

Ghana Research & Study Tour

Undergraduate Research Training & Experiential Education

What We Did

2011



Students conducted Cost-Benefit Analysis Research at the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary. In the Town of Larabanga students conducted research on potential tourism products, human-wildlife conflict, and conflict in the community.

2012



Students conducted Cost-Benefit Analysis Research at the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary. In the Town of Larabanga students helped develop a model for tourism delivery and explored coastal tourism in Beyin.

2013



Students completed the Cost-Benefit Analysis Research at the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary and completed independent research projects in Busua.

What were the outcomes of these activities?

GRST - The Impacts

Contributions to Ghanaian Economy.

The annual budget for the GRST is over \$25,000. The majority of that money is spend in Ghana.

\$45,000

School Supplies



Using funds raised by students and donated by our community partners we provided supplies to 4 different schools. In 2013 we were able to provide a full set of supplies including textbooks for a new school in Wechiau.

Sports Equipment

We use sport as a way to connect with our communities. We also made sure to leave behind sports equipment for the children.



Our partner organizations in Ghana are essential to our success. Since 2011 we have worked with: a) Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary, Nature



Conservation Research Center/Calgary Zoo, and the Larabanga Ecotourism Board. We have also worked with PAPR-Ghana, BAREC, Busua Tourism Board, Sunyani Polytechnic, and KNUST FFRT.

Student Outcomes

Professional Growth

- Increased GPA
- Application of knowledge & skills
- Critical thinking
- Additional Research Opportunities
- 1 International internship in Kenya
- 2 Accepted to graduate school
- 4 Presentations at Professional Conferences

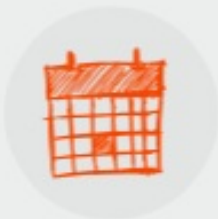
Personal Growth

- Self-discovery
- Better understanding of cross-cultural issues
- Increased reflection on life at “home”
- Increased Self-Confidence
- 1 Wedding!



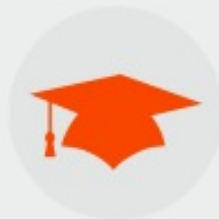
Additional Outcomes

Experiential Education, Global Awareness, Capacity Building, and Partnerships



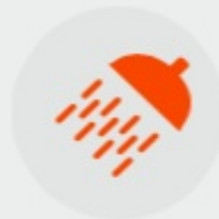
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Days

VIU students set the record for the longest stay within the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary



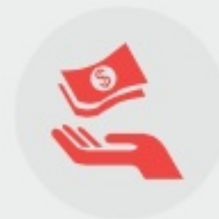
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Scholarships

VIU students and partners have donated to 4 different scholarship funds including an on-going program to support girls' education.



1
Bore Hole Fixed

Donations from community partners in Canada meant that we were to fix the only source of water for a remote community.



\$16,000
Funding

\$13,000 Funding from PAPR-Canada/SSHRC & \$3000 funding from Thrifty's Double-up Program.

