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Spring 2015, Drew Conroy - Fulbright in Africa

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The Newsletter of UNH Global Engagement

Spring 2015

THE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Contributed by Drew Conroy, Professor of Applied Animal Science

Thompson School of Applied Science, UNH

Fulbright Scholar to Namibia, 2008 and Fulbright Scholar to Rwanda, 2016

[Back to index page](#)

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My experiences in Africa enhance my teaching by adding to my global perspective on agriculture. It has allowed me to bring to UNH experiences that excite students about the possibilities of a career in agriculture and international work.

Teaching was the primary focus (of my Fulbright award), but I learned and shared a lot with students doing internships and research projects. In Namibia, I assisted students with their reports, visited them at their work sites, and gave them guidance on conducting and writing up their small research projects.

From these experiences, I brought back ideas that have improved the internship experience my American students now have. In addition, I attended many college and departmental meetings where the focus was improving the curriculum and making changes to coincide with the changing status of the institution. From that experience, I learned about transformation in institutions of higher education. I also assisted numerous lecturers in initiating and conducting field research with farmers, and I helped a new lecturer publish his first two papers.

I left Namibia with a true sense of what agriculture meant to the country. I also left with a sense of renewed worth as a teacher, and even this very week offered advice to both agriculture staff and former students in Namibia via phone and email. My sabbatical year resulted in more professional development, amazing educational experiences and lifelong contacts, than I could have ever imagined.



Drew Conroy and Fiston Marc Malago examining Alicia Walsh '15, Biomedical Science-Pre-Vet major and Prof. Conroy at

rice at WVI's Maliba Farm, Rwanda

Halali Waterhole, Etosha National Park, Namibia

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