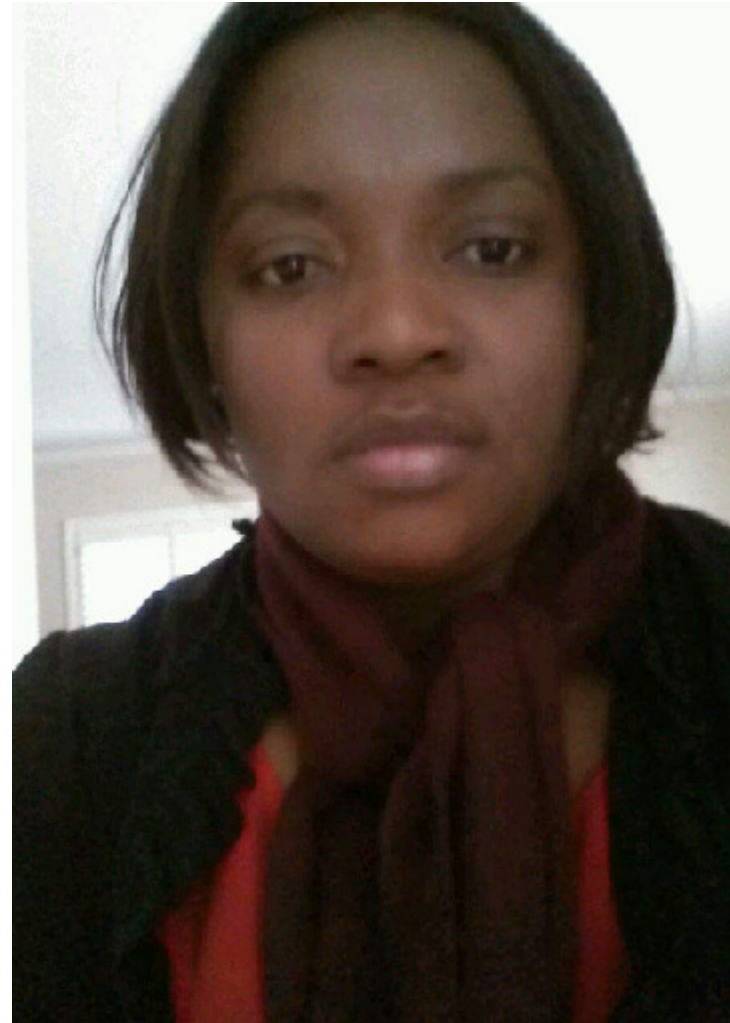


My Story  
Kennesaw States University  
2017

By Gertrude Pasi

"My core skill set is leadership. I am curious for answers on everything from women in leadership positions, to the extraordinary accomplishments they can make . My passion is in gender discrimination, and I am looking forward to see gender equality in leadership positions".



# My Life as a Student

- ▶ It was a challenge from waking up at 5:00 am every morning to go to school
- ▶ I grew up and attended elementary school was in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in an area with no electricity, nor means of transportation.
- ▶ At twelve, I was sent to a boarding school, where I stayed and only came home for vacations.
- ▶ Discipline was strict. Some times, we got whipped for punishment. I really missed my parents
- ▶ I never gave up, because I understood early that it was my only way out.
- ▶ After high school graduation, I traveled to Kinshasa, the capital city of DRC, to reenroll at the University.
- ▶ My journey was challenging, I lived in a dormitory on campus, but I couldn't always have enough, or some foods at all.
- ▶ At times, all I had to eat was a loaf of bread with sweetened water, without milk.
- ▶ Through out, I struggled with financial issues, missing classes for weeks, because of unpaid tuition.
- ▶ I remained optimistic and committed, until I graduated with major in Pedagogic.

# My New life as a Mother and a student

- ▶ In 2002, I immigrated to the United States of America
- ▶ I married and became a mother of three children.
- ▶ I decided to take on another challenge, and decided to go back to school.
- ▶ I loved Nursing, but it was too demanding and time consuming for a mother of three.
- ▶ I went to Georgia Perimeter College than transfer to Kennesaw States University
- ▶ I struggled to find a major, with the help of an adviser, I decided to join Integrative Studies.
- ▶ Very challenging to equilibrate , I kept my eyes opened.
- ▶ At times, I Taught of quitting all together and be happy with my family.
- ▶ I started by paying my tuition cash, out of the pocket, then, I finally took a loan.
- ▶ I have four more classes to finish this journey, and I am still optimistic I will reach my goal and graduate.

# Internship & Work Experience

## Internships

- ▶ During my Internship, I learned how to do my job and worked collaboratively in groups. After each internship, I was offered a job in the same company. It is critical because it increases the change of getting a job.
- ▶ I did My first internship as a teacher after I graduated in Pedagogy (Education).
- ▶ I Also did an internship as an administrative Assistant in an auto insurance company, where I worked mostly with lawyers.
- ▶ My third internship was with the Contra Costa Medical Center, in California .

## Work experiences

- ▶ Presently, I am a member of the diplomatic corps at the U.S Embassy in Yaoundé, Cameroon where my husband works. I work as a General Service Officer Assistant.

Before that, I was an independent Business owner ( Amway. Position Personal seller.)

### My responsibilities

- ▶ Set sale goals, find target markets, organize campaign to advertise my products(health day, beauty party and more)
- ▶ Minimize expenses by maximizing profits
- ▶ Maintain good customer relationship.

# Work Experiences Cont.

- ▶ I also worked in hospitals as **a Nurse's Assistant**

## **My duties**

- ▶ took and recorded vital signs,
- ▶ reported any unusual behavior from patients to the nurse in charge,
- ▶ Helped dependent patients in their daily activities, and provided medications

**As a Teacher**, my responsibilities were:

- ▶ planned and taught materials to students by following school curriculum.
- ▶ Evaluated and graded students, supervising students, reporting to the meeting.



# Volunteering jobs

- ▶ Volunteering taught me how to come together as a community, in order to fight for targeted social issues
- ▶ Each individual in the group brought a unique skill set, background, and perception
- ▶ We worked toward achieving a powerful goal.
- ▶ I also learned to coordinate better in a multi-disciplinary work group.

**VOLUNTEER**



## Volunteering jobs, cont.

- ▶ Girls Scouts of America( parent and leader) Yaoundé-Cameroon.
- ▶ Zumba Fitness ( member to educate women on Infant mortality) Yaoundé
- ▶ School library ( read books to young children with a goal to discover their strengths and weaknesses in comprehension). American school of Yaoundé.





# Public Service Assay

Our communities have different issues that as citizens, we must fight for them to have safer environments. At the present time, my family and I are living and working in Yaoundé, Cameroon with the American government. Being a citizen means a citizen for the World, helping the entire world.

My daughter is a student in the American school of Yaoundé and she is a girl scout, Cadette. As parents, we were asked to volunteer and helped girls received their badges. No one was assigned by school to do this job, except those who want to volunteer, available Parents were welcomed to volunteer.

I decided to take that opportunity and volunteer as one of the leader by helping the girls scout. The only issue that I have was lack of experience, I did not know where to start since I never been a girl scout during my life. It is required to be registered at the site and paid some fees to become a member before someone can volunteer. Others three mothers joined me and we all worked together and took turn in leading girls.

Girls scout of American were supposed to do a community event in order to receive one of their badges. So together we brainstormed on what we could do and help Yaoundé Community, and educated that community. Yaoundé is in the central of Africa, and many diseases are present due to dirty debris and lack of correct hygiene, exposing the environment to dangerous diseases, trashes and more; which result in harming the population.

As a group, we decided to clean up traches in a public park in order to educate the community on a proper hygiene. We selected Saint Anastasia Park, a beautiful public park, with a nice restaurant in, but local population drink water bottles and trash them in a lake that is in the park. They rarely used trash cans as a proper way. The accumulation of these empty bottles in the water and other trash such as ,plastics bags create incredible amount of debris that produce mosquitoes. As we know mosquitoes are the cause of malaria. In addition to that, those wreckage cause other diseases such as; cholera, polio, and more.

It was a difficult decision to make because we can all get sick after the task, but we decided to wear our protective gears during the entire times we expanded cleaning up the park. Girls and we were engaged to perform a perfect job. It took us three to four hours to do this cleaning because the part is huge, also we took time to mentor girls of hygiene and some diseases. During the event, we noticed that local population learned from our actions, as we noticed the surprised looks from those present in the park and out of the part. The park faces the main street.. Those who was in the park started helping us with cleaning. Our event was successful and people learned appropriate way to trach their bottles, meaning, putting them in the trash can. As a result, the park looks clean every day, the owner hired service cleaner who are there the entire time the restaurant is open. A sign is displayed directed people to appropriately discard their trashes. We were so glad for a positive result of that event.

As part of the team, I was so happy working in group with different people, with different backgrounds and children. Each of us had a different perception of the event, but we put our ideas together, and we worked for a successful outcome. From that time I learned that working as a team is beneficial and critical because we learn from each other, it is fun. Furthermore we learn our weaknesses, and how the way fight them by observing how others are working and taking the responsibilities of their duties. Working in collaboration improve the way of getting to a goal. I also learned from girls as they learned from me.

As the result, Girls started to become leaders themselves by making their own decisions on what to do, and the way they to reach those goals. I was so proud of seeing girls taking that leadership position, and that inspired me more in helping girls and women to get in leadership position. Volunteer in a community event reveal to me that communities need us, to fight on problems in order to have a better and a safer environment. I decided to continue helping our communities. After this event I participated in other two events: Zumba fitness day, which was about educated women on infant mortality, and I volunteered in the Library with other parents, helping fixed books in shelves, and reading for students (p-k and kindergarten, also those whose English is a second language) in order to learn their weaknesses and find a way to help them improve that. I am so ready to be a citizen for the entire world, not only the USA.

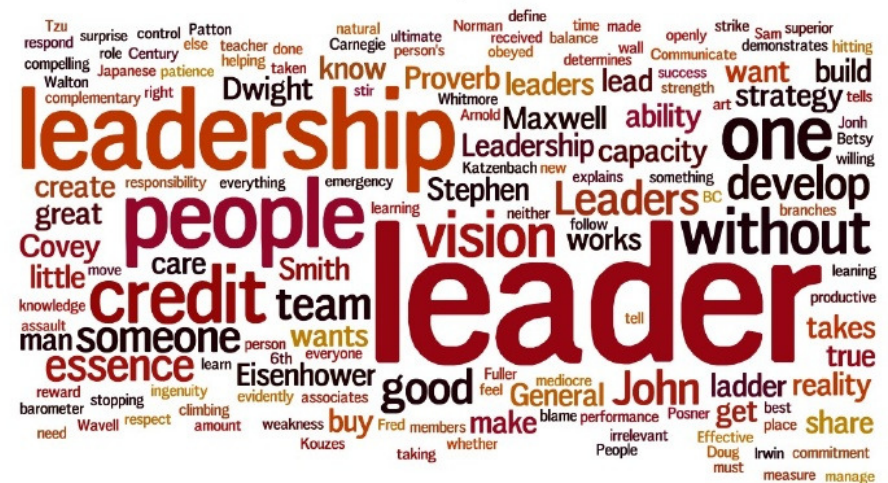


# Impactful Courses

► **Global Leadership.**

I like diversity, and focusing on global issues. This class gives me the appropriate tools to be leader, in the world. Today, society is all about diversity. It is critical, as a leader to understand that people are different ,and they have different perceptions. Knowing how to communicate and being able to tailor and adapt ones leadership styles to specific culture's perceptions is more likely to give a positive outcomes.

## Leadership Quotes



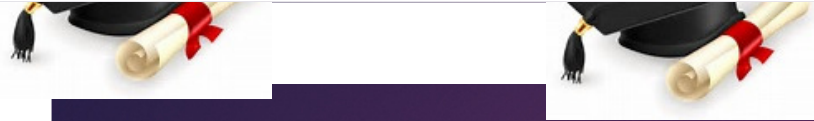
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# Leading in Group

Is Another impactful class to me.

While working in a team, it is critical for everyone to participate in a decision making . This fact will built a strong relationship in a team and a positive result .





# One day closer to graduation

- What is next?
- I have Four more classes to my graduation.
- I am busy updating my resume
- Applying for internships and employments , also built a strong network.

