



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE STUDIES
SCHOOL OF ARTS

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To Whom It May Concern,

**REVIEW OF DR. VANNETTA PERRY'S INTERNATIONAL GROUP-LEADING
EXPERIENCE**

It is my pleasure to comment on Dr. Vannetta Perry international group-leading experience in Ghana without reservation.

I have known Dr. Perry over the past two decades. I worked with her closely when she led various groups of American citizens to tour Ghana, while sharing with the local people knowledge and life experiences. In 2003, for example, Dr. Perry and I hosted at Wusuta, a rural settlement in the Volta Region of Ghana, 22 Fulbright Teachers from Eastern New Mexico to experience and study aspects of rural Ghanaian life ways, in addition to the community's water systems. The study and experiences of the teachers culminated in a book titled "Intercultural Perspectives", a teaching manual on cross-cultural studies, which I co-edited.

I would be delighted to work with Dr. Perry in Ghana on her Soulful Traveling project. This is based on my knowledge of her as a highly qualified group leader with excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Dr. Perry is emotionally balanced and mixes freely with all categories of people, while always prepared to learn and acquire new knowledge. These qualities enabled her to bond with a cross-section of people at Wusuta in particular and elsewhere in Ghana at large. In addition to employing the services of the local people as caterers and local tour guides, Dr. Perry and a member of the group she led encouraged and supported a junior high school teacher and a senior high school student to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree and a diploma in Information Communication Technology respectively. Through Dr. Perry's initiative, a Sister-City pact between Wusuta and the City of Socorro, USA, was signed by the indigenous leaders of the town and the then Mayor of Socorro. A copy of the Sister-City certificate was presented to the Wusuta people amid a grand durbar they organized to recognize and honour Dr. Perry and her group members. Such kind gestures have endeared her to many citizens of the town who have retained fond memories of her.

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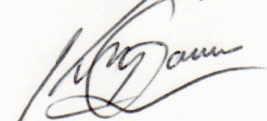
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The presence of international travelers, including those Dr. Perry led, in Wusuta has been mutually beneficial to both the guests and the hosts. It has led to the breakdown of many stereotypes and misconceptions the local people and their guests had held about each other, and engendered deeper understanding and appreciation by both parties of aspects of their respective cultures. It catalyzes an informal knowledge acquisition and learning process that has the potential to foster cross-cultural understanding and sustainable peace among the diverse peoples of the world. I would, thus, encourage and support visits to Wusuta and other rural Ghanaian communities by international travelers, and will be prepared to once again team up with Dr. Perry in this endeavor. I shall offer my personal experience in the anthropology of tourism, heritage studies, ethnography, and archaeology, and data I have obtained over the years from research across Ghana to enhance her tour operating project. I am confident the project will help to bring America closer to several Africans, who would otherwise not have the opportunity of interacting and sharing their lives with Americans.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kodzo Gavua', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kodzo Gavua, PhD

Associate Professor of Archaeology and Heritage Studies