

Dyan Urias  
Journal Week 4

This week there is not much to report in regards to my job. Monday and Tuesday, we had off because of the 4th of July, so I only worked Wednesday and part of Thursday. The reason why I only went partly on Thursday was because I was given the opportunity to go visit the White House. I was unbelievably happy! Getting tickets for the White House has become increasingly more difficult, and usually you have to request them months in advance, which I was not aware of. Luckily however, a group of constituents were coming in and they had two spots open to join the group, and so there was a lottery for the spots at my office, and Christina and I were the interns who got the spots.

Going to the White House has been one of the best places I've gotten to visit. As a child, DC for me was all about the White House. The White House was my dream, so having had the chance to visit it made me feel like I actually was getting somewhere in life. It was one of those "a-ha" moments where I realized where I was and what I was doing. It was a reminder of how I got there in the first place. I wasn't there as a tourist but as an intern for an important politician, and through that internship one of my childhood dreams came to be. This realization brought me so much contentment because as someone who considers herself an immigrant by experience, nothing has been handed to me. All that I've accomplished took a tremendous amount of effort and constant support from my friends and family, and sometimes those efforts didn't pay out for reasons out of my control. So being there made me realize that even though sometimes my efforts didn't pay out, the experience those efforts gave me are the reason why I am here in D.C. I have the right to be here, I earned it, and I can be just as important and impactful as any of the men or women who have lived in the most powerful house in the world.

Now backtracking a bit to Tuesday (The 4th of July yay!!), we had an awesome day! In the morning, we woke up early enough to get to the parade on time. The parade was beautiful, we had the chance to see different branches of the armed forces marching in their pristine uniforms, flag choreographies with their accompanying marching bands, and the different minority groups bringing out their traditional dances and dress in appreciation of our country. Admittedly, an hour into the parade we felt just about ready to give up as it was very humid. Our makeup was running slightly, and we had forgotten our water bottles and cash to buy some from the different stalls in the parade. People were dropping left and right because of the heat in their bulky costumes, especially those in the High School marching bands. In the end though, we decided to stick through it to the end.

Afterwards, we had some "girl time" and spent the rest of the afternoon doing our hair and gossiping, in preparation for the rest of the night. Then we went to a really good grill house called Plan B. Afterwards, we walked to the national mall where we got superb spots to watch the fireworks. Fireworks here in D.C. are such a beautiful sight, more so when they are in the background of the Washington monument. Overall, it was a very fun night. We didn't do anything crazy, but it was so relaxing to spend the day celebrating with the other interns.

Also, a big shout out to Jose's supervisor Tara, who was so kind to cook dinner for all seven of us. It was a delicious homemade dinner, with ice cream cake and cookies for dessert. We spent the night playing board games and listening to music. I really appreciated her having us over. It was a nice change of pace, especially since I didn't have to get home to cook.

Pics of the week:

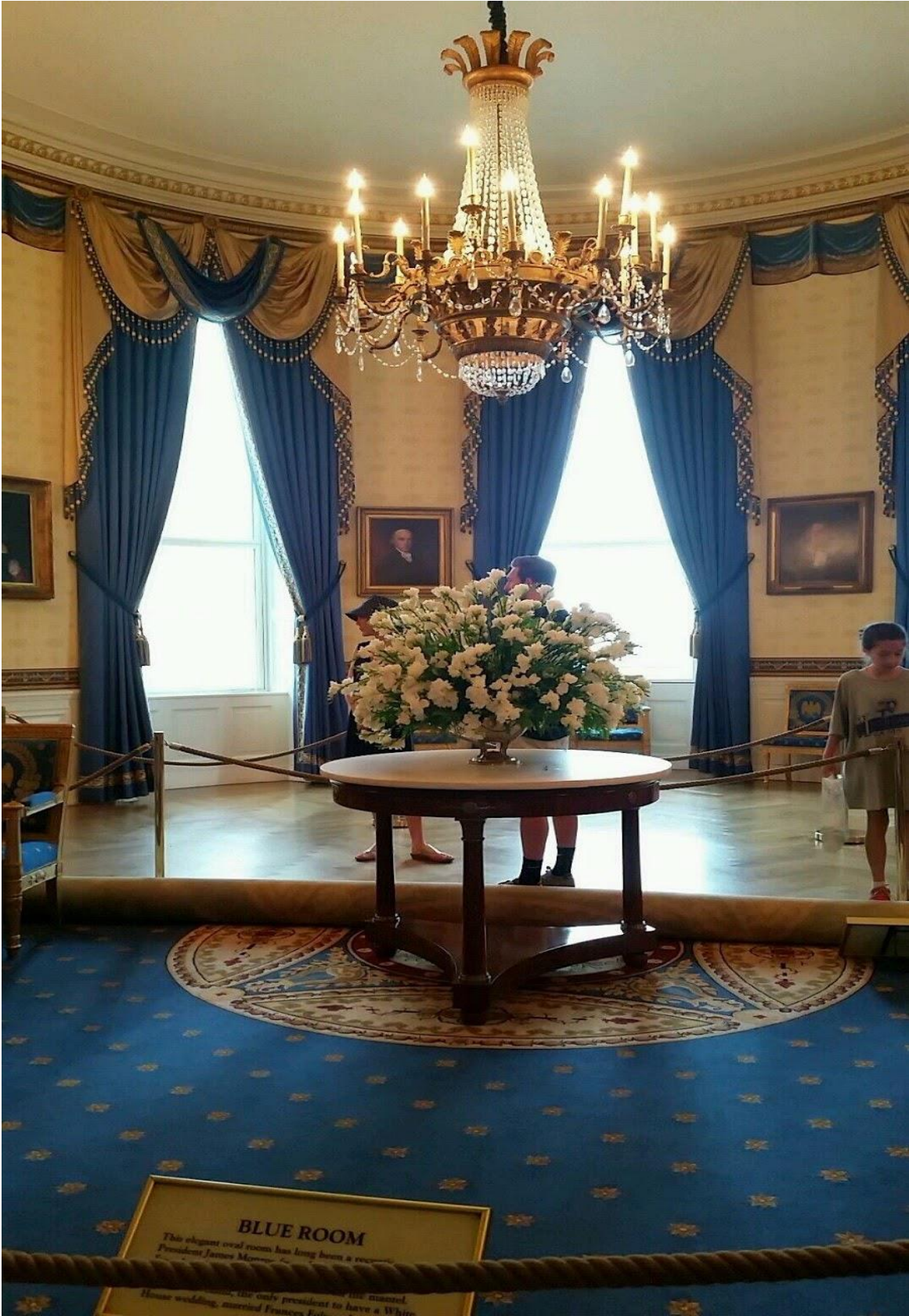








The White House:



The Green Room





The Red Room







With Christina