BCLC BLOG

MICHAEL GRECO '21

BUSINESS CONNECTIONS HOUSE

UCONN TECH DEMO

BY MICHAEL GRECO

""Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them." - William Arthur Ward

There are countless opportunities all over campus. Whenever you are walking around, there are posters everywhere with hundreds of ways to get involved. After seeing all these clubs and activities, I quickly asked myself, "Well, which are going to be the most beneficial and interesting to me?". I have been to countless events around campus, ranging from skydiving to tea and even ultimate Frisbee. I wouldn't recommend ultimate Frisbee for people who would like to walk the week after tryouts. After recovering from some serious leg pains, I have found that some of the best events for BCLC students like you and me to take

advantage of are going on right now in the school of business. My personal favorite is the tech demos put on by the Operation and Information Management Department (OPIM). Each week, the department shows off what they have to offer in analytics, microcontrollers, 3D printing, Internet of Things, and virtual reality. The only thing that you need to do is come and listen. For the sake of this blog, I attended all the different events.

Virtual reality and 3D printing are inevitably going to be a large part of the future and potentially your career no matter what you decide to do. However, they are expensive to get access to. Luckily for us, the OPIM department allows us to use all these technologies for free.

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During the demo they showed off both of the technologies and all the flashy aspects about them. While learning about Virtual Reality, I was an archer defending a fortress from an oncoming horde of Dothraki. Well, they were actually little stick figures, but like basically the same thing. These are the more exciting demonstrations and even if you are not interested in the major, they were fun to attend and learn about.

Every day, we are interacting with Internet of Things (IoT). They are devices like Amazon Alexa, smart watches, cellphones, and almost anything that can connect to the internet. During the demo, amazon Alexa, smart lights, and a plant monitor were all on display. A student was teaching me all about how the devices interact with one another and what I could do with each of them. My favorite were the color changing lights. For some reason that I do not understand, there is something very satisfying about yelling at Alexa to turn a lamp red. It is amazing the things that you can do with your voice through the Iot.

Analytics and microcontrollers were not as flashy and exciting. Both were very technical, but I learned the most from them. If you are an MIS major or want to learn more about the major, I highly recommend going to these demos. They are far from everything that the major has to offer, but these two are more directly related to the major.

MIS is my major so naturally I found these two the most helpful for me. Before these I really did not understand what MIS really was. I picked it as a major because I kind of just like technology. I still don't understand the major, like at all, but hey you have to start somewhere right? Now I know the basics to data analytics and what is possible with microcontrollers.

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If you want to learn more about anything that I talked about, you can find out more information like dates and time of upcoming tech demos at: https://innovate.business.uconn.edu/opim-innovate/tech-demo/

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If you are interested in things going on in the OPIM department they have all the upcoming events in a calendar here that is updated often: https://opim.business.uconn.edu/events/

I'm new at this blogging thingamajig so any comments, questions, or feedback would be appreciated (Michael.Greco@UConn.edu)

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