

# nataschaguluk

Legon, Ghana

**NATASCHA'S MAJOR(S):** anthropology and gender studies

**YEAR/TERM ABROAD:** fall semester 2002

**REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM:** I always wanted to go to Africa because I'm an anthropology major, and this was one of the opportunities that IU offered. I knew in my freshman year that I wanted to go so I took classes early on about Ghana.

**FAVORITE CLASSES:** African studies, Black diaspora and archaeology



On a trip outside Legon, Natascha Guluk visits with some children who were relocated from their home and school when their village was destroyed by surface gold mining. The excursion allowed Guluk to see how the mining affected five villages. "The devastation was just horrible," she said. "Of all the gold mining done in Ghana, only 10 percent of the profits stay in Ghana."

**HOUSING:** I lived in an all-female dorm in Volta Hall with Ghanaians. I learned a lot more compared to the students in the international dorm who didn't have as much contact with Ghanaians as I did.

**GREATEST CHALLENGE:** Was being a minority for the first time in my life. It was a day-to-day struggle being white. They stereotype you as rich. People were constantly coming up to you wanting money, expecting things.

**BIGGEST SURPRISE:** How much I liked the food. I thought I wouldn't like it, but it was really good.

**WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT:** I wish I would have known to bring toilet paper with me! I also would have liked to have known that I would have to haggle with the taxi drivers. They would try to triple or even quadruple the cost.

**GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS:** I highly recommend going abroad. I'm the type to go home every weekend to see family, so it was kind of a test for me to see if I could do it.

**COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD ...** stay longer. I wanted to stay for a year, but I also wanted to be home for Christmas. But looking back, I wish I would've stayed longer.

**FACT ABOUT GHANA THAT YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO LEARN:** They have a place called Independence Square downtown, which has an eternal flame, but because they are so poor, they cannot afford the gas to keep it lit.

"I have a different outlook on life now. *I appreciate things much more than I used to,* like how fast we can get from one place to another because our roads are so much better than over there."

**ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS:** I would bring a lot of photographs of things you may not normally take pictures of to show the Ghanaians, like the supermarket, snow, the car you drive, the campus. They've never seen things like snow.