Hello from Alternative Breaks!

We are Nina and Angie - student leaders for the 2016 AU Alternative Break Program, From Grassroots to Government: Social Development in Rwanda. This year we are excited to explore and analyze the level of impact social justice measures have had in Rwanda towards women and youth. During 3 weeks on the ground we will work with various grassroots and governmental organizations. Our engagement will help us to think critically about the impact different governing groups have on their own social justice initiatives. This way, participants will be able to bring their knowledge back home and promote streamlined development and collaboration.

Last year, we participated in the Rwanda Program and our cohort had an amazing experience. We came back united in activism. We wrote a collection of essays that will be combined into a book based on our experience. We presented our initial findings at the Public Anthropology Conference and continue to bond throughout this process. In our free time, we reminisce on the wonderful people we met, current events in Rwanda and how remarkable Rwanda has come in the promotion of women in youth post-genocide. We still remain in contact with some of our community partners and we look forward to strengthening our relationships in Rwanda with our new cohort this summer!

If you are interested in participating or leading an Alternative Break we encourage you to apply! The application to lead a summer 2017 Alternative Break is now available on EngageNet, the deadline is midnight on Friday, June 24, 2016. For more details about our additional programs check out the Alternative Breaks website, www.american.edu/altbreak.