



Duke Human Rights Center

AT THE FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

News and Events

2018 NC Environmental Justice Summit

By Brandon Hunter, Ph.D. Candidate in Civil & Environmental Engineering at Duke University



On October 19th and 20th, Ms. Catherine Flowers from the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise (ACRE) and members of the [ACRE-Duke Bass Connections](#) team traveled to Whitakers, NC for the 20th Annual North Carolina Environmental Justice Summit. The Summit brought people together from across North Carolina and the greater southeast region to discuss the historical context for and the current state of Environmental Justice (EJ) efforts. The summit was organized and facilitated by the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN) who defines themselves as “a coalition of community organizations and their supporters who work with low income communities and people of color to promote health and environmental equity, clean industry, safe workplaces, and fair access to all human and natural resources...”. The goals of the summit were to share unifying strategies and tactics to induce change, learn about previous and current community-led research efforts, and engage with local, state, and regional representatives.

Read the full article [here](#).

Sowers and Reapers Course Looks at Community Gardens for Environmentally Sustainable Solutions

by Giulia Riccò, Doctoral Candidate in Romance Studies

The [Bass Connections](#) class “Sowers and Reapers: Gardening in an Era of Change” is now in its eighth week of activity. As the digital coordinator and teaching assistant for the class, I have had the privilege of witnessing how ideas about climate change, environmental justice, and gardening take a unique shape through our discussions and field trips. The goal of the class is to document how community gardens in Durham, NC tackle issues of environmental justice in an increasingly gentrified area. Access to green areas, fresh food, and community spaces are however also deeply impacted by the drastic changes in climate that we have witnessed in these past decades. Our class situates itself across these



different fields of inquiry and through actively researching the reality of three local community gardens—Year Round Garden Club, The Briggs Community Garden, and the Blossom Garden Club—we show the necessary roles that gardens play in sustaining communities, both in a material and spiritual sense.

Read the full article [here](#).

Activating Duke's History: Photo Project on Instagram

In the month of November the DHRC@FHI Student Advisory Board will utilize the work and ideas of the [Activating History Report](#) to launch a photo history project on Instagram. We will be posting photos of memorials around Duke's campus, alongside a brief description of who the memorial commemorates and why this figure was chosen. We hope to raise the collective consciousness of our campus by documenting how we understand and showcase our university's history and the actors within it. Each week, look for a new picture and mini-history lesson from our team. **Please join us in our effort by sending us site recommendations or by taking photos and tagging the DHRC@FHI** (Instagram handle: duke.human.rights.center)



Video: Dr. Christopher Tinson Presents "Warring with Democracy: Black Activism and the Challenge of History"

On Tuesday, October 23rd, Dr. Christopher Tinson, winner of the 2018 Pauli Murray Book Prize in Black Intellectual History, presented the talk, "Warring with Democracy: Black Activism and the Challenge of History." Dr. Tinson is an associate professor of Africana Studies and History and Director of the African American Studies Program at Saint Louis University. Watch Dr. Tinson's full presentation [here](#).



RBG Champions Human Rights

by *Miranda Gershoni, '22 and Jair Oballe, '19*

"My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent." Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has been paving her own path since she joined the Supreme Court as the second female justice in United States history. She has been recognized for her pioneering advocacy for gender rights and equality, and continues to push for progressive politics today. Ginsburg's popularity in the 21st century among young people has earned her fame for her myriad contributions in government and bolstered her into a symbol of female empowerment in pop culture. In the highly-acclaimed documentary,



Read the full article [here](#).

Meet Human Rights Certificate Students Kristina Smith and Hannah Collins

This interview was conducted over email with **Kristina Smith**, a senior undergraduate student enrolled in the Human Rights Certificate Program, majoring in Public Policy and with a minor in Education, by Miranda Gershoni.



Why did you decide to pursue the Human Rights Certificate?

When I took the gateway course in the fall of my first year, I was really only looking for a class that would introduce me to the Public Policy major. What I found was a course that taught me about the importance of human beings. While the gateway course, Introduction to Human Rights, exposes the class to a variety of human rights issues and history, I was struck by how each issue that we looked at placed the human experience first. What I found to be true of the class, and later of the certificate, was that the world is a more just place when policies and programs actually consider the lived experiences of people.

Read the full interview with Kristina [here](#).

This interview was conducted over email with **Hannah Collins**, a senior undergraduate student enrolled in the Human Rights Certificate Program, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Economics, by Miranda Gershoni.



Why did you decide to pursue the Human Rights Certificate?

Coming from Tennessee, I had never been informed about what human rights were. I felt passionate about many problems in my own community, but I did not know how to act on them. An advisor pointed me to the human rights certificate. I took the introduction course and felt that it answered so many questions about the problems I saw growing up.

Read the full interview with Hannah [here](#).

Student Opportunities



Get out to vote: Election Day is **November 6**. This year Duke is hosting [a one-stop early voting site](#) in the Brodhead Center from October 17 through November 3. Durham County residents -- including students -- can register and cast a ballot on the same day in Room 068, which is downstairs next to the Au Bon Pain. Visit the [Duke Votes website](#) to learn more.

The Hart Fellows Program offers recent Duke graduates ten-month fellowships with organizations abroad that are facing complex social, political, and humanitarian problems. Since its inception in 1995, 97 Hart Fellows have served in 40 countries across six continents. The program is intended to help Fellows develop their own vision for ethical leadership by engaging in direct service, community-based research, and structured critical reflection. **First Hart**





PAGE 2019: Paid Summer Internships for Duke Undergraduates. Apply today to be part of a dynamic team and help create the girl effect in Appalachia! [The Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education \(PAGE\)](#)

serves girls in Madison County, North Carolina. Their mission is to inspire and empower rural girls through innovative education, so they can become leaders in a new Appalachia. 2019 Open Application begins OCTOBER 15. Priority application deadline is Thursday, NOV 15. Learn More at www.carolinapage.org. Questions? Contact Deborah Hicks-Rogoff, Founding Director and SSRI Research Scholar, at dhicks@duke.edu.

The **Civic Engagement and Social Change Certificate** is ideal for first and second year students who are particularly interested in deepening their understanding of social issues. This includes students who are new to civic engagement as well as those who have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to social change. Please contact Leslie Parkins (leslie.parkins@duke.edu) for more information.



Upcoming Human Rights Events

Human Rights in Practice: Torture Flights: NC's Role in CIA Rendition and Torture

Monday, November 12
12:30 - 1:15 PM
Duke Law School, Room 3037

Professor Jim Coleman, Duke Law School and a North Carolina Commission on the Inquiry of Torture (NCCIT) Commissioner; Dr. Christina Cowger, coordinator of North Carolina Stop Torture Now; Professor Jayne Huckerby, Duke Law School and an expert witness for, and advisor to, the NCCIT; Professor Robin Kirk, Duke University Department of Cultural Anthropology and NCCIT Commissioner; and Catherine Read, Executive Director of the NCCIT; will discuss the work of the Commission, a non-governmental and state-level inquiry into North Carolina's role in the CIA's post-9/11 rendition, detention, and interrogation program.



Rights!Camera!Action! Presents: The Uncondemned (2015)

Tuesday, November 13
7:00 PM
Smith Warehouse, Bay 4, Ahmadih Family Lecture Hall (C105)

Please join us on Tuesday, November 13th at 7 PM for The Uncondemned, which tells the gripping and world-changing story of a group of young international lawyers and activists who fought to make rape a crime of war, and the Rwandan women who came forward to testify and win justice where there had been none. Up until this point, rape had not been prosecuted as a war crime and was committed with impunity.



Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

CONNECT WITH US



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.