

The National HEP CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Monday & Tuesday

"Thirst Strike!"

Majority of my Monday was spent doing nothing but icing my ankle/foot. I was just catching up with some emails, waiting till my roommate and friends came home from work. Once they got back we all got together in our friends room to watch a show. My friend who insisted I did not walk, was pushing me back and forth with a rolling chair she had found. Very silly but very beneficial.

I was super excited to go back to work on Tuesday, due to the boring day I spent at home the previous day. Throughout the day I attended meetings, took office pictures with the other interns and our Congressman, and I also attended the thirst strike Representative Greg Casar was having at the Capitol. My friend who is interning at UFW was invited to speak at the strike and talk about his experiences working in the fields during dangerous weather and conditions. This strike was made by Representative Casar and other organizations to bring attention to the inhumane treatment workers/farmworkers are facing in Texas and how they are not allowed to take breaks when necessary. Representative Casar went on strike for the majority of the day, till votes (6PM), and ate no food nor drank water for hours. Multiple speakers shared their stories, concerns, and frustration. As well as many representatives came to show their solidarity, and for the time I went to go support, I saw Representative Raskin and Representative Fernandez. I also got to connect with civil rights and farmworker rights advocate and legend, Dolores Huerta. I have met Dolores Huerta before, during school, but it was a completely different and more powerful experience, meeting her doing what she does best, advocating.



Wednesday

“CHCI Graduation!”

One of the most bittersweet days ever. Today I was going to graduate as a CHCI Summer Intern, and officially join the CHCI Alumni Network. I wanted to cry so many tears of joy and sadness. I cannot believe how quick this internship went by. I am so grateful for all the experiences I've had and all the friendships I've made because of HEP/CAMP and CHCI. Getting to celebrate all of our accomplishments with my friends was so much fun.

I felt really special because my office supervisors, Jackie and Sophia, and some of my co-interns Alyssa and Anna came to support me. Having their support in and out of office means so much to me. Also in attendance was one of my friends and role models from high school, my friend Faith, who I was in TRIO Upward Bound with. She attended George Washington University here in D.C. and now lives here! It was so nice catching up with her and taking in the moment that we both ended up in D.C. at some point in our lives and we both came from the same small town in Idaho, across the country.

I loved hearing my wonderful friend Eva's incredible speech that truly captured everyone in the cohort's story and experiences so perfectly. I couldn't have helped choose a better student speaker for our graduation. I ended the night taking so many pictures and celebrating with my incredible friends.



Thursday

“I MET AOC!”

As my last day in office was coming up before recess started up again and all the legislatures would all be going back home, I started getting really sad that I may be going back home without a picture with my biggest role model of them all, AOC. Though I think the commitment I had to getting a picture with AOC really paid off, because I had the most incredible luck on Thursday. After leaving one of the hearings I attended that day, when I was walking back to my office, I ran into AOC herself. Knowing that this would literally be the last chance I could meet her, I took it. I explained how much of an inspiration she was to me and it couldn't have been a better experience. We quickly took a picture before she had to go to another meeting, and after that I tried so hard to get ahold of myself again because I could not believe what had just happened. I walked back to the office with the biggest smile on my face.

Later that day I had a meeting with my program manager via zoom, and for fun I had my meeting in one of the phone booths that were in my office building that I had been eyeing since the day I got here. As claustrophobic as it was, I wanted to cross it off my Hilltern Bucket List. To add onto my luck, as I was walking back to my office again, I ran into another legend. The one and only past House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi. Her office is just down the hall from ours and I had been waiting for the day where I randomly ran into her, and it finally happened. Both her stunning and bright yellow pantsuit and multiple security guards were intimidating but she was such a kind person. Once again, I returned to my office super happy and in shock. The literal last day I could get a picture with all the icons I aspire to be like, I not only got one, but two pictures in the matter of hours. I accomplished so many bucket list goals.

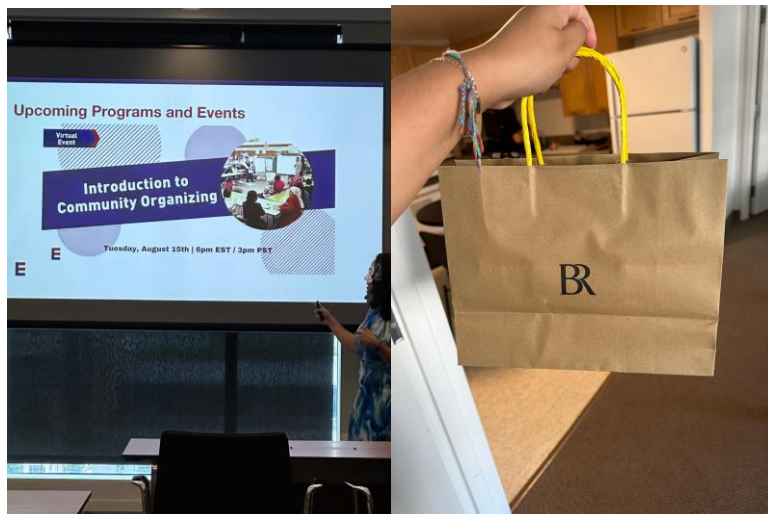


Friday

“Boujee Socks!”

This Friday was our last day having a class lecture with our incredible professor Nicole Bartels, who teaches at The George Washington University. For class today, we each presented our class project/blog post that we had been working on throughout the Summer. My blogpost was informing my peers on the necessity for the Equal Rights Amendment to be ratified and established as the 28th Amendment in the Constitution. I got to listen to so many incredible presentations and topics my peers chose. After class, we then had a presentation by Leadership for Educational Equity and all the resources that this organization can bring us as CHCI Alumni.

After programming, Maria and I returned to Pentagon City Mall, to get our friend Antonio some birthday presents. Antonio recently started getting into colored dress socks, so for his birthday, I decided to get him his first pair of high quality pink socks. His birthday is Tuesday, and I am really excited to see how he reacts. Although they were oddly expensive socks, I am just really grateful for the friendship I made with Antonio this Summer. The price did not matter.



Weekend

“Movies & Chocolate!”

This weekend, I spent a good portion of it dipping lots of fruit into dark chocolate and watching a lot of movies in Spanish. My friends had melted an abnormal amount of chocolate that we started dipping so many fruits into and that basically became our breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If we were binge eating our chocolate and watching movies, we were staying up telling our ghost stories/encounters and urban legends we grew up hearing.

On Sunday, we started the morning by going to the Georgetown Market. I got some adorable rings that may or may not turn my fingers green occasionally. Though they were cheap, so it was expected. Afterwards, the HEP/CAMP/USDA interns all got invited to go eat at Union Market and meet with some professionals who work at the White House. The food was great, and the people were amazing. We got to eat on the rooftop of Union Market and then spent the rest of the day getting last minute D.C. souvenirs for our families and friends. On one of our store stops, I ran yet again to someone from my university back home. This was the 6th person I ran into in D.C. who were either from Idaho or from the University of Idaho.

