

Molishka Heriveaux

Lely High School

Georgetown International Relations 2017

From the moment I saw the adventures of my fellow classmates participating in the Georgetown Institute the summer before, I immediately had to find out what the program was and how I could become involved. I could not comprehend having the opportunity to attend such an esteemed institution to take part in such a powerful program dealing with important topics plaguing society and the global community, but thanks to this incredibly generous scholarship, I got to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This program was truly impactful especially at such a pivotal moment in the world as a result of an unprecedented presidency and international issues such as the rise of the Islamic State and the North Korean missile crisis. Though we were discussing very serious and controversial topics, the week was filled with excitement and adventure.

On arrival to Georgetown, I was greeted by incredibly enthusiastic and helpful counselors who made us all feel like true Hoyas. At our introductory meeting, we met Professor Arend who showed his love and commitment to International Relations by his

passionate tangents on current events and animated movements around the room.

Though this course was known for being especially challenging, he was always eager to answer any of our questions and show us just how much IR is incorporated into our lives. His love of the subject influenced me to decide on an International relations career focus.

Besides the academic adventures I was embarking on, the social and cultural knowledge I was receiving was a key part of my week. From the first day, I met students from Russia, China, Colombia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, and many other countries and walks of life. Regardless of what our backgrounds were, we instantly connected and were able to have intellectual conversations regarding current and historical events, racial and gender roles, and even social media trends. These students were some of the brightest minds I had ever met and being around them revived my love of learning and my interest in the world around me. This pattern of reviving my interests was truly the common trend of the week.

Though there were many to choose from, the most memorable afternoon was our time spent at the National Mall. After an interesting meeting with Congressman Francis Rooney on Capitol Hill, which highlighted the problems the global system was

currently facing, we spent a few hours exploring the heart of D.C. Right away, we managed to get lost on our way to the Lincoln Memorial, which ended up being the best event to occur. During this time we stumbled upon The Washington Memorial and The White House. Both locations were breathtaking in their architecture and their representation. Finally they weren't just pictures in a textbook to us, but tangible symbols of the good of the international system. They showed how innovative, thought out movements could lead to incredible global change. The most impactful moments were at The Vietnam War Memorial, which despite the lively city around it, was encompassed in reverent silence. There we experienced the opposite side of the global system which could result in disastrous outcomes for many international players. This day was an enlightening introduction to the world of International Relations which taught us just how important the knowledge we were to obtain in this program was for not only our daily lives, but for the future.

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