Introduction: Our next speaker went to Florida to visit his cousin in Panama City Beach, and he found something he didn’t expect. Vivek Kale will be giving his speech for project 8, and his speech is titled Hidden Gems.

Slide 1: I recently visited my cousin in Florida just to drive her car down that was in Illinois, and to help with some chores. It turned out to be much more.

When I arrived into Panama City Beach, we did what everyone does, and that is to drive down to the

Slide 2: Beaches

Slide 3:

We didn’t want to go where all the parties were, and just wanted to get a taste of the area, so just stopped by a beach on the side of the road, away from the parties.

Here is the picture of the beach sand, with my cousin’s feet shown.

You can see that the beach is clean, like the beach resorts in mexico.

After that, we went to pick some things up in her office building, which was in the

Slide 4: Corporate area

While we were there, we stopped at a clubhouse nearby her office room which faced Panama City Beach.

Slide 5:

This is a view of the same set of beaches we went to for the clubhouse, with the set of beaches and the surrounding area.

This managed to remind me of downtown Chicago, where there are nice beaches near Lake Shore Drive together with downtown corporate areas. /

Then we decided we needed to grab a lunch.

Slide 6: We went to a fisherman’s wharf which had food nearby.

Slide 7:

Here is a picture of the fisherman’s wharf.

The atmosphere, with fisherman yelling to people to come buy their seafood, made it feel like San Francisco’s fisherman’s wharf which I’ve become familiar with while working there for last couple of years before I moved to Champaign.

With that, we went back to do work and chores through the evening, and then started thinking of places to eat dinner.

I wanted to go where the locals go.

Slide 8:

We went and drove around to different places in the business area of Panama City Beach. After some discussion, we did what the locals seemed to do

Slide 9:

We went to Olive Garden.

It was a nice restaurant, and gave it a small-town feel, in some ways like Champaign.

Stuffed with food, we then went back home, and went to sleep.

Then, the next morning my cousin wanted to go shopping. She didn’t have a credit card, and so we had to go her bank to get money.

The nearest branch of her bank was Pensacola. We decided our goal was that we had to get that cash, and so we said let’s go! This resulted in a

Slide 10:

Scenic drive.

Slide 11:

Here are some pictures of our experiences along our way there and back, with us getting money from the bank.

Slide 12:

This trip was meant to be a business trip, but I learned that even a trip to an average city can be rewarding.

More broadly, I wanted to share with you that there are hidden gems in this country, if you go try to seek them for yourself.

A trip to visit turned out to be more rewarding than expected.