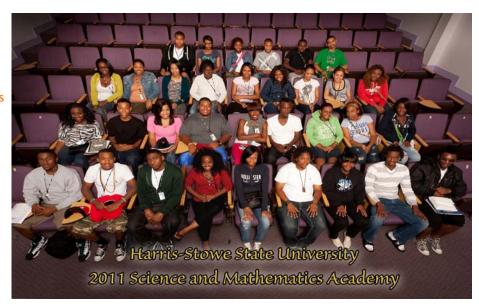


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Director's News Field Experiences: World Aquarium Urban Ecology Engineering



Greetings,

Since day one, the 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy students have been on the move. Every Friday afternoon there are new adventures for us to explore.

The students invite you to read about their journeys as they explore the treasures of the World Aquarium at City Museum; experience nature in an urban ecology tour at Forest Park and learn about fascinating research at the Saint Louis University Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology.

As the saying goes, "pictures are worth a thousand words."

Best,

Dr. Tommie Turner



Exploring the World Aquarium

On Friday, July 1, 2011, the Science and Mathematics Academy students took a field trip to the World Aquarium at the City Museum downtown. The Aquarium is a 13,500 square-foot aquatic water world located on the second floor of the museum. Students were able to get up-close and personal with more than 10,000 creatures including sharks, stingrays and seahorses in an underwater adventure.

Ashlee Coleman expressed the general feeling of the group when she said, "The experience of going and learning about the different types of animals was amazing."

Caylah Gilbert found the two-headed turtles, big sea turtles and different types of snakes to be very interesting. Some of the students expressed hesitancy about touching the animals, especially the stingrays and sharks.

Dalvin Morrow might like to return to the World Aquarium as an undergraduate researcher or intern. The sucking fish was what amazed Martika Green and Kiara Bell most. "They were like a personal manicurist—softening your calluses; cleaning your cuticles and removing the dead skin from your hands."

Additional information provided by Joshua Cunningham, Charles Kirksey, Dorothy Mure, Brandee Paster and Antwanette Randle.









Urban Ecology Tour

When the 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy students experienced an urban ecology tour at Forest Park on Friday, July 8, they discovered a part of the park they had never seen before. They learned many things about the zoo besides it being the home of hundreds, if not thousands, of plants and animals.

In addition to an introduction to the ecology of the park, the students learned about the history and the park's connection to the 1904 World's Fair. They learned about the free attractions available in the park like the Art and History Museums and the zoo exhibits and shows. There is also the zoo train, the Children's Zoo and the Muny Opera. The park rules and curfews were also explained to them.





Overall, the urban ecology tour at Forest Park was interesting, informative and fun. Additional information provided by Akeela Aziz, Ashlee Coleman, Caylah Gilbert, Martika Green, Charles Kirksey and Dorothy Mure.







Engineers of the Future

On Friday, July 15, 2011, the Science and Math Academy students visited Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology at Saint Louis University. The academy students learned about various specialties in the field of engineering, such as technical and chemical engineers. The focus of the trip was on aeronautical engineering as it relates to airplanes, including, building, repairing and flight.

In addition, Ashlee Coleman also learned that engineers are involved in developing solutions to various problems, such as finding a cure for a world-wide disease, ways to lower high blood pressure and treatments for cancers and broken bones.

Martika Green saw a wind tunnel and a laboratory that reproduces cells. Charles Kirksey expressed a future interest in engineering studies.

Caylah Gilbert provided additional information for this article.











