

Dr. Barbara Rose travels to Burundi, Africa

(Written Fall 2008)



This upcoming January I will travel to Hope Africa University in Bujumbura Burundi to teach Calculus II for three weeks. HAU was founded by the Free Methodist Church in Africa to respond to the need for education and rebuilding of central Africa, (particularly after the wars in Burundi, Rwanda and the Congo), and is operated by African funds. The USA board assists with capital projects and faculty/curriculum support. As a board member, I attended the dedication of the new location in Burundi in 2004 when there were 44 students;

today there are over 1800 students in many majors. One of the new programs, requested by the president of the country, is the Frank Ogden Medical School, named after Phil Ogden's brother, who was a missionary surgeon in Burundi for many years. The enthusiasm of the students in Africa for learning is amazing. Even though they have few resources, they crave learning. I am in the midst of collecting calculus books, scientific calculators, and money to buy laptops, as they have none of these. I will forget about my classroom projector which taps into the internet, powerpoint, and software like Maple and SPSS. Instead, I will take my own chalk and eraser and copies of a detailed syllabus I construct between now and December 31; the students will share the eights copies of a calculus text that were donated by a generous publishing company. This preparation makes me realize again how blessed we are in the United States to have access to education and how much we take for granted. I'm sure I'll have stories upon my return, but I anticipate that I will be more blessed by what I receive than what I gave. As you will read, many of our students are out in the world making a difference. This is why I've spent my professional life in Christian Higher Education.

