Dr. Bill Wedenoja & Wolde Kristos

- Anthropology Professor at Missouri State University
- First came to Bluefields area 40 years ago
- Continues to visit twice a year
- Cousin of EMU’s Dr. Marilyn Wedenoja
Wolde Kristos
• President of Reliable Adventures Jamaica;
• President of Bluefield’s Bay Fisher Friendly Society
• Local activist and community organizer
School of Social Work: Academic Service Learning
Study Abroad Trip: Jamaica 2012
Student Presentation
Faculty/Staff Team:
Dr. Marilyn Wedenoja, Dr. Janet Okagbue-Reaves, Claudette Braxton, LMSW, & Carin Knight, LMSW
For the first time, a student group from Eastern Michigan University traveled to Jamaica to participate in service learning projects that impacted their lives forever …
I am just now beginning to comprehend how much I have changed and grown....

I have developed relationships that I will truly treasure for the rest of my life.”
We started as strangers.....

Meeting and planning at the Jamaican Jerk Pit, Ann Arbor, December 2011
Love at first sight! This is where we called home for nine days. Sunset Cottages, Bluefields, Jamaica
“As social workers it is not just our duty to serve in the community, but to gain a deeper understanding of the people in the community, how they live, and why they do what they do culturally in their lives...”
Morning ritual:
Coconuts and us!!!

All in a day’s work: Local fishers head out into the Caribbean Sea.
Students in the field surveying fishers about how the sanctuary impacts their daily lives
“I’ve realized that there are so many things that are taken for granted here in America... In Jamaica, technology did not seem to take over people’s lives like it does here in America. People are able to get to know one another face to face in the community ...”
Community activists, organizers, educators and artists were our nightly guest lecturers over dinner.
“Dinner with Wolde was one of the most informative, helpful, and enjoyable parts of the day. He is a remarkable man full of knowledge and life... I found it interesting that many of the challenges Jamaica has been through I have been totally unaware of.”
Meet our lecturers

Mr. Wolde Kristos
Community Organizer

Ms. Deceita Turner
Bluefields Bay Fisher Friendly Society
Meet our Lecturers

Ms. Shirley Platt, Social Worker

Jah Calo, local artist and activist
Meet our lecturers

Patrick Marti  PhD, Peace Corps Volunteer

Ms. Joy Baker, Basic School Director
“One of the biggest thoughts that I had is that with such limited resources, this “Third World” country is implementing projects and ideas that we (the United States) spend decades (and ridiculous dollars) researching.”
Love and Logic Model of Parenting Skills
Kyla Page, Autumn Harris

Conflict Resolution – Peer Mediation Training
Jessica Austin, Tara Grisby, Karyn Boyce
Becoming a Love and Logic Parent in Jamaica

Belmont Academy
Westmoreland, Jamaica
What is the Love and Logic Model?

• “Responsible children use a win/win philosophy

• Parents show love in a healthy way and establish effective control.

• Children win by learning responsibility through solving their own problems

• Children acquire tools for coping with the real world”

Dr. Fay, Dr. Cline, and Dr. C. Fay, Love and Logic Authors
Our Mission at Belmont Academy, Jamaica

• Introducing “who owns the problem”

• Designing strategies

• Teaching empathy
• Sending the “power message”
• Offering choices
  ▪ Having the child state their consequences and giving permission for the child to either solve the problem or not solve the problem
  ▪ Belmont and Black River communities
MAKING A DIFFERENCE “ONE PARENT AND ONE CHILD AT A TIME”
Words of Wisdom…

A chapter a day keeps ignorance away
Leaving a path to a new journey…

Passing along the knowledge that will impact generations to come…
Thank you, EMU Office of Academic Service Learning

- Thank you to the EMU Office of Academic Service Learning for a grant that enabled us to obtain the curriculum for the Love and Logic Model.
Team EMU
The Basic School

Kyle Richard, Marilee Calhoun, Laura Putney
Pre-school students expected to wear uniform

- All students participate in daily devotions
- Most students walk to school, there are no school buses
- 2 out-house toilets
- Class in session 9 – 2 pm
Ms. Baker’s Classroom for 3 yr. Olds

- 19 students in classroom
- Students were learning about fruit
- No electricity
- One source of running water (the “pipe”)
Ms. Graham’s 4 yr. olds’ classroom

- 16 children in classroom
- Learning the letters of the alphabet
- All students bring a snack and lunch is provided
“The school was definitely disadvantaged from the outside looking in but once you get in there, I was amazed by the creativity of the teachers. They literally just make everything. They save pop bottles or paper towel holders ...anything that can be made into something else, those teachers are doing it...”
Ms. Linton’s 5 yr olds’ classroom

- 21 students
- Learning about the environment
- All students write and answer in complete sentences
Our New Friends!
Boys loved rolling tires and girls loved group activities