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I landed in Boston three days earlier, thinking I would use this time to do some sightseeing. But this was not to be as it was colder than expected and it was snowing. I had to spend most of the three days indoors but still manage to visit Harvard since it was located about 20 minute walk from my AirBnB stay. Fortunately my AirBnB host who is a lecturer at the Boston University was willing to spend some time with me. In one of my conversations with him, he said that higher education in the US is very expensive and many take student loans to further their studies and there is now a growing number of graduates at masters and Phd levels who are in their 50s and 60s who are still paying back their student loans because for some these higher degrees have not resulted in higher salaries.

I managed to attend two anti Trump demonstrations at the Boston Commons, one during the inauguration day and another as I was leaving Boston. Looking at the number of demonstrators present, I felt a disconnect between what is portrayed in the media and what is actually happening on the ground.....Trump has the support of the silent majority ( similar to Malaysia's yellow shirt protest) and he has a good chance to be a two term president. It is going to be an interesting 4 or 8 years under Trump and I cannot help wondering how it will affect the supply chains of many companies.

My last two days were spent at Boston East where there were more migrants. There were a number of ethnic restaurants and I manage to try an Italian, Columbian and Mexican restaurant. I noticed that many of the help have difficulty in communicating in English. Are these the undocumented migrants targeted by Trump?

I spent a few days walking around Boston late at night and early in the morning and cannot but notice the number of people homeless, both white and blacks and males and females. Some spend the nights at the subway and others in the 7-11s nursing a drink just to keep warm. I regret not striking a conversation with one or two of them to find out why the great American dream has eluded them.

The IAP sessions were well planned but hectic. I enjoyed the diversity of the participants and working with them in teams especially in the APICS challenge, simulation games and the VELD presentation.

The talks given by the faculty were good, informative and well structured. However, I found some of the talks given by industry experts a bit short on details of execution. The speaker from Flex failed to see the diversity of his audience and offended some with his comments on foreign workers.

The lectures on Revenue Management was fast and many were lost....is this what it means to "drink from a fire hose? ". Fortunately, the lectures on Marine Logistics was more digestible.

The industry tours were good. I was very impressed with Walgreens employment of PWD and how the workplace was designed to suit these workers. More importantly was the work place culture where 'normal' employees are trained to treat these PWDs as an equal partner.

The poster sessions was interesting. Most of the topics were on operational areas such as forecasting, logistics, inventory etc and this drew the most enquiries from industry. My poster on sustainability only attracted 6-7 people more out of curiosity than anything else. Fortunately I was not looking for a job, otherwise I would be very disadvantage.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. David and the rest of the MISI faculty for giving me an opportunity to attend the IAP. It is an experience that I will not forget.