

Thank you e-mail from Miles Webber

8/10/2005

When we came up with this crazy idea to run an exchange programme between the US and the UK for talented young people from diverse backgrounds, to experience both the world of Merrill Lynch and gain a cultural and political insight into either the UK or the US, I had no idea that 18 months later, the Merrill Lynch Atlantic Fellowships would be such a resounding success.

As this year's students arrive back in New York in a few hours, I thought it would be an appropriate moment to recognise the very hard work and unflinching commitment of those that have made this programme evolve into a life changing experience for those involved.

Having sat in on yesterday's closing session listening to this year's fellows talk of the impact of the programme on their career choices, on their understanding of their skills and talents, and most importantly on their own personal journeys, I finally came to understand that what began as a mechanism to underline the relationship between Stan and Jack Straw, has matured into a programme that really is Merrill Lynch at its very best.

It has been a great ten days. From rope climbing in the New Forest to the excellent 7City introduction to financial markets, from the private visit to No.10 Downing Street to shadowing the traders on the floor at MLFC, from the Jack the Ripper tour of the old East End of London to celebrating the ethnic diversity of London by visiting restaurants in every corner of the city, from the trip on the London Eye to a tour of Churchill's War Rooms, this year's programme has challenged and inspired in equal measure.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and hard work in making this happen. Particular thanks to Carson, Julie and Rita, for their quite exceptional support to the group. Rita has been one of the driving forces behind the Fellowship since the programme's inception and she was responsible for the running of both last year's inaugural programme and this year's London programme. Unfortunately, she will be leaving Merrill Lynch this summer to start a career in the legal profession, and whilst she will be very badly missed, I would like to wish her every success and hope that she finds the time to drop in on future Fellowship programmes.

I would also like to thank Steven who helped plan and manage the programme, having only just arrived at Merrill Lynch this year.

Finally, a big thank you to Eddy, who believed in this project when it was nothing more than a crazy idea. His leadership and support has been critical in its success.

Kind regards

Miles

Miles Webber
Director of Public Affairs
& Head of the Office of Government Relations
Merrill Lynch
Merrill Lynch Financial Centre
2 King Edward Street
London