



SET YOURSELF APART

RWANDA

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TEACH & LEARN

We worked with *Wellspring Foundation for Education* and facilitated drama-based education workshops with teacher-trainers, which they then use to train 150-200 teachers...per trainer! So our work extended way beyond our physical reach. They loved the idea of getting students out of their seats to take control of their own learning. They were very receptive to new teaching ideas. This experience tied in perfectly to my research on how to make a student-centered classroom.

STUDY & GROW

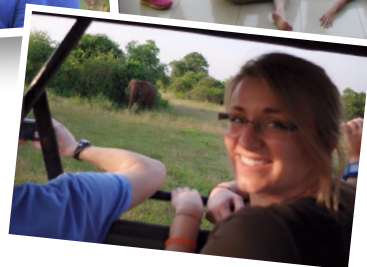
I almost didn't go because I was petrified of acting! Now, I can't even imagine my teaching philosophy without the use of drama. Theatre opens the classroom to students, something I've been trying to figure out for years. I think it will be exceptionally helpful to my ESL students, allowing them to be creative without the barrier of translating the language.

EXPLORE & DISCOVER

I am impressed with how innovative Rwanda is, from the high number of women in government positions to the humane treatment of genocide criminals. We visited schools, orphanages, a prison, refugee camp and several genocide memorials. The quick shifting between sadness & joy was overwhelming; each moment impacted me heavily. Although it was difficult to handle emotionally, I'm glad there was always time set aside for processing.



Ashley farming with families (above left) sharing drama-based education (above right) and on safari (right)



[Click to read Ashley's blog!](#)

BEYOND

I was really struck by the prison system in Rwanda so I began researching the dynamics of prison culture, and have shared my findings across campus. I also created a collaboration with a Rwandan centre that develops educational opportunities for homeless children, and continue to advise the director and raise funds. I have applied for a teaching position in Rwanda and plan to return next year.

"There is nothing like immersing yourself in a culture that is unlike your own. The new perspectives and ideas you adapt change your perception of the world, and thus, inspire you to change the way you interact with the world."

FAVORITE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Acting for my first time - at a refugee camp - and playing with the children afterwards. I quickly discovered that singing and dancing transcends any language barrier!
- Visiting Rwandan schools and practicing drama-based education.
- Making traditional jewelry with a group of Rwandan women
- Going on a safari and seeing elephants - I love elephants!