

A Week at Georgetown

When I stepped onto campus, I was bubbling with excitement. The old brick buildings and tall cathedrals reminded me of Hogwarts, the perfect place for an adventurous week. We started by checking out our rooms (which were surprisingly spacious!) and getting to know people at a barbeque. The food was good, but the company was better. Students travel from all over the world to be a part of this program, so we were always having interesting conversations. After dinner we heard an energetic (energetic is an understatement) overview of what we would be learning about for the next week from Professor Arend. By the time I laid my head down to sleep, I was exhausted, but thrilled about the week to come.

The first day we learned about the different methods used in foreign policy. Then we took a visit to the Capitol to hear from Representative Nita Lowey and other Capitol staff. She gave us a brief look at the busy schedule of a U.S. congressman and gave us encouraging words about the future. Originally, a tour of the monuments was scheduled, but a high chance of rain called for us to return to campus early. This ended up being okay because a group of girls and I ventured off campus to try the world-renowned Georgetown cupcakes. With bellies full of sugar and happiness we explore more of M street and the campus.

We got down to business on Tuesday. We sat through interesting lectures that centered around the theme of “Promoting Order and Justice in the International System.” In one day we heard about ethics, international law, and health. Needless to say, we had a lot to discuss later over our international dinner. For international dinner night, I chose to eat Ethiopian food at a restaurant called “Das Ethiopian.” I had never had it before, so I’m glad I had the opportunity to try something new. The food was INCREDIBLE! Rather than eating with forks and knives we were given thin spongy bread to scoop the food onto. My mouth is watering just thinking about it.

Wednesday I traveled to the Delegation of the European Union. I got to hear from a staff member about Europe’s perspective. It was interesting to hear what the E.U.’s goals are and to ask the representative tough questions. After returning to campus, my counselor took us out for a team bonding experience. We went to an ice cream shop in town and got to know each other better through laughing and chatting. I made friends with Angel, a girl from Thailand, who had some hilarious stories to tell. When we returned to campus, we were treated to a concert where each of the songs was explained through their political context.

Thursday was jam-packed with lectures. We learned about terrorism, the environment, and democratization. Learning from top professors was such an eye opening experience. In such a short amount of time, these professors helped us see different perspectives and solutions to the

world's most pressing issues. At night we watched the movie Zero Dark Thirty which was riveting in the context of our discussions earlier in the day.

On Friday, we listened to talks about the present and the future. We heard about the digital revolution currently taking place. Then we learned about the past, present, and future of Russia. We wrapped up with everyone's favorite discussion with Marc Busch. He talked passionately about the future of International Relations and how we all fit into that future.

Saturday was an intense last day. We had to bring together all of the knowledge we received that week and apply it to a real life crisis simulation. In the simulation, we had to negotiate with other nations to deescalate the situation in North Korea. Our skills were really put to the test. After hours of deliberation, the simulation was put to a close which meant it was time for closing remarks from Professor Arend. Despite a long week, Professor Arend somehow maintained his lively attitude. It was sad to leave, but I was excited to go home to share everything I had learned.

A week at Georgetown exceeded my expectations. This whole experience has made me extremely excited about going off to college next year and getting to build on my knowledge of International Relations. I cannot thank the NCWA enough for giving me this opportunity; I truly got to face life outside of the Naples bubble.