

Kathie's Kenya Update
January 23, 2018

Classes are underway and University business has accelerated exponentially. I feel much more settled in now and have already done two presentations for very large groups of incoming freshmen. I'm spending my time doing many things University-related; helping re-design their Bachelors and Master's degrees in Counseling Psychology, trying to make an approximate alignment with CACREP standards. Even though I'm on another continent and dodging the CACREP work back home, CACREP is nevertheless a feature of my personal landscape!

I have 16 students in an undergrad Personality Theories class. We don't have CampusNet or rosters with pictures so I had to devise my own way to study and learn my students' names. Here are a few of them.



I have begun seeing students individually for counseling as well; they are coming in with very similar problems to those of the students being seen at CASC. I'm getting much better at understanding accents and so my self-consciousness about that has largely gone away. Good thing, just in time to start doing clinical work!

Another big project at the moment is preparing for the arrival of the rest of the Dream Team on 2/4. We are working on arrangements for data collection. Dr. King-White and her research assistants are set to visit four public schools in neighboring communities (all urban), and Dr. Litam and her research assistants will be visiting several local mental health and medical clinics. There will be a lot of community interface in their first week here.

Then, on February 12 and 13 the entire Dream Team will be giving a two-day training seminar for 150 local teachers (some of whom double as guidance counselors) and school administrators. The title of the training is "Helping Skills for Educators Who Care". Besides giving them some basic skills for intervention with struggling students, we will be "training the trainers", giving them tools to take the helping skill information to their own colleagues in their buildings, in a "top down" strategy aimed at having the broadest influence possible. Upon completion attendees will receive certificates with conjoint mastheads from KCA and CSU.

I was able to make it to Nairobi National Park one day in my continuing quest to see the "Big Five"; lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and cape buffalo. Didn't achieve that goal, but I did get some good pics of lots of other cool ones we never see in Elyria.



"Disco donkeys" at the watering hole. What you can't see is that there is one out of this frame who is keeping watch for lions. They take turns drinking and watching. Daniel's (the guide) finger is in the foreground. Guides basically give a comprehensive tutorial about all things animal, they are incredibly knowledgeable about biology, ecology, etc. Completely essential!



Unfortunately I wasn't allowed get out of the car to stand alongside one of these guys for scale....each one of these vultures are the size of a healthy kindergartner!



This mama giraffe is pregnant!



Since 1989, the Kenyan government has been cracking down on elephant poachers. As a symbol of their commitment to conservation, they recently did a big Ivory Burn in which they torched \$1.5 million worth of ivory. The site remains as a continual testament to their efforts to end poaching. An extremely sad and sober sight, yet also hopeful that they are trying.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/01/world/africa/kenya-burns-poached-ivory-uhuru-kenyatta.html>



Baboons here are like 'coons in Ohio, digging through garbage to find treats. Also aggressively protective of whatever they can snag. Don't argue with this guy.



This cape buffalo pretended he wanted to be my friend but my guide said he really was trying to pin my hand to the fence so he could bite me. So much for accurately interpreting non-verbal behavior.



Meet Lamek, the leopard who was orphaned as a cub and now lives at the animal rehab park. He doesn't cuddle but is very sociable, following as you walk along his enclosure. Maybe he wants a little snack, humans are reportedly more salty and therefore tastier than other food sources in the bush.