

Fulbright Hays GPA Senegal Week One

Saint Louis – July 2, 2017

Across the Faidherbe Bridge, we were joined by a tour guide who hopped into our horse-drawn carriage to tell us about Saint Louis. A major attraction of Saint Louis is the French colonial architecture. Many of the grand estates that were built during its heyday from bricks imported from Europe were in various stages of decay. The UNESCO Heritage Site declaration prohibiting the use of materials other than those bricks meant that only foreigners with ample financial



resources could afford to purchase and renovate the buildings. A failed attempt to manufacture bricks from local materials meant that the local people would benefit little from such a designation. Global warming is also contributing the slow erosion of the island as a result of a rising sea level, yet preservation plans do not address that, according to our guide.



Education on the Island

We visited the [Ameth Fall Young Girls School](#), where we met with the Headmistress or Principal, Ms. Adiara Diagne Sy and her staff. Like much on the island, the school has its own colonial history. It was established in the Nineteenth century by the colonial governor to train the sons of submissive African chiefs to be civil servants for the colonial administration and later to cultivate an elite group of Senegalese interpreters. After going through a number of changes, the school eventually became the Ameth Fall Young Girls School. We met the staff, toured the school, and took photos with students who were wrapping up the school year and preparing to sit for the national exams. The girls have performed quite well, and the principal and staff were anxious about replicating past successful test results for the school. We met a U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) who had been assisting the school during the academic year.

