

Carlos Vazquez  
DC Journal Week 3

To start my third week here in Washington DC, we wanted to make sure to explore the parts of the city that we were still unfamiliar with so we took a little trip to Georgetown. I was amazed at the fact that there was such a beautiful spot so near to us! I quickly fell in love with the pier and the environment that was presented in the area, even though I cannot swim and am afraid of water I would be very willing to go on a boat or kayak one day. While Georgetown has so many things to offer people like myself; I learned very quickly that most things, including food, is very expensive here!

On Monday, I was actually very excited to go to work because I knew that I had some projects waiting for me that I was excited to work on. One of the many things that I love about the office is that the staff is very open to any input that I feel that I can provide so it makes me feel genuinely welcomed in the office at all times. This week I decided to take initiative in making interactions with the staff throughout the day, I felt that the first week I spent it in my cubicle for most of the time and never made effort to meet the staff but this week I realized that once I leave, one of the things that I will remember most is the people at the office rather than the time spent on the work. Some of the most memorable moments at work come from lunch time when the staff sits with the interns, these always lead to some great conversations that leaving me in thought throughout the day.

The first part of the week was great because it was the first time the heat and humidity wasn't completely overwhelming so it gave me a chance to walk home every day. I thought it would be neat to bring extra clothes so that I could change into at the end of the workday and head across the street to the Air and Space museum for a little solo tour. It was great to have that moment and embrace the museum to that extent. Before coming to DC, I would always think about doing that and to actually go through with it made it pretty special. I did the same thing over the next two days when I went to visit the Native American History museum and just decided to walk down the parts of DC that I was unfamiliar with. Thanks to the great weather, I could walk around much

more comfortably so I completely took advantage of it. We took very long journeys around Georgetown and all that it has to offer, including the amazing (expensive) cupcakes!

Thursday was an interesting day because I had the opportunity to go with Giev Kashkooli a VP with the United Farmworkers (UFW) to help pursued representatives to support a bill that was started by U.S. Representative Luis V. Gutierrez. It was really crazy to think that I was in Washington DC going door to door to representative's offices to share my personal story and opinions. I know I have been in DC for three weeks but I still find myself in disbelief in some of the things that I am involved in.

On Friday, as a part of the CHCI programing schedule we went to the Newseum. I was really surprised to see just how interesting the museum really was! I was quick to make the assumption that it wouldn't be as impactful as it actually is but there are many things that really stood out to me. Once the weekend came around it was great to once again meet up with the other interns from CHCI and the Department of Energy and go explore DC, this time we found ourselves at the United States Holocaust memorial museum. This was very powerful to me because I have a strong interest in history and this of course left a huge impact in the world and the way that we live so I had so many thoughts going through my head as I looked into the words and pictures at the museums.

I can't believe that we are already finishing up with our third week here! I remember the moment when getting off the plane and now we are already reaching the halfway mark of our internship. Even though time is going by very quickly, I still plan to make the most of each day here and hope to keep learning and growing.



