

International Bulldawg Newsletter

June 2007

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Welcome from the Center

Aretha Jones – Cook Associate Dean and Director

I have read your evaluations from the Atlanta, Georgia trip and was pleased to see that most of you enjoyed best the visit to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change. I was glad to know that the Center provided you a better understanding of who Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was and also a better understanding of the civil rights movement in the United States. I was also encouraged by the comments that a few of you made about the Birmingham, Alabama Civil Rights Museum visit in 2006, and your comparisons to the visit of Martin Luther King Center for Social Change was helpful in bridging your understanding of the political, social and economic impact of the civil rights movement. HCDC started cultural trips more than two years ago and will continue these trips once a semester if funds are available. I have always believed that sharing history creates a better understanding of diversity. The HCDC staff has already begun exploring your ideas for future trips and possible global speakers based on the recent survey each of you completed. Thanks again for your survey participation; your comments will help us greatly as we continue to plan for activities and programs at HCDC.

Summer Atlanta trip excerpts from students

“The Holmes Cultural and Diversity Center (HCDC) organized an educational and recreational two day trip to Atlanta, Georgia from June 9-10 this month. The trip was very well planned and well coordinated by the International Student Program Coordinator and the HCDC staff. The main highlights of the trip consisted of a visit to Six Flags Park followed by a detailed tour of the Martin Luther King Center (MLKC) and his family home where MLK was brought up. A short stopover at the CNN Center and a few hours at the Atlantic station in Atlanta were also a part of this two day trip. On Saturday some students went to Six Flags while the rest went to the CNN Center and Atlantic Station. On Sunday we toured the MLK Center and had lunch in Decatur, which had a Chinese, Indian, American and Turkish restaurant. The students were given a wide variety of cuisine to choose from. The students really enjoyed all the activities carried out through the whole trip and it turned out to be a very memorable experience for all. I hope that HCDC continues to provide such educational and entertaining trips for MSU students.” *Contributed by Umbreen Iqbal & Arif Qayyum.*

“We drove off from Starkville at 6:30am on Saturday June 9, 2007 and arrived at Atlanta at noon. The first stopover was at Six Flags for interested students (mostly Indian students around 35). The rest of the students went to the hotel to check in and freshen up. This was followed by a stop at an Indian snack shop called Chat Patti, then, a stopover at CNN Center and finally, Atlantic Station. There were many attractions – the Aquarium, CNN Center, Coca-Cola center to name a few. At about 10:00pm, we returned to our hotel for a good night’s rest. Even though there were about four people per room the experience was very comfortable. Our breakfast was ideal, balanced and superb. After breakfast, we headed out to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic Site, comprising of a Museum, The Birth Home, The King Center, Freedom Walkway, and the Church. This Historic Site tells the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.; as a civil rights activist, along with other activists at that time like Rosa Parks. Visiting the historic site was like a walk down memory lane. We spent almost three hours at the MLK Center, then had lunch, and headed back for Starkville as scheduled. I found this trip not only educative, but also enriching, exciting and rewarding. Let me remark here that despite the diversity in the bus, each student’s contribution was always more than welcomed during discussions and suggestions pertaining to an idea/issue. The coordination was excellent and can be improved further for future trips. I would also like to commend our excellent driver Mr. Ron Phillips, who was exceptionally good with the steering wheel and was at the service of the students at all times. My sincere thanks to HCDC for organizing such a wonderful trip and I look forward other such trip.” *Contributed by Juliet Ndikum.*

Special Days for the Month

June 2007						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June 4 Tonga Independence Day

June 7 Norway Independence Day

**June 9-10 International student
Atlanta trip**

June 12 Philippines Independence Day

June 12 Russia Independence Day

June 17 Iceland Independence Day

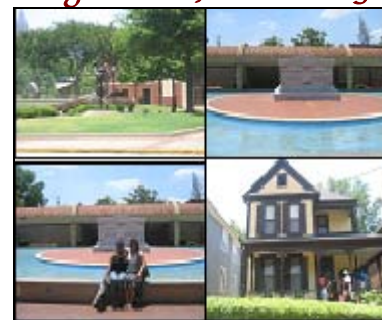
June 25 Mozambique Independence Day

June 26 Madagascar Independence Day

June 29 Seychelles Independence Day

June 30 Congo Independence Day

The King Center, Atlanta Georgia



Established in 1968 by Coretta Scott King, The King Center is the official, living memorial dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of America’s greatest nonviolent movement for justice, equality and peace.

Atlanta trip photo gallery



Russia

Russia is a country that stretches over a vast expanse of Asia and Europe. With an area of 17,075,400 km², Russia is the largest country in the world, covering almost twice the territory of the next-largest country, Canada, and has significant mineral and energy resources. Russia has the world's eighth-largest population. Formerly the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR), a republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Russia is now the Federation of Russia since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991. After the Soviet era, the area, population, and industrial production of the Soviet Union (then one of the world's two Cold War superpowers) that were located in Russia passed on to the Russian Federation. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russia went from a superpower to a great power (although it is considered to be an energy superpower). Russia is considered the Soviet Union's successor state in diplomatic matters and is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. It is also one of the five recognized nuclear weapons states and possesses the world's largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction. Russia is the leading nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a member of the G8 as well as other international organizations. (wikipedia)

Events and Announcements

May 9-10 International Student Atlanta trip

The bus got stuck outside the hotel!



What an adventure we had outside the Comfort Inn hotel at Atlanta. After we had all checked in and freshened up we headed out to CNN Center, Chat Patti Chat Shop, and Downtown Atlanta, but our bus got stuck on the exit ramp of the hotel. The police had to divert the traffic. We tried pushing the bus...all in stitches, laughing our heads off but alas it was to no avail. When all our hercules strength didn't work, we waited patiently for the tow truck to help us out of the mess. Finally we were off by 3:20 pm. As we wished the bus could fly, Ron Phillips our driver read our minds and flew the bus!



Norway

The Kingdom of Norway is a Nordic country occupying the western portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula in Europe, bordered by Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Norway has a very elongated shape; the country's extensive coastline along the North Atlantic Ocean is home to its famous fjords. The Kingdom of Norway also includes the Arctic island territories of Svalbard and Jan Mayen: Norwegian sovereignty of Svalbard is based upon the Svalbard Treaty, but this does not apply to Jan Mayen. Bouvet Island in the South Atlantic Ocean and a claim for Peter I Island in the South Pacific Ocean are also external dependencies, but these are not part of the Kingdom. Norway also claims Queen Maud Land in Antarctica where it has established the Troll permanent research station. (wikipedia)



Philippines

The Philippines is an island nation located in Southeast Asia, with Manila as its capital. It comprises 7,107 islands called the Philippine Archipelago, with a total land area of approximately 300,000 square kilometers or 116,000 square miles, making it the 72nd largest country by area. Modern day Filipinos are of Austronesian stock, although there is a minority of Filipinos with Chinese, Spanish, Mexican, American, Arab, and Indian ancestry. Through its rich history, Philippine culture has many affinities with the West, especially with Spain and Latin America due to three centuries of Spanish colonial rule. Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion, and Filipino and English are the official languages. (wikipedia)

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