



The National HEP/CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Date(s): June 19 - 25, 2023

Monday, June 19, 2023

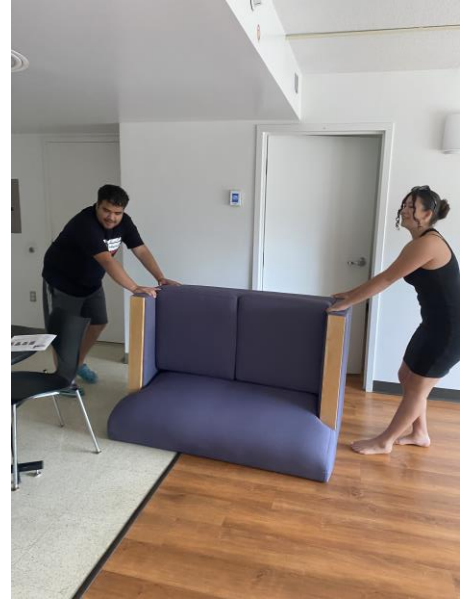
MAKING A TRIP TO ALEXANDRIA TOWN

Ever since I was told that I was going to come to Washington D.C. for the internship, I knew one of my stops was going to be Alexandria Town. I remember my senior year of high school when I visited Alexander Town due to my field trip with the Migrant Education program. We ate at this cute little place where I loved the food, and I knew I wanted to go back. Even though I was not sure where it was or the name of the restaurant, I was determined to find it. Since Monday was Juneteenth, I decided it was the perfect day to go.

I told myself I was going to wake up early, but the night before I went to sleep late, and ended up waking up until around 11:00 a.m. As I was getting ready, Maria and Antonio knocked on the door to bring back our couch as the night before we had a little social event at Maria's dorm. From there I dragged Juan, one of the USDA interns to come with me to find the restaurant.

We hopped on the metro and once we arrived, we started to look for a clothing store as I had decided to wear a long sleeve that morning and it was not a good idea. Tip number 4, DO NOT BRING LONG SLEEVES, IT IS HOT AND VERY HUMID. Eventually, we found an H&M, where I bought a t-shirt. We both skipped breakfast and were starving. We ate at this cute restaurant named Noodle Box. At this point, it was getting late, and I was getting a little disappointed as we still couldn't find the restaurant I initially wanted to eat at. But to my surprise, as we kept walking straight, I saw the restaurant, even though we both had already eaten we placed an order, and this became my lunch for the next day. After that, we kept walking around, going into stores, and buying a few things. As we headed back home, we saw this cute cat sitting next to the window of one of the shops.

Side note: Even though we found the restaurant, I did not take a picture or write down the name. My goal is to visit one last time before I leave Washington D.C.





Tuesday, June 20-Wednesday, June 21, 2023

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

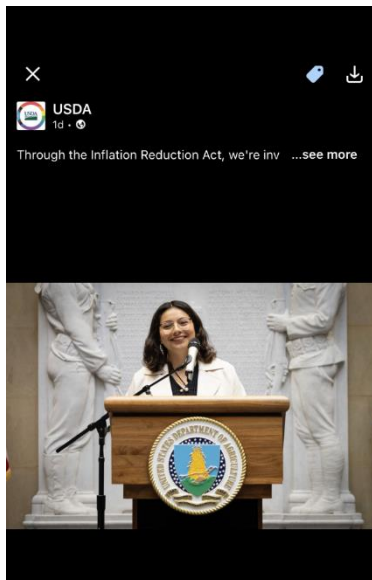
As I mentioned before, I had the opportunity to meet Carlos Ortiz who happened to need a student speaker for the launch of the NextGen Event, and I was selected to be the speaker. On Tuesday, I spent most of my day with Carlos and Dorissel Resto (NIFA). They explained how the program was going to run for the NextGen event. I had the chance to talk to Dorissel more, and we went from speaking English to Spanish. We talked about both of our personal experiences and noticed we had many things in common. I realize that the USDA is filled with so many amazing people such as Dorissel and Carlos. Dorissel recently learned English and is now a Social Science Program Specialist for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Carlos was a USDA intern 20 years ago and took advantage of his experience to get to where he is today.

Afterward, we had a tri-caucus CHCI event, where I got to meet many other interns from APAICS and CBCF. While I am more on the shy side, I would say that I enjoyed being able to meet other interns with different stories and backgrounds.

On Wednesday, I was starting to feel nervous as I was walking toward the metro. Throughout the whole metro ride, I was reciting my speech over and over, hoping it was good enough. As I walked into the USDA, I was able to catch Carlos who showed me where I was going to go up on stage and where I would be sitting. Then the time came, and before I knew it, I was on stage in front of so many people talking about my life to them. A first gen who comes from a farmworker background, a sophomore college student from Bakersfield was talking about her experience at the USDA. Never did I think I was going to have the chance to speak in front of so many people who I can possibly work with in the future. Thanks to this great opportunity, I was able to make so many new connections and get closer to some other USDA employees.

As the day was ending, Carlos gave me some of the leftover food to take home for my roommate and I. This is where tip number 5, ALWAYS CARRY AN UMBRELLA. DC's weather is bipolar, I got into the metro being a sunny day and came out of the metro to a rainstorm.





Thursday, June 22, 2023

WHITE HOUSE PT. 2

To me it seems so amazing how many opportunities I have come across here in DC for simply taking the risk and saying yes to this internship. If I were given the chance to do it again, I would do it. I wouldn't change a single thing.

The HEP/CAMP interns were given the chance to go watch the arrival ceremony of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India. All of us had to wake up early to arrive on time as we had to wait hours before entering the White House. With DC's bipolar weather, it was raining a little but everyone was cheering.

After this event, I headed back to my office to attend the USDA Intern and Recent Graduate Welcome Event. During this event, I was able to meet other interns with common career interests. Thanks to the USDA this is one of the first few events out of many that I was going to continue participating throughout my internship.



Friday, June 23, 2023

WEEKLY FRIDAY PROGRAMMING, BUT WITH A TWIST

This week's weekly programming was one of my favorite ones, not only because we were able to visit the African American Museum, but because we went over colorism in the Latinx community as well as Latino/a/x identity. We held conversations about colorism and how they have been rare within our community.

After having our discussion, we went to the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). This was my first visit to the museum. I sadly did not have a chance to go through all the floors in the building, but I can say that from what I saw and read, everything was so powerful and eye-opening. Anywhere I looked to read, I had different feelings. I also heard that the original Black Panther suit was in the museum, so I spent a good amount of time trying to find the suit. I can say though the time I spent looking for the suit was worth it, after all, I'm a Marvel fan.







Saturday, June 24, 2023

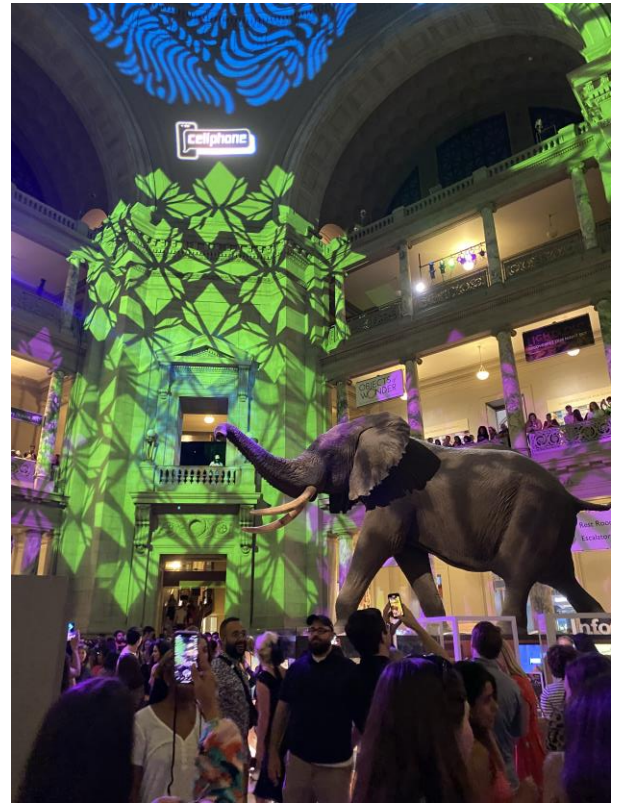
RAIN OR SHINE, IT'S GOING TO A NATURE DAY

This whole week DC received a lot of rain, and CHCI had reserved a rope course for us. All of the interns and I thought that if it rained it would be canceled, but no. Rain or shine, we were going. At first, I was a little iffy about going because I wanted to sleep on Saturday, and I am glad CHCI was pushing us to go out. I enjoyed the whole day, being able to spend time with the other interns and enjoying the nature around me, it was just amazing.

We all headed down where the bus picked us up and took us to the rope course. Once there we did a lot of team building activities and best for last was the ziplining. After a long day, we got back on the bus and well most of the interns took a nap. On the bus, I heard the Smithsonian museums would be open till midnight. Once I was home, I showered and ate then headed down to the Natural History Museum with some of the interns. It was such a nice feeling walking around the museum late at night, hearing the music, and seeing people have a good time.







Sunday, June 25, 2023

SCHOOL OF ROCK, SILVER SPRING, MD

Sunday morning was a normal morning for me, I got in the metro to go down to Columbia Heights. After coming back home, I went ahead and took a long nap as I was tired from the night before. I started to get ready around 4ish as Gabby, someone from church, had invited me to go to her friend Elizabeth's drum recital. The title was "New Wave" and it was held at this Irish Pub called McGinty's Public House. I had never been to anything like this, so I had a good time eating while listening to music and being able to meet new friends.

