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GWU Alumna Gains Experience by Working in Mission Hospital in Zambia

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Ebony Stowe '17 Applied Liberal Arts Learning While Adjusting to Different Culture

photo of Ebony Stowe

Ebony Stowe, a 2017 graduate of Gardner-Webb University, could have completed her internship in healthcare management anywhere, but she felt led to work at a hospital in Zambia, Africa. Her intuition was confirmed when she received a check a few weeks before she left that paid for all costs associated with the trip. “The Lord made a way for me to pursue this opportunity, so I hopped on the flight in obedience,” Stowe reflected.

The internship was coordinated through Serving in Missions (SIM), an international mission organization with over 4,000 workers placed in more than 70 countries. While in Zambia, Stowe applied skills she learned in her GWU business classes and became more familiar with the computer programs she will use in her career. “I had the opportunity to train an employee in Microsoft Excel and other basic computer skills,” elaborated Stowe, a native of Lake Wylie, S.C. “I helped her improve typing speeds and locate different applications on the computer. This will help me in my future career as I may have to train a fellow employee in the program.”

Mukinge Mission Hospital

Stowe’s internship supervisor also asked her to help with the budgeting process and to create a flyer for the promotion of Mukinge Mission Hospital’s latest project: a new operating room and intensive care unit. “Although I am no expert in this area, I was able to create something simple for the hospital to send to its donors in the U.S.,” Stowe related. “I used the skills I learned in the Marketing and Computer Information Systems courses at Gardner-Webb.”

As she experienced Zambian customs, Stowe recalled cultural sensitivity discussions from her American Sign Language (ASL) courses. “Because Zambian culture is so different from the U.S., it required a major adjustment for me,” Stowe assessed. “But I was quickly reminded of how to treat others who are different than I am, whether they speak a different language, are critically ill, lack proper nutrition or lack education.”

treating patients in Zambia