

Week 9

This week is a testament to friendship and inspired by the close relationship I have gained with my fellow interns. The week began Sunday, when the interns in my office had an outing to the Eastern Market. Serving as the tour guide, we laughed our way through the stands and free samples, gossiped over brunch, and revered a famous bookstore, and hile the friendship and comradery which comes from team-oriented work was not unknown to me, this was the first time I felt it my own. A smaller contingent of the office interns also took an ad hoc trip to the Hirshorn Museum, which I knew from visiting with my girlfriend. Jumping from the light fun of a farmer's market and joking about our meek budgets, to sharing a sense of astonishment from the over the top modernist installations in the museum gave variety to our shared friendship. This in turn made me at least much more comfortable in the office in general – as a person who opts for reservation when first meeting new people, the fact I have been able to be more outgoing these last couple of weeks is a welcome going away gift. More than just feeling welcomed by the interns, I feel friendship with the greater office. Whether it was when they attended my CHCI graduation, led the interns on a cheese Tour of Italy, had an office viewing of *A League of Their Own* on the Library of Congress lawn, or expected me to attend next week's baseball game, I felt as part of the office. I understand the differences which exist between the relationships from 9-5 to after and out of the office. As someone with no experience in the central American office environment, I assumed I would be too late to the party – unable to understand this facet of post WWII Americana.

Aside from feeling like part of the office, I also became more connected to the CAMP and CHCI interns this week. This is most the CAMP interns have seen of each other since our first few days in DC – as we had to help with the Annual Directors meeting. This meant that we attended two days of seminars, breakout sessions, and directors meetings together. We bonded over our shared embarrassment of the video interview we had during the week, and were the first group to raid the food table at the CHCI meeting held after the second day of the ADM. Follow this up with being guides to

CHCI interns who wanted to explore Georgetown – our veritable backyard. As I write this, I am happy to know that, alongside my experience with BSB back at USF, I am quick to make and build relationships – a key skill in the fields which most call to me. It does not feel like I now only have 6 days left in D.C – the reality of it has not processed, and I suspect that it will hit me only when I get back to Florida, and know that my adopted home up North is far from me.



LEFT

A group of interns (CAMP and CHCI) ready to Kayak – Carlo and Wendy's first time – you can almost see them shake!

RIGHT

A section of the Berlin Wall and a Guard tower from the No Man's Land between East and West Germany during the Cold War in the Newseum. It's always so odd to touch the history you learn about.

