



# YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS



## 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 #3

April 2012

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### Nkonsonkonson



Check it out! We have a fabulous logo for the program. As you see, it incorporates the YASC logo of open hands and that funky symbol in the middle. What is that? I am so glad you asked...



is called **NKONSON NKONSON** or “chain link.” It is one of many Adinkra visual symbols originally created by the Akan of Ghana and the Gyaman of Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa that represent concepts or aphorisms. Adinkra are used extensively in fabrics, pottery, logos and advertising. They are incorporated into walls and other architectural features.

Why did we choose this symbol? Consider this proverb:

**“Yetoatoa mu se nkɔnsɔnkɔnsɔn; nkwa mu at, yetoa mu, owuo mu a, yetoa mu; abusua mu nnte da.”**

The literal translation is:



“We are linked together like a chain; we are linked in life; we are linked in death, men who share a common blood relationship never break away from one another.”

Consider this interpretation:

Nkɔnsɔnkɔnsɔn refers to a chain, and it signifies the strong bond between people of common lineage which is difficult to break. The unity of a community can be realized if citizens see themselves as responsible to each other. This realization binds communities together. The symbol portrays unity, responsibility, and interdependence.

The strength of a chain is dependent on the individual metal rings linked together. When one unit becomes weak, it causes a break in the chain. This signifies the belief that the ancestors are interested in, and are constantly protecting the well-being of the living. While the symbol encourages the veneration of the ancestors in order to keep them in touch with the living, it stresses the strength in unity, and the interdependence on one another. A reminder to contribute to the community, that in unity lies strength.

We are all connected to each other like the links on a chain, and therefore we have to take care of each other.

## Project Teams



This is such a great team! Thank you for completing the survey – now the fun really begins. You should have received at least one email about your project assignment that confirmed your choice(s) from the survey. In summary, we have 9 teams:

Medical Team: 44 people - General Clinic led by Fred Cantor and Unite for Sight led by Ellen Kolarik

Construction: 29 people (full day and half day) - Gordon Stanton will help organize the group especially in the afternoon. We are looking for someone with architecture and/or construction experience to advise on the design of the Community Center. Connie Spencer, YASC Advisory Board Member and Nicaragua Producer, has been advising us. Please let me (Kathy) know if you can help us.

Business Team: 19 people - Led by Puneet Batra and Lata Prabhakar

Primary School Education: 49 people - Academics led by Melissa Reinberg and Arts led by Tannis Arnett and Wei Yin Chew

Middle School Education: 17 people - Academics led by Hans Anderson-Dollhopf and Arts led by Johnson Flucker

College Mentoring Team: 11 people - Led by Annie Kornfeld<sup>1</sup>

TV News Team: 18 people - The TV team will work closely with the Extended Arts Team in the afternoon. Tannis Arnett will help organize and coordinate.

Extended Arts Team: 17 people - Led by Jennifer Simon with assistance from Andrea Werboff and Johnson Flucker for The Big Show.

Athletics: 35 people- Led by Wayne Caccamo, Neal Kravitz and Robb Young with Kristen Rzasas organizing dance.

Plus a team of professionals and volunteers from AFS, students from the UCC Medical School, the Unite for Sight professionals and 5 representatives from ONE.

The project planning will begin on April 29. After we meet, a lot of planning and curriculum development for the education teams will be done by conference call with the finishing touches being done when we are together in Ghana.

<sup>1</sup> We have a lot of expertise on our teams. It turns out that Annie is really a ringer – she already does college counseling as part of her responsibilities at her school.



Right now, Kwame at AFS will talk with the leaders in Yamoransa to get more details about what would be most effective and useful for them. You can start thinking about what information you need for your project such as how many students in a classroom? How big is the athletic space? Is there electricity for computers at the schools? Feel free to confer with your group leader and send those to me ([kathy@edersheim.net](mailto:kathy@edersheim.net)) now so we have a master list to send to Kwame.

## Supplies and the Yale Day of Service



Thank you to all of you who have offered to bring supplies for the projects to Ghana. We will need them! Especially medical supplies, books, and school supplies including art materials.



Each project team will be responsible for creating a supply list and bringing as many of the supplies for the project as possible. If you need more supplies, we have a little bit of funding thanks to some generous participants and an allocation from the program budget. We will start to work on figuring this all out on April 29.

We also have another source of supplies: contributions from the Yale alumni community participating in the Yale Day of Service. The leaders of the Day of Service have agreed to include a virtual service site – an Amazon wish list of items needed in Ghana.



Check it out at <http://amzn.com/w/28XO3EYM9545E>. Of course, you should feel free to order supplies from the list (or from Amazon directly) and encourage everyone you know to do the same – or go to a Day of Service site on Saturday, May 12 with your laptop and have participants order something. Day of Service orders will be delivered to AYA and then shipped to Ghana<sup>2</sup>. If you can carry some supplies in your luggage, that would be much appreciated to save money and to make sure they arrive on time!



Please contact Alisa Masterson ([alisa.masterson@yale.edu](mailto:alisa.masterson@yale.edu)) and Tannis Arnett ([coneybeach@gmail.com](mailto:coneybeach@gmail.com)) if you would like to with Day of Service or plan to visit a site. And please check out the wish list!

## Partners: ONE and the KAIPC

The Yale Alumni Service Corps is quite a new organization. With each program, the YASC team learns something new about how to organize the program and how to be as effective as possible. There is no question, that working with partner organizations makes the program possible and helps to leverage our resources.

Through cooperation we bring together the resources of a broader group to attain our goals and support the efforts of our participants.

...pool the power of two or more complementary organizations that share a goal, and those dreams can become realities. Indeed, smart organizations view the pursuit of carefully chosen alliances as integral to strategy. They achieve more in partnership with other organizations than would otherwise be possible. *The Power of Partnership* - Published cooperatively by ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership and The U.S. Chamber of Commerce c. 2008

<sup>2</sup> Thanks to Deborah Rose, we had a meeting with the Ambassador from Ghana. He has offered to help us send supplies to Ghana in advance and to expedite our entry into Ghana with all the supplies you will bring in your luggage.



You read about two of our partners, AFS and University of Cape Coast, in the previous Newsletter. Here is some information about two more partners and how we can work together to help the people of Yamoransa and Ghana:



ONE is a grassroots advocacy and campaigning organization that fights extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa, by raising public awareness and pressuring political leaders to support smart and effective policies and programs that are saving lives, helping to put kids in school and improving futures. Cofounded by Bono and other campaigners, ONE is nonpartisan and works closely with African activists and policy makers.

Backed by a movement of more than 2.5 million ONE members, ONE achieves change through advocacy. ONE holds world leaders to account for the commitments they've made to fight extreme poverty, and they campaign for better development policies, more effective aid and trade reform. They also support greater democracy, accountability and transparency to ensure policies to beat poverty are implemented effectively. ONE is not a grant-making organization and does not solicit funding from the general public.

Thanks to an introduction and ongoing organization by Darcy Pollack '87, ONE will be supporting us in a number of ways before and during the program in Ghana. We will hear about the organization during orientation on April 29, they will bring a team of 5 participants to Ghana for the program and a ONE policy expert will present to us during the training in Ghana. The most important contribution by ONE will be the advocacy and awareness training that they will provide to us during the program. On three or four days, they will take a delegation of 15 participants to see projects dealing with such issues as medicine and/or agriculture in the surrounding areas so that we can learn more about the conditions and needs in Ghana. Toward the end of the program, ONE will talk about how we can be advocates to relieve extreme poverty when we return to the U.S.

## Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre



### KAIPTC Vision

To remain an internationally preferred Centre of Excellence for research into and training for conflict prevention, management and resolution, research and innovative thinking in integrated Peace Support Operations and sustainable delivery of enhanced regional capacity building for Peace Support Operations.

### KAIPTC Mission

To develop and deliver internationally recognized and professional training courses and related programs to equip personnel with selected skills and competencies required to meet Africa's present and future complex peace and security challenges.

Working with its partners, the KAIPTC undertakes and delivers research and training programs that contribute to global peacekeeping operations. A few years after its establishment, the KAIPTC has carved a niche as a world class research and training facility for Africa - a regional Centre of Excellence, that embraces all aspects of research and training for enhanced performance in integrated peace support operations. The Centre's activities draw participants from the full spectrum of the peacekeeping community, the security sector and civil, diplomatic and non-governmental agencies.

Since the first peacekeeping training course was organized in 2003, the Centre has run over 170 training courses for more than 5'400 individuals from over 86 countries and major organizations in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa. Core courses in peacekeeping activities are augmented by other specialist



and train-the-trainer courses, seminars, conferences and workshops, all of which are designed to reflect regional needs and stakeholder requirements.

KAIPTC will bring their expertise to our orientation on April 29 to help us understand the situation in Ghana. They will address security issues as well as gender issues. We hope to build awareness of their efforts and help them with their United Nations focused advocacy.

## April 28 and 29 - Orientation and Planning

As a reminder, here is the agenda for April 29, our orientation day, at Rose Alumni House at 232 York Street, New Haven.

(If you are available for dinner on April 28 at 6:30 p.m., please join us at Bar at 254 Crown Street for some classic New Haven pizza.)

Sunday, April 29

- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Arrival
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. - Welcome and introductions - AYA and YASC
- 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. - Ghana Overview - AFS
- 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Educating leaders and Advocacy - ONE and Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
- 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. - Break
- 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. - Medical Research and Care in Ghana - Yale/Unite for Sight
- 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Projects overview - YASC
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Project team meetings
- 3:30 - 3:45 p.m. - break
- 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. - Project team report back



Please email Kathy at [Kathy@edersheim.net](mailto:Kathy@edersheim.net) to let her know you are coming to orientation in New Haven on April 29.

And if you can't make it to New Haven, we have been able to arrange conference call capabilities so you can listen to what is going on. We are not sure if the sound will be clear however it is the best we can do.

Here is how to call in:

1. Call (203) 432-8598
2. You will hear, "Thank you for calling the Yale Conference Line. If you are in Conference A, please press 1; if you are in Conference B, please press 2; if you are in Conference C, please press 3; if you are in Conference D, please press 4; if you are in Conference E, please press 5."

We are Conference Line **B** - you can enter the conference number (2) as soon as the greeting starts.

3. You will hear "Please hold, forwarding your request". After a few seconds you will then hear the greeting "Welcome to the conference call, please say your name after the tone". After speaking your name, you will be connected into the Conference.

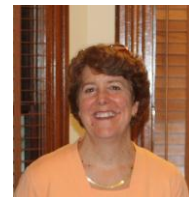
If you want to make a comment or ask a question, you can text or email – instructions for this to follow.



## Action items or What You Need to Do Now!

### YASC Participant Directory a.k.a Face Book

Please send a passport or similar photo of each person in your group via email to, yes, Nory Babbitt<sup>3</sup> at [nory.babbitt@yale.edu](mailto:nory.babbitt@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 in our Book you might end up looking like one of the other 221 mammals found in Ghana.



Nory Babbitt modeling in the perfect Face Book photo

And while you are focused on this, please end your indemnity forms by **April 30** to

Joao Aleixo  
AYA  
1201 Chapel Street  
New Haven, CT 06511

### The other Facebook

Join the Yale Alumni Service Corps Facebook group – yes, faebook.com. You can see photos from the March program in Nicaragua and stay informed about YASC.

### Extra Nights in Accra

On August 6, we will be staying at Mensvic Hotel in Accra. If you would like to arrive a bit early or stay after the program, AFS can get you the group rate of \$160 per night for a double (single is \$120). You will have to get to the airport on July 27 to meet the group for the drive to Cape Coast. Taxis are available. To reserve a room, please email Joao Aleixo at [joao.aleixo@yale.edu](mailto:joao.aleixo@yale.edu) and specify which days you need a room(s), the type of room, and that we have permission to charge your credit card for the cost. Deadline on May 1 for reserving extra nights...

### Visa

Everyone needs an individual visa to go to Ghana. If you have forgotten the procedures, you can go back to the first Newsletter to find them or look on line. You will need to get a Yellow Fever Vaccination before applying for your visa. Most doctors do not stock this and will not be able to provide it. You can go to any Travel Medicine Medical practice to get it. Remember to get the appropriate documentation for your visa application.

The visa application requests two addresses in Ghana. You should use:

#### Coconut Grove Hotel

P.O. Box 175, Elmina-Ghana, West Africa  
Elmina  
Central Region  
Ghana  
[beachresort@coconugrovehotels.com.gh](mailto:beachresort@coconugrovehotels.com.gh)  
+233 +233(289) 40100-5 / +233(289) 91213/4  
and



<sup>3</sup> Slight change – you may already have sent your photo to Teresa as directed in the previous Newsletter. That is fine.



**Mensvic Hotel**

P. O. Box CT 5086

Cantonments - Accra






Ghana

Telephone: +233-302-507406



## Future Newsletters

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

-  Project reports as the planning progresses
-  About Unite for Sight
-  About Yale World Fellows alumni in Ghana and Yale medical research in Ghana
-  What to pack
-  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](mailto:kathy@edersheim.net) or [mark.dollhopf@yale.edu](mailto:mark.dollhopf@yale.edu) or [joao.aleixo@yale.edu](mailto:joao.aleixo@yale.edu)

See you in New Haven (or Accra),

Kathy Edersheim '87

Mark Dollhopf '77

Joao Aleixo