



The Africa Project

A PROGRAM OF THE ASSOCIATION OF YALE ALUMNI

YAMORANSA AND ACCRA, GHANA

JULY 27 – AUGUST 7, 2012 (EXTENSION TO AUGUST 10 – NORTH GHANA)

NEWSLETTER #2

March 2012

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Excitement and drama – right down to the wire - and that is just for registering for the program by March 1!

This service program and cultural exchange with over 160 participants, 6 partnering organizations¹, a community of 5,000 people to meet, and 5,000 miles² between us is ambitious and daunting in scale. There are many moving parts, and we want to ensure that the needs of our soon-to-be friends and students are matched by your needs and expectations.

For this we – and you - need to prepare thoroughly. You can start by reading this Newsletter as well as the previous one posted on the website.

Remember to save April 29 for our orientation and planning session. Bring all your questions and your ideas to share with the group. It will be all about making this program as worthwhile and productive as possible for the people of Yamoransa and for all the participants.



¹ With more organizations offering opportunities for partnering

² More in some cases as we have a participant from Singapore!

Participants

Can you believe that the program is sold-out? We received registration for over 25 people on March 1. Right now, we have a fabulous group of over 160 volunteers from 27 states and 5 countries as part of this Yale Alumni Service Corps delegation. Take a look:

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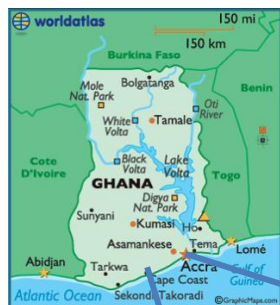
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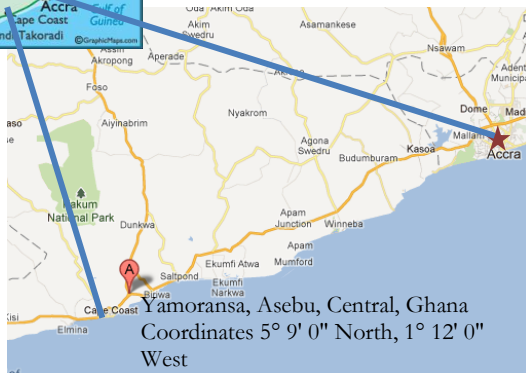
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Yamoransa



You read about Ghana on the website (in the Travel Information section) and now you might be asking, exactly where is Yamoransa? And what is it like?

Yamoransa is at the crossroads of the main road that runs from Accra to Cape Coast and a major road to Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana. The community straddles the road with most of the residential area being north of the road and one of the schools where we will be working on the south side of the road. The sellers of the famous Yamoransa fante kenkey line up along the main road to display and sell their product. To give you an idea of the size and feel of Yamoransa, the main road is the only real paved road in Yamoransa.⁴



There is running water⁵ in Yamoransa and there is electricity. There is no medical facility. There are a few schools for children up to 14 years old though there is no high school so older children have to go to other towns to continue their education.

The official language in Ghana is English however the locals often speak the language of their tribe. In Yamoransa, you will often hear Fante or Twi which is an Akan language. The children start learning in English by the time they are eight years old so our teachers will be able to work with them – and help them improve. Thanks to AFS and the University of Cape Coast we will have volunteers to help with translation if needed in the medical clinic or for the micro business consulting.

To get more familiar with Yamoransa, read the three articles that are in the other attachment to this email (they will also be posted on the website in the Newsletter section.)

... and the Yale Day of Service

When do 3,500 Yalies, family and friends get together to help their community?
The Yale Day of Service on May 12, 2012.

When do 170 Yalies, family and friends get together to help an impoverished community?
YASC in Yamoransa July 27 – August 7

Now think about this –

How can we raise awareness of the needs of Yamoransa? Partner with the Yale Day of Service

How can we get books for the students in Yamoransa? Partner with the Yale Day of Service

How can we get school supplies for Yamoransa? Partner with the Yale Day of Service







⁴ There are some vehicles in Yamoransa most of which are parked near the main road.

⁵ Not for drinking!

Working with AYA⁶, we have created a Day of Service Project to benefit Yamoransa that builds awareness of their needs and provides a way to address some of those needs. We need YOU to make it happen!

First, take a look at the Day of Service website and find the listing under international projects at <http://yaledayofservice.org/servicesites12>. Here is what you can do to make it happen:

-  Plan an event where you show a prepared slide show about YASC in Yamoransa, our projects and our partners followed by a discussion. You can have a computer in the corner where people can order from the YASC in Yamoransa Amazon wish list at <http://amzn.com/w/28XO3EYM9545F>
-  Work with DoS sites to take a little time to show the slide presentation and talk about the program
-  Coordinate with your local DoS organizers and go to some DoS sites with a laptop and let participants order from the wish list <http://amzn.com/w/28XO3EYM9545F>
-  Work with your Regional DoS organizer to make sure that the Wish List (<http://amzn.com/w/28XO3EYM9545F>) is publicized on the webpages

Please contact Alisa Masterson (alisa.masterson@yale.edu) and Tannis Arnett (coneybeach@gmail.com) if you would like to hold an event or plan to visit a site. And please check out the wish list!

Partners: AFS and the University of Cape Coast



AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world. In Ghana, the name is Intercultural Exchange Programs – Ghana.

AFS operates in more than 50 countries, and organizes and supports intercultural learning experiences. Founded by volunteer ambulance drivers following WWII, and sustained to this day by an international cadre of tens of thousands of volunteers, AFS has transformed the lives of millions of students, families and individuals.

Real life experiential learning, supported by structured reflection, is the core of their programs. AFS endeavors to link intercultural learning opportunities to the defining global issues facing humanity. They reach out to past, current and future participants, volunteers, and other stakeholders using the media and technology available to them.

There are more than 40,000 AFS Volunteers who are active at every level of the organization, from grassroots efforts within the community to policy development roles on national and international boards. Chapters currently operating in Ghana are the Akim Oda, Agona Swedru, Koforidua, Dormaa Ahenkro, Sunyani, Akuapim Mampong, Akwatia, Accra, Ho and Kumasi chapters.

Thanks to an introduction by Alex Asiedu, Yale World Fellow 2008, to Kwame Otchere, Executive Director of AFS Ghana, we are working closely with AFS to bring YASC to Yamoransa. It would be fair to say that we could not do this without the incredible support that Kwame⁷ and his staff AND volunteers are bringing to this effort including the introduction to University of Cape Coast. You will have the chance to meet Evans Yeboah, an AFS Ghana volunteer, at our orientation on



Evans Yeboah and Kwame Otchere

⁶ Specifically, Alisa Masterson – who is joining us in Ghana!

⁷ Of course, they didn't know there would be 160 of us when they agreed to work with us!

April 29 when he comes to New Have to present an overview of Ghana and the work that AFS is doing there.

The University of Cape Coast



The University of Cape Coast is one of the rare sea front universities in the world. It was established in October, 1962 as a University College and placed in a special relationship with the University of Ghana, Legon. On October 1, 1971, by an Act of Parliament, the College attained the status of a full and independent University, with the authority to confer its own degrees, diplomas and certificates.

The University was established out of a dire need for highly qualified and skilled manpower in education to provide leadership and enlightenment. Its original mandate was therefore to train and graduate professional teachers for Ghana's second cycle institutions and the Ministry of Education, in order to meet the manpower needs of the country's accelerated education program at the time. Today, with the expansion of some of its faculties and the diversification of programs, the University has the capacity to meet the manpower needs of other ministries and industries in the country, besides that of the Ministry of Education.

In the 2008-2009 academic year, 1320 students were admitted to undertake Diploma, undergraduate and post-graduate studies. The number was made up of 941 post-graduate applicants and 379 undergraduate applicants. By gender distribution, 634 of the post-graduate applicants were men and 307 women. For the undergraduate applicants, 233 were men and 146 women.


The Social Sciences Department of UCC introduced us to Yamoransa as they are active in needs assessment work there. There is a PhD student who has written her dissertation about the kenkey women of Yamoransa. Our Business Consulting Group will have a chance to read her report before going to work.

In addition, the Dean of the Medical School has offered to provide some support to our team. If possible, we will have some current medical students work with us in Yamoransa and join us for meals. The Medical School will also do follow up work in specific cases as needed based on the recommendations of our medical team.

The Projects and the Survey


Yes, it is time to start planning the projects in Yamoransa. We want to make the most of our time in the community – getting to know the people, learning about them, and helping them. We need to arrive with as much of a plan as possible: knowing our teammates, knowing the plan, having the supplies we need. It requires a lot of planning. And we will still need to be flexible and adapt to the situation as we find it when we arrive.

You can read about the Education/Arts/Athletics, Medical, Construction and Business Consulting projects on the website and learn about them from past YASC programs. There are two projects that we are trying to plan which are new to us:

-  Y-Apply - Y-Apply was formed in September 2007 when a group of Black Yale alumni came together to develop a workshop centered around the college admissions process for high school students. The first workshop was held in the spring of 2008 at the Yale Club in New York City and met with much success. Y-Apply is in its fifth year of sponsoring the workshop in New York City and has expanded the workshop to the Washington, D.C. and Chicago metro areas.



It turns out that there are many high schools in the Cape Coast area with students who could and should apply to college in Ghana and the U.S. but do not know enough about the process. We have been asked by a local entrepreneur to visit some of the girls' schools while we are nearby to encourage them and help them with the college application process.

-  TV News broadcasting – Talk about media coverage! Kwame has introduced us to Selete and Gifty Nyomi, entrepreneurs in the Cape Coast who have a TV production company. The station broadcasts a few hours a day including interview and news shows. Selete has offered to bring a team to Yamoransa each day to film a segment produced by YASC and the community – especially the teenagers. The team would be responsible for writing the pieces and interviewing program participants as part of the project.




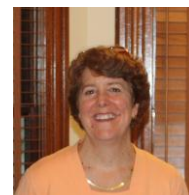
We will also have a community celebration on the last day (August 4). The people of Yamoransa will be performing and showing us how they celebrate. We also want to put on a show for them so the afternoon Arts activities will focus on creating a short performance with song and dance.

To read a bit more about the projects and to choose which project you would like to work on, please complete the Survey⁸ at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JCCNXN3> as soon as possible. Feel free to change your choice from what you put on the application. The Survey also includes an opportunity to sign up for the extension and the overnight in Kakum. Please have each person in your traveling party submit a separate survey no later than March 31 (the sooner, the better!)

Project planning will begin as soon as we have the survey results. The most productive planning opportunity will be our day together in New Haven on April 29⁹ although there will be a lot of planning by conference calls and e-mail.






YASC Face book

No, not that kind of . We will have our own YASC in Ghana “face book” directory of participants printed on good, old-fashioned paper. Please send a passport or similar photo of each person in your group via email to Teresa Poteet-Zinn at Teresa.poteet-zinn@yale.edu at AYA so that she can compile the information and produce the book. Please send the photo as soon as possible and no later than April 30 or you might end up looking like one of the other 221 mammals found in Ghana in the Face Book.





Nory Babbitt modeling in the perfect Face Book photo

What you need to do now...

-  Complete the project survey (deadline **March 31**) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JCCNXN3>
-  Make the final payment by **April 1** at <https://alumni.yale.edu/registration/yasc/ghana12/payment2.php>
-  Review the first Newsletter posted on the website for information about the planning day then email Kathy at Kathy@edersheim.net to let her know you are coming to orientation in New Haven on April 29.
-  Make flight reservations
-  Send in a picture for the Face Book to teresa.poteet-zinn@yale.edu by **April 30**







⁸ Created in SurveyMonkey

⁹ We are trying to provide some sort of broadcasting and call-in facility for all or part of April 29.

-  Send your indemnity forms¹⁰ by **April 30** to
Joao Aleixo
AYA
1201 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06511
-  Get your visa

Future Newsletters

What can you look forward to reading about in the Newsletters over the next few months?

-  More about the projects
-  About our partner organizations: ONE, Unite for Sight, and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
-  About Yale World Fellows alumni in Ghana and Yale medical research in Ghana
-  What to pack
-  Hotel information for Accra
-  Kenkey, fufu, and banku – yum!

...and much, much more.

As always, feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns – kathy@edersheim.net or mark.dollhopf@yale.edu or joao.aleixo@yale.edu

Kathy Edersheim '87
Mark Dollhopf '77
Joao Aleixo

¹⁰ Included at the end of this Newsletter.



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

PARTICIPANT: (name and address)

Institutions:

Yale University

SERVICE PROGRAM LOCATION: Cape Coast and Accra, Ghana

Dates: July 27-August 7, 2012, extension to August 10

I, the above named Participant, am eighteen years of age or older and have voluntarily applied to participate in the above Yale Service Program. I acknowledge that the nature of the Service Program may expose me to hazards or risks that may result in my illness, personal injury or death and I understand and appreciate the nature of such hazards and risks.

In consideration of my participation in the Service Program, I hereby accept all risk to my health and of my injury or death that may result from such participation and I hereby release the Yale Alumni Service Corps, Yale University, its governing board, officers, employees and representatives from any and all liability to me, my personal representatives, estate, heirs, next of kin, and assigns for any and all claims and causes of action for loss of or damage to my property and for any and all illness or injury to my person, including my death, that may result from or occur during my participation in the service program, whether caused by negligence of Dwight Hall at Yale, or Yale University, its governing board, officers, employees, or representatives, or otherwise. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Yale University, its governing board, officers, employees, and representatives from liability for injury or death of any person(s) and damage to property that may result from my negligent or intentional act or omission while participating in the described service program.

I have carefully read this agreement and understand it to be a release of all claims and causes of action for my injury or death or damage to my property that occurs while participating in the described service program and it obligates me to indemnify the parties named for any liability for injury or death of any person and damage to property caused by my negligent or intentional act or omission.

Signature of Adult Participant

Signature of Witness

Name (in print)

Name (in print)

Date

Date



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT FOR MINORS

MINOR PARTICIPANT: (name and address)

Institutions:

Yale University

Service Program location: Cape Coast and Accra, Ghana

Dates: July 27-August 7, 2012

I am the Parent/Guardian of the above-named Participant who is under eighteen years of age and am fully competent to sign this Agreement. I give permission for this Participant to participate in the above-referenced Yale Alumni Service Program. I acknowledge that the nature of the Service Program may expose the Participant to hazards or risks that may result in the Participant's illness, personal injury or death and I understand and appreciate the nature of such hazards and risks.

In consideration of the Participant being permitted to participate in the Service Program, I hereby accept all risk to the Participant's health and of his/her injury or death that may result from such participation. I hereby release Yale University, and its governing board, officers, employees and representatives from any and all liability to the Participant, the Participant's personal representatives, estate, heirs, next of kin, and assigns for any and all claims and causes of action for loss of or damage to the Participant's property and for any and all illness or injury to the Participant's person, including his/her death, that may result from or occur during the Participant's participation in the Service Program, whether caused by negligence of Dwight Hall at Yale, or Yale University, its governing board, officers, employees, or representatives, or otherwise. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Yale University, its governing board, officers, employees, and representatives from liability for injury or death of any person(s) and damage to property that may result from the Participant's negligent or intentional act or omission while participating in the described Service Program.

I have carefully read this agreement and understand it to be a release of all claims and causes of action for the participant's injury or death or damage to the participant's property that occurs while participating in the described Service Program and it obligates me to indemnify the parties named for any liability for injury or death of any person and damage to property caused by the participant's negligent or intentional act or omission.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Witness

Name (in print)

Name (in print)

Date

Date