

Monserrath Sanchez

HEP/CAMP Journal

Week 6

Monday June 27, 2016: I had a rough start this week. The constituent breakfast with Senator Feinstein (CA) was cancelled, and so I was not able to meet her. Then, I was researching and summarizing different bills that focused on the Californian drought when all of a sudden my computer shuts down. All of my hard work was lost because I forgot to save the document. We tried everything to retrieve the document but it was gone forever so, I just started all over again and worked on it all day. By the end of the day I felt very accomplished because I had finished and turned in my project.

Tuesday June 28, 2016: I attended the Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative, hosted by Senator Harry Reid, the Senate Democratic Leader. There I was able to learn about the diversity on the Hill not only within us interns but I also learned more about various members of Congress. We were split up into groups and had the opportunity to speak with a staff member. It was interesting to find out that the staffer that I was assigned to actually interned with my supervisor, and that they both got employed as staff soon after their internship. I had to leave five minutes early because I had a brown bag lunch with Cynthia Palafox, Congressman Becerra's scheduler. Cynthia told me on how she never thought she would work on the hill, she taught English in Spain before working on the Hill. I enjoyed having lunch with Cynthia, she told me about all the cool experiences she's had due to working on the Hill along with telling me how much she has grown. I was able to see myself as she told me her childhood and how she overcame so much along her career. I honestly do not know how Cynthia does it making sure Congressman Becerra gets to all events on time, if I always get lost going anywhere off of the Hill



Wednesday June 29, 2016: Wednesday morning I attended a YMCA briefing that focused on their summer camps. I learned about many ways in which the YMCA tries to make sure that kids have a fun and safe summer. They explained that they wanted to make sure the kids did not get the summer slide: the tendency for students to forget what they learned throughout the school year. I also then realized that there are not many YMCAs within the 34th district of California. I went back to the office and wrote a memo for Emilio, an L.A in the office who focuses on education. At noon, we had the opportunity to meet Senator Martin Heinrich (New Mexico) who was A STEM major! I enjoyed learning about his journey to becoming a public servant for the state of New Mexico. Although Senator Heinrich has a very busy schedule, it was nice to know he took some time out to speak with us and answer our questions. Once I returned to the office, Victoria, my supervisor informed me that I had a White House tour scheduled for Thursday.

Thursday June 30, 2016: I woke super early to make sure I had enough time to get the White House on time. I also looked up President Barack Obamas' schedule for the day on the White House website and discovered the President would be there during my tour. I enjoyed walking around through all of the rooms and just thought about how many great leaders had walked through those same rooms. As I was walking around, I noticed a room that had many cameras set up and was filled with people I continued walking and at that moment I realized the President must be there! I turned around and there he was in bone and flesh, the 44th President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama! I wanted to run and thank him, although I didn't because I did not want to get in trouble; I stood there and admired him as he walked graciously and waved

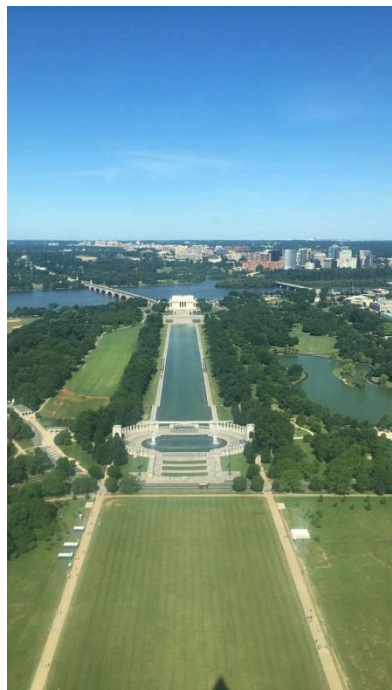
hello to us. After the tour, I was trying to meet up with my CAMP peers who had a meeting with Geiv Kashkooli, the 2nd Vice President of the United Farm Workers Association (UFW). I did not make the meeting because I got lost due to putting the incorrect address quadrant, I was an hour away from their office. When I did get there, we all had to head back to work. I emailed Mr. Kashkooli and successfully set up another meeting with him.



Friday July 1, 2016: We were really excited to go to Jazz in the Park after CHCI programming on Friday! Before we went, we stopped by the Smithsonian Castle and took some picture while we waited for Jasmine to meet up with us. When we arrived there was some light rain and they said the show would continue so we sat in front of the fountain like everyone else did and then BAM, they canceled the show because a thunderstorm was rolling in! The storm lasted about like 10 minutes but the show was already cancelled. We headed back home where he had a fun evening playing Uno.



Saturday July 2, 2016: Aleya knocked on our door at like 5:30 in the morning trying to wake Crystal and I up, we got out of bed at 6:00 AM. We rushed and got ready to head out to the Washington Monument, when we arrived at the monument there was already a short line. We all waited patiently and soon we were able to get our tickets to go up the Washington Monument. The view from the top was spectacular, you could see everything! I'm glad that President Ulysses Grant authorized refunding for the monument to be completed in 1879 because the monument is so amazing, and I don't think the National Mall would be the same without the Washington Monument. We ate breakfast at the Wicked Waffle, and chatted for a bit. We then went back to the dorms to change for a BBQ that we were invited to by Krista, a U.S Department of State Pickering Fellow. At the BBQ I was able to meet a lot of her colleagues that worked in various government agencies. It was nice to know that so many rising professionals wanted to help us and gave us so much advice.



Sunday July 3, 2016: On Sunday we attended Dr. Lisa Ramirez's Vision Board party, in which we were able to put our aspirations and dreams onto a board and make sure we accomplish them all in the future. While at Lisa's home we meet her daughter Kaitlyn who told us about her recent

study abroad trip to South Korea. It was nice to see everything she did and how much she enjoyed South Korea. We then all told each other we want to go to, mine would definitely be Italy. Ever since I was a little girl I have wanted to go to Italy because of its beautiful architecture, art, food, and culture. I would also finally be able to use my intermediate Italian, *Io amo l'Italia e la sua bella cultura!* During the vision board activity, we were able to disconnect from everyone and focus on ourselves. I was able to really think about what I plan to do, it was really a great activity and I would like to thank Lisa for being inviting us over and having us think about what we wish to do in the future.