



HACU

NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

Spring 2014 Intern Newsletter



January 13—April 25, 2014



From the Desk of the Director

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I write this note on my last day at HACU. After six years at the helm of this great program, I say good-bye and thank you to all of you. Working for your success has been one of the highlights of my career. Your talent, enthusiasm and commitment are inspiring and give me hope for the future of our community and country.

I hope your experience with HNIP transformed you as much as it did me. I leave with a strengthened sense of what is important in life and with renewed energy to continue making a difference.

Always remember where you came from and never miss an opportunity to lift someone up along your journey. If you want to connect with me, you can find me on LinkedIn.

Best of luck in your future careers.

Maria Elena Vivas-House

HNIP Senior Executive Director

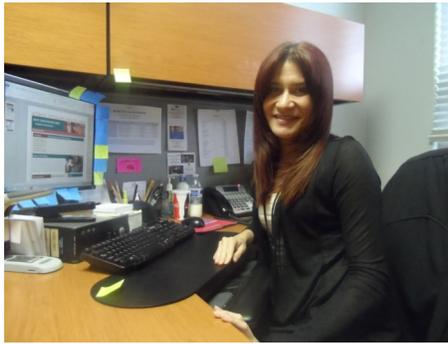
LEARNING TO LEAD

Daira Gonzalez
MA Business Administration
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Veteran's Health Administration
St. Louis Health Care System
St. Louis, MO

Being a Master's student in Business Administration, one important quality that is needed in this field is leadership. I came to the Department of Veterans Affairs St. Louis Health Care System to focus on this matter in particular. Having worked with my supervisor, the Women Veteran's Program Manager, and other members of the Executive Board before gave me the advantage to further expand my opportunities to participate in important projects and events.

During my spring 2014 internship I have been assigned to be a member of three different Committees—Asian American and Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and the Welcome Home committees. The Asian American, Pacific Islander and Hispanic Programs are part of the Special Emphasis Programs at the Department of VA. These and other additional programs were developed to create awareness of the importance of diversity in the VA's workplace. My role in these two committees is to develop ideas and create educational materials to promote their observance months. One of the educational tools I developed for the Women's History Month is now going to be integrated in every Special Emphasis Program Observances. I created table tents containing historical information about the observed group in the U.S. military and other relevant facts for veterans, visitors



and employees to read. The *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* is observed in May and *Hispanic Heritage Month* is observed in September.

The third committee I am part of is the *Welcome Home* committee. The Welcome Home event is going to take place on May 17, 2014 on the VA's premises. This annual event is dedicated to the soldiers that have returned from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation New Dawn (OND). It also welcomes veterans, service members, and their families. The VA will showcase many of its services and programs as well as services provided through its community partners, and other activities for recreation. My role in this committee is to create promotional materials for the event and the coordination of the vendor's booths.

Being a member of these committees, I have not only been able to assume a leadership role, but have also been provided with the opportunity to show that I have the skills to work successfully independently as well as in a group. It has also helped me improve my communication skills and expand my professional vocabulary. Working at the VA St. Louis Health Care System is a great opportunity, which will benefit my future career. I hope to meet and exceed my supervisor's and agency's expectations.

THE ART OF NETWORKING

Lissette Rodriguez
MA Public Administration and Non-Profit Management
University of Central Florida

Library of Congress
Office of Strategic Initiatives
Washington, D.C.

This internship with HACU as Program Support Assistant at the Library of Congress (LOC), Office of Strategic Initiatives in Washington D.C. has really been life changing for me. This opportunity came at the right time in my professional career. As a graduate student and young professional, this internship symbolized endless opportunities in the nation's capital. This was the opportunity to discover and clarify which professional path I wanted to take, whether working for a government institution or nonprofit organization as a graduate student attaining my masters in public administration and nonprofit management. I was ready to start this internship with an open mind and ready to learn.

Interning for the Library of Congress has been a great experience. Through this internship I am learning how things work on Capitol Hill and understanding further how the government works. I have enjoyed working on research assignments that have been directly asked for by Congress. I have also visited the Library of Congress Audio-Visual Conservation site in Culpeper, Virginia and went through their freezing vaults. At LOC, I have learned my way through the underground tunnels that connect the Libraries of Congress, Congressional buildings, and the U.S. Capitol by getting lost going back and forth from meetings. Along with my experience, the LOC staff and other LOC HACU interns have made the experience at the Library more enriching than it already has been.



Along with my internship, I made it a priority to attend as many networking events that related to my interests. After college I learned that education is a part of the success puzzle and the other is who you know. So I made it a point in grad school to get out of my comfort zone and learn the art of networking. While in D.C, I have attended quite a few events that range from conferences, galas, to happy hour gatherings. I found volunteering for events like galas to be a good networking tool to meet people within the organization of interest. I volunteered at the 2014 NCLR Capital Awards and 2014 Latino Student Fund Annual Gala. At these galas I met other volunteers and began to build professional relationships with the organization that have been very helpful. For this reason, when an event of interest was presented, especially within the Latino community, to meet other higher level professionals, I made sure to attend.

Overall this internship has been a spectacular experience to grow professionally and personally. I am still keeping my options open on whether to work for a government or nonprofit institution. This internship has definitely broadened my horizons and career opportunities. I look forward to the future and the opportunities that will come with the help of this internship and the contacts from being located in D.C.



Out & About in D.C...



Roommates, from left to right: Tara Flores, Rosadel Santos-Flores, Suzzette Martinez and Ruth Karkeiwicz, brave the polar vortex touring Washington, D.C.



Ileana Ruiz and Efrain Ralat outside of The White House after a tour.



Ileana Ruiz, Lissette Rodriguez and Mariapia Carbajal take a picture at the Reflecting Pool during a bike tour of D.C.

A group of interns after volunteering with the Latino Student Fund. Pictured, from left to right: Alma Diaz, Paola Jessurun, Valeria Pina Fonseca and Jaqueline Vargas.

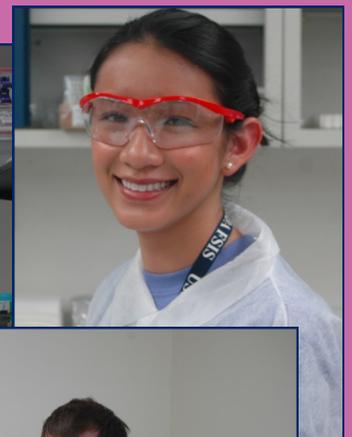


USAID interns Jose Perez and Manuel Avendano at the HACU Alumni Association Capitol Forum Reception

and across the U.S.!



Toddchelle Young, far left, and co-workers at a Planning and Review Session in Providence, RI.



Interns at the USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service Eastern Laboratories. In Atlanta, GA. Sterling Brown (left), Katarina Yi (right) and Chris Slade (bottom).



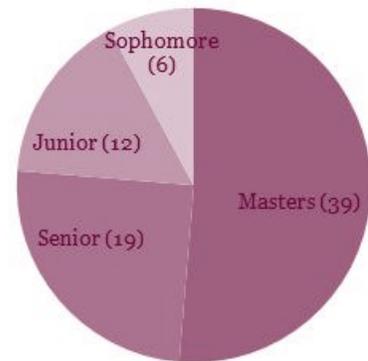
Event Calendar - Save the Date!



March 2	Fall 2014 HNIP Application Opens
April 3	Spring 2014 Intern Workshop
April 7 - 8	HACU National Capitol Forum
April 7	HAA Capitol Forum Benefit Reception
April 9	U.S. Library of Congress Tour
April 24	Spring 2013 Intern Farewell
April 25	Last day of Spring 2014 session
May 26	Memorial Day (<i>HACU Offices Closed</i>)
May 30	Summer 2014 HNIP Session Begins
June 16	Quarter Summer 2013 HNIP Session Begins

Who are the Spring 2014 Interns?

Quick stats on the current cohort:



Thank you to our partners for their continued support!

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Environmental Protection Agency

- Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Library of Congress

- Copyright Office
- Office of Strategic Initiatives

National Credit Union Administration

U.S. Agency of International Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Agricultural Management Service
- Agricultural Research Service
- Food and Nutrition Service
- Food Safety and Inspection Service
- Foreign Agriculture Services

- Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program

- Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights

- Rural Development

U.S. Department of Commerce

- Bureau of Industry and Security

- U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- National Institutes of Health

- Office of Minority Health

U.S. Department of Treasury

- Departmental Offices

- Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

- Veterans Administration Central Office

BALANCING ACT

Justin Eggleston
Economics
Howard University

National Credit Union Administration
Office of the Chief Economist
Alexandria, VA

Spring semester of 2014 has easily been my most challenging, yet most rewarding semester of school in my entire life. I have been, for the first time, balancing work and school for the past three months. Last fall I made the decision to intern at the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) through HACU. I currently work in the Office of the Chief Economist, interning with the chief economist, John Worth. This positions has allowed me to learn things that I did not learn in past internships such as using the statistical analysis program, Stata, which is an incredibly important tool for the field of economics. From completing state reports to analyzing credit union mergers and failures, I have started to feel like the emerging economist that I am slowly becoming. The experience of working two days a week, versus five days a week has been very interesting. I do feel less in touch with the culture of NCUA than I did over the summer simply because I am not here every day, but over time I decided to just make the most out of the two days. At the time that I was registering for classes last fall, I didn't realize how much of a challenge this semester would be for me.

My first week of school in the spring went pretty smoothly. I began my classes on Monday, meeting new teachers and classmates, then went to work on Tuesday and got back into the groove of the NCUA environment. Since everything was only beginning, the first couple of weeks

were fairly easy. As time went on in the semester, this proved to be a true test of my abilities. Balancing studying for tests, waking up on time to go to class or to work, giving tours on campus, completing homework, meeting with teachers and faculty, remaining attentive at work and in class, communicating with family, making music, being in a relationship, staying in shape, remembering to eat healthy, staying in good health and spending money wisely are some of the hardest things I've ever had to deal with. Though my list of items to keep up with is long, I am glad that I have the experience as a sophomore in college to figure out how to deal with it. It will only serve as a helpful experience to me in the future as life gets even harder to manage. By the grace of God, I have been able to manage my schoolwork pretty well alongside completing my given assignments at NCUA. This semester has been crazy, from the workload to weather filled with snow days and rain storms which have made it harder to get to and from school and work, but I have managed to hardly miss any days at either place, keep up with all of my work and keep a positive attitude and smile on my face through it all.



Justin in the front lobby of the NCUA ready to start work!

THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

Patricia Acosta
Communications and Public Relations
The University of Texas at El Paso

Department of Treasury
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
Washington, D.C.

My name is Patricia Acosta and I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations with a minor in graphic design. Great professors at the University of Texas at El Paso and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities had an impact in my selection for an internship. Being selected by the External Outreach of Minority Affairs at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington D.C. was a great accomplishment for me. My skills enabled me to work on the weekly newsletter for the National Diversity Intern Program and perform other tasks as assigned. I have had internship in Washington D.C. since the summer of 2010. The first two internship were at the Veterans Home Loan Guarantee Program in the public relations sections. They were during my summers of 2010 and 2011. This allowed me to travel to St. Louis to record training videos for veterans, home loan agencies and banks. They were to be kept informed of veteran's benefits regarding loans. My current internship at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the External Outreach of Minority Affairs has been ongoing since the summer of 2012.



Patricia (center) with Don Graves, Executive Director for the President's Council (left) and OCC Chief of Staff, Paul Nash (right) after a briefing

ENSURING THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH

Mario Hernandez

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration
California State University, East BayUnited States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Alameda, CA

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was founded 1862. At this time, most of the population consisted of farmers. In addition, the beef industry consisted of open grazing. The latter changed around the turn of the century when meat packing plants emerged. This can be thought of as progress. However in 1906, Upton Sinclair's book *The Jungle* shed light on some of the unsanitary practices and conditions of the meat packing industry. As a result and partly due to the book, the *Federal Meat Inspection Act* was passed. This was one step towards ensuring the protection of public health. Subsequently, in 1957 and 1970, the Poultry Products and the Egg Products Inspection Acts were passed, respectively. These acts together ensured that public health was protected and that the nation's commercial supplies of meat, poultry, and egg products are safe and wholesome. This is the mission of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) within the USDA. Further, within FSIS, the Compliance Investigations Division (CID) has the responsibility to carry out the authority of the aforementioned acts.

Today, I have the opportunity to help carry out the FSIS' mission with CID. CID's roles include conducting surveillance of facilities, investigations of violations, sampling products for pathogens, educating businesses and serving as liaisons with other local, state and federal agencies. As part of my internship experience I have learned about and performed most of these roles. I went out with investigators to conduct surveillance of facilities where I learned what requirements are necessary for the importation of meat and poultry products. On one particular occasion, I had the opportunity to assist an investigator with educating a business about a violation. On a separate occasion, I attended a trial where I got the unique experience of listening to closing arguments where I heard a summary of how an investigation unfolded over the course of several months and what key factors and pieces of evidence led up to the case. As a criminal justice student I understood the processes and procedures and it was truly unique to witness this firsthand in an actual case. In addition, I had the opportunity to work on various assignments that worked towards the goals of CID. Although I have about a month left in my internship, I am sure I have more to learn and more experience to gain. These two things are what we should always strive for. This is particularly true when presented with an opportunity to do so. For this opportunity I would like to thank HACU. It has been a rewarding experience and I have enjoyed working with my coworkers and supervisors. This opportunity has helped me focus my interests in investigations. The skills and experience I have gained are valuable and will help me towards my future endeavors. Thank you HACU!



WELCOME TO THE DELTA

Erica Gutierrez

MA Business Administration

Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi

United States Department of Agriculture
Agriculture Research Service
Stoneville, MS

When I heard that my assignment was to be at U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Services (ARS) in Stoneville, MS, I did two things. First, I researched ARS at this location to familiarize myself the research performed there; it ranged from aquaculture to plant diseases and many more that I just can't fully understand (I crunch numbers not DNA strains). I also came across a picture of the gorgeous Jamie Whitten Delta States Research Center, which increased my enthusiasm! Afterwards, I turned to my favorite search engine to explore the surrounding areas and was surprised at what I found. An article was recently published in *The Economist* about poverty and depopulation in the area which quoted the head of the Delta Regional Authority saying, "You can't out-poor the Delta." The "Mississippi Delta" is jokingly described as "poverty central of America" amongst residents and visitors. The population has decreased by about 17 percent in ten years, the education rates are very low and nearly 22



Erica takes a selfie outside the Delta Research Building

percent of residents lived below the poverty level in 2010. It was then that I realized that I was going to the poorest region in the poorest state- Welcome to the "Mississippi Delta." As a former president for my university's Golden Key chapter, I decided to apply their mission of transforming lives through academics, leadership and service to this situation. Instead of looking at this as just a challenge, I looked at it as an abundance of opportunities to make improvements! Once I got settled into the environment, I began networking to see where the needs were. After having lunch with a few co-workers, I

was presented with many volunteer opportunities. Leland Public Schools District has a program called 21st CCLC which was originally established by Congress for rural and inner-city public schools. This program provides academic enrichment opportunities to high-poverty and low-performing schools and also offers educational services to their families. This sparked my interest since it applied to all three of the tiers. My co-worker also informed me of her youth bible study classes that I could help assist with each Wednesday. Religion has become a huge part of my life recently so this is perfect.

Additionally, as the Chair of the National Women's History Month committee, I was able to network with a non-profit that we invited to come present in honor of the commemorative month. The director of Animal Relief and Rescue Foundation (ARRF) showed much persistence and passion that I felt I needed to assist her. This non-profit organization helps the numerous abandoned and neglected animals in this area by providing housing, food and medical care. The organization is run by five volunteers that all work full-time elsewhere so these animals are missing out on a lot. I've volunteered to take the animals for daily walks and also update their website. In return, they will be mentoring me on starting a non-profit since I aspire to do so. This spring, I was not only given the chance to gain valuable federal work experience but was also presented with many chances to help make a difference. Although this challenging environment could have discouraged me, I didn't let it. I focused on finding ways to assist this unfortunate area, keeping in mind that social responsibility is becoming increasingly more important in business. I've learned that opportunities surround us regardless of the environment. It's up to us to create value and I'm positive that HACU interns are already aware of this.

HACU Alumni Association

Letter from Your Spring 2013 HAA Intern Board Member, Paola Jessurun

Fellow interns:

It has been a tremendous honor to represent you as the Intern Board Member. Together we have endured a difficult winter, while striving to make a difference in each of the federal agencies.

In August 2013, I left Puerto Rico to start my first HACU internship at the Library of Congress. The experience has been life-changing. I have learned about working for the federal government, the importance of digital preservation, the work environment at the Library of Congress, and had the opportunity to work alongside amazing professionals. This internship has given me the opportunity to expand my professional career views, and has helped me put many aspects of my life into perspective. I hope that your internship experience has been equally as rewarding.

As Intern Board Member, I was able to work with the Alumni Association to plan various events, and vote on important issues of interests to the intern cohort. I assisted with the planning of the first Spring Mixer, which raised funds for various HACU Alumni Association scholarships. I also coordinated professional development events such as the hands-on resume workshop and a community service event with the Latino Student Fund helping high school students embark on the journey towards higher education. Along the way, the HNIP experience has allowed me to meet many amazing and inspiring people. More importantly, I have learned about myself and grown professionally.

I have learned that we serve an important role in promoting the interests and mission of our agencies, and that we should never underestimate our ability to make a difference. If I were to offer any advice, I would simply say that you may always ask yourself, "What can I do to make a difference today?"

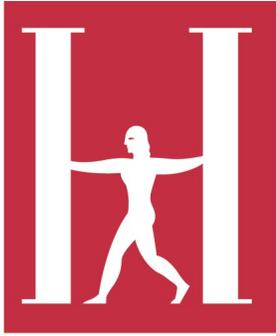
Best wishes,

Paola Jessurun



The HACU Alumni Association hosted another successful Capitol Forum Benefit Reception during the HACU Annual Capitol Forum. All the proceeds benefited the HAA Scholarship Fund.

George Coulbourne, Executive Program Office for the Library of Congress—Office of Strategic Initiatives, received the Honorary Alumni Award for his dedication and service to HACU and HNIP (right photo). Mariapia Carbajal and Javier Becerra were awarded with the HAA Shot at Grad School Scholarship to assist in the costs of applying to graduate school. Congratulations to all!



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Alumni Highlight

Edgardo Pérez, Ed.M. is an alumni of the HACU National Internship Program (HNIP). He served as an intern for the Marketing Department of the Government Services Division of the food services company, Sodexo, in 2006.

After HNIP, Edgardo earned his undergraduate degree in Communications from Marist College. He then joined Nickelodeon's Public Affairs team, where he helped connect children and families to pervasive issues—ranging from kindergarten readiness to childhood obesity prevention. Edgardo's work on education at Nickelodeon led him to the launch of a career panel tour across New York City public high schools and to become a mentor with iMentor. Subsequently, he earned a Master of Education in Prevention Science and Practice at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. While at Harvard, Edgardo also provided college counseling at the Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter School. In 2013, he served as an Education Pioneers Graduate Fellow at Achievement First Charter Schools, supporting the External Relations team with outreach and planning in Bridgeport, CT. Edgardo is now the Career Development Manager for KIPP DC's KIPP Through College team. In his role, Edgardo provides career counseling and readiness guidance to the KIPP Through College team and manages the Future Focus Internship and Career Readiness Program.



Stay Involved! Volunteer as an HNIP Alumni Ambassador in YOUR Community

Did you know many students first learn about HNIP from an alum? Now you can help spread the word to prospective interns by serving as an HNIP Alumni Ambassador on your campus, in your student organization, or within any of your personal networks.

Sign up today to represent HNIP in your community! E-mail our team at hnip@hacu.net with the subject line "HNIP Alumni Ambassador." We will send you a tool kit with resources that will help you get started!

