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Ghana Rotation Connects Pharmacy Student With Homeland

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Growing up, Cedarville University student Karley Amelemah witnessed how pharmacists in her home nation of Ghana improved her grandmother's quality of life. Their example spurred her to become a pharmacist too, a decision that led her from west Africa to southwest Ohio and back.

Now, Amelemah is a fourth-year professional [pharmacy](#) student at Cedarville University. Her family moved to the United States, settling in Hartsdale, New York. This past January, she returned to Ghana for a monthly pharmacy rotation.

"I wanted to go back and see how pharmacy was implemented, if it was the same as it was when I was growing up and compare and contrast the systems," Amelemah said.

Amelemah went to Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, one of the most important hospitals in the capital city of Accra. She did rounds in the obstetrics and gynecology (OB-GYN) ward, renal unit, eye clinic, polyclinic (general clinic) and more.

In the medical clinic, she worked with a team of physicians, nurses and social workers to evaluate the overall health of patients. She also monitored adherence for patients on HIV medications, offering counsel and reviewing potential interactions with other medications.

Amelemah also visited a plant at Tobinco Pharmaceuticals, a medication manufacturer that is also located in Accra, to help monitor drug safety. She worked with the mission organization International Needs to get a better understanding of how drugs are manufactured in Ghana. Outside of her medical work, Amelemah was able to take trips to Mole National Park to see elephants and other wildlife.

Amelemah said that her education at Cedarville prepared her academically, but it also prepared her to empathize with patients, especially those who can't purchase the medications they need.

"We have to wake up every day and be grateful," she said. "The situations that we see over here in the United States are not what people everywhere experience. There are a lot of people who need help."

Following graduation, Amelemah said that she wants to help people like her grandmother manage their chronic conditions. She is considering a balance between working in the United States and Ghana to practice pharmacy.

"I just want to be able to use the knowledge that I've gained to help people live better lives," Amelemah said.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of

study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the [Doctor of Pharmacy program](#), strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit [cedarville.edu](#).

Written by Bryson Durst.

Photo Cutlines:

Captions (A-B): Karley Amelemah working in Accra, Ghana, as part of a pharmacy rotation.

Caption (C): Headshot of Karley Amelemah, a fourth-year student in Cedarville's Doctor of Pharmacy program, who recently completed a rotation in her country of origin, Ghana. Photo by Scott Huck, Cedarville University.