

# SWARTKRANS, SOUTH AFRICA

## FRANK BONNEAU

**Frank's Major:** Anthropology

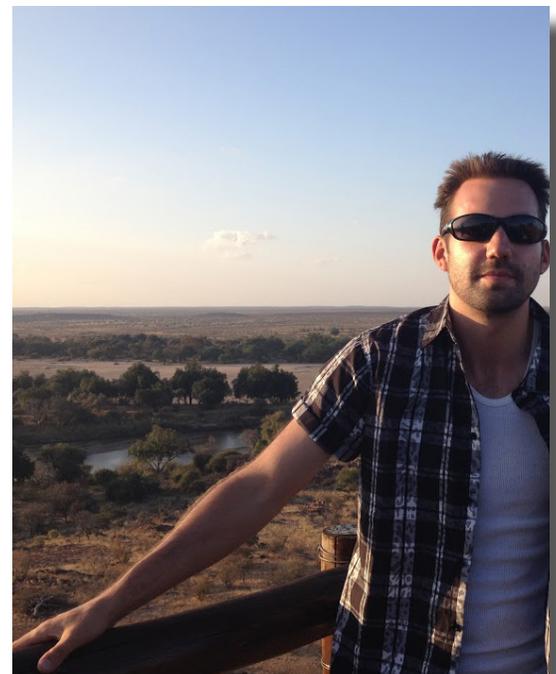
**Program:** Swartkrans Archaeology Field School, Summer

**Academic Life:** This program was an archaeology field school that lasted for one month. The majority was hands on training in archaeological methods conducted at the Swartkrans site. Once a week, there were seminars where we discussed the reading materials in detail. On one field trip, we visited the Limpopo region to see the Mapungupwe Iron Age site and experience African wildlife and ecology. This was definitely my favorite part of the program. During the last week, we mostly went to museums in the area to see some of the original fossils that we had been learning about. The other ten students in the program were all Americans, most of them from UW Madison. Our instructors were Travis Pickering from UW Madison and Morris Sutton from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Both of them were great as instructors and also at making sure all of us were accommodated.

**Frank's Fieldwork:** The fieldwork was done at Swartkrans Cave in South Africa. We did archaeological excavations inside the cave and on the surface. We learned methods of excavation and cataloging.

**Cultural Differences:** One major difference between South Africa and the US is that there are 11 official languages there. Even though most people speak English pretty well, it is not uncommon for them to know three languages or more. In every public place we went to, I heard a huge variety of languages being spoken.

**“We lived on a lodge located within a nature reserve. There were a variety of animals that we saw everyday as we went to and from the site.”**



Frank at the convergence of South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe.

