

## CSPC Internship Final Report

This summer I had the privilege of interning with the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress. The Center is a non-partisan think tank located in Washington D.C. that has a multifaceted and broad mission. The first component of the Center's mission is to promote leadership within both the presidency and congress in order to address current national challenges. Through this, the Center hopes to encourage leadership and cooperation beyond political affiliation in order to bridge partisan disconnects. The second component of the Center's mission is to preserve the legacy of the American presidency by identifying past successes and failures of presidential leadership. The next component of the Center's mission is to bring experts in a variety of fields together to discuss strategic policies. Because government compartmentalization has resulted in considerable inefficiencies, CSPC acts as a catalyst in opening up the conversation amongst experts outside of a government agency. The last component of the Center's mission is to inspire the next generation of leaders to employ the civility and cooperation the Center emphasizes through sponsoring the Presidential Fellows Program as well as CSPC Internships.

As an intern with CSPC, my primary responsibilities included conducting research and writing about my findings in order to support Center projects. Throughout the summer I was assigned a variety of topics to research in order to assist the Center's staff with long-term projects they sought to pursue. In addition to researching these assigned topics, I was encouraged to attend events at other think tanks around Washington and submit write-ups to the policy team at CSPC on these events. By attending these events, I was able to pursue my own interest in various policy issues, as

well as introduce potential new projects and topics for the Center to pursue by submitting short write-ups on the events.

I began the summer researching primarily the SWIFT banking crisis and cybersecurity as a whole. Because of the shift in banking from a physical to virtual domain, the Center was working on addressing the need for policy changes to address the fact that major heists today can occur without a trace of physical evidence. In researching the SWIFT crisis specifically, I became more familiar with international monetary transfers and the mechanism behind such transactions. This is a topic I was previously completely unfamiliar with, and I learned an immense amount of information about our international dependency on software like SWIFT. I also learned extensively about how international systems such as SWIFT rely on the cooperation of all countries involved, as a breach in one country's security can lead to a breach in the entire system. I worked on this project with the other interns at the Center in order to compile as much information as possible for the Center in order for them to host future roundtable discussions with cybersecurity experts.

My next major project was to research and report on Russian cybersecurity in terms of past attacks and their current capabilities. I worked on this cybersecurity project with the other interns as well, and we all were assigned different countries to research so that the Center could put together comprehensive policy suggestions for the United States' future cybersecurity aims. In this project I learned vast amounts of information about Russian cyberattacks in Estonia and Ukraine, and how these attacks have influenced the United States' defensive cybersecurity policies. Another project I worked extensively on this summer was researching the South China Sea territory debates, specifically looking into the evolving claims of different countries and how

these claims were addressed at The Hague this July. Because so many countries hold claims to different territories in the area, I worked on this project with other interns as well so as to compile comprehensive research on the topic. Later in the summer I worked on copyediting with my fellow interns to ensure that the Presidential Fellow's research papers were ready to be published in the Center's annual anthology, The Fellows Review. Because the Presidential Fellows Program falls under CSPC's mission to educate future leaders in bipartisan civility and cooperation, the Fellows Review is an important publication for the Center, and we worked diligently to ensure the papers were formatted correctly and had proper citations.

The last major project I had this summer was to bolster the social media presence of the Center by looking for quotes to tweet from their various works so as to draw attention to their publications. I worked on this with my fellow interns and drew quotes from the Center's publication titled *Triumphs and Tragedies of the Modern Presidency: 76 Case Studies in Presidential Leadership*.

Through this internship I gained considerable insight into my future career goals, most notably firsthand experience in the policymaking process. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to work in a think-tank environment, as I've always been interested in policy work but don't necessarily seek to work in the high-profile setting of a legislative office. This internship allowed me to explore policy on a broad basis, which I thoroughly enjoyed and hope to continue to pursue. I appreciated the variety of the Center's work, and aspire to work at an organization that approaches a similar range of issues. My interest in public policy was reaffirmed through my experience at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, and I hope to pursue policy work further in the years to come.