Introducing Kathryn Gadberry -- Walton College study abroad blogger in Mozambique

My name is Kathryn Gadberry, from Little Rock, Ark., and I am participating in the Mozambique: Community Development Study Abroad. I'm a recent graduate from the U of A, finishing up my final degree credits overseas in Africa. The past four years I've been very involved in my sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma, Booster Club, Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity and Associated Student Government.

I've acquired a degree in International Business (with an Accounting emphasis) and a minor in Economics through Walton College, as well as a separate degree in Spanish through Fulbright College.

Our program consist of business, agriculture and engineering students who will be engaging in service learning and community outreach over the next four weeks in Nampula, Mozambique. The business model we will be working with is a poultry farm -- a sustainable and profitable entity in this type of economy. We will be placed in roles based on our educational background and personal skills. I'll be traveling with a very dynamic and diverse group of students whose studies range from Child Development, to Chemical Engineering, to Poultry Science, Agri-economics and more.

My Walton College education and past traveling experiences help me feel really prepared for all the exciting things I'm about to face in Africa.
Mozambique: First Impressions

By Kathryn Gadberry

May 17 and 18

After more than 40 hours of traveling, our group arrived in Mozambique. The view from the plane was our first taste of how the people in Mozambique live. The tin roofs and one-room concrete houses packed together were completely different from the overhead view we were used to seeing from planes in the United States.

After landing, we all piled into a van from the 1970s with faded Chinese writing on the doors to drive out into the countryside. The first reaction I had was shock at the poverty. I don’t think anyone said a word or took a single picture on the ride from the airport. It seemed like every other building, hut or rickety structure we passed displayed the words Coca-Cola or VODACOM (the national telephone/money wiring service). The images of African children without shoes, walking in trash and carrying very young babies were now our reality. Actually seeing their faces for more than 15 seconds on television moved me in a different way.

The last thing I made a mental note of while passing through the city of Nampula was that EVERYONE walked EVERYWHERE. Our bus was one of two vehicles on the road because no one there can afford cars. Many can’t afford dinner. In contrast, our hotel, “Hotel Bamboo,” is a beautiful oasis with security and the western comforts of wi-fi and air conditioning. The ultra friendly staff looks like they are dressed in pajamas and an assortment of brightly colored Crocs. We met some local children around the hotel and while the crowd was slightly overwhelming, we were treated with genuine happiness. The children didn’t beg or hassle you; they simply wanted to talk and play and take pictures with you. The highlight of their night was to strike a crazy pose for your camera and look at all the pictures afterwards to laugh. Our first day revealed how loving and resilient the people of Mozambique are.

Last night, the hotel served us a delicious dinner of chicken and rice, and we received our first real night of sleep (laying down!) in three days. This morning we visited New Horizons, the poultry farm where we will work every day from now on. The head of the operation, Andrew Cunningham, gave us a short presentation of how his company operates, what its values are based on and how the company integrates its business within the community. New Horizons, or
“Novos Horizontes,” is a vertically integrated company. The processes include chicken breeding, hatcheries, local out-growers and a complete chicken slaughterhouse, as well as a bagging and freezing plant. Wilfred, the breeding manager, called Mozambique “the Wild West of Africa.” It is a wonderful place for people who like to create, organize and start things from the ground up.

The most intriguing part was how its version of “Corporate Social Responsibility” is the lifeblood of the business. New Horizons is a Christian-based business, where almost every guide and manager we met was also a pastor in a local church. They work hand-in-hand with the local people because if they didn’t invest in community sustainability, their business would not be profitably sustainable. It was inspiring and refreshing to see such a passionate, integrity-based business with so many exciting upcoming projects.
Today was our first full day of work in our areas at Novos Horizontes. I am in a group of four business majors who will work for Eggs For Africa, an independent business unit of the farm that focuses on selling eggs and making protein available to the locals. The person that oversees our part of the operation is a man from Zimbabwe (a Zimbo) named John Wayne Kennedy. He is a large, jolly man who grew up speaking English as his first language. Yesterday, we typed up an Excel spreadsheet of all the cash receipts Eggs for Africa had received from its sister company, Mozambique Fresh Eggs. If Eggs for Africa is unable to fulfill its demand, it will buy the remaining need from Mozambique Fresh Eggs, and vice versa. When we came this morning, another girl, Katie, and I participated in a chicken count. Workers count one house a week, and with six houses, each house is counted every six weeks. It was complete chaos to say the least. Four workers with tarps would corral the chickens in a closed-off half of the hen house. Then, one by one, they would shoo a chicken through a corner of the chicken wire, and an enthusiastic young man would touch each one with a stick, counting, “un, du, tre, cuatro, CINCO!” Every time he yelled cinco we would tally in a box and start a new box after each 5 tally marks. It took an hour and a half for us to count 4,475 chickens! I couldn’t believe the patience and concentration the young man displayed through the entire process. We spent the rest of the time before lunch creating a supply list for monthly replenishment. Two other workers showed us to a storage house, and we were instructed to write down what was there and the quantity. If we didn’t know the name of something, we were instructed to draw a picture and describe it. It seemed as if we were going through boxes of random junk: car parts, light fixtures, electrical conductor heads, pipe connectors and every type of nut, bolt and nail you can think of. The two workers were so kind by dragging over huge rocks for us to sit on so we didn’t have to sit on the ground where the ants would bite us. Having a stable supply list is just one of the first steps in organization that will help Eggs for Africa run more efficiently.
After a very predictable, but tasty, lunch of rice, chicken, cabbage salad and a Coca-Cola (EVERY MEAL), we walked a mile back to Eggs for Africa. The assistant general manager, Moseis, is in charge of all the bookkeeping. We spent the afternoon looking through several of the account books and coming up with a big-picture plan. This company needed an easier, more efficient way to do its record keeping. The methods it has now consists of keeping up with all the numbers by chicken houses. They collect data on casa 1, casa 2… all the way through casa 6. We want to suggest separating data by the flock. Keeping up with the beginning number of chickens, mortalities, chickens sold, ending number, etc. from the youngest age in casa 1 to the oldest hens in casa 6. We believe a binder of each flock could contain spreadsheets on chicken control, feed control, egg production and a blank count sheet. We began with the chicken control spread sheet and made a template for each month. All the general manager would have to do is fill out a hard copy throughout the month and type in a column of two or numbers at the end. We programmed the equations into the spreadsheet and formatted it to make it easy as possible. Then, we created an annual totals sheet that would take all the monthly totals and compute them together. This new organization will make it much easier to analyze discrepancies within the expected totals and actual chicken counts.
Today was one of the most fun days we've had on the farm. For about two hours, Megan and I were entering in purchase receipts of chicken feed into the computer at Eggs for Africa. I was practicing my short cuts on Excel when suddenly the power went out, and we couldn't complete our project until it came back on.

Megan, Taylor and I decided to use our new-found free time to take pictures. The mountains made a beautiful, picturesque backdrop for the modest chicken houses and papaya trees. After taking a full record of pictures at our project site, we went back into the office and became more acquainted with our boss, John Wayne. He is from Zimbabwe, and his only background is in Youth Ministry. He came to Eggs for Africa two years ago with zero prior knowledge of the chicken industry or how to speak Portuguese. He is extremely personable, smart and funny, joking about how he is the most American out of all of us with a full name like "John Wayne Kennedy." We heard all the stories about how he met his wife, proposed to her and moved here to learn a life skill he could teach the youth in his Mozambican initiative "Urban 180." John Wayne is a really remarkable person and African leader.

Next, we went to lunch at the main Novos Horizontes office, and even had time to kick a soccer ball around with another worker named Diogo. Because the power was out, we decided to go see what some of the other groups were up to. First, Dr. Nalley took everyone left at lunch to the feedbag warehouse. We (mostly the boys) helped move a couple tons of bags within the warehouse. It was mostly for the experience of seeing how those men lived and worked every day. Each bag was 110 pounds, and the warehouse workers would just kick them up, balance them on their head and walk like it was no problem. The girls teamed up, and a few of us tried to take our own bags, but we contributed all we could.
Then, Megan and I decided to join the Economics students to help with the survey project they are completing with the company's outgrowers. I got to ride, standing up in the back of a pick up, several miles down the road to a small village of mud and straw houses. The people were very welcoming. We were able to give the little kids gifts we'd brought them, like bubbles, a jump rope, colored pencils and slap bracelets. The guys in our group inspected and made notes on the chicken house that this out grower family was maintaining. They had an open air, two-room house, with an inside room for feed storage, that a family of seven lived in. One bed for them all to share, and a clothesline that acted as a closet. The best part of the day was showing them how to jump rope, and their grandmother being the most eager one to try. They were precious families, with precious little kids.

Somehow we were able to hike from the village a few miles back to the farm. It was an amazing experience being able to trek through the real African countryside. We saw all types of plants, wild pineapples, mango trees, "lucky" caterpillars and sacred religious sites for the superstitious locals and witch doctors. We also stumbled upon a really competitive game of soccer, or, futbol as the Portuguese say. Our group was a little later that usual getting home, but it gave us the opportunity to see one of the most beautiful sunsets. The light came in a way that seems like heavenly glowing of pinks, blues and golds, behind the dark mountains. Tomorrow we will only go to the farm in the morning, and then off to a relaxing weekend at the beach!!!
Mozambique: Weekend Excursion

May 24, 25, 26

By Kathryn Gadberry

We just arrived back to Hotel Bamboo in Nampula from our weekend excursion at Chokas Beach, Mozambique on the Indian Ocean.

Last Friday, we went to the farm like every other morning, but only had to stay a half day. After lunch, we all jumped on the bus and followed Wilfred's family, as well as another family, down to Chokas for a weekend of relaxation. When we first arrived, we went straight to the resort tiki bar and restaurant to have dinner. The majority of us ordered the highly recommended "fish with bones" (the kind of meal that stares back up at you). It was so nice to eat a nice meal together, and at the end we ate the fish eyeballs for good luck! I'm glad I did it but would probably never choose to eat anything like that again.

Chokas Beach is a hidden gem of exotic beaches in the world. We stayed in an amazing villa with a wrap-around porch, hammocks and ocean-front view. I've been blessed enough to travel a lot in my life, and this was definitely one of the most beautiful beaches I've ever visited. The light blue water was completely translucent, and the white sand beach was incredibly soft and clean. It was almost like being at a private beach because we had so much space to ourselves.
On Saturday, we went to the five-star resort down the road to snorkel in their lagoon. It was an incredible atmosphere, and we enjoyed a change of luxurious scenery from the hardships we deal with at the farm and hotel in Nampula. Our group saw awesome marine life including angel fish, clown fish, colorful coral and decorative shells. After free time on the beach that afternoon, Wilfred and his wife, Corolla, hosted a barbecue for us on the beach. We roasted fish and baked potatoes over a fire. It was served with vegetables, rice and salad. For dessert we cut up pieces of chocolate, put them inside of bananas, wrapped them in foil and laid them on the hot coals. Everything we eat is so simple and healthy, but actually tastes really good.

In the morning, we had a huge pancake breakfast and free time at the beach. The African sun was so strong, our entire group came back looking different shades of pink and red. It was such a fun trip, and great break from the hard work we've been doing throughout the week. We are now reenergized to get back to work on our projects.
Mozambique: Productive Days

May 27

By Kathryn Gadberry

Well rested from the weekend, we began the week with one of our most productive days yet on the farm. This morning we went straight to Eggs for Africa with the intention of starting on our Management Guide.

First, Megan and I created a carton (or in Portuguese "favos") control sheet, that would keep running totals of the egg cartons bought, checked out or sold with each shipment of eggs. Next, we interviewed John Wayne about his daily, weekly and monthly roles and responsibilities. I have a hilarious video of him teaching us a song in the South African tribal language, Zulu. Hopefully, we can practice tonight and sing it back to him later this week.

Then, on our way out to interview the Production and HR managers, we found them showing a group of our Poultry Science students a chicken autopsy. At first, it was the most disgusting thing I've ever seen. They would crack, cut and tear open the parts of these dead chickens. After the first one, though, it was very easy to get used to the sight and the smell. They showed us the different internal structures such as the heart, lungs, intestines, esophagus and gall bladder. The whole point was to see if there were any identifiable reasons that the birds died. The two that we witnessed had worms in their intestines and lesions in their airways.

After lunch, we finished a “chicken feed received and used” control sheet, and typed up John Wayne's page for our management guide. While the other girls were working on finishing our inventory spreadsheet, I was able to interview the HR manager, Jorge. He is Mozambican, smaller than I am – probably 5-foot-3 and 100 pounds – and speaks six languages. I asked him about his daily, weekly and monthly activities as well. His job is important because the majority of problems in a developing country lie in the culture of the people. Theft is huge, and employee retention is really tricky to deal with because of labor laws. Before the end of the work day, I also was able to interview security guards and egg selectors about their daily jobs.

We all rode back to Hotel Bamboo and ate a delicious dinner of fried calamari, chicken, rice, fruit and French fries. We are going to the Eggs for Africa store in town tomorrow, which will be really exciting to see! My trip is really flying by!
Mozambique: In Town and at Evanjafrica
May 28 and 29

By Kathryn Gadberry

Yesterday, John Wayne took the four Eggs for Africa girls to "downtown" Nampula to go by the bank and to see the in-town store. This was the first time I had seen more western-influenced buildings and offices in Mozambique. We walked into a commercial building with a European-style cafe in the lobby. It had beautiful granite steps that we walked up to the second floor/shops level. There were fancy clothing stores, technology stores, a cable company and many foreign aid offices.

After that, we drove down the road to the empty warehouse Eggs for Africa uses. It wasn't supposed to be empty but demand is so high for the eggs that they can hardly keep it stocked for even one day. We were able to walk through the open-air market next door and saw a ton of delicious produce, spices, and home or kitchen products. We felt very safe the entire time, and especially with John Wayne as our guide.

Other errands we ran included going to the gas station, pharmacy, grocery store, hardware store and Mozambican airline office. It was fascinating to see their daily lives played out because they were so similar to ours, except still radically different. On the way home, we overheard John Wayne talking with his wife and he said, "Yeah, I've got 'the guy' again." After he hung up, I asked him what "the guy" was, and he said malaria! We've found out that the average citizen in Mozambique may have malaria up to five or six times a year! It was so hard to believe that he was being that casual about an illness we consider to be the end of the world. He will probably be out of work the next week, and we hope our group can do something nice for him while he's away.
Today was by far my favorite day! We spent the entire time at Evanjafrica Orphanage. They partner a lot with Novos Horizontes, and Andrew set up a day for us to work. The founder is probably the most resilient and amazing person I've ever met. Victor is only 34 years old and is a nationally renowned evangelical leader. He taught himself English when he was only 12 and became one of the official town translators when foreigners visited because English was not as popular as it is now. One western mission organization recognized his ambitious drive and intelligence, so they sent him to the United States for a global educational program. Victor's calling and heart stayed in Mozambique, and he came back with literally nothing to begin ministry to the children in the villages.

He had no intention of beginning an orphanage but soon found out it was easier to minister to the parentless children when he could control and support their meals, schooling, free time and work. Evanjafrica was filed as an official, licensed organization in 2001. Funding mostly comes from U.S. donors that Victor met during his two-year stay in America and through Germans he has met during his schooling. He sent pictures and updates about his vision, and the more he prayed, the more money came pouring in. He has purchased an amazing piece of land and built amazing girl and boy dormitories, a kitchen hall and several houses. He supports each child through college and helps them find appropriate jobs and trade schools. Many of the kids come back to work for and help develop Evanjafrica because it brought them out of really terrible conditions.
This organization is truly a shining light in the darkness. Mozambique has a terrible problem with sexual abuse and unsanitary conditions in the government-run orphanages and schools. The kids were all so polite, friendly, adorable and embodied so many other great qualities. The orphanage is extremely religious and holds four separate services during the week and has one large service for the community that they put on in their courtyard every Sunday afternoon. Victor is a visionary for the development in Mozambique and has thought of everything from providing music as therapy for the children to teaching interactive farming to the kids to instill a love for hard work. They start growing trees at the orphanage from the tiny seeds of lemons, oranges and other fruits that they eat.

Victor also has invested in farmland to one day grow a 5,000-tree orchard to provide nutritious fruit for the local people and as a means of sustainable income for supporting his projects. He has so many ideas involving the future of the children. He plans one day to build his own food processing company, along with university and trade schools to provide employment to the generations of kids who leave his orphanage to establish their own lives. Victor thinks he might even run for political office when he "retires" from his life of taking care of children. It was such an amazing experience and a blessing to meet such inspiring people.
Evanjafrica was a truly joyous place, and I hope to spend much more time there in the few days we have left.
Mozambique: Ihla de Mocambique

May 31st-June 2

By Kathryn Gadberry

Friday morning we were able to join the out growers on one of their field surveys. Our guide, Miguel, took us to the farm’s most successful out grower family. They were extremely friendly and willing to share with us. We were offered fresh bananas, lemons and peppers. The man who was the head of the family was also the wealthiest man in the village.

Besides acting as a chicken contract farmer, he owns a store that essentially acts as the village Walmart. It is a small mud hut with solar panels that had one window and a tin roof. The closest town is 15 miles away, so business is very good. When we walked back, the women all wanted us to try and pass the Mozambican "marriage test." If you could carry a bucket of water on your head a certain distance without spilling, then you would be acceptable as a new wife. They tied their beautiful capelana's (fabric) around our heads and filled our buckets to the very brim. Thankfully, we passed and were fit for marriage! But we were allowed to cheat by using our hands, while the native women could balance these very heavy containers of water completely hands free.

After we returned to Novos Horizontes for lunch, we all loaded on the bus and headed for our fun weekend excursion at Mozambique Island or Ihla de Mocambique. The island, about a three-hour drive to the coast, is connected to the mainland by one long, skinny bridge. The entire community had a rich historic, colonial look.

The water was the same stunning, translucent blue that we had seen at Chokas Beach the weekend before. We pulled up to our hostel, the Ruby Ihla, and it was true to its slogan "Backpacker's Paradise." Every wall was whitewashed, and it was beautifully decorated with bright-colored flowers and pillows. The Ruby was a comfortable, refreshing luxury compared to our usual accommodations.

Our group quickly became friends with Sonia, our Portuguese innkeeper, and Yve, the French backpacker sleeping on the hostel roof. After witnessing one of the most stunning sunsets I’ve ever seen, we ate dinner and enjoyed a guitar band playing on the rooftop. It was the perfect end to the night.

Saturday morning, we awoke to go on a walking tour of the historic Portuguese military fort on the island. It was built in 1522 and took 64 years to complete construction. It could house 2,000 soldiers at a time. The on-site chapel was the first Christian building in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also considered the oldest settlement on the continent south of Egypt. The Ilha de Mocambique is a wonderful place for anyone interested in history.

I was especially excited for that afternoon because we took out two sailboats to explore different parts of the island and of neighboring islands. The communication with our Macua speaking
guides became a bit interesting when we stopped in the middle of the ocean and they said "Afuera!" -- which means "get out." We would respond no, shaking our heads. After a little while, it turned out to be really funny because they just wanted us to get out and swim around the boat, not to the island 200 yards away.

That night, Andrew hosted our group at the hotel he was staying at, and we enjoyed a feast of different seafood, lobster and friend shrimp. June 1 is Children's Day, a huge holiday in Mozambique. We visited the pier during sunset, and the kids were literally running wild. They all were carrying huge baskets full of treats and presents they had received during the day. It was such a neat experience to see a celebration like that with the backdrop of a beautiful ocean sunset.

Sunday was my favorite day of our excursion because a few other girls and I rented bikes to ride around the island. It was so small and quaint, and we hardly ever passed a car on the road. It was easy to bike around the entire outside of the island in about 45 minutes. I was able to see the entire island but still interact with the local people and stop at shops along the way. Everyone in our group was buying gifts and haggling for bracelets, headbands, woodcarvings and other types of African art.

On our way out of town, Dr. Bramwell saw a group of guys playing soccer along the beach with an old, torn apart rubber ball. He asked our bus driver, Alberto, to stop the bus, and planned to throw a brand new ball out of the window, into the middle of their game. We all got our cameras and videos ready to capture their reaction. It was one of the neatest experiences to see the joy of these guys upon receiving something as simple as a new soccer ball. They were smiling ear to ear, chanting, and jumping up and down after our bus. We arrived back in Nampula early so we decided to stop at the Sunday market in town. It was so crowded, and while most of the stuff they were selling was junk, I managed to trade my earrings for a beautiful map of Africa carved out of the local polished black wood. Last weekend was so much fun, and I'm looking forward to the day that I can go back to Mozambique Island.
Mozambique: Final Week on the Farm

June 3-6

By Kathryn Gadberry

The last week on the farm really flew by because we wanted to fit in as much as possible. Monday, we had a very productive morning, completing most of our spreadsheets. The Human Resource control sheet was one of our greatest accomplishments for the entire program. Using a 0, 1 or - key, the HR manager, Jorge, doesn't have to calculate hours off, late or overtime by hand anymore.

That afternoon we went out for an exciting time with the outgrower group. We tried cabanga (a local home brewed beer) and danced with the older women making it. Tuesday, we also went with the outgrowers to give out jump ropes and soccer balls to kids in a different village. It was a very memorable day because of the beautiful handmade woodcarving art gallery we visited. And because I experienced getting pecked by a chicken for the first time. It turned out to be so funny, and I learned my lesson about getting too close to a hen's chicks!

That night was also a treat because John Wayne and his wife, Taryn, joined us for dinner at the Bamboo. He was always a joy to have around. Wednesday, our entire group had planned to hike up one of the fascinating mountains on Novos Horizontes land. Miguel and Mateus led us on a bit of a trek, but the view was breathtaking and so worth the climb. That afternoon we visited the Museum market in town. The black woodcarvings were unbelievable and everyone left with great souvenirs. It was nice to see and experience this center of commerce in Nampula.

Finally, our last day at the farm started with making our rounds, saying goodbye and taking pictures with new friends we had made. The business team put finishing touches on our PowerPoint presentation and said our farewells at Eggs for Africa. Everyone's presentation to Andrew was so impressive, explaining everything we had learned, accomplished and suggestions for how their business could improve in this developing market. Each group brought great information, as well as recommendations to the table.

We ended our time at Novos with a really special mountain top bonfire. The African sunset, good friends and barbecue chicken were all apart of this perfect ending. The people at Novos Horizontes really are one of a kind, and were excited about the relationship they are beginning to form with the University of Arkansas.
Mozambique: Photos from Ihla de Mocambique

By Kathryn Gadberry

On the roof of our hostel

A church on the island
At the pier on Children’s Day
Mozambique: Last Weekend Excursion

June 7-11

By Kathryn Gadberry

Our last weekend excursion was the most unique and fun experience I had on the trip. Friday morning, we left for Johannesburg, South Africa. The entire day was filled with little moments of culture shock – comparing our everyday lives in third-world Mozambique to the luxurious tourist lifestyle we found in South Africa. Johannesburg is a remarkable example of the western, developed parts of Africa. We met our guide, Frankie, at the airport and loaded up on our "new" bus. We had completely forgotten that buses could be huge, air conditioned and comfortable. The Safari Club where we stayed spoiled us with fresh grilled chicken salad, wi-fi and hot showers. The entire group thought we had died and gone to heaven.

The next morning we drove three-and-a-half hours to another resort where we were going on
safari game drives. On the way there, Frankie let us stop at a small strip mall to grocery shop and visit a Biltong dried jerky store. This part of South Africa reminded me so much of Western Europe – and it had the nicest KFC I had ever seen in my life. Everyone we met spoke perfect English and was dressed in all the same brands you would find in the United States. The most surprising, though, was the winter weather we were experiencing in South Africa. It didn't feel like we were too far away from Mozambique, but instead of 90-degree days, we had very cool days and extremely cold nights. The next night was our first game drive, and we had no idea what was in store for us. I have amazing pictures and videos of wildebeest, a pride of lions hunting a warthog, black rhinos and a giraffe. Dinner was like a scene out of a movie. We had a long table, beautifully decorated under a straw roofed pavilion, a long buffet, and a toasty bonfire. They served all our food out of cauldrons and had every type of meat from lamb to kudu (similar to a deer). I'll always remember my fabulous, picturesque dinner out on the Serengeti plains.

Sunday, Frankie planned two more game drives for sunrise and sunset. Most of the animals we wanted to see are more active during twilight hours. It was fun being all bundled up in layers of coats, jackets and blankets while riding around in our open-air safari truck. Every seat was a good seat for seeing wildlife. Our group saw three of the "big five" – elephants, lions and rhinos. Sadly, the two we missed were leopards and water buffalo, but many groups can go out an entire days without seeing any animals. However we saw loads of other wildlife including zebras, crocodiles, springboks, waterboks, hippos, wildebeest, warthogs and kudu. The safari was definitely one of my favorite parts of the trip, and I was really glad I packed extra camera batteries!
Our final day we had a delicious breakfast buffet at our resort and loaded the bus one last time. On the way back to Johannesburg we stopped at a market for lunch and last-minute souvenirs. I honestly hadn't spent much money the entire trip, so this was when I splurged on presents for my friends and family back home. They had the largest selection of woodcarvings, paintings, jewelry, pottery and knick-knacks we'd seen so far. We arrived at the airport with plenty of time to eat, relax and look over the pictures of our trip before our first 11-hour redeye flight to London. I think we all felt a little different about the departing flights. There was little to look forward to, and it seemed like everyone just wanted to have more time in Africa. Our safari excursion weekend definitely gave us amazing memories to end our study abroad!