

“I am so happy to be here. It is not easy owning your own business, especially as we reach the milestone of 10 years this summer. It all started here, in BGSU. My dad, uncle, sister all studied here, so it was kind of a known place to me,” said Taylor. “BGSU has a lot to offer—you’ve all picked a good school.” Although he had initially joined the business school, he soon found that like him, many in his cohort did not have much idea about where they wanted to go with a business degree—“it was more like, you go to business school, right, and things will happen”—which is when he felt that he must specialize in a particular discipline.

After talking with some students of the program, he came to AMPD and found the ideal fit for himself there. “Of course, I was the only male in the class,” he quipped. Shifting his major to AMPD, along with the marketing minor, thrust Taylor into the career path he has pursued ever since. “Transitioning out of BGSU is scary; post-college lies uncharted territories, where you have to learn so many things on your own,” he said. He had landed a job with Buckle at a small job fair on campus just a few weeks before graduation, which gave him support to navigate his life post-BGSU. “I recommend a job in retail because it exposes you to a lot more” he told his attentive audience.

*“Never stop learning”*

Noting that it may seem like the freshman year of college, he warned students not to expect handholding even in the early days of their professional lives; rather, guidance from employers is what is usually forthcoming. He urged students to utilize the foundation of skills provided by AMPD, not to get too nervous and have a positive attitude in figuring out how things work. “You never stop educating yourself,” he said. Fielding questions from students, Taylor described a typical day at MARKT, detailed that his biggest challenge is just deciding where to go next and how to grow the business, and spoke about the critical distinction between support and guidance. “I had support—especially huge support from my family—but not much guidance. You have to find out particular answers about *how* to do things from the right people,” he explained.

*Sound advice*

Offering his advice on how to prepare for job interviews, Taylor said he could go on and on for hours on the subject. However, he chose to highlight the three most important things to keep in mind: “First, research who you are talking to, and the job position you are applying for. Don’t just check the website; that might contain old data. Second, be yourself; talk about your accomplishments, give examples of what you have done and want to do—go beyond the bullet points on your resume. Third, look for something you actually want to do, know where you want to be and what work you like.”

Ending his speech by thanking BGSU, he said that his company hires interns from the program which brings him back on campus again and again—“perhaps I am a little biased?” he laughed.