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2015 BHEARD Scholar  
**Maurice Byukusenge**

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# Profile

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| <b>Country of Study:</b> | United States   |
| <b>University:</b>       | Pennsylvania State University   |
| <b>Department:</b>       | Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences  |
| <b>Student Position:</b> | Graduate Research Assistant   |
| <b>Hometown:</b>         | Musanze, Rwanda   |
| <b>Home Institution:</b> | University of Rwanda  |
| <b>Home Position:</b>    | Lecturer  |
| <b>Mentored By:</b>      | Home mentor: Prof. Manassé Nzayirambaho<br>At Penn State University: Prof. Bhushan M. Jayarao |

## *Research Area: Pathobiology*

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**BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE:** August 2015

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Ecole Inter Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar (EISMV)

**GRADUATE EDUCATION:** Master of Science, Bio-Toxicology, University of Dakar

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** I am particularly interested in doing research in the area of epidemiology of infectious diseases. In doing so I am hoping to significantly contribute to the increase of animal production potential and ensure the safety of the animal food sources. I believe that those two concepts (food security and food safety) are interlinked and should be promoted together.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:** When I return to Rwanda I will go back to my work as an academician and put in practice the skills I will have acquired during my training to conduct high quality research. I intend to spend enough time for the development and improvement of diagnostic methods for animal infectious diseases and make sure that the outcomes of my work reach the farming communities in my country. I also intend to conduct research in the area of zoonotic disease at animal-human interface and strive for the prevention and control of such diseases.

**WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY:** Outside my work I enjoy socializing with friends, visiting places with historical significance and I spend some time for fitness activities. I like music and play guitar whenever I have some free time for that.

