

# TEACH AFRICA

## A Workshop for Educators World Affairs Council of Houston

*“This entire workshop has been in one word, inspiring. Before coming, I had an attitude of “no hope” when someone would mention Africa, however, I am full of hope after these presentations.”*

*Social Studies Teacher  
Houston Independent School District*

## Teach Africa Educators' Workshop

The Teach Africa educators' workshop, hosted by the World Affairs Council of Houston, was held Saturday, October 25, 2008 at Texas Southern University. In attendance were 230 teachers from elementary, middle and high schools across **19 Houston-area school districts**. There were a handful of participants from private schools and from four major universities.

Keynote speakers Kailash Ruhee, Ambassador of Mauritius to the United States; Obiageli Ezekwesili, Vice President for Africa, World Bank; and Kenneth Vickery, North Carolina State University, inspired the audience with their knowledge of Africa.

In addition to a wealth of curriculum resources and first-hand information, teachers received **six G/T credit hours** from the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented.

Other speakers will include Dr. Kenneth Vickery, award-winning instructor from North Carolina State University; Dr. Susan Rasmussen of University of Houston, and General Ron Sconyers of Physicians for Peace. Participating TSU professors include Dr. Zuberi Mwamba of Tanzania, Dr. Ethiopia Keleta, Dr. Emllyn Norman, and Dr. Greg Maddox.

The participants were treated to an African lunch from a local Ethiopian restaurant. The day ended with a performance by the Houston-based Koumankele African Dance and Drum Ensemble.

Representatives from Marathon Oil, Chevron, Schlumberger and Schirrmeister Diaz also attended the workshop.

Teach Africa is a multiphase program designed to provide educators with the background and tools needed to raise student interest in Africa through a highly engaging, multidisciplinary approach. The program offers teachers and students access to institutions and individuals—from diplomats and *Africanists* to performing artists—who can share their experiences and views on Africa.

Teach Africa in Houston is a collaboration of the World Affairs Council of Houston, Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership and The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa for a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Africa-education program. Other collaborators for this phase of *Teach Africa* in Houston include Texas State University and The World Bank.

The Houston initiative was launched in June this year with a dinner for civic leaders, school board members, principals and program partners. H.E. Faida Mitifu, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Senator Rodney Ellis both spoke at the June event.

The final phase of Teach Africa—planned for May, 2009—is a day-long forum for 1,000 middle and high school students.

For more information on Teach Africa, contact Elizabeth Ferruelo at the World Affairs Council of Houston, [eferruelo@wachouston.org](mailto:eferruelo@wachouston.org) or visit [www.wachouston.org/teachafrika](http://www.wachouston.org/teachafrika).

### **Participating Districts:**

Alief ISD, Aldine ISD, Clear Creek ISD, Conroe ISD, Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Deer Park ISD, Fortbend ISD, Goose Creek ISD, Houston ISD, Humble ISD, Katy ISD, Klein ISD, Lamar Consolidated ISD, New Caney ISD, Pasadena ISD, Pearland ISD, Spring ISD, Spring Branch ISD, Willis ISD

### **Participating Universities:**

Houston Community College, Rice University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston, College of Education

### **Curriculum Resources Teachers Received:**

- Africa in Transition: An Instructional Guide and DVD
- DVD: Uganda: The Presidential Tour by the Travel Channel
- DVD: Africa Today by the Discovery Channel
- Africa Knowledge Cards
- World Affairs Council binder of Africa articles and lesson plans, with CD Rom
- Building Bridges – A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross-Cultural Understanding
- Uncommon Journeys – Peace Corps Adventures Across Cultures
- Malarial DVD & power point
- Africa Now, World Bank publication
- Doing Business - Women in Africa, World Bank publication



## A Selection of Teacher Comments

*"I wanted to let you know that the conference was awesome! I was so thrilled that I was able to make it there. The speakers were so incredible. It was a fantastic experience and a gift to a tired and overworked teacher."*

Houston Teacher

*"It was a pleasure to attend the amazing conference today. I loved learning so much and being in the presence of such distinguished speakers...I am using a lot of the information I got Saturday in my classes today."*

Teacher HS/Geography  
The Woodlands High School, Conroe ISD

*"Thanks for all the work this weekend. I learned a lot of new things. It was well worth it."*

Professor Religious Studies  
Rice University

*"I just wanted you to know how wonderful I thought the Teach Africa Program was."*

Professor  
University of Houston  
College of Education

*"This was Awesome. Thank you so much for putting this together. I spent 3 months in Zimbabwe in 1993 and fell in love with the continent then. I teach Africa with passion and love and the new information you provided to me through this program is wonderful. My heart was both lifted and broken again."*

*I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Ambassador Ruhee personally and found him to be delightful. I also was thrilled to spend time after the last break out session with the Ret. Brig. Gen. He was so compassionate and passionate about what PFP is doing. He encouraged me to peruse some things that are on my heart towards the African continent."*

Teacher  
Klein Forest High School

*"The media aspects are wonderful. It will help show my students that Africa is so much more than disease, poverty and depression."*

World Geography & U.S. Government Teacher  
Clear Creek Independent School District

## Workshop Program

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b>
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b> Franklin Jones, Texas Southern University Andrew Schirrmeister, World Affairs Council Bernadette Paolo, The Africa Society ( <i>I am Africa</i> film 3 minutes) Melissa Krodman, Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Advancing Progress in Africa: Education as a Tool for Growth</b> Obiageli Ezekwesili, The World Bank
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Why Africa Matters</b> H.E. Kailash Ruhee, Ambassador from the Republic of Mauritius
10:15 – 11:00 p.m.	<b>The African Experience: From "Lucy" to Mandela</b> Kenneth Vickery, North Carolina State University
11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Using Film and Literature to Teach about Africa</b> Bernadette Paolo, The Africa Society <i>Short Film: Presidential Tours of Africa</i> Melissa Krodman, Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership <i>Short Film: Teach Africa L.A. Uganda Exchange</i> Phillip Effiong, The Africa Society
11:45 – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Ethiopian Lunch</b>
12:45 – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session One</b> <i>Format: 40 minute presentation, followed by questions and discussion of shared best practices in the classroom</i>
2:00 – 3:15 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session Two</b> <i>Format: 40 minute presentation, followed by questions and discussion of shared best practices in the classroom</i>
3:25 p.m.	<b>Closing, door prizes &amp; Cultural Performance</b>
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Reception</b>

Speakers	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Choose 2)	TEKS/TAKS
Room 202	<p><b>Track A: THE AFRICAN ECONOMY</b></p> <p><b>Ethiopia Keleta</b>, Texas Southern University</p> <p><b>Emlyn Norman</b>, Texas Southern University</p> <p>Staff Moderator: Jay Kansara, World Affairs Council</p>	<p>MS SS.6.8A, SS.6.9B, SS.8.28C</p> <p>HS WHS.6A, ECO.12A, ECO.14A, WGS.5B, WGS.12B, WGS.10C, WGS.20A</p>
Room 204	<p><b>Track B: GEOGRAPHY</b></p> <p><b>Greg Maddox</b>, Texas Southern University</p> <p>Staff Moderator: Patricia Baine, The Africa Society</p>	<p>MS SS.6.3A, SS.6.5B, SS.6.7A, SS.8.24B</p> <p>HS WGS.1A, WGS.6B, WGS.8A, GOV.5A, WGS.12C, WGS.16A, WGS.20B</p>
Room 206	<p><b>Track C: HEALTH &amp; DISEASES</b></p> <p><b>Gen. Ron Sconyers</b>, <i>Physicians for Peace</i></p> <p>Staff Moderator: Linda Wuest, World Affairs Council</p>	<p>HS WGS.5B, GOV.20A, BIOL.3C, BIOL.11C, BIOL.4C, BIOL.4D</p>
Room 208	<p><b>Track D: AFRICAN POLITICS/POLITICAL ECONOMY</b></p> <p><b>Zuberi Mwamba</b>, Texas Southern University</p> <p>Staff Moderator: Philip Effiong, The Africa Society</p>	<p>HS WHS.2B, WHS.6A, GOV.1A, GOV.3A, GOV.3B, GOV.2C, WGS.8D, WGS.5A, GOV.13A</p>
Room 104	<p><b>Track E: Religions in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Susan Rasmussen</b>, University of Houston</p> <p>Staff Moderator: Lyon Forage, World Affairs Council</p>	<p>MS SS.6.1.A, SS.6.2A, SS.6.1B, SS.6.15D, SS.8.24C, SS.8.24B</p> <p>HS WHS.6A, ECO.12A, USH.9B, WHS.13B, WGS.18C, WGS.9A, WGS.17A</p>

## Keynote Speaker Biographies

### **Obiageli Ezekwesili, World Bank**

Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili is vice president of the Africa region at the World Bank. She previously held positions in the Nigerian government as advisor to the President of Nigeria on budget monitoring and minister of solid minerals development. In the latter post she reformed Nigeria's mining sector to meet internationally recognized standards. As education minister, she led the country's on-going educational reforms. Ezekwesili was one of the founding members of Transparency International. She served as the chairperson for the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, obtaining the first-ever audit of the oil and gas sector and pioneering Nigeria's voluntary adherence to the EITI Principles. Oby is known and respected as dynamic and passionate speaker and advocate for reform. She earned a Masters in International Law & Diplomacy from University of Lagos, along with a Masters of Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard.

### **His Excellency Kailash Ruhee, Ambassador of Mauritius to the United States**

Keerteecoomar of "Kailash" Ruhee became ambassador of Mauritius to the United States on Feb. 16, 2007. Ambassador Ruhee previously served as chief of staff to the prime minister of Mauritius. Other postings within the government include minister of economic planning and development, minister of civil service and employment, and minister of agriculture. Ambassador Ruhee was also an associate professor at the University of Mauritius and senior partner responsible for business development in Africa at De Chazal Du Mée and Co., a firm that represented Arthur Andersen in the southeastern region of Africa. In addition, he has held several board memberships, including founding member of Transparency Mauritius and of the American Chamber of Commerce in Mauritius. Ambassador Ruhee was educated at Louisiana State University and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and holds a master's of science degree in agriculture with statistics as a minor.

### **Kenneth P. Vickery, North Carolina State University**

Dr. Kenneth P. Vickery is an Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Advising in the History Department at North Carolina State University, where he has taught for almost 30 years. He received his B.A. degree with Phi Beta Kappa honors at Duke University and went on to study sub-Saharan African history at Yale University, where he earned his Ph.D. In 1993, he was awarded a Fulbright fellowship and served as a Fulbright Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Economic History of the University of Zimbabwe. Professor Vickery is also an acclaimed author. His book *Black and White in Southern Zambia: The Tonga Plateau Economy and British Imperialism, 1890–1939* was a finalist for the Herskovits Prize, given annually by the African Studies Association for the outstanding book in African studies. He has published numerous articles and reviews in such publications as *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, the *Journal of Southern African Studies*, and *American Historical Review*. An award-winning instructor, Dr. Vickery was inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Teachers at North Carolina State in 1986. In 2005, he was named Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor, the university's highest teaching honor.