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Graduated in Fall 2018
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A Glimpse into the Career Quest in San Francisco

The GW Career Quest in San Francisco was far more than what Steve Scordo and Matthew Ballou promised in the interviews and orientations leading up to the trip. The organization, support, and effort that Steve and Matthew gave the program allowed the group and I to have a smooth, enjoyable trip that consisted of diverse presentations at some of the top business names in San Francisco. Not only were we able to tour organizations such as Facebook, AirBnB, and Genentech, we were also able to meet GW SF alumni at a networking event in The Bently Reserve.

Through the site visits and interactions with tour guides and alumni, I was able to learn and understand the west coast work culture and how it is unique compared to the east coast. For instance, I saw that many individuals do not wear business professional attire to work but are dressed more casually. Additionally, a lot of individuals are able and do scooter to work and are allowed to bring their pets with them as long as they do not disturb their coworkers. From the attire to bringing your dog to work, I realized how different the west coast is to the east coast in that the work environment is 'less stressful' and everyone is more likely to have a nice work-life balance.

In addition to the site visits that were professionally and culturally informative, I was able to learn the different paths that each individual (i.e., alumni and tour guides) took that led them to success in San Francisco through this trip. The SF Career Quest allowed me to meet diverse individuals that gave me advice and information that wasn't biased due to their employer's oversight. I was truly able to understand each alum/tour guide and therefore, able to be comfortable to ask multiple questions and connect my experiences with theirs. For example, I met an individual that graduated from GW and gave me advice that while I may not know exactly what I want to be doing 5 years from now, consulting is a great career path because it will give me transferrable skills and connections that I can utilize later on. By sharing my thoughts and concerns with her and other individuals, I realized that I was not in an unknown position but one that I can connect with others and learn from their career paths.

Overall, the SF Career Quest was a great experience and I definitely recommend others to experience it as well. The trip was well planned and the connections that I made were not only helpful for my career path but can definitely help others as well.