



**CFA Society
Los Angeles**

Roxanne Cheng, ASA, CFA Named Volunteer of the Month



If you're not sure that volunteering will help with your own career path, meet Roxanne Cheng, volunteer of the month for June.

When she realized that working in commercial banking wasn't challenging enough, Cheng decided to obtain her charter and joined CFALA in hopes of changing her career path.

"I always tell people I'm a great example of how volunteering helps you find a job," she says.

Being willing to step up instead of waiting to be asked has also been key. Initially, she joined the program committee and helped edit the newsletter. A few years later, Cheng recalls "I went to a volunteer luncheon and the woman who headed up the career development committee came in and she was very pregnant," Cheng recalled. "I went up to her and said, 'I guess you need a replacement.'"

"I found my position as a sell side analyst for Wedbush Morgan because I was arranging CFALA's second Career Expo and the head of HR for Wedbush was on one of the panels. Pretty much the same thing happened two years later when I was doing Career Expo number four, which led to a position with KPMG as a valuation analyst."

Cheng, who went on to organize 12 Career Expos for CFALA, has become somewhat of an expert on how to take your career in the direction you want it to go.

"You have to reinvent yourself and change the perception of how people see you," she says. "The differentiation provided by the CFA charter helps, and volunteering with CFALA puts you in a place where you're not seen as you would be in your current line of work. It also allows you to access folks who are working in the jobs you are interested in, or working in firms you would like to be part of. If you don't put yourself in a position when these opportunities are passing by, you'll never find out about them. Volunteering allows you to have many more chances at these opportunities."

What's her next career move? Hard to say. After working in public accounting as a valuation analyst, Cheng currently describes herself as "partly retired and searching for her next life change."