

Journal 4

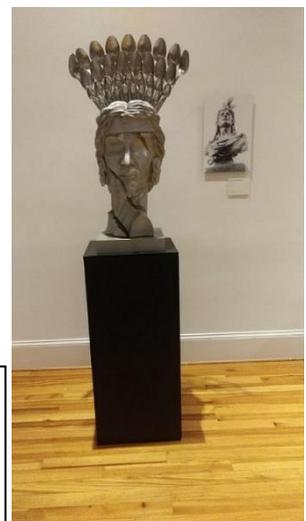
This week was marked by three of the quintessential D.C Intern experiences (or so I am told). And while all three impacted me, their respective insights demonstrate the diversity of the work. The first and least laborious was the constituent tour I led for a visiting family. My first group I suspect will always be my favorite – three Spanish-speaking history buffs. Considering my own status as a passionate student of history, I experienced no small amount of pleasure both teaching and learning about different people, events and locations in the Capitol. I could not help but impose my own family onto this group – as it consisted of an older Hispanic couple and their sole son. Guiding and laughing with them, as they touched the stonework and repeatedly exclaimed that they never imagined seeing the Capitol. While I was sad to leave them, I was happy to know that I gave a good tour – and will be part of their memory when they consider the beauty of the Capitol. My second assignment was the most haring of these experiences – taking notes and writing a memo on a congressional briefing. I had found the briefing on the Keeping Girls in School Act (pictured below) interesting due to my focus on international development back at USF. When I brought this up to my supervisor, she recommended I take notes for the Foreign Affairs staffer – a common practice for interns. Balancing a complementary donut while hastily jotting down points from the flurry of speakers made me a common sight in the packed D.C meeting rooms. This work satisfied my interest and gave me insight into the plight of girl’s education in the face of arranged marriage, gender roles, and violence. My final essential intern

job I completed this week was writing my very own constituent letter. After receiving a half hour training, all interns were assigned topics to write about. This assignment was all research, in a concerted effort to derive the representative’s opinions on a topic from previous letters, press releases, and legislative activity. This combined with trying to capture the representative’s voice made it more of a game than work – a fun romp through writing which ended up only minimally marked! Up until now, I had been itching to write for my internship, and am now excited to have more letters to write.



LEFT

The foreign affairs briefing I was able to attend this week. The speaker is an educator and advocator for Girl’s Education in West Africa



RIGHT

A surrealist bust of an Aztec warrior by Mexican Sculptor Jose Sacal in his exhibit in the Mexican Cultural Institute.