



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** My Journeys to Ghana, West Africa and The Sea Islands of South Carolina **Name:** Felisha M. Bell

**Other Team Members:**

**Program:** New York City Program

**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Ghana, Sea Islands, South Carolina

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 01

**Project Summary:** Battered, scarred and deflated-- tens of thousands of men, women and children from Africa arrived on the shores of America not knowing what their futures held, yet longing for their past. The "cargo" as they were commonly called endured a long, horrific journey that began in countries like Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal and ended in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean Islands. Although stripped of identity and community and forced to assume new lives, they remembered--secretly cradling the past, blending the old with the new and "Reinventing" themselves with remnants from a distant homeland. This past summer, I embarked on a journey from the United States to Ghana, West Africa and to the Sea Islands of South Carolina with the purpose of researching the link between African and African –American folklore. What I found was two regions separated by hundreds of thousands of miles yet undeniably connected through history and culture. It is this history and culture that I will bring into the lives of my students as a means of dispelling negative myths about Africa and creating a rich, diverse curriculum of learning.

**Career Impact:**

- Built on my experiences to enhance teaching from a multicultural perspective
- Enhanced my knowledge of museums, books, websites and other resources related to The Transatlantic Slave Trade
- Gained first hand knowledge of present day Ghana, West Africa
- Developed knowledge of African and African-American folklore and their inherent connections
- Empowered to assist other educators in developing meaningful learning experiences based on African/African-American folklore
- Stimulated further inquiry into researching African culture in the United States and abroad
- Learned how to collaborate more effectively with other content teachers for a more interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning

**Classroom/Community Impact:**

- Foster curiosity about African/African-American culture and history
- Enhance awareness of geography and the role that geography plays in culture and development
- Gain knowledge about the contributions and influence of West Africa on African Americans and the world
- Develop skills in comparing, contrasting and evaluating historical and cultural information
- Illustrate the importance of culture and history on people and society
- Provide students with resources related to African folklore
- Reconnect students of African descent with African history and contribution
- Share in the personal experience, enthusiasm and respect for multicultural learning
- Expand the teaching and study of African/African American History

**Open Response:**

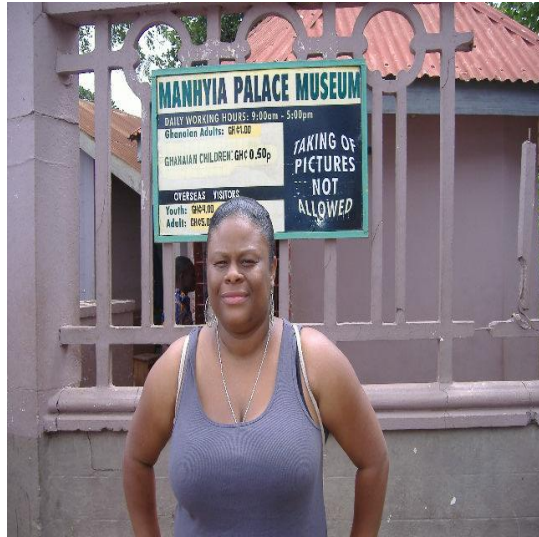
- Curricular unit focused on African and African-American Folklore
- Folklore festival showcasing artifacts from Ghana and the Sea Islands and highlighting the traditions and customs of the students
- Multimedia project focused on my journey to be used in connection to student learning
- Archived project including lesson plans, materials, resources and multimedia project for the Christopher Columbus high school campus library and the English Language Arts and Social studies department of my school--Global Enterprise Academy High School

**Quote:** "Instruction In Youth Is Like Engraving in Stone" --African proverb

Photos:



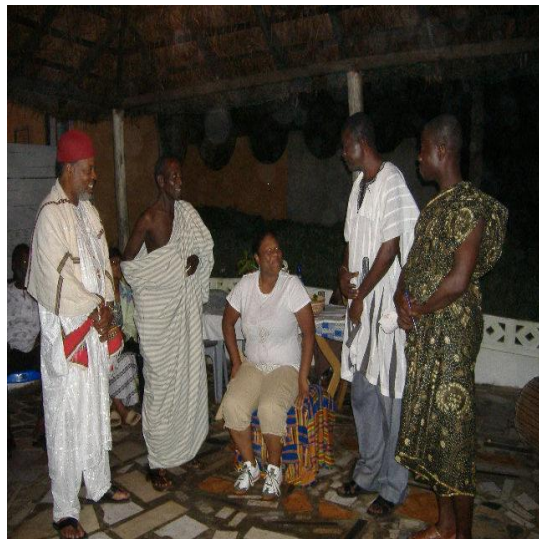
Door of No Return for the Enslaved African, Elmina Castle Slave Dungeon Ghana West Africa



Me at the Ashanti Palace, Ghana West Africa



Ghanaian Kente Cloth Designer



Ewe Renaming Ceremony by Elders/Orators of the Ewe Tribe- My new Ghanaian Name is Mamee Akua Entonsu



Slave River in Assin Manso, Ghana West Africa (The final bathing place for the Enslaved African)



Church used by early enslaved Africans at St. Helena's Island (Sea Island) South Carolina





Angel Tree noted for its spiritual connection during and after enslavement.



South Carolinian Gullah Folklorists and Basket Weavers