

NYSCAS STUDENTS TO SHARE EXPERIENCES ON RECENT CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR

Thirty-nine students and faculty members from New York School of Career and Applied Studies (NYSCAS) recently visited three Alabama cities—Montgomery, Selma and Tuskegee--as part of a Civil Rights Tour. The tour coincided with Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom HaShoah) on April 21.

Several students and teachers will give a presentation about their experiences on this compelling tour on Wednesday, May 6, at 2 p.m. in Room 316, on the Main Campus at 27 W. 23rd Street.

The trip was the brainchild of Jose Dunker, political science instructor at Touro College, along with Charles Mason, site director at the Main Campus, and Dr. Karen Sutton, assistant professor of history, and was arranged with the support of Dean Eva Spinelli-Sexter.

Dunker said he hopes this trip will be the first of many to bring together students from many different backgrounds and ethnicities to stress that prejudice and bigotry have no place in American society. Dr. Sutton added that the trip helped to illustrate that many in the Jewish community supported the Civil Rights Movement and many Jewish students worked in concert with African-Americans as full-time organizers and volunteers during the Civil Rights era in the 1960s. In 1964, Jewish leaders were arrested alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Florida after challenging racial segregation in public accommodations.

Key stops on the tour included:

- Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church: this national historic landmark--and the first and only pastorate of the legendary Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.--was also a center point of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Dexter Parsonage Museum: built in the 1920s, this historic house was home to Dr. King and his family from 1954 to 1960. The historic structure survived the bombing of its front porch while Dr. King's family was inside.
- Civil Rights Memorial and Center: designed by renowned sculptor Mya Lin, the memorial lists 40 people killed during the civil rights struggle.
- Rosa Parks Library & Museum: visitors heard the story of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and experienced the courageous spirit of Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old seamstress who sparked the modern Civil Rights Movement by refusing to move to a seat in the back of the bus.
- National Voting Rights Museum in Selma: located at the foot of the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge that was the scene of the "Bloody Sunday," when voting rights marchers were violently confronted by law enforcement personnel on March 7, 1965.