

BAKER SCHOLARS

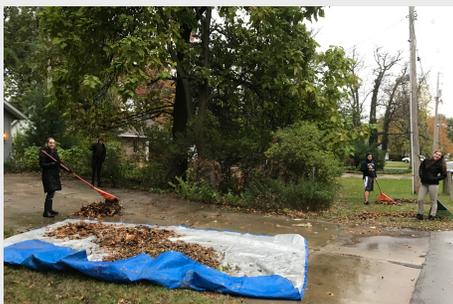
CONNECTIONS LETTER

Baker Bonding

This fall the Bakers enjoyed a group bowling night, annual Homecoming Luncheon, and gathered together for "Friends-giving" where we shared good food and fellowship.

Community Outreach

The Bakers have also been involved in the Holland Community throughout the semester. We packaged diapers for families at Nestlings Diaper Bank, continued our Saturday morning leaf-raking tradition for a local man, and participated in Hope's Relay for Life for the first time to honor those who have battles cancer. Also, for the holiday season, we partnered with Central Wesleyan Church and purchased Christmas gifts for families in Holland.



Fall Chicago Trip

Boeing, Epsilon Economics, JP Morgan Chase, Slack & Co.

Our first stop in Chicago was at Boeing. Andrea Shaeffer, Baker class of '01, welcomed us, showed our group around, and gave a brief history of Boeing as well as her career trajectory. Andrea is a Senior Manager of Investment Risk Management at Boeing, who is responsible for risk management regarding Boeing's combined pension 401(k) assets. Andrea encouraged us to seize opportunities in front of us, because you never know where it could lead.

After Boeing, we walked to Epsilon Economics where we met with Dr. Thomas VanderVeen, Managing Director and President at Epsilon Economics. During this visit Dr. VanderVeen explained the types of economics-based consulting projects his business specializes in. Being able to see this application of economics in the real world was especially exciting for those studying economics as it was a tangible example of how economics might be used in a future career.

With great views overlooking Chicago, we enjoyed lunch and discussion with Baker Alumnus Jonathan Hatfield '09, Vice President, and Tom Sutrinaitis, analyst. They walked us through managing clients' desires, needs, and current situations. Jonathan also discussed his own journey to JP Morgan, noting that the Psychology degree he earned from Hope continues to prove beneficial in his work. As we move into the workforce, he encouraged us to see the value in our Hope education and to know that challenges will come, but we can learn from those experiences and adapt.

Our last visit of the day was at Slack & Co., with recent graduate and Baker Alumna Chelsea Chamberlain '16. Our engaging conversation at this B2B marketing firm made the time go by quickly and each of us felt as

Community Leaders

- **Jim Crossen**, a consulting project team coach, led our group in discussion on Clay Christensen's "How Will You Measure Your Life." By sharing his own story of balancing work, family, and faith, we were challenged to evaluate what it meant to truly live out the goals we have in life, especially in the business world.
- **Tony Castillo**, franchise owner of many West Michigan McDonalds restaurants told his story of how he incorporates faith into his work. The call of Christ to "feed my sheep" prompted him to pursue business with that intent, a practice he encouraged us to do, as well.
- **Helen Zeerip**, president of Teddy's Transport and founder of Grant Me Hope, talked about the ups and downs of business and the ways that we can intersect faith and work. Her passion for both people and business energized us to have the same drive to pursue the things we are passionate about.

Looking Ahead

We are very excited to announce that we will be heading to **Tokyo, Japan** this Spring. We are busy planning our trip and appreciate your continued support! Please stay connected with us on social media and feel free to reach out via email to us as well.

Want to receive email updates?

Email us at:

bakerscholars@hope.edu



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/24998766/>

though we learned more about business to business consulting and deepened our connection with a former Baker.

Following the visits, we enjoyed a nice dinner with alumni in the Chicago area. Before heading back to Holland, our group bonded in an Escape Room, which we successfully escaped in 36 minutes! We had a great visit to Chicago, where we bonded as a group while learning more about business and leadership.

