

What IAP Meant to me
By:
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When it comes to IAP, I am not sure where to begin as it was probably one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Going into IAP I knew that I was about to meet people from all across the world. What I didn't expect was that I was going to come out of it with some true friendships.



IAP Orientation

The first day at IAP started with an introduction/orientation for all attending IAP. The first thing that was given to us was our team assignments for all the group projects that were going to go on. Right off the start we were all split up from our MISI group for an ice breaker in which we got to know people from the different centers. The orientation also went over expectations and schedule for the next three weeks. It was interesting as during the orientation all the centers were called to raise their hands so show how the people were seated. It seemed like all the centers were sitting together, which is a contrast to the last day of IAP. On the last day of IAP all of the centers were mixed up as students now had made some great connections. See picture below of Humberto from ZLC who became a friend from the ice breaker.



APICS

The first group assignment was APICS, which was similar to a “Shark Tank” competition. Immediately I was comfortable with my team: it was me, a girl from Zaragoza, and two MIT students. The APICS experience was a fun one as we worked on a creating a concept that was something we were all passionate about. The concept of optimizing the loading the trucks process for any ecommerce company. We met a couple times to go over progress and compile our presentations. While working on this project we truly got to know each other as we all came from different backgrounds. See picture below.



Leadership Workshop

The next group assignment was our Leadership Workshop and VELD group assignment. This group consisted of 8 people all from different backgrounds as well. I really enjoyed this assignment as we all got a chance to learn from each other in terms of leading. Making the video was a lot of fun for us as we all saw each other's creativity. What I really enjoyed with this group assignment was actually the actual in class workshops as I really learned a lot about how to incorporate some vision, emotion, logic, and details when presenting. See picture below of 2/8 people in my group.



Fresh Connection

This was the last group assignment that we were assigned to. Although I think I learned a lot about supply chain from this game, I will admit this was my least favorite. I think compared to all the group assignments I spent most of my time on this one. My group was amazing and very positive even though we struggled in the beginning of the game. But the lesson learned was that supply chain is an essential part of the business because as soon as our supply chain was doing well so were we overall.

Python

This part of IAP was one of my favorites, as I really enjoyed learning programming through Python. Even before IAP started I was looking forward to learning python coding. I feel like the instructor Sergio was amazing at explaining each code and teaching us. He brought tough concepts down to a human level of understanding. I feel like what I learned in this Python course can be used not only in my thesis but also in my working career.

Walgreens and Boston Scientific

The two tours that I went on throughout this experience was Walgreens and Boston Scientific. Walgreens was amazing to walk through as it was so automated. What really stood out to me with Walgreens was the fact that they hire all sorts of people. They have a great initiative to hire those with special needs. On the other hand, Boston Scientific was somewhat automated and consisted of multiple areas designed for different parts of the supply chain. They even manufactured their own boxes for packaging purposes which was interesting to see.

Speaker Series

Another part of the IAP experience was getting the opportunity to listen to some amazing speakers from the Supply Chain Industry. The two that really stood out to me were Cathy Rodriguez and Meredith Stevens as they were two inspirational females who have had a successful career in the industry. Cathy from General Mills was actually an alumni from the Scale Network program and Meredith is now the VP of Johnson and Johnson supply chain. It is great to see female success in the supply chain industry and I hope to see more females gain such success. Both females are now an inspiration for me and I hope to be just as successful. Picture below is before Dr Sheffi presented.



Research Expo

Lastly research expo was a fun experience at IAP. This was the chance to present our thesis work so far to other staff, students, and companies that came to visit. I feel that even though we didn't win the poster presentation, we did a great job at presenting our work. I personally left with some additions to my LinkedIn network as well as an email from a company requesting my resume. So, for me it was a huge success, fingers crossed I get some interviews.



Three positive key highlights

- The first highlight was meeting all the people from all around the world. I have made some great connections that I know will stay with me for the rest of my life.
- Another was learning python and taking other mini courses such as AI and Future of Retail. These courses can be applied to my career in the future.
- Lastly presenting our research at the Research Expo and networking will always be an experience that I will remember.

Three Points of Improvement

- I think that the voting for the Posters could have been done better as there was no announcement and I know a lot of people didn't get to vote.
- The first time slot for the presentation was kind of a waste as we had no visitors in our room since people were running late, so I feel like it should start after opening remarks.
- I don't think there are any other points as overall it was a great experience.



The image above shows just how much IAP can make a difference, as this picture has people from LCL, ZCL, GCLOG, and CTL