

Research Assessment #6

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Last week, on October 5th, I attended my first ISM event, a professional symposium. At this event students in the ISM program in FISD get a chance to experience mock interviews, get professional advice, and of course, get to know our fellow students and learn how their ISM experience is going through networking. Prior to the event, I prepared myself by getting my professional dress, writing and revising my résumé, and preparing questions to ask professionals about their experiences and advice as I am getting involved with the professional world. Before our stations, I networked with some professionals who I was able to link with on LinkedIn, and gave me some good advice as we went into the two interview stations.

At my first station, I went to the ISM alumni room. In this room, the four women went over their time in the class, and what they got out of it. They first went over their original work projects and made suggestions like trying to do something different that could either link to your final product or something a little more unique than just a pamphlet. Next, they talked about research assessments and how it was one of their favorite parts of ISM, and how it gave them a creative outlet to dig into what they wanted to learn, and was sort of a guide into what they studied as a whole. They also went over how the skills they learned in ISM helped them into getting a job as well as how it gave them a leg up into college compared to other students. Overall, I enjoyed this room and was good guidance into how the class can affect how we go into college and the professional world.

The next thing I did was my first interview, which was with an ISM 2 student named Bhavana Sudula. In this interview, she asked me the basic questions that were given as an outline, and I was able to really shine through and provide detailed answers back. After she finished, I asked her about six questions that regarded her time and experience in ISM, and once again got a lot of good advice as I am going into my first year. She gave me some great feedback on my résumé as well as just adjusting the speed of my talking, but she gave me such sweet compliments and praised how prepared I was. This was a great interview, and I am so glad I got the chance to interview with Bhavana.

Next, I went to my second interview with an IT consultant named Naresh Nirmal. In this one, he asked questions about marketing and where I see myself going in the future, which I thought was great and gave me a chance to shine in what I had been researching and explain my passion. Unfortunately, some of the questions did feel like he was not fully engaged in what I was communicating or picking apart minor details, but it was a great chance to come up with answers and experience not always having the exact right answer for when this happens in a real interview. Once again, he gave great advice on my résumé and also complimented me on my commitment and knowledge of marketing.

The next room I went to was the social media room. On this, three ISM 2 students presented both their LinkedIn profiles and their digital portfolios. I enjoyed this room because it gave such a great outline of what I want my website to look like, and additionally reminded me of things to add to my LinkedIn. For the website, I got to see how Khaviya, Abbie and Sam each had such unique websites that fit their personalities and goals with ISM. For mine, I want to kind of follow what I believe Abbie did, which was making a little section for each research assessment with a picture that correlates, and I also want to do some more design work and

outlining so I can keep it nice and organized. Overall this was one of the most informative rooms, and I highly enjoyed getting more details on what both of our social medias should look like.

Next, I went to the professional panel with Brad Shorgen, Eric Dunn, and Kevin Scott. In this room, all the ISM students got to ask the three of them questions about how they use communication in their everyday lives, and additionally, how they deal with conflicts within and outside of the workplace in a professional manner. The main thing I remember was Eric Dunn discussing the importance of writing a concise email, and how you have to hit the right balance of enough information without it being overkill and not interesting enough to read. I felt this room was a good reflection of how I have been communicating with professionals, and I will take what advice they had to say and put it to use in both things like emails as well as in person communication.

Student networking was the next room I went to, which I have to say was probably my favorite room out of all eight rotations. In this, I got to talk with students from Memorial, Reedy and Frisco, who all were doing such fun and unique topics and I could tell they were very passionate about what they were doing. I got to ask them about any communication they had with professionals and how their experience has been thus far, and all had great things to say and all appeared to be making wonderful progress. I loved this room because it gave me the chance to share what I have learned with other students who are in the exact position I am in, and in return getting advice and knowledge from them. I talked to about seven different people, all who had extreme professionalism and kindness, and I am so excited to have gotten to meet them.

The second to last room I went to was the ISM 2 professional communication room. In this one, they gave advice on how to address ourselves as we reached out to professionals

through cold calls or emails, and what to say about ISM and why we want to be in contact with them. After their general advice, we broke out into groups and practiced it by doing mock cold calls. I liked this room because it gave more practice on where I am right now which is just continuing to contact and interact with professionals, so overall a great room for me.

The final room I went to was original work with ISM 2 students. I loved getting to know where they came from when picking out what they wanted to do, and for sure gave me inspiration on how to narrow what I want to do. I also enjoyed getting to actually see what they did, like all of their binders and pamphlets, and loved seeing how proud they were of all of the hard work they put into last year.

Overall, the professional symposium was a great experience for me, I got such great advice and guidance from both professionals and ISM 2s. I am excited to take all of the tips I got from this event and apply it to this year!