

The National HEPCAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

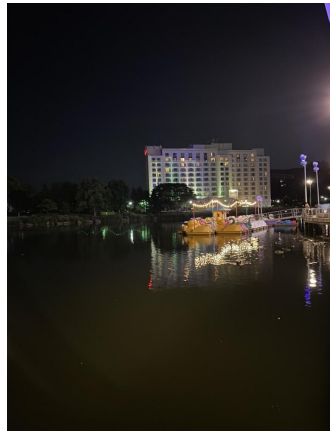
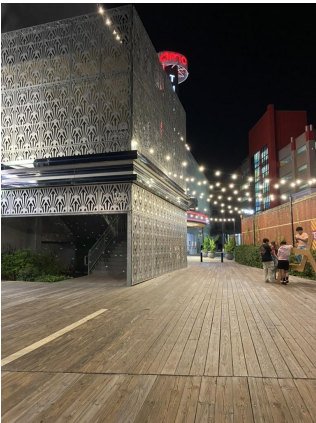
Name: Anna Bedolla- Gutierrez

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

Monday, July 31, 2023

We have finally reached the last week of this summer internship. Truth be told, I arrived just yesterday but it is already going to be August, I came back in May. Even though I am ready to head back home to see my family a part of me is going to miss being here in DC on the hill.

Today I did not need to head into the office due to our office getting painted, but I have to work from home. Although I was still going to begin working at 9 a.m. I was able to sleep in because I did not need to get up in the morning to catch the metro. I am mostly working on finishing up projects that need to be finished before our departure, so it was not a hard day of work.



After work, Abby and I decided to go out with friends we had made in DC. We decided to go to an escape room together. Sadly, we did not escape on time, but it was still so much fun. After we had finished the escape room we headed to Rio in Maryland. It was late at night and many people were still out just enjoying the nice weather. It was a nice way to begin the last week in DC.

Thursday, August 3, 2023



Today was the last day of my internship and I was not able to go into the office. Due to Trump's trial, I was not allowed to head into the office for my safety. I was looking forward to going into the office and seeing everyone one last time but safety comes first.

I am someone who leaves a lot of things last minute and in May when I first packed, I was packing the day before to avoid the stress of last-minute packing I began to clean out the GW dorm and begin packing. I had washed all my clothes the day before to begin packing. I decided to begin by packing up all my professional wear. After finding how to play Tetris with my clothes,

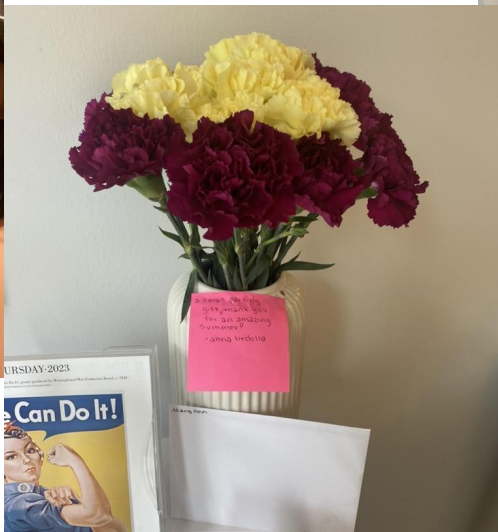


I was able to fit everything once again into my suitcase for my professional wear. Once I had finished packing that suitcase, I moved to the rest of the dorm. I was in luck because I did not want to throw my food away but lucky for me there was a food drive going on so I packed up all of my nonperishable food and donated all the food. Unfortunately, that left me ordering takeout for the last two days on Friday and Saturday morning. However, I wanted to be stress-free as I ended my week. I finished late into the night of cleaning out my entire dorm.

Friday, August 4, 2023

Today was the last day of CHCI programming. This was not a session but a goodbye to everyone. We only had to meet for a short amount of time and the rest was for us to do last-minute adventures or packing. I just want to say I loved my time with CHCI it was such an amazing honor to be a CHCI intern. I know that once I get home, I will be bringing this organization back to my community. CHCI is changing lives with the work they do; they open doors.

After the program, I opted for packing. I went back up to my dorm and began to pack my regular clothes once again playing Tetris. Later into the afternoon, our friends from Maryland came by to spend the last night with us. I was able to give some of our stuff away to them instead of throwing things away; I did not want to be wasteful. I slept really late that night, actually, I only slept three hours.



Saturday, August 5, 2023



The day has finally come. I am going back to California.

I had only slept three hours the night before because all the interns gathered early into the morning to say goodbye to the first group of interns going home. I did not know how much I would cry today. I finally understand why everyone says going abroad or traveling creates strong lasting bonds. I had bonded with all the interns it was so hard to say goodbye to them, especially the HEP/CAMP interns. Annai and Maria were the first to leave. I just could not say goodbye, but I knew it would not be the end I will be see them soon.

The morning went by quickly with everyone saying their goodbyes and finally, it came for me to say goodbye and be on my way. Now this was

only my second time in an airport and I want to say this went by so smoothly. I arrived two hours before my plane and I was able to make it on time to my flight. During my whole wait time, I was praying my flights would not be delayed for I could not miss my flight in Arizona or I would be stuck in Arizona till Sunday. Luckily, we boarded on time. However, we were delayed by a couple of minutes. I kept an eye on the clock all my flight hoping I would make it on time to Arizona. I made it to Arizona with 20 minutes till boarding time to Fresno. I was so happy and relieved I made it on time. Once I got to my gate they were opening up the doors and preparing everyone to board. I was so excited to finally be one step closer to being home. On this flight everyone on the plane was asleep, but I am so grateful I woke up because I was able to see such an amazing sight. Fly at night is just so beautiful and finally I landed. I was back home.



My sisters were picking me up, I was so happy to see them once again, but it is not till Sunday I was to see the rest of my family.

HEP/CAMP has opened a new world to me and new opportunities I will never forget. I want to thank Virginia and Patrick for being with us in DC and helping us throughout our stay. Everyone at HEP/CAMP, I truly appreciate the help you bring to

migrant students, you open doors for us. I am honored and thankful I was able to be part of the 2023 HEP/CAMP cohort.

