

## Thanks, Alumni: From East Coast to West, TJ Students Get a Peek inside Some of the Nation's Top Companies

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Twenty-one TJ students waved good-bye to northern Virginia this spring break as they headed out to meet TJ alumni working in top companies in New York City and San Francisco. Those who stayed on the East Coast had the chance to visit Jane Street, Palantir, Givology, Vernier Capital, and Yext, while those who made the cross-country journey toured Google, Asana, Verily, Twitter, and Uber. Our West Coast Ambassadors tell more about their spring break experiences below.



Going to San Francisco was definitely a transformative experience that I'll never forget...Hearing the stories of the alumni, from their beginnings at TJ to the journeys that landed them where they currently are, I started to cherish my TJ experiences even more. I realized from my interactions with TJ alumni in the Bay Area, that there is a limitless world out there for me and all of my peers at TJ to pursue anything that we're interested in. We might not realize it now, but as TJ students, we are being prepared to change the world. I'm so thankful for everything the TJ Partnership Fund and the TJ

alumni system does to make sure TJ remains the great place that it is! -DJ '19

I enjoyed talking with Erika at Twitter mostly because hearing about her experience in TJ and how it helped her in college and now working as a software engineer of such a big company was definitely inspiring. Throughout the trip we got to meet several alumni from TJ just like Erika and receive valuable advice from them! -Hikma '20





The trip to San Francisco was outstanding in every way. I fully appreciated the diversity of the companies we visited, ranging from two-person startups like Plasticity to medium-sized firms like Asana to big companies like Google and Apple. It was inspiring to hear the stories of TJ graduates of how they got to work for these prestigious companies. We were able to hold invaluable discussions on topics such as the future of companies that were integrating different fields like computer science and medicine and the new projects that companies were pursuing. I learned that it would be especially beneficial to have computer science knowledge in addition to the medical background that I hope to pursue.-*Christopher '19*

It was amazing to meet Linus Upson (TJ '89), senior vice president at Verily Life Sciences. His work with trying to eliminate dengue fever from major metropolitan areas was fascinating because of how interdisciplinary it was! It was cool to see how CS, biology, and robotics all played a role. We even got to go into Verily's lab and see how they were conducting research in person. The highlight of the trip, however, was the alumni reception held at Thumbtack. It was incredible to see how



many alumni really do work in the San Francisco area. We were able to ask them about their college experience and how they got to working in Silicon Valley. Thank you so much to the Partnership Fund for sponsoring this amazing trip - I learned a lot about different career options and what work people do day to day. - *Tanvi '18*



The Partnership trip to San Francisco opened my eyes to the world of possibilities in the STEM workforce. At TJ, I've had many different opportunities to get involved in research and academic projects, but visiting workplaces and seeing how different companies and corporations operate helped me understand the wide variety of jobs and work roles available...Being able to connect with TJ alumni in the workforce was also extremely valuable: it was fascinating to hear about

the multitude of paths that alumni had taken. I enjoyed talking to the alumni about teachers and traditions at TJ that have remained over the years, and the advice they gave about college and future careers will remain with me as I leave TJ. *-Emily '18*

The opportunity to meet with TJ alumni working at various companies ranging from Google and Twitter to new startups such as Plasticity and SigOpt was a truly eye-opening experience. But out of all the companies we visited, none was as interesting as Verily. There, we met with Linus Upson, a 1989 TJ alum who is currently the head of Engineering at Verily. Linus talked about his current work at Verily: Debug, (debug.com) a project that is reducing the *Aedes aegypti* population in Fresno, California. After an insightful discussion about the current solutions towards reducing mosquito and other bug populations,



Linus brought us into a mosquito room where they have thousands of mosquitos. Linus also showed us a room where they have machines implementing computer vision algorithms and robotics to sort mosquitos by gender. I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity the TJ Partnership Fund provided for this trip; nowhere else would I have had the opportunity to meet alumni from my high school working in so many fields. *-Eric '19*