



HACU

NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS OF
OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

Fall 2012 Intern Newsletter



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Stay Connected:



From the Desk of the Director

This fall, I had the privilege of welcoming sixty-five emerging leaders into the extensive network of accomplished HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) participants. Our fall interns represent the diverse talent that our nation critically needs. Our current interns hail from ten states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, and represent forty-three educational institutions. With an average GPA of 3.33, this class brought their unique perspectives and skill sets to advance the work of the federal government. I am proud of what they have accomplished in these weeks, and look forward to all that is still to come.

Upon completing the internship session, our fall interns will carry forward an important legacy. For the past twenty years, HNIP has been instrumental in creating a pipeline of public service leaders.

This was very evident at our HNIP Emerald Gala, held on October 22nd in Washington, DC. Here, I had the honor, along with the HAA Chair, Fabiana Perera, to recognize the inaugural inductee to the HACU Alumni Wall of Honor, Susie Saavedra. Ms. Saavedra embodies HNIP's commitment to service, and provides an excellent role model for our current interns.

Our Emerald Gala also featured two phenomenal alumni speakers, Lisa Pino from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Paola Marte from Deloitte. We had a rousing keynote address by U.S. Office of Personnel Management Director, John Berry. With many other high-level civil servants in attendance, it was a truly inspiring evening that won't soon be forgotten.

As we move into the holiday season and New Year, I am

Above: Fall 2012 interns attend HNIP Orientation in Washington, DC.

Below: Maria Elena Vivas-House (left) and Fabiana Perera (right) induct Susie Saavedra into the HACU Alumni Wall of Honor.



excited to see the continued vitality of this program. I encourage our current interns to become involved with our organization as members of the HACU Alumni Association, and to proudly represent the program as HNIP Ambassadors within their local communities. I look forward to an equally prosperous 2013!

With many warm wishes for the holiday season,

Maria Elena Vivas-House

Maria Elena Vivas-House
HNIP Senior Executive Director

2012 - 2013

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!

SAVE THE DATE!

11/22/12	Thanksgiving Holiday*
12/6/2012	Fall 2012 Intern Farewell
12/24 - 12/31/2012	Holiday Break*
1/1/2013	New Year's Day*
1/10/2013	Spring 2013 Session Begins
1/23/2013	HNIP Informational Webinar
2/12/2013	HNIP Informational Webinar
3/1/2013	Summer 2013 Deadline
5/31/2013	Summer 2013 Begins
6/17/2013	Quarter Summer 2013 Begins
	*HACU DC Office Closed

Below: Fall interns Phylcia Allen and Shekinah Kelly visit the U.S. Capitol.



Thank you to our Participating Fall 2012 Federal Agency Partners!

Broadcasting Board of Governors

-International Broadcasting Bureau

Library of Congress

-Copyright Office

-Office of Strategic Initiatives

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

U.S Department of Agriculture

-Agricultural Research Service

-Economic Research Service

-Forest Service

-Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program

-Natural Resources Conservation Service

-Office of the Chief Financial Officer

-Risk Management Agency

-Rural Development

U.S. Department of Commerce

-Bureau of Industry and Security

-U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

-Clinical Center

-National Institute on Drug Abuse

U.S. Department of Interior

-Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Department of Transportation

-Federal Aviation Administration

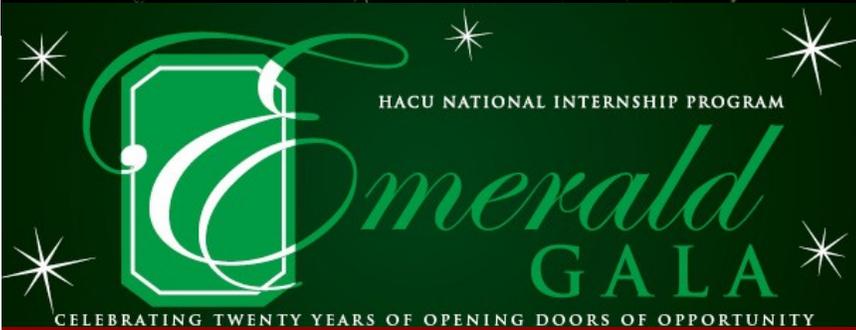
U.S. Department of Treasury

-U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

-VA Learning University

-Veterans Health Administration



Left: HACU CEO and President Dr. Flores welcomes the audience.



Right: OPM Director John Berry delivers the keynote address

On Monday, October 22nd, alumni, community leaders, and program supporters convened at the Marriot Wardman Park Hotel to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the HACU National Internship Program. This landmark occasion featured a reception hosted by MillerCoors, a dinner program, and lively dancing. HACU President and CEO, Dr. Antonio Flores, delivered welcoming remarks while the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, John Berry, gave the keynote address. Alumni were prominently featured, with an alumni emcee, two alumni speakers, and the presentation of the alumni inductee to the HACU Alumni Wall of Honor.



Star Chacon performs with the band | Interns enjoy a delicious dinner



Dr. Flores (center) with program alumni and supporters | Fall interns dress to impress | HNIP alumna Jackie Orozco emcees the event



Guests dance to music supplied by the Alumni Association | HNIP alumna Lisa Pino addresses the crowd | Current interns mix and mingle

A special thanks to our Emerald Gala sponsors for their generous support:



Enhancing My Knowledge

Suzzette Martinez, Journalism Major
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

I want to thank HACU for the opportunities it has offered me. I am now in my second internship with the U.S. Census Bureau, and have learned so much. As the Social Media and Public Affairs intern of the Center for New Media and Promotions, I play an important role in the agency's marketing and communications strategy. I am responsible for managing the analytics of the department's Twitter and Facebook accounts, as well as the different *Census.gov* blogs.



Above: Suzzette strikes a pose in front of her division office at the U.S. Census Bureau's Suitland, MD offices.

U.S. Department of Commerce - Census Bureau
Washington, DC

I work directly with the Assistant Chief of Web Content and Media to implement the Digital Transformation Project. This project will create an integrated marketing communications plan for the new *Census.gov* Mobile App. My supervisor has encouraged my growth, and even assigned me the task of writing an article for publication in the Census Bureau's magazine *Counterparts*. I was excited for this project because I had the opportunity to conduct interviews with different people within the bureau, which relates to my major.

I have been further exposed to other areas within the public affairs field. Here, I have the opportunity to work with the Senior Public Affairs Specialist and Promotions Deputy Branch Chief, where my role is to schedule the *C-SPAN* shows for every week. We meet once a week to discuss which agencies will attend the show. In addition to this project, I had the chance to work on the pre-production of an internal video that will be used at a public affairs meeting with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

If it were not for HACU, I would not be able to tell you my story. This experience has been amazing and I am grateful to the HACU National Internship Program for preparing me to succeed in my future endeavors. I highly recommend this program to any student.

Strengthening Rural Communities

Lisbeth Guarin, M.P.A. Graduate Student
University of the District of Columbia

The Office of Rural Development within the U.S. Department of Agriculture has allowed me to work on multiple projects that focus on *colonias*, which are economically distressed communities along the U.S./Mexico border. Over the past four years this department has financed the development of projects that benefit the local community, like clinics and hospitals, water and waste management systems, child care centers, and rural businesses. For example, a community in Penitas, Texas was able to build a waste water facility thanks to USDA-RD support.

I have also been developing a new webpage dedicated to the Border Capital Community Initiative. For this project I have compiled videos, articles, and guests blogs. I have even written blog posts for inclusion on the site and publication on the USDA central blog. It is very rewarding to be able to utilize my background in web development for such an important project.

On another note, this past Presidential election I volunteered with "Organizing for America" and traveled to Columbus, Ohio to increase voter turnout. I knocked on hundreds of doors and spoke with many voters. As a

USDA - Office of Rural Development
Washington, DC

reward for volunteering, we were invited to President Obama's rally. I got to see artists like Bruce Springsteen and Jay-Z perform live! The trip was so memorable and I am glad I got to be a part of it.

Throughout this session, I have met many other HACU interns. We get together for coffee or lunch and exchange stories about our internships. They have such unique academic and professional backgrounds that I hope we stay in touch. I am looking forward to finishing my Master's degree and pursuing a career in public service with a focus on U.S. energy policies. Thanks HACU!

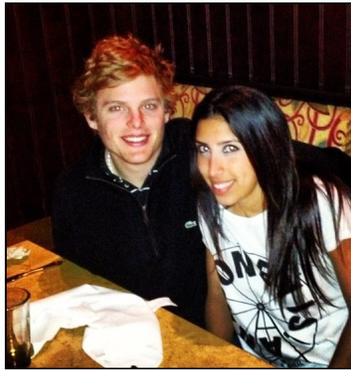


Lisbeth attends a rally for President Obama in Columbus, OH.

Spotlight on Field Interns



Daira Gonzalez (left) explores the local attractions of Alton, IL while traveling with co-workers.



Pedro Puig and Suzzette Martinez reunite in New Ellenton, SC.



Viviana Varela and Sergio De Hoyos attend Orientation in Washington, DC.

HNIP Salutes Our Student Veterans

This Veterans Day, HNIP featured five of our 2012 student veterans on our Facebook page. Here, we highlight two of our current field interns, Hanna Hong and Shekinah Kelly. To read their full stories, please visit our Facebook Notes section.



Hanna Hong
 Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
 Education: B.A. in Business Economics, University of California Riverside
 Military Branch: U.S. Army
 Term of Service: 4 years
 Internship Site: Federal Aviation Administration, Long Beach, CA



Shekinah Kelly
 Hometown: Miami, FL
 Education: B.A. in Business Technical Management, DeVry University
 Military Branch: U.S. Army
 Term of Service: 1 year
 Internship Site: U.S. Census Bureau, Philadelphia, PA.

Protecting Our Environment

Viviana Varela, Biology Major
 Inter American University of Puerto Rico

USDA - Forest Service
 Raleigh, NC

As a field intern, I have been able to explore parts of the United States that I never imagined I would ever visit. This is my second HACU internship with the USDA Forest Service and I have now had the opportunity to work in the states of Washington and North Carolina. This fall I am working at the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC) in Raleigh, NC. Here, I help develop content for forest plan revisions in the Pacific Southwest division of the National Forest System. In particular, I focus on the Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options (TACCIMO). I work with TACCIMO's developers, and have even been able to present my research on focal resources within a webinar setting.

My mentors and supervisors have been very supportive of me and have given me an excellent internship. They motivate me to step out of my comfort zone while giving me constructive criticism that is helpful to my professional growth. During my time here, I have worked to improve

my communication skills, develop my knowledge of the field, and strengthen my understanding of how to pursue a career with the USDA Forest Service.

Of course, working for the Forest Service would not be the same without having some time outside the office! I have been able to visit a few site locations in order to help research scientists with their investigations. For all of this, I am very grateful to HACU and the USDA Forest Service!



Viviana explores the local forest research sites (left) and the downtown artwork (above) in Raleigh, NC.

Out and About in Washington, DC



Lisbeth Guarin and USDA Deputy Under Secretary Judy Canales attend the HACU 26th Annual Conference.



These interns are all smiles as they await the start of a tour of the White House.



HACU interns volunteering at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) 2012 Public Policy Conference and Gala.



Enjoying a weekend outing to the National Zoo.



Delia Garcia gives valuable networking advice at the 1st Intern Meeting.



Interns participate in a community-building activity during Orientation.

My Life in DC

Phylicia Allen, M.S. in Biology
Texas State University, San Marcos

USDA - Forest Service
Washington, DC

As a Texas girl, I would have to say that ya'll East Coasts folks have taught me a lot during my time in Washington, DC. My experience as a HACU intern this fall at the USDA Forest Service's Office of Research and Development has been a huge stepping stone in my career path. This internship has given me the chance to learn relevant professional skills that will help me pursue a career in environmental science management. My main work project this semester was to organize and implement a national database of scientists' current and forthcoming projects in the department. Working on this project has allowed me to interact with experts in the field at many different levels, all the way from National Program Leaders to research scientists in the field. I even had the opportunity to do some field sampling in Baltimore for a day! When this database effort is complete it will not only aid effective communication among program leaders, but will also facilitate ongoing coordination of field work and science delivery at the national level.

Outside of the office I took advantage of numerous volunteer opportunities in the DC area. This year, the HACU 26th annual conference and HNIP 20th anniversary gala event took place in DC. As a conference volunteer, I assisted with the workshop evaluations and attended some of the conference sessions. I was also able to attend the gala and hear from many inspiring speakers and program alumni. In addition, I served as a volunteer for the 35th annual CHCI Public Policy Conference and gala. This was another opportunity to celebrate the

accomplishments of the Hispanic community and hear from established public servants, like the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair and members, and Vice President Joe Biden.

I had many "firsts" during my time in DC. For instance, this was my first time commuting on a metro system, and my first time touring landmarks like the U.S. Capitol, the Pentagon, and the White House. I will share these memories and many others with my fellow interns. Living in HACU-arranged housing provided us with a platform to form strong friendships, and I now have a network of friends and colleagues from Miami, Texas, and even Puerto Rico. Not only did I learn to live with people who I had never met before, but I began to learn Spanish as well. The phrase "you learn something new every day" was more relevant during my HACU internship than ever before. Leaving DC will be bitter-sweet. I thank HACU for allowing me to have had this amazing opportunity to grow professionally and personally. I look forward to sharing my experience with my peers back in San Antonio, TX and encourage them to join the HACU/HNIP community.



Closing Thoughts....



"I'm very glad that I had the opportunity of attending the 26th HACU Annual Conference here in DC. I took part in the job fair and different workshops where I had a chance to network and meet different students from around the US. It was a great experience that ended with good music and nice people at the HNIP Gala."

- Ivan Davila, Fall 2012 Intern at U.S. Census Bureau

"I am starting to gain more responsibility in my position. My mid-term evaluation gave me more confidence in my abilities and confidence in the work I am doing. This experience has truly begun to open doors and I'm excited to continue working hard on my projects and hopefully continue working in this office in the future."

- Matthew Casper, Fall 2012 Intern at U.S. Census Bureau



A Letter from the Fall 2012 HAA Intern Board Member, Carlos Martinez III



Greetings fellow interns,

What a semester it has been! Together we have weathered Hurricane Sandy, witnessed a heated Presidential election season, and have contributed to each of our respective federal agencies.

I want to thank you for bestowing the honor of representing you this semester. As you may already know, I moved from Texas to attend The Catholic University of America here in Washington, DC. Being far away from my home made me to want to be there for my fellow interns in any way possible.

One of the reasons I was interested in representing the Fall 2012 intern cohort was to organize an information session with the Office of Personnel Management. The event's focus was on defining important criteria related to applying to jobs via the Pathways Programs. I felt that it was part of my duty, as your representative, to provide this critical information about beginning a career in federal service. The Pathways Information Session also offered the interns the chance to ask valuable questions about how to navigate the USAJobs website for specific job opportunities that suited their academic and professional interests.

The HACU National Internship Program has provided me with so many opportunities for professional development. It is my hope to continue to remain actively engaged with the Fall 2012 cohort of interns, the HACU Alumni Board, and anyone interested in HACU. As our internship session comes to an end, I want to remind each of you about the benefits of remaining active as a HACU alum, and encouraging others to participate in HACU.

Together we can accomplish great things,

Carlos Martinez III

Meet the HACU Alumni Association Executive Board

Easy Ways to Be an Involved Alum:

- “Like” the HAA on Facebook for updates
- Join the “hacu_alumni” Yahoo Group to receive e-mail listserv messages
- E-mail alumni@hacu.net to sign up to serve as an intern mentor
- E-mail hnip@hacu.net to become an HNIP Ambassador in your community



Javier Araujo
Treasurer



Nicole Baltazar
Vice Chair for
Fundraising



Josue Barrera
Member at Large



Fabiana Perera
Chair



Not Pictured:
Carla Garcia



Virgilio Barrera
Vice Chair for
Community Affairs



Gilda Cornejo
Vice Chair for
Public Affairs



Lazaro Sandoval
Secretary