

# BCLC BLOG

RAINA DESAI '21



## BUSINESS CONNECTIONS HOUSE

### BCLC NETWORKING FORUM

BY RAINA DESAI

Every year, the Business Connections Learning Community holds its annual networking forum for its newest freshman members. At the forum, the BCLC welcomes back alumni of either the BCLC or the university itself, to meet and greet its newest students and be able to practice networking with them.

I remember feeling pretty nervous before the event because although I have had a job interview before, or have had to publicly speak, the idea of walking around a room of professionals and having to strike up a conversation while they observed my networking skills, was intimidating. However, once the event commenced the nerves washed away and I realized there was nothing to be worried about.

I was able to speak to five individuals who all graduated from UConn. Conversing with them about their careers and the steps they had to take in college to get there, was eye-opening to me. It made me realize that college has an endless amount of opportunities that is waiting to be seized by students who are ready to take hold of them. All of those opportunities that the alumni took, helped them to get where they are today. The conversations really motivated me to push out of the small comfort bubble I had been in, and to be open to everything college has to offer me so that I can be as successful as those I had spoken to.

The networking forum was an excellent tool I was given to help me practice my

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conversational skills with professionals. It gave me an advantage over my other college peers to be able to speak to and learn from adults in fields that I am interested in, at such an early time in my college career. I'm glad that I had this experience and I definitely know that I took a lot away from it.

I encourage rising BCLC freshmen in the years to come to be excited about this event and to be prepared to learn a lot about college and the professional world beyond. There is so much at our fingertips, we just need to take the time to reach out and grab them.

Raina Desai