Annual Networking Trip

By Rachel Gardella, Lauren Krause, and Owen Pence

Emerging Leaders had the opportunity to travel to Chicago for the organization’s third annual networking trip on Monday, November 6th through Wednesday, November 8th. The organization was able to take 53 members and visit 12 companies over the course of the trip. The members of the organization were split into three tracks in which the company visits corresponded. These tracks consisted of Accounting and Finance, Management Information Systems and Business Analytics, and Marketing and Management. Additionally, Emerging Leaders hosted an Alumni Networking event for any OU alumni in the Chicago Area in which students were able to network and make valuable relationships.

Monday, November 6th

Vantage Consulting

Nine leaders participated in a focus group with three professionals from Vantage Consulting to discuss how they have adapted to their leadership styles. This was a unique opportunity for the elected leaders to share their past experiences and look for possibilities of growth for the future. Vantage shared some of their expertise and advice with the students in the area of leadership.

Alumni Networking Night

- Alumni from the Chicago area came to Hub 51 to network with Emerging Leaders
- The alumni who attended ranged from recent grads to professionals with years of experience in their respected fields
- Members were able to make connections at this event and have maintained those relationships through email and LinkedIn

Tuesday, November 7th

On Tuesday, Leaders broke into groups and visited companies based on their major(s). The company visits included panel discussions, in-depth Q&A’s, presentations, and office tours.

Marketing / Management Peapod

Leaders were given an overview of the online grocery industry and how Peapod is combating the increasing popularity among competitors. They also had the opportunity to network with multiple high-level executives including the Chief Marketing Officer, VP of Human Resources, VP of Supply Chain Planning & Development and many more.

Chicago Bulls Visit

Above is a photo of Emerging Leaders Visiting the Chicago Bulls Office.

Microsoft Visit

Emerging Leader pose for a group picture inside of Microsoft’s Office.
Marketing / Management (cont.)

Chicago Bulls
The leaders were welcomed to the United Center by recent alum Anthony Piccioni. They were given a tour of the corporate office and participated in a panel with four of the Bulls current employees in the areas of HR, Sales, and Marketing.

Conagra
Upon arrival, leaders were welcomed by President of Grocery and Snacks of Conagra, Dale Clemiss and EVP & CFO of BWAY, Tom De Weerdt. The two executives lead a discussion including details of their careers and their lives working in the corporate world. The leaders then participated in a panel with several new employees to answer questions about what their day-to-day life looks like with Conagra.

MIS / Business Analytics
The Hackett Group
- Leaders were given an office tour and presentation on the overview of Hackett as a company and the role of a consultant
- A case study was presented and walked through at the end of the presentation

Microsoft
- Recent OU graduate Vince Huck gave a tour of the company, showed and discussed Microsoft’s HoloLens Technology, and provided an overview of the recent trends in cloud-based technology
- After the tour, Huck gave advice to students on what life after college is like and answered any questions in a panel-like setting

LinkedIn
- Leaders were given a tour of the four floors of LinkedIn and afterward engaged in a panel and presentation with professionals from LinkedIn
- The presentation consisted of learning more about LinkedIn and how to improve your personal brand as well as a panel with recent graduates who shared their post-grad experiences

Finance / Accounting
RMB Capital
- 26 floors, Dimitri had a formal discussion and talked about their backgrounds and job descriptions. Talked about valuing bonds and stocks
- What it’s like to be in Chicago. Over 1300 applicants and only choose one for their internship and what they look for in resumes

Golub Capital
- Frank was an OU alumni and talked about his company and talked about general advice.
- Panel with three fairly new graduates, one being an alumni about day to day job and transitioning to the work life

PNC
- Three newly graduates and gave slides about PNC and they gave advice about the work life and talked about their 3-year rotational internship program
- They also discussed what it’s like to live in Chicago

Wednesday, November 8th

AbbVie Pharmaceutical
- All members of Emerging Leaders had the opportunity to visit AbbVie
- Members were split into their tracks and engaged in three different activities
- First, members sat in on a panel and interacted with multiple employees who held positions in their respected fields
- Second, members were walked through the “Patient Experience” which was an interactive journey map showing how the journey of a patient being diagnosed and how AbbVie is there every step of the way and putting the patient’s needs first
- Lastly, members were given a tour of the Humira Plant

Key Takeaways from Trip
- Maintain your personal brand
- Networking is a very valuable tool; 85% of jobs are filled through networking
- Know your competitors
- Customer relationships are valued amongst all industries
- Results are not achieved by waiting they are achieved by challenging the status quo
- Focus on building your career by experiences, not by your “Dream Role”
- Always be yourself especially during interviews and when searching for jobs
- Stay true to your values

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STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Golub Capital Visit
Emerging Leaders had the opportunity to visit Golub Capital, as seen above.

Downtown Chicago
Students explore downtown Chicago after networking with professionals from Vantage Consulting.

The Hackett Group
The MIS and Analytics track pose for a photo in the lobby of The Hackett Group. Also pictured is recent OU graduate Ishan Patel who led the group presentation and discussion.