

Week 2

This week was my first official week working as an intern. The first day wasn't very good for me. Not because the work was bad or the people in my office were mean, but rather it was because there were a lot of system issues going on with my assigned computer. This made me unable to finish the few tasks I was given for the day that were relatively easy, making me feel very frustrated. Combined with that, the Sunday before my first day I was a wreck of nerves and had a very hard time going to sleep. As a result, I was falling asleep all day long while my supervisor was giving me a light overview of the tasks I would be performing in the future. I sincerely hope she and the other staff members didn't notice, but I honestly couldn't help it. I had to open my eyes really wide, and kept shifting them around the office so as to avoid nodding off. Feeling very tired and a bit defeated, I finally got back to the dorm and like that the first day was over.

I was a bit apprehensive the next day but surprisingly things went a lot better, as did the rest of the week. My supervisor and the rest of the staff and interns were very kind and patient to me while showing me the ropes of how different tasks are to be performed. They were super understanding when I made mistakes, so that helped me settle into office much better. I did struggle with some things though. For example, I was extremely shy the first two days and struggled talking to the other interns and staff, therefore I would mostly keep to myself. By the end of the week however, I was actively asking questions and looking for clarifications.

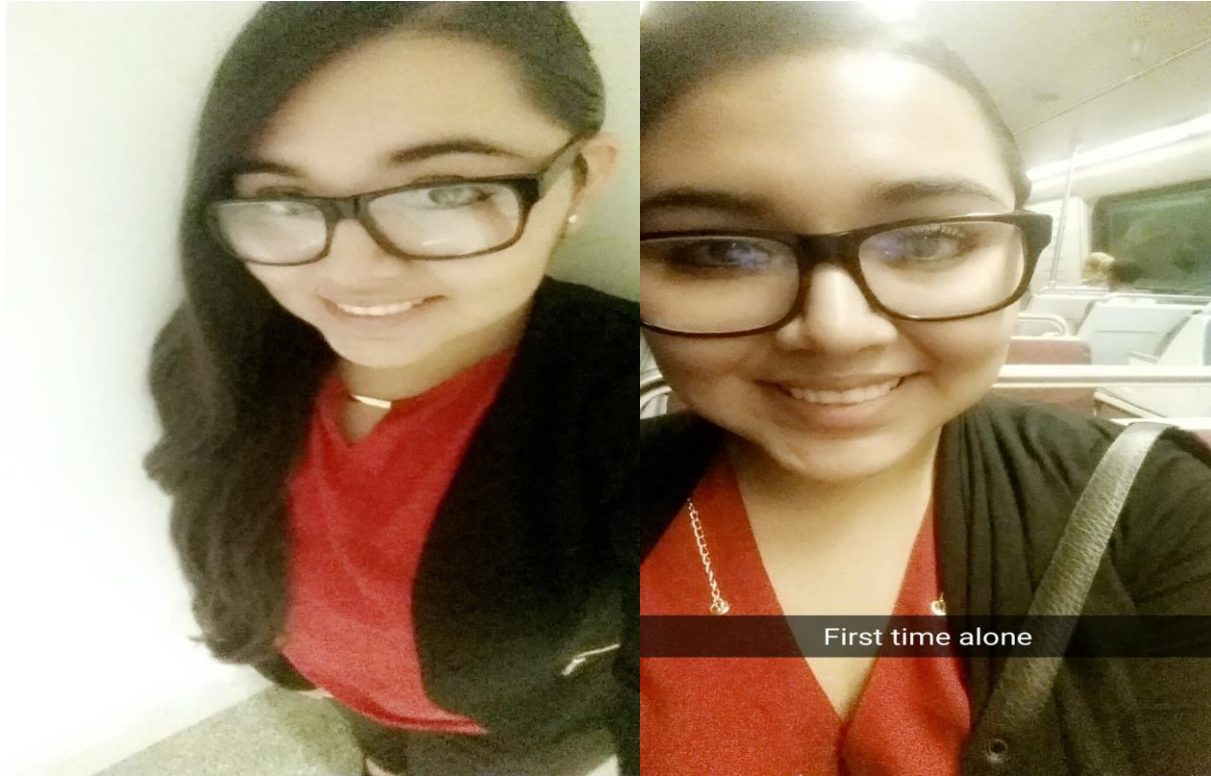
Another thing I really struggled with were phone calls. The Lord knows just how nervous and jittery it makes me feel to pick up the phone. I discovered that I am very socially awkward when on the phone. The only thing that saved me was that my office is super organized and have diagrams for almost any task, including how to manage phone calls. Thankfully, I didn't have to answer the phone that often. The other interns have a competition going on, on who can answer the phone first, and they certainly are fast. I'm still jittery about answering phone calls but I do try to answer calls, but I never manage to beat them! They go Speedy Gonzalez on the phone as soon as they ring.

I honestly love my office. Not only did I have good luck when it came to my co-workers, but they also gave me the chance to practice before working on any task. Other interns weren't so lucky, and on their first day they were thrown into the deep end of the pool and were expected to learn on the job. Also, the staff actively encourage us to go attend the social events or briefings that go on around the capital. We are even welcome to join the congressman to briefings, we just have to check with our supervisor that it's not a close event. Overall, my office is a really nurturing and encouraging environment.

This week I also got the chance to meet the Congressman. I haven't had the time to speak much to him, since he is constantly in and out of the office. Nevertheless, you can tell that he is a very caring and knowledgeable person, and he has a very good relationship with all of his staff. The Congressman even made a point of greeting me the first day he got there, something I feel very fortunate about since a lot of interns never actually meet the congressperson they are working for.

Finally, this weekend we went on many tours. Friday we went out to the National Harbor in Maryland, and this Saturday we went to several of the Smithsonian museums and garden. Overall, it was a very good week.

Here of some pictures of the week



First day outfit!

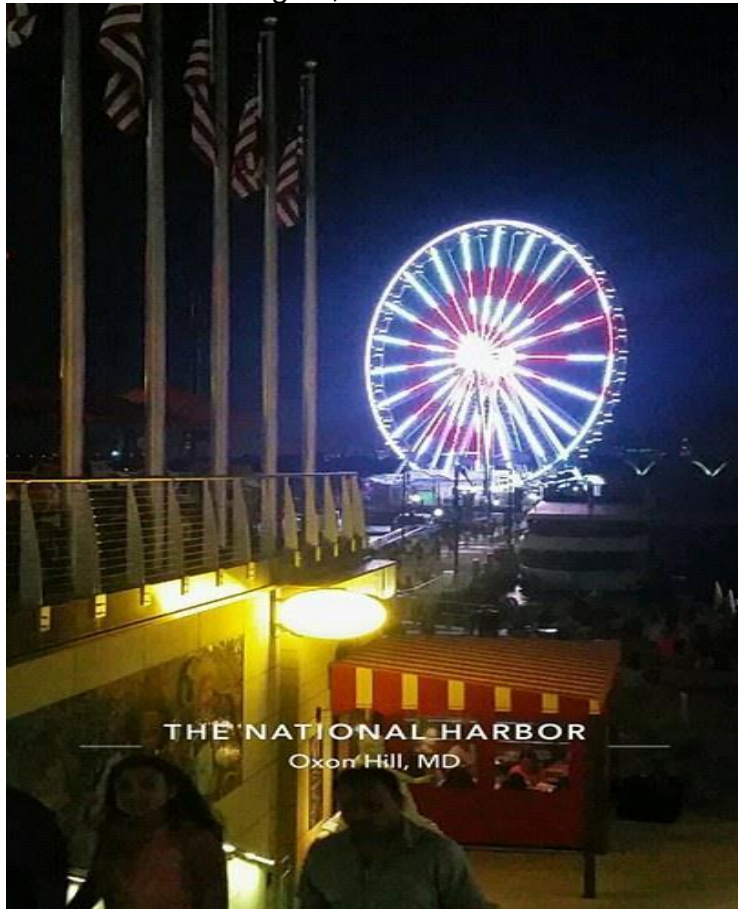
First time on my own on the subway!



First time cooking at my dorm!!

A lot of firsts happened today ^_^

I am terrified of heights, but the harbor was beautiful atop the Capital Wheel !!





THE CAPITAL WHEEL
AT THE NATIONAL HARBOR
Oxon Hill, MD













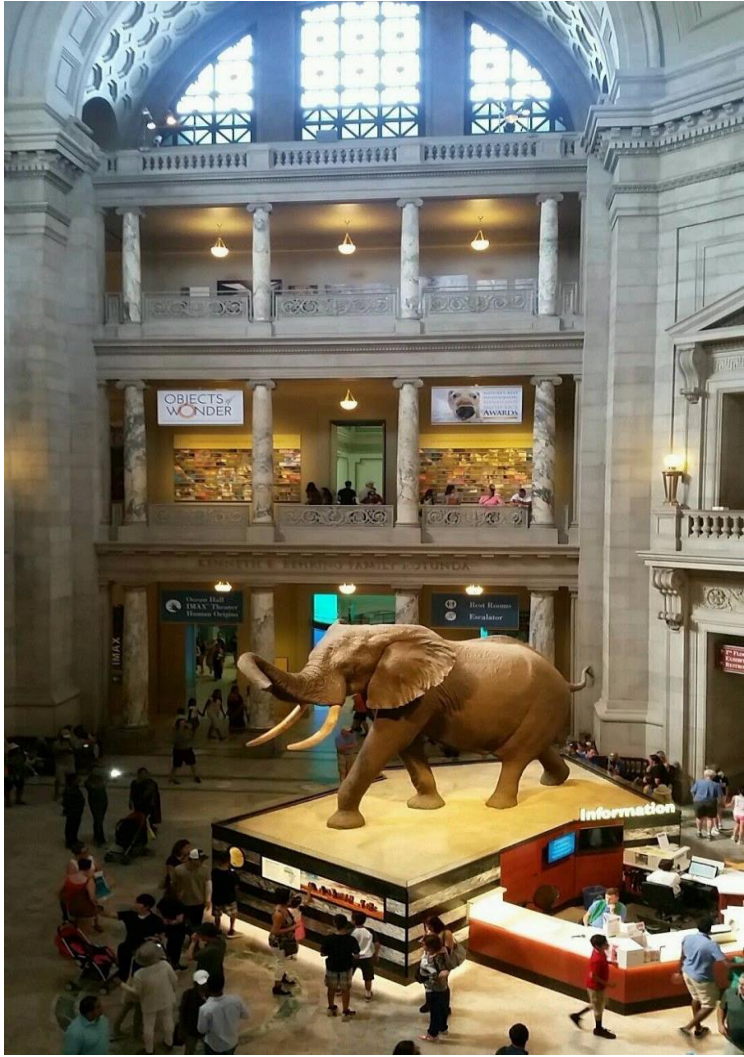
Smithsonian Zoo



Natural History Museum



Korean Monarchy







Smithsonian Pollinator Garden