## Journal 6

This week was kind of bittersweet. One part of it was very exciting because I had a lot of events going on that I had been looking forwards to for a couple of weeks, but on the other hand it was also the last week of one of the interns at my office. Coincidentally, most of these events took place on Thursday. Meaning that by the end of the day, I was about ready to give up on what remained of the week.

During the week, I had the opportunity to go to many interesting briefings on Social-Emotional Education and on Evicted Children and their Families. Then Thursday, my day began at 4:30am since we had to wake up in order to go volunteer at a radiothon for St.

Jude's Research Hospital. Our job was mainly taking calls in Spanish in which we would explain how donations work, as well as taking down callers' information for those who were interested in becoming an "Angel de Esperanza". Angel de Esperanza entails donating \$20 or more monthly, for which the caller would receive and official Angel de Esperanza shirt in gratitude for their contributions. The callers were super nice, they thought we actually worked for St. Jude and would profoundly thank us for all the work we were doing for the children. It was really touching to see how many of this people couldn't actually afford to commit to the \$20 monthly contribution, but would leave one time donations of upwards of \$50. Someone even left a one-time donation of \$200. The caller mentioned how money comes and go, so he'd rather lay it down for an important cause than to waste it on something materialistic, because at the end of the day there would always be a chance to make up for that money, and that if he always used the excuse of not having money then he was never going to be able to help anyone.

Afterwards, we had to head directly to work, but instead of going to our offices we went to the Hispanic Leadership Conference. The conference was amazing, we had the opportunity to meet Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who was the first Hispanic woman to serve on either body of the federal legislative government (House/Senate). She is an impressive person all around, and is one of the most charismatic people I've ever had the pleasure to listen to speak. I didn't actually stay for the whole conference, I had to go back to my office sometime around 1:00pm since we were going to have lunch with my Congressman at 2pm (Yay!). Before going out for lunch however, I signed and wrote a farewell message on an office wide thank you card for Paula, whose last day was that day.

For lunch, our Congressman took us interns to the Dems-Club, which is a super fancy members only bar/restaurant. The food was exquisite, and the company was even better. For the next two hours, the other interns and I had the chance to converse with the Congressman at our own leisure on just about anything we could come up with. Congressman Grijalva is a very intelligent individual, but more than anything else he's a very charismatic and welcoming person, not to mention hilarious. I kind of knew what type of person he would be from the daily greetings we would get from the Congressman during the week. He truly makes you feel like you are family, and like you are an imperative part of the group. It was really sweet of him to thank us for all of our work, especially in a summer where a lot *interesting* stuff was going on with the administration.

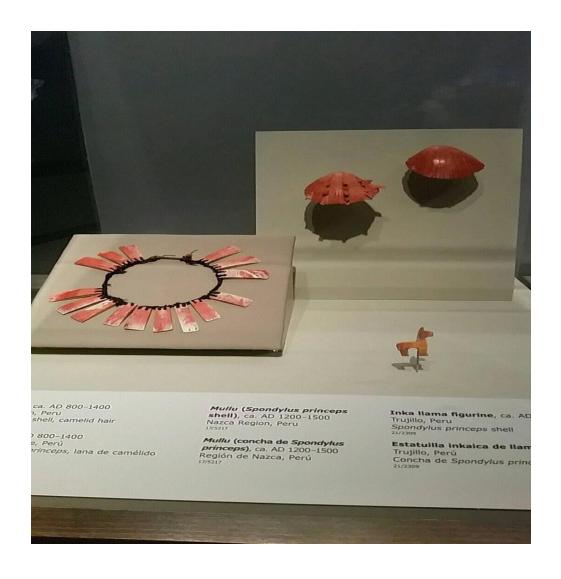
Finally, the Congressman had to get on with his duties and we had to head back to the office where we surprised Paula with a surprise good bye song. Honestly, I did not know the lyrics to the song "For Being a Jolly Good Fellow", so I kind of mumbled and clapped along (haha). Our supervisor got her a small tub of rocky road ice cream, and Paula was over the moon. We spent maybe another 40 minutes talking and joking around with the staff before having to go back to work. By this time, it was almost 5pm, and boy was I falling asleep. My eyes were closing on their own, I couldn't even read what was on the screen of my computer anymore. I stood up for a few minutes, while still working on the computer and like that the clock struck 6pm. Paula said her goodbyes for the last time, and I came back to the dorm for some well-deserved rest.

Places I went this weekend:

The Indian American Museum:









## African-American Museum:







