

1. What was the most surprising thing you learned from the panel discussion?

The most surprising thing I heard from the panelists was that I should just make decisions. I had always believed in taking careful consideration of all my options before committing myself to a decision, but as pointed out this would lead to indecision. I can remember a few different hobby projects that I would start, then worry about certain aspects, and finally waste all my time considering the different ways I could continue the project until indecision made me abandon the project.

2. Who were your table hosts? Why did you choose those tables to visit?

I spent most of my time at table 27 with Ray Rothrock, one of the panelists and the CEO of RedSeal. Mostly the other freshman and I asked him about cybersecurity and what companies are looking for in interns. To my surprise he revealed that these companies don't always look for higher level computer science juniors or seniors that have taken cryptography classes, but they also look for students well trained in writing in order to translate technical jargon into layman language. Mr. Rothrock explained by translating their product descriptions to layman's terms a company can attract more customers that would otherwise be scared off by technical jargon.

If I remember correctly he also implied that sbisa was not his favorite dining place at A&M, but I don't know if I will act on this particular information he mentioned.

3. In what ways did you hear your values echoed in the stories and advice given by the panelists or your table host? What would you have liked to hear but didn't?

I remember that during the table session Ray Rothrock talked about being honest with the people around you and with yourself. He gave a story from when he was a venture capitalist investing in companies and that a particular company was not going to well for his firm, setting them back around ~\$35m. He announced at the next meeting that the company they were investing in was dead instead of pretending that throwing more money could salvage it.

One thing I was planning to ask but ended up not following through was to ask Mr. Rothrock for more information about Up and to the Right. During a previous event on Tuesday he was on a panel about success in the workplace. During this he mentioned that he was in that band and I was a bit curious to find out more about it, but ultimately this is not an important question that I should've asked ahead of the other student's questions.