

**REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**  
*for STUDY ABROAD*  
*Ghana, West Africa*

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During the month of August 1999, I traveled with a group from the NAACP to Ghana, West Africa. My intent was to determine whether an international relationship with Ghana through the University of Ghana, Legon, was possible. I arrived in Ghana on August 8. Unfortunately, the chair of the program in the Institute of African Studies was away doing research. However, his assistant, Dr. Samuel S. Quarcoopome met with me several times and showed me their program and discussed the various options available for study abroad with our campus.

From all indications, this is a very good time to begin talking about a study abroad program in Ghana. Ghana already has an arrangement with the University of California for a summer institute. While there, Dr. Quarcoopome showed me the University of California summer program. It is primarily designed for graduate students. The Institute traditionally has offered only graduate level courses. However, they have expressed an interest in offering a senior level type seminar for our undergraduates. We also discussed the possibility of modifying the UC program to accommodate undergraduates. They are very interested and agreeable to meeting SDSU's needs.

Dr. Quarcoopome also expressed an interest in faculty exchanges. The details regarding expense and type of exchange would have to be worked out. I learned that some US campuses have as many as four faculty members a year on an exchange. The four are job sharing and rotating to Ghana for only about 6 weeks. This makes the

experience less of a family commitment for faculty. As I expressed to Dr. Quarcoopome, we would be very interested in having one of their scholars come to our campus annually. This would enhance our course offerings immensely, especially in the area of language. I was greatly encouraged by my visit to the campus.

The University of Ghana is also an excellent place for such a program because it offers such a diverse curriculum. The University is a beautiful campus that offers year round instruction. Because of its large number of research fellows attached to the institute, it provides a support system for student research. Additionally, the main library- the Balme Library has a wide selection of books, journals and periodicals on African Studies that is housed in a separate section of the library. . The University has an excellent relationship with the National Theatre in Ghana that provides the opportunity for students to study at the theatre as well as on campus. It is also connected to a larger system that allows students to study at the Cape Coast campus and the Cultural Institute in Kumasi. (I visited the Cultural Institute in Kumasi and was quite impressed with the wide range of activities and scholarly experiences available to research scholars and practitioners.)

Overall, the campus is very urban and is accessible by public transportation and taxis. The University is building a new international student's dormitory to attract a greater number of foreign students. Our students would get an excellent education and experience without too much culture shock.

Since my return, I have met with Dr. William Little, former chair of the National Council for Black Studies. Dr. Little is the chair of Black Studies at CSU Domingues Hills, and is also one of the principal investigators on a Ford Foundation grant that is

designed to globalize ethnic studies. Dr. Little believes that a Southern California CSU study abroad program coordinated among the Africana Studies departments would best meet the needs of our students. Dr. Little and I plan to meet with chairpersons from California State University at Los Angeles, Fullerton, Northridge and Long Beach over the winter break to explore their interests. We know that from a national perspective (the National Council for Black Studies) that study abroad programs that are available to several departments and Universities have been successful and have good participation from students.

I have also spoken with Dr. Patricia Wilson of the Public Administration department here at SDSU. She also traveled to Ghana to a conference this past summer. We met and discussed ways in which our departments might be able to collaborate on a study abroad program. As I meet with the CSU people this winter, I will include Dr. Wilson in the dialogue. In speaking with Dr. Eddie Meadows in the Music Department here at SDSU, I was informed that the Music Department has an agreement for a study abroad program. He is interested in exploring ways in which student from Africana Studies could be included in their efforts, also. I am excited about trying to blend all of these interests into one dynamic program for all our students.

Additionally, I have also been in communication via the Internet with Professor Samuel Tetetehaddo, Dean of International Education Programs and Kofi Anyigoho, Director of Humanities in the Institute for African Studies. I have received their curriculum and have shared it with our faculty in Africana Studies to see what type of senior experience we would need to construct on this side of the globe to make the

experience of the study abroad truly a “capstone” experience. Additionally, we are looking at how we would assist students in securing the funds for such an experience.

My next steps involve finding out what the possibilities are on this campus for funding of such an effort. What are the logistics about tuition, salary for faculty exchanges, etc? I have gotten some of the information. However, I need to meet with the director of International Studies for all the details.

I believe my exploratory visit this summer was very fruitful. I look forward to a return visit to cement details once preliminary work on this side of the globe has been completed.