“An Unforgettable Winter Break in Singapore & Dubai”

Some lucky business students were able to escape the record cold temperatures and snow storms during the winter break, and enjoy the warmer climates of the Middle East and S.E Asia.

Following a competitive application process, 12 CBE and 2 IBE students were selected from over 40 candidates to participate in an intensive two week global lab in Singapore and Dubai. This program is a 2 credit business elective course that offers a complement to the Management 301 capstone class.

“It’s not only to see some of the concepts or ideas talked about in the classroom brought to life but to also really interact with people at levels that make strategic decisions, get to know companies in different industries and to learn about not just the industry culture but also the cultures of the locales” explains Charlie Stevens.

Led by Profs. Doug Mahony and Charlie Stevens, from the Management Department; the group travelled over 20,000 miles, spending the first 6 days in Dubai, followed by 6 days in Singapore. They also travelled to the neighboring emirate of Sharjah and traveled into Malaysia for company visits.

“I feel like the Singapore-Dubai Program was a unique opportunity to explore different cultures, and really dive into a different business setting”, said participant Conor Press, senior Finance and SCM major.
The students visited a total of 12 companies, meeting with top level business executives, as well as Lehigh Alum, that make up part of Lehigh's Global Community.

“The Global Lab provided the opportunity to meet with Hedge fund managers; CEOs; go to start-ups, go to multi-national companies...” described another participant Nicole Montalbano, senior finance & economics major.

This first hand exposure to global companies was new to most students. “[I have] never had the opportunity to visit companies...This felt like the most relevant and beneficial experience abroad. Getting exposure to the global economy and doing business in other countries ...” commented Victor Mohlin a senior accounting and finance major.

The benefits of attending the global lab are evident when the students return to class. “I often have several of the students in my class; and it’s their ability to talk about the companies they visited and apply to those experiences to the concepts they are learning about in class. They raise far more sophisticated questions and see a lot more nuance in the problems that we discuss in class, now that they have some context; now that they have seen an executive talk about the importance about having a global vision or global mindset” said Program Leader Prof. Douglas Mahony.

The program itinerary included company visits, cultural experiences and even a little free time to explore. The students were able to admire the views from the world's tallest building - the Burj Khalifa in Dubai; the world's most expensive building - Sands Marina Resort, Singapore and enjoy a ride on the biggest Ferris wheel outside the U.S. - the Singapore Flyer.
For some of the students, the highlight was their experience on a desert safari and riding a camel! For others, it was taking the bumboat to Pulau Ubin, a tiny island off Singapore's mainland, where life has stood still for over 50 years. Students explored the island by bike through the last village or kampong and jungle getting a true sense of what Singapore was actually like before it developed into the sophisticated metropolis of today.

The trip was transforming for many of the participants; in Nicole Montalbano’s words, “I couldn’t believe how much had happened and how much I had experienced over the course of 2 weeks - the close friendships I’d built, the connections I’d made, the heightened desire I found to work internationally. The trip was one of my favorite times at Lehigh”.

Business students in the class of 2016, will have an opportunity to apply for this unique immersion program and experience an unforgettable winter break in Singapore and Dubai. Look out for this postcard in the mail in August!

More photos on 2015 trip available on Tumblr | lehighcbeglobal.tumblr.com

Information on the program and how to apply will be posted in August online at: Global Initiatives website | cbeglobal.web.lehigh.edu

This Program is open to senior business students only.

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