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REPORT OF FOREIGN STUDY PROGRAM IN COMPARATIVE EDUCATION

Education 39.2 Winter Term, Practicum

The following junior and senior education majors were selected to spend the 1969-1970 Winter term in Sierra Leone:

Elaine Armburst - 1465 Gibbs Ave., N.E. Canton, Ohio 44705
Cynthia Baughman - 3955 W. Elm, Lima, Ohio 45805
Judy Clister - Box 162, Markleysburg, Penna. 15459
Janet Cornish - 130 S. Liberty St., Powell, Ohio 43065
Karla Courtright - 9650 Sunbury Rd., Westerville, Ohio 43081
Patricia Deck - 3590 Waterbury Dr., Kettering, Ohio 45439
Colleen Dunston - P.O. Box 304, Connellsville, Penna. 15425
Sharon Ellenberger - 1728 Williams Drive, Freemont, Ohio 43420
Ronda Fritz - R.R. 2, Attica, Ohio 44807
Barbara Goellner - 4211 Redfern Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134
Elizabeth Henry - 3950 Lytham Court, Columbus, Ohio 43221
Carolyn Koachway - 5640 Baumhart Rd., Vermillion, Ohio 44089
Mary Jo Lenk - 1695 S. Diamond Mill Rd., New Lebanon, Ohio 45345
Lynda McDonald - 858 Chestnut St., Latrobe, Penna. 15650
Linda Whitehouse - 1610 Flora Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

President and Mrs. Lynn W. Turner accompanied the group and spent two weeks in the country. They were given a welcome reception by educational leaders, government officials, and Otterbein College alumni and friends. Old acquaintanceships were renewed and mutual interests were established.

During the term, the group combined their professional training with deep intercultural experiences. Through direct experience, they developed a better understanding of the culture, history, economic conditions, and community life of Sierra Leone.

For the first week, accommodations were provided at Lati Hyde Hall, Fourah Bay College. The United Christian Council and the educational leaders of Sierra Leone presented an excellent program for the group. Seminars were held at Albert Academy and visitations were made to the schools.

After the week at Fourah Bay College, six students were housed at Moyamba; while the college supervisor and nine students were accommodated at the Njala University College, Njala. Under guidance and supervision, the students worked with the Sierra Leone teachers on a teacher-aid basis in the following schools: Harford Girls School, June Hartranft School, Njala University College Experimental School, Pelewahun Primary School, Taiama Primary School, and the United Methodist Church Boys School.

One-half day (Monday through Thursday), the students participated in the schools. They applied their professional knowledge and skills and assumed responsibility in the major areas of teaching. They increased both personal and professional competencies and developed a greater appreciation and understanding of the function of the schools in Sierra Leone.

I will quote a few of the responses from a questionnaire received from the Sierra Leone teachers. The question was: Do you feel that this program has contributed to the educational program of Sierra Leone? If so, in what way?

"It gave rise to exchanging of ideas about the U.S.A. and Sierra Leone. It also created cordial relationships between the member and the children and the staff of the school (new ideas)."

"Children and teachers learnt a lot. It will be a great help to the country if this course continues. We wish the course to continue for many years."

"I gathered some good information about the educational system in the States and also discussed the classroom problems both in the States and Sierra Leone in common. If such continues for long, we shall have been able to have numerous friends in the States who come and go leaving behind their bright ideas shining in the minds of children and friends."

In most of the responses, the teachers felt that the program was of value to them and their pupils and expressed the desire to have the program continued. They also indicated that they would like to see the program extended over a longer period of time and expressed the desire for a student and teacher exchange program.

The College Supervisor served as a liaison agent between Otterbein College and the schools. She interpreted the College program, worked out details of the participants assignments, supervised the participants, and conferred frequently with school officials and cooperating teachers and assisted them in guiding the participants. In addition to daily visits to the schools, the supervisor held frequent conferences and seminars with the students concerning special problems related to the field study experience. In cooperation with the local officials, she worked out the problems of food, housing, and transportation for the group. Among other things, she met with government and educational leaders, arranged the various field trips, and presented "A Survey of the Forces Influencing the Development of Education in the United States" to the teacher education students at Njala University College.

When the participants were not occupied with school assignments, their time was spent in making use of the library facilities at Fourah Bay College and Njala University College and in gathering data for their research projects. Field trips relevant to the various projects were made to homes, farms, schools, villages, and to the major industrial developments of the country.

Through the examination of social institutions and organizations, tribal patterns, religious beliefs, city and rural life and problems, economic developments, and developments in agriculture and education, the participants gained an enormous amount of information. In order to assimilate and use this information, the participants are now attending weekly seminars and discussing the significant aspects of their experience. They are also working in their selected areas of study and research, evaluating their foreign study experience, and sharing with others the knowledge and understandings gained from the practicum.

Acknowledgement is made here to the following people who contributed to the success of the program:

Dr. and Mrs. Chester Addington, Mr. and Mrs. A. Max Bailor, Mr. and Mrs. Max A. Bailor, Mr. L. O. Bailor, Rev. T. S. Bangura,

Mr. S. A. Boampong, Dr. E. A. Brams, Mr. P. C. Branche, Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Broderick, Dr. and Mrs. B. A. Carew, Mr. John Comtesse, Mr. William Conton, Dr. H. M. Dyasi, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Fitzjohn, Mr. Mohammed Fofane, Dr. Enid A. Forde, Rev. and Mrs. Clyde Galow, Dr. M. R. O. Garber, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hodges, Mr. Basil Igwe, Miss Kamara, Dr. and Mrs. Ray Karnes, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Karr, Miss Kopp, Rev. Liddane, Dr. K. J. Mahoney, Principal S. T. Matturi, Mr. and Mrs. May-Parker, Ambassador R. E. Miner, Dr. R. E. Mondeh, Miss Morford, Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Ohuche, Miss Virginia Pickarts, Dr. Sanford Price, Rev. Renner, Principal and Mrs. H. A. E. Sawyerr, Mr. and Mrs. Y. T. Seesay, Mr. D. Stephen, Mr. M. Thomas, Mr. Sonny Tucker, Dr. and Mrs. Lynn W. Turner, Dr. and Mrs. N. A. Worker, Mr. M. A. Seray-Wurie, and Rev. and Mrs. B. K. Williams.

Special acknowledgement is made to the educators who welcomed the participants into their schools and cooperated in the joint planning and evaluation of the foreign study project.

Head Teachers: Mrs. Khalu, Mr. Kondaba, Mr. Saidu, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Tyre.

Teachers: Mr. Ali, Mr. Alpha, Mr. Backery, Mrs. Bagla, Mrs. Bangura, Mr. Bunda, Miss Dixon, Mrs. Frances, Mr. D. George, Mr. E. George, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Kargbo, Mr. Leech, Miss Lefevre, Mr. Mossima, Mr. Sam and Mr. Samuel.

I also wish to acknowledge and express appreciation to the Crusade Scholarships Committee of the United Methodist Church, to numerous friends and colleagues, and to the many Sierra Leonean people as well as the boys and girls, who participated in and contributed to its support. I wish also to express appreciation to all of the members of the United Christian Council, to the personnel not previously mentioned from the University of Illinois and to the students and faculty of the Universities of Sierra Leone for their help and encouragement in this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted by

Mildred Stauffer

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