

# Finding Your Fit in Forté

BY TAMARA SATO, MEMBER OF D&I SUBCOMMITTEE

Cornell's business club recruitment process is competitive, to say the least. Like many other freshmen, I found myself feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and surprised by how difficult it was to join a club focused on professional development. After all, isn't the purpose of professional development to provide opportunities to learn and grow? Being thousands of miles from home, the last thing I wanted was to feel unwelcome. Yet as I walked through the aisles of business clubs in Barton Hall, I distinctly remember feeling out of place.

On my way home from Club Fest, I found a flyer for Forté lying haphazardly on the ground. Feeling disheartened after a long day, I picked it up and decided to go to the information session. This spontaneous decision might have been one of the best choices I could've made; as I listened to the co-presidents recount their Forté experiences and chatted with many of the members, I felt encouraged, cheerful, and welcome. Not only were the members accomplished and motivated but spoke in a humble and supportive manner that made me want to be a part of the Forté community.

It was through this sense of belonging that differentiated Forté for me, and I have been so fortunate to have found this community on campus. Each year, I am astonished by the amazing accomplishments of our members; from exceling in sports to earning academic awards to creating sensational YouTube videos, Forté members are doing it all. What makes the Forté experience so rich is the opportunity to connect with women from different colleges, backgrounds, and stages in their Cornell journey in a friendly and supportive environment. I have truly treasured my Forté experience and am very appreciative of the efforts that the club has made to create community for its members.

However, I know that many students continue to struggle finding their place within the Cornell community. The club recruitment process remains competitive and can leave many feeling overwhelmed and dejected. There is still a long way to go in creating recruitment processes and club experiences where all members feel included and valued. This semester, I have been fortunate to be a part of Forté's newly formed Diversity and Inclusion committee, which aims to play a part in turning ideas into reality. In this committee, we have discussed the state of Forté's recruitment processes and member experiences and are actively working to engage with our community in making sure that each applicant and member feels valued, whether they find their home within Forté or elsewhere. For me, Forté has been a great place to learn and grow both personally and professionally, and I hope I can help to create those experiences for others.