



# 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 #4

May 2012

### Table of Contents

ORIENTATION REPORT.....	1
PROJECT TEAMS.....	3
YALE WORLD FELLOWS PROGRAM.....	4
GIFTS .....	5
A NEW IDEA: PORTABLE SOLAR BACK PACK (FROM GOAL ZERO) .....	5
LEARN A BIT MORE... ..	6
ANNOTATED PACKING LIST.....	6
ACTION ITEMS OR WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW!.....	7
FUTURE NEWSLETTER .....	7

## Orientation Report

We had over 60 people attend the orientation in New Haven on April 29 – an enthusiastic and focused group. It was a productive session as an opportunity to get to know each other, as a way to begin to understand the atmosphere in Ghana and as a time to start some of the project planning.

It was quite unfortunate that the phone system did not work from New Haven. It is always a learning experience and an experiment with technology. Perhaps it was a reminder that in Yamoransa there is no internet and phone service may be challenging not to mention expensive. Even at Coconut Grove Hotel you may find that the internet is not what you are used.

The great news is that thanks to Rick Leone and his team from the Yale Media department, everyone can see the presentations made during the day including the reports made by each project group. It is very easy to get to the videos although you need to have the right software on your computer (such as quicktime) to view the videos. Rick has done everything possible to make these available to us as quickly as possible. All the videos can be found at:

[http://files.broadcast.yale.edu/rick\\_ghana/](http://files.broadcast.yale.edu/rick_ghana/)

The page will look a lot like this:

# Yale Broadcast & Media Center

To download to a PC: right-click and choose  
"Save target as..."

To download to a MAC: control-click and  
choose "Download linked file as..."

These files are temporary. Do not link to these  
files on your website.

[Agenda.pdf](#)

[Conclusion.mov](#)

[Eye Care Overview James Clark.mov](#)

[Ghana Overview Evans Yeboah.mov](#)

[Medical Research Michael Capello .mov](#)

[One Suzanne Granville.mov](#)

[Project overview w Kathy.mov](#)

[Unite for Sight Rachel Turkel .mov](#)

[Welcome and introduction.mov](#)

Note that some of the videos are quite long (up to 30 minutes or more) and therefore the files are LARGE – be patient! It can take a while to run them and if you do not have a computer with sufficient speed or memory, it may not work. Unfortunately, we cannot provide any technical support for viewing the videos.

Some of the highlight videos are Evans Yeboah talking about Ghana and Yamoransa, Michael Cappello presenting the medical research that he and Elijah Paintsil have done in Ghana, James Clarke speaking (briefly) about the inspiration he has found in serving poor communities, and the summary reports.

Another topic of discussion was dress code. We normally provide a packing list for you in the Newsletter about one month before the program but due to popular demand it is included below.



## Project Teams

It is time to get serious... there is work to be done.

You may have started to plan the math curriculum for the 12 year olds or decided on the key piece of medical equipment that you will bring along but you may also be a bit confused or overwhelmed about what needs to be done. The key is that the more we discuss and plan, the more we can offer to the people of Yamoransa.

While team leaders should be in touch with each other and then plan a conference call for the project group, please feel free to contact the leaders listed below or me if you have any questions or if you would like to change projects.

As a reminder and with the advantage of the added information we received over the last few weeks at training and via email, here are brief project descriptions:

**Medical Project:** The email traffic is astounding. Fred Cantor is organizing the team for the General Clinic and Ellen Kolarik is coordinating with Unite for Sight. Please note that you are welcome to be part of the medical team even if you do not have medical training however you will assist in the general clinic rather than in eye care as previously indicated.

**Construction:** Gordon Stanton and Robert Unsworth are organizing the group especially in the afternoon. We are still looking for someone with architecture and/or construction experience to advise us. The project has been scaled down to a one story building that will be used as a library and meeting space. The community will have completed the foundation and some of the construction before we arrive. There will be a local team working with us.

**Business Team:** Puneet Batra and Lata Prabhakar will lead the project advising the kenkey women, the local stores and home-based businesses. The first part of the week will be spent with the kenkey women.

Here is some information about the facilities available for the Education projects. These resources are shared between Primary School and Middle School classes: We will have 3 public schools with 25 classrooms that are suitable for different age groups namely;

Methodist Junior High School Department-3 classrooms

Methodist Primary School Department-6 classrooms

M.A Primary School Department-6 classrooms + 1 Nursery class

Catholic Junior High School Department-3 classrooms

Catholic Primary School Department-6 classrooms

**Primary School Education:** Academics led by Melissa Reinberg and Arts led by Tannis Arnett and Wei Yin Chew. The community has asked us to emphasize the academic subjects such as English, History, Math and Science. The team needs to figure out what courses to teach (be creative within the specified areas) so that each child can take two academic and one arts subject in the morning. Then each teaching team needs to design the curriculum for the courses. Remember, we want the kids to enjoy learning. Please respond to the survey you received so you can start planning lessons!!!!

As for logistics, you might have 20 kids in the class or 50. The classroom may be crowded with desks or have too few desks. There will be a blackboard at one end and half walls on two sides probably. We might find out more before we arrive. Or we might not. Be flexible, go with the flow...

**Middle School Education:** 17 people - Academics led by Hans Anderson-Dollhopf and Arts led by Johnson Flucker. The community has asked us to emphasize the academic subjects such as English, History, Math and Science. The team needs to figure out what courses to teach (be creative within the specified areas) so that each child



can take two academic and one arts subject in the morning. Then each teaching team needs to design the curriculum for the courses. Remember, we want the kids to enjoy learning...

As for logistics, you might have 20 kids in the class or 50. The classroom may be crowded with desks or have too few desks. There will be a blackboard at one end and half walls on two sides probably. We might find out more before we arrive. Or we might not. Be flexible, go with the flow...

College Mentoring Team: Led by Annie Kornfeld. Inspiring girls who are seniors in high school to apply to college in Ghana and the U.S. and helping them learn about the application process. We are waiting to hear how many schools will be involved and how many students in each school.

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

Extended Arts Team: Led by Andrea Werboff for arts and Johnson Flucker for The Big Show.

Athletics: Led by Wayne Caccamo, Neal Kravitz and Robb Young with Kristen Rza organizing dance.

The next steps include making a list of questions for Ghana, figuring out what supplies you need and adding supplies to the Amazon wish list. 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. Remember to ask people to go out our Amazon Wish List to order items:



<http://amzn.com/w/28XO3EYM9545F>

Remember to visit a Yale Day of Service site with your laptop and encourage participants to give a gift from the wishlist as well. Any assistance on carrying items to Ghana is most appreciated.

## Yale World Fellows Program

The Yale World Fellows Yale has long been known as a training ground for leaders. For three centuries, Yale's graduates have achieved prominence across the spectrum of US political, economic, and cultural life. Building deliberately upon the University's tradition, the World Fellows Program provides training to emerging leaders from around the world that reflects a rigorous standard of excellence, a commitment to inquiry, and an ongoing pursuit of innovation.

Creating a global network of emerging leaders and to broaden international understanding at Yale, the World Fellows Program each year brings to Yale 14-18 highly accomplished men and women from a diverse set of countries around the world. The Fellows spend an intensive semester exploring critical issues and undergoing leadership training, with the full resources of Yale University at their disposal. Selected from outside the United States at an early mid-career point (generally five to fifteen years into their professional development), the World Fellows come from a range of fields and disciplines including government, business, nongovernmental organizations, religion, the military, media, and the arts. Guided by faculty advisors, the Fellows deepen their resource bases, advance their breadth of understanding, and augment their skills. Building on access to the students, faculty, alumni, and Yale visitors, the Fellows prepare for greater roles of leadership, expand their professional and personal horizons, and contribute to a deepening of international awareness and dialogue within the Yale community.

We have been very lucky to have the World Fellows program support us in a number of ways including introducing us to AFS and Kwame Otchere and having Michael Cappello, Director of the World Fellows Program, present at orientation.

## Gifts

I love getting gifts, you love getting gifts, everyone loves getting gifts – and it is fabulous that so many people love giving gifts even more than they like receiving them. Remember, we are all giving our time and talent to Yamoransa – and we need to be thoughtful about what else we give while we are in Ghana. So, what other gifts should you bring to Ghana? Supplies for the projects.



What about a gift for the Chief? –YASC will bring something

What about a gift for Kwame Otchere? – YASC will bring something

What about a wedding gift for Evans Yeboah? – Please let me know if you would like to contribute to a gift and YASC will take care of it.

How about a gift for that cute child that climbed into your lap the first day of class? – Yes, if you have something for all 150 children you may be teaching.

How about for the family that hosts you for the family visit? – YES, if the gift is less than \$5 and practical for the family such as a small kitchen item or a book.

The policy may seem weird or ungracious or even unreasonable however we need to keep in mind the purpose of our visit, the reputation of Yale, and the impression that we make on the community. Consider this: should we be giving gifts to the people most in need or least in need? If many of us give gifts to the Chief, it might be perceived that the program was designed to benefit him more than others. We need to make sure that anything we bring to the community is actually useful to them – and distributed “fairly” as much as possible. As we know, garbage is a big problem in Yamoransa as there is no proper sanitation system. We do not want to bring items to the community that add to this problem (think of all the plastic that accumulates in your house – small toys, bottles, “cute” toys, souvenirs, toys, wrappers, etc) You get the idea...and why do we keep mentioning toys? Because the kids are so cute that you will want to give them a souvenir or a toy to make them happy but you have to resist the temptation.

That said, please do bring as many project supplies as possible. If you are working in a group that does not need supplies, please let us know if you would be willing to bring supplies for a different group as you offered in the survey.

Finally, if you still want to bring a gift, please ask Mark, Joao or Kathy before presenting it.

## A New Idea: Portable Solar Back Pack (from Goal Zero)

This just in from Deborah Rose: I have been eying a portable solar back pack from Costco, for about \$100, and just bought one on spec for the Ghana trip. It is ideal for charging small electronic appliances. It has gotten rave reviews from backpackers off the grid, but it seems to me it would work equally well in any resource poor environment, such as Yamoransa, Ghana.



The idea is to try it out, and donate it to a deserving local group by the end of the trip.

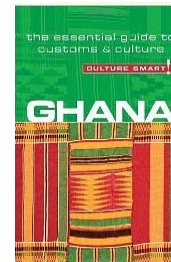
Here is the website if you want to check it out for yourself:

<http://www.costco.com/Browse/Product.aspx?ProdId=11678541>

## Learn a bit more...

If you would like to know more about Ghana and its history and traditions before we arrive, Darcy Pollack recommends.

[http://www.amazon.com/Ghana-Culture-essential-customs-culture/dp/1857334744/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1336268158&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Ghana-Culture-essential-customs-culture/dp/1857334744/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1336268158&sr=8-1)



“It’s a really terrific summary of Ghana history, geography, culture etc. And nice and small... I would highly recommend it for other participants.”

## Annotated Packing List

Two words say it best: TRAVEL LIGHT. You will enjoy your travels more with a suitcase that isn’t too heavy. Consider bringing a bag that’s flexible so you can fit in a few souvenirs along the way.

It can be seen as disrespectful for women, particularly young foreign women, to wear clothes of a revealing nature. Female clothing that would be acceptable in the West (shorts, low-cut strapped tops, etc.) is not socially acceptable in Ghanaian society. Similarly, it is unacceptable for foreign men to be shirtless in public and also unacceptable for Ghanaian men, to a lesser degree. Ghanaian social norms are sometimes difficult to establish, as younger adults are generally much less inhibited about wearing revealing clothing or being shirtless, while older Ghanaian citizens may find such apparel on Ghanaians, and foreigners of any nationality or race, to be insulting. A general rule is to dress conservatively, unless in the company of people of one’s own gender or age, with whom one is well-acquainted

- Passport WITH VISA and yellow card
- Cash – modest amounts as it is by far the best way to pay for anything however petty theft is an issue in many places.
- Credit cards – not accepted in many places and can be a victim of fraud so but try not to use them
- Cell phone – Probably usable in the hotel though check the rates for your carrier.
- Casual clothing including long shorts<sup>1</sup> and casual slacks and t-shirts for the program. Please follow the guidelines above for what you wear when at Yamoransa (no short shorts or sleeveless shirts, etc)
- Something a little nicer for the final evening in Accra
- Bathing suit and beach shoes/sandals
- Pajamas or other nighttime attire
- Socks, underwear, etc...
- Umbrella
- A light jacket
- Footwear including sneakers or sturdy walking shoes
- Entertainment –a good book or two or some games
- Guitar or other musical instrument to play in Yamoransa and for night time sing-a-longs
- Piano music – we hope to have keyboard or piano at CGH
- Camera and computer connection
- Wipes and hand sanitizer and lots of ‘em
- Toiletries
- Personal medication especially any prescription medicines including malaria pills
- Flashlight
- Sun protection such as a hat, sunglasses and sun block. Perhaps a light gauze shirt to wear over other clothing.
- Luggage lock for your large piece
- Chocolate or other essential food items, especially if you have food allergies, that don’t need refrigeration!

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<sup>1</sup> For women, comfortable skirts or capris are even better. The Ghanaian women will often be in long skirts.

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

### Extra Nights in Accra

OK – the deadline for reserving extra nights in Accra has passed. We have sent the list to the Mensvic Hotel. However, if you need a room in Accra for July 26 or Aug 7 and beyond, we might be able to help you. You have to email **Joao Aleixo** at [joao.aleixo@yale.edu](mailto:joao.aleixo@yale.edu) NOW 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. After May 15 Joao cannot take reservations for extra nights.

#### Mensvic Hotel

P. O. Box CT 5086  
Cantonments - Accra  
Ghana  
Telephone: +233-302-507406



Have you gotten your visa yet?

Have you ordered supplies for your project yet?



## Future Newsletter

What can you look forward to reading about in the next Newsletter?

-  Project reports as the planning progresses
-  Kenkey, fufu, and banku – yum!

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 Accra,

Kathy Edersheim '87  
Mark Dollhopf '77  
Joao Aleixo