

# The Purdue Peace Project Post



## The Purdue Peace Project (PPP)

**Our Mission:** The Purdue Peace Project encourages and assists local leaders to take constructive action to prevent violence in conflict-prone regions of the world. Where local groups already exist, PPP offers to assist them. Where such groups do not exist, PPP convenes local leaders and supports them to take action.

PPP seeks to contribute knowledge about preventing violence in fragile states and to disseminate that knowledge to the peace-building community and beyond. PPP will document its efforts, assess its effectiveness, and evaluate the results.

**What We Do:** PPP addresses situations in which violence appears to be imminent by empowering local leaders to take immediate action to prevent violence. PPP builds on the experience of local leaders in successfully preventing or ending armed conflict in their countries. Many small countries that have avoided armed conflict have made impressive political, economic, and social progress without significant outside help.

**Where We Work:** PPP's first operations are in West Africa. It cooperates with local, regional, and international organizations working for peace in the region. The Project maintains impartiality with respect to conflicted parties, focusing only on preventing violence between them.



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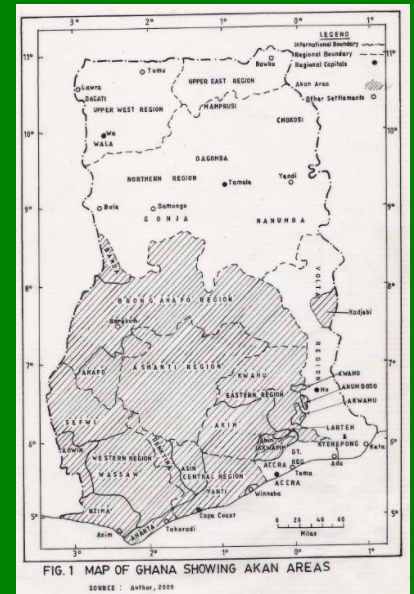
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PURDUE PEACE PROJECT

**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**ISSUE 01 August 2012**





## Promoting Peace in the Brong Ahafo Region: The PPP's Inaugural Project

Berekum is one of the municipalities in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana created in 1989 by splitting the former Berekum/Jaman district. A chieftaincy dispute has erupted within the region as a faction rejects the currently installed chief. As such, the potential for violence is imminent, particularly in light of forthcoming elections.

The PPP focuses on building the capacity of local leaders such that structural change can be made from unifying communities to act to prevent violence. To help do so, the PPP is supporting the Berekum Patrons, a group of highly intellectual and well respected personalities in Ghana who are citizens of Berekum, to play an advisory role in strategizing to avert political conflict.

PPP has facilitated the convening of meetings of members of key stakeholder groups in the region to develop strategies for preventing violence. In addition, PPP has collected and is evaluating its approach to violence prevention.

### Mission of the PPP

—To facilitate the convening of groups of local leaders in West African countries and in so doing, giving them the opportunity to do what they believe will be most effective in averting widespread political violence which threatens to erupt in the near term. These groups may be newly formed or already established groups of local leaders.

—To attend to the local context in designing and executing its approach to violence prevention.

—To compile and document information on its operations and analyze their effectiveness.

—To disseminate information on the Project and its effects to both the academic community and a wider audience. In so doing, both successes and failures will be shared.





# PPP Convening of Key Stakeholders June 12, 2012 Berekum, Ghana



Registration of meeting participants



Prayer prior to meeting start, a regional tradition



Group work session



Sharing of strategies for conflict prevention





# Who We Are: Meet the PPP Team



## Stacey L. Connaughton, Ph.D, Project Director

is an Associate Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University. Her research examines leadership and identification in geographically distributed contexts, particularly as these issues relate to virtual teams/ organizations and political parties. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, and Purdue's Center for International Business Education and Research. Her published work has appeared in *Small Group Research*, *Journal of Communication*, *Management Communication Quarterly*, *Communication Studies*, *Communication Yearbook*, *The Howard Journal of Communications*, *Corporate Communication: An International Journal*, *Knowledge Management Review*, and her book, *Inviting Latino Voters: Party Messages and Latino Party Identification*, was published in 2005 by Routledge.

She has been invited to present her research to industry, military, and higher educational audiences, and has facilitated workshops and written guidebooks in the areas of virtual teams, leadership, team-building, and strategic planning in the United States, Canada, and China. At Purdue, Dr. Connaughton teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in organizational communication theory, leadership, and research methods and is the recipient of several teaching awards.



## Mohan J. Dutta, Ph.D, Project Lead Report Investigator

As Project Report Lead Investigator, Professor Dutta oversees the design, development, and dissemination of reports on the Purdue Peace Project. Dr. Dutta is a Professor of Communications and New Media and Director of the Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation at the National University of Singapore (NUS). His research and teaching areas focus on the culture-centered approach (CCA) to health and social change communication, poverty and health inequities, globalization and social change, public policy, and activism for social change. He holds an adjunct appointment with the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University and with the Center for Poverty and Health Inequities (COPHI) at Purdue University where he had served as the Founding Director of the Center.



## Rosaline B. Obeng-Ofori, West Africa Project Manager

has over thirty years' experience in development work focusing mostly on human rights, gender equality, peace building and pro-poor development work. She has advocated for women and children's rights at both national and international levels and has initiated a series of capacity building programs at all levels to enhance women and children's welfare and empowerment. She has been influential in advocating for pro-poor policies for civil society and state organizations. Some of her advocacy work contributed to the passage of a Domestic Violence Act in Ghana to protect victims/survivors of domestic violence. She advocated for the development of a Women's Manifesto to ensure that state and non-state actors mainstream gender in their activities. She has also developed gender sensitive policy and Training Manuals for various national and international organizations. She is completely bilingual with University Diplomas in French and Pedagogic studies (Ghana and France) and pursued a Masters degree in Governance, Development and Law from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

# Who We Are: Meet the PPP Team

## Agaptus Anaele, Graduate Research Assistant



is a Ford Foundation International Fellow from Nigeria, West Africa. At present, he is a doctoral student in the Brian Lamb School of Communication, Purdue University with concentration in Global Public Health Communication, Development, and Culture. His work is guided by the Culture Centered Approach (CCA), which promotes academic and community partnerships in problem identification and articulation of culturally situated solutions that lead to sustainable social changes. He has a Master's Degree in International Affairs (MIA) from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, U.S.A, and a Bachelor's Degree in English Education (B.A.ED) from University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Anaele's research interest and engagement is significantly global in outlook. Anaele has considerable experience in development issues in Africa. Before his Graduate Studies in 2008, he was a journalist in three national dailies in Nigeria, namely, *The Guardian* (2000-2002), *The Punch* (2002-2005), and *The Sun* (2006-2008), and extensively covered development, health, science and education issues in Africa. He has been honored with different awards including The Diamond Award for HIV/AIDS Reporting sponsored by the US Embassy in Nigeria (2006), Best Journalist by Internews, a USAID funded project that honors outstanding media coverage of development issues in Nigeria, and has been severally nominated for the Red Ribbon Award that honor outstanding HIV/AIDS reporting in Nigeria.

## Christina Jones, Graduate Research Assistant



is a PhD Candidate studying Health Communication at the Brian Lamb School of Communication. She received her Bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 2007 in Public Relations and Rhetorical Advocacy, and in 2009 she received her Master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Health Communication and Media Studies. Her research interests include public health communication in marginalized populations, with specific focus on low socio-economic status groups, including the food insecure and those receiving welfare assistance. She is also interested in the evaluation of community-centered health interventions in rural populations as well as public health policy and evaluation.

## Dorothy Snyder, Graduate Research Assistant



is a first year doctoral student at the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University in Organizational Rhetoric with minors in Women's Studies and Feminist Pedagogy. She earned her Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Purdue University, Calumet. Her research interests include the use of new media technologies to facilitate a more democratic political participation amongst marginalized communities, the public's perception of women as leaders particularly in the sphere of politics, alternative organizational rhetoric, and incorporating community-building in the classroom as an instructor. Her research has been presented at the annual conferences of the National Communication Association and the Central States Communication Association.

# Who We Are: Meet the PPP Team



## Shavonne R. Shorter, Graduate Research Assistant

is a second year doctoral student in the Organizational Communication division of the Brian Lamb School of Communication (M.A.-Purdue University; B.A.-Frostburg State University). Her research interests include investigating the innately political nature of organizing. More specifically, Shorter plans to complete her dissertation work on how communication plays a significant role in the recruitment and retention of minority students within graduate education. Her scholarship has been published in *Health Communication* and presented at conferences sponsored by the International Communication Association, National Communication Association, and Eastern Communication Association. In addition to studying organizing, she enjoys merging theory with practice by serving as the current President of the Black Graduate Student Association at Purdue and the Immediate Past President of the Communication Graduate Student Association.



## Milton C. Lauenstein, PPP Benefactor

has had a long career as a top executive, a consultant, and a teacher. He has been CEO and/or Chairman of several successful corporations and on the boards of over a dozen. Milton taught business policy and strategy at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and at Northeastern University. He is the author of "What's Your Game Plan?", published by Dow-Jones-Irwin in 1985. He received an engineering degree from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of Chicago and has studied at various art schools in the United States and Europe.

In recent years, Milton served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Peacebuilding, has sponsored research on political violence at several universities in the United States and Northern Ireland and initiated and funded a violence prevention project in Guinea-Bissau.



## Jessica Berns, Consultant

has over fifteen years of international experience working on issues of social inclusion, peacebuilding, governance, and anti-corruption. The majority of her work has taken place within the NGO sector, and her areas of expertise include strategic planning, program design and implementation, and communications. She has a special interest in civil society network and partnership development, which she first developed as a Program Officer working with the Latin American chapters of Transparency International, the anti-corruption NGO in Berlin, Germany. More recently, as Program Director of Coexistence International at Brandeis University, an initiative focused on strengthening the coexistence field, Jessica facilitated the creation of a network of coexistence practitioners in West Africa. Jessica advises the PPP on strategic questions and helps to monitor the implementation and impact of PPP activities. With an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in Spanish, and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, Jessica has spent much of her professional life working and living abroad, in Latin America, Europe, and West Africa. Jessica currently consults to universities, philanthropists, and non-profits on strategy, program design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.





*Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana*

## The College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University

The Purdue Peace Project is located within the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University.

Purdue University, located in West Lafayette, Indiana, is a land-grant university founded in 1869. Today, Purdue enrolls the second largest student body of any university in Indiana as well as the second largest international student population of any public university in the United States. Purdue offers both undergraduate and graduate programs in over 210 major areas of study.

As the home to over 4,200 undergraduate students at Purdue University, the College of Liberal Arts has over 45 different majors and numerous minors. The mission of the college is to educate students to live more knowledgeably, responsibly, and humanely, fostering the development of analytical minds and the practice of continual learning.

## PPP is on the World Wide Web

Please visit our website <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/ppp> to learn more about the PPP, our team, and to contact us.

### In The Next Edition:

Readers can look forward to hearing more about our work in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana, as well as the upcoming CAPE summit in Washington, DC.



### Comments, Questions, or Suggestions about the Newsletter?

Please contact the Editor, Christina Jones, at [ppp@purdue.edu](mailto:ppp@purdue.edu)

### *PPP partners for COPE*

The Purdue Peace Project and the Peace and Security Funders Group will co-sponsor a Colloquium on Peace building Effectiveness (COPE) on September 11 –12, 2012 in Washington, DC. Summit participants include leaders in the peace building community, philanthropists, NGO leaders, scholars and practitioners with field experience, with the purpose of examining the most effective approaches to peace building and identifying ways to promote the best use of resources. Attendance is by invitation-only, with the intention of limiting the size of the first COPE summit to maximize time for conversation and brainstorming. More information will be detailed in the next *Purdue Peace Project Post* edition.

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