

# CORO CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

## EXPLORING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

2009-2010

### YOUTH FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES – SAN FRANCISCO GROUP

#### **Roschelle Buenafior**

San Francisco, CA  
*Burton High School*



Roschelle believes that people are in charge of the way they live their lives. With this motto, Roschelle has proven to be a self-starter that displays excellent focus and a positive attitude. She is also a passionate athlete and has played both volleyball and basketball since the third grade. Through playing team sports, Roschelle has learned how to lead and collaborate. Roschelle enjoys expressing herself through art. She taught herself to draw anime and manga. Her future goals are to be a professional volleyball player and a dentist. On top of that, Roschelle would like to teach volleyball to young girls and instill in them that through determination they can accomplish anything.

#### **Danny Carreto**

San Francisco, CA  
*Mission High School*



Danny foresees that if his peers unite and support each other they can establish a better world for generations to come. He is upholding his end of this goal by running a support group at his school for students to learn about scholarships, summer programs and the college application process. Danny wants more students attending summer programs than summer school, so he motivates his peers to pursue college and explore various careers. Dutifully, Danny advocates for what he believes in; he has attended a rally regarding youth education and participated in meetings concerning immigrant rights. He is also involved with the soccer, wrestling and cross country teams. Danny's professional goal is to become a civil engineer.

#### **Anh Doan**

San Francisco, CA  
*Mission High School*



Coming from a culture where respect plays a significant role in how one socializes, Anh's Vietnamese roots and family are a huge part of her life. She migrated to the United States with her family about two years ago and they reside in the Fillmore District. Despite the negative labels, Anh believes her neighborhood is a beautiful place. Anh has an innate love for art and is a self-taught painter. At school, she is a member of Peer Resources, Mock Trial, and the Color Guard. Anh is always challenging herself in an effort to improve all areas of her life. Her ultimate desire is to learn more about herself and the world around her.

#### **Abigail Edwards**

San Francisco, CA  
*Galileo Academy of Science and Technology*



In an effort to establish herself as a leader, Abigail has challenged her shy façade by becoming involved in her school community. She is a versatile student-athlete and is a member of the track & field, volleyball, soccer and dragon boat teams. Abigail also enjoys participating in the Prep Club and Samoan Dance Club. Abigail has maximized her summers by volunteering as a gardener at Silver Park through the Mayor's Youth Employment & Education Program (MYEEP) and assisting a teacher at Agapeland Program. Abigail views challenges as opportunities for growth. By continuing to be proactive in her own development, Abigail will accomplish her goal of advancing her education.

#### **Estivaliz Galvez**

San Francisco, CA  
*The Academy of Arts and Sciences*



Estivaliz feels that inner beauty is found in the strangest places. Through reading writing, and photography, Estivaliz has attempted to capture various forms of beauty and has incidentally crafted her identity. Estivaliz possesses a strong and assertive personality. She co-founded the Book Club at her school and she is also a member of the French Club. For three years, she has been a faithful volunteer at her church as a Sunday School teacher. With determination and sharp wit, Estivaliz will proudly to be a part of the first generation in her family to attend college.

#### **Jasper Guan**

San Francisco, CA  
*Burton High School*



Raised by his grandparents in Guang Zhou, China, Jasper attributes his well-rounded beliefs and undying patience to his grandfather. This young man is humbly confident and leads by example. As a member of the tennis team, he has bolstered his mental and physical strength, as well as acquired team members, whom he views as his true friends. Jasper actively nurtures an open-minded approach to new experiences. Jasper's calm, measured presence will be an excellent addition to any organization.

**Cristina Hernandez**  
San Francisco, CA  
*Balboa High School*



Cristina values sincerity, humor, and the tolerance of others. With these values in tow, Cristina avidly volunteers through Build On. She has volunteered at Connecting Points, where she provides interactive entertainment for children. Cristina has also given her time to Project Open Hand, which assists the needy by providing them with food. Additionally, she plays badminton and writes poetry. Cristina's true passion is for the environment. She plans to head a service project that focuses on maintaining the beauty of John McLaren Park, by planting trees and a garden. Cristina attributes her interpersonal skills to being a part of a large family; notably, her cooperative nature has shaped her passion and successes.

**Darlene Hunter**  
Richmond, CA  
*International Studies Academy*



Darlene has a gregarious character that contributes to her willingness to take risks and experience new things. She is especially interested in issues that affect young women. As a member of Youth Outreach Workers (YOW's), she works in a collaborative group to design and implement peer education workshops. Darlene is intellectually curious and enjoys writing down how she experiences the world around her. She values the personal growth that she has acquired through both good and bad experiences. Darlene's huge heart, caring nature and sense of maturity will support her pursuit of a career in medicine as a pediatrician.

**Brian Leung**  
San Francisco, CA  
*Balboa High School*



This young man feels his purpose in life is to help others and Brian has exhibited compassion for others in many areas of his life. Brian's niche is in the political sphere. He was the lead Youth Political Campaign Organizer for Supervisor candidate Myrna Lim in the 2008 fall election, he is the lead member in promoting political issues through Youth Making a Change and serves on his school's site council. Additionally, Brian is on the swim team, serves as an assistant swim instructor, was the class vice-president, wrote the script for a school production and volunteered at his church's summer vacation Bible school. Brian is effective at mobilizing his peers, yet his main goal is to live up to his full potential.

**Raylene Lopez**  
San Francisco, CA  
*Burton High School*



Although she grew up in the city, Raylene is an outdoors girl at heart. This young woman loves to go camping and swim in lakes, when she is not navigating the soccer field or practicing new moves in the Hip Hop Dance Club at her school. Raylene is a pillar of politeness and civility, which may be why she prefers to play soccer with her friends and family rather than for a trophy. Notably, Raylene inhabits ambition and has established aggressive goals for herself. Her immediate goal is to become a more significant contributor to the After School Student Council. The ability to reach beyond her comfort zone and speak up for her community will prove to be a beneficial skill as Raylene pursues her long term goal of establishing a career in engineering.

**Stephanie Perez**  
San Francisco, CA  
*Galileo Academy of Science & Technology*



Stephanie's personality is characterized by her thirst for knowledge, immense passion for immigrant rights and ability to simultaneously care about her community & her own desires. She is focusing her energy on being involved in her school community and strengthening her academic skills. She is a dedicated member of the Latino Club, where she works on fundraising and cultural projects. One of her many hobbies are playing sports; she enjoys participating in volleyball, capoeira and tennis. In her church community, she serves as a mentor and tutor for children. Additionally, Stephanie assists with her family business and has studied Latino dances at the Mission Cultural Center. Through hard work, education and confidence, Stephanie hopes to contribute to the movement of immigrants obtaining equal rights in this country.

**Ashley Mikell**  
San Francisco, CA  
*The Academy of Arts and Sciences*



Ashley's adrenaline is immediately activated when she steps onto a stage; her passion is for the arts, especially drama, dancing and writing. This young woman is versatile and is able to channel negative feelings into something positive through dance and art. As a dancer, she has studied salsa, cumbia, merengue, tap, hip hop, modern, folklorico. She was even awarded a scholarship to study ballet at the San Francisco Ballet. As a result of her vast exposure to different styles of dance, Ashley has been able to connect with diverse groups of people and their cultures. Ashley articulates her ideas well and enjoys writing short stories, poems and raps. Ashley's expressive personality will support her future endeavors of becoming an actress.

**Victor Palma**  
San Francisco, CA  
*International Studies Academy*



Victor has a genuine spirit and is consistently expanding his limits with the goal of improving himself. He enjoys learning new things and is currently studying both Chinese and French. Victor is also a member of his school's soccer team. His family is an important part of his life and they taught him to be honest and respectful to himself and others. Victor is striving to become a part of the first generation in his family to attend college, yet he still always makes an effort to encourage and look out for his peers. This young man is a hard worker and team player; Victor welcomes new experiences and challenges that will allow him to mature as a human being.

**Rohan Sinha**  
San Francisco, CA  
*Galileo Academy of Science and Technology*



Through his many travels, Rohan has been exposed to a variety of cultures, which has shaped his genuine respect for others' beliefs. Travelling the globe has been a thrilling experience that has attributed to his personality. Rohan's ability to adapt to change is a learned-skill. He understands that life will move and you must move along with it. As a self-directed young man, Rohan honors his many interests. He was a member of the basketball team, volunteers at his school & local libraries, studies drumming and has an interest in computer technology. From his exposure to vastly different communities, like the wealthy neighborhoods of the west to the poverty-stricken slums of India, Rohan believes that education will enable him to combat world poverty.

**Rishi Thomas**  
San Francisco, CA  
*Galileo Academy of Science and Technology*



Rishi has lived in India, the Ivory Coast, Chile and the United States. As a result of his global experiences, he is appreciative of different cultures and consequently Rishi has become a more compassionate individual. He realizes the importance of helping the needy and feels that all human beings deserve the right to live with dignity and honor. To fulfill his role as a global citizen, Rishi has collected food for an orphanage, established a booth that collected money for the poor and raised \$5000 for Hurricane Katrina victims. Rishi also enjoys more leisurely activities, such as playing badminton and tennis. With his positive attitude and strong critical analysis skills, Rishi hopes to better understand ways he can connect people despite their inherent differences.

**Nataliatilila Uini**  
San Francisco, CA  
*International Studies Academy*



Nataliatilila marches to the beat of her own drum. She describes herself as confident, resilient and open-minded. Although she loves to have fun and a broad smile is usually planted on her face, Nataliatilila also possesses a strong work ethic. Her many activities include studying the violin, playing volleyball, participating in the Acting Club and fine tuning her skills as a Mezzo Soprano vocalist for her school's Show Choir, her church choir and the Valley Choral Choir. During the summer, Nataliatilila volunteers with and is a student at the Excelsior Teen Center, where she has learned how to post blogs, use photoshop and edit videos. This young woman's charming personality and empathetic nature will continue to allow her to ingratiate herself into any situation that she deems fit.

**Jose Villegas**  
San Francisco, CA  
*The Academy of Arts and Sciences*



Jose knows how to manipulate the English language to work in his favor. With a recognized talent for self-expression, he is a member of Youth Speaks. On top of being a skillful writer and slam poet, Jose is a guitarist, journalist and talented soccer player. Jose has a lot of untapped potential and often conducts research on his own to supplement his education. His logical perspective, compassionate spirit and ability to make informed decisions are a reflection of his strong interest in neurology and psychology. Jose believes that out of billions of people we all have something to contribute and he is ready to make his mark.

**Oliver Zerrudo**  
San Francisco, CA  
*Balboa High School*



Born in the Philippines, Oliver moved to California with his mother at the age of five. He has made a continuous effort to merge San Francisco's customs and culture into his own. Oliver has a good natured personality and knows that there are elements in the world that he cannot control, yet he is willing to do what it takes to work through difficult situations with as little collateral damage as possible. His skills reside in computers/technology, urban art and per care (he owns a Doberman). Oliver has also assisted at the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project's film festival. Oliver is constantly asking questions to make sure he comprehends the situation and takes a lot of initiative; these inquiry and leadership skills will definitely transfer into his ambition of becoming a criminal lawyer.