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COSC 314 MindGrub Reflection
Professor Leshell Hatley
February 26, 2018

The trip to MindGrub was a great new experience to me. Starting from Coppin, I get to experience riding on the “Coppin Bus”, which I previously just see driving around the campus. I never get to ride on that kind of vehicle until the trip. Now I know how it looks like from the inside. I also enjoyed the company of my fellow students and professor. As a transfer student, I never had the chance to go on a trip outside the classrooms. The trip gave me the chance to catch up to the already built student bonding of my classmates. These shared experiences help build relationships and promote team-building. We definitely got along better after the trip, getting the most needed break from our demanding coursework. I was also an opportunity for a Baltimore mini-tour.

It's my first time to visit the area, South Baltimore as they call it. I noticed that it is already a place for local businesses and will probably develop even more in the future. Arriving at MindGrub’s headquarters was a little intimidating at first, there are professionals walking around, CEO-looking fellows talking at the lobby, business owners negotiating on their phones etc. Inside, we were greeted, welcomed and seated to their conference room, fully prepared and stocked with freebies, snacks and cold drinks.

They sure know about hospitality – we felt important. All their speakers were very thorough about their topics and answered our inquiries to their best. They demonstrated their 3D printers and showed



us their robot while explaining the details behind it.



They showed us their “Foundry” which is their shop for building robots. I immediately thought why I am not doing the same? That scene sparked the idea of starting a foundry at Coppin and raised interest among my fellow students. They also showed their room production room for virtual reality technology and their area for designing and planning. We toured around their workplace and noticed that their employees are very busy and stressed out. We taught that working there is going to be challenge and confirmed it to be a great performing company. As we left, I can see from the eyes my colleagues that they wanted start from there and an even more uplifting is that our department promised an improved connection to MindGrub.

The trip exceeded my expectations, and I wish I came in there more prepared. I should have prepared better question to ask the engineers so that we could better connect. I should have asked for their advice on both mobile and web development, the tools they use, and frameworks they follow. Being a fan of mobile development, I should have tried to socialize with them and ask them about our mobile app project during their presentation breaks but was not confident enough. I felt like I missed an opportunity to know successful fellows in the same field as mine.

This will serve as a letter to myself and as reminder to always come prepared and take pictures! Pics or it didn't happen, right? I am thankful for the opportunity and fully appreciate the efforts done by CS department to enrich our education, especially to Professor Hatley, and the rest of my Coppin family and even though I forgot to bring my A game, I learned my lesson and will make sure not to do these mistakes again in the upcoming trips and make sure to make Coppin proud.

**Photos taken from MindGrub's Instagram.*