

AFRICAN STUDIES SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

WEEK 5
JULY 22-26, 2024



WELCOME TO OUR

Weekly Newsletter



Overview



As we close out towards the end of the six weeks, we covered a lot of ground. Our week began with a field trip to the Library of Congress.

Ms. Shirikiana Gerima graced our presence this week as well!

Ms. Chidi and Mr. Daquan spoke on the different political movements such as the removal of Roe V. Wade, the removing of Critical Race Theory, the Pan-African movement, and the SARS movement in Nigeria.

We ended our week with a field trip to the Ghanaian Embassy, where we met with Mr. George Kwesi Ade, an administrator at the Embassy.



In this newsletter you will find:

Latest projects, field trips, student engagement, and more. Keep Reading!



Our Field Trip to the Library of Congress

We began our Monday with a guided tour at the Library of Congress. We toured the Jefferson Building. Here, we saw a remake of the former president's original library. We also received a tour of the architectural pieces across the entire library.

We then transitioned into the Ethiopic Materials Display. Here, we received an extensive lesson on the different archival holy scriptures from Ethiopia.

Mr. Fentahun Tiruneh also spoke on the famous Italian War that took place in Ethiopia, and the different pieces of propaganda that the Italians used to demonize Ethiopians because they won the war.

Thereafter, we learned of Omar Ibn Said, an enslaved person who was fluent in Arabic and journaled his life story. Historians use his case to debunk the theory that that African people never had any culture. It debunks the "white-savior complex" used to colonize Africa. The archives at the Library of Congress were extensive.

Furthermore, we had Dr. Zeck, a musicologist who works at the library, speak on cultural music specific to Nigeria and the Caribbean Islands.

Overall, I felt the students learned so much from this experience!

Who Has the Best Jollof Rice?

X2 WORKSHOPS

Rohkeya, a student from Senegal, sparked the debate of which country has the best jollof rice. This inspired Ms. Chidi to cook traditional Nigerian Jollof rice for the class. Though a long held debate, I do agree with Ms. Chidi! It was deliciousssss!



Assata Shakur's Book Winners

Last week's lesson on Black Women in the Black Panther Party sparked a keen interest for Assata Shakur.

Dr. Wyatt was able to grab two copies of her autobiography for students. Ethan won his book by getting the highest score on a class quiz, and Jamie was gifted her copy because of her enthusiasm and engagement with her story.



Trip to the Ghanaian Embassy

WITH GEORGE KWESI ADE

Upon entering the Embassy, it felt like we were stepping on Ghanaian soil. The marble floors, the wooden stairs, the gates as we walked in, the conference rooms, they all looked very traditional!

Mr. Ade spoke on the history of Ghana. He gave us a brief introduction to the leaders, as well as the colonial ties the nation has with Britain. He also stated the best times to travel to Ghana and how to obtain a visa from the embassy.

Furthermore, we covered traditional Ghanaian names. It is custom to name their children after the day they were born. For example, if I was born on a Wednesday, my name would be Christiana Akua Biruk.

At the end, we were given Ghanaian flags. My travel plans to Ghana were cemented in that moment.



Ms. Shirikiana Aina Gerima's Visit



Ms. Shirikiana, an award-winning independent filmmaker, film educator, and owner of Sankofa Video and Bookstore and cultural center, came as this week's guest speaker. We were able to see her film "Footprints of Pan-Africanism." The purpose of this film was understand her relationship with Africa. "What was Africa to me? Why did my father give up everything to go back?" These are all questions she asked herself. The film was beautiful. The photos she used to display heroes such as Kwame Nkrumah were unseen of. It showcased how extensive her research was. What an amazing week!