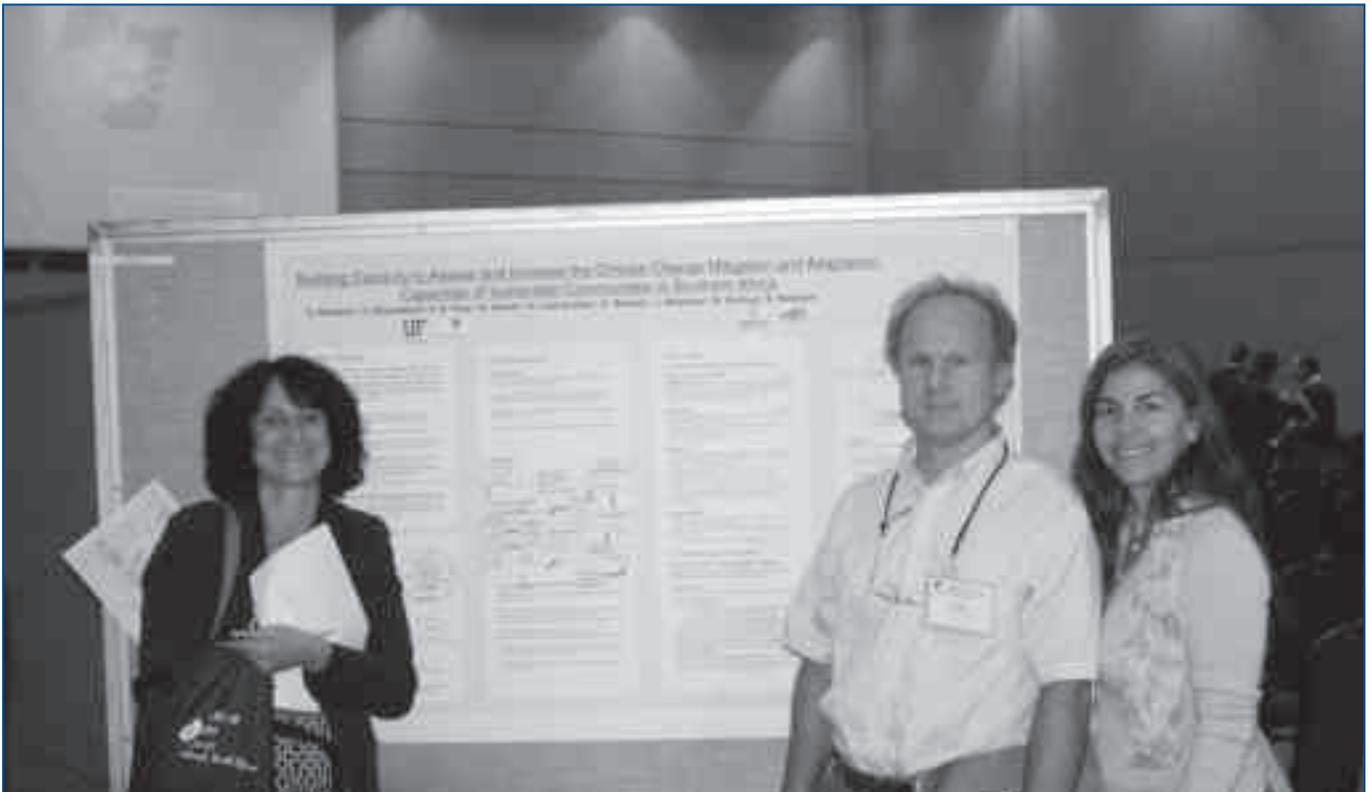


Higher Education and Climate Change Research in Southern Africa

CLAUDIA ROMERO & FRANCIS E. PUTZ



Since our sojourn in Grahamstown in 2009 as visiting professors in the Department of Environmental Sciences, we have been busy running workshops related to our Higher Education for Development (HED) proposal on climate change adaptation and mitigation research, on which we collaborate with Grenville Barnes (UF SFRC). On this theme, the HED team from 3 southern African countries representing the Polytechnic of Namibia, the University of Namibia, the University of Botswana, and Rhodes University presented a poster at UF's conference "Bridging Conservation and Development in Latin America and Africa: Changing Contexts, Changing Strategies,"

held in January 2010.

Claudia presented a version of the 10-year strategic plan in the HED meeting in Washington, D.C. She also presented the plan's final version at the II APEDIA (Academic Partnership for Environment and Development Innovations in Africa) meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, which centered on building the case for the importance of higher education for development, and thus for climate change adaptation and mitigation. This presentation emphasized the interdisciplinary, case-study centered, and collaborative approach implemented by TCD.

We plan to return next summer to Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa with support from the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program. The Fulbright program also supported the visit of a doctoral candidate from Rhodes Univer-

sity, Matt McConnachie, who demonstrated advanced econometric modeling skills for his research on evaluation of the Working for Water program.

Overall, Claudia and Jack remain very much involved in collaborative research and training efforts in South Africa and Namibia related to the broad themes of higher education, ecosystem management, payments for environmental services, and biodiversity conservation.

Claudia Romero is courtesy assistant professor and Francis E. Putz is professor of biology and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies.