**Hua Ling Zhao** joins ADVANCE! as a senior at Columbia College majoring in Neuroscience and Behavior with an additional concentration in Business Management. She hopes to develop her networking skills and believes that building a network is essential to success in the workplace as well as other areas of her life. As a pre-med student, she spends her time volunteering at St. Luke's Hospital and conducting laboratory research at the New York Psychiatry Institute during the school year. In addition to her interest in Medicine, she also has a passion for finance. Hua Ling interned at Callan Associates, an institutional investment consulting firm in her hometown of San Francisco. She plans to work in the finance industry for a few years upon graduation. Afterwards, she intends to attend medical school to become a neurologist or attend business school to pursue an MBA. In her free time, she loves to run, visit museums, and travel.

**Jenny Han** joins ADVANCE! as a junior at Columbia College, studying Economics and Philosophy. She views the world as a massive assortment of contained energy balls and wishes to poke as many of them as possible. This fall, Jenny is working as a research assistant for Professor Pierre Yared at the Columbia Business School, developing materials for a course called "Global Economic Environment" that explores the complex relationships among government policies and private-sector performance in a global market. Jenny spent last summer in Puerto Rico working on the "New Haiti Project," an educational development program that helped dislocated Haitian students pursue higher education at private universities in Puerto Rico. She previously worked as an intern at the NYU Federal Credit Union and the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board. Jenny is also a trained barista who has spent several summers working at a local organic fair-trade coffee shop. In her free time, Jenny likes to volunteer at film festivals, practice piano, and discover hidden restaurants. While in ADVANCE!, Jenny would like to improve her interview and presentation skills, public speaking, and improvisational abilities.



**Jenny Han**  
Law, Finance, Business, Non-Profit, Interviewing, Researching

# The ADVANCE! Leadership Experience

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**Juan Estrada**

Architecture, Environmental  
Science, Urban Planning,  
Intelligent City Design,  
Sustainable Development

**Juan Estrada** joins ADVANCE! as a third-year architecture and environmental science student at Columbia College. He is passionate about music, human rights, and philanthropy. Originally from Medellín, Colombia, he moved to Miami, Florida at the age of 9, but considers both cities home. During his time at Coral Gables Senior High, he co-founded the Gay-Straight Alliance; lobbied in Washington, D.C. with the ACLU; was actively involved with Best Buddies International; and worked in marketing for H&R Block. Upon successfully completing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and receiving the Gates Millennium Scholarship, he was accepted early decision to his dream school. At Columbia, he has been able to further develop his leadership skills by serving in the class of 2013 student government and Columbia Por Colombia. He was a sales intern at Morningside Translations during his sophomore year and was given the opportunity to work for the Office of Student Development and Activities last summer, planning Columbia's first official International Student Orientation Program. This semester, Juan co-chaired the Latino Heritage Month Cultural Showcase, was named a campus-based leader by his scholarship, and mentored over 100 newly accepted Gates Scholars on how to be academically successful at the annual conference. He also works at the Student Calling Center, raising funds for different areas of the university. Additionally, he sings tenor in Columbia's Bach Society and is currently co-founding a public service initiative club. Through ADVANCE!, Juan hopes to develop his creative side as well as work on his rhetoric and teamwork skills.

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**Misha Kaufman** joins ADVANCE! as the founder and CEO of Centsable, a non-profit organization whose mission is to introduce financial literacy into New York Public Schools. He is dedicated and committed to his work managing an organization of 15 students as well as a professional board of individuals in the education, political and financial sectors. Centsable will begin its first pilot program in Broome Street Academy this November and will add two more pilot programs in the spring. As Misha continues his professional path, he hopes to gain additional experiences in management, organization, and communication. He believes that these skills will allow him to be more successful in his endeavors and a more effective leader. Misha will obtain his Bachelors in History and Anthropology at Columbia University in May of 2012.



**Misha Kaufman**

Journalism, Marketing,  
Management, Business

# The ADVANCE! Leadership Experience

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**Nazli Seftali**  
Marketing, Business,  
Communications

**Nazli Seftali** joins ADVANCE! as a junior at Columbia College, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Business Management. She has willingly contributed to Columbia's vibrant campus life by undertaking leadership roles in both student organizations and university programs. Nazli was elected External Vice President of the Multicultural Business Association at Columbia University after joining the board her sophomore year. Nazli spearheaded three events for MBA with a variety of industries, including technology and microfinance, and managed reservations and technological assistance for six other events. As External VP, she coordinates relations with companies and other student organizations to host and co-sponsor events on campus. Having an eye-opening experience with the workshop herself, Nazli joined Columbia's 'Under1Roof' program as a student facilitator her sophomore year. The freshmen orientation diversity workshop is organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs to reinforce the significance of respecting diversity. Nazli encouraged students to personally consider race, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, gender and ethnicity, and reflect on these identities professionally. Outside of Columbia, Nazli has held internships in the media and retail industries and hopes to pursue a career in business with a professional interest in marketing. During ADVANCE!, she wishes to improve her communication skills, public speaking skills, and especially her team management skills. Nazli is eager to develop a deeper understanding of team dynamics in the professional world.

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**Rebecca Ciez** joins ADVANCE! as a junior in SEAS, studying Mechanical Engineering, with minors in Economics and Sustainable Engineering. As a member of the Columbia chapter of Engineers Without Borders, Rebecca has worked with groups of students to design sustainable engineering solutions to challenges in the developing world. In May 2011, Rebecca led a group of students to Soroti, Uganda to install two exhaust systems in agricultural processing centers and a rainwater harvesting system at a secondary school. Through her experience with Engineers Without Borders, Rebecca has learned the importance of effective partnerships, and would like to learn more about seeking out potential partnering organizations and forming meaningful relationships with them. Through ADVANCE!, she hopes to further develop her skills in facilitating meetings and learn how to successfully collaborate with partnering organizations in a professional setting.



**Rebecca Ciez**  
Design, Consulting,  
Engineering, Sustainable  
Development

# The ADVANCE! Leadership Experience



## **Ryan Mandelbaum**

Consulting, Start-up, Creative  
Problem Solving, Innovation,  
Marketing, Researching,  
Interviewing

**Ryan Mandelbaum** joins ADVANCE! as a hard-working but good-natured science student hoping to garner both professional and leadership skills not normally taught to undergraduates. Ryan is currently a research assistant for Brookhaven National Laboratories, testing silicon chips for a future upgrade to the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider. This job has cultivated a love for creative problem solving, as well as the ability to analyze data in C/C++ and prepare documents in LaTeX. Prior to this, Ryan worked with the Columbia Astrophysics Lab, making models of nuclear reactions in python. In addition, he is very active in the Columbia community, both as the Sports Announcer for field hockey, volleyball, wrestling, and lacrosse, and as the President of the Columbia College Class of 2013. In these roles, Ryan developed strong interpersonal and communication skills, as well as event planning and promotional abilities. Last October, Ryan planned the "Potterpalooza" event, a large concert featuring the band Harry and the Potters. Ryan hopes to gain experience analyzing data for, and solving, real-world problems. In addition, he is interested in honing his organizational and time management skills, as well as research capacities. Much of Ryan's work has been in science, and he would like to see these skills applied in an industry setting. Ryan is currently working towards his Bachelor of Arts in Physics. He is proficient in Italian and is a Student Leader for the Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program.

**Vanessa Nieto** joins ADVANCE as a senior, currently pursuing a unique combination of studies in environmental engineering and dance. A member of Global Brigades for the past three years, Vanessa is currently leading the Columbia chapter in passionate expanding awareness and involvement in global health and international development. Vanessa's involvement with Global Brigades has led her to Honduras, Panama, and Ghana to implement sustainable projects addressing infectious disease propagation, sanitation and water distribution, access to capital and financial literacy, and education in under-resourced communities. In her final year, Vanessa is working to design a flood-mitigation system in Port-a-Piment, Haiti, to address a significant deterrent of public health and economic growth in the local watershed community. Her experience has led her to recognize the need for leadership and cross-discipline cooperation, as well as effective management and partnership in the fields of global health and sustainable development, and in the non-profit sector. Striving to someday make a valuable contribution to the field, she hopes to hone her abilities for organizational development and management, partnership and capacity building, and project design through ADVANCE!.



## **Vanessa Nieto**

Organizational Development,  
Strategic Management, Team/  
Capacity Building, Facilitation,  
Project Design, Consulting, Non-  
profit, Start-Up

# The ADVANCE! Leadership Experience

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**Stephanie Carvajal**

Economic Policy, Financial  
Management, Business,  
Government

**Stephanie Carvajal** joins ADVANCE! as a senior double majoring in Economics-Political Science and Hispanic Studies. She is interested in economic and political development and likes to learn about the many challenges in the business world in order to become a leader that will have an impact in her community and industry. Through the ADVANCE! Leadership Experience she would like to get more practice at public speaking and enhance her presentation skills in order to better communicate with others in a professional setting. During the fieldwork component she hopes to gain research experience, financial literacy, and learn to use statistical and modeling packages. During her free time, Stephanie enjoys spending time with her family and friends, learning about other cultures, traveling, and improving her photography skills.

**Yerson Arvelo** joins ADVANCE! as a senior at Columbia College, majoring in Economics. In the past, he interned at New York Cares and the Securities and Exchange Commission. He has also been involved in various organizations on campus including Grupo Quisqueyano, the Double Discovery Center, and Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity. He looks forward to growing both personally and professionally as he polishes and acquires valuable leadership skills. As a graduating senior, he hopes to utilize the ADVANCE! Leadership Experience in order to facilitate networking opportunities and to prepare himself for his future endeavors. One of the main skills that he would like to develop is project and team management in order to better engage in teamwork scenarios. Another area that he would like to develop and practice is speech and presentational skills, as these will assist him in making a good impression and allow him to better express his ideas. Lastly, he would like to polish his creativity skills through a hands-on fieldwork experience. Aside from skills development, Yerson looks forward to building meaningful relationships and having a greater impact on the community.



**Yerson Arvelo**

Investment Advisory, Financial  
Analysis, Financial Services,  
Consulting

# The ADVANCE! Leadership Experience



**Dana Yeon**

Marketing, Communication,  
Journalism, Policy and  
Instruction

**Dana Yeon** joins ADVANCE! as a responsible, dedicated, and passionate student at Columbia College, pursuing dual degrees in Political Science and East Asian Languages and Cultures. Leading various student groups and studying diligently while pursuing her dreams of leading an impactful life, Dana is excited to employ and build upon the skills she has acquired in her unique set of internship experiences across various professional fields such as media, international institutions, law, and consulting firms to become a more equipped leader. In her ADVANCE! Leadership Experience, she aspires to mature in her hardiness to take risks and readiness to empower others as well as develop the ability to transform visions into reality. Dana is fluent in Korean and Chinese, and is able to conduct business in Japanese. On campus, Dana serves as the President of the Columbia University Liberty in North Korea humanitarian group, is one of five core leadership members of Columbia Korean Campus Crusade for Christ, and is a mentor in the Columbia Mentoring Initiative. She is further involved in Columbia College Women Mentoring Program, Child Rights Group, and Partnership for International Development.

**Breana Ramirez** joins ADVANCE! as a senior at Columbia College. Through this program, Breana looks forward to developing her cognitive leadership skills, as well as gaining more experience in structuring and overseeing a significant production. Prior to joining ADVANCE!, Breana served as a congressional intern, an intern with NBC Universal, and as a student coordinator with the Center for Student Advising. This May, Breana will receive her B.A. in History with a Concentration in Political Science. She is fluent in German and basic Spanish.



**Breanna Ramirez**  
Policy, Law, Journalism



A program of the Office of Student Development & Activities within the Division of Student Affairs for Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science in partnership with the Center for Career Education.