

Camille Stock

AFP Chamberlain Scholarship Winner 2018

Thank you so much for providing me the opportunity to attend the AFP's 2018 International Fundraising Conference "Resilience & Impact in the Big Easy" from April 14-17, 2018 in New Orleans, LA. While getting to the conference proved more precarious than planned with the delay, cancelling, rescheduling of my flight due to a terrible storm, and having no luggage until after I returned to Reading, I enjoyed and learned so much from the conference.

One of the first sessions I attended was "Sexual Harassment and Bullying: is the Nonprofit Sector Safe for All?" as I wanted to learn more about best practices regarding addressing the issue of sexual harassment in our field of fundraising. The one presenter I did not want to miss was Penelope Burk, and she did not disappoint with the "Donor-Centered Fundraising ...15 Years Later" session, which was standing room only. Her words of wisdom regarding fundraising practices and expectations are timeless. Other great sessions included Brian Sabers "Asking Styles" the information which I brought back to my Alvernia team, and ""Transforming Relationships by Managing Mid-level and Legacy Donors Together!"

Since networking is always a huge component of attending conferences, I did not walk away from the conference without meeting other fundraisers from the Philadelphia region and was able to enjoy their company for dinner. We have since stayed in touch, and plan on meeting up at the Planned Giving Day sponsored by the Planned Giving Society of Greater Philadelphia.

The conference ended with a fun New Orleans style party with great music and food at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas on Monday evening. Did I forget to mention how great the food and music are in New Orleans? On the day I arrived I was able to catch the end of a Jazz Music festival along the river. I also enjoyed beignets for breakfast at Café DuMond and had crawfish one evening for dinner. I walked around the Arts and Warehouse Districts for the first time and completed a speed tour of the World War II Museum.

Again, thanks for the chance to attend this conference as a Chamberlain Scholar, I thoroughly enjoyed my time in New Orleans and at the conference, and gained more knowledge about our profession as a fundraiser which I hope to share with all of you.