

March 13th 2013



# 2013 Spring Break Service Learning Trip

## March 2-6, 2013

### Special Edition!



## Multicultural Student Center (MSC)



### Local Washington, D.C. Organizations assisted:

- *Capital Hill Ministry*
- *Washington Seminar Center*
- *Washington Parks & People*

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### Multicultural Student Center's 7th Service Learning Trip

The MSC has organized its 7<sup>th</sup> Spring Break Service Learning Trip. For the 2013 spring trip we traveled to our Nation's Capital Washington D.C. Through The Washington Seminar Center, we arranged for 8 students and two staff members to work with low-income residents of the District, and assisted in the restoration of a renounced community park.

The students stayed 4 nights at the established volunteer housing location Washington Seminar Center, located in the basement of a prominent residential neighborhood church (201 4th Street South East Washington, DC – two blocks from the Library of Congress)

In addition to the service opportunities, the group enjoyed cultural and educational visits to important government institu-

tions, museums, and major landmarks to enhance and capitalize on all D.C. had to offer. Activities included, the African Art Museum, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and the Air and Space Museum. During each visit to a museum we were given a highlights tour.

As in years past, the primary focus of this service-learning opportunity is to support student growth, development, value and appreciation of unselfish service and humanitarian giving. Through this out-of-the-classroom application of skills and knowledge, participating students accomplished a variety of objectives, as described below.

#### Learning Objectives:

**Empathy:** Understanding the plight of the less fortunate.

**Intellectual Growth:** Problem solving, understanding the needs of the

community, having the opportunity to apply knowledge they have acquired while in school.

**Self Awareness and Value Clarification:** understand their privileged situation and discern how volunteering fits with their values

**Developing Independence:** Travel and work responsibly away from the campus.

**Develop meaningful interpersonal relationships:** Increase their understanding and appreciation for diversity; learned about the history of the US and the different groups that have contributed to the welfare of this country.

**Learn to collaborate and become more socially responsible:** show the ability to solve conflict. Understand their role in building community on and off campus. Work successfully with people from different ethnic, cultural, linguistic groups.

### Capital Hill Group Ministries: <http://www.chgm.net/>

#### "Serving the Community, One Neighbor at a Time"

Celebrating community service since 1967, Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM) is an interfaith coalition of

congregations and concerned individuals united to serve the spiritual and social needs of the Capitol Hill Community, Ward 6 and beyond. CHGM

serves both low-income households – individuals, seniors, and families – and homeless families from across the District of Columbia.



### Capitol Hill Group Ministry

"Serving the Community, One Neighbor at a Time"



### Washington Parks & People:

<http://www.washingtonparks.net/>

Washington Parks & People began 22 years ago with Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park, receiving the National Park Service's highest organizational award for leading the transformation of the single most violent park in the capital region into one of its safest. They led greening initiatives across the city – massive land reclamation, native reforesta-

tion, watershed restoration, public health and fitness programming, urban agriculture, and green job training – to help revitalize once forgotten communities. Parks & People leads the Down By the Riverside Campaign at Marvin Gaye Park in the Watts Branch stream valley.

tion, and sustainable urban agriculture. The facility has already helped plant thousands of native trees across the city.



Our group of 10 was able to receive the assignment of working in the **Marvin Gaye Community Greening Center**. Parks & People has opened DC's first community nursery, as a base of green job training, native environmental restora-



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

### Washington Seminar Center Overview:

<http://washingtonseminarcenter.org/>

Washington Seminar Center (WSC) is a low-cost lodging/meeting facility for groups visiting the nation's capital with educational, social, political, and spiritual objectives in mind.

Congress, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and Smithsonian Institution.

important national and international issues, as well as mission opportunities to the needy right here on Capitol Hill.

WSC was established in 1978 as a service ministry of Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church and comprises the lower level of the church's historic 1869 building. We are located within walking distance of the U.S.

Our overnight facility, with its proximity to these famous institutions, allows youth and adult groups from across the country access to an inner-city environment that also happens to be home to our national government. With more than 1600 program participants annually, we provide opportunities for visitors to learn about



### Marcel George's Personal Reflection

Freshman, Mechanical Engineering

I truly do not regret deciding to travel with the Multi Cultural Student Center, on this service learning trip to Washington D.C. I got a chance to service the nearby homeless community by handing out crackers, fruit, and hot beverages. By the end of the day I felt like I had actually helped someone when they might have thought no one else would. They were extremely appreciative of our services

and welcomed us with open arms; not as young people thinking that we were better than them. Not only did we feed the homeless of D.C., we finished a pathway for a park named after Marvin Gaye. We layered mulch for the pathway and put out a different type of mulch to outline the shed. That was my first time actually doing community service where I fixed what needed to be fixed in

order for the community to look livelier. By Wednesday morning, which was the day we left, I felt as though it was just the beginning to future community service activities. If MSC decides to have another trip next Spring I will definitely be traveling along again.



**Jessika Thibodaux's Personal Reflection**

**Junior, Architectural Engineering**

The trip to Washington, DC was a great experience, for the second time that I visited and helped. Once again I surrendered my break in the spring to adventure the street of DC and conquer everything to my ability for me and my group. Through this trip I discovered a bit more about the homeless than my past year perspective.

Many of the homeless are now at a young age asking for a simple taste of food and comfort. It was most likely devastating in the fact that these young people didn't have anything to live for but yet again; I am not in their situation so how they deal is only real to them. I wish only if the group put more effort for an

effective change. Question is would it be possible for a change if it was only 9 of us and many of them? But just getting out there giving what we had was an increase to the joy of their day. The next day we worked hard in the Marvin Gaye community park by digging, piling, and all the dirty work to create a cleaner environment.

I really enjoyed this part of the service because of the outside labor and putting in teamwork. As we work effectively it was also good to learn the history of the park and recreational center of Marvin Gaye. I also enjoyed rooming with The Penn State group that was also helping out with community service. They

were really friendly and communicate very well with me and the group. I also was please about finally going to the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King once spoke about "The Dream". Being able to walk along the reflection pool I can hear the echoing of his voice that we must stand with a great determination; and we shall.

We also visited the African Art Museum which had many tribal artifacts and Mosaic artifacts. It was really good to experience everything that DC had offer us it was very content on how everybody act towards each other and I hope to do it again.




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Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

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*Booker T. Washington*

**Fred Douglas Webb's Personal Reflection**

**Junior, Information Technology**

While I was in D.C. I learned that I'm not alone in this world and that I'm very blessed.

No matter how hard my school gets or how hard work gets I'm still blessed to have either of them because after watching the people we served there's nothing worse than being homeless. I've

taken this experience and used it as a base to do more with my life and do less complaining because somewhere in this world someone else is wishing they had what I have.



**Museums and Attractions We Visited**

**Air and Space Museum**



**African Art Museum**



Photo from Smithsonian African Art Museum Website

**Monuments**

- MLK Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Washington Monument





The Multicultural Student Center (MSC) at North Carolina A&T State University was established in 2001 to support the educational, cultural, social and intellectual growth of the campus community about individual differences and global issues. The center supports the institutions goal to ensure that the entire campus community regardless of your individual difference is a safe and welcome environment. It serves to support the university mission to protect, educate and inform the community that North Carolina A&T State University does not discriminate based on – ethnicity, race, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender, physical ability or religion. The center will assist with the coordination and planning of special events to build awareness of and celebrate building community. All students, faculty, staff and the administration are protected as a valued member of this community. In addition, we assist the institution in developing shared goals and creating a sense of common community that serves all constituents fairly and equitably.

The MSC supports individual expression of all multicultural groups while promoting collective experiences within the A&T community. The MSC maintains an open-door policy encouraging individuals and organizations to seek us out for support.



## **Multicultural Student Center**

204 Murphy Hall  
1601 East Market St  
Phone: 336.334.7800

**Many Shades. One Aggie Pride.**