

Questions:

- What have you learned throughout the day (class or otherwise)?
- Did you feel comfortable or uncomfortable at any point? If so, why?
- What sort of dynamics did you notice between individuals or groups?
- Were your existing attitudes and opinions either confirmed or changed?
- What new experiences/ ideas have you observed?

1/28/2019- Final remarks

Today was so fun. It is sad to think that a month has gone by. We have learned so much, but there is still so much to continue to learn about entrepreneurship and innovation. At some point though, the only way to continue learning about entrepreneurship is to actually join the pool of entrepreneurs and start a business. I have learned innumerable ways in which New Zealand is the perfect place to start a business, but I also continue to wonder what infrastructural challenges there are in New Zealand. I also hope to seek ways in which Minnesota and other parts of the US support innovation. In regards to citizenship, I feel as though I have played an active role in the course. I have been punctual to all class activities, I have encouraged and promoted group collaboration, I partook in my committee duties by assisting in loading the coach and helping get the class to our final destinations. Additionally, I felt as though I frequently asked speakers questions and played a role in class discussion. I feel as though I made the most of this month, by always trying to find something fun and interesting to do. I'm sad to leave New Zealand, but I feel as though I have learned many valuable and applicable concepts in future businesses.

1/27/2019- No Journal

Went scuba diving. That was pretty cool :)

1/26/2019- No Journal

Went to Waiheke island. It was great. Would recommend.

1/25/2019- Hackathon

After completing 30 hours of hacking a problem, I can say with 100% certainty that I am beat. In reflection, I think that the hackathon was a very unique way of approaching a problem. I would NEVER approach a business like that in real life. I think the issue with the hackathon is that my group began with too large of an idea for the timespan we were given. After being told to pair down in the morning, we were forced to immediately change gears and come up with a new product for a new market. We were not able to explore the idea as in depth therefore creating gaps in our product, that we could not fully think through. I also think that the group dynamics shifted after grinding gears for 30 hours and having spent an entire month together. At some points, I think group morale was a bit low and we focused more on getting things done faster

rather than getting things done well in some areas. I think learning how to deal with groups in high stress situations is an important lesson to learn. There will be many times in a future career in business where work will need to be done efficiently, quickly, and high quality. Therefore it is simulating the stress of future work situations.

1/24/2019- Speakers on speakers.

One of the most interesting and prominent parts of the trip has been the wide variety of speakers that we have heard from. One thing that I have noticed is the profuse amount of males in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The majority of innovators we have heard from have been males and the primary gender at the coworking spaces has been male. I have begun to question where the women are and why they are not taking advantage of their country's resources. Business is male dominated already, but I am surprised that in a country that is so supportive of innovation, more women aren't taking advantage of it. Today was also fun because we got to see what I would deem the two best coworking spaces in New Zealand, Grid AKL and Icehouse. Aesthetically, Grid AKL was much more corporate and seemingly put together than other coworking spaces that we have visited. Additionally, Icehouse seemed much more sleek and full of money. It is evident that Auckland is the powerhouse of New Zealand.

1/23/2019- Glow worms and entrepreneurship

I think the coolest thing I have yet to experience on this trip was the Waitomo caves. This may be a bit of a stretch and seem like complete BS, but I think glow worms can model entrepreneurship. I say this because prior to the storm that occurred the glow worm population was high and thriving. Frequently in business, the start can seem perfect and everything seems like it will be completely fine. You assume that your company will be around for decades to come. Then, a storm hits or in the case of business, a bad deal may come along or a challenge may arise that seems insurmountable. A deal may fall through, cash may be low, or if you're a glow worm, 1/3 of your population may be obliterated, but the key is to persevere. The guide at Waitomo caves said that the population will take over one hundred years to be fully restored, but the glow worms continue to bare offspring and persevere. Many of the speakers we have had have discussed the importance of continuing to endure even through hard times. Glow worms also model 8 wire mentality, using resources they have around them to sustain themselves, much like the Kiwi entrepreneurs that surround them

1/22/2019- Sexism and Te Puia

One of the things I have noticed a significant amount of in Maori culture is sexism. Today at Te Puia, I noticed the extreme amount of sexism. One comment that Sam said that especially stuck out was along the lines of "women aren't allowed to be woodcarvers because it is the tradition of the Maori people." I understand that they are trying to preserve the Maori culture and keep it as intact as possible, but I also think that there comes a point when cultures do

need to change and be progressive. If 100 years ago men in the US said, “women shouldn’t vote, it’s tradition” women would not have nearly as many rights as they do today. I don’t fully understand the cultural context and preservation of the Maori, but I believe that at some point women do need to stand up for themselves and decide to have equal rights as men. Besides Phil and the Maori, I do not feel as though I have seen as much blatant sexism as I was expecting, but I do believe it is there. I also think that women add a level of innovation wherever they go because of their unique mindset. I think a theme of today related to this course is cultural innovation and the importance of cultural heritage.

1/21/2019- Haka

Today we learned how to perform the Haka. I think it’s very interesting to compare the way in which our Haka teacher (I can’t remember his name) compares to Heidi at Innov8HQ and the way in which they both bring culture into their careers. In my opinion, I think one has been done in a more respectful way than the other. The two businesses obviously serve extremely different purposes but in my opinion, I thought it was a bit inappropriate for us to learn the Haka due to the difference in appropriation versus appreciation. At Innov8HQ there were nods to Maori culture, but it was not overly done.

1/20/2019- Crafting and innovation

Today we visited the WETA workshop and I was astounded by their innovation. One of my passions is crafting and I think it is one way of being innovative. When developing a card or decoration, you must consider the materials you already have and then think about how you can make your idea unique, different, and cheap. One moment that really stuck out to me was that in the films they still use corn syrup for blood. I had always envisioned the major film companies to use some sort of scientifically engineered stage blood, but I think it is good to know that even some of the best workshops in the world use simple things like corn syrup and food coloring. I think this is another important example of using what you have to create a product. I think my previous perceptions of movies also changed because I did not know how much work went into ideation prior to execution. I also wondered how much more expensive it is to create and ship products in New Zealand due to remoteness.

1/19/2019- Presentations and lessons learned

Things I’ve learned so far

1. Design thinking- I think the most challenging thing for me is to come up with an idea and design thinking has made that a lot more approachable.
2. The ways in which New Zealand fosters an innovative environment. Obviously, we have been learning all about innovation in New Zealand over the course of this month and I am realizing how many factors contribute to making this such a successful place to start and run a business.

3. How to effectively work in a group in high stress situations. Throughout the month, there have been many instances in which we have had to work on a project with less than 24 hours to go from ideation to presentation. This has taught me how to better work in a group.

Things I would like to learn

1. Right now, I would really like to hear the actual step by step process people had for coming up with their idea and then executing it. I still don't feel like I've heard enough about people's initial steps and when they decided to go work at a coworking space or when they actually sat down. I feel like I've heard a lot about the successes and not enough about the failures.
2. How to differentiate between a product idea versus a business idea. When coming up with business ideas I struggled to come up with something that could long term have scale. I know Kawasaki says not to consider how big you can get, but I think it is something that must at least be considered when starting a business. I also struggled to come up with something that wasn't just a product that another bigger company has probably considered, but not perform.
3. I would like to learn more about New Zealand culture. I feel as though I have adequately been exposed to the startup culture of New Zealand, but I do not feel as though I have adequately talked with locals and understood the Kiwi culture. I also do not feel as though I have been adequately exposed to Maori culture.

Things my group did well

1. Creativity- we knew from the beginning that we wanted to present in a way that was outside the box. We brainstormed many ideas on how we could present and then we came up with a very unique idea.
2. Communication- We were extremely open to each others' opinions and ideas which allowed for a creative environment. We tried to build off of each other which further allowed for creativity.
3. Fun- My group had a lot of fun doing the presentation and we really got to know each other which was quite rewarding. It is easy for groups to try to get as much done as possible in a short amount of time and then disperse, but our group took time to have fun and get to know one another and it made putting our presentation together much more fun.

Things my group could improve upon

1. I think my biggest challenge right now has been public speaking. I don't know why, but I have become much more stage fright than I have in the past and I don't know how to address it. If I over practice, then I risk becoming too scripted and if I get off then I start

getting concerned cause I'm off script, but if I am not scripted enough then I don't make sense and blank on what I want to say.

2. Structure- I think my group struggled with staying on track and spending too much time on things that didn't matter. For instance, we spent a large amount of time understanding each other's personality traits and discussing strengths and weaknesses, but I think for the amount of time we were in the groups it wasn't necessarily worth it. I think when working in groups for a prolonged amount of time,
3. I think one challenge is making sure everyone's voice is equally weighted and heard. It is easy in a group for big personalities to run over smaller voices with more reserved personalities and I think that there were instances in which we could have asked our teammates if everyone felt comfortable with the idea that we went with.

Things that stood out in presentations

Things that stood out were people being articulate, it makes a huge difference. When people are at ease, the audience feels at ease. I think having a unique form of presenting sticks out, but I think the issue is that it then becomes less about the content and more about the way in which people present.

1/18/2019- Coffee shops and saturation

Throughout my time in Wellington, one of the biggest problems that I have encountered is a lack of wifi in coffee shops. Currently, there is a trend for coffee shops to not have wifi in order to better foster relationships between coffeeshop goers. Coffee shops are trying to be innovative, but I have a bit of an issue with this. Coffee shops are typically a guaranteed spot for wifi, but I have not been able to find many coffee shops with wifi. Typically, restaurants have wifi which is very strange because typically a restaurant is where one goes to socialize, not a coffee shop. I think there is an oversaturation in the wifi-free coffee shops. It is important for a business to understand how their competition is changing over time. There were many places where I would have stopped, had coffee, and worked on my presentation, but this was not even an available option. It is important to be innovative and come up with new ideas, but once everyone has adopted an idea it is important to continue to rethink the decision.

1/17/2019- CreativeHQ

Today we visited CreativeHQ and I was quite surprised at how the government supports innovation. I think in the United States we so struggle to help foster small businesses. We focus largely on the big corporations that we forget to help out small startups. I continue to be surprised by how much New Zealand does to support innovation. I think the US could do significantly more to help small businesses. I think one thing that I would like to further understand when going back home is the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Minnesota. It is really valuable to learn about innovation in New Zealand, but long term I think the chances of me

starting a business here are slim. That being said, I do think there is a chance of me starting a business in Minnesota. I would like to learn about coworking spaces in the Minneapolis area and how entrepreneurs support one another in the states. While studying here, I have gained the notion that New Zealand is the only place where you can successfully start a new business, but I know that is wrong. I think I just have had a lack of exposure to startup culture in Minnesota and I am sure there is a large amount of collaboration between companies there.

1/16/2019- Teamwork makes the dream work

Today we started a scavenger hunt with new teams. At this point, It has been one of the most effective teams I have worked with. We took the advice we discussed in class the other day and applied it to our own group. We began by discussing our goals in the project and addressing our personal strengths and weaknesses and how they will interact with the other personalities in the group. We worked through points that may be of concern and talked through how we could build off of each other's strengths. Our group has adopted a "Yes and..." mentality to our ideas and we have yet to shoot anything down, but rather we have taken ideas and figured out how to make them stronger.

1/15/2019- Vineyard

As I continue to think about innovation and entrepreneurship, I am finding more and more questions that I don't feel as though I have answers to. Today we visited a vineyard and I left wondering if Ian Miller can be considered an entrepreneur. He has started a business, but I wouldn't say that his vineyard is ground breaking or incredibly innovative. Maybe he can be considered an entrepreneur but is not an innovator. I wouldn't say he is solving any pains that aren't already being addressed. Rather, I would say he is just starting another organic vineyard. Then we get into the question of what is an entrepreneur. I ask this question for many companies that I have seen. For example, dog treat companies- I see them all the time on Shark Tank and I know a few people who have started their own dog treat companies, but what are they doing that is fixing a pain or gain. There are most likely other dog treat companies that are solving the exact same pains and gains as them and I highly doubt any average person is a dog food connoisseur. I guess at that point it's just personal interest. I think another question is how do businesses that don't address a large pain become successful. One of my favorite stores is Paper Source and at the check out they have a ton of gadgets and gizmos that are of absolutely no use such as tiny hands you can put on your finger, Donald Trump pens where you can punch people, and fake business cards that say things like, "please stop talking". I see them at every Paper Source so they must make money, but I can't identify any specific pain that those address.

1/14/2019- NO JOURNAL

1/13/2019- Marketing

During our time in Christchurch one of the highlights has been the lime scooters. Throughout this time, I have considered the factors that have made this business venture so successful. I have tried to identify what pains, gains, and opportunities were available to make the Lime scooters so successful. I think the possible gains were the limited parking therefore making the use of cars challenging, the closeness of things in the city, and the pervasiveness of pedestrian streets. I think the possible gains in the city are the size of the city, the large but not gigantic population, the large side walks, and the accessibility of pedestrian streets. Therefore, the Lime scooters make sense for Christchurch. There is an opportunity worth taking advantage of. I think there is crossover between design thinking and SWOT analysis. I think in design thinking you are acknowledging the strengths of the community, fixing the weakness that is currently in the location, taking advantage of the opportunities, and diminishing the threats.

1/12/2019- Presentations

Today's presentations were all really good. I think the most challenging activity thus far has been the turn around on presentation. I wonder how similar the presentations are to startup weekends. I think the presentations and the questions that stemmed from the presentations have forced me to think more critically and in depth about a problem before actually going through with an idea. I also gained further understanding on the importance of sharing ideas with others. It reinforced Kawasaki's notion that we must share ideas with others. Many people brought up perspectives that our group had turned blind to.

1/11/2019- Design thinking

Today's design thinking activity was one of my favorite things that we have done thus far. For me, the most daunting thing about starting a business is finding a problem that is actually worth solving. I can easily identify slight annoyances in anything, but I think it is challenging to actually identify problems worth solving. The activity was incredibly useful and made me find opportunities worth going after. I found value in the surveys and I think if I were to become an entrepreneur I would need to become significantly more comfortable with randomly striking up conversations with people. My only source of confusion is how to identify my personal passions with those of the people in the area. Take my group's idea for instance, we are talking about doing a walking tour that shows the augmented reality of old Christchurch- none of my passions align with tech, education, or history. I think that finding a problem that is present in a community and combining it with one of my passions will be quite challenging. That said, maybe I need to interview others that fall into a demographic that aligns more with my own interests.

1/10/2019- Walking tour

Exploring Christchurch today was incredible. So far, I think this city has been the most innovative city we have visited. It is clear that they are trying to be purposeful in the way in which they recreate Christchurch. I think the gapfiller that they have here is incredibly innovative and creative, although I don't know how much revenue they gain from their products. They say that innovation stems from a lack of resources and it is clear that the lack of resources after the earthquake has reaped an abundance of innovation in Christchurch. I fear that they have focused too much on opportunities for children and adults and have not focused enough on activities for teens and young adults.

1/9/2019- Problems

Today we went on a 10 mile hike and throughout the duration of the hike I tried to understand what was a major innovation versus what was a smaller innovation (i.e. what was a shark bite vs. what was a mosquito bite). I think many innovations for hiking are somewhat mosquito bite sized problems that are being solved for example, hiking poles. There is a joke on twitter that says, "Hey guy with hydration pack, 2 hiking sticks & North Face vest; my 5 yr old walked the same trails in Crocs carrying a naked Barbie. Relax." @IamJackBoot. I think things like hiking sticks and intense hiking boots are solving mosquito bite problems, but I think water bottles, protective clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen, and supportive shoes are solving larger problems. I think cameras are mosquito sized problems that have had shark bite impacts. It was incredible to be able to take photos of the beautiful Mt. Cook. I think a shark bite sized problem that soon Mt. Cook will face is maintaining beauty even after the glaciers have melted. I think some sort of innovation that would prevent the glaciers from melting at the current rate without disturbing natural beauty would be incredibly powerful. I also think that something to keep tourists from leaving trails and eroding the landscape would have an immense impact. The only with something like that is that it would have to be quite inexpensive because typically environmental and conservation departments get small budgets.

1/8/2019- Bungy Jumping, Mt. Cook, and Citizenship

Today en route to Mt. Cook, we visited the AJ Hackett bungy. It was so thrilling to jump 43 M. I can definitely see myself entering the extreme sport business if I were able to have a wild enough idea. It would definitely be an area in which I am passionate about, but at this point, I do not have the developed expertise. Ways in which I have displayed good citizenship have included, helping with loading and unloading the luggage on the bus, I have spoken in class and asked questions to almost every speaker. Additionally, I have tried to get to know everyone in the class on some level. I think ways in which I could improve my citizenship would be asking better prepared questions to the speakers, I also think I could be more inclusive with the other students. At this point, I don't feel as though I have been exclusive, but I think I could make it more obvious to others as to what I am up to. I also think I could improve in my part as a part of

transportation and logistics by researching transportation options in the cities we visit and then sharing them with the class.

1/7/2019- Peter Harris

Today in class, we discussed developing a creative culture. This is a topic in which I am largely interested in and I think Queenstown is a wonderful location to study this topic. Queenstown has clearly developed an incredibly strong culture of adventure. One cannot hide from an outdoor store or booking shop here. I think adventure can frequently go together with creativity. Extreme sports is one unique way of innovating. Someone is simply just taking resources that are already there and somehow adding more adventure to it. Bungy jumping for example, all you're doing is taking an existing bridge and adding some ropes and a harness. Jet boating too- all you're doing is taking a lake and then adding high speeds. These are not inventions but rather examples of innovation. It seems like in Queenstown the next people to come in are the ones that are adding an even more extreme adrenaline rush whether it be on water or the mountains. Today I got quite upset when discussing how children are considered geniuses, but they lose that genius over time. I think somehow the US needs to inspire children to be out of the ordinary and continue to foster wild and divergent thinking.

1/6/2019- NO JOURNAL.

Travel day to Queenstown. I am incredibly excited for Queenstown. I think that adventure is the type of innovation and entrepreneurial business I would potentially want to get into. I really hope to ask businesses how they came up with some of the ideas that they had. I also want to know what has bred this ecosystem of adventure- why here? Adventure is also a bit further up my alleyway so that is another reason why I am quite excited.

1/5/2019- Beach, Presentations, Brewery Tour

Today in class, we presented our innovation in Dunedin presentations. We also heard from Heidi who is of Maori descent. I found it super interesting how she combined her heritage with her everyday work. That is one way in which I can see her passion coming through. I also find the concept of a coworking space very appealing. I worked at a coworking space over the summer in South Africa. It is so interesting to compare the two cross-culturally. When I was at the coworking space this summer, all of the startups had to be tech based. I think one thing that could be beneficial for Heidi or Kate to consider would be to refine the brands in which they allow at the coworking space- it could allow for further collaboration. I also thought it was interesting how Heidi had touches of Maori culture in the space- my coworking space in South Africa also brought in South African elements. Therefore, I love the idea of bringing heritage into what you are doing. I've frequently considered startups in which I bring in either Minnesotan or Norwegian heritage, I don't know how those items would be manifested, but it could be interesting.

1/4/2019- Michael, Rachel, Petridish Coworking space- Kate Lindsay

Today in class, Michael Packer came and spoke to our group. He was the entrepreneur mentioned in the last journal. He constantly reinforced the idea of asking people what their biggest problem is. A couple of years ago, I met the guy that founded Minute Clinic. He said that he created it based off of his problem of having sick kids and having to wait forever. He also reinforced the idea of finding a problem and fixing it. I think the one issue with Michael's question is that if you create a business based off of that problem, then you are solving someone else's problem- you are not necessarily fulfilling your passion. I think Michael had a large amount of insight, but I also think that he was fibbing in some regards and had some insight that could potentially instill a negative mindset (i.e. "I'm racist, I only work with the 1%). The issue with that mentality is that the 1% most likely started in the bottom 99%, you have to have your mind open in order to find the people you want to work with. Regarding the group, I am incredibly happy with how our group has been interacting thus far. We all commingle and obviously some of us are closer than others, but we all have been incredibly inclusive and welcoming.

1/3/2019- Pains and Passions

Today in class, we discussed passions and pains and we discussed finding how our sweet spot is where expertise, passion, and opportunity overlap. I began the morning by having a 45 minute long discussion with an entrepreneur. He said that the major industry to get into at this point is rapid climate change. "Young people" need to do something out of the ordinary to make people aware of how fast Earth is deteriorating. This is good because I would say this need overlaps with things that I am passionate about. Things I am passionate about include environmentalism, ocean conservation, SCUBA diving, travel, serving others, and adventure, but I would not say that my expertise overlaps with those items. I think I would be able to find some sort of pain that could be tied into my passions and create some sort of business idea that would tie those two ideas. At this point, I think I would be open to starting some sort of business.