



Ambassadors  
in Sneakers



AiS 2018 – Week 3 in Alabama

July 22, 2018

## “Exploring U.S. Culture”

On our first day in Alabama, we embarked on the second part of the "Ambassadors in Sneakers" program. A few highlights of our day included an initial welcome and greetings by the Miles College administration: an introduction by Yoruba Marshall, meeting Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, and a guided tour of the campus by our fellow peers and Miles students Shantrell Sinclair & DeMarius Essex.

Ms. Marshall is the Miles College program manager for strategic initiative and Miles College “Ambassadors in Sneakers” Liaison. She had warmly greeted us to the Miles College campus. Team World also had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to our guest speakers and gain experience at our public speaking skills as we formally introduced ourselves. Meeting with Ms. Marshall provided us with a better understanding of what Miles College has to offer to us.

We also learned that Miles College is a historically black college founded in 1898. It is located in Fairfield, Alabama, six miles west of Birmingham. It is a private liberal arts institution of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Furthermore, Teresa Jefferson-Snorton is the Fifth Episcopal District Presiding Prelate and Chairman of the Miles College Board of Trustees. When we, as group representing our governments, in particular our youth councils, interacted with Bishop Snorton, we learned that the society in the US and Europe are diminishing because of the system of economy.

Meeting Bishop Snorton provided us with a better understanding of her job and what she does to better our communities as a whole. Afterward, we had a thorough campus tour of Miles College. Shantrell and DeMarius showed us the entire college campus. Team Germany were irritated by the conceptualization of the campus. They found it to be very bizarre. The architecture of the buildings and layout are entirely different compared to traditional German universities.

For example, traditional German universities are much smaller and have no football field/ fewer sports, less housing options on campus, and usually are not contained in one location. One big difference between most US colleges and a public European university is the size. Many universities in Germany have 10,000–40,000 students, while a typical US college appears to be smaller than that. German public universities are tuition-free.

In conclusion, our first official day in Birmingham/Fairfield was a great introduction to what we can expect in Alabama and of the Summer Academy.

For further information, please check:

<http://www.thecmechurch.org/bishop-teresa-e.-snorton.html>

<https://www.miles.edu/>

<https://www.miles.edu/faculty/marshall-yoruba>

**Bhavin Patel & Ray Kevin-Finger**



1 - A very warm welcome by Team USA when Team Germany arrived after 30+ hours of travel.



2 - A very warm welcome by Team USA when Team Germany arrived after 30+ hours of travel.



3 - Bishop Snorton in conversation with the Ambassadors in Sneakers.



4 - Yoruba Marshall officially welcomes us at Miles College!

Monday, July 23, 2018

## **“Setting the Civil Rights Stage”**

The Ambassadors in Sneakers began the day by meeting with Mayor Richard Arrington, the first African-American mayor of Birmingham, Alabama. Mayor Arrington is a Miles College graduate and former Dean of Miles College. He began his career as a professor at the college, being initially drawn to academics and not politics. It was later, over a decade after the Civil Rights Movement took hold in Birmingham, that he got into politics. He sought a position in government after three Miles College students convinced him to run for office. He won a seat on to the city council of Birmingham, and shortly thereafter, he was elected Mayor of Birmingham.

During his time in city government, Mayor Arrington focused his efforts on education improvements, economic growth, crime deterrence, and city unity. He created a new police department, supported minority participation, encouraged improved communication and cooperation in Birmingham across the races, and focused on creating opportunities for African-Americans. Mayor Arrington served 5 four-year terms as Mayor of Birmingham (1979-1999) --20 full years!

In recalling the historic events that swept through Birmingham in the 1960s, Mayor Arrington noted that he first began to notice real change in the racially divided city when the young people began marching and protesting. In relaying this, he very poignantly illustrated that the youth had an enormous impact in Birmingham--both as marchers set on effecting change in a racially divided city and as inspiration when he himself was encouraged to seek political office.

Mayor Arrington's is an impressive man who is very easy to admire for his contributions to Birmingham and beyond. With everything he experienced and the wisdom he holds, Mayor Arrington left us with a powerful imprint: he emphasized the power of youth, and how they were able to initiate change in Birmingham. In a sense, while telling us about the city's past, he also empowered us to realize how much influence and power our voices hold--even as teenagers.

After our talk with Mayor Arrington, the mayor traveled with us to Kelly Ingram Park and gave us a guided tour! Mayor Arrington himself helped plan the park in an effort to document its role in the Civil Rights Movement. The park first served as a central staging ground for large-scale Civil Rights demonstrations in the 1960s. This is where so many gathered, including the youth, to demand social justice and protest segregation and discrimination. The park now contains impactful and powerful sculptures showcasing the battle for Civil Rights in Birmingham. One sculpture really that stands out captures the four girls who were killed in the bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church. These innocent girls, close to my age, had their lives stolen because of their race. The 16th Street Baptist Church is just outside the park. We toured the church as well. Many of us have read about this church and its history in school, and many of us saw the “Selma” film a couple years ago; being in the actual place where innocent lives were lost, seeing and exploring the church ourselves, underscored how intensely real this all was.

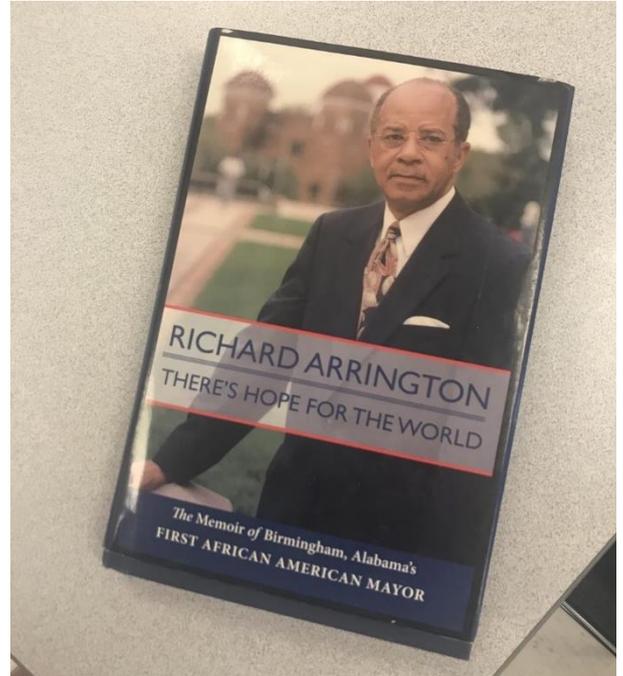
There's no smooth way to transition from Mayor Arrington, Kelly Ingram Park, and the 16th Street Baptist Church to our day's final event. So, suffice it to say we concluded our day with something completely different: we went to Walmart to give our German ambassadors a truly American experience. Walmart is pretty much omnipresent in the USA, and showing our German friends this American “institution” ended up being something simple and casual after a day of intense history. In a kind of corny way, the Walmart trip meant a lot to the American ambassadors. It

is a slice of our world, so-to-speak. We had fun showing it off to the Germans, and we enjoyed buying American snacks, clothes, makeup, and more.

### **Klara Lankford & Alexandra Gropius**



*3 - Miles College Graduate and Living Legend, Honorable Mayor Richard Arrington visited us to talk about his work as politician and civil rights advocate.*



*4 - Arrington's memoir focuses mainly on the transformation of "Magic City" Birmingham during his two-decade long tenure as its mayor.*



*5 - Mayor Arrington was so impressed with the Ambassadors in Sneakers that he decided to personally guide us through Kelly Ingram Park, which was a central stage for the Black freedom struggle in the 1960s.*



*6 - Various sculptures remind the visitors of Kelly Ingram Park of its history. The Civil Rights Campaign had a vast impact on the city and the nation.*



*7 - Mayor Arrington takes time to explain each sculpture and how powerful remembrance can be.*



*9 - The Black church is a crucial place for black communities all over the country, but specifically in the south, male pastors had the political power to demand change.*



*8 - Right across Kelly Ingram Park, is Sixteenth Baptist Church, which is infamous for the 1963 Church Bombing, where four little girls and two boys were killed. Reverend Arthur Price Jr. personally gave us a tour of the church and thoroughly explained the history of the church.*

Tuesday, July, 24, 2018

## **"Local Government in Birmingham & Voting Rights Campaign in Selma"**

For hundreds of years, black people in America were faced with constant hardships and faced unjust discrimination. This resulted in black people in America fighting against the improper treatment with what would come to be known as the Civil Rights Movement. Looking back at this extremely critical era in the history of the United States, a question comes about; What were some important events that led up to this world-renowned movement? Well on day 3 in the Ambassadors in Sneakers program we dove in depth into some of the things that shaped the society we as Americans live in today. Things ranging from a person speaking up, all the way to legislative acts, we were able to truly get an idea of what gave an entire population of people the equality they deserved.

The highlight of day 3 in the Ambassadors in Sneakers Program was that the entire group had the opportunity to watch a screening of the movie "Selma". This movie took place in 1965 and it showcased the struggles that black people in America had to face at that time. The primary struggle throughout the movie was the push for proper voting rights without restrictions. The scenes in the movie exemplified articles 19 (Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression), 20 (Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association), and 21 (The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures). These articles were expressed throughout the movie because scenes in the movie depicted people attending rallies, participating in protests, and fighting for their right to vote in all elections. The movie allowed for the participants of AiS to truly begin to piece together what people had to face in America during the Civil Rights Movement, which in turn, gave us a better understanding of human rights in general. Additionally, the AiS crew had the privilege of meeting three actresses from the movie (Jordan Rice, Mikeria Howard, and Ebony Billups), who played the roles of three of the four young girls who were killed in the 16th street Baptist Church bombing in 1963. We were able to have a deep discussion regarding human rights, and certain global issues in general with these intelligent young women, giving us a feel on how youth can view certain historical topics.

In conclusion, Ambassadors in Sneakers had a day packed with great learning experiences. Although the movie "Selma" may have been the highlight of the day, it is worth mentioning that AiS also visited the beautiful city hall building of Birmingham Alabama, where we temporarily sat through a city council meeting. In addition to that, we were also given a proclamation that instated a designated "Ambassadors in Sneakers" day. Later, we attended a worship session led by Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, where we had the pleasure of introducing AiS to hundreds of people. Day 3 was a day to remember for all the students, and we look towards the future for what lies ahead for team AiS.

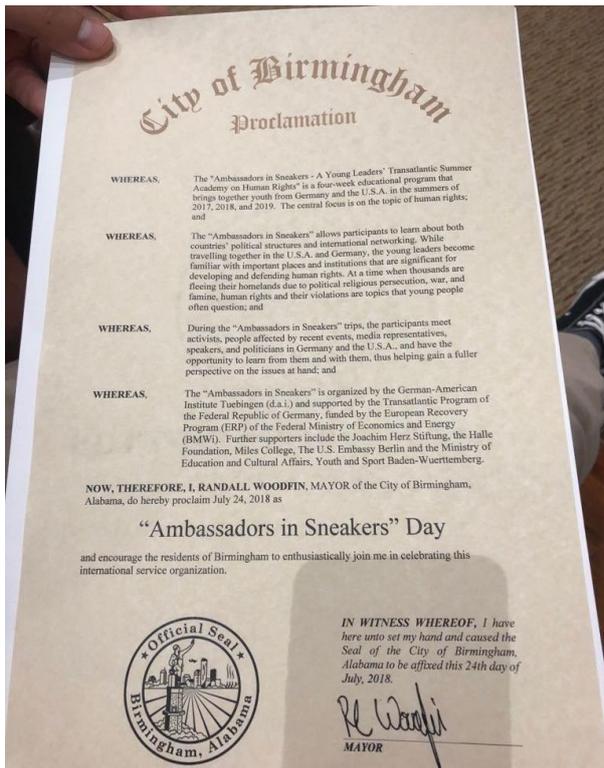
**Ivan Isaiah Olvera & Richard-Elsen Groeneveld**



13 - We were introduced by the Birmingham City Council during their meeting in the morning.



12 - A perfect photo opportunity!



10 - The City of Birmingham proclaimed July 24 as "Ambassadors in Sneakers" Day! What a wonderful honor for the work by the German-American Institute Tuebingen and all the generous sponsors of the program.



11 - We are greatly appreciative of the City of Birmingham of hosting us this year.



14 - During a conference of the CME, we had the opportunity to introduce the Summer Academy in front of an audience of 1,000 people.



15 - The Star Dome Club hosted us for a private screening of Selma, a 2014 film directed by the fantastic Ava Duvernay.



*16 - Three of the four actress were present during a Q+A session and sparked a dialog about human rights.*

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

## **"The Price for Civil and Human Rights"**

Today we had the honor to explore the horrors that Black Americans faced. We visited several museums and memorials. We traveled to the National Lynching Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. Upon entering the museum, we were bombarded with horrifying images of slavery. There was a simulation where slaves were pleading with us. As we journeyed further and further into the museum, we discovered the new slavery. After reconstruction, these new forms of oppression were born: Convict leasing and Jim Crow laws.

Jim Crow laws were redesigned Black codes. It was meant to place restrictions on Blacks to restrict them from their human rights. Though the constitution recognizes these former slaves are American and are subject to their human right, the general population was not very conducive to the change. Jim Crow included laws that restricted a black person from entering the same doors as whites. People who violated these laws were sentenced to death by lynching. Angry Mobs and members of the Ku Klux Klan would drag these innocent people from their homes, jobs, and jail and hang them.

Although sometimes these lynchings were publicized for all to see, for example, they would generally be advertised in the newspaper. Convict leasing is the process in which prisoners are forced into labor. We later visited the National Lynching Memorial. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, informally known as the National Lynching Memorial, is a national memorial to commemorate the victims of lynching in the United States to acknowledge the past of racial terrorism in the search for social justice. Founded by the Equal Justice Initiative, it opened in downtown Montgomery, Alabama on April 26, 2018.

When we visited the memorial, Elli and I felt very moved and touched. Compared to German culture, they have less memorial type areas up to this day. These historical museum excursions were very life changing for us and also provided us with more details about these tragic events. After departing the National Lynching Memorial, we left for lunch at the Dreamlands Bar-B-Que to show our German guests how authentic Southern cuisine tastes like. After a delightful meal, we depart again for Selma, Alabama where we visited the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute.

The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, established in 1991 and opened in 1993, is an American museum in Selma, Alabama which honors, chronicles, collects, archives, and displays the artifacts and testimony of the activists who participated in the events leading up to and including the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches, and passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, as well as those who worked for the African-American Voting Rights and Women's Suffrage movements. Going through this museum made us feel shocked, in our emotional feelings and touched.

Afterward, we visited the Slavery & Civil War Museum where we got a first-hand experience of the lives of slaves. We had the fantastic opportunity the experience the lives of slaves our tour guide made us feel as if we were slaves. In conclusion, day 4 of Ambassadors in Sneakers was a very eye-opening and enriching day.

For more information, please check:

<https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/>

<http://nvrmi.com/>

### Jai Shy Elizabeth & Elisabeth Jetter



18 - The National Lynching Memorial is a powerful site of remembering the racial terrorism in the United States similar to the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, Germany.



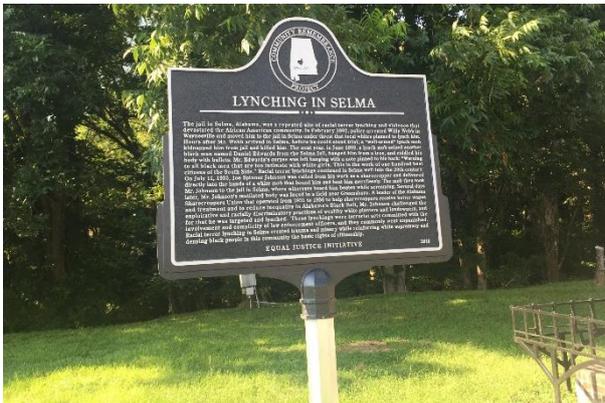
17 - The Jim Crow laws, similar to Apartheid in South Africa, segregated Blacks and Whites. The water fountains are just one of many examples of "separate, but equal".

21 - A powerful artwork we found during our full day of excursions. Depicted are African-Americans picking cotton on plantations.





22 - The Jim Crow laws, similar to Apartheid in South Africa, segregated Blacks and Whites. The water fountains are just one of many examples of "separate, but equal".



21 - The Equal Justice Initiative is responsible for signs, sites, and memorials remembering the Black freedom struggle in Montgomery and Selma.

22 - Ain't that the truth? African-Americans not only build the country, but also elected a crop of powerful politicians such as Andrew Young, John Lewis, and pictured in this art work: the 44th president, Barack Obama.



19 - The National Voting Rights Museum in Selma gave us a deeper insight to the Voting Rights Campaign leading to "Bloody Sunday" and the infamous march from Selma to Montgomery, which has been focal point of the film "Selma."



20 - Important figures of the Black freedom struggle such as Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X are depicted in this artwork.



Thursday, July 26, 2018

## “Civil Rights & Human Rights”

The most vital part of American history revolves around the discrimination and segregation of kidnapped African natives that were brought to the USA for the intentions of slavery-- the emotional, sexual, and physical atrocities that these people had to endure would lead to the ending of legal slavery while opening the door for the sharecropping system and Jim Crow to dominate the South. After traveling this far into our Human Rights excursion and scrutinizing and analyzing this heinous part of America's past; there is a question which needs to be answered-- How was it possible to escape out of that system of oppression when all odds are against you?

Today we were gifted the opportunity to travel to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, where we had an impactful guided tour. While we have been to many museums as a team, seeing pictures of the actual freedom fighters and the original artifacts was very moving, and made me reflect on my own experiences as a person of color. We discussed the people who were crucial to the limited-success of the Civil Rights Movement, and how there is much work that must be achieved before we can live in a world as the great Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, and more envisioned.

The Jim Crow system can be compared to in many aspects to slavery: no respect, lack of representation, constant fear of death, etc. Blacks were segregated from all white establishments, and this meant that Blacks way of life were always second compared to the lifestyle to Whites. This did not stop the African-American community from fighting for equality, they protested in many ways such as boycotting, (non)violent protest, legal appeal, and numerous other ways.

The Civil Right leaders fought for human rights, the idea that humans had entitled rights that they all share no matter nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. These ideas are articulated in present times as the Universal Declaration of **Human Rights** (UDHR).

A special focus today was on the first and third article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In which it says: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” and “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” Ideas like these were ignored during the US's past as people used greed and hate to ignore basic ideas of respect and dignity.

In conclusion, we had a day filled to the brim with memorable learning experiences. Although the visit of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute may have been the highlight of the day, we also visited the University of Alabama of Birmingham (UAB), where we met Dr. Tina Kempin Reuter. Dr. Reuter is the director of the Institute of Human Rights at UAB. She taught us in more depth about the Human Rights and the history. Later UAB undergraduate student Tyler Goodwin was presenting his research about disability rights that he conducted during a fellowship at the United Nations.

For more information, please check:

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute: <https://www.bcri.org/>

Institute of Human Rights at University of Alabama, Birmingham: <https://cas.uab.edu/humanrights/>

### Keylem Collier & Mika Wicher



24 - The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is right across Kelly Ingram Park and Sixteenth Baptist Church and provides a deep dive into Birmingham's history of slavery, Jim Crow, and the civil rights struggle



25 - The experience at the Civil Rights Institute was amazing thanks to our tour guide Tracy Jones, who is the Gallery Experience Manager.



27 - These are the original bars of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s jail cell, when he was arrested and wrote his well-known "Letter from Birmingham Jail".



23 - Dr. Kempin Reuter, director of the Institute of Human Rights at UAB, gave an introductory lecture on Human Rights. She really prepared us for our trip to New York City.



26 - We had a great time talking with Dr. Kempin Reuter! Thank you UAB for hosting us this afternoon.

Friday, July 27, 2018

## "German-American Partnerships and Human Rights"

Often we never really understand what's happening around us until we actually reflect on the events that have previously occurred. Our day started off with a workshop in regard to Human Rights. Felix, Weinmann, who not only is our chaperone, but also the project organizer of "Ambassadors in Sneakers," made us reflect on our own experiences with Human Rights violations.

We discussed our roles as victims, perpetrators, bystanders and healers. The task turned out to be more challenging, as we initially thought it would be way of showing in what a privileged world we live in. The violations we had been confronted with were on a much smaller scale than the prominent issues portrayed on the media.

For instance, some of us had been exposed to racial discrimination or inhumane treatment such as physical or emotional violence or bullying either as the perpetrators or the victims. Others had interfered in some situations. We came to the conclusion that the longer you are being confronted with human rights violations the bigger is the urge to interfere and help the people that are suffering.

To finish of the workshop, we were split into groups and each one could do research on a specific human rights issue and then later on present it. The outcome was striking. We learned that HIV and AIDS is directly linked to Human Rights, how war violated most Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and how people do raise awareness nowadays through trending hashtags on Social Media. It became clear, how passionate many of us had become about Human Rights and how the Academy had already changed our views and perceptions of things and most importantly showed us how we are responsible for the realization of human rights.

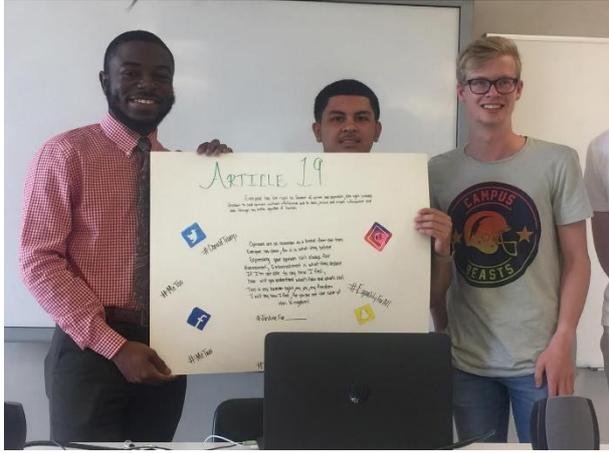
Our afternoon took another turn as we had the chance to meet the director of the "Alabama Germany Partnership", Tine Hoffmeister, and the Honorary Consul of Germany for the State of Alabama, Mr. Michael H. Johnson. It became very clear very early that the German-American and particularly the German-Alabamian relationship is of paramount importance.

Over ninety German companies have settled in Alabama and many challenges arise with incoming expats and therefore cultural differences. The main task of the "Alabama Germany Partnership" is to resolve these issues.

Furthermore, it focuses on developing and supporting relationships and friendships between organizations and individuals with ties to Alabama and Germany and to increase and improve business opportunities and foster cultural exchange. The Honorary Consul of Germany encouraged us to go abroad and learn new languages to overcome barriers and fears of the unknown. He stressed the importance of being multilingual for the reason being that by learning a language you do not merely a language but also a whole concept of a culture itself. His conclusion summarizes on of the main goals of the Academy:

*Get to know different people, because the more you know someone the harder it is to hate him, and we have enough hate in this world already.*

**Shantrell Sinclair & Clara Soekler Sanchez**



Saturday, July 28, 2018

## "Black Civil Rights in Atlanta"

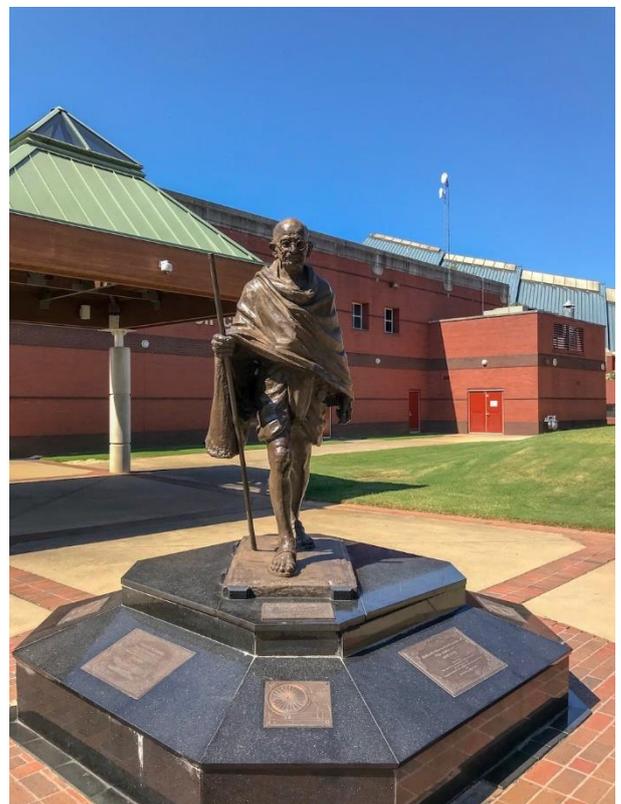
The Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park consists of several buildings in Atlanta, Georgia, including Martin Luther King Jr.'s boyhood home and the original Ebenezer Baptist Church, the church where King was baptized and both his father Martin Luther King Sr. and he were pastors. Being present at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park invokes the existence of an image that makes an imprint in your mind throughout the duration of your time there. The image takes the form of an epiphany that causes you to recollect everything that is taking place in your life. It imposes the question on whether you are living up to the example that Dr. King and everyone that participated with him on the matriculation to freedom set for us.

The mission of the King Center is to embrace Dr. King's philosophy and strategy of nonviolence to eliminate poverty, racism and violence. The King Center is a pivotal attraction that is determined to have a positive impact on the continuing struggle to fulfill his great dream for America and the world. The King Center has numerous exhibits dedicated to individuals such as Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks and Gandhi. It also has exhibitions of Dr. Martin Luther King's numerous

awards such as his Nobel Prize, Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Spingarn Medals. Mahandas K. Gandhi's life and work provided inspiration and philosophical insights that empowered Dr. King's leadership of the American Civil Rights Movement.

While there, it is impossible not to think of the mission, vision and core values that are forever present at this marvelous establishment. As Ambassadors in Sneakers, we can use the visit to the Dr. Martin Luther King National Historical Park educate and train top ourselves in the philosophy and methods of Dr. Martin Luther King's nonviolence way of life and its application to our own lives and to our institutionalized structures, philosophies, youth councils and policies. There is a different culture that surrounds you when you are in the presence of this institution. It gives you the spirit and principles of nonviolence that not only manifest themselves through you, but also it tags along you and exuberates itself in the best way known to man. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a vision of the "Beloved Community". This is knowledge that was acquired at the Dr. Martin Luther King Center. The "Beloved Community" is a social order based on peace and justice, which will eliminate violence, racism, poverty and war. This was his dream and even though I dreamt this so long ago, it still feels as if it is many, many miles away. However, it is our duty as Ambassadors in Sneakers to ensure that we bridge the gap between human rights and civil rights so that one day his legacy will continue to be a pivotal example for the generations to follow. We want to ensure that it is instilled in them so that his words and his work will never be forgotten.

#### DeMarius Essex & Daniel van Eijden



Sunday, July 29, 2018

### "Reflection of Week 3"

Over this past week we have learned a lot about the tragic past that took place in the city that once possessed the name "Bombingham." We also toured the surrounding areas of Alabama concerning the Civil Rights movement such as Selma and Montgomery. For example, just yesterday the Ambassadors and Sneakers crossed state lines to visit the city that during the same time period was considered to be an example of coexistence between racial tensions. This city, during the Civil Rights Movement, Atlanta, Georgia, proudly advertised the slogan, "The city too busy to hate." The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Bombing, "Bloody Sunday", and the marches from Selma to Montgomery are all topics we have covered extensively over this past week. Hearing of the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had on these movements made each of us eager to learn more about his lifetime and to develop a well-rounded perspective of the history during this time period making our day trip to Atlanta fulfilling and fun. Our stay at Miles College and in Birmingham has been thought provoking, inspiring, and eye opening.

Both in the context of the past and the future, human rights is a topic that each student on this trip has been able to immerse themselves in. Many of us asked ourselves before this journey what type of person would we be during this time in history? We have had the opportunity to stand on such hallowed grounds where so many people have before us in their struggle, and we pondered if we would have been perpetrators, healers, bystanders or even victims. Tough questions such as these usually lead to tough answers. During one of our workshops we reviewed the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights and situation in our own lives or in the world where each article could apply. From meeting university professors, authors, and mayors, to visiting important sites in history, this past week staying has been enlightening in a myriad of ways.

Among the many important people we have met on this journey, Bishop Teresa Snorton, former mayor Richard Arrington, and author Ethel Morgan Smith were some of them. Those three have drawn an important message for us to take home. We were inspired about how each person we met has *overcome* challenges in their lives and been leaders to others. It has been stressed to us on this half of the trip to take advantage of our right to vote. We have learned a lot about how people of color were denied their right to vote during the Jim Crow south. Upon touring the voting rights museum, we were able to view displays of foot prints of the many foot soldiers that embarked on the journey in the marches from Selma to Montgomery. Following this we walked across the Edmund Pettus bridge in memory of those marches. Because each of us are involved in youth councils where we live, we are all anxious to be more involved in our communities.

One of my favorite parts of this half of our exchange was visiting the University of Alabama at Birmingham for a lesson on human rights and their human rights program at their school. Learning about how people today interact on a global scale is interesting and I feel it really provides even more focus to the program. A lot of this exchange is about inspiration for the future of the planet as a whole and each of our lives. It was fascinating to hear about all of the possible international opportunities available to us and how we can continue to make positive changes in our environments. The Alabama Germany partnership also explained the important of these international connections and bringing people together for both the purpose of business and cultural exchange. Many of us didn't even realize how involved other countries are in our own hometowns.

As we pack and prepare our things to fly to New York City tomorrow we are eager to see skyscrapers and the Statue of Liberty among other things. After staying in the state of Alabama for almost ten days, each of us has developed our ideas about America and human rights as a whole. We look forward to the rest of our time together with open hearts and open minds.

**Courtney Fortunato & Zilan Tuna**



29 - 16th Baptist Church in Downtown Birmingham has been the site of a horrific attack on Americans. 4 young girls were killed due to a bombing.



28 - On Saturday, we had the opportunity to visit Historic Ebenezer Church, the spiritual home of the King Family in Atlanta.

30 - On Friday, during a workshop facilitated by our chaperone Felix Weinmann, we worked on different global issues and tried to find solutions and how we can make an effort.

