

Week 10

This final week in D.C has been perfect for greater reflections on my time. For the two days in the office I did very little besides the now easy load of daily intern tasks which usually were finished by lunch. I would then alternate between writing my thank you notes for the staff, goofing off with the interns, or finishing the essay I had begun in the beginning of July. Wednesday saw the formal send off, with an organized potluck in the office and a minor intern misadventure in the capitol building before I was to return my ID – an act which I attached a certain amount of ceremony to. After presenting on Thursday, I had very little to put work or worry into – save for packing. I was invited for one last hurrah with the office softball team, and against the CHSA team which I had come to know many of through networking. In a final showdown between California Swingers and CHSA Chili Dogs against an impending thunderstorm I was the most friendly and informal with my staff I had ever been – a result I put to the thank you cards I was very proud of. That final game is the only one the team has won all year – a result of a homerun which saw a showdown between the LC which interviewed me for the position and catcher which was my first official “coffee” in D.C. My conflict was eased when Max easily slid into home and won the game 14-13. The resulting ruckus from our collective yelps of surprise and exaltation was such that the flock of nearby geese decided to find another lawn and passing cars honked us down. As I was driven to the nearest metro I was lauded for my contribution to the office, with repeated requests to stay in touch. Friday had us say our goodbyes to CHCI, with hugs and the various cliques separating to finish their Friday’s individually. The HEP/CAMP kids and Carlo Garcia,

an honorary member of the program, went out for a last tour of the Western half of the Mall – where I said my tearful goodbye to the Capitol through the fence around the Washington monument before rejoining the CAMP friendship circle at the base of the monument. The rest of the night was long and laugh filled – appropriate for the ending of such a chapter in my life.



LEFT

A photo of the victorious California swingers – guess where I am (as the only intern player). Also note the collective surprise and concern over my LD Nancy Juarez taking a swing at the camera.

RIGHT

One last photo with the office – I am holding an official House of Representatives folder gifted to me by the office! Just out the frame: my fellow interns telling me how to pose.

