

Jasmine Meraz

Week 7 Journal

Well it looks like week seven finally passed and might I say it was definitely a busy one; considering it was also a short four days because of the holiday. The majority of the week I spent my time working on two background memos on health care issues, and let me say it took up a lot of time trying to find the right information to write in and make sure that I wasn't mixing the information around. I did have the opportunity to hear Senator Merkley speak at the lecture series they have for all interns to attend; it was worth attending as the words he spoke are ones you don't expect most senators to speak with such sincerity in their voice.

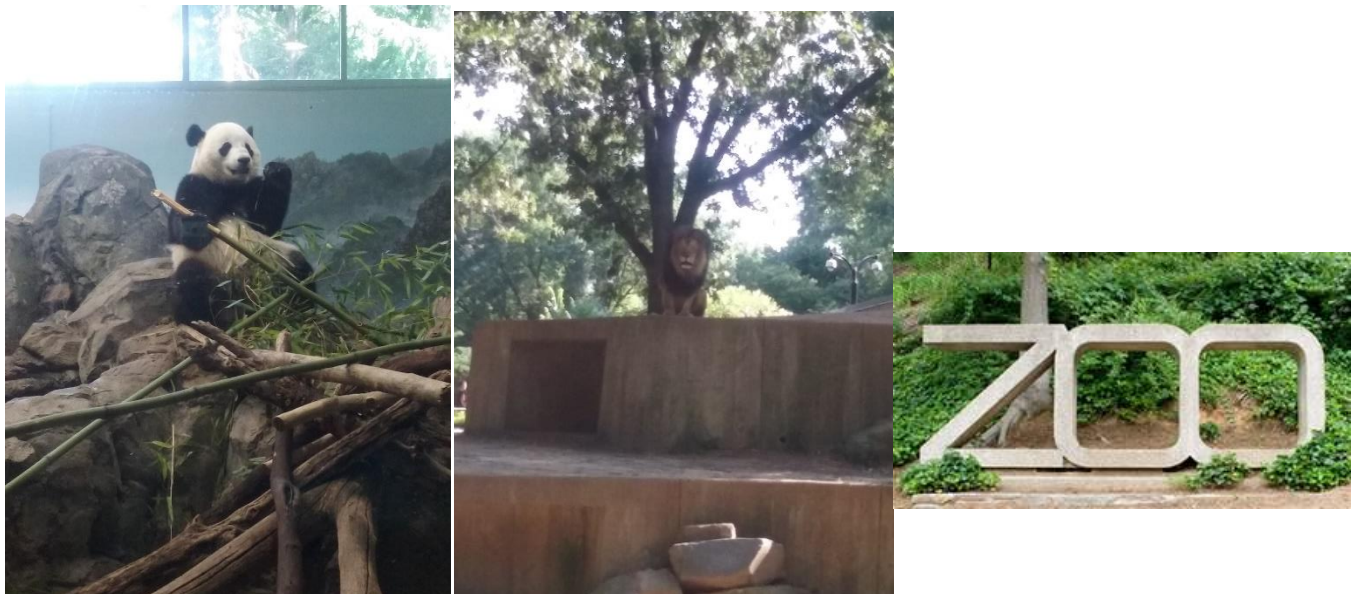
The whole week consisted of writing those memos by Friday morning and I spent every moment I could researching and reading as much information as I could to make the document look as clear as possible. Looking back from the beginning to the end, I didn't think I would focus or spend much time on health care issues since that's not what my main focus was, however, due to the fact that the issues I was interested didn't have much work to be done, I was grateful that they gave me something to do even if it was a small project. Now being able to say that the issue of health care and the different aspects of it are very interesting and I am way more informed than I would've thought imaginable.

As the week came to a close and the rest of the interns were getting ready to head to NYC for the weekend, I unfortunately had to stay back because of personal issues conflicting with being able to attend; however, through this internship I got close to another intern in my office and we decide to make plans for the weekend as she didn't have anything to do that weekend either.

Saturday afternoon we went to the National Zoological Park here in Washington D.C and I fell in love with it, not only because it was a beautiful free park, but because they have the two

animals that I love the most, pandas and lions! It's crazy how I've spent 19 years living on this Earth and had yet to see either one of these at any zoo. It was amazing to see such beautiful creatures all across the park, yet I can't help but feel bad for them because they have to spend their lives in captivity to fill people like me with joy. I understand both sides of this issue but I guess I have to just enjoy and realize that if it wasn't for zoos like this one, I would never be able to see animals like these outside their habitats.

After a long day at the zoo, we headed out to a Peruvian restaurant for dinner as we didn't eat before leaving. It was great to have someone like her around who understands me and can have a quality conversation over dinner with no distractions; she's the first person I have met here who's also in a relationship and doesn't know how she's getting through it. Dinner was amazing and sitting at the restaurant just talking was something I haven't had the chance to do with anyone, especially not one on one. The night ended and we headed into our individual rooms and got some rest as the next day would be the longest one yet.



Sunday started off early as we had to get to the metro before 9 to catch the right train and make it to the bus we needed to get on to reach our destination in Maryland to Six Flags America. Anyone that knows me knows that I love amusement rides and this was the perfect place for me to be. We got there as soon as the park opened and there already was a long line of people waiting for the park to open. We got to go on all the rides we wanted to with little to no lines which was great. It was great to have someone like her to be able to share the love of thrill rides with because my best friend and I have also had a love for rides and having an intern like her made it easy to feel like I'm home.

It was definitely a good weekend about things that I wanted to do and was really interested in doing. It's sad to think that this internship is coming to an end but I will be sure to make the best of the remaining week and a half that I am here for.