



ETHAN ZUCKERMAN

Fulbright Student Program
(1993-1994)

CITY OF RESIDENCE: Williamstown, MA

HOST COUNTRY: Ghana
University of Ghana, Legon

PROJECT: Study of African percussion

BACKGROUND: A philosophy graduate of Williams College, Ethan Zuckerman helped found Tripod, a web hosting company that was sold to Lycos in 1998. At Tripod, Zuckerman served as vice president of research and development until he left the company in 1999.

OCCUPATION: Currently, Zuckerman is founder and CEO of Geekcorps, a nonprofit organization pairing skilled volunteers from high tech companies with businesses in developing countries for one-to-four month volunteer tours. Zuckerman traces the roots of the program to the year he spent in Ghana as a Fulbrighter, when he became conscious of the technological deprivation the country endured.

A 2001 merger with the International Executive Service Corps has encouraged Zuckerman to expand Geekcorps to additional countries. Currently, programs operate in Mongolia, Thailand, Lebanon, Bulgaria, Armenia and Ghana; over 1100 people are currently on Geekcorps' volunteer waiting list.

AWARDS/HONORS: Zuckerman was recognized as one of *Technology Review's* World's Top 100 Young Innovators in technology and business in 2002; he earned the publication's Technology in the Service of Humanity Award the same year. He has been profiled by numerous media outlets worldwide including *BusinessWeek*, BBC News, Gannett Newspapers, PBS and CNN.com.

QUOTE: "My time in Africa was life-changing ... the Fulbright fellowships are fairly flexible, so I was able to examine the challenges confronting countries way off the telecom grid. That, to me, was the real beauty of the fellowship: it let me live in Ghana and study the people – make friends with them and really get to know them – and then come to some conclusion I would take through life."