

The College of Education is offering a doctoral study tour opportunity that has been established to learn about the educational philosophy, curriculum, structure, and policy in Botswana. The specific purpose of this international study tour is to learn about the development of the whole child, both physical and psychological, in the cultural context of Botswana. Dr. Deborah Feltz will lead the study tour. Participants in this study tour will:

1. Develop an understanding of the history, culture, and people of Botswana and their role in child development, education, and mental health/adjustment/well being;
2. Learn about the risks and protective factors to whole child development, (including education, mental health, and physical activity given its geography, economic development, and HIV/AIDS with the resulting large number of orphans);
3. Develop an understanding of how culture plays a role in child development and learning;
4. Learn about the contexts of development in Botswana; and
5. Increase self-awareness of their world view and assumptions.

Pre-departure Requirements: Participants are required to attend pre-trip monthly orientation sessions organized by the College of Education and do a modest amount of reading in preparation for these sessions. Each fellow is also responsible for securing his/her passport, visa, and immunizations. The College will provide letters of support as necessary.

Tour Details: The study tour is tentatively scheduled from June 24 to July 09, 2011. The group will depart Detroit or other U.S. airports to meet in Johannesburg, S. Africa. There will be a one-night stay in Johannesburg because of flight arrival. Participants will then travel by air to Gaborone and will stay in university dorm rooms. The academic components of the program will include:

- Orientation & briefing by Prof. Maletle (or an alternate) and tour of the University.
- Participants will 'buddy up' with the U Botswana (UB) students.
- Participants will tour an orphanage; meet with personnel from Ministry of Education and Skills Development. Evenings will be utilized for reflection and discussion as a group.
- Participants will also meet with personnel from Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture.
- Meet personnel from Ministry of Health (this includes health promotion and education, mental health, and rehabilitation);

- Meet with youth sport coaches (or mental health personnel);
- Visit to Maun, and Bana ba Metsi School to visit their programs for children at risk.
- 15 min. presentations by MSU students to UB students and faculty, on 2-3 different occasions during the trip.

The cultural component of the tour will include:

- Visit to the National Park in Gaborone.
- Climb Mount Kgale in Gaborone; visit a market.
- See a sporting or other cultural event.
- Tour the National Museum and Art Gallery.

Covered Expenses: The College will offer a fellowship of \$3250 to cover travel expenses, housing, and some cultural experiences. All travel arrangements will be made by the college as group discounts will make the costs more affordable. All participants will be required to stay as a group for the duration of the trip

Eligibility & Selection Criteria: Full-time doctoral students in the College of Education, who are in the first three years of their program and can demonstrate satisfactory progress toward their degree, are eligible to apply. Please note that if you are awarded this fellowship you may not assume any teaching assistantship that overlaps with the duration of this trip. As an applicant, you are asked to submit an updated vita, secure a recommendation from your advisor, and prepare a **two-page** application that demonstrates the following:

- What is your field of study, areas of research interest and particular areas for observation and engagement?
- What particular research questions do you want to pursue through your visit? Why?
- One expectation in this program is that participants will present, in a seminar format, their own research or some topic in education research in which the applicant has knowledge or expertise. What seminar topic do you propose?
- What has made you interested in enhancing your understanding of global/international issues in education?
- Have you been to African countries and if so, which ones and for how long? How will this trip to Botswana enhance your understanding of this particular area?

All applicants meeting the selection criteria will be interviewed prior to final decisions. Students should be undaunted by:

- new and different experiences that require flexibility
- disorienting experiences outside of their comfort zone

- ambiguous and uncomfortable situations
- intense and ongoing experiences without large blocks of “free time”
- challenges to their definitions of “normal”

Students should be:

- Be open to new experiences and ways of thinking
- Be willing to stretch and try new behaviors, ways of thinking, and experiences
- Physically fit to walk, climb stairs, transport own luggage
- No dietary restrictions: difficult to ensure that special diets can be provided
- Students are expected to share their research in a formal presentation at the U. of Botswana and to spend time in the field.

Travel and Accommodations: The selected participants will fly to Johannesburg, stay there for a night, and then fly to Gaborone on day 3. In Gaborone they will stay in university dorms. Participants will fly to Maun and visit a school sometime during the middle of the tour, however; plan for Maun is tentative and may change based on how the planning unfolds. Participants will be back in Gaborone after Maun. The tour will leave for Johannesburg on Day 15 to return to the United States.

In your application, please note any health-related concerns (e.g. asthma, mobility). Finally, this is a sponsored study trip and thus, no spouses may accompany participants even if the cost is covered by the participant or spouse. Please know that not all costs can be anticipated and our estimates are based on last year’s study tour. If, at the conclusion of this trip, you wish to stay longer in Gaborone or travel elsewhere in Botswana or the continent, any additional costs must be absorbed by you and will not be part of the overall College allocation. MSU will not be responsible for these post-study tour arrangements.

Applications will be reviewed by the College of Education and also by the prospective host institution. The selection process may involve an interview of finalists. Recipients of the fellowship will be notified by March 15, 2011.

Deadline for application submission: **January 31, 2011**

Send electronic applications to dfeltz@msu.edu

Please direct any questions to mabokela@msu.edu, razzaqu3@msu.edu