Amanda Eure, Ghana, 2007

Winston-Salem State University
North Carolina

Studying abroad in Ghana was one of the most memorable experiences I ever had during my undergraduate years at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). I studied abroad at the University of Ghana in Legon through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). At the time, Ghana was celebrating its 50th Independence Anniversary from Great Britain. I had the opportunity to participate in a few of the celebrations around the country and collect souvenirs commemorating Ghana's independence. On the campus, I took a variety of classes: the *Twi* language, traditional African dance, and history of Ghanaian music, along with my math courses, Elementary Statistics and Ordinary Differential Equations. I volunteered as a teacher's assistant at University Primary Village Basic School. In my free time, I had private painting classes and group salsa dancing classes. On the weekends, I visited several national monuments and attractions.

I had the opportunity to do a short-term homestay. This experience further helped me practice my newly acquired language skills in *Twi* and to learn more about the Ghanaian culture. At the end of my study abroad program, I became one of the famous faces on campus after being spotted in the same newspaper as John Legend (R&B artist) and Luciano (Jamaican Reggae artist) after attending the benefit concert for flood victims in northern Ghana.

Since my study abroad experience in Ghana, I have studied abroad in South Africa and Dominican Republic. After I graduated with my bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Winston-Salem State University in 2010, I volunteered as a secondary mathematics teacher at Diamond Secondary School in Guyana for 2010-2011 academic school year.

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Now, I am entering my second year in my Applied Mathematics Master's program at North Carolina Agricultural &Technical State University. After graduate school at NCA&T, I plan to pursue a doctorate in applied mathematics and apply for the Boren Fellowship to study Zulu language and conduct dissertation research in South Africa.

Follow-on Service Project

For my Follow-on Service Project, I had a show-and-tell at my former middle school with the sixth graders. I dressed in African attire and showed the students the many items I collected while staying in Ghana, such as paintings, masks, wood carvings, drums, and *kente* cloth. I aspired to encourage the students to live out their dreams and travel across the world to gain more exposure to different cultures and ethnic groups.

At my university, I held an information session for students served by Student Support Services, which supports first-generation, low-income, or disabled students, about the Gilman Scholarship and WSSU Office of International Program's scholarships and programs to support WSSU students who are considering study abroad.