

Jose Flores

Weekly Journal: May 22-May 29, 2016

Anxiously waiting to board the plane, I was tapping the seat with my fingers to make time go by faster. I was finally going to go to Washington, D.C. After years of learning about the history of the United States, I was finally going to visit perhaps the most important place in American history, or at least in our contemporary time. I was full of excitement and anxiety, not knowing what to expect once I arrived.



The first day I could not get a good feel for D.C. as it was raining. Still, when we out to dinner to this restaurant that served different pastas and wines, I was able to see a part of what other GWU students did in the city. The restaurant had a nice feel to it, and was the first of its kind that I have ever entered into. It was multiple levels and it had a city feel; one that I am new to. It was a pleasant dinner as I met and acquainted myself with the other CAMP interns. I thought that this was a nice way to get to know everyone since we will be spending a couple months together.

Monday was our first day of training. I woke up early to dress myself, and I remember thinking about how far I have come. Just a year ago I was working in Burger King and getting ready to graduate from high school. A year later, I find myself in Washington, D.C. on an internship. It is incredible to see

how much I have grown over the past year. Although I was nervous about meeting the other interns and about not knowing what to expect from the trainings, seeing myself in a suit gave me this new confidence. The first day was a bit of a blur for me, as I was trying to make sense of things. I had been in Nicaragua just a week ago and now I am interning in D.C. I was so new to all of this that my brain could not process all that was going on at once.

Tuesday was a lot better for me. We were able to engage in the material, which allowed me to forget about the anxiety I felt and get fully involved with the other interns. After that, I no longer felt nervous or anxious. That was perhaps my favorite day, as we were able to be congressmen and congresswomen for a day, and it was a lot of fun.

We also visited the White House on Tuesday at night. That was my first time ever visiting the White House. As I stood before the White House, I was able to realize how blessed I am. As I admired this building in all its majesty and simple elegance, I could not think of anything but my

family. I thought about my mother and my father and the fact that they have never seen the White House, the Capitol Building, or even D.C. I am who I am today because of them. I also thought about my siblings who have impacted me just as much as my parents did. I have always only wanted them to be proud of me.

Wednesday was take-Jasmin-to-work day. After dropping her off, we explored the halls of the Senate. Walking through those halls, I was deeply honored and grateful to be here. Also, Wednesday night was the first day we made dinner together as a group. I believe that making dinner together really brought our small group together. For me, sharing a meal allows me to connect better with people.



Having dinner is almost a ceremony in my household; it is the time when the family spends time together.

On Thursday, I met with my supervisor from the office I will be interning in. I was able to get a feel for the office and the environment and I was able to introduce myself to the other interns who were there. We also met Irene Bueno, the Congressional representative of HEP CAMP Association, who was such an amazing and inspiring person. Her story further excited me about working on Capitol Hill. It made me realize how special this opportunity truly is, so now I realize the importance of taking advantage of such a grand opportunity.

On Friday, we had our photoshoot at the Cannon House Office Building. After that, we went to HACU where we had a talk with Rey Decerega. We discussed the morality of oppressing one person so that others can live a happy, prosperous life. We also discussed the pessimism that exists in our society today. These two discussions forced me to think about the reality of which I exist in today. It caused me to analyze the world I live in today and create judgements about its current position.

After training, the five of us visited Georgetown and Georgetown University. There, we bought cupcakes at Georgetown Cupcake, ice cream at a Ben & Jerry's, and toured the university (where I was the tour guide). I was excited to visit and tour Georgetown University as this a possible



option for me to go to grad/ law school to, due to its location close to the nation's capital and to the prestige and respect of Georgetown University.

On Saturday, the five of us and Pat visited the National Mall and its several monuments and the Smithsonian Air and Space museum. I saw several of our national monuments; my two

favorites being the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II Memorial. I felt a sense of pride in my country seeing these beautiful memorials. We also had dinner with Pat at El Chalan, a Peruvian restaurant. I believe that it was a great restaurant and very proper for the occasion, as it was Pat's last full day with us before he flew back home.

We went shopping on Sunday, where I was able to buy some souvenirs for myself and for my mother. My roommate also arrived on Sunday so I was able to meet him as well.

Now that I have had a week to transition into D.C., I am ready to begin work this week. I have been looking forward to working for Senator Schumer ever since I learned that I got this opportunity. Tomorrow will be my first day and I am very excited. I am ready for anything and everything.

