My Global field agency was with Child Family Health International (CFHI). CFHI is a non-profit agency that provides global health education programs for college students. The mission statement of CFHI states that they offer community-based global health education programs for students and institutions. Their unique model fosters reciprocal partnerships and empowerment in local communities, transforming perspectives about self, healing and global citizenship.

Over the span of four weeks, the team and I were able to support Ghanaians in two cities. We were able to teach community members how to advocate and educate government officials regarding alleviation of poverty, education, health and youth involvement.

My Major Accomplishments include:
• Educating youth about the importance of sexual health
• Evaluating a policy that included the voices of youth
• Advocating for families that did not have health insurance

In Ghana, I was in two locations. The first location I was in was Cape Coast, Ghana which has a population of about 800,000 people. Their primary sources of income are agriculture and fishing. The second location I was in was Accra, Ghana. Accra has a population of upwards of 2,000,000 people and is the capital of Ghana. Their primary source of income has been tourism and individuals who create art.

In Ghana, I was considered a Black American and not an African American. In Ghana, Black Americans are also called “Bibinii.” The term means a black person.

I also learned how privileged Americans are. When we deep-rooted ourselves in the community, we were able to see how tough Ghanaian families have it on a daily basis.

I would like to acknowledge the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor Office of Global Activities for the financial support throughout my global independent study. Secondly, I would like to thank The Board of Governors for helping me fund my global independent study. In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Trina Shanks for advising me and helping me create a memorable experience in Ghana.