

Seattle – life, career, dream!

Preface:

As a Master of Business Analytics student in GWSB, I went to this Seattle Career Quest with missions for myself – 1. Looking for a project for my Practicum course in fall semester; 2. Building a partnership between GWSB and our host companies so that folks in my program can have practicum projects of leading companies in Seattle; 3. Making connections and informing them that I'm happy to work on projects from them in fall.

Therefore, my blog may be less fun than others. I aim to provide helpful information for those who join a career trek with similar missions. The 1st mission largely depended on luck because none of our host companies had given students projects for coursework and the trek was just a week before the fall semester. The 2nd mission may sound ambitious for a student. However, I encourage my like-minded fellows to have no fear to try. I achieved pretty good outcomes for my missions, which I will summarize at the end of this blog.

Diary:

- **08/19/2018: travelling around Seattle**

After checked my luggage with the hotel, I went to the Pike Place Market for a fresh seafood lunch. As a fish market, Pike Place was surprisingly fragrant. The majority of the market was covered by flowers. Fresh seafood had only a few booths. The rest was occupied by fruits, spices, and hand-crafted goods. Live performance was very where. Nevertheless, seafood was my favorites at Pike. I highly recommend prawn sandwiches and the chowder in Market Grill.

I'm sure everybody can find his/her favorite at Pike. The fun I had at Pike served as a good ice-breaker in my network occasions in the following days. My advice to future Seattle trek members: check out Pike Place Market when you arrive if possible. This is where to grab some brilliant sense of local life.

- **08/20/2018: Microsoft + Amazon**

- Microsoft:

I was excited that my dream company – Microsoft came first. I started contacting our alumni host Michael a month before my visit and explained my missions. He was very helpful for inviting members of OneDrive team and Azure team in the panel at the end of our visit. Although the panel was less than 30 minutes, I connected with people who were most relevant to my field of interest.

Besides the panel, we had lunch in Microsoft. They had a very international food choice. I was interested by the display cases of vegetables in the dinning place. They were actually a clean farming technology developed by Microsoft. For friends who are interested in agriculture or sustainability, Microsoft can also be in your radar.

Overall, the visit in Microsoft was very fun. They seemed to intentionally allocate the majority of time to the fun places, especially the store. I tried drawing by their Surface Pen and planned to have one for my Surface Pro by my first payment in the USA.

- Amazon:

Our Amazon visit was much shorter than others. However, we had a very informative meeting with our alumni. I also contacted Linc, who is a data scientist in Amazon before my visit because a lot of my classmates are interested in e-commerce and AWS is one of our have-to-master skills. Of course, I contacted him not only for my classmates but also for myself. Although we didn't make it to have anybody from AWS in the meeting, I appreciate the information I obtained in the conversation with them.

- **08/21/2018: Starbucks + Gates Foundation + Milliman**

- Starbucks:

A very classy place. I was amazed to know that they had data analytics teams on site at the end of the visit. Fortunately, I met our host Anthony in the alumni reception and had detailed conversation about my missions.

Advice to my friends: pay attention to every company in your trek. Useful information can come from very unexpected places.

- Gates Foundation:

They had a data sector and we had informative conversation with their data scientist. This was another visit that I made important connection unexpectedly, not only with our data scientist alumnus Tristan but also with our host Erin.

- Milliman:

I listed Milliman on my partnership sheet before my visit because consulting firms are frequent sponsors of our practicum projects. There wasn't any GW alumnus in our visit but they made me feel like a member in their community. We had an SVP level panelist Pam, who was also our host. I got a chance to talk about the partnership with GWSB and made connection with her.

- **08/22/2018: Facebook + Sky View Observatory + Alumni Reception**

- Facebook:

Facebook is certainly a company on my list. Although we didn't meet any people from the data analytics team, we made sure they had a data team on site and made connections.

- Sky View Observatory

We enjoyed a grand view of Seattle and rested our feet and mind before the alumni reception.

- Alumni Reception

It is a great place to make connections! As I mentioned, I met Anthony again and discussed about my mission. Another highlight is talking with Stephen, to whom I sent an email according to the request of my trek. Stephen was a marketing analyst in Microsoft. His insight was very inspiring for me.

Advice to my friends: don't forget to send the emails if you are asked by your trek mentors.

Summary:

I consider my missions to have been accomplished 80%. Mission 3 was done perfectly. Mission 2 is on the right track. Mission 1 helped me with other missions. In general, our alumni in Seattle have a strong sense of community. Therefore, if you have missions that are good for the GW community, be brave to work on them.

One suggestion at the end: you may also talk about your mission to your Career Quest mentors. I regret that I didn't do this. I should have gotten better results if I had done so.