2016 Human Rights Summer Research

This summer, five undergraduates and three graduate students received grants to spend their summers researching Human Rights issues around the world. Each month, we will be featuring these students and their incredible work!

Rinzin Dorjee (17') traveled to Nepal, conducting a series of interviews with Tibetan refugees who had fled Tibet to escape Chinese martial law. However, any refugee arriving after 1989 was not granted citizenship, and was instead issued a refugee identity card providing limited rights. Rinzin hopes to raise awareness of this through a video and photo exhibition.

Diana Dai (17') created a network of contacts in Jordan by reaching out to Filipina migrant workers, who are often confined to domestic cooking and cleaning roles within their new country. Her interviews also include different Human Rights organizations in Jordan, which specialize in migrant labor training and rights education meetings.

Along with research, these students maintained a summer blog about their experiences, which can be found below.

Read more →
Pauli Murray Project
civil rights map

Under the leadership of Barbara Lau, director of the Pauli Murray project, a civil rights map has been created to highlight locations throughout Durham that showcase the town's historic relationship to civil and human rights. The online, interactive map is continually updated by students in Dr. Lau’s course, who research and discover narratives surrounding these monuments and markers. Click here to see the map's capabilities.

Read more ➔

New Practitioner in Residence: Catherine Flowers

We are excited for the opportunity to have Catherine Flowers at Duke from Spring to the Fall of 2017, where she will work as a Practitioner in Residence. Her work will include public lectures, discussing human rights research proposals with students, and assisting faculty invested in environmental justice initiatives.

Ms. Flowers is the Director of Environmental Justice and Civic Engagement of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary. She is the founder of the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise Community Development Corporation (ACRE) which serves the citizens of Lowndes County, one of the 10 poorest counties in Alabama's Black Belt. Ms. Flowers has been able to bring significant resources to address its many environmental and social injustices.

Catherine Flowers: Living Amongst Raw Sewage

At a recent visit to Duke, Ms. Flowers alerted students and faculty to the inhumane conditions of citizens within her hometown in Lowndes county. With large percentages of people living below the poverty line and the absurd costs of sewage systems, citizens have been straight piping their sewage onto the ground for years, escalating the situation into questions of rights, health, and the environment. To listen to her speech and the proceeding Q&A session, click below.
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.