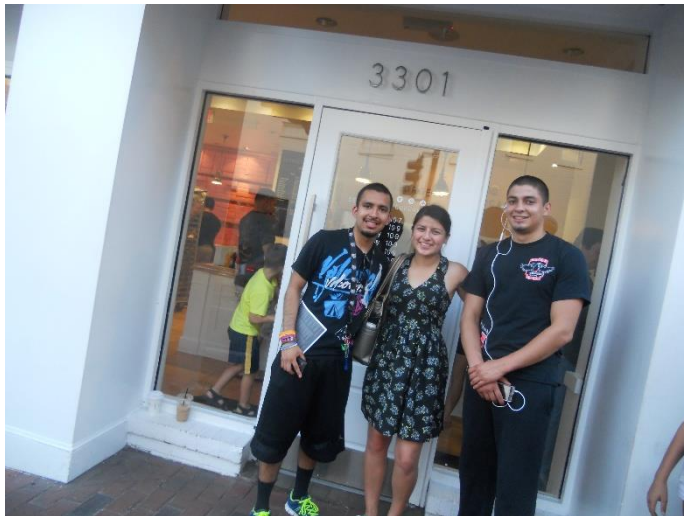


Elizabeth Castro, CAMP Intern
June 6, 2014, 10:09PM, GW University

This week was super busy as I did profile work. I have what I call a “rainbow colored Excel spreadsheet” that I work off of and it can make me a little dizzy. This week I continued to meet with people in the office from the Office of Migrant Ed (OME).

This past week, my little brother was at a summer camp for migrant students. It was wonderful to hear about his adventures and the new friends that he made. As I go around DC, I like getting cool things specifically for him. I have never been a person that gets homesick, not because I don't love my family, but rather because I try to absorb my surroundings. However, this summer I didn't get to go home at all before coming to DC and I especially miss my little brother. Despite the time difference, I try to make it a point to call my family and not get caught up in all the activities here. One thing I admire from Dr.

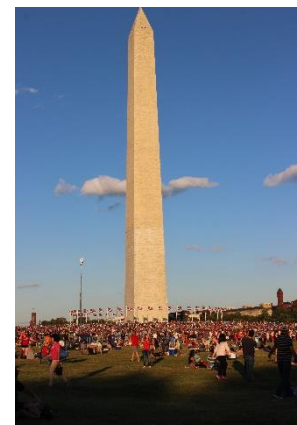


Ramirez is that even in her professional role, she is there for her family.

After work, Cinthia and I went to the Portrait Gallery. My favorite exhibit was the U.S. Presidents, especially the portrait of young Abe Lincoln. Later, we ventured out to Georgetown to buy famous cupcakes, from Georgetown Cupcakes. At \$3 each, they were a bit pricey but they were delicious. It was so hot that I ran into one of those fountains that kids play in just so I could cool off. So I walked around Georgetown soaking wet but at least I felt refreshed.

Thursday was hilarious because our office engaged in some “Office Merriment” where we took a small break to enjoy some gelato. I also got a nice green ribbon for learning the mission statement of The Office of Migrant Education. “The mission of the Office of Migrant Education is to provide excellent leadership, technical assistance, and financial support to improve educational opportunities and academic success of migrant children, youth, agricultural workers, fishers, and their families.”

After work, I went to the Museum of American History on my own. It was nice to sort of give myself some space and think as I walked through the exhibits. The display of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech and the giant march really impacted me. It gave another perspective to the places that we have been touring, like the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, where great leaders have once stood in front of hundreds and hundreds of people. I also loved the dresses of the First Ladies. There was also an exhibit showing agricultural farm work, as two mannequins worked in a little patch designed as a strawberry field. As I read the description of the Bracero Program, I realized how much context we can lose in museums. This past year, I did a research paper on this program that employed Mexican laborers and I wish that there was more information about the program than the tiny paragraph on the exhibit. But I rest my case.

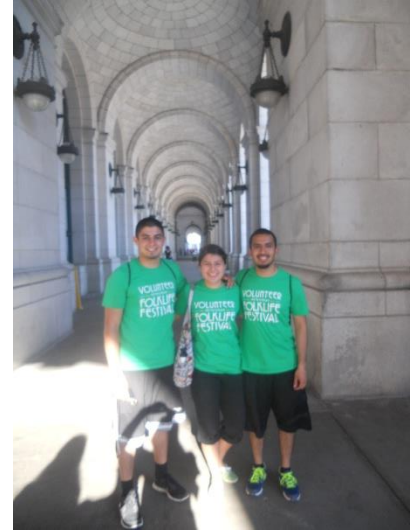


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This Friday was 4th of July in DC! We went to the parade in the morning over by the Smithsonian museums. Then we had lunch at Five Guys Restaurant. Then, around 8ish we walked over between the National Monument and the WWII Memorial. We set up a blanket in the grass, surrounded by hundreds, maybe thousands of people. As soon as it got dark, the fireworks started. It was so breathtaking how the fireworks seemed to be falling right over us.

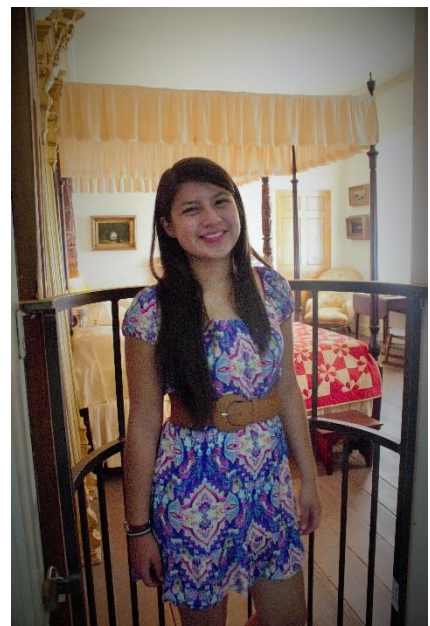
On Saturday, Chive, Gabe and I went to work on our volunteer hours for CHCI at the Folklife Festival. I was placed at the Information booth for the day. It was actually pretty fun since I got to greet maybe a few hundred people. I gave people maps, fans, and answered their questions about the Festival. They also asked questions about the DC area and I even got to help one family in Spanish. It was nice to be under the shady tent all day and we got free meal tickets to get food. I got to eat a Mango dessert with



coconut milk and these jelly-like chunks from the China tent and chicken curry from the Kenya tent. Living in DC, I've gotten to try some food that I maybe never would have otherwise and I think I'll take that back with me when I go home.

Sunday, we went to the Arlington cemetery. I was floored by just how immense it was. There were rows and rows and rows of memorials. We

first went to Robert Lee's mansion and got to see the old, beautiful rooms of the house. We also walked into the slave quarters and we got information about how entire families lived in tiny little spaces. Those that were slaves had only a few possessions. As I sat there on a small bench, I tried to grasp where we were. I tried to imagine what the house was like when there was life in it. I imagine the kids must have played in the dirt yard in the back of the house and there was a lot of activity on the staircase as people went up and down doing their jobs. There was display that told us what different people had once been in charge of doing. In the gift shop, I bought some old reprints of U.S. money. Then, we went to the Iwo Jima Memorial, which was one of my favorite memorials. I had been looking forward to seeing it for a long time. Down on the base of the statue I even found the name of "Veracruz" from Mexico. I'll be looking into why



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my parents' state was placed on there. Then we went to a grand total of four museums. I was disappointed by the Museum of Women in the Arts. However, it made up for it when I got to see one of the self-portraits of Frida Kahlo.