

2022-2023

FIELD TRIPS & SERVICE

A forum for learning from our communities

PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK WILLIAMS

Message from the Directors

BY AARON D. COBB & LYNN STALLINGS

A generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation titled "From Civil Rights to Civic Virtue: Forming Character through Community," has enabled the Civil Rights & Civic Virtue Society to host opportunities to serve our community and to visit local Civil Rights museums and historic sites. AUM's Experiential Education and Engagement Center has co-hosted many of these events.

This booklet features brief descriptions of the field trips and service projects in 2022-2023. Both types of experiences are vital to our goals for CRCVS: active exploration of our history through trips to the area's rich resources and hands-on service to our communities. We are hopeful that experiences such as walking through the Memorial for Peace and Justice (also known as the Lynching Museum) are transformational for our AUM CRCVS community.



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Legacy Museum and the Memorial for Peace and Justice

August 26, 2022 | October 28, 2022 | March 24, 2023

The CRCVS organized three trips: the August trip for faculty and staff and the other two open to students, faculty, and staff. We also supported five additional trips so that individual faculty could take their classes. In total, 201 students, faculty, and staff visited the Legacy Museum, 170 of whom were students. AUM junior Madalyn Barfield commented, "Visiting the EJI Legacy Museum was both a powerful and educative experience for me. The first exhibit taught me more about the geographical path, history, and intensity of the African people who were enslaved than I have from any other source."



The Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration provides a distinctive and innovative retelling of the legacies of the transatlantic slave trade. Located near the Alabama River and one of the most prominent slave auction spaces in America, the Legacy Museum narrates this story through immersive design elements as it traces the legacy from enslavement to mass incarceration. The museum and memorial have received national and international recognition, including being featured in The Guardian, National Public Radio, MSNBC, and Bloomberg. The National Museum for Peace and Justice is also informally known as the Lynching Memorial and began as the EJI staff worked to document racial lynching in the American South. On six acres, the memorial incorporates sculpture, green space, and design to create a "sober, meaningful site where people can gather and reflect on America's history of racial inequality." For more, see <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org>

"My students found the trip to the EJI Legacy Museum greatly enriching; it was a profound and moving experience for them. They were able to see exhibits and hear testimony that applied directly to the readings about slavery and civil rights from the class."

DR. ERIC STERLING,
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH





"The Freedom Riders were remarkable, fearless Americans. They were extraordinary, ordinary people . . . young people who took the reins of history and wouldn't let go."

MARK SAMELS

Freedom Rides Museum

February 24, 2023 | April 14, 2023

The Freedom Rides Museum previously housed Montgomery's Greyhound Bus Station (1951-1995) where Freedom Riders were violently attacked in May 1961. The site was opened as the Freedom Rides Museum in 2011 and was recognized in 2012 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. CVCS organized two trips to the Freedom Rides Museum, which included 24 participants.

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized the Freedom Rides for the purpose of testing the 1960 Supreme Court decision *Boynton v. Virginia*, which stated that segregation of interstate transportation facilities was unconstitutional.

The 13 original Freedom Riders included seven black and six white riders, who left Washington, D.C. on May 4, 1961 for the destination of New Orleans, Louisiana. Stops became violent in South Carolina where John Lewis and two other riders were attacked as they entered the white-only waiting area. Violence also met the Freedom Riders in Anniston, Birmingham, and

Montgomery, Alabama before their arrest in Jackson, Mississippi.

The violence and arrests resulted in new Freedom Riders and rides continuing for several months until new Interstate Commerce Commission regulations prohibited segregation in fall 1961.

Most Riders were under 30 years old and had received training on nonviolent tactics. Other notable Freedom Riders include James Bevel, Stokely Carmichael, Bernard Lafayette, Diane Nash, Fred Shuttlesworth, C.T. Vivian, and James Zwerg.

The Freedom Rides Museum is a property of the Alabama Historical Commission.

For more:

<https://ahc.alabama.gov/properties/freedomrides/freedomrides.aspx>



PHOTO CREDIT: FREEDOM RIDES MUSEUM

Rosa Parks Museum

February 24, 2023 | April 14, 2023

The Rosa Parks Museum is located at the site of Mrs. Parks's December 1, 1955 arrest. On our two trips to the Rosa Parks Museum, 24 students, faculty, and staff learned more about her story. As visitors to the museum, we witnessed Mrs. Parks's arrest via video through the windows of a 1955 Montgomery City bus, listened to recordings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he encouraged Montgomery's black riders to boycott and learned about the carpools that sustained the boycott for over a year.



Rosa Parks is a Civil Rights heroine and exemplar whose story is often oversimplified. As is true of other female leaders within the Civil Rights movement, her role is backgrounded to those of the male leaders. Mrs. Parks had previously served as secretary of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and continued to work as an activist throughout her life.

“People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”

ROSA PARKS



PHOTO CREDIT: ASSOCIATED PRESS



“Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”

JOHN LEWIS
MARCH 1, 2020
SPOKE FROM ATOP THE
EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE



Selma's National Voting Rights Museum and Institute and Edmund Pettus Bridge June 29, 2023

In preparation for 2023-2024 trips, our Leadership Community of Practice, along with two Faculty Fellows and one of the first-year seminar faculty, visited Selma to see the National Voting Rights Museum and the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, and to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We found walking along that historic bridge together to be an emotional experience as it evoked famous scenes of the marches.



Selma's National Voting Rights Museum & Institute includes archives of the Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final Selma March to Montgomery, including plaster casts of footprints of many of the foot soldiers who marched.

The Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church was the starting point of the Selma to Montgomery marches and the host for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in early 1965.

The Bloody Sunday march was on March 7, 1965 and was led by Hosea Williams (SCLC) and John Lewis of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Although state troopers attacked and turned back the marchers on that day, Martin Luther King, Jr., led a successful five-day march to Alabama's capital in Montgomery on March 21st.



Shady Street Park and Trailhead

August 25, 2022 | September 30, 2022 | October 21, 2022 | November 18, 2022
| February 17, 2023 | March 10, 2023 | April 7, 2023 | June 16, 2023 | July 14, 2023

The goal of Montgomery's Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) is to reclaim land that had been a thriving Black neighborhood before the construction of I-65 bisected it in the 1960s. AUM's EEEEC has partnered with the OECD since 2020 in their initiative to develop Shady Street as a park and trailhead that respected the history of the area and the local ecology. CRCVS has co-sponsored this collaboration throughout 2022-2023 with eight trips for 115 students, faculty, and staff. Our partnership began with the physical work of clearing the three blocks of invasive species and trash. AUM volunteers have planted, weeded, built and installed bird houses. Students have recorded oral histories of former residents of the neighborhood. A graphic design student developed their logo (at right). Two graphic design faculty members included major projects with Shady Street as their client. One class designed wayfinding signs for the park and the other designed swag (t-shirts, caps). Prof. Nikhail Godhke said, "Working on apparel design for Shady Street project was immensely beneficial for my graphic design students as they gained real world client experience working with the city."



PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK WILLIAMS

"The Shady Street trips are the best! Faculty and staff always join us and we have a lot of fun out there. It's also fascinating to learn about the history of the area. The parking area and the history information sign mark an area where a school used to be located and that's cool to me!"

TAYLOR MCGILL
SOPHOMORE, PRE-NURSING





Flatwood Historic Cemeteries Clean-up

March 13, 2023

"This community didn't qualify for any type of federal or state assistance."

JANNAH BAILEY

Our February CRCVS speaker was Jannah Bailey, President and CEO of River Region United Way, who spoke passionately about the needs of Montgomery's Flatwood community, which was hit by a November 30, 2022 tornado. This community includes a number of older residents who have lived in Flatwood for all of their lives; many of whom live on a fixed income.



Although the United Way's first priorities included fulfilling housing, utilities, and basic needs for the Flatwood residents, Union Benevolent Cemetery was covered with tree trunks, limbs, and other debris. Ensuring that these sites were cleared

land that the remains of loved ones was respectfully restored was also important to area residents.

CRCVS worked with the United Way to set up a workday in March and the AUM community responded with 12 volunteers including students, faculty, and staff. We worked side-by-side with residents and others from the community to clear this historic cemetery.



