



Newsletter

August 2016



First Yo Ghana! Conference Draws Sixteen Schools

Some ninety Yo Ghana! students, teachers, and administrators streamed into the University of Education, Winneba campus for our first conference on July 1-2. The theme was “Sharing Our Stories”; conference organizer and Yo Ghana! board member Dr. Eric Ananga wanted to provide a platform for both our students and our teachers to be heard, for educators working in our diverse schools across Ghana to share with each other both the challenges they face and the ways in which they are overcoming them.

Most of Yo Ghana!’s transformative exchanges happen across the Atlantic Ocean. This conference gave our Ghana students and staff the opportunity to educate and encourage each other. Before the conference ended, the educators had formed a WhatsApp Yo Ghana! group.

Third Annual Tour of Ghana Schools

Yo Ghana! coordinator Lucy Ampate Sarpong, volunteer Wendy del Mar, and board members Elizabeth Fosler-Jones and David del Mar undertook a tour of our schools during the last two weeks of June. Certainly one of the high points was at Nipaba Brew School, where the uniform now incorporates the Yo Ghana! logo. Here Madam Lucy addresses some 600 people, as the entire school assembled for a program of speeches and dancing.

We also visited several fine schools and programs interested in joining Yo Ghana!



Scenes From Our



Legendary educator Professor Jophus Anamuah-Mensah, for whom the Conference Center is named, opened the conference.



Attendees traveled up to twenty hours to get to Winneba. For some, it was their first big trip. For many, it was their first time at the beach!



The field trip to Kantanka Factory was one of the conference's most popular features.

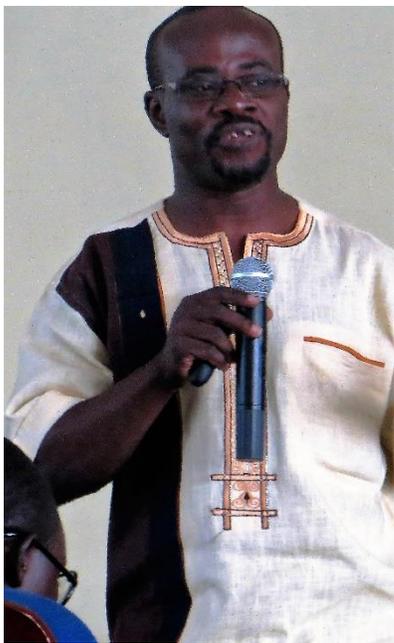


University Lecturer Mohammed Abdan Abdullah's sessions on maths entranced our students.



One board member from a quorum: Dr. Eric Donkoh, Dr. David del Mar, Dr. Eric Ananga, and Elizabeth Fosler Jones who, as usual, solved problems before they could arise.

Winneba Conference



Dr. Eric Ananga closed his speech by telling attendees: "You are Yo Ghana!"



Performers from the University Arts Department offered a lively hour of dance and theater.



Mr. Daniel Arkoh Feny's poetry sessions inspired many of our students.



Madam Berthy Kpiebaya, on the left, led a dedicated team of University students and graduates who did everything from run the dormitories to oversee staff and student sessions. We are grateful!



Mr. Alhassan Nantogma of Savelugu S.H.S. presented on disciplining without caning to teachers and on time management to students.

Other News

Wanted: Partners for 2016-2017 School Year

Enthusiasm for Yo Ghana! in Ghana is riding high, with several strong schools and programs wishing to join us. So we are looking for teachers, administrators, or student groups between the ages of twelve and eighteen in Oregon or Washington who are interested in exchanging three or more thoughtful sets of letters with students in Ghana over the upcoming school year. Please contact David at yoghana.org@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested.

Yo Ghana! and Poverty Inc. Portland Premiere

Yo Ghana! was honored to co-host the premiere showing of the documentary [Poverty Inc.](#) in Portland with good friend, Rhiannon Orizaga, selling out the Living Room Theater. Poverty Inc. urges us to "have a mind for the poor," not just a heart, and is now available through Netflix.

Yo Ghana! in *Portland Monthly*

Portland Monthly in its July edition gave us a shout out in their "Trophy Case" section and then wrote an [extensive piece about us in its online edition](#).

Collaborations in the Works

We recently met with several organizations working with children about possible collaborations. [Teach for Ghana](#) in September sends its first cohort of teachers into some of the nation's most challenged schools. The Creative Reading Academy for Girls will offer students from struggling Accra families opportunities for educational achievement, leadership, and service. [Campfire Columbia](#) provides Portland-Area youth with "the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are." [Patriots Ghana](#) addresses many of the causes and consequences of child trafficking in the fishing industry near Kasoa. Future of Africa works with some eighty Accra street children and hopes to help some to become literate.

Yo Ghana! facilitates letter and other exchanges between schools in Ghana and the Pacific Northwest and offers modest grants to projects initiated by Ghana Schools.

Yo Ghana! is a 501(c)3 public charity recognized by the IRS.
Your contributions are tax deductible.

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