KHAKI FEVER:

SHOOTING A TELEVISION SHOW IN SOUTH AFRICA

A CREATIVE PROJECT

SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE DEGREE

MASTER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

BY

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Travel television is about passion. Traveling to South Africa can be an obsession. In the past 10 months I have been to South Africa twice and both times I have come back with what South African tour guides like to call “Khaki Fever.” A definition of Khaki Fever is a force that makes you long for Africa. The work on my creative project has been a wild ride to say the least. I’ve travelled through various environmentally insufferable conditions hoping for the optimal shooting opportunity. Two phrases have come to mind during these adventures. One, “There are three things in life that are important; living, laughing, and loving. I pride myself in living.” And two, “The tragedy in life is not that it ends so soon but it’s that we wait so long to begin it.” These key phrases have been the basis for my reasoning behind shooting a travel television show.

Whether it’s in South Africa, Somalia, India, China, or America, one thing I want to do with my life is bring the world to the masses. I want to show people who are less fortunate than I what a real traveling experience is, where to go, whom to talk to, and what to do. I have had a passion for travel all of my life, giving myself more and more frequent opportunities to “get outta town.” I’ve seen much and done many things, but I have come to the conclusion that pictures from a vacation are not enough. I want people to see what I’ve done and to be able to do it themselves.

The best way to do this is travel television. My ultimate career goal is to produce and host my own travel television show. However, unlike all of the other shows available, such as Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations and Man vs. Wild, my show will ultimately give the viewer a personal experience unlike any other. In order to really experience a culture and country you must immerse yourself. You must learn their languages and partake in their customs. South Africa: On Safari and Off the Map will do
precisely this. In order to examine this creative project in its entirety, I must first give you a view into the production of this television show and answer a few questions along the way. So how did this idea become a reality?

One place I have always wanted to visit has been Africa. However, I always told myself that money would be an issue in this endeavor, so it wasn’t a question of whether or not I would get to see this amazing continent but when. I began graduate school with this idea in mind. If I were to create a video for my creative project, I would do it on South Africa and give myself the opportunity to get there.

I began by organizing what I wanted specifically to do. The best way I thought to begin was by simply asking a department that might be traveling to South Africa or Africa in general if I might join them. So I searched the school website and found that three different departments were going to South Africa in the summer of 2010 for three totally different studies. One was a dance study where they would be taught at a local college in Cape Town. Another was the Department of Anthropology, which was heading to the Kalahari Desert to analyze human remains. And finally there was the Department of Biology, which was to set out on a journey across the northeastern part of South Africa through Eco-life Expeditions with Pretoria University.

I immediately became excited when I learned of the last group and called the professor who was organizing this trip, Dr. Kamal Islam. I simply told him of my situation, that I wanted to produce a TV Show on South Africa, and then asked him if I could be part of his trip and utilize it to fulfill my cultural immersion requirements. He informed me that this trip was open to all students and all I needed to do was get
permission from the others who were going for filming and arrange to make a short promotional piece for him and his department.

I spent the next few months meeting with Dr. Islam bi-weekly to discuss the trip and read over materials that he would assign me in order to catch up on information about the areas we would be traveling to. I had to meet with each of the students who were to go on the trip in order to have pre-immersion interviews and comments. Contacting various people over in South Africa was essential for making sure filming would not be an issue. It was a hassle, but it had to be done. Touring companies can be hesitant when having cameras record what they do. They want to be absolutely sure you are not going to advertise their company in a negative manner. To make sure these companies would let me film, they needed positive reassurance that would help them understand the reason for filming. I had to arrange with the Ball State University Teleplex at this time for camera equipment. This involved getting insurance, requesting that the equipment be taken for more than a few days, arranging how much of and what I needed. I ended up taking a small Canon HG10 borrowed from the Digital Corps, a Sony Z1U borrowed from Nancy Carlson, and a couple other things from the Teleplex. I also had to buy some of my own equipment, lighting, and mounts. I had waterproof equipment, equipment for shooting at night, and many other interesting things to use.

The group was scheduled to spend only seventeen days with the touring company Eco-life Expeditions. I knew I needed more time within the country, so I made arrangements with a hotel owner to go to Cape Town on the southern tip of Africa and have a go of it on my own. With the arrangements made, I headed off on my journey. I left with 200 lbs of clothes and camera equipment and had to deal with customs to ensure
safe delivery of the cameras and equipment. I went to customs before leaving to ask them
if there were any documents needed. They itemized my equipment and gave me a
certificate, which showed everything I had brought with me.

We arrived on May 11, 2010, in the evening and my first priority was to find a
way to call home. So I proceeded to the nearest store and did what I have done in the
past. I bought a new cell phone with airtime. We kept a travel log as part of our
assignment. The following excerpts from it are included here in their original state,
grammar mistakes included:

*May 10-11th 2010 Johannesburg & Pretoria*

*Today has been spent mostly traveling from one place to another. My first notice
of a change of culture was upon entering the plane from Atlanta to Johannesburg.
Many people spoke with an Afrikaner accent, which was quite enjoyable to listen
to. On arrival in Johannesburg the sun set rather quickly, in just half an hour time
we went from full sunlight to nothing. Johannesburg is a very large city and
surprisingly easy to figure out. We then traveled to the South African capital of
Pretoria where we along with our guide Alan became acquainted with our rooms
and then preceded to have a very wonderful dinner. After that a few of us hung
outside and drank a few beers it was at this point in time that I took notice of the
glorious opportunity for stargazing. This city is scarce of light pollution and we
were able to see far more stars than we can at home.*
I figured out quickly during the first day that powering the equipment would be problematic, as there were only a few converters and I had several different batteries to charge.

May 12th Day 2-

Cheetah, Lion, Brown Hyena, Vulture, Wild dog and more; these are what interested me most today. The De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Center was very interesting for my first full-on experience with South African wildlife. However, I felt that this center was a glorified zoo. Yes, they spoke of their functions and purpose, giving the individual a true concern for local wildlife, but with the enclosures, being how they were and the game drive being the way it was, I felt that I was in a much more real version of Disney’s Animal Kingdom. Don’t get me wrong they were spectacular but this feeling almost ruined the entire experience for me. We spoke during our meeting tonight of the similarities and differences between DeWildt and Ukutula and I felt this experience/discussion was very beneficial in establishing a purpose for today’s excursions. The mating
techniques used for selective breeding were extremely fascinating. Over all, today’s adventure can be summed up in two words… GO CUBS!

(Depicted above are the student group and I at the DeWildt Cheetah and Wildlife Center.)

I experienced my first issues with shooting live animals here, as they are not always out front in frame and don’t take camera direction very well. Not included in the journal entry was information on the Ukutula Lion Park and Lodge. Even though I was having issues with battery life from the very beginning, I found out here that I needed a vehicle with a battery charger. It’s nice to have some sort of electrical home base in these situations. This is something I’ve always wondered about on survival shows like Survivor Man and Man vs. Wild. How can they spend five or more days in the wild without electricity and still have battery life? If you’re recording roughly the entire time, you’ll quickly run through three or four batteries depending on the camera and this persistently became my issue while shooting.
May 13th – Day 3

Today was a definite adventure. I learned a lot of interesting facts while sitting shot gun for two hours in the main vehicle. The political and social situation of this country is almost sickening, they truly believe that they have a better country than any other country in the world; this perplexed me! Arriving in Loskop was a treat. All we have seen so far is inner city and to see the true wild was a sight to be remembered. At first when we left on the boats to travel I thought that our drivers were just drivers and not our trekkers. It confused me at first when we stopped the boat and started talking about the wildlife and I thought “wow, these guys are really smart for just drivers” I was soon proven wrong. Imbambala lodge is amazing so open and fresh. There is plenty to see and I can’t wait for the days to come!

(Depicted above is Loskop Dam Nature reserve in the Northern Mpumalanga Province.)
I returned to Loskop on my second trip. I felt I learned more here than any other place. It ultimately changed my life, and I will speak more of it later.

May 14th – Day 4

Today I got up at 5:00 am to start shooting a sunrise sequence, this was quite a sight just listening to the wildlife in the morning was really interesting. I caught some vervet monkeys flying through the trees this was magical. Meeting the staff and other guests last night was wonderful, so far every South African I have met has had a similar interest to us Americans as most Europeans do. They tend to be very interested in discussions about cultural, political, and economical differences. I feel much more at home in foreign countries than I do in my own.

Travel is in my blood. We went on a hike through the bush and tracked various animals (or thought we were tracking them, didn’t see any) including Nyala, Kudu, Wild Dog, Leopard, and others. At the top of the ridge there was an outstanding view of the Drakkensberg Mountain range which is a mountain range that spans most of the country north to south on the eastern side; the valleys below with the Olifants River flowing through was all just so majestic I could have sat there the whole day. We then went back to base camp after reaching this height and spent the rest of the day relaxing and went for a boat ride where we saw hippopotamus and Monitor Lizards and crocodile. On our way back to camp it got very dark and we spent that time looking at the stars and observing various ways to navigate celestially.
Shooting became difficult here. The camp only had electricity a few hours a day, which ran from a generator near the river, so I could not constantly keep more than five batteries charged. The only thing I could do was request that the owners of the camp leave the generator on late and turn it on early. Fortunately for me they did. This is when I discovered that the smaller of the two main cameras was better because when trekking through the bush, the lighter the load is, the easier it is to shoot.

May 18th Day 8– Kruger day 2

Today we went on our first full day game drive. The van we have been traveling with was used for this drive and proved not very good for game observation. This was amazing though, we saw a wild dog kill that was out of this world a once in a lifetime experience. We saw buffalo various bird species and several species of primates. Film is going well but not much good footage because I have to stay in the van; this is a rule of most of the major game parks in South Africa. The van perceived by one animal is a large creature when you step out or extend an arm out they notice this as a separate being or appendage or something to bite onto, so as you could imagine even a finger outside of the windows can result in appendage loss. I have not much more to write about because so far Kruger has been rather boring. It has proven to be very hard to point out and find extravagant, exciting, and extreme wildlife.
Here at Kruger National Park, shooting was particularly difficult. Even though the sights we saw were wonderful, and this was one of the places I wanted to feature on the TV show, I just couldn’t get any good shots. In Kruger it is against the law to get out of your car on the main roads or even stick your hands out of the window because there is a danger of attack. The issue with this was I actually had just a window frame to shoot from, which didn’t help me much for different camera angles or more interesting shots. Every time I would move the camera more than one foot, I would get a nice side-view mirror in frame, and it was very hard to deal with.

I also learned here that coming with the Department of Biology was not a very good idea. I realize, of course, without their influence I would not have had the contacts needed to shoot, and I am very thankful for this. But we were on a schedule I had to stick with, allowing no time for stopping to change lenses or camera angles or even charge batteries. I had to change tapes for the Z1U on the run all of the time. Also, another problem was students constantly talking and carrying on. Throughout most of my shots
from this section of the trip there are clicking noises of cameras, and it was an issue. Entire shows and films have been done on Kruger National Park. It is roughly the size of New Jersey and is one of the largest national parks in the world. It would have been nice to get some good footage. I gained valuable experience and connections during the first shoot but despite these connections it was still a wasted shoot, only producing some small interviews and mostly B-roll.

**May 20\(^{th}\) Day 10 – Letaba rest camp in Kruger**

*Today we went for an early morning game drive, very early, ugh I was tired. We then had a leisure day, which was amazing it seems all we’ve done since we’ve been here is work to be on vacation. I spent most of the time making phone calls, going to the store, and filming what I could. I took a quick walk to try and see if I would see any wildlife around to get some good shots of. Tonight we had macaroni and cheese and I must say it was better than what Landon had made at Imbambala. There seems to be some confusion about who’s supposed to do what job each night hopefully this will get worked out because it’s causing a bit of tension. We went on a night drive tonight and saw JAFI, Jack rabbits, a spotted hyena cub, the most interesting thing we saw though was a Giraffe bone from the spine, which was huge roughly 1 meter in width. We got back, had a wonderful potjie, which Alan made and went to bed, it was a good day!*
This experience so far had been so tiring I was finding myself actually leaving the cameras behind on some days. It was difficult being a one-man film crew. Every once in a while I would have help from some of the other students, but it wasn’t too often. Crewing was not their job, although I appreciated any help I could get.

May 21st Day 11 Hazyview (Shangan Cultural Village)

Today was a good day. I got hours of footage and had a wonderful experience in Hazyview (I love the mall here- it makes you feel closer to home). After arriving at our destination we unloaded and had some down time we played with the puppy Jack Russell terriers (this was really a trip). I never realized how small they are as puppies. Shortly thereafter we left for the Shangan Cultural village. I was really excited about this soon realized that it was mostly fake this was very disappointing. Seemingly very educational, however, the whole experience to me
was the worst so far. I wanted to see how this tribe really lived today, not how they lived in the past. It was obvious that these people, while possibly being real Shangan people, were actors. The food was similar to what we have been eating but very well nonetheless, I’m getting tired of stew! The “chief” smoked a cigarette with me which made me chuckle. Upon returning back to the guest house we could hear the local Shabeen (nightclub for local black community) and I wanted to go but was told that I would most likely get killed if I walked in there so we chose to have fun there at the guest house and relax by the pool.

(Depicted above is a picture of the sangoma or Shangaan spiritual leader)
I had one of my first African night shooting experiences here in Hazyview. The difficulty was adjusting gain to allow an image to appear but not be grainy. Again running on someone else’s time is not optimal when trying to shoot your own TV show. I really, at this point, figured out I needed my own schedule and a crew because it was becoming increasingly more difficult. A large disappointment came to me that day when I figured out there are not that many authentic indigenous cultural experiences available. This was going to be a big part of my story, but I had to scrap this. Every day I continually learned that travel television shooting is difficult. The director cannot control who does what, when, and where they do it. At this time I was thinking bringing South Africa to the masses might be harder than I had originally thought and I was also still
having battery charging issues. You can think that you are prepared to the fullest, but there will always be something that comes along the way to prove you wrong.

May 23 Day 13 - St. Lucia and iSimangaliso Wetland Park

This morning after our first night Lindsey, Hayley, Meghan, Sean, Julia and I went to the beach to see the sunrise. It was dark when we went out so the boardwalk to the beach was not lit up. It was funny how scared everyone was of being attacked I haven’t worried too much about it since I thought a leopard in Loskop chased me. I figure if it’s my time it’s my time. I’ve taken a very similar reaction to this country as Dr. Islam has from the beginning, “oh well”. I went swimming at 5:30 in the morning in the Indian Ocean, OMG AMAZING! The water was so much warmer that the air outside and the clouds were amazing I want to live here. After this we went back for breakfast and then spent the day shopping in the town, amazing! I had to buy a bag because the stuff I bought was too much to carry. Then Lindsey and I walk back because we didn’t realize how far it was and eventually had to get a ride from some guys driving down the road.

We went to the beach after shopping and had a lot of fun. After that we all met up to go to the boats for a ride and tour in the estuary. This was great; we saw hippos, crocodiles, bushbuck, and other wildlife. The tour guide was very informative and funny. As we were returning to the dock we started to hear drums and people singing. We went up the dock and there were children dancing naked! It felt a little weird but from what I was told it’s their culture. What a great day!

Landon goes scuba diving tomorrow hopefully I’ll get some good underwater footage from that. Spent the night trying to light the fire with Alan’s flint again,
soon figured out he was cheating and had starter sticks he bought from the store Kruger, what a fake.

(Depicted above is a map of St. Lucia, a town on the eastern coast of South Africa in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.)

I figured out something that was a bit of a problem here when shooting a sunrise for a time lapse. The lens on the camera likes to fog up. I constantly needed to rub it off every five minutes or so, and changing a tape every five seconds (exaggeration) is exhausting. I decided if I came back again I would have all recording done on solid-state elements. The local population, at this point in time, was very open to helping with anything I needed. One of the students and I hitchhiked from St. Lucia to our campsite with no problems, and we made some new friends in the process. If we had done that in America, it wouldn’t have been so easy because not many people like to pick up hitchhikers here. On my second trip, however, I found that times had changed in the six months I was home, and things were a little socially different. We were met with warm greetings from every white person in this area during both trips. During the second trip the non-white population was very unfriendly due to Nelson Mandela’s hospitalization and social problems that resulted from this.
I spent my last two weeks of this first trip with our guide Alan MacLean. In St. Lucia, Alan and I were sitting by the fire discussing my plan for the rest of my trip when he suggested he could take me around, show me sights and stay with him. This began my interest in completing a second episode on Afrikaans culture. After the rest of the group departed for America, Alan and I went from city to city enjoying the food, people, and places to see. I, of course, filmed everything, but with intention of shooting just B-roll or extra footage used to overlay on the primary shots.

I learned about Alan’s way of living and Afrikaner history, which is troubled to say the least. The conversations we had were shocking. Their hatred for the Native African, British, and Indian culture is astounding. It really made me think that we Americans have come very far in race relations compared to them. No racism I could experience in America today could compare to this pure hatred. In this I mean both of my guides were very racist toward “non-whites” and the feeling seemed to be mutual from the black population toward us.

As my trip was ending, I started to think back on what footage I still needed but got so caught up in what I was doing that I hadn’t realized that my shots lacked “heart” or a personal connection with people. We had spent so much time with the biology group doing everything we could that I wasn’t able to get any really good interviews. It wasn’t until about two months later after reviewing all of my footage that I realized I needed to return. I needed to create my own schedule for shooting and lose the constraints of a group or a tourist feel. I needed to do it on my own.
So around December 5, 2010, I started planning for my return. I first secured the funds to go, and then contacted Alan to see if he could be my guide again. However, since the first trip, Alan had decided to change jobs and was not able to work for me this time around. He recommended someone else for the job. Jan-Adriaan De Kock was to be my guide. I contacted him and started to set things into motion. With this out of the way, I now focused on what I needed for the trip, what I needed to shoot during the trip, and where we were to go.

In order to shoot properly this time and keep myself from being overwhelmed with equipment, I created my own personal field pack. This consisted of four different cameras (all small): two Olympus Pen EP2’s, one Kodak waterproof handheld, and one GoPro HD Hero action camera. Also included in this pack were my laptop, a zoom H4n audio recorder, a wireless lavaliere microphone, two tripods, and a monopod.

It became apparent to me after the second trip to always check and double-check your equipment. Before leaving, the audio equipment worked wonderfully; however, after a few days of shooting I soon realized that the microphones were malfunctioning. Luckily the camera’s internal microphones, not the best audio, were sufficient enough. This has now resulted in my need to practically subtitle everything in post-production.

Buying all of my own equipment on the second journey was the best thing I could have done. During my first trip, I felt a constant worry about breaking things and having to explain myself when I returned, but this time around that wasn’t such a big issue. As a result of having my own equipment, I could dictate what was to be done with it. However, trying to organize the use of my iPhone through the AT&T network proved to
be much more costly and problematic than I was told. I should have bought a phone there like I did on the first trip.

I left for the second shooting on January 15, 2011, and spent the next 26 hours in airplanes and airports which gave me ample time to familiarize myself with this new equipment, even more than I had already done. Unlike the first shoot, I did not keep a journal during my second one. However, I did create a short list of production notes for my own personal reasons and organization. It is presented below in its original state, mistakes included:

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South Africa: On Safari and Off the Map

Ep 1/Pilot- Wilderness Bound

* ----VO Host introduction- I suppose the year round perfect weather, the good natured people, and the amazing food could quite possibly be a big factor in what brought me to South Africa. Like a mouse to its proverbial cheese I've clung to this country in an emotional way. I see it as one of the world’s last frontiers. A place explored but in a sense... unexplored. I place among the world where wilderness can dominate and unseen beasts roam wild. I've come here so seek adventure and I'll leave here knowing one thing.

(360 move, open with several beautiful shots from the Loskop and St. Lucia areas- then transition to shots of me in these places walking from one place to another several angles involved even my feet as I cross a street sidewalk or bridge)

* ----Host- There are three things in life that are important, living, laughing, and Loving. I pride myself in one of these things and that's living.

(Host in plane)
Welcome to South Africa: On Safari and Off the Map. This is living, this is laughing, this is loving, and this is Africa! TIA bru!

(Animation sequence followed by shots of host with different parties from interviews)

**SCENE ONE- LOSKOP NATURE RESERVE**

* ---Driving in from highway scene changes, road changes, everything changes

* Host explains where they are and a few things to intro

* ----Colin and I- having our discussion--------

(This will lead on to b roll shots and our first commercial break followed by other discussions possibly on the boat or at base camp by the fire, etc etc.)

(Shot of me somewhere saying this with attitude)

(Shots for next scene tracking and boat ride)

**SCENE TWO-**

Loskop tracking...

- Get good interviews that will follow each other be in close with cappie ask him to talk to camera tell not only the group but also the cameras what they are looking for and how they are finding it.
Loskop Reservoir- Interview with nic or cappie on personal drive on reservoir talking about the hippo population, crocodiles and other water living species.

(Shots for next scene)

SCENE THREE-

Imbambala Wilderness Trails...

(Camp shots with VO

* -----Host VO- I feel... peace, a peace that not many get to know. Being so far away and out of your element you learn to enjoy this feeling. There's just something about this place that makes you forget whatever it is you had to do when you were at home. Meetings... appointments... assignments... Huh? What was I talking about? Well never mind!

(Sitting on the docks possibly at dusk)

(Shots from St. Lucia)

SCENE FOUR

(On a boat leaving Imbambala)
(Animated map again showing route)

(Driving to St. Lucia)

SCENE FIVE

(Kayak tour and a discussion on estuary wildlife with the guides)

SCENE SIX

(River cruises and interview with captain)

(Highlighting iSimangaliso Wetland Park)

SCENE SEVEN

(Quad bikes and interview at ACT)

(Final thoughts)

(Final outtro) possibly a jump into the sea from here

Rolling credits
We originally had a pretty good schedule set up, but I soon encountered problems with it. I had anticipated the need for changing locations, changeable weather, public animosity toward shooting, and so on and so forth. I tried to make sure everything was set up smoothly by contacting my guide and cameraman to ensure that all was good. On January 16th I arrived in South Africa at OR Tambo International airport in Johannesburg and was picked up by my newly hired employees JA De Kock and Mia-Sche Van Wyk. We spent the night near the city and drove off in the morning for Hluhluwe where we were to meet up with Dylan Panos, a hunting guide and owner of Bhejane Nature Training. We then spent the next two days hunting impala.

At the time I was planning on producing episodes two and three of *South Africa: On Safari and Off the Map* for the Department of Telecommunications. Episode two was to be on culture and three was to be on adrenaline sports, which is why I went hunting in the first place. However, it seemed that every time we would attempt to do an adrenaline sport, it would get rained out or the schedule wouldn’t fit. So eventually I ended up scrapping episode three and only promising episode two.

We left from the hunting ground on the 19th to go to Sodwana Bay solely for some B-roll and an aerial flight over iSimangaliso Wetland Park. From there we moved on to Loskop Dam Nature Reserve to meet up with Colin Steyn owner of Zambezi Kanyemba Safaris. I had gone to Loskop during the first shoot and was so intrigued by it that I had to return and get a full interview again and some more shots. This place really is a huge chunk of episode one and truly embodies the relaxed feeling one gets from traveling to South Africa. We spent the next five days there.
On the 24\textsuperscript{th} of January we departed for St. Lucia. This trip could have been better planned. We began near Hluhluwe then drove inland to Loskop and then back again near Hluhluwe to get to St. Lucia. I should have gone to Loskop last. We spent our first day in St. Lucia trying to organize our shoots. It seemed none of the people we had organized with were around when they said they would be. So we ended up shooting what we could and adding a few things along the way. For example in the first episode there is an interview with a man by the name of Ernest Mlambo with whom we had not planned to meet. I merely told the quad bike tour guide that I wanted an interview with someone who could talk about the impact of the park on the local community. These kinds of things happened a few times. The funny thing is that we had no intention of taking the quad bike tour either. The guide and I needed our hair cut, and Belinda, the quad bike tour guide, just so happened to stop in while we were there.

Another problem with shooting this kind of show was absence of cast members, i.e. animals. We had arranged a turtle tour at night, which would get us footage of newborn sea turtles crawling into the ocean. It would have given a nice “cute factor” to the piece. After paying over a grand to reserve the tour for just the three of us and leaving for the night, the turtles were a no-show. When it rains they don’t normally show themselves, but we tried to find them. It was rather fun. I figured out quickly during this shoot that even though I changed all of my recording formats from tape to solid state, I still had storage issues. I needed to buy another external hard drive while I was there.

Also while in St. Lucia we went on an estuary tour by boat. I had taken this tour during the first shoot but with all of the people on the boat, and my being a one-man crew, I couldn’t get the shots needed. This show was to be heartfelt and my shots weren’t
very personal. So I rented the entire 40-person boat and set off down the estuary. We saw countless sights of hippos and crocodiles and had a good time or a “lekkar Jol” as they say in Afrikaans.

We left St. Lucia and headed back to Johannesburg where I spent the next four days getting shots for episode two which is on Afrikaner culture. This was planned; however, the outcome was not. During my trip Nelson Mandela was rushed to the emergency room. Word from my guides was, “Don’t talk of Mandela around the blacks. You will be hurt, because the blacks will blame his illness on the white man.” This ruined a lot for me. I had planned on staying with a local celebrity soccer player, a Zulu of origin, who lived in a slum part of Johannesburg called Soweto. There were reports on the news locally that anyone that was white in Soweto was being beaten. So I had to improvise and change it up a bit. We ended up shooting for everything about the Afrikaans people. I went to a few local monuments, had a lovely dinner with my guide’s family, played a traditional game with the local senior citizens, and played rugby with a local rugby club. We didn’t stop shooting until two hours before I had to get on my flight home. Needless to say my trip was booked solid. Below are both of my itineraries, prepared by different people, from the first shoot to the second shoot in their original format, grammar mistakes included:
Shoot 1:

**ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY IN SOUTH AFRICA**

*Field Biology of Distant Areas  BIO 420/520  3 credit hours*

**Instructor:** Dr. Kamal Islam, Professor and co-director of the Wildlife Biology option within the Department of Biology.

**Current Offering:** May 2010

**General Course Description - Overview**

This is a 2-3 week, 3 credit hour field course conducted in South Africa, a large country that has many unique habitats resulting in tremendous biodiversity of Flora and Fauna. South Africa provides an ideal field laboratory for students to examine and experience biological and cultural diversity in one of the hidden gems of our planet. The format of the course includes individual and group participation and hands-on activities, lectures, demonstrations, and research methods.

**Goal & Objectives**

The *overall goal* of this course, which is open to all Ball State students, is to enhance the international learning experience and global viewpoint of BSU students by providing an immersive opportunity to study the biological and cultural diversity of this vast nation.

The specific *objectives* of this course are as follows:

- To identify and describe the ecology of the unique flora and fauna of this region.
- To identify and discuss conservation efforts initiated in South Africa to maintain biodiversity.
- To discuss and debate the social, political, and economic aspects of conservation biology in South Africa.
- To identify and discuss the role of ecotourism in local communities.
- To demonstrate and explain procedures in game tracking, navigation, species identification, and handling of animals.
- To conduct group research on a single or multiple group of organisms and present an oral report.
- To formulate a written conservation management plan to facilitate conservation and preservation of a specified area and the sustainable development and utilization of that area.
- To differentiate and describe the cultural diversity within South Africa.
Course Topics

* Wildlife Management Techniques
* Sustainable Resource Utilization
* Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation
* Game Capture and Handling Techniques
* Reserve Management
* African Local Community Cultures and Conservation Perspectives

Assignments

Written Essays Written Quizzes - centered on activities of the day Campfire Discussions - a) The Ivory debate, b) Transfrontier Parks, c) Sustainable development in developing countries...Is it possible? Bushcraft Training - tracking, navigation, species identification Game Capture Training Individual Research Projects & Presentation of Results Daily Journal

Logistics & Schedule

We will travel together as a group from Indianapolis to South Africa. All logistics within South Africa, including food for meals, ground transportation, and lodging, will be provided by EcoLife Expeditions which is established by the Center for Wildlife Management at the University of Pretoria. Except for the first night which will be spent in a youth hostel, lodging in South Africa will involve camping in tents. In camp, students will participate in meal preparation and clean-up.

The proposed schedule for the course is during Summer Session I and it will extend from 11-27 May 2010.

Join us on a 17-day Wildlife and Cultural Expedition. Visit four provinces: Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo, including the internationally renowned Kruger National Park and the World Heritage Site of the Greater St Lucia Wetlands,
Day 1, Tuesday 11 May: Arrival Students arrive and are met by EcoLife staff members at Johannesburg’s International Airport. After your transfer to your guesthouse close to the University of Pretoria, you relax before the evening welcoming dinner. Accommodation: Guesthouse

Day 2, Wednesday 12 May: Orientation, Pretoria We attend an orientation session at the Centre for Wildlife Management of the University of Pretoria. After lunch we visit the world renowned Cheetah and Wild Dog Breeding Center on the outskirts of Pretoria. Accommodation: Guesthouse

Days 3 - 6, Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 May: Imbambala Imbambala is located in the beautiful Loskop Dam Nature Reserve in the bushveld. A dedicated team will collect guests at the banks of the Loskop Dam and transfer them by boat to the secluded peninsula which makes up Imbambala Lodge. Expert trackers teach us tracking, bush and survival skills. Weather permitting, we will also take part in abseiling. Accommodation: Safari tents

Days 7 and 8, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May: Kruger National Park The biodiversity of this jewel of wilderness areas is spectacular and is the ideal area for observing and studying most of the wildlife species Southern Africa has to offer. Here we meet with dedicated staff to learn more about their duties in this world famous Park. We will participate in an included sunset game drive to experience the “night life” of the Park. Accommodation: Camping (Skukuza Rest Camp)

Days 9 and 10, Sunday 19 and Monday 20 May: Kruger National Park During the next two days we are also introduced to the northern area of the Park as we cross the Tropic of Capricorn. A visit to the very informative Letaba Elephant Museum is a highlight. Accommodation: Camping (Letaba Rest Camp)

Day 11, Tuesday 21 May: Hazyview We depart the Park and drive to the beautiful town of Hazyview where we check in to a local lodge. Early during the evening we drive to Shangana Village close by. The friendly Shangana villagers will receive us and we get to know more about their culture and enjoy an evening festival with them. Late night we return to our lodge in Hazyview. Accommodation: Hazyview Lodge

Days 12 and 13, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 May: Greater Lucia Wetland Reserve Departing after an early breakfast, we head out south towards the stunning North Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The pristine Greater St Lucia Wetland Reserve, on the Indian Ocean, has been declared a World Heritage Site because of its unique ecosystems. We take an afternoon trip on a boat, exploring the St. Lucia Estuary. This is our chance to spot hippo’s, crocodiles and a diverse collection of birdlife. Our second day allows us to relax on the beach and shop in the village of St. Lucia. Accommodation: Camping

Day 14, Friday 24 May: Zulu Village We strike camp and drive a short distance to a rural Zulu village close to the small town of Eshowe. We meet with the villagers and
settle in. The night is spent in the village where we learn about the fascinating Zulu culture and experience craft making with the host family. **Accommodation: Zulu huts**

**Day 15 and 16, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May: Sondela Nature Reserve** We say goodbye to the Zulu villagers and depart early morning for our long drive up north to the Sondela Game Reserve located in the Limpopo Province. We arrive late afternoon and set up camp at our secluded and unique bush camp. We visit the wildlife rehabilitation center at Sondela the following morning. During the rest of the day we enjoy the Reserve’s facilities like quad bike rides, swimming and horseback rides (for our own account). We gather early evening for our graduation ceremony and farewell dinner in our bush camp. **Accommodation: Camping**

**Day 16, Monday 27 May: Departure** We strike camp after breakfast and depart for Johannesburg’s International Airport. We reach the airport at lunch time in time to check in for our flight back home.
Shoot 2:

**ITINERARY**

**16 JANUARY 2011**

22:20  ERIC PICK-UP  
FLIGHT 591KLM  
SLEEPING @ MIA-SCHE’S

**17 JANUARY 2011**

03:00  DEPART FOR PONGOLA/BHEJANE NATURE TRAINING  
(www.bhejanenaturetraining.com OR DYLAN +27 79 887 0419/ (035 562-0034))  
08:30  ARRIVE AT PONGOLA  (www.pongolagamereserves.co.za)  
09:00  SHOOTING RANGE & RIFLE SIGHTING  
09:30  ZEBRA HUNT  
12:30  LUNCH BREAK  
17:00  BREAK & SKINNING  
19:00  DINNER

**18 JANUARY 2011**

07:00  TIGER FISHING AT JOZINI DAM/PONGOLA  
12:00  LUNCH BREAK (ON WATER)  
17:00  DRIVE TO MSENI LODGE ( (035) 571-0284/ www.mseni.co.za)  
19:00  DINNER
19 JANUARY 2011

07:00  DRIVE TO SODWANA BAY (www.sodwanabay.com)
08:00  MICROLIGHT FLIGHT-SODWANA FLYING SERVICES (FRANCIOS BURGER +27 72 211 6662/ flysodwana@yahoo.com)
13:00  RETURN TO PONGOLA
14:00  REST & RECREATION
17:00  RETURN TO CAMP
19:00  DINNER, BRAAI

20 JANUARY 2011

07:30  DEPART FOR LOSKOPDAM NATURE RESERVE
IMBAMBALA NATURE TRAINING
COLIN STEYN (013) 262-3234
www.imbambala.co.za

21 JANUARY 2011

07:30  LOSKOPDAM NATURE RESERVE

22 JANUARY 2011

07:30  LOSKOPDAM NATURE RESERVE

23 JANUARY 2011

07:30  LOSKOPDAM NATURE RESERVE

24 JANUARY 2011

07:00  DEPART FOR ST. LUCIA (www.stluciasouthafrica.co.za)
12:30  LUNCH

13:00  ARRIVE IN ST. LUCIA, CHECK IN @ INGWENYA LODGE (www.ingwenyalodge.co.za / BARENDD/MADELINE HARMSE 082 7828172/ (035) 590-1032 )

19:00  INTERESTING DINNER

25 JANUARY 2011

07:00  RE-ORGANISE

26 JANUARY 2011

07:00  BREAKFAST

10:00  KAYAKING, GERT/HERITAGE TOURS & SAFARI’S, MANDY
(info@stlucia.co.za / 083 457 2147/ (035) 590-1555 )

12:30  LUNCH

21:00  TURTLE TOUR / EURO ZULU, JEFF ASHER-WOOD
(www.eurozulu.com / (035) 590-1635 )

27 JANUARY 2011

07:00  QUAD BIKING, BELINDA (julianbelle@gmail.com / 082 845 2314 )

12:30  LUNCH

28 JANUARY 2011

07:30  VILLAGE, ERNEST MLAMBO (www.projectafrica.com / (035) 550-4445/ 072 762 7235 )

14:00  ADVANTAGE BOAT CRUISE, RIETTE (www.advantageg tours.co.za / 083 487 2762 / (035) 590-1259

29 JANUARY 2011

07:00  TO EAST RAND
19:00 JOL IN HATFIELD

30 JANUARY 2011
07:00 VOORTREKKER MONUMENT
(012) 326-6770
www.voortrekkermon.org.za

31 JANUARY 2011
08:00 ERRANDS

1 FEBRUARY 2011
07:30 JUKSKEI IN HEILBRON, OOM JAN OR TANNIE SARIE
(058) 852-2832
19:00 BRAKPAN RUGBY CLUB
VERNON GRAVETT 082 990 9991
Vernon.gravett@vodacom.co.za

2 FEBRUARY 2011
00:00 DEPART BACK TO USA
Editing this piece has been more difficult than anything else I have ever done. I have over 200 hours of footage from all over the northeastern part of the country. I began this edit with the same approach I do for all of my edits. I started by watching all of my footage and separating what I don’t need from what I do. I then lined it all up on the timeline within Final Cut Pro and synced it together with the audio. By the time I was finished, my eyes glowed for two days from staring at a computer for so long. Originally, I did not know exactly what I wanted in this because I had so many interviews and so much B-roll. It was hard to decide what to use. I chose specific segments because these, to me, were the most effective in achieving my goal to influence the viewer to want to do this on his own, but in a more personal way.

I started the piece at Loskop Dam Nature Reserve followed by St. Lucia and only included those two places. When deciding to do this, I thought to myself that in order to truly give the people a personal experience they must have enough time in one place to try to feel a connection. If I had used more than two places in one 30 to 50 minute span, it would seem like flashed footage jumping from one place to another.

The first shoot had optimal shooting conditions due to weather but not optimal due to the situation stated earlier. The second time around I missed the sunlight and the viewability of animals. Unlike our climate with four seasons, South Africa feels and acts as if it only has two, summer and winter. During the first shoot I went in their winter when the grass was low from the very cold 65-degree weather. The climate was dry and the animals were out. It was cool enough to stay out longer, which was optimal for
shooting. During the second trip I went in their summer, which led to high grasses and a lot of rain. If I had to do it all over again, I would have just gone during the first trip, shot no footage, and taken notes of what my possibilities of shooting were. As I stated earlier the students merely got in the way. They were talking when I was shooting. Their cameras were clicking while taking photos and their schedule was so intense that I realistically did not have many chances to say, “Wait I need to change cameras or camera angles.”

The intention for this pilot and episode two is purely as an example for future employers. I have no plans to sell it and will not sell it. It will merely be used as a tool. My goal in life is to travel the world shooting everything I see and giving my experiences to the masses for them to enjoy also. So precisely what I will be doing, if I get the opportunity to, is returning with a full crew and a large amount of cameras for a full re-shoot.

This experience has been an interesting one. From spending over four days in airplanes, to four weeks in a small box watching a computer, this will forever be in my memory. Did I accomplish what I had set out to? Yes, I have given myself a piece to be proud of that I can show future employers for the possibility of my dreams coming true. Did I learn from my experience? Yes, I am forever changed. Not only did shooting a TV show on South Africa give me ample run-and-gun shooting experience but it also made me a different person, a more calm and peaceful person. Do I have Khaki Fever, as my title suggests? Yes, South Africa has been infused into my soul. I will forever miss that beautiful country, the Afrikaner and the South African way of living. Over time, it is like getting over an old love, I guess. I will grow to become accustomed in my surroundings
and not miss it so much. But for now, South Africa runs through my veins. Khaki Fever is not only a title given to obsession over this land but it’s a way of living. There isn’t ever a moment in life where you cannot sit back and enjoy what is around you.