

2019 San Francisco Career Quest Blog

Having grown up in the West Coast, also known as the best coast, I was very excited to be visiting San Francisco from a career perspective. During the two orientations before the trip, we were told that the San Francisco working atmosphere was completely different than D.C. including dogs in the office and jeans on a regular basis. Having never interned in the West Coast, I didn't believe it but it all turned out to be true!

One of my favorite parts of the trip was the group of students selected. We all had different backgrounds and stories, some of us undergrads, others graduate students and many from different countries around the world. While we didn't all share the same upbringing, we all embarked on the San Francisco trip with a shared purpose: to make connections with potential future employers and open up our eyes to what we want to find in a company one day. I enjoyed the fact that every student was there to learn, interact and make connections with each other and the people that we met at each company. Everybody was there to ask meaningful questions and to learn, always leaving a good representation of GW everywhere we went.

The companies we were able to visit was all thanks to the wonderful coordinators of the trip! We were fortunate to visit a diverse group of companies that all aligned with the group's diverse educational backgrounds and goals. We toured Facebook, Airbnb, Genentech, Kiva, Gap Inc., Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative, US Bank, Milliman, and CBS Interactive. All of these companies are quite distinct from one another, however, what I found really great about each visit is that no matter what you are studying or what you want to pursue in your career, there is always a place for you at each of these companies.

In addition to the company site visits, we also attended a GW Alumni reception for alumni living in the Bay Area. It was relieving to see so many alumni in the West Coast, as one of my biggest fears is that I will not be able to find a GW community if I were to move back. It was great to hear the stories of people who graduated from GW and now have made a life on the opposite coast.

Overall, I found the Career Quest trip to San Francisco a very rewarding and meaningful experience that has expanded my professional sights and given me confidence about what I am looking for in a future employer and company.