

## The National HEPCAMP Association DC Internship

### Weekly Journal Entry

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Date(s): Monday June 5 - Sunday June 11, 2023

### Monday June 5, 2023

It is finally the day we start our internship. My placement for the summer is with the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) as an Administrative and Programs Intern. As I got ready in the morning, I was nervous about navigating the metro on my own. Without Patrick and Virginia I was worried I would miss my stop and get lost. Luckily I didn't miss my stop and was a few minutes early to the office. When I arrived I met Sydney and Jasmine who are also CHLI interns. I also got to briefly meet Mary Ann Gomez Orta, who is the President and CEO of the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute. As we all settled into our desks for the summer we were given a schedule for orientation week at CHLI.



We began Monday's orientation by meeting all of the interns, there are five Summer Administrative Interns and three Summer Law Fellows. Afterwards, we had a small meet and greet with everyone. We had a meeting with Mary Ann and the chairman of CHLI, Lincoln Diaz-Balart. Once that was complete all of the interns along with Angela, Nicole, and Tieler headed to Capitol Hill and Cannon rotunda to take headshot photos. After we had taken many pictures, we were meeting with CHLI Alumni and Ambassadors at Cannon House. It was so exciting to meet with the alumni and hear their stories. We then had a small 2 hour break at 4 p.m. At 6 p.m. we had a welcome dinner at The Edgar restaurant, located at the Mayflower Hotel.

The dinner was amazing as well as the guests we were meeting. We got to meet with Leo Munoz who is with Comcast, NBC Universal and Telemundo, Samina Bharmal who is a HP Senior Sustainability Counsel, and Shirley Diaz who is with Skadden, Arps, Slate, and Meagher & Flom LLP. I got to chat more with Samina due to the seating arrangements. I really enjoyed getting to meet everyone.



## Tuesday and Wednesday June 6-7, 2023

On Tuesday, we were working remotely specifically from Altria Client Services for the day. We were meeting a number of people; John Hoel who is the director of Federal Government and CHLI Treasurer, Llena Ros-Lehtinen who is a CHLI founding



member and the first Latina to be elected to Congress, Alejandra Sarria who is with Miller & Chevalier Chartered, Norberto Salinas who is with Salinas Strategies. The final speakers for Tuesday were the speakers I connected with the most. The first speaker was Virginia Zigras with Charter Communications and CHLI Advisory Council. Second speaker was Anne Alonzo, the Board Director for Unitil and PotlatchDeltic

Corporation. Something that I was able to find online and through Mary Ann was that Anne was part of USDA and had a career in the food and agriculture industry. I was very intrigued by Anne. I was able to ask Anne many questions about USDA. We connected and should be speaking soon more about my future with her help.

On Wednesday, it was a very short day. Once again we were not in the office and worked remotely at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. There, we were able to meet with LaKeitha Anderson, a Policy Director and CHLI Chairwomen of Strategic Alliances Committee. It was such a pleasure meeting with LaKeitha. She is such an inspirational woman. The last two guests we met were Beverly Gilyard with AARP and Karen O' Neill Ocasio with T-mobile. After we met with all of these guests we had lunch. After lunch we were supposed to meet with one more guest, but he had to cancel the meeting, ending our day short.



**Thursday June 8, 2023**



Something to note about this week is that for the past three days we had been on an air quality alert due to smoke coming from the Canadian Fires. We were supposed to take a tour bus around Washington but the smoke on Thursday was so bad it had jumped from red alert to a purple alert so we decided to instead go to the National Museum of American History because there was an exhibition: National Museum of the American Latino. I was a little skeptical about this exhibition but was nonetheless excited to

see it. When we did see it I think it was very informative and touched close to home. Seeing things that my own parents had to go through on display was something very different. One display that hit hard was seeing a backpack, shoes and clothing of a

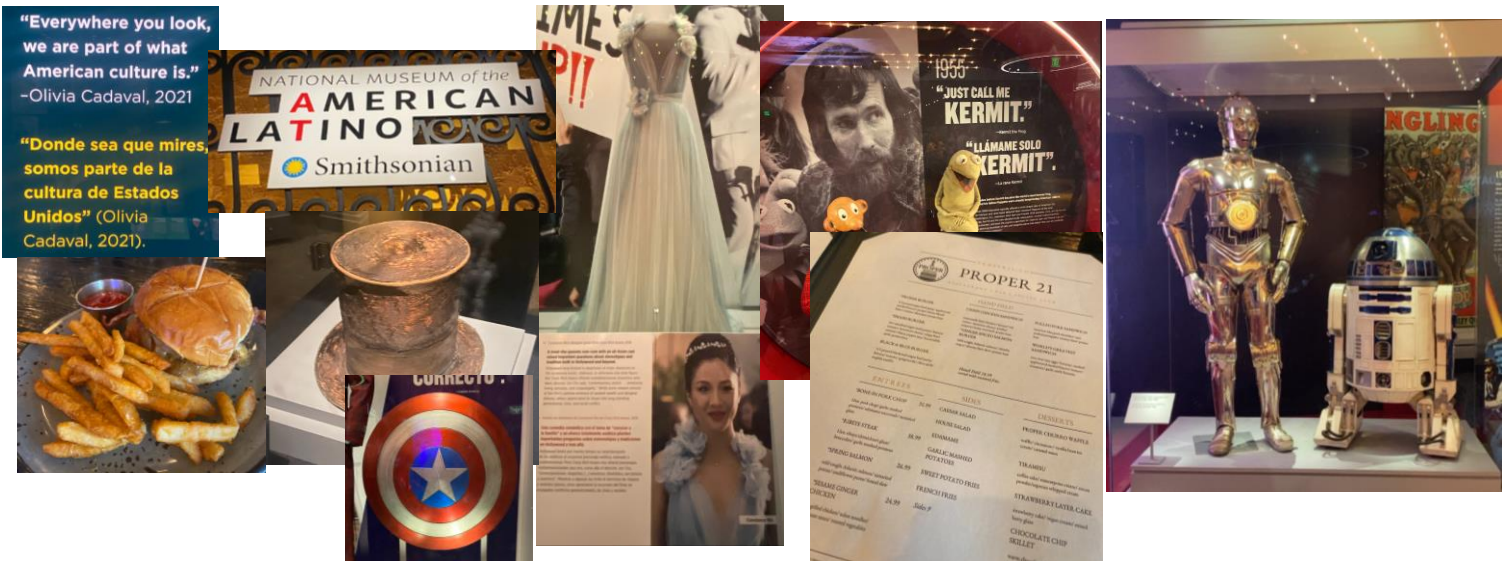


migrant who was crossing the border to give themselves and their family a better life. I really liked the exhibit and would recommend it to anyone who comes to visit.



Another super cool object on display was one of Selena's outfits. I was so surprised and in awe that I was able to see one of Selena Quintanilla's outfits. I really loved going into the entertainment wing of the museum, I spent a good amount of time there. Another object that was on display was the dress that Constance Wu wore in Crazy Rich Asians, one of my all time favorite movies. I really liked how on these displays they would put the reason as to why the object was being displayed.

After we finished touring the museum we all went to eat burgers. They were absolutely delicious. I am adding the restaurant to my list of go to's.



## Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 9, 10, 11, 2023



On Friday, we did not have as much going on. We had early morning to late afternoon programming with CHCI. This program was very entertaining because we had to do a role play for congress. I was a Republican from Illinois in the 8th term while Annai was the Republican



Chair. It was so fun role playing. After that it was mostly presentations and information. After programming I went back home and slept. For the first time since being here I slept for more than 13 hours. I felt so rested and with energy Saturday morning.



On Saturday we went to two specific places: the first, the U.S Botanical Garden and the second was the Pride Parade. I really wanted to go to the botanical garden to take pictures of the flowers, but I left with pictures of a bunch of cacti, which I found funny because I have a ton of them in my backyard. I just happened to find the cactus a little more interesting. My roommates also found this funny. Another favorite part of the botanical garden was the tropical forest, this part of the garden had completely different temperatures. If you were at the bottom level it was a little hot but you were able to withstand it, however if you climbed the stairs to the upper level you would be sweating in seconds, the upper level was very hot and humid. I did not mind this because you were able to take amazing pictures of the garden. So far the botanical garden has been one of my favorite places to go to.



After the botanical garden we traveled to Dupont Circle to view the Pride Parade. It was the longest parade I have ever seen. We arrived at 3 pm and left about 6 pm and the parade was still going. The parade was nonetheless so much fun and the atmosphere around the place was amazing.



On Sunday, we all had to be up early in the morning because we were volunteering with CHCI at their 5k marathon. We had thought it would be canceled, but thankfully the air quality was normal. Maria and I were stationed at station seven to guide the runners in which direction to go. I loved our station because you got an amazing view of the lake. It was so peaceful and beautiful in the morning. After the 5k we all returned home and did daily chores retiring early night to prepare for work the next day.

