

AMBASSADORS

WV AMBASSADORS CAMP

2015

GAZETTE

Volume 1

WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

June 17, 2015

Ambassadors learn about state government!



The third annual West Virginia Ambassadors Camp was June 15 through 18, 2015. During the camp, students participated in internships with state agencies. Seven campers joined the Communications staff of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. This newsletter is the result of their project. Lauren Fleisher designed the newsletter logo, Alexa Layne and Grace Haddock wrote the copy. Daelen Boggs, Nick Means, Emily Mullins and Farrah Mullins took photographs.

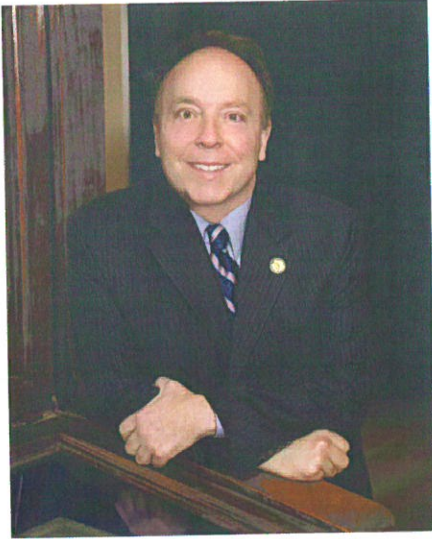
In the 2015 Ambassadors Camp we learned about state government. To learn more about the different branches, we split up into different groups for day-long internships. Each group had names relating to West Virginia such as the Cardinals or the Sugar Maples.

Today, our job was to shadow what the other ambassadors were learning at their internships. We stopped by the Secretary of State's office, Museum Education, and the Archives and History Library. Each area gave us a unique view into the duties of their jobs.

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A Message from Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith

The West Virginia Ambassadors Camp is a salute to West Virginia's past, present and future. It is designed to be fun while it is full of opportunities for bright young students to realize the wonders of our state's past and the excitement of being part of its future.

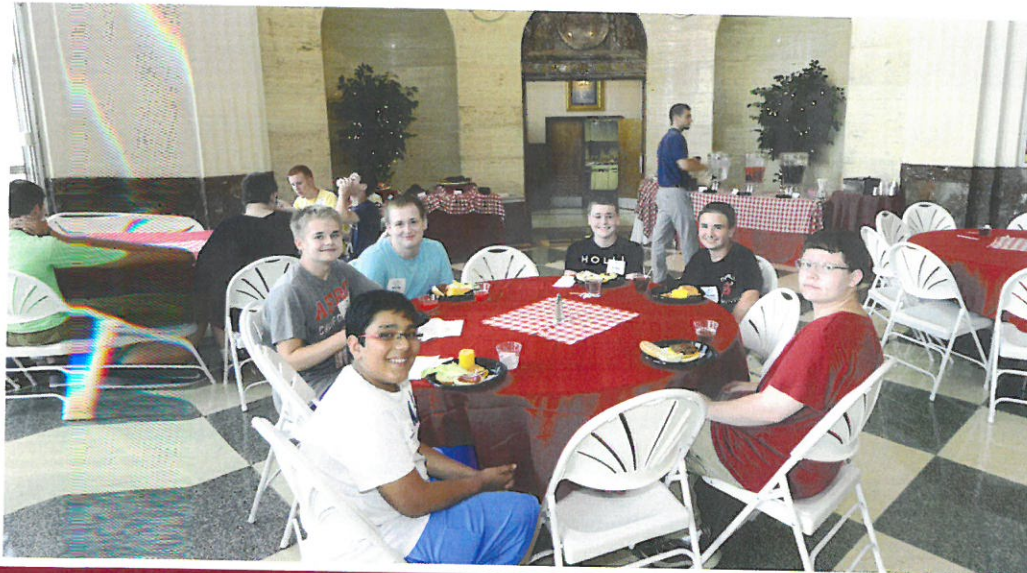
Our purpose in introducing this camp three years ago was to provide you with an experience that goes beyond a field trip to the State Capitol. We give you time to explore the state's heritage, history and culture in a personal way. We introduce you to some of our state's leaders, allowing you to step inside their offices and see what everyday life is like at the State Capitol. We help you discover the capital city and get you involved in programs that open your eyes to traditional and contemporary arts. We encourage you to spend time with the other students who are at the camp and to take advantage of your stay at the University of Charleston where you get a taste of college dorm life.

We want you to learn more about our state and about how you can, and will, someday play a role in its success. We believe that you will play important roles in your schools, your communities and our state's future. We want you to know that you have a special heritage, a fascinating history and talented forefathers. We want you to be proud of that tradition and know that you have a responsibility to carry it on in the future.

We appreciate your energy and your questions. We hope that your camp experience helped you to see that our state has much going for it and that you can spread the word by sharing what you learned at camp with friends, family and acquaintances.

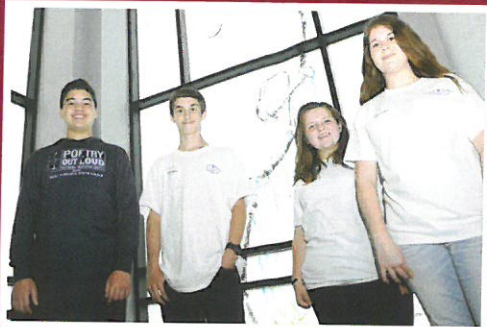
You are outstanding in your own ways. Make the most of your talents and your education. Make the most of your life and you will help build the proud heritage of our state!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.



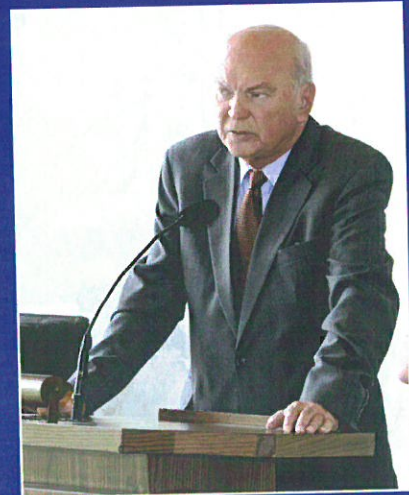
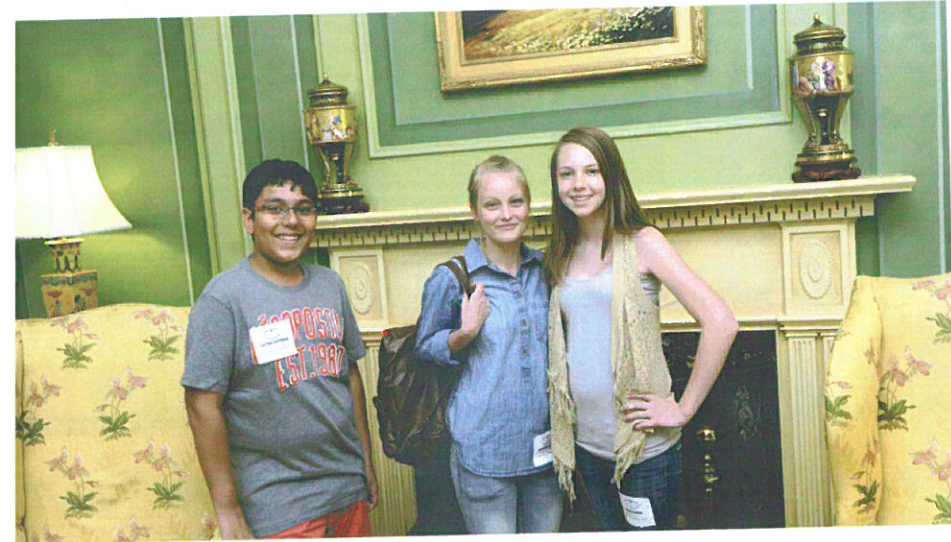
Welcome Dinner and Dance Party

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON



Governor's Mansion Reception

West Virginia Education and the Arts Secretary Kay Goodwin greeted the campers at the Governor's Mansion on the first day of camp. The students enjoyed a tour of the Mansion's public first floor.

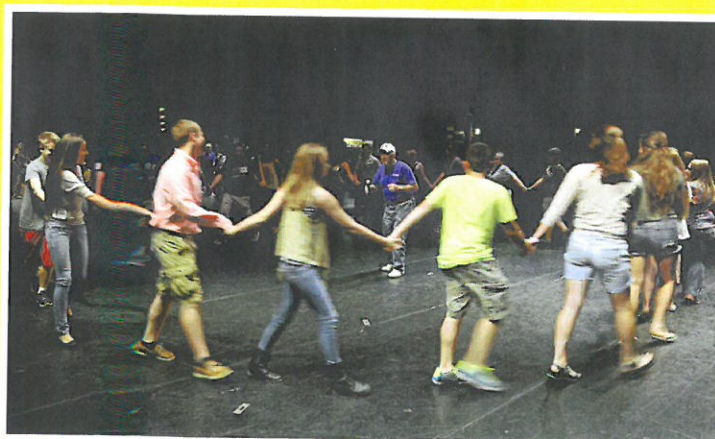
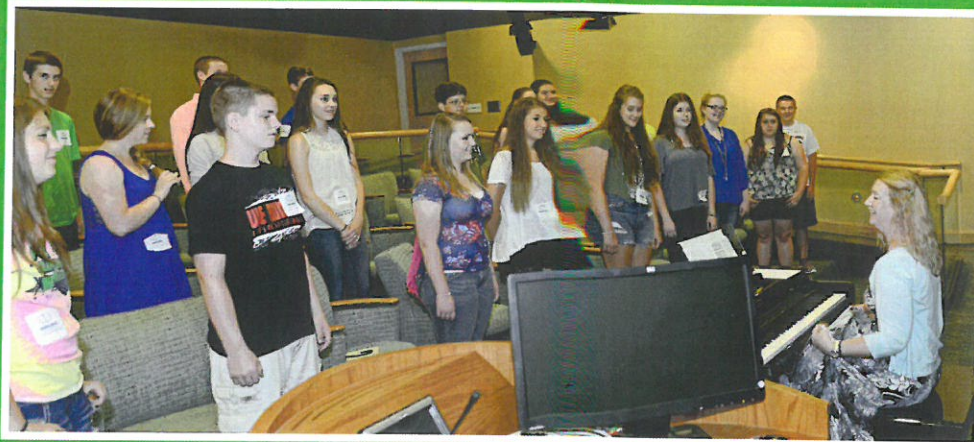


Sharing their insight into state government, three luncheon speakers talked with the campers about the responsibilities of their positions. From top to bottom, the speakers are Senator Chris Walters, State School Superintendent Michael Martirano and F. Ramie Barker, Senior Advisor to Governor Tomblin.



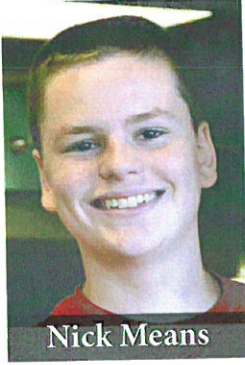
Art works!

West Virginia's culture and arts play an important role in our heritage and our future. Campers learned more about music with Will Cosby, art with Charly Jupiter Hamilton, song with Karma Wood and square dancing with Lou Maiuri.





Daelen Boggs



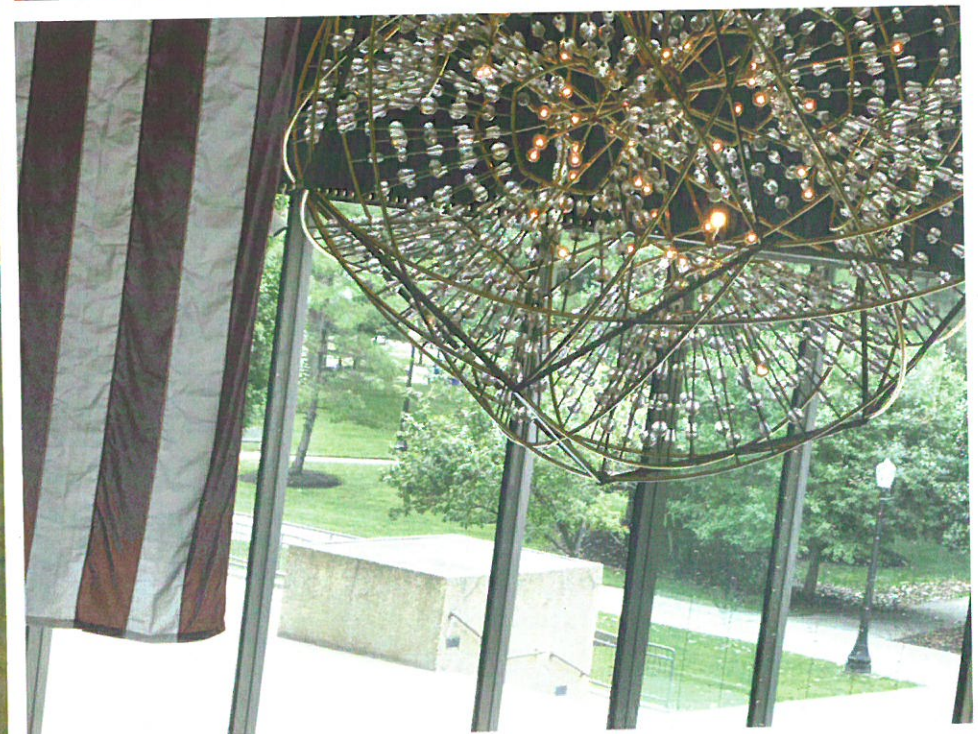
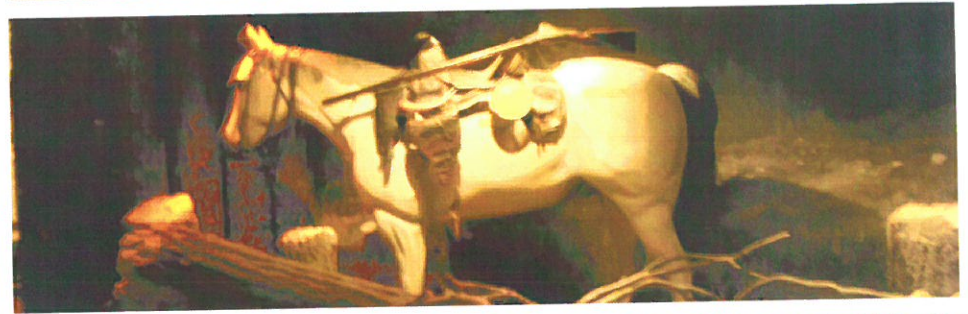
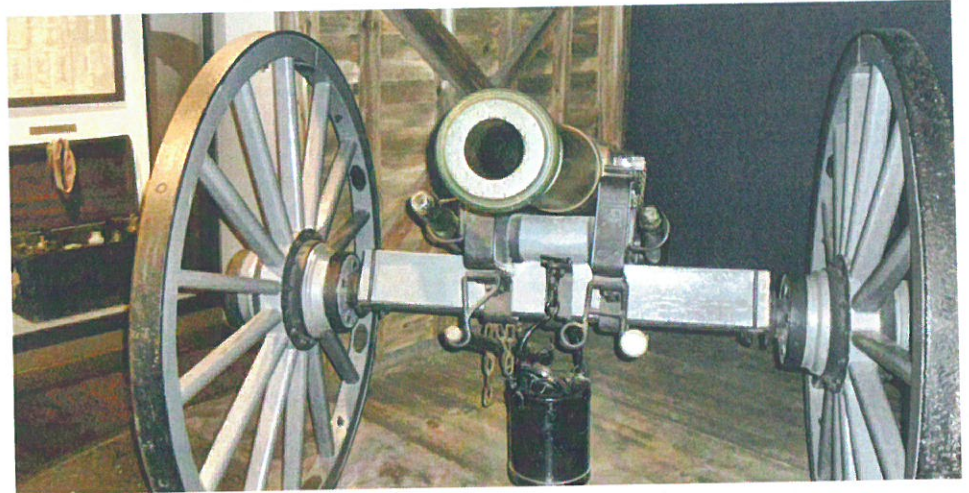
Nick Means



Emily Mullins



Farrah Mullins



What West Virginia Means to Me





Wes Armstead discusses Civil Rights with campers as they tour the West Virginia State Museum.

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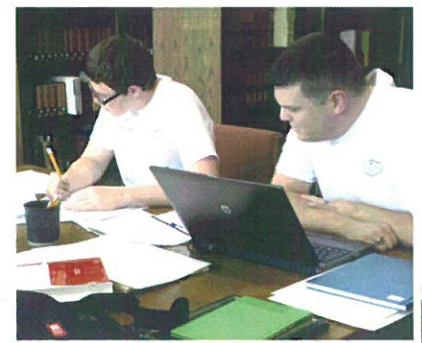
In the Secretary of State's office we were allowed to sit in on the morning staff meeting. It mainly consisted of what responsibilities she had during the upcoming week. We learned that, as the Secretary of State, she has certain responsibilities such as keeping and signing official documents, like the state seal and state constitution. She is also the chief election official and registers businesses. Today, the Sugar Maple interns got to be more hands on and learn in-depth about the roles in her office.

Next, we went to the West Virginia State Museum Education Room. This is where school groups and guided tours come to discuss their experience in the museum and explore and play different games related to the museum. We talked to some of the other ambassadors from the Black Bear group and they were excited about everything they were learning this week, especially today. Danny Corley

from Randolph County and Aiden Funkhouser from Hardy County both said they enjoyed meeting new people from all around the state.

In the state archives we learned about preserving West Virginia's history and collecting it so it can be preserved reliably. It's a great place to do genealogical and state history research. Currently, the main focus of the Archives and History Library is to modernize the system by transferring information to electronic files to be accessed more efficiently while also helping to preserve the original documents.

We didn't get to go around to all of the different sites today, but we really enjoyed the three that we did get to visit. All in all, learning about West Virginia's government can be pretty interesting. We had a great time at our internship and most kids we interviewed said they had a great time as well.



**See more camp photos at
<http://wvculture.zenfolio.com>**

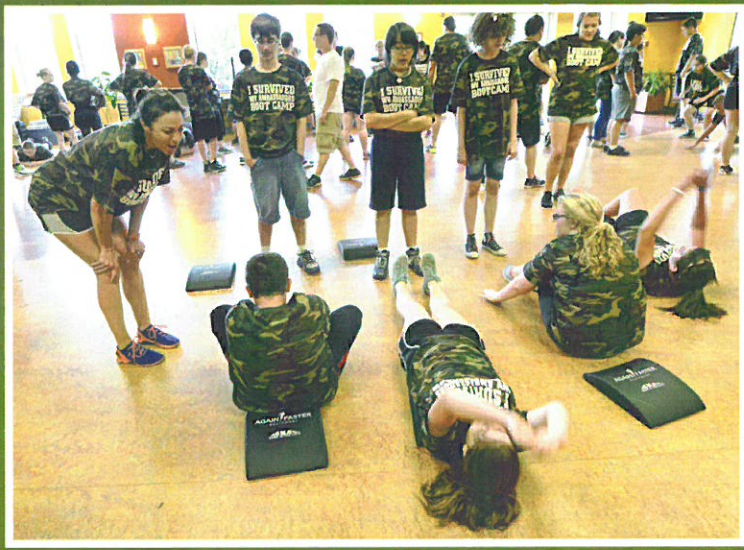


Our Capital City

Getting to know Charleston, campers visited the Clay Center for the Performing Arts and Sciences and met with the West Virginia Symphony. Later in the day, the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau hosted a scavenger hunt on Capitol Street, giving campers the opportunity to get to discover more about the city.



WV AMBASSADORS BOOT CAMP



“I loved it and would definitely tell future eighth graders to participate if they have the chance.”

Kyle Breedlove, Mineral County

It wasn't all play for campers! On their final day, teams of students made brief presentations about what they learned during their internships, using posters that they made earlier in the week. The camp ended with the presentation of West Virginia Ambassador Certificates by West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith.





West Virginia Ambassadors Camp
2015