

November 20, 2016

The Paulson Family Foundation  
1251 Avenues of the Americas, 50th Fl.  
New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Paulson,

Thank you very much for supporting Dartmouth's Environmental Studies Foreign Study Program! Because of your generosity, I was given the opportunity to study in some of the rarest, most unique parts of southern Africa. The experience was truly humbling, enlightening, and inspiring, and I will cherish these memories forever.

More specifically, I was captivated by the uniqueness of Gobabeb Research and Training Center, where we completed the last two weeks of the program. As you know, the center is located in a harsh environment, with the Sand Dune Sea to the south, the barren gravel plains to the north, and the ephemeral Kuiseb River dividing the two. Some of my fellow classmates and I were eager to understand livestock management tactics in this difficult region. Our project was able to utilize a UAV copter to capture high resolution images with which we could implement GIS techniques to create maps classifying the various tree species. We were also able to place several GPS collars on the community's cows, goats, and donkeys. Both the UAV copter and GPS collars were purchased through your generous donations, and they will remain at Gobabeb for future Dartmouth projects!

Bryn Morgan and I had worked on the livestock mapping project at Gobabeb, and we were inspired to carry this project forward with the possibility of applying Remote Sensing techniques. Once again, your kind donation funded our return to Gobabeb to push this project forward. "Gobabeb Round Two", as Bryn and I like to call it, provided an entirely different experience for us. We were not attending the research center as students or tourists, but as members of the Gobabeb community, and treated as resident researchers and interns. We attended the staff meetings, assisted with school groups, conducted weekly weather research, taught and learned from the staff, met with the Topnaar community, and implemented our very own research projects. "Gobabeb Round Two" fostered a unique sense of independence where Bryn and I were required to take ownership of our projects. We worked together to fly the UAV, conduct tree surveys from the ground, collect livestock data from the GPS collars, and create migration maps. This experience was entirely unique, and I cannot be more grateful.

Dartmouth has opened many doors for me, and one of which has led me to the wonderful Environmental Studies Department. The professors, advisors, and graduate assistants inspire me to share my passions with the world. My trips to southern Africa granted me a great deal of research experience and involvement in community endeavours. This was a truly wonderful experience, and I cannot thank you enough for your kind support with Dartmouth students.

Sincerely,

Emily Rose Grotz

Photos from "Gobabeb Round Two"

