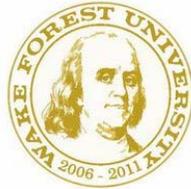


# THE BEN FRANKLIN TRANSATLANTIC FELLOWSHIP

## FELLOWS 2011

*By Ingrid Hannestad, Norway*



I was lucky to be chosen as the participant from Norway to attend Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows 2011, along with Kristian Branæs. The BFTF program offers opportunities to promote the relationship between European and American youth.

This summer, I will get an extraordinary experience. I'm really looking forward to meeting new people from all over Europe and the United States. This is a unique opportunity for me to get an insight into other cultures and learn more from other youth from different countries. It will also be interesting to experience what the universities in the United States are like. Furthermore I'm looking forward to learning more about the history of the United States. I'm also excited to tell the other participants how the Norwegian way of life is. I really think the way the Norwegian society is organized is something youth with different cultural backgrounds could learn from. I'm sure that I'll never forget this summer!

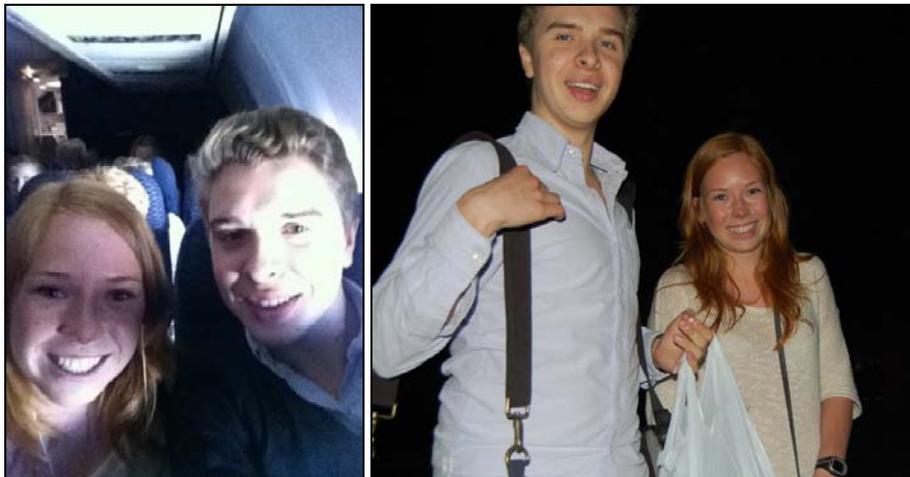


I woke up at 8 a.m. super excited! I knew that Kristian and I had a long journey in front of us, but it didn't matter – we were travelling to the US for four weeks. We met at Gardermoen and got checked in. On the plane, we found out that we didn't have seats next to each other, but we managed to change with a very nice man, so that we didn't have to be lonely at the flight over the Atlantic.

The flight only lasted for seven hours, so we were not that tired when we arrived at Newark. We were ready and exited to meet our fellow students that were taking the same flight to Greensboro. The only problem was that at the gate we were supposed to meet, there were no familiar faces. We found out that the airport had changed the gates, and we managed to miss our flight, because it left fifteen minutes early. Luckily, we were arranged another flight, two hours later. The problem was that it was to Raleigh, about an hour away from Greensboro. Fortunately, we got picked up at Kristians' soon-to-be host family. They were very kind, and even took us shopping at Wal-Mart, since our luggage was sent to Greensboro

When we arrived at Wake-Forest, it had gotten dark and it was past 11 p.m. The heat and humidity is really different from Norway. At campus, we were greeted by the mentors and leaders of BFTF. We filled in some forms and got our dorm keys. Then we went straight to bed, after meeting our roommates and travelling for about 20 hours.

It had been a long day of traveling, but I was really looking forward to the next four weeks in the US.



Today, I woke up before 6 a.m. because of my jet-lag. All of the Fellows met outside the dorms before we went to eat breakfast. It was great to meet all of them! We lived in the North Campus Apartments, which were new, and huge! I shared my apartment with three others: Minur from Turkey, Ruby from California and my roommate, Kamille from Macedonia. The downside with our location was that it took about 10 minutes to walk to the Pit (the cafeteria) and Carswell Hall (where we were going to have our classes).

After breakfast, we were divided into different groups to visit different religious communities in the area. I was assigned to go to the Protestant Church. This was not at an actual church, but at a middle school. The dress code was casual – even the minister wore jeans and a t-shirt! After the ceremony, we BFTF Fellows had a picnic in a park nearby. We played some football too, but it was almost too hot to be out in the sun. Today was a particularly hot day, with 100 degrees (37 C)! This was a great way to get to know some of the Fellows!



When we got back to campus, we had an orientation about what we were going to do the next week, and then we went to eat dinner. After dinner, we had some time before we were having a scavenger hunt. In the meantime Monet (CT) and I went for a run.

At 7 p.m. all of us gathered for a scavenger hunt. We got together in groups of five, and ran around to find places on campus and take picture. In my team, LIJAK consisted of Kristian, Lauren (CA), Alena (Slovakia) and Jonathan (NY). It lasted for two hours, and we were all really exhausted afterwards. Never the less, this was a great opportunity to get to know each other and campus better.



Today, I woke up at 6.30, because I was eating breakfast with Lauren (CA) and Monet (CT), and we were taking a run afterwards. It is a great way to get to explore campus!

At 9, all the Fellows gathered for an orientation, before our first class. I was assigned to group one, and we were having the *Comparative Constitutionalism* class with Dr. John Dinan. We looked at the American Bill of Rights, and compared the American Constitution with our own countries. It was fascinating to learn about the American constitution, and the professor was really interesting. We had lots of discussion, which is sort of different from class in Norway.



After class, all of the Fellows had lunch. We get to eat a lot of different cakes to every meal! They tasted delicious! There were many different summer camps here at Wake Forest apart from us. One camp was SuperCamp, and they were playing American football. Kristian, Lauren and I joined them! Kristian and I are not that good at American football, but it was fun to play!

Since it was Independence Day, BFTF were having a picnic and then going to a baseball game. Unfortunately, it was raining. We had the picnic inside, and went an hour later for the game. At the game, Lauren (CA), Alena (Slovakia), Kristian, Jonathan (NY) and I went to the V.I.P. section, where there was a roof. The game was supposed to start at 7 p.m., but didn't start until 8.40 because of the rain delay. They actually don't play baseball when it's raining! At first, it was fun to watch, but three hours of baseball can be a bit uninteresting. Instead of watching the entire game, we went to the Merry-go-round, with all the kids. After the game, there were fireworks! This was, after all, a really American celebration of Independence Day!



## Classes and Documentary

**07.05.2011**

Today, my first class was *Comparative Constitutionalism*. We debated whether or not the US Constitution is a good model for emerging democracies or not. We were divided into three groups: the affirmative team (for), the Negative team (against) and the Judges. I was at the Affirmative team, which I thought was a very useful experience, since I had to stand in front of the class and debate my group's arguments in favor of the constitution.



My next class was *Citizenship and Conflicts* with Dr. Alessandra Beasley von Burg. We spent the time introducing ourselves and our countries position in Europe and the EU. We used examples from our own countries, and had a talk about why Norway and Switzerland is not part of the EU and why we don't want to be it either. After class, we went to dinner, and then some of us played a soccer game.

In the evening, all the Fellows watched a documentary about the suffering people in Haiti before, during and after the earthquake. The people of Haiti are extremely poor, and many children have worms in their stomach. Just a few hundred thousand dollars is enough to deworm them. The documentary was touching and made me realize what a good life people in Norway have.

## Classes and BBQ

**07.06.2011**

This morning, I went to the gym with Lauren. Then we went for an orientation, and after that my group finished the *Citizenship and Conflicts* class. Today, it was truly interesting. We got divided into four different countries – North, South, East and West. I was the president of the North, which was the poorest country, with no resources and an authoritarian regime. In my group were also Goncalo (Portugal), Jonathan (NY), Evilenia (Greece) and Richard (Belgium). First, we had to make a policy and introduce our country. The task was then to decide if we wanted to form Unions, make war or other agreements and



treaties with the other countries. Since we were the poorest country, without democracy, this was quite a task, but we actually managed to make the best agreements.



After the class, it was time for lunch. Then, Lauren and I went to explore the campus stores for the first time! It was fun to look at all the stuff with the WFU logo on it.

After lunch I started the *Documentary Theory and Practice* class with Jon Bougher. We watched a lot of short documentaries and discussed them. It's fun to listen to different views from across the world. Jon Bougher taught us the history of documentary films, how they were and are made and used as propaganda.

In the evening, there was a BBQ with other students at campus. There wasn't that many of them, but I had a great time! After the BBQ, we watched a documentary on Islam after 9/11 Saman Piracha. This documentary made an intense debate regarding religion with viewpoints and mindsets from more than 40 countries.

## **Classes and International Dinner**

**07.07.2011**

Today, Lauren, Hedda (Sweden) and I went to the gym at 7 a.m. Then we did as every morning – went to the orientation and our first class, the *Documentary Theory and Practice* class. We watched a lot of clips from different documentaries, among one about the propaganda in Germany during WW2 and one about the Iraq War. These clips caused a lot of discussion, and the three hours felt like a few minutes.

After class, we had lunch, and then our next and last class started. It was the *Social Movement* class, and Dr. Nate French was fun to listen to. We learned about social movements in the US, and the Civil Movement took a big part of this class. Today, the class only lasted for two hours, since I was cooking at the International Dinner this evening and leaving at 4 p.m.

At International Dinner, I made *sveler* with *brunost*. I had never tried the recipe with the American measurements and ingredients before, but it was fun to cook with the other Fellows. I think this was a great and important experience, because I got to cooperate with people from different cultures. My sveler actually turned out to be a success! I really enjoyed the food from all over the world.



## **Last class and Shopping!!!**

**07.08.2011**

Today, Lauren, Kristian and I went to have breakfast and then to the gym. We had our daily orientation, where we got some information about the trip to Philadelphia. Then, we went to our last class here at Wake-Forest. This week had really passed by fast!

Today, I had lunch with a professor in chemistry. It was interesting to listen to what she had to say about the education here at Wake-Forest. When we get back from our field trip next week, I think I'm going to have a faculty lunch with one of the professors at Medical School. I am really looking forward to what he/she has to say!

We had another orientation after lunch. Then we got together in the groups we were assigned to, in the Department of State tour and in our labs the last two weeks. I am in the climate change group. We started discussing the questions we are going to ask. I truly got many new perspectives!



Then, it was finally time to go to the MALL!!! Hedda (Sweden) and I were a bit excited, but we only had two hours, so we had to choose our stores wisely. At the mall, you had to be above 18 to walk alone or have a chaperone that was above 21. Hedda, who unfortunately was 17, walked with me. When the mall police came, we were lucky to find one of the mentors...

Back at campus, Hedda, Jonathan (NY), Chris (NJ) and I played card games until we had to go to bed. We are all looking forward to an eight hour bus ride tomorrow...

## **Off to Philadelphia**

**07.09.2011**

Today, we were leaving from Wake-Forest at 8.30. Therefore, Hedda, Hassan (CA) and I got up at 6 a.m. to get a quick work-out. We almost missed breakfast!

We were told that the bus ride to Philadelphia was supposed to take seven hours. Eleven hours after we started, we were there, though...

All the Fellows were really happy arriving in Philadelphia, because our hotel was beautiful! After we had unpacked our luggage, Lauren, Hedda, Alena, Kristian and I went to a lovely restaurant called *The Parc*. After our dinner, we went to explore some parts of the city, and then went to our hotel, excited for tomorrow.



This morning, Hassan (CA) and I took walk to the Independence Hall, and we even saw the Liberty Bell. Unfortunately, the Independence Hall was under renovation, so we couldn't see the tower of it. We were also going to go inside the Independence Hall later this afternoon, with all the Fellows.



When we got to the Independence Hall later this morning, we actually got to go inside on a short tour. The Independence Hall is where the Declaration of Independence was signed and where the Constitution was debated and signed in 1776. After the tour inside the Independence Hall, we all went to see the Liberty Bell. It was former placed in the Independence Hall and is a symbol of freedom.

After this, Lauren and I went to a really cute and cozy restaurant which reminded me of Norway, because it had wooden walls and antlers. I even ate salmon! Then we went for a little shopping, before all the Fellows were meeting at the American Philosophical Society. At the American Philosophical Society, they promote useful knowledge that is more than 250 years old, through excellence in research, meetings, library resources and publications. The American Philosophical Society is the country's first learned society. It was moving to read the newspapers from the 1740's, where there were classifieds for slaves and runaway slaves.

Between the American Philosophical Society and dinner, there was a little time for shopping. For dinner, Hedda, Lauren, Kristian, Hassan, Jonathan and I got dressed up and went to R2L, a supposedly fancy restaurant, located on the 37<sup>th</sup> floor of the Two Liberty Place. Our expectations were high, but unfortunately, the food didn't meet them. The view though was great!



We started our last day in Philadelphia by taking the bus to the *National Constitution Center*. This is a museum which brings the U.S. Constitution to life. First, we watched a live performance by one man who went through the history of the freedom in the U.S. Then, we walked through the exhibitions, and got to learn a lot about the Constitution. All of the Fellows were wearing the orange BFTF T-shirts, so we all looked the same!



Then, we boarded the bus for D.C. It was a great feeling to get off the bus at Washington University! Since I have lived in McLean (15 minutes away from D.C.), I felt like “home”. After staying at the pleasant Radisson Hotel in Philadelphia, the dorms at WU were not too impressive.

Later that night, Lauren, Hedda, Jonathan, Ruger (Netherlands), Kristian and I went to Georgetown. Georgetown is like an old neighborhood of D.C., with its cobblestone streets. It is an energetic community with chic and fashionable shops and restaurants. We went to check out some of the stores, before we went to a cozy Italian restaurant. Georgetown has a very famous cupcake store, called Georgetown Cupcake. The line was almost 100 meters, so only Lauren and Kristian was patient enough to wait in line during a little rainstorm. We met them in our dorms later that night, and those cupcakes are the best I have ever tasted!

<http://delleicious.blogspot.com/2009/10/georgetown-cupcake-shops-nationwide.html>



Today, all of the Fellows walked to the Department of State. The Department of state is responsible for international relations of the US. First, we got an introduction at the State Department, and then we were divided into the groups we worked in at Wake Forest. The different groups got a tour to see the Department of State, followed by a discussion with our topic. My group, the *Environment and Sustainability* group, had a very interesting discussion about how the U.S. is facing the climate change problems.



After the Department of State, I got picked up by my old neighbors from McLean, Janet and Kees. McLean is located 15 minutes away from D.C., and this afternoon we had free time to do what we wanted. I went to their house and to see McLean again. It had been five years since I last saw them, so it was great to spend the rest of my day with my American “grandparents”.



## **D.C. - Georgetown**

**07.13.2011**

This morning, we took the bus to *The Washington Centre*, an educational center in D.C. They prepare young people for leadership and promote civil participation. We were going to listen to speakers here every morning of the next three days. Our first speaker was from the *United Nations*. It was William Davis, the director of the UN Information Center. His speech about how the UN is helping others was intriguing. The next speaker was Folabi Olagbaju from *Amnesty International*. He told us about how they are promoting human rights. And of course there was a lot of time to questions!

After the Washington Centre, all of us took the bus to the *Newseum*. Lauren, Kristian and I had a tour at Georgetown University later that afternoon, so we could only stay at the Newseum for an hour. I wish we could have stayed longer, because this museum showed five centuries of news history. What I got to see really caught my interest.

Georgetown University is one of the world's leading academic and research institutions, located on the hilltop of Georgetown. It was established 1789, and is one of the oldest universities in the U.S. It was interesting to get the introduction and tour around campus.

In Georgetown, we had bought more than a dozen cupcakes at Georgetown Cupcake. When I came back, Lauren and I hosted a small cupcake party in the dorms. These cupcakes are delightful!



## **The last night in D.C.**

**07.14.2011**

We also went to The Washington Centre this morning. Today, our speakers were from *The World Bank*, the *Climate Institute*, and the *International Monetary Fund*. They spoke about their institutions, and it was interesting to listen to all of them.

As a tradition, some of us decided to go to a fancy restaurant at our last day of D.C. too. Lauren had found a great Italian restaurant 30 minutes away from our dorms, so we dressed up and walked over. On our way, we passed the White House and had to take some pictures in front of it. The Restaurant was really nice and the food was great! We even got our own private section!



## **DC day 4 and Williamsburg**

**07.15.2011**



This was our last morning in The Washington Centre. The speakers today were from *IREX*, an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and programs to promote positive lasting change globally, and *NED* (National Endowment for Democracy), which is dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions worldwide.

We drove to our hotel in Williamsburg after the Washington Centre. The bus ride took six hours, but I had started to enjoy the long rides with all my new friends. When we were almost there, we passed an Outlet Mall. Therefore, most of us decided to go shopping. The mall closed at nine, so we only had 1,5 hours.

Our hotel, a Holiday Inn, had an outdoor and an indoor pool. In the evening, many of the Fellows decided to go for a swim. Now, we all were ready for Busch Gardens!

## **Busch Gardens + Host Families**

**07.16.2011**

Today was the day for fun – we were going to Busch Gardens. Busch Gardens is a huge amusement park in Williamsburg. The theme of the park is different countries in Europe. Unfortunately, Norway was not there. We only had four hours in the park, so Hedda, Lauren and I ran around so we could do all the rides we wanted to.



The four hours passed by really quickly, but we had a great time. The bus ride back to Wake Forest was fun, because we were all very excited to meet our host families.

## **Host Family**

**07.17.2011**

This was the first day with our host family. I was staying with Miriam from Croatia and we EVEN got our own bedroom and bathroom. Our host family, Ron and Merle, was an older couple, and they lived in a very nice house. They were very nice, and did everything they could to make us happy.

Today was Sunday, and we were going to church. Ron and Merle is attending a protestant church, so the ceremony was almost the same as in Norway. When the ceremony was finished, Miriam and I attended a class, which was something we never had done before.

After church, Ron and Merle took us to their country club, and we had a delicious brunch. Back at their house, we were supposed to take a nap and relax. Instead, I unpacked my suitcase and went for a walk in the neighborhood, which was a nice way to get to know the area I was staying in for that week.



## **Back to campus**

**07.18.2011**

It had been a “long” time since I had been with the Fellows, so when we met this morning, everyone hugged. These two weeks, we were going to work on civil engagement. I was in Environmental group, and this morning we had an introduction about what we were going to do for the next two weeks, followed by lots of discussions on how we can help change the environment to the better.

This evening, Merle took Miriam and me to go see the new Harry Potter movie together with Lauren, Alena, Rutger (Netherlands), Bersant (Kosovo), Jonathan and Alex. I am not that into Harry Potter, but I am clearly alone on that one! For many, Harry Potter has followed their childhood, and this last movie was like an ending of it.

## **My first house**

**07.19.2011**

Today, I built my first house! It was a part of the Habitat for Humanity organization. They are a nonprofit Christian organization, which builds simple and decent houses through volunteer labor and donations. I spent my five and a half hours on the roof, putting on shingles. It was fun, but the sun and 100 degrees made it exhausting. In our lunch break, I even met a Norwegian guy my age, who was volunteering!



This evening, Ron and Merle took us to dinner with their friends. They had twins who were 18, just like Miriam and me. It was great food, and the twins were interesting to talk with. We even exchanged numbers and planned to meet later if it would work out.

## **Animals?**

**07.20.2011**

I was excited for today, since the Environmental group was going to visit the Forsyth Humane Society (animal protection organization). We spent our morning preparing for the Humane Society, and had interesting discussions about animal rights and animal testing.

In the afternoon, we found out that the woman who was going to give us an orientation at the Humane Society was sick, so the trip to the shelter was canceled. Instead, we wrote letters to the Senator of North Carolina, Kay Hagan. Amanda, our mentor, encouraged us to write about what we find important and what we think North Carolina should improve, so I wrote my letter about how North Carolina has cut down on the education.

Ron and Merle had planned a dinner at a restaurant with a group of friends this evening. Miriam and I joined them, and we had dessert at “home” after.

## Debate and Concert

07.21.2011



This day, I had no civic engagement activities. Instead, my group had a fascinating debate with the Poverty. The question was if developing countries should be burdened with environmental regulations. I had the Constructive Speech with Catalina from Spain. I think debating is becoming fun! My team actually won the debate.

Merle, Miriam and I went to a BBQ with some friends who had a boy our age. He brought a friend, so the four of us could hang

out. The mom had made us gift bags, with lots of stuff from Winston Salem and Wake Forest! After dinner, we went to a concert with *SalemSpeaks*, who were the boys' friends. They were very talented, and we even got a signet CD each!



## Animal shelter

07.22.2011

This morning, about fifty children from Boys and Girls club visited us. All the Fellows were divided into different groups, from where in Europe we came from. Obviously, I was in the North. We spent our time outside, introducing our countries and playing children games. I told them about trolls and Vikings, which they found fascinating and a bit scary.

It was finally time to go to the Forsyth Humane Society. They have been acting as an advocate for unwanted dogs and cats for more than 65 years, and provide animal education, neuter assistance and encouragement of responsible pet ownership. They had about 15 dogs and 40 cats. I got to stay with the dogs. I walked, bathed and played with them. It was enjoyable to know that you made a difference to the dogs that day.

Jonathan from New York, who both Miriam and I have spent some time with, was leaving this evening. Therefore, we stayed for one more hour at Wake Forest this afternoon, so that we got to say goodbye to him.

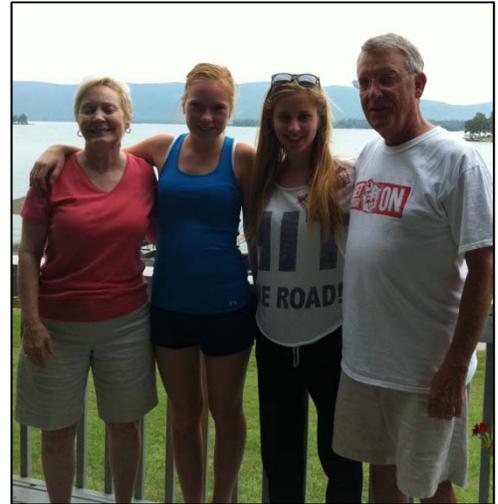
When Merle picked Miriam and me up, we went shopping at the mall for two hours. Then, we went back to the house for ice-cream!



## **By the Lake**

**07.23.2011**

We got up at 8 a.m. today, because we had a two hour drive ahead of us. We were going to meet Ron and Merle's family in their house by a lake. Fortunately, there was not a cloud in the sky, and the sun was burning! When we got there, Miriam and I met a lot of new people in all ages. They were all very nice and made us feel VERY welcome. They even had a big boat and two Jet skis! The Jet skis were a lot of fun, and Ron's brother went really fast! After we had spent almost five hours of jet skiing and tubing, it was time for dinner. One of Ron's granddaughters had her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, so we even got a delicious birthday cake!

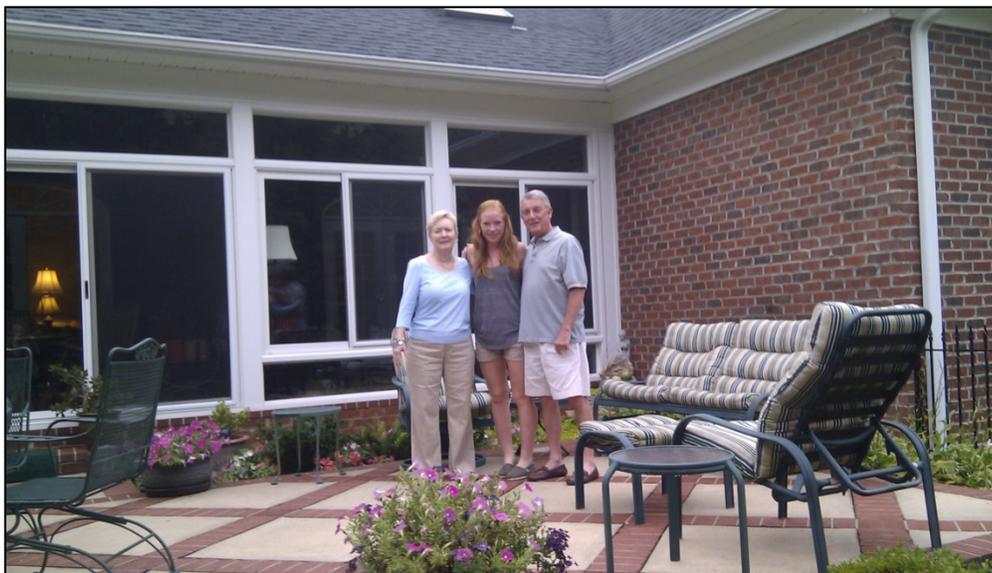


## **Shopping and last day**

**07.24.2011**

This was Miriam's and my last day with our host family. The week had passed so quickly, and I felt sad that we had to leave them. We were going to spend the last day relaxing and shopping. The mall didn't open until noon, but that didn't matter, since we slept in. Merle brought Miriam and me to the mall at 1. Merle is a really good shopper!! When we were in the stores, she helped us pick out clothes.

We spent the whole day shopping. When we got back, Ron took Miriam and me to the Mexican restaurant we ate at on Monday. They have so good food that Ron and Merle eat there at least once a week!



## Leaving host family and Salemtowne

**07.25.2011**

This morning was the last time Ron drove us to Wake Forest. Leaving our host mom and dad was very miserable. Our host family was the nicest of all. They were sad that we were leaving.

When we got back to Wake, we spent a couple of hours to get settled. Then we went to listen to a University Admissions Presentation from Wake Forest who told us how to apply for colleges in the US. This made me think a lot about what I want to do next year.

After lunch, it was time to go to Salemtowne, which is a retirement community in Winston Salem. Here, the Arts and Performance group had wonderful performances. First we had a moment of silence for Norway, after what happened with the bomb and shootings in Oslo. Then it was time for the performances. I am truly impressed by what they have been able to put together!

In the evening, Lauren, Hedda and I had time to go to the gym, just like the “old” days...



## Kids Camp

**07.26.2011**



The Environmental group was visiting a Kids Camp today. There were about 20 kids, and we had planned games and arts and crafts. We made flags, crowns and even paper airplanes, which the children found to be a lot of fun! I also had a good time, even though it was a bit tiring.

In the evening, we watched *Under 21*, a documentary by the mentor Chris Zaluski. It was about the drinking age in the US, which is 21, and if it should change or not. After the documentary, there was a lot of discussion. Most of the Fellows wanted the drinking age to be lowered to 21. The main argument was that people can be in the army and die for their country when they are 18, but not take a beer.

All of the BTFers started this morning by going to the Washington Park in Old Salem. We were going to clean a river! It was dirty, and we filled a lot of bags with trash. We found a lot of clothes, car tires and even a license plate! I know that BTF usually cleans this river every year, so it's weird to think of how much people can throw into the river in one year. I think we made a difference though, because the pile of filled trash bags was huge!

After cleaning the river, some of us from the Environmental group went to the Forsyth Humane Society once more. They had just gotten four new puppies which were only a couple of weeks old. Catalina (Spain) and I gave them their first bath, and then we played with them. They were so cute; we wanted to take them all home. There was also another puppy there today. He was very skinny, and sort of a celebrity at the Forsyth Humane Society. He had even been on the news! When he was found, in a trash can outside a Wal-Mart store, he was even skinnier and very dehydrated.



This evening, we were going to meet people our age from a science camp. We were having a big BBQ at campus, and then playing sports. In soccer, we Europeans did so much better, but it was the other way around in baseball though...



## “Graduation”

**07.28.2011**

I knew that this day was going to be sad. We started at 9 a.m. as usual, but today we had a summary of the different groups. All the groups presented their final project, and all of the movies that were made were amazing! After this, we had a small graduation ceremony. Everyone had to go up and received a diploma, at the same time as Ron Von Burg said a short line about everyone. Some lines were very funny and maybe embarrassing for some.



This evening, we had a Farewell dinner. All of our host families were invited, as well as the Arts and Performance group had lots of performances. It was nice to see Mr. and Mrs. Tedder again, but also very sad when they left. I had such a good time with them, and seeing them made me realize that I really missed them.



Tonight, we had no curfew. After the dinner, the mentors threw us a party. I stayed there for a little while, but it was more fun to hang out with everyone outside, where we could all talk. It was so sad that we were all leaving tomorrow.



Last night, I only slept for two hours, because I had to spend as much time as I could with the Fellows. I even slept over in Lauren's room. The breakfast today was sort of sad. Everyone knew it was the last one, so we had to taste everything they had.



I left for the airport at 11 a.m., and I don't think any eye was dry. I exchanged letters and small gifts with some of the Fellows, and then left for Greensboro after more than twenty minutes of group hugs. The trip to Newark was fine, with five other Fellows. It was good to see them for a bit longer. At Newark though, I was waiting alone. I was supposed to wait for five hours, but my flight was delayed with 3,5 hours. Luckily I met some Norwegians my age, and we could talk. Mostly, I just thought about the most amazing summer ever, and how I would miss it all!



BFTF stands for two things: Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows and Best Friends Together Forever. I have made lots of friends during the last four weeks, and it's so miserable to think of the fact that we are all parting. I think I'll keep in touch with a lot of the Fellows, and I can't wait to meet them again. These four weeks have been some of the best in my life, and I will never forget everything I have experienced and all the fantastic people I have met. I am so grateful for this opportunity.

