



Ali Scholars celebrating the end of their trip to England and Ghana.

On May 14, 2010 students and staff from the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of Louisville embarked on a transformational three and a half week journey to England and Ghana as part of the Muhammad Ali Scholars Program. Some of the goals of the amazing journey included exploring social justice issues in England and Ghana, especially those related to women, children, community violence, political power, economic justice, environmental justice, health and

intergroup relations; learning about the history and culture of Ghana; examining the impact of the trans-Atlantic slave trade by making the Europe-Africa-Americas journey; participating in field work with Ghanaian students under the direction of the University for Development Studies; and furthering the development of the Ali Scholars program internationally.

The Ali Scholars Program, offered to second and third year undergraduate University of Louisville students, is a unique 2-year experience combining training, research and service in the areas of social justice, peace building and violence prevention. A special emphasis is placed on understanding and addressing the social conditions that impact those issues. The 2009-2011 Ali Scholars are Kathriena Greenwell, Jonathan Krigger, Bristol Mann, Mohamad Ndiaye, Whitney Newell, Gwen Rucker, Janessa Siegel, and Amanda Simmons.

Joining the Ali Scholars were Stacy Bailey-Ndiaye, Ali Institute Director; Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, Vice Provost for Diversity and International Affairs; Dwain Archer, Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness, Campus Safety; and Brodrick Clarke, Deputy Director of Programs at the Muhammad Ali Center.

The Ali Scholars spent four days in England in London, Manchester, Bradford and Liverpool exploring current issues related to peace, social justice, intergroup relations, and history of the transatlantic slave trade. A highlight of the UK experience, which was hosted by the Youth Charter for Sport, Culture and Arts, was participation in a youth conference entitled, "Olympic Legacy, Global Citizenship and Community Cohesion: Making Connections." The Ali Scholars played a key role in helping community leaders and young people in London identify how the 2012 Olympics can have a lasting, positive impact on the city.

Dr. Anita Harris from Anthropology accompanied the group and supervised the independent studies of several students. Rounding out the journey were Dr. Muriel Harris and Dr. Liz O'Brien and four graduate students from the School of Public Health who led a community based study about malaria in Northern Ghana.

After spending several days in the capital city of Accra, where the group toured the city, visited cultural sites, and attended lectures on the history and culture of Ghana, they began their journey north. On the way, they visited the infamous Elmina and Cape Coast slave castles, spent two days in Kumasi - land of the Asante- and a day Tamale, Sister City of Louisville and home of the central administration of the University for Development Studies.



Dr. Frank Teng Zeng of UDS, introducing the group to the community in Kong.



Ali Scholars interviewing a young person in Sakai.

Health students and two Ali Scholars did a research project related to malaria in Kong, the remaining Ali Scholars focused on agriculture, education, youth development, women, leadership, and health in Sakai. This trip served as the first partnership activity between UDS and UofL and was a pioneering opportunity to exercise the long-standing memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

Central to the goals of the trip was the week and a half the group spent on the Wa Campus of the University of Development Studies (UDS) and in Tumu, at the very northern tip of the country. UDS students from the Integrated Development Studies Program joined the UofL students for the two-day Peace and Justice Academy, featuring a series of lectures and discussions led by UDS and UofL faculty and staff. Under the direction of UDS faculty and students, the Ali Scholars and Public Health students spent four days doing field work in Sakai and Kong, two local communities in the area of Tumu. While the School of Public

For many of the Ali Scholars, the trip was a life changing experience. They plan to utilize the insights and experience they learned abroad to guide them as they implement their community based project in Louisville this year. A full report will soon be available on the Ali Institute website www.louisville.edu/aliinstitute and watch for the Ali Scholars "Talk Back" event in the fall semester to hear more about the trip in their own words.