



www.tab-sa.org

2012 Annual Report: Teachers Across Borders - South Africa.

Yunus Peer - Director

Summary:

Teachers Across Borders focuses its efforts on improving the human condition through education in countries across the world. I am honored to lead the effort in South Africa.

In the past 12 years, more than 70 US volunteer educators have conducted workshops in Math, Science and IT with 3000+ colleagues who teach in rural South African schools, benefiting more than one million learners. (see US volunteer list – 2001-2012 <http://tab-sa.org/roster/>)

My parents were political activists and I left South Africa in June 1976. I was lucky enough to have the advantages of an international education and I am currently a Social Studies teacher in the Academy at Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii. My math and science colleagues in the USA have accompanied me to South Africa every summer since 2001 to assist our colleagues in rural South African schools who did not have the same professional opportunities. We pay our own airfares, and are supported by a network of family and friends in both countries. TABSA workshops work because we respond to the needs of local teachers in South Africa. Needs are assessed, and local teachers decide on the agenda based on the requirements of their curriculum. TABSA offers innovative techniques using readily available, inexpensive materials - specific and relevant.

Workshop content is designed to meet and exceed the South African National Curriculum Standards. Without upgrading the skills of educators in rural schools in South Africa, students have little hope of getting a chance at higher education. And ultimately, US students are also the beneficiaries of their own teachers' professional development and life-changing experiences in South Africa.

TABSA 2012: Yunus Peer – Director. **Math:** Jim Metz (University of Hawai'i – retired), Carl Wheeler (Mid-Pacific Institute – retired), Maggie Lam (Idyllwild Arts Academy); **Science:** Alison Hobbie (Philips Exeter), Veronica Ledoux (Catlin Gable), Alex Paer (Punahou), Paul Heimerdinger ('Iolani School); **IT:** Aaron Culliney (Maui Custom Software) Assistant **Administrators:** Thokozane Mteshane (Siyapambile HS, RSA), Jane Heimerdinger ('Iolani School - retired), Laurie Lee (former Communications Director, Honolulu Waldorf School).

TABSA 2012 Team reflections <http://tab-sa.org/news/>

2012 Program Highlights:

- **200+** South African Mathematics and Science teachers, and administrators, attended two weeks of workshops with 12 TABSA colleagues at Sybrand Van Niekerk High School in Sabie, Mpumalanga Province, directly impacting **60,000** learners in rural schools.
- **100+** Mpumalanga Schools were represented at the workshops. See TABSA workshop evaluations by South African teachers: <http://tab-sa.org/news/>
- **120+** Grade 9 learners attended TABSA workshops in preparation for the ANA Mathematics exams at Mpumalanga schools in Sabie and Graskop, Mpumalanga.
- **IT classes** were conducted to integrate math and science into classrooms. TABSA currently has 8 computer labs serving 4000 learners in rural SA schools. The plan is to open two more computer labs in rural schools in June 2013.
- Compiled, created and distributed **1000 CDs** – containing a vast library of Senior Phase Math and Science Materials for teachers. Published on TABSA website.
- TABSA shared professional materials with private and public schools in **Swaziland** and conducted a math workshop with 45 students from Lobamba National High School.
- **Launched TABSA Uniform Project**, led by Mr. Jay Seidenstein (TABSA – Hawaii). 45 Rural school learners in Kwa Zulu Province were provided full uniforms for *two years*. More information available on www.tab-sa.org
- **A life changing experience for team TABSA 2012.** Reflections by USA teachers on TABSA website. <http://tab-sa.org/news/>
- **TABSA thanks the administrators of the Mpumalanga Dept. of Education for their efforts in organizing these workshops. We also wish to thank the Dept. of Basic Education (Pretoria) for its direction and support in making the workshops a success.**



Maggie Lam (Math) with MP teachers



Opening Ceremony – Sabie, MP, June 2012

Conclusions:

Our 12-year history has been one project, one year at a time. The 3000+ South African teachers who have attended TABSA workshops have benefited more than one million learners. Sadly, that is not enough. We could and should be doing more.

Professional development workshops are critical and dependent on good planning and adequate funding. Our challenges in the US revolve primarily around adequate funding. We are all full-time teachers volunteering our summer vacation to conduct valuable professional development workshops on an international scale. In addition, most teachers who volunteer their time also commit their own finances to cover travel and in-country costs. (*see financial breakdown on last page).

TABSA is fortunate to have the support of the Board of Directors for Teachers Across Borders <http://www.teachersacrossborders.org> Thanks to Joanne Ihrig and Marilynn Hitchens for their guidance and for making the donations and accounting process smooth and transparent.

In South Africa, provincial administrators of education face great challenges. We need to recognize the various challenges of an emerging democracy and we need to be adaptable, flexible, and ready to maximize the opportunities we have with our colleagues who teach in rural South African schools.

However, for TABSA to continue successfully on a volunteer basis, written agreements between the South African Department officials and TABSA need to be finalized at least 6 months before the workshops, which take place during the SA winter school holidays. Communication between administrators and officials needs to be frequent, efficient, and decisive. As administrators, it is our responsibility to facilitate and maximize the opportunities for the professional development of teachers in rural South African schools.

Ultimately, it is the rural school teacher in South Africa who is the hero, the individual who is asked to do the most, with the least resources. Most teachers in rural schools need to be creative, informed, and equipped to meet the national standards of education with sub-standard equipment and crowded classrooms. They are asked to improvise every day, giving hope, inspiration, and knowledge to eager learners. They come voluntarily to these TABSA workshops, during their school holidays, so that they may improve their skills as teachers.

I am humbled by their dedication.

TABSA is committed to working with the various administrators within the Department of Education and stake holders in local communities to serve the teachers in rural South African schools.

Sincerely Submitted,

Yunus Peer

As required by the Internal Revenue Code, there were no goods and services provided to you in consideration for this gift. As a non-profit corporation under the Tax Code Section 501 (c)(3), all contributions are fully tax deductible. EIN 80-0007455

2012 WORKSHOP DETAILS:	
Location: Sybrand Van Niekerk HS, Sabie, Mpumalanga Province, and Swaziland.	
Duration: 3 weeks – during RSA Winter School Holidays.	
Structure and material covered: RSA National Curriculum Guidelines Math and Natural Science – Grades 7, 8, 9 – Senior Phase.	
Number of in-country teachers trained: 200+ impacting 60,000 learners.	
Additional Ongoing Projects: TABSA Rural School Uniform Project, Rural Women’s Project, TABSA Rural School Computer Lab Program.	
Partnerships: RSA Dept. of Education, First Car Rental – RSA, Rotary International.	
Income	
Donations	\$35,157
Expenses:	
Program Preparations + RSA Asst. Administrator	\$ 5,000
Program Expenses – 30 days (11 x 80 x 30)	\$26,400
Computer & Uniform Project 2012-2013	\$ 2,000
Subtotal Program Expenses:	\$33,400
Net Income/Loss	\$ 1,757
Expenses via In Kind and Volunteer contributions:	
Airmiles – Paid by TABSA team*	(\$30,800)
Accommodations during workshops - SA Dept. of Education	(\$4,000)
First Car Rental, RSA, 3 vehicles, 30 days	(\$4,000)
Actual Net Income/Loss 2012	(\$37,043)
Total Program Expenses 2012	\$70,443
TABSA Cash Balance Forward January 2013:	\$ 1,757

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