

Alberto Aramburo

HEP/CAMP Intern Weekly Bio

Week 6, 7/14 – 7-20

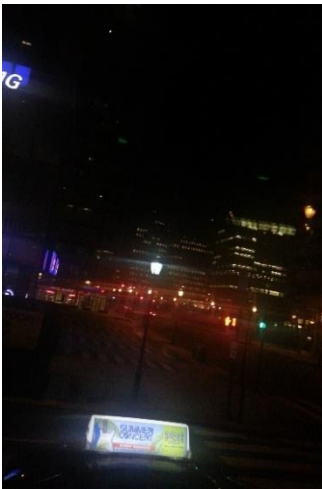
20, July 2014

Week 6, this weekend was the weekend we were going to New York. We have been wanting to go to New York since week one and it was finally just around the corner. The week days were long just because of how anxious I was to go to New York.



Then Thursday came and we were going to leave at midnight to New York. I washed clothes and before I knew it was time to head over to the bus station to get on our bus. As we were waiting in line to get on the bus I could not believe I was going to New York. My heart was racing, my hands were sweaty. I was spacing off and all that was going through my mind was that how did I get lucky enough to get this opportunity. We got on the bus and started making our way to New York and still all I could think about was, “I can’t believe I’m actually on my way to

New York”. It was about a 4 or 5 hour ride and about half way there we passed by Philadelphia and as we were passing through, and I think all us interns thought we were in New York for some reason, but did not realize it until the bus stopped and the driver said, “Philadelphia”. Then we all started laughing because we felt kind of dumb. I think we had an idea that we weren’t in New York yet because it was only 2:30 AM. Towards the end of the bus ride I could see New York from a distance and before I knew it we were in New York.



As we go off the bus we were all star struck. The Buildings were monstrous. I felt like an ant in the city. One of the first things I noticed about New York was that if you look up you

are mesmerized by the buildings beauty, but if you look down you get this thought of, “What did I just smell?” and, “What is that?”. When we got there is about 5:00 AM and we were all tired and hungry. So we decided to find a place to eat and then go to the condo in New Jersey we rented for the weekend and take a power nap. We walked around for a while and looked for a place to eat and ended but just buying some McDonalds we then Google our way to our place of stay. The condo was extremely nice. It had a great view. It had 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, a gorgeous kitchen and a living room and a little balcony that had 2 chairs. We explored and



admired the condo for about 30 minutes and then most of the interns fell asleep for about an hour or 2. I on the other hand could not sleep, so I just took a shower and captured the view of New Jersey.



After everyone woke up and were ready we left and got on the metro back to New York. We then decided to go to lower Manhattan and explore that part of the city. We first went to the 9/11 memorial; it was beautiful. It was extremely impactful. Walking up to the memorial is like walking up to a beast with its mouth open swallowing anything that got in its mouth. It gave the impression that the thousands of lives lost was the water going down the black hole in the



middle. After that we went to go see the Trinity Church. That church is the most beautiful church I've been to. It was weird though. It had a graveyard on the side of it and the tombstones were hundreds of years old. When you walk into the church the doors had these amazing

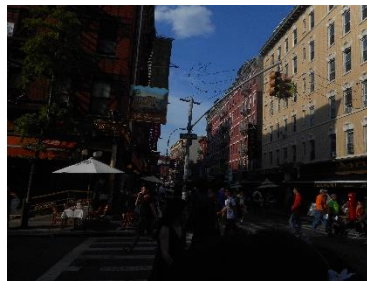
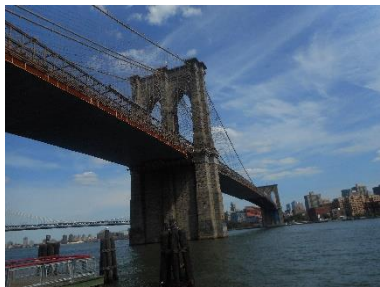


designs and sculptures and the building itself was gorgeous inside and out. The architecture was incredible and to think this building was built hundreds of years ago was just a mind blower. Even though this church is a tourist spot it still felt like a church. We sat there for a while and it just felt very relaxing. I even prayed for a little. As we left the church we wanted to go eat, but we saw that Wall Street was literally right in front of the church, so we decided to fight our hunger a little longer and explore Wall Street.



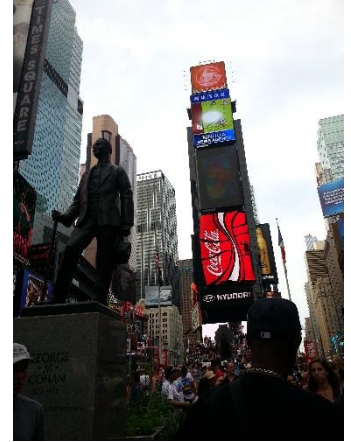
Wall Street was a little disappointing at this time for everything was under construction. We took a couple pictures and found the closest pizza place and ate and relaxed for a while. We then went to the closest tourist spot which was the Brooklyn Bridge. This bridge is so old it's beautiful. It's a little hard to explain. We got to walk to the half-way point of the bridge and that's where our group of 8 split up to 2 groups of 4. The other half walked across the bridge to Brooklyn and my group decided to go back and visit China Town and Little Italy. When

we got to China Town, I was a little disappointed. I didn't get the sensation or feeling that I was in a Chinese community. We and then decided to go to Little Italy is that it really is a little one of my favorite parts of New bunch of cool stuff. I liked it so said Little Italy on it in "The were walking through, there restaurant telling people to when he saw us he was telling us, "hey come try our food its really good." and I would just reply "No, thank you. We already had reservation somewhere else.", but it was funny because as I was





walking away this man, he had the nerve to say, “Ay Buey! Ven acá y prueba nuestra comida.” After that I could not help but walk over and talk to the guy. We had a conversation in Spanish and I told him I would come back tomorrow to try his restaurant. Then he told me something that just made my day. He said, “Órale pues primo, que te la pases bien.” As we left I told myself I was going to eat at that restaurant tomorrow no matter what. We didn’t go dine there that night for we had reservations with the Head Start interns at the Hard Rock Café at Time Square. We got there about an hour early and got to hang out in Time Square for a little while. Time Square



itself was awesome. There was so much energy and people. There is a saying that states that someday around the world you will meet people that look like some you know. It is true. There were people dressed up as super heroes and fictional characters like the Minions from the movie “Despicable Me”. I took a picture with a couple of them, but before you could take a picture with them you had to give them a donation for they were raising money for a charity, but I don’t recall which one.



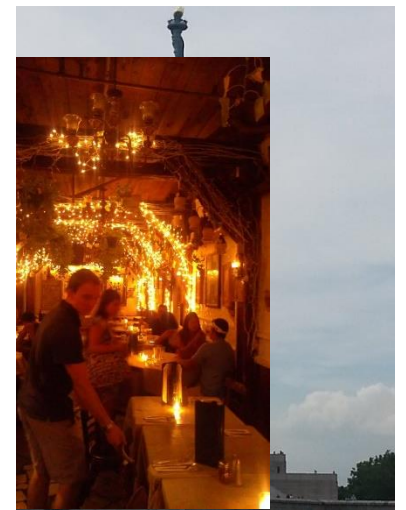
Once the Head Start interns arrived we ate at the Hard Rock Café and I got the pleasure of interacting with all the interns and meet there director Cleo. It was great talking with them they were all funny and very easy going. We could all relate very well for we all came from the same background. After a great dinner with the awesome people of the Head Start association, we started to go home. We arrived pretty late like at 2:00 AM, but we had a great time.

Once we woke up in the morning, our first objective was to see the Statue of Liberty. That itself was an experience. We first had it planned to go on a free ferry that passes by it. When we got off the south ferry metro stop there were these sales people that were selling tickets to the ferries that pass by the Statue of Liberty. At first we thought it was a scam so we left and headed toward the free ferry, and as we got there I noticed it was extremely packed. There were about a hundred people crowded around a door that lead to the free ferry and once the door opens



there is a ferry ready to board. The people would swarm the door as if it lead to freedom. So most of us decided not to do it and look into the other ferry options, so we went back outside and talked to the sales people again. I guess it’s a very competitive job for they get paid off commission and since we were back and forth on buying these tickets we talked to three sales people and when we finally decided to buy tickets, two sales men almost started fighting to see who would sell us tickets so we

didn’t buy from them and bought them from someone else. We headed to pier 11 where we would board the Water Taxi Ferry. As we were waiting in line we got in contact with the two who got on the



free ferry and told them what we were doing and told them how to do it. They bought tickets as well and

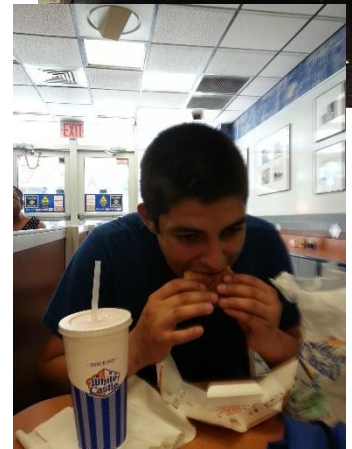


came to pier 11, but they took a too long. They arrived when we were getting to board the ferry, and there was no more room in the ferry. So we split up again. We had the opportunity to get a good picture of the Brooklyn Bridge



from the river and then we headed over to the Statue of Liberty and the cool thing about the water taxi is that it didn't matter what side you were on the ferry you will get a good picture of the Statue for they give one side a few minutes to take a good picture then they flip the boat around so the other side can get a good picture of the Statue. The ferry then started to go to upper Manhattan and we got dropped off at a dock near Time Square where we decided to hang out for a while. After wandering the streets and exploring different shops we went to central park. It was beautiful. It was a little piece of home in New York. It was a huge beautiful park with all kinds of events inside. There was a mini carnival, a concert, and a drum circle. We got to the fountain in the middle with the statue of the angel and realized it started to get dark so we back to Time Square and again hung around there for a while. We then decided we should go eat before we go home so we got on the metro and went to Little Italy and we went

to Paesano's. The place where the guy called me, "Buey". I was hoping he would be there but he wasn't. Paesano's wasn't the nicest restaurant from the outside compared to the others, but from the inside it was gorgeous. It was literally a little piece of Italy. There was dry grape vines all over the ceiling and full wine bottles holders on the post. The tables were candle lit, and some Christmas lights lighting the inside of the restaurant. It was the most romantic scenery. If Wenatchee had a restaurant like this I would take my girlfriend there all the time. Not only because the place was gorgeous, but because the food was amazing. After that we started heading home and on the way home we decided we would go see the Empire State Building before tomorrow.



Sunday, was our last day in New York. We had to check out by noon, so we woke up at 8:00 AM so we could go to the legendary Carlos Bakery from the T.V show *Cake Boss*, and explore New Jersey for a bit. We waited in line for about 10 minutes, took a lot of pictures and got some

amazing pastries at Carlos Bakery, and unlike DC Cupcakes, these were actually really good. We then went to the nearest diner and got some amazing breakfast. We went to a diner called, "Stacks" and stuffed ourselves with some great food and at 10:30 AM we left back the condo and began to pack our things and



clean the condo. As we left we traveled to New York with all our luggage to a storage place that hold your bags for ten dollars a bag for the day. Then on the way to the Empire State Building, and before we even crossed the street Ariana stopped me and said, “Chive look”, and as I turned around to look towards in the direction of where she was pointing I saw it. White Castle, the burger joint that has been on my bucket list since I was 15 years old. The reason I’ve been wanting to eat at the place was all because of a movie I watched. I even took a picture like in the movie, but the burgers weren’t that good. We then headed towards the Empire State and ended up buying tickets off another sales man off the street but this guy hostile like the water taxi guys. It was called the NY Sky Ride and we got to enter through the back of the building and didn’t have to wait in line at all. We got to experience a virtual helicopter ride which was a lot cooler than I thought it would be and then got to go up the ridiculously fast elevator to the top of the Empire State. Once I got to the top I was shocked by the view. It felt fake. Usually I’m a little girl when it comes to heights, but I was reaching through the cage to get better pictures. It was awesome being up there at the end of the trip because as I was looking around I was thinking to myself, “I’ve been there, and there!” On the way down, we decided to time the elevator ride. It took only 50 seconds to travel downward 80 stories. After this we had about 45 minutes, so we really wanted to find a souvenir shop and a cheap one because all the ones in New York have been crazy expensive so far. We really didn’t even look much for right when we walked out of the Empire State there were two souvenir shops. One looked pretty pricey and the other wasn’t as pricey. So we went to the not so pricey one. I ended up getting hustled and buying 125 dollars’ worth of souvenirs. Just playing, I didn’t really get hustled the owner of the store just cut me a deal for a statue of the Empire State, but it wasn’t just a regular statue of the Empire Statue. It was a Statue of the Empire State with a King Kong figure on it. When I saw it I knew I had to buy it for my C.A.M.P office, but when I looked at the price it was 50 dollars so I just put it down and just when I put it down the owner came up behind me and said, “will you buy it if I drop the price?” so I put on my best poker face and turned around and looked the guy straight in the eye and said, “how much you talking?” he said, “35 dollars”. With hesitation I said, “Deal” with a big ol’ smile. After we picked up our luggage and got on the bus to go back home. As a kid I never really had a bed or a room, and I would always hear people say, “I miss my bed” when they were away from home, and it wasn’t till I got back to DC that I experienced this. Right when I got to the dorm and laid on my bed first thing that popped into my head was “Man, I missed this bed.” I just thought it was cool to finally feel how that felt.

