



Jennifer Million

Hometown: San Jose, California

Assigned Venture: Navarino

Why did you decide to apply to be a VF: I wanted the opportunity to lead in a non-military setting and I wanted that opportunity to be outside of the classroom. Having spent the last 11 years in the military, there's something to be said about leading in field, or in this case, a venture. When people are challenged, physically and mentally, for several consecutive days and stripped from the comforts of being in proximity to their home and friends, the atmosphere can change. I wanted the opportunity to lead in that setting.

Biggest fear when applying to be a VF: Applying. I was very intentional about what I chose to do while at Wharton. I didn't apply for a lot of things in hopes that the things I did apply for, I truly had the time for. When envisioning 2Y, I envisioned contributing time to making the VF program better than it was; I believe members should always strive for that. Applying also meant there was a chance I had to interview. I had been on the Army team for 11 years and I joined not by interviewing, but by raising my right hand and taking the oath of office. My peers on the other hand, had just completed FRP, meaning they had practiced, prepared, and conducted multiple mock interviews in preparation for their real ones. Those circumstances coupled with really wanting to join the program instilled some fear, healthy fear.

The most rewarding part of VF Experience so far: Being part of a small, close knit community within Wharton. Camaraderie has been invaluable, especially during the pandemic.

What were you most looking forward to: Facilitating the journey for participants, interacting with the guides, and taking in the sights!



Matt Gates

Hometown: Arlington, VA

Assigned Venture: Atacama

Why did you decide to apply to be a VF: I was fortunate enough to attend a Venture in Navarino in December of 2019 and it was the single greatest experience of my time at Wharton. There were a lot of elements that contributed to my experience, but one of the most impactful was the Venture Fellows who led us. Their subtle guiding of the process allowed my ropes team to learn about ourselves and each other on a level that we would have struggled to reach on our own. So I applied to be a Venture Fellow so that I could give back to my fellow students and facilitate others having a similarly rewarding experience. I also applied to learn more about myself and my leadership style in the role of a VF.

Biggest fear when applying to be a VF: Being able to live up to the level set by the Venture Fellows on my adventure. The venture is about embracing ambiguity, and as a participant I learned very quickly that the VFs had to deal with nearly as much ambiguity as we did. Even so, they never looked out of their element. What if I couldn't handle the responsibilities? As of now, I know my fear would

be addressed. While we have had a more limited set of training this year given the virtual experience, McNulty is clearly heavily invested in making sure that the VFs reach a level of comfort that allows us to perform our duties in the face of uncertainty.

The most rewarding part of the VF experience so far: Getting to spend more time with my fellow VFs, the McNulty team, and our official guides. They are some of the most impressive people you will ever meet so it is fun to learn from them and build a sense of community.



Samuel Kim

Hometown: Seoul, Korea

Assigned Venture: Andes

Why did you apply to be a VF: I once spent a week backpacking in Patagonia and it was my first time experiencing true outdoor trekking - wearing the same wet socks for a week, sleeping in the wild, not taking any showers, etc. This experience was truly character-building and tested my patience, courage, and persistence. I wanted to further build these leadership, communication, and conflict resolutions skills through a structured training program like the VF program, which provides leadership development in the great outdoors.

Biggest fear when applying to be a VF: It is intimidating to not only to have to lead a pod, but also have the responsibility of delivering a supportive experience for them to test and develop their own leadership skills.

The most rewarding part of VF experience so far:

My solo hike to Wissahickon (a "challenge day" to VFs by WLV in November) has been the most rewarding. I left Rittenhouse at 5:30am and traveled on foot to Wissahickon. The total trip was ~18-20 miles and I was back in Rittenhouse by 3pm. Although COVID curtailed the VF experience, the hike helped me reflect on a lot of the positives that came out of my Wharton experience during COVID. I was able to spend more time with my friends in Philly, became a better cook, and find a love for golf!



Nil Karahasanoglu

Hometown: Istanbul, Turkey

Assigned Venture: Small Crew Sailing

Why did you decide to apply to be a VF: First, I wanted to meet other people who are equally interested in outdoor activities as I thought this could be a wonderful community. Second, in my 1st year I went to Andes and to date it was the most rewarding part of my Wharton experience. I met wonderful people and learned many things about myself and leadership. I wanted to assist other classmates while they would go through the same experience. Finally, I wanted to work on my leadership skills, and especially giving feedback. I thought there could be no better place than a venture to practice these!

Biggest fear when applying to be a VF: I am not the most physically in-shape person (some may say I tend to get quite lazy when it comes to working out). So I was very afraid that I would be assigned to a physically intense venture and would have a rope team that was super in-shape and that I would not be able to keep up with them. I must say being assigned to Small Crew Sailing was a huge relief!

What were you most looking forward to: So many things! The August training, getting to know and bond with my fellow VFs, working with guides (I was so inspired by my guide Felipe from Vertical in Andes) and learning from them and of course the venture itself!



Josh Ho

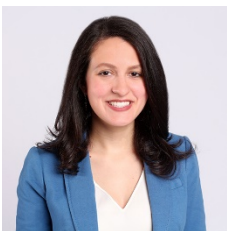
Hometown: San Ramon, California

Assigned Venture: Andes

Why did you decide to apply to be a VF: I was impressed by the thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, and community within the VF program. Some of my fondest memories and most impactful lessons have been in the outdoors, and I wanted to help facilitate opportunities for MBAs to grow leadership skills in this setting. I believe being outside of our comfort zones together is a great place to learn when coupled with support and reflection.

Biggest fear when applying to be a VF: I was not able to go on a venture during my first year at Wharton. I had doubts about my ability to guide my teams and earn their trust without having the experience myself.

What were you most looking forward to: Seeing rope teams go from not knowing each other to being able to trust each other with their safety, fears, and poop habits. Group discussions about pushing for the summit amidst altitude sickness and fatigue. People doing things outdoors they didn't think they could do. Getting lost, forgetting gear, running out of food, and having a great time.



Rebecca Agostino

Hometown: Andover, Massachusetts

Assigned Venture: Antarctica

Why did you decide to apply to be a VF: I became a VF to practice applying my leadership and coaching skill set in a new environment, and also to share an outdoors experience with Wharton peers. There is something so special and unique about going through a physical challenge in a team, and I knew this would create an environment that would foster strong discussion and friendship.

Biggest fear when applying to be a VF: At the start of business school, my camping skills were really rusty. I loved backpacking as a kid, and I had some extended outdoor trip experience from high school, but I hadn't done an extended overnight in years - much less lead others to do one.

The most rewarding part of the VF experience so far: The Venture Fellow community is enthusiastic, passionate about leadership and the outdoors, and diverse in background and interests. It has been great to get to know the fellows, even if not on a venture!