

The National HEP CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Date(s): 5/29-6/4

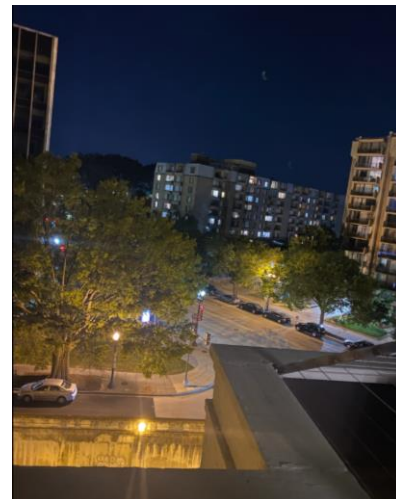
Arriving Weekend: 5/27

“I did not sleep one bit.”

On the weekend of May 27 I did not sleep one bit prior to my flight, I was running around my apartment gathering everything I needed to stuff into my suitcases. My packing journey commenced early that morning doing last minute shopping with my roommates. Once I got back, I began to iron all of my suits and clothing, trying my best to fold them in a way they would not become wrinkled—*spoiler* they did get wrinkled. I spent all afternoon/evening packing and finished at 2 am.

My flight was scheduled at 6 am but as it was my very first time flying, I wanted to arrive early to avoid any problems that may become present at the airport. Finally, the time I was dreading arrived. I arrived at the airport at 4 am and checked in. Once that was all done I said goodbye to my roommates and walked through TSA. Now this was where the fun began for me.

As I boarded the plane, I was struck with so much anxiety, but to my surprise it quickly turned into panic. My plane was not taking off. Due to a malfunction of the aircraft, a technician had to fly in to fix the problem. Again, this was my very first time flying so I was very scared, but with the help of the flight attendants and a very nice passenger they were able to book a new flight for me in Phoenix. I will be forever grateful to them. After all of the problems I finally arrived in Washington, D.C. at 8:30 p.m.



Monday, Memorial Day

Monday, May 29, was the third day of my stay in Washington, D.C. On the previous day, I moved into the dorms at George Washington University. But I wanted to share about Sunday and Monday in this paragraph. We were complete tourists on both days wanting to explore the city. On Sunday we moved into the university, just dropping off our belongings for Virginia had booked tickets to the Holocaust Museum. I was very excited to see this museum, I didn't not know what to expect, but nonetheless I was looking forward to the experience, which turned out to be like any other. It was extremely impactful and disturbing; I can not find the words to even explain how I felt by the end of the experience. So far it has been one of my favorite museums I have been to here in D.C.

After the museum, Virginia and Patrick took us to Colombia Heights to buy the most important things we needed like towels, bedding, etc at Target. The problem was we bought too many things for our dorms to take on the metro, so we resorted to Ubering. This was my first time in an Uber. When we got back, we were running late to a meeting we had scheduled with CHCI so we quickly left all the bags in the dorms and walked to the meeting location. That concluded our Sunday in DC.



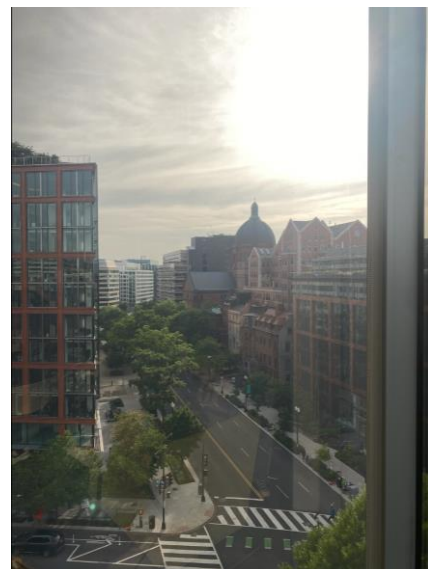
Monday was Memorial Day!! It was a very exciting day. We started early in the morning walking to the National Mall. Right off the bat, we viewed something exciting. As we were walking, we were stopped because the President of the United States was passing by. I think that was when it finally hit me that I was actually in Washington, D.C. It was exciting to see Joe Biden pass by on his way. After that, we walked the National Mall taking in all of the monuments. Next, we walked to the start of the Memorial Day Parade. However, it began to rain... a lot. So we opted to go into the Art Gallery Museum. It was such a beautiful experience, I loved walking around and seeing all of the paintings and art. By the end of the day we were all so tired. Although I was tired I could not sleep. I was still in California time. That night, I slept at two in the morning and woke up the next day at six in the morning to start my day with CHCI orientation.



Tuesday, May 30, 2023

On Tuesday it was our first day of orientation with CHCI. We finally got to meet Maggie and John Carlos and all of the other CHCI Interns. It was very exciting to finally meet everyone in person. Ever since that day we have made close friendships not only with the HEP/CAMP Interns but as well as the CHCI Interns. We spent our day with CHCI until 3 pm because we had a dinner meeting with Irene Bueno in the afternoon. The meeting with Irene was great. We got to meet so many new people and as well as some additional HEP/CAMP interns who were interning at USDA.

I was very excited to meet with Irene because she connected us with many different people. For example I got to exchange information with Giev Kashkooli who works with the United Farm Workers (UFW) as well as the staff from the Department of Migrant Education (OME).



Thursday June 1, 2023

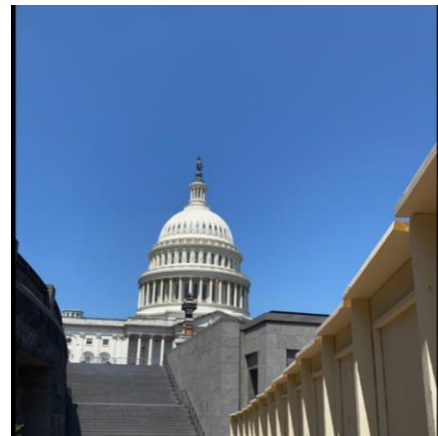


This day was very interesting. There was so much that we did on this day. It was also picture day. CHCI was taking our headshots and group pictures. HEP/CAMP Interns went first due to us having a meeting with the USDA. I was so excited to be going to the USDA because I am a Nutrition Major and my major revolves around the USDA.

After meeting with the USDA, we walked to Capitol Hill. I was finally going to enter the U.S. Capitol Building. Once there, we got to meet many different people; for example, we got to meet with the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association and CHCI Alumni.

Afterwards, we had another dinner. This time with Lisa Ramirez and Fabiola Torres who also work with USDA! I was so excited to meet them. I mostly connected with Fabiola. I asked her so

many questions about USDA and about her journey; it was so exciting to hear their stories.



Friday, June 2, 2023

This day was our last day of orientation with CHCI. We ended rather early because we had a meeting with Rep. Scott Peters of San Diego, California and Rep. Raul Grijalva of Tucson, Arizona. It was so cool seeing their offices and how they were differently decorated. It felt like you were transported into another state. I assume all of the other Representatives' offices are decorated to show their culture and beliefs.

After our meetings in the Representatives' offices we had our last dinner with Virginia and Patrick.

This was a very emotional ending to our time with Virginia and Patrick. I wish I could say I did not cry but I would be lying. We all cried. Virginia and Patrick are just amazing people creating amazing opportunities for Hispanic/Latino students that I feel blessed to have met them. If it was not for them, I would have definitely gotten lost using the metro. Everytime we got on the metro, Virginia and Patrick would help me understand where we were going because I could not understand the metro for the life of me. I know we will be seeing Patrick once again in July, which we are all excited to see him once again. As for Virginia it would be our last time in D.C. with her but maybe not the last time we see each other; it was wonderful meeting such an amazing person here in D.C. I will miss Virginia so very much.



Saturday, June 3, 2023

I wanted to sleep in but I also wanted to say my last goodbye to Virginia and Patrick. All of us HEP/CAMP Interns got up early in the morning to grab one last coffee with Virginia and Patrick. Another emotional goodbye. It is going to be so weird not having Virginia and Patrick with me on the Metro or walking around D.C. It will feel lonely not having our history lesson given by Patrick at all of the D.C. monuments.

I can not wait to see Patrick again and tell him about all of our adventures here in D.C. in July. I'm sure all sixteen of us will have many stories to tell him.

