



Duke Human Rights Center

AT THE FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

March 2017



Duke students with Catherine Flowers and former Vice President Al Gore at the Climate and Health Meeting.

Climate and Health Meeting

In February, Catherine Flowers invited five Duke students to attend the Climate and Health Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Former Vice President Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project organized the meeting after the new administration cancelled the original conference that was to be held at the Center for Disease Control. Ms. Flowers spoke about the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations in the US, and experts from around the world presented research on the global effects of climate change on human health.

Bryce Cracknell, '18

Much of the modification in the climate change narrative may be attributed to the climate denialists. In order to convince people, the scientific community has had to find new ways to not only convince people that climate change is real but that it is a pressing problem for you, your family, and future generations. Considerable research has been conducted that show the immediate and harmful effects of climate change on one's health. This includes heat-related illness due to extreme heat, fatalities from extreme weather events, cardiovascular disease from air pollution, tropical diseases due to the change in vector ecology, allergies, water-borne diseases from water quality impacts, malnutrition from food supply impacts, and forced migration and civil conflict due to environmental degradation to name a few. "Health is the human face of climate change."

Read more →

In This Issue...

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[RightsWatch: Climate Change](#)

March 21 @ 12:00pm - 1:30pm
Smith Warehouse Bay 4

[Jennifer Scott, "Activating Marginalized Histories: Museums as Catalysts for Social Change"](#)

March 21 @ 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Rubenstein 153

[2016 WOLA-Duke Book Award Reading](#)

March 23 @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Smith Warehouse, Bay 4

Human Rights Prize



Duke undergraduates are invited to enter essays or alternative projects regarding global human rights

Interview with Catherine Flowers, FHI Practitioner-in-Residence

By Kyra Josephson, Class of 2018

KJ: How did you become interested in environmental justice? How do you view the connection between environmental justice and human rights?



CF: I have always been a lover of the natural world growing up in rural Lowndes County. As I grew up I wondered why birds and wildlife died when the crop dusters sprayed nearby crops. It also made me wonder how it impacted people. Why were certain communities impacted and others were not? And why were all of the people impacted generally poor or minorities? And should all humans have the right to clean air, clean water and live free of contamination? That is the connection between human rights and environmental justice in my view.

KJ: What are challenges that activists face and how have you overcome them?

CF: There is no simple answer to this question. The challenges faced depends on the communities and regions in which the activists are operating. However, I think it is very important to listen to and include in the solution people who are directly impacted by the problem. Be prepared for a struggle. It is never easy. Know what success looks like. There are different levels of success. Celebrate milestones. Also know that change is not a sprint but a marathon. You may never see the results of your efforts. Plant seeds that will benefit the generations to come.

[Read more](#) →

DukeImmerse: Rights and Identities

Rights & Identities in the Americas takes an interdisciplinary, integrated look at the history of human rights in the Americas. Indigenous rights are examined through the lens of language and culture, along with connections between the state, family, gender and immigration. The program examines these issues on the ground in both Durham and Mexico.



Students meet with and interview indigenous immigrant families who have settled in Durham, then visit the "feeder towns" in Mexico where these families came from and still

issues in our annual Oliver W. Koonz Human Rights Prize competition. The Duke Human Rights Center awards one \$500 prize in each category of best essay and best alternative project on a human rights theme.

[See more](#) →

Featured Video



Our February 13th panel on immigration featured Imam Abdullah Antepli (Duke Divinity School), Professor Gunther Peck (Duke University), and Ivan Almonte (Alerta Migratoria NC), moderated by Professor William Chafe (Duke University).

Student Opportunity



How do we tell compelling stories about complex historical, cultural, and social realities - great stories that stay with the audience, and even change minds? Story+ is a new 6-week summer research experience for students - undergraduate and graduate - interested in bringing academic research to life through dynamic storytelling. Undergraduates will work in small teams with graduate student mentors, in a collaborative and creative research environment. Each project will also have a client. Students will learn to conduct qualitative, humanities-based research and to communicate their research through effective storytelling techniques.

maintain close ties. This paired focus will allow students to see rights questions "at home" while at the same time linking them to transnational issues and processes.

[See more](#) →

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The Duke Human Rights Center @ the Franklin Humanities Institute brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars, staff and students to promote new understandings about global human rights issues.