

Lars Gehre, HBS Class of 2014 Section H, October 2014

It is hard to believe that it has been one year since I shared my last update and more than two years since I arrived at HBS. It has been a truly transformational two years and this time I would like to share a few reflections from my second year and my path thus far since graduating this past summer.

For my elective curriculum courses, which are assigned based on a bidding system, I focused on finance, investing, and entrepreneurship. In particular I greatly enjoyed the following courses: a) Creating the Modern Financial System, the most popular course in the 2nd year taught by renown economist David Moss, b) Real Property taught by real estate guru Arthur Segel, and c) Creating Value through Corporate Restructuring taught in its 20th year by restructuring legend Stuart Gilson. I also took advantage of the cross-registration opportunity for courses at partner schools and joined the Entrepreneurship-Lab at MIT. The course teams up business and engineering students primarily from MIT to work closely with the school's most promising start-ups.

The field course Entrepreneurship through Acquisition, taught by HBS professors Rick Ruback and investor Royce Yudkoff, dives into the theoretical and practical aspects of a search fund – searching for, acquiring and operating a small business. I came to HBS with the vision of either becoming an entrepreneur or investing in entrepreneurial ventures, and the combination of being an investor and entrepreneur immediately appealed to me. During my last semester I started my search fund Green Vault, named after the Grünes Gewölbe in my hometown Dresden. I took advantage of the virtually unlimited resources available at the school to work through the early administrative aspects of starting a business and was able to use the iLab (Harvard's incubator space) during the first few months of my venture.

On the personal side most of my classmates moved to either New York or San Francisco, while my wife and I decided to stay in Boston. After working from home for the first months following graduation, I moved into an office space together with my team of interns and a fellow HBS alum. This summer has also been full of wedding celebrations across the country, and it has been amazing to celebrate so many wonderful life events with section mates who have become my closest friends.

HBS has truly been a life changing experience in so many dimensions and I am very grateful for the generous support of the HBS Association of Germany and its donors. Special thanks in particular to President Stefan Eishold for his trust and support. I would love to stay in touch, be a resource for future MBA students and hope to get the chance to meet in person fellow members and supporters of the HBS Association of Germany.

Thankfully,

Lars