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Refection—Career Fair

Sometimes it can be easy to forget why we do what we are doing here. As a student, I spend much of my time attending classes, doing homework, meeting with groups, studying, etc. and it can be easy to lose sight of one of our main objectives: finding a job! The career fair was a welcome reminder of what will come next as I am preparing to graduate.

I was blessed with a great internship this summer with a company called Accenture. It is a worldwide consulting firm that operates in numerous industries and offers a variety of services. I really enjoyed my summer working with the company, and since that time I have received an offer to come back in a full-time position. I am so thankful for this chance, and I am planning on taking the job. With that said, my experiences and plans with Accenture changed a few of my interactions at the career fair.

As I approached my interactions with the companies at the fair, I really wasn't nervous. To be honest, I wasn't really looking for or expecting to find a place that I might want to work (given my previously mentioned opportunity), but I was still interested in engaging with a few of the companies. I thought it would be a great opportunity to get to know a little more of what is out there and the potential jobs I might be able to get. If not now, knowing these sorts of things will certainly be helpful in the future. So, the first company I talked with was Cru. I have listened to a few speakers from Cru in other classes and so I had a bit of knowledge about the company as I walked up. I take my faith very seriously and I find the work that Cru does very interesting, impactful, relevant, and exciting. I talked with one of the three reps for about 5-10 minutes regarding a variety of opportunities within the company. For the most part, they are interested in filling internship-type roles and aren't looking for many full-time positions. I was a little less interested after hearing this, simply because any chance of my involvement, however far off, was erased. But I continued to ask questions, got to know what is happening, and saw the vision Cru has. While much of their work is on college campuses (the company was formerly known as Campus Crusade), they also have an industry, or workforce, ministry. I wasn't aware that they were doing much work other than with college campuses, and perhaps this might be something I should keep in the back of my mind moving forward. After talking about this ministry, the campus ministry, and a potential tech-start up (fewer details on this topic), I left the rep my email and thanked him for his time. While it doesn't seem like I will be involved with Cru now, there is always a chance I will be in the future.

The second company I chatted with was Sentry Data Systems. This company seemed a little more up my alley in terms of my training and education. I was very interested to hear about the work they are doing storing and using data from pharmacies and hospitals. It sounds like they are able to really help hospitals use their data well and facilitate decision-making and save money in the long run. This type of work is extremely relevant and helpful! Again, something I was interested in. I really liked the man I was talking

with—he seemed on-top-of things and was easy to communicate with. All in all I walked away feeling like it was a solid interaction and one that was worth my time.

As I was leaving, Dr. White pulled me aside and introduced me to a man from Lockheed Martin. He wasn't there as part of the career fair actually, but rather just happened to be visiting while we were walking around. My conversation with him was very unique because he wasn't able to talk about much. Lockheed Martin does a lot of government work that is secret and cannot be discussed. It's hard to talk about work that you can't talk about! While the work sounded fascinating, I didn't feel it was something I would be very interested in personally. Regardless, it was great to meet him and get to talk about such unique work.

I would say the career fair was a solid experience. I wish there were more companies there (although none in particular), but it was fun to get to know a few companies and see the type of work I might be able to do. Sometimes it can be hard to know what is out there! I know I didn't find anything that I will want to pursue instead of Accenture, but I maybe there will be a time in the future when knowing these companies will be a big blessing. If nothing else, it is always good to meet new people, tell people who I am, and learn to interact well in that type of a setting.