

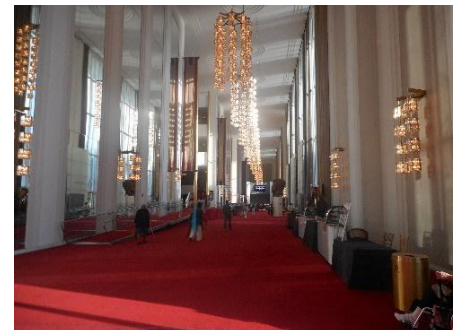
Alberto Aramburo

HEP/CAMP Intern Weekly Bio

Week 3, 6/23 – 6-29

29, June 2014

Week three, work is fun. Most of the time I am working in the office, but very often we are sent to different meetings, and briefings that has some affiliation with the immigration reform. Like this past Thursday, not once was I in the office. First, I went to a breakfast meeting with the CHCI staff, they have some enthusiastic employees. They were all so welcoming and energetic, it's no wonder CHCI is such a great program. Then after that, I walked over to the capitol to watch a press conference, where congressmen and congresswomen were speaking about the immigration reform. After, I went to the House side with my co-intern and supervisors to several meetings to discuss immigration, but before going to the meeting, I noticed my congressman walking down the hall so we went up to him and spoke with him about immigration. He was a very nice guy and seemed very supportive of the immigration reform.

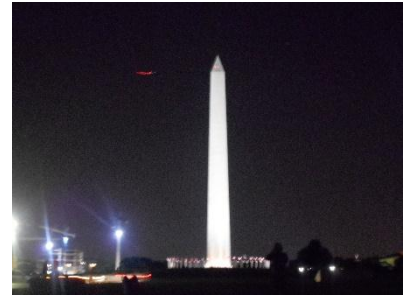


Well, my highlights for the week started off amazing! On Monday evening Dr. Lisa Ramirez invited the HEP/CAMP to watch *A Salute to the 2014 US Scholars* at the Kennedy center. I have never heard of this nor have I ever been a fan of live entertainment, but man did these entertainers take my breath away. There was such a variety of talent on that stage from musical to dancing. It was amazing, but my favorite part was when the two tap dancers were dancing, but at one point they synchronized themselves and almost started waltzing while still



dancing. It blew my mind how well they performed. Later in the week after work, the other interns and I went to go see the monuments at night. These monuments are just incredible. The ones that send a chill down my spine have to be the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial. They are all so impactful and powerful. I can't believe that man made these monstrous beauties. Whenever the other interns and I walk up to or pass the Washington Monument we call it "the butt" like from

the movie *Finding Nemo*. We call it “the butt” because when you stand next to it you feel so small it’s intimidating, but you walk up to it and touch it. That’s when you feel like Nemo when he touched “the butt”. Every time I stand next to these enormous creations of art I feel like I’m in a dream. I have always seen these monuments in pictures and on T.V. but now there in a 20 minute walking distance from where I live. I can’t help but feel so blessed. I just wish I could



bring my brother Gerardo and his family, my sisters Eli, Cuca, Blanca and their families, my mom, my dad, and my girlfriend Teresa Mata to see these amazing pieces of art. I always imagine my nephews just staring at them saying “WOAH” and actually standing still because of how mesmerized they will be. One day I’ll be blessed enough to bring them to Washington D.C. to show them and for them to experience what I experience.

At the end of the week Dr. Lisa, being the awesome lady she is, invited us to go to paddle boarding with her. She picked us up at the end of the yellow line metro and drove us 30 minutes out to this little bay where we rented some paddle boards and row boats. I have never been on a boat or anything of that nature, but I had so much fun. I got on the board found my balance and I was doing good, but I might have gotten a little too confident because I fell in the first five minutes. I got right back up and I paddled myself to the middle of the river and just hung out there. I just sat there and took in the view. I started thinking to myself “I can’t believe I’m here. Last year this time I was working two jobs, and now I’m interning in Washington D.C.” I thank CAMP so much for if it wasn’t for them I wouldn’t of been able to turn my life around like I did. After an hour of paddle boarding Dr. Lisa opened up her home to us and made a BBQ for us. We ate and sat at her back porch and just spoke about life until the sun went down. I have never



looked up to someone like I do for Dr. Lisa and her husband Mike. They are both just so kind and are so willing to give advice about anything. Later in life I hope to be as blessed as they are to be able to help my family and help change the lives of people like Dr. Lisa and Mike do every summer. Like they changed mine.

I feel so blessed to have been given this opportunity. I have met and worked with so many wonderful people, and I’m barely on week three.