

PROPOSAL TO ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE SOUTH
For a Community Partnership for Sustainable Development and Service Learning Grant
Morehouse College
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March 30, 2008

REQUEST: \$3,000

INTRODUCTION

The Morehouse Pan African Global Experience (MPAGE) is a new study abroad program to begin in summer 2009. It is a faculty-led collaborative program that will offer courses in Ghana, as the first site, with intentions of extending to South African and Tanzania, where Morehouse service learning and student exchange programs are now operating. We would like to partner with the North Scale Institute of College Park, GA, a community-based think-tank and botanical garden for promoting herbal healing, nutrition, reforestation, and sustainable living. A brief description of the MPAGE study abroad program and the North Scale Institute program of G.E.N.E.S.I.S. follows.

MPAGE is focused on sustainable development, including community service in reforestation and ethnobotany. All students will be enrolled in the mandatory core course, entitled "Village Life and the World-System in Cyber-Space," which involves participating in oral history/interviewing for video-assisted research projects which will look comparatively at both African American culture in the Atlanta area and African culture and society in Ghana. The study abroad and this course are open to all students in good standing enrolled in United Negro College Fund, ACS, and other degree granting universities and colleges. A module of this course will be devoted to ethnobotany. The Kaua'i Declaration of a study group of the National Tropical Botanical Garden defined ethnobotany as the study of the interactions and relationships between plants and people over time and space. Sociologists and anthropologists are essential components of the ethnobotanical project to understand how social groups use knowledge of plants, transmit it and revalorize it as intellectual capital that permits them to survive. Ethnobotany is essential for understanding sustainability, of both the ecological environment and cultures.

The North Scale Institute is led by Dr. Anthony Kweku Andoh, a world-renown ethnobotanist and community leader. The Institute hosts weekly open informal learning sessions for the community about plants, health and reforestation, gives seminars for youth, community groups, and various botanical garden societies in the Atlanta area, nationally and internationally. It is developing an on-going project of community service in conjunction with Morehouse called G.E.N.E.S.I.S. – Growing Energy and Nutrition for Environmental Stability and Investment in Society. In 2005, we traveled with students under the guidance of Dr. Andoh to Haiti to assist in an ethnobotanical survey of plant life there and to plant valuable nutraceutical trees, the *Moringa oleifera*. Our goal is to develop a 5 acre "Global Model Forest" where the carefully selected mix of local and imported plants are capable of being used to meet all essential human needs: food, healing, energy, building materials and fibers for clothe. On this site, which the North Scale Institute began to develop in 2006 in the Elmina region of Ghana, youth from the United States and Ghana will experiment with ways to meet their needs through hands-on propagating and harvesting of plants and their products, processing of materials, building and designing in conjunction with the villagers of Anomabo.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The requested funding will support planning of this community service partnership through a site visit this summer and comprehensive planning and review meeting in early fall 2008 to establish the Ghana Global Model Forest project of the Morehouse—G.E.N.E.S.I.S. program. Our collaboration will include:

- a. Development of the Morehouse Reforestation Brigade student club. Dr. Andoh will annually introduce students to the importance of plants and trees through a talk and demonstration of propagation of important plant species in Morehouse' hot house.
- b. The students of the brigade and others interested will assist in tree planting at the North Scale Institute and at other locations, becoming familiar with the skills needed, and providing a service.
- c. In Ghana, the MPAGE students will:
 - i. Assist Dr. Andoh and Anamoba in ethnobotanical studies of the model forest site, including plant identification for a thorough ecological mapping of the terrain of the Model Forest. (2-5 days)
 - ii. Oral interviewing regarding plant use, locations, local names, spiritual lore and taboos. They will develop cultural analytical competency through their introduction to the nuances of translating ideas to and from English to Twi and Fanti, languages spoken in Ghana. (4 days)
 - iii. Carry out reforestation work at the Model Forest and at other sites of community significance, including schools, bus stops, and projects of the University for Development Studies in Navrongo. (3 days)

NEEDS STATEMENT

The Reforestation Brigade and the Morehouse Pan-African Global Experience provide a public service to policy makers by providing concrete environmental improvements in local communities in the U.S. and in Africa, through reforestation and identification of important species of plants and by providing them with direct information on outlooks related to lifestyles and sustainability held within communities in Africa and the U.S. This project is needed because the deepening global environmental crisis, and inequality and hunger, requires for solution collaboration between the "experts" and the community. However, our students cannot begin to play their role if they have not been introduced to the traditional knowledge of the people. By carrying out service the students will learn how to value, gather, apply, and enhance knowledge of the uses of Mother earth's flora; and be exposed to natural lifestyles from which they can fashion new self-images that include valuing improvements to the environment and lifestyles that are sustainable.

ACTIVITIES: THE MOREHOUSE-G.E.N.E.S.I.S. PROJECT SITE VISIT AND PLANNING

The site visit team will be Dr. Samuel Livingston, Dr. Cynthia Hewitt, and up to two students.

1. In Ghana, we will meet with Dr. Andoh in Elmina and view the site and plan for work. We will also explore our other possible collaborators, particularly the University for Development Studies, Navrongo, where the students initiate and carry out development projects in villages as part of their course of study, and the Departments of Botany, Sociology and African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon; and the Departments of Art, Social Sciences, and Architecture at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi.
2. The students will be responsible for (1) evaluating and helping to design the hands-on community service project(s) for the study abroad; (2) making contact with student leadership and other students, preparing an analysis of who the youth leadership is, and making arrangements with them to show our videos and interview with us the following summer. (3) They are to assist in camera-work and logistics of filming.

All participation during the site visit is voluntary and unpaid. Air travel for the Morehouse team, and local transportation and lodging for all will be provided.

PLANNING EXPENSES

Airfare		(Hewitt is one-way; rest roundtrip May departure)
Hewitt (one-way)	775	
Livingston	1,550	
Nance	1,550	
Biggs	1,550	
Housing		(Faculty single & double occup.; some home stays.)
Hewitt	840	
Livingston	500	
Dr. Andoh	340	
Nance	420	
Biggs	420	
Local Transport		(\$100/day rental; \$25/day average gasoline; 22 days)
SUV 22x125	2,750	
Film, Other Supplies	150	
Communications	200	(Overseas and local communications)
Books, Curric. Dev. Meetings	350	(One meeting of collaborative, books)
TOTAL	11,475	

EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION

1. The G.E.N.E.S.I.S. collaborative activities will be reviewed at the Sunday afternoon North Scale Institute Community Forums quarterly for community input.
2. The MPAGE Faculty Committee will review annual plans for the G.E.N.E.S.I.S. project in conjunction with the study abroad service learning and sustainable development curriculum.
3. Development of project website in conjunction with MPAGE website.
4. Report posted to the CFD website.
5. Program Announcement materials for the study abroad will be sent to ACS institution environmental and study abroad advisory programs in fall 2008.
6. Submittal to present at ACS Annual Environmental Program Conference.
7. Presentation of project at the annual Salzburg Global Conference in January 2009

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

There are no other concurrent ACS grants. The following sources of funds will also support this project:

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| 1. The Salzburg Global Conference | \$2,000 |
| 2. NIMH-COR Program | \$3,500 |
| 3. The Office of the President, Morehouse College | \$2,000 |
| 4. The Division of Humanities and Social Science | \$1,000 |