"To change the status quo, you've got to have passion." That's how one parent described the quintessential ILR student during a group interview. Participants were asked to identify the top two factors that make ILRies different, and it was unanimous: brains and heart. "They're smart and they care."

A feisty group of alums bore that out. They connected their unique experiences at ILR to how they approach their various industries, which ranged from labor law to engineering in the food world, from web design to contract negotiation within the insurance sector.

The team also spoke with two regional leaders of the Carpenters Union, which oversees thousands of job sites in NYC. "We've seen more changes to our industry in the past decade than in the previous fifty years," they said. "We live change."