



Forté's Impact: Why I Chose to Remain Co-President as a Second Semester Senior

By Rachel Oh, Co-President (FA23 - SP24)
Senior in Hotel Administration (rco39@cornell.edu)

I joined Forté during my sophomore fall. Submitting my application minutes before the deadline and knowing nothing about the organization or its members, I was longing for a sense of community amidst Cornell's strict COVID regulations that started during my freshman year. I was unaware of how many memories I would make with amazing people and how much I would grow with the help of supportive upperclassmen as mentors.

Through Forté's E-Series, Capstone Project, and Speaker Series, I was not only able to enhance my professional skills in tandem with my business-oriented school curriculum as a Hotelier, but also grow so much confidence. Being encouraged to contact senior members in Forté during our coffee chat assignment during E-Series motivated me to reach out to executives in companies and industries I was interested in. Through Forté, I was able to establish a strong foundation at Cornell and battle imposter syndrome as a first generation college student. Forté's emphasis on uplifting women and strengthening female mentorship helped me realize that I have earned my rightful place in any community I was a part of. It was through this newfound strength that I was able to connect with cool and hardworking people that drove me to be a better version of myself and score a full-time offer at one of the largest banks in the world.

Before becoming Co-President my senior fall, I was the VP of Operations. In this role, I oversaw club recruitment efforts and managed the administrative aspects of the organization. My shift to becoming Co-President was rooted in my desire to work with the entire Executive Board to make a larger impact. Most importantly, I wanted to become a mentor for an organization that has mentored me in so many ways.

While some of my other senior friends might not have opted to become Co-President of a student organization during their last semester of college, given the considerable amount of time and effort required for this large of a role, I knew that I would regret not taking this opportunity to lead a community so close to my heart. To me, being Co-President is synonymous with living my collegiate life to the fullest. I have the opportunity to be a mentor and pass down knowledge and advice to my new E-Board and other members of the Forté community. I am forever grateful for the opportunities I was given through this organization and want to provide the new generation the same. For me, this is only the beginning!