

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad to Cameroon

Number of Participants: Fourteen Teachers and Professors

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The Africana Studies program of Hendrix College, in association with the school districts of 40 Arkansas teachers, is sponsoring this month-long Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) in Cameroon during June and July 2005. The central activity in this project is a month-long program of instruction, field study, and cultural activities in Cameroon for the purpose of developing curriculum materials for the participants' use in their classrooms.

The participants for this GPA program have been selected from teachers and professors who attended 2003 and 2004 African Studies summer workshops, hosted and funded by Hendrix College, with primary funding support from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. This intensive academic exposure to West Africa and the introduction of workshop-related focuses in their classrooms have prepared the participants for a field study experience in Cameroon itself. The GPA's host institution in Cameroon is the University of Buea. The GPA's in-country coordinator is Dr. Victor Ngoh, Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Buea, where he is also a member of the History Department.

A pre-departure orientation weekend at Hendrix serves to update participants on events and developments in Cameroon during the past year, engage them in cross-cultural awareness activities, and enable them to discuss and refine their curricular projects. In Cameroon, the GPA program features a wide variety of relevant field trips in both cities and rural areas. Participants have access to local experts and specialists by means of formal lectures, informal meetings, and discussions, in addition to experiencing the cultural and regional diversity of Cameroon through extended stays in the Buea area and in the major cities of Douala and Yaoundé, followed by a travel phase in the West and Northwest Provinces.

Participants' curricular projects will utilize the knowledge gained and materials collected during the field experience. Each curricular project must produce at least some tangible materials that can be reproduced and distributed, whether in the form of discs, slides, audio or videocassettes, a written text or visual display to accompany a power-point presentation, or any appropriate combination of these options. Dissemination of the curriculum materials produced by the participants is the final phase of this project. The project director will distribute copies of these curriculum materials among participants and will send copies to educational co-operatives throughout Arkansas. GPA participants will likewise disseminate their curriculum materials through participation in local, statewide, and regional workshops and conferences.