World Interfaith Harmony Week

University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel

Report on Interfaith Adventures – Trip to Islamic Center of Rochester

On February 1, 2015 the Student Association for Interfaith Cooperation (SAIC) hosted an off campus site visit to the Islamic Center of Rochester. Fifteen students attended, only one of whom had ever visited a mosque. The students met with members of the Islamic Center’s youth group and the principal of their weekend religious school. They got a tour of the Islamic Center, which includes the masjid, a day school and a large community center with gymnasium and large community kitchen. When the call to prayer sounded, the students were able to observe Muslims performing the wudu prior to prayer and then went to the masjid for the prayers. The girls joined the women in the balcony and the boys went to the main prayer area on the first floor. After the prayer service, the students spent about an hour talking with the students from the Islamic Center about Islam and learning about the five pillars of Islam and what life is like for Muslims in America today. The students really enjoyed the visit. The students who attended included Jewish, Christian, Hindu and Agnostic/Atheist/Secular Humanist students.