

The National HEP/CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

Name: Abigail Alejandra Sanchez

Date(s): July 31 - August 5, 2023

Monday, July 31, 2023

ESCAPOLOGY

Something I learned throughout my time here in DC is to have a balanced life with work and my personal life. Therefore, I took advantage of this whole week to go out with friends. The day started off with a note from Lisa Ramirez which it was very nice to read. Also, I was able to talk to HEP/CAMP interns and chat with Kathy Velle-Palacios, White House Domestic Policy Council, which was my main highlight of the day during work hours.

After work Anna, Katie, Josue, David, and I headed down to Escapology Escape Room as we wanted to try it out. Tip 17, GO WITH PEOPLE THAT KNOW HOW TO PLAY. We messed up from the beginning as none of us have ever done an escape room. We started off slow, but towards the end, we started to get the hang of it. Technically, if we wouldn't have wasted the first 20 minutes, we probably would have escaped on time without the extra time the staff member gave us.





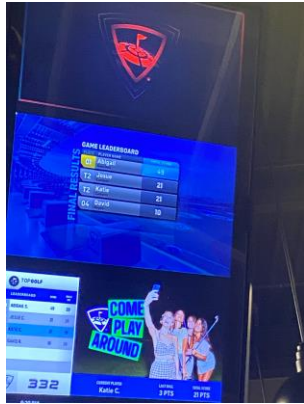
Tuesday, August 1, 2023

TOP GOLF

I was able to have one last lunch with Joshua Moose and Willette Squire, two people I got really close to at the OPPE. I will miss them. Since it was most of the interns' last week of work, the FSA had an Intern congratulations/sendoff event where cupcakes were provided by Georgetown Cupcakes. It was my second time eating cupcakes from this location.

After work we headed to go play top golf, keep in mind none of us have ever golfed before so it was a fun experience. I kept missing the ball, but even then, in the first round, I won. Not so much luck in the second round. After playing golf, we went to buy Slurpees and headed to MGM to walk before our night ended.





Wednesday, August 2, 2023

REUNION WITH ROMA!!

We had virtual farewells which made me a little sad as I had the opportunity to meet most of my coworkers on a personal level so saying goodbye hit home a little too hard. I also had the chance to have lunch with Fabiola Torres and Maria one last time.

After work, I headed to the movies to watch Sound of Freedom (such a sad but good movie, WOULD RECOMMEND). From there we went to eat wings and headed to a friend's house where I was able to see ROMA AGAIN!! (aka the cute dog from the 4th of July). We spent the rest of the night playing pool.



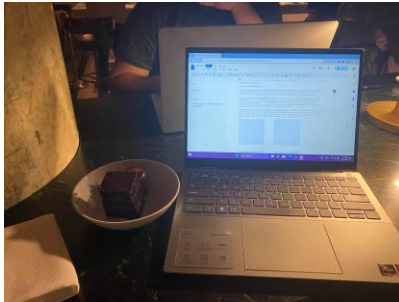
Thursday, August 3, 2023

LAST DAY AT THE USDA 🙄

I can't believe that it was my last day at work. Today, I had lunch with Matthews and Willette, which was the best way to say our goodbyes. They both have so many amazing stories to tell and experiences to share. I know future interns will learn a lot from them. For the last time, I saw my office as I was leaving, feeling emotional but also determined to come back next summer.

After work, I headed to get boba and food. Afterward, I met up with Chris to go to a late-night cafe and made myself productive, and got some work done. The cafe was a nice place and would like to go back again.





Friday, August 4, 2023

FINAL GOODBYES

This is the last time I attended the three-day convention for church. I missed Friday due to CHCI programming, but I knew for a fact I did not want to miss the last chance I had. Thankfully Maggie and John Carlos have always been understanding and let me attend my convention Friday instead of going to boarding programming. During lunchtime, as I was walking around, I was also saying my final goodbyes to the people I got an opportunity to meet. To my surprise I was given a homemade bunny cookie (which was delicious). From there we got pizza and headed to my dorm to pack. Anna and I had a lot of items that we wanted to give away, and Katie and Josue were able to take a few items. We said our final goodbyes or so what I thought were our final goodbyes.



Saturday, August 5, 2023

JUST LIKE THAT, MY INTERNSHIP ENDED

If I remember correctly, I think my first tip was DO NOT DO YOUR SUITCASES LAST MINUTE. I didn't listen to my own advice as I finished packing around 4:00 a.m. This is the time Maria and Anna were leaving for the airport. We headed down to say our goodbyes and decided to wait for the interns that were leaving in the morning. I was not able to sleep at all.

I thought last night was going to be my last day seeing Katie and Josue, but I was wrong. They dropped me off this morning at the airport which I was grateful for because they helped me with my luggage, to check-in, and to find the TSA line. Maybe without them, I would have gotten lost and missed my flight. I got really attached to both, and as I saw them leave my eyes got watery. I know for a fact; I will see them again.

I eventually made it to my gate where I found Jamileth, HEP/CAMP USDA intern. I had the same flight as her and well here I am currently in Atlanta, Georgian closing my journal. I'm about to board my plane but before I close this off, I wanted to give thanks to The National HEP/CAMP Association for making this experience possible for first-generation farmwork background students. As well, I want to thank Patrick and Virginia for being our second parents and helping us get familiar with DC. Next year interns, you will love Patrick and Virginia. Of course, this whole experience wouldn't have happened without Omar Correa, CAMP Director, and Erika Madrigal, CAMP Advisor, for trusting in sending my application, encouraging me to apply, as well as supporting me throughout the whole 10 weeks. CAMP is really the definition of having a family. As well as all the interns, CHCI staff, USDA employees, my mom, and friends I made, you guys made my whole experience 10 times better. If I were to stay in DC, it would be because of all the amazing people I met. My thanks can keep going, but I do not want to make this too long. I really appreciate everything and all the efforts that were made to make this possible. Next year interns, take advantage of every opportunity, make connections, go out, meet new people, and have fun. With that, I signed off.



