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This was a very, very busy week. But very rewarding. Since I started working in the Office of Migrant Education, I've been focused on the HEP/CAMP program. This makes me very happy because I am a CAMP student and I love the program. This week we had the HEP/CAMP directors meeting. I had the opportunity to present some of the data I been working with during my internship. I always get really nervous when I have to talk in public. But, not this time because the audience was amazing. They just wanted to absorb everything. It was very inspiring to have all the directors here, trying to learn as much as they could to better their program. They were so committed and all the HEP/CAMP students like me are lucky to have them as our directors. My director is my hero and I had the chance to see him for three days. He is very special to me because he has supported me and been there for me when I didn't have anybody else. He invited me to eat to Habanero, a Mexican restaurant in D.C. its located in



Columbia Heights. This is known to be a Hispanic area of D.C. I have to say that since I got here I have not seen a lot of Hispanics. But there's a lot a Hispanics in Columbia highs. I loved the area so much that on Saturday I decided to go again. This time I went to Los Hermanos, which is a Dominican restaurant. In both places the food was excellent. I haven't been to many restaurants in D.C. but these two places are worth trying.

Also, we had the chance to go eat with the board members and the president of the HEP/CAMP associations. We went to a Chinese restaurant in China town. It was a night full of laughs and stories. I feel very special to have the support of this association. I could never thank them enough for this opportunity, but most important for the opportunity to meet Patrick and Betsy. They are wonderful people. Saying bye to them was extremely hard for me. As I am typing this my eyes are full of tears. They accepted and supported us immensely during our first week in D.C. I still remember the first time I talked to Patrick. I told him my concerns and fears about coming to D.C. and he comforted and made me feel like it was

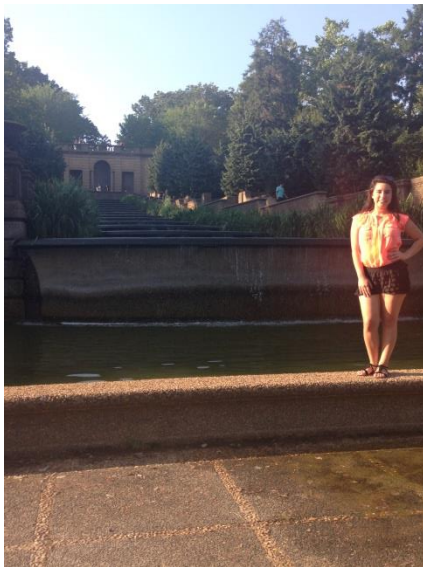


going to be OK. I see Patrick and Betsy like family. They were wonderful and all the future interns should have the opportunity to meet them.

The boys and I decided to see monuments at night. Alberto, one of the past HEP/CAMP interns, went with us as well. I have to say that they are really pretty at day, but at night, they are extraordinary. We went to the Lincoln memory, Martin Luther King memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and Washington monument. My favorite was Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial because I love to read quotes. They always make me reflect about my life, and they cheer me up. It was very interesting how some quotes can still be applied to today's society. We still have the same issues that we did a long time ago. We have grown a lot, but there is still a lot of work to do. As a Nation we need to keep working hard to better this country.



I know time is flying by, I decided to go explore as many museums as I can. Magali and I went to the National Natural Museum of History. I wanted to go to this museum for a while now. It was amazing, my favorite part were the skeletons they have in exhibition, especially the mummies. It's so interesting how they didn't have a lot of technology or knowledge and they still found a way to preserve the body. And of course I got to see the dinosaur skeletons. It's crazy how such big and scary creatures lived in this world before us. I also got to go to the Castle. Such a beautiful place and the castle is right next to the garden which makes this place very unique. We rested in the gardens like the butterfly Habitat and the Mary Livingston Ripley Garden.



Also, I went to the Meridian Hill Park. They have a drums circle on Sundays evenings. The energy and the environment were amazing. Everybody was happy just dancing and enjoying the music. There were many people doing acrobatics as well. It is a very unique place. The park is extremely beautiful. It is little compared to all the other parks in D. C. but it's beautiful.

My favorite moment since I've been in D.C. has definitely been going to the White House. We were waiting in line and I was so nervous because not even in my wildest dreams I imagined I would ever had a chance to go the White House. Once we passed security we were able to get in. I couldn't believe I was actually in the house of the president and probably no too far away from where he was. I was in shock. The White House is beautiful. There is so much history. Many times I feel like I put important people too high and going to the White House open my eyes and I realized that even though

they are so important in society they are still humans. They live just like we do. This also gave me hope because anything can happen and we have to hope for the best. I am so happy I got to go to the White House and this is a memory that I will carry in my heart forever.





