

Abena A. Aidoo, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Tourism and Events Management
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism
College of Education and Human Development
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EDUCATION

University of Delaware

Doctor of Philosophy (Urban Affairs & Public Policy), January 2010

Dissertation: A critical assessment of tourism as a development strategy in Ghana: with particular emphasis on the opportunities and dilemmas of ecotourism and cultural tourism.

Clemson University

Master of Human Resource Development, May 2002

University of Ghana

Bachelor of Arts (Economics & Psychology), June 1997

EXPERIENCE

George Mason University

Associate Professor (School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism) August 2017-Present

- Teach undergraduate level classes in the Tourism and Event Management Program. Classes taught include:
 - TOUR 200 - Introduction to Tourism Management
 - TOUR 311 - Women and Tourism (Face-to-face and Online)
 - TOUR 352 - Heritage and Cultural Tourism
 - TOUR 420 - Tourism Planning and Policy
- Participate in program curriculum redesign and other program-related activities.
- Participate in program-level, school-level, college-level, and university-wide committees.
- Supervise undergraduate level students in their 3-credit and 12-credit internship courses, as needed.

Assistant Professor (School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism) January 2011-July 2017

- Taught undergraduate level classes in the Tourism and Event Management Program. Classes taught include:
 - TOUR 200 - Introduction to Tourism Management
 - TOUR 241 - Practicum
 - TOUR 311 - Women and Tourism (Face-to-face and Online)
 - TOUR 312 - Ecotourism
 - TOUR 352 - Heritage and Cultural Tourism
 - TOUR 420 - Tourism Planning and Policy
 - TOUR 490 - Internship
 - PRLS 410 - Administration of SRT Organizations

- Advised a section of Tourism and Event Management students (*September 2011- November 2012*).
- Supervised undergraduate level students in their 3-credit and 12-credit internship courses.

Fieldwork Coordinator (Tourism and Events Management Program) August 2012 – December 2015

- Updated the Fieldwork webpage to ensure that the information was up-to-date, and consistent in all locations;
- Provided clear guidelines on what should be included in an official job description to ensure that students were fully informed on what to expect from any site to which they committed;
- Conducted 3 mandatory pre-experience information sessions, each, for students planning to complete their Practicums or Internships;
- Created and developed online orientations for potential Practicum (TOUR 241) and Internship (TOUR 490) students, which reduced the number of students who missed this mandatory requirement for either TOUR 241 and TOUR 490;
- Reviewed all paperwork to ensure that they met the program, college, and university requirements;
- Coordinated the mandatory final presentations for TOUR 490 internship students;
- Provided logistical and other support as needed to faculty members supervising separate sections of TOUR 241 and TOUR 490;
- Responded to inquiries from students and individuals within and outside the university;
- Supervised variable sections of Practicum and Internship students; and
- Presented on the TEM Fieldwork Program at two industry meetings.

University of Delaware School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy

Instructor (Leadership in Organizations)

June-July 2006

- Designed class curriculum.
- Provided instruction on key concepts of *Leadership in Organizations* for a senior level class.
- Assigned reading and writing tasks to enable students apply theory to practice.
- Graded assignments and examinations.
- Supervised and evaluated students as they worked on assigned community service project.
- Provided feedback and guidance as needed by the students.

Teaching Assistant (Introduction to Consumer Policy)

January-May 2006

- Taught classes covering topics such as *data collection*, and *globalization*, as well as other sections of the curriculum as needed by the professor.
- Was responsible for the instruction and supervision of students during the professor's absence.
- Provided feedback on assignments and assistance as needed by students.
- Aided professor in supervising and guiding students to complete a class magazine project.

Teaching Assistant (Leadership in Organizations)

August-December 2005

- Assisted professor in designing class curriculum.
- Provided instruction on topics including *collaboration* and *organizational culture*.
- Supervised and instructed classes during the absence of the professor.
- Graded assignments and examinations.

Delaware Housing Coalition

Summer Intern

June-August 2005

- Worked with team to identify and recruit contributors for the 2005-2006 edition of the *Realities of Poverty in Delaware* publication put out by the Delaware Housing Coalition.
- Wrote article on Immigration [in Delaware] featured in the publication.
- Conducted research on issues impacting affordable housing.

Neighborhood House, Inc.

Graduate Research Assistant

February-May 2005

- Provided research support for the activities of the Housing Program particularly in the area of affordable housing.

University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2003-January 2005

- Was part of the University of Delaware team that compiled and analyzed pre-screening client data for the 1-year and 2-year evaluation reports of the Food Bank of Delaware's Food Stamp Outreach Project.
- Put together and submitted monthly project reports to the Urban Institute.
- Participated in the writing of the final evaluation report.

Georgia Institute of Technology

Resident Life Coordinator

June 2002-June 2003

- Selected, trained, supervised, and mentored and twenty-one (21) Community Advisors (RAs) and one (1) Staff Advisor.
- Participated in the selection and training of other Residence Life staff.
- Addressed University Code of Conduct violations in two residence halls and worked to ensure that sanctions were appropriate for the violations and provided educational opportunities for students.
- Mentored and guided elected officers of two residence hall councils, one of which was recognized as the Hall Council of the Year in 2003.

Clemson University

Resident Director

August 2001-May 2002

- Supervised and advised five (5) Resident Assistants and eight (8) Front Desk Assistants.
- Was part of the committee that selected and trained all Residence Life Staff.
- Managed the programming budget for Resident Assistants.
- Handled disciplinary cases as assigned.

Graduate Assistant

August 2000-June 2001

- Assisted in the compilation of a comprehensive report as part of the School of Education's preparation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation self-study.
- Provided research assistance to the Technology and Human Resource Development Program.

Embassy of the United States of America

Commercial Clerk

August 1997-August 2000

- Assisted in writing reports distributed by the Commercial Section of the U.S. Embassy to promote U.S. exports and facilitate U.S. investments in Ghana.
- Managed the Commercial Library that provided resources to both American and Ghanaian entrepreneurs.

- Was integrally involved in the organization of large-scale events for the Department of State and Department of Commerce, in Accra, Ghana.
- Received citation “For Proven Initiative and Self-Motivation in Serving U.S. Mission Interests.”

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Participated in Student Experience Redesign Symposium in 2017.
- Was a member of the Provost’s Multidisciplinary Research Review Panel in 2016.
- Participated in the Office of Institutional Assessment’s Critical Thinking assessment, in 2014.
- Reviewed a manuscript for an Academic Journal, in 2013, 2016, and 2017.
- Served on several search committees for Faculty positions, the Student Outreach and Advising Coordinator position, and Academic Advisor positions (in 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016).
- Presented a paper and volunteered at the 2006 & 2007 Urban Affairs Association Annual Meetings.
- Was part of the two-member team that conducted an environmental assessment of the Knollwood Community in Claymont, Delaware, in 2006.
- Volunteered and participated in the 2005 Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting.
- Provided leadership and support to a delegation of Ghanaian entrepreneurs at the International Franchise Expo in Orlando, Florida, in 2000.
- Assisted in the organization of the International 2000 Catalog Show in Accra, Ghana.
- Provided logistical support to the U.S. Department of Commerce delegation to the African/African-American Summit in Accra, Ghana, in 2000.

SERVICE POSITIONS HELD

- **Member** – *CEHD Council, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University (August 2017 – present).*
- **Member** – *CEHD Student Appeals/Faculty Grievance Committee, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University (August 2016 – present).*
- **Member** – *Board of Greater Prince William Chapter of the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association (July 2016 – present).*
- **Member** – *CEHD Council, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University (August 2014 – May 2016).*
- **Chair** – *Professional Development Committee, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University (August 2013 – May 2014).*
- **Member** – *Professional Development Committee, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University (August 2012 – May 2013).*
- **Graduate Student Senate Representative** – *Graduate Studies Committee of Faculty Senate, University of Delaware Faculty Senate (March 2005 – May 2007).*
- **President** - *Graduate Research Assistant Student Organization, Center for Community Research and Service (May 2004 – April 2005).*
- **Ph.D. Representative** - *Urban Affairs Student Association, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy (May 2004 – April 2005).*
- **Member** – *Department of Housing Diversity Committee, Georgia Institute of Technology (August 2002 – June 2003).*
- **Secretary** – *Graduate Student Government, Clemson University (January 2002 – April 2002).*
- **Member** – *Graduate Advisory Committee, Clemson University (August 2001 – May 2002).*

PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS, REPORTS AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- Aidoo, A.A. (2010). Tourism development in Ghana: its impacts and challenges in the area of social equity, *Social Equity Leadership Conference*. Baltimore, MD.
- Aidoo, A. A. (2007). Tourism and the Internet: an analysis of official (government) tourism websites for countries in West Africa, *Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting*. Seattle, WA.
- Aidoo, A. A. (2007). Tourism in West Africa, *SUAPP Student Research Forum*. University of Delaware.
- Leland, P., and Aidoo, A. A. (2006). Report on Environmental Assessment of the Knollwood Community, Claymont, Delaware, *Center for Community Research and Service*, University of Delaware.
- Aidoo, A. A. (2005). Immigration. *Realities of Poverty in Delaware, 2005-2006*.