

## **Charles Narbonne Merineau**

### **IAP experience**

In this report, I would like to talk about my IAP experience. First, I have to say that the Boston environment, which means the food, the weather, the people and the building/architecture was nothing new for me. Since I am from Montreal, all these factors were more or less the same as in my hometown, so it did not feel like it was a first-time experience. I really enjoyed discovering Boston and all its small restaurants.

There were a lot of activities to be done there but I simply did not have time to do any. Dr. Gonsalvez invited us to visit and discover many places in Boston but with the tight IAP schedule, it was simply impossible. We had classes from 9 am to 5 pm everyday and after class we had to gather with one of the teams we were assigned to and work on various projects. Almost every day was like that including the weekends.

The fresh connection was the most exciting competition among all. It truly triggered my interest and my motivation. That was probably the thing I enjoyed the most during the IAP. Only one downside though was that the MIT students were graded according to their final simulation ROI while we MISI students were not. So, if they had a 7.5% ROI at the end of the game, they were getting an A+ grade, which means that once they were getting more than 7,5% at any given round, they were then very reluctant to play the game further and take risks to expand. For the final 4 rounds (out of 7), the 2 students in my team refused to play the game because it could jeopardize their 7.5% ROI and their A+ grade. That was truly disappointing, and I can't understand how MIT did not anticipate this issue.

Another thing that got me very disappointed is the way they took care of our MISI teacher. They did not appoint any technician to take care of the screen, sounds, etc. and make sure that everything was functional at the beginning of the class. Some technical issues happened and could have easily been avoided. Dr. Gosh class was by far the most interesting class among all the classes I attended but the organization team placed him in a very unattractive time period and it resulted in having only a handful of students attending.

I liked the APICS competition because it made me make a lot of research on topics that I was not so familiar with. Topics such as crypto-currency, smart contracts and block chain. It triggered my curiosity and my interest, and I will for sure read more on these new technology trends. I also had amazing team partners and I will keep in touch with them in the future.

The poster expo was a good experience and a great opportunity to meet people from the industry. Sadly, we were in the wrong presentation room. It was dark, cold, and not really appealing for the attendees. It felt like most of the people went in the main room and came to the second room after if they still had time to. The vote system for the posters was a farce. In my opinion, MIT should not have allowed the students to vote; because of that it really became a popularity vote and it undermined the credibility of the results. Our posters looked great on the screens that they installed. It was definitely boosting the experience. It felt very professional.

The overall organization of the IAP was solid. With that many students from so many different countries and cultures, a lot of issues could have happened. I truly admire the people who made IAP a successful event. As a whole, it was a good experience but a very challenging too. I think 3 weeks was just the right amount of time to really benefit and appreciate the experience. To conclude, if I had to give any advice to next year students, I would say to meet as much people as possible and try to expand their relation circle as much as possible. It will truly give their career a boost.