A bilateral agreement for collaborative academic work exists between the two universities making it possible for the Kirkhof College of Nursing (GVSU) and School of Nursing and Midwifery (UCC) to establish a partnership for study abroad activities in public health nursing and collaborative research. The collaborative endeavor began in 2008 when an undergraduate nursing student from GVSU studied for a semester at UCC. While at UCC she skyped with a group of GVSU OBGYN students on public health issues exchanging knowledge. The interest for establishment of a formal program was ignited. This was followed up by faculty exchange visits between the two nursing education institutions in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 2010 three GVSU faculty members spent two weeks at UCC viewing the physical campus, meeting with UCC nursing faculty, visiting clinical sites, accommodations, and communication and transportation systems, and laying the groundwork for a partnership.

In 2013, the first twelve GVSU undergraduate students from the traditional and second degree BSN programs spent two weeks at UCC over their spring break and the week afterwards. Two UCC faculty members collaborated with two GVSU faculty to organize learning activities which included healthcare delivery and categories of healthcare providers in Ghana and similarities and differences in healthcare delivery and nursing programs (UCC and GVSU). Students explored the role played by the Student Nurses Association and how they might interact and make it possible to work side by side. They eventually conducted health screening across the lifespan working with community leaders who mobilized their community members. UCC and GVSU students and faculty teamed together to conduct home visits to follow up immobile seniors, prenatal mothers and vaccination defaulters. The lead author has strengthened the relationship between the two schools by completing a one year Fulbright Scholarship at UCC in 2013-2014 helping to develop their MSN program and continuing to train host country onsite faculty and clinical preceptors for both UCC and GVSU programs. The lead author has supervised some MSN theses leading to the beginning of collaborative research with one of the UCC coauthors. Since 2015 the lead author returns to UCC each summer to work with graduate students and mentoring some faculty thereby maintaining the relationship with nursing faculty, partners and community workers. This has had a great impact of experience on students and faculty’s personal, academic, life skills, and competencies regarding their roles on world perspectives and transcultural nursing.

It has now been five years of ongoing partnership between GVSU and UCC. Along the way, students from the GVSU RN-BSN and DNP programs have also been added to the mix of students going to UCC. Each year the process of GVSU training and organization improves. The next endeavor involves UCC students coming to GVSU.

Title:
Study Abroad Program With Dynamics of Collaborative Research: A Case of Two Universities

Keywords:
Collaborative Research, International Partnership and Ongoing Faculty Involvement and Training
Abstract Summary:
This poster describes the dynamic collaboration between an American university and a Ghanaian university that has been in existence for nine years beginning with faculty visits and then five years of student work in Ghana.

Content Outline:
I. Partnership between Grand Valley State University and University of Cape Coast
   A. Faculty Exchange 2008-2010
   B. Student Exchange 2013-2017

II. Different Roles
   A. Faculty Roles
      1. GVSU
      2. UCC
      3. Fulbright Scholarship
      4. Supervision of MSN Theses
   B. Student Roles
      1. Student Nurses Association
      2. Study Abroad Students

III. Future Directions for the Collaboration

First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

Sylvia Mupepi, PhD
Grand Valley State University
Kirkhof College of Nursing
Professor
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids MI
USA
**Professional Experience:** Before coming to GVSU, Dr. Mupepi had taught nursing at undergraduate and graduate level at Colleges of Higher Education in England (United Kingdom), the University of Zimbabwe, and University of Michigan. She facilitated the establishment of the UCC (Ghana) Public Health Nursing Study Abroad with a team of colleagues. She identified learning sites for GVSU students and training program preceptors and led the first group of 13 students to Ghana as co-director in 2013. Following her first visit to Ghana on the GVSU faculty exchange program in 2009, she was consulted by UCC faculty senior administration to facilitate the development of an MSN program at that university. She collaborated with UCC faculty, Ministry of Health staff, and community members and produced a curriculum that was approved by Ghana National Higher Education Accreditation Agency.

**Author Summary:** Dr. Mupepi has extensive experience collaborating with the University of Cape Coast Nursing Program. She has been instrumental in developing the partnership between GVSU and UCC, initiating the MSN program at UCC, and training faculty in Ghana.

Second Secondary Presenting Author

**Corresponding Secondary Presenting Author**

Nancy Schoofs, PhD
Grand Valley State University
Kirkhof College of Nursing
Professor
301 Michigan St. N.E.
Grand Rapids MI
USA

**Professional Experience:** Dr. Schoofs has been in nursing education for over 30 years at the collegiate level. She has published and presented on the Flipped or Active Classroom.

**Author Summary:** Dr. Schoofs has taught at colleges and universities in the United States as well as Leogane, Haiti and University of Cape Coast, Ghana. She has taught clinical in hospitals, home health agencies, and homeless shelters.