INVESTMENT SOCIETY VISITS NEW YORK CITY

In late March 2018, the School of Business Investment Society traveled to New York City to participate in various educational and networking events. Program Director Dr. Mark Pyles, Assistant Director Dr. Daniel Huerta, and twelve representatives of the investment society used the opportunity to connect with professionals and gain exposure to experiences offered in this financial center of the world. For many, this was their first trip to the financial center of the universe.

The representatives of the society had the opportunity to tour Bloomberg Headquarters on Lexington Avenue, where the students observed the daily livelihood of the office. The Society was given a tour of the modern office-space and open floor plans that foster the young, vibrant culture at Bloomberg. This allowed the students to see an example of one type of workplace culture that is offered within the financial industry. Included in the tour is a museum displaying the history of the Bloomberg terminal and the opportunity to view live studios as part of Bloomberg TV platform.

“It was amazing to witness how a vibrant and open workplace can easily represent a company’s culture. Seeing the office proved that Bloomberg truly values its employees and invests in the well-being of each individual.” - Olivia Talbot, Society member

The Investment Society was also invited to a roundtable hosted by alumni Kevin Day of Systematica Investments. Mr. Day is responsible for sales and business development across the Americas for Systematica. In addition, Michael Durso, a Financial Advisor from Morgan Stanley, James Winslow, VP of the iShares U.S. Fixed Income Team from BlackRock and Dave Swift, Head of Capital Development Strategy at Millennium, all joined the conversation. Each member had a unique path to their current positions and their advice and insight on both career and personal topics were fascinating for the soon-to-be-graduates as they consider their own path through a career. The Society members left with a renewed sense of belief in their plans and clarity on what it takes to be successful in those pursuits.
“It was an honor to host the Investment Society during their visit to the City. I was blown away by the student's level of preparation and by the insightful questions that they posed. It is a testament to the College and to its Professors that these students are ready to compete in the financial services industry. The other panelists and I enjoyed our time with them and we look forward to hosting these sessions in the future.” – Kevin Day, Systematica Investments

The program representatives were also lucky enough to receive an informative tour of the New York Stock Exchange trading floor from Peter Costa, President of Empire Executions. The students were able to witness the activity on the floor during trading hours and the ringing of the bell at the end of the day. While the operations of the NYSE have dramatically transformed over the past decades, there is still no place on earth quite like the floor, and it is an experience the students will never forget. Following the closing bell, the group was able to get up close and personal by watching the market wrap on CNBC.

Overall, this year's trip to New York was an incredibly valuable – and enjoyable – experience for the Investment Society students and faculty. The students were able to make connections that will continue to benefit them for the duration of their college and professional careers, and gain exposure to the fast-paced financial environment New York offers.

“While these students have chosen to go to school in South Carolina, for many of them, their professional pursuits will still, as it has always been, run through New York City. And even for those that won’t ever live or work there, just understanding the history and the energy that comes from this financial industry is an experience that can only be fully understood by being there and being a part of it.” – Mark Pyles, Investment Program Director