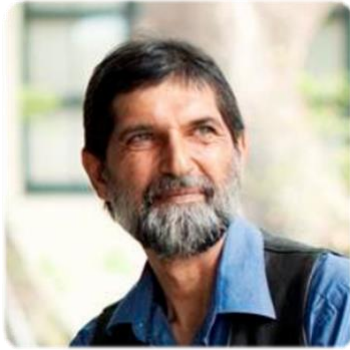


Teachers Across Borders Southern Africa



Yunus Peer
Director, Teachers Across Borders
Southern Africa (TABSA)
Social Studies Faculty
Punahou School
Honolulu, Hawai'i (USA)

Aloha from Hawai'i, USA!

I was born and raised in South Africa, schooled at Waterford Kamhlaba, Eswatini, and departed South Africa after my passport was confiscated and returned conditionally in 1976. Now entering my 46th year of teaching in the U.S., I have spent the past 26 years at Punahou School in Hawai'i, alma mater of former President Barack Obama.

We began this international professional development program in 2001 with guidance from Mayor Yunus Chamda (Lekoa Vaal Metro) and the late Professor Kader Asmal. The pilot team was sponsored by Punahou School (Hawaii) and the Cassim Peer Trust (RSA).

Since 2001, more than 7500 colleagues from RSA and Eswatini have attended TABSA workshops. The Department of Basic Education estimates that millions of learners have benefited from their teachers' upgraded skills. The 200+ TABSA facilitators have also benefited enormously in personal and professional development through this international collaboration.

TABSA responds to the specific needs of teachers in STEM subjects. Our US team develops lessons on priority topics requested by our RSA colleagues. Lessons are designed to meet CAPS requirements and use readily available materials for class sizes that exceed 40 learners.

The U.S. team is made up of dedicated professionals who are volunteering their time and expertise. TABSA is a 100% volunteer organization supported by schools, family, and friends.

For TABSA 2024, the maths and science workshop agenda (June 18 – July 5) has been set by teachers and curriculum advisors in the Free State Department of Education.

TABSA has also prepared a USB Drive containing all workshop materials together with a library of relevant STEM materials. The USB drive will be distributed FREE to all participants and is not to be bought, sold or traded for profit. We trust you will share this resource with your colleagues.

With sincere respect for what you do in the classroom every day — Our future depends on it!

Yunus Peer
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Thokozani Mteshane
Assistant Director, TABSA
Harding, KZN (RSA)

Thokozani Mteshane is Principal of Siyaphambili Secondary School in his home town of Harding, KwaZulu Natal. He has been working with TABSA since 2006. In 2011, he was appointed Assistant Director of TABSA.

Thokozani holds a Bachelor's degree in Education as well as diplomas in ABET, ACE, HIV/Aids Care, Counseling & Management, and Occupational Health & Safety. He started teaching maths in 1998.

He and his wife, Nomathemba, live in Harding with his mum, brother, sisters and nephews. His daughter currently attends Maritime College in Durban.



Laurie Lee
Administrator, TABSA
Honolulu, Hawai'i (USA)

Laurie entered the rewarding world of education in 2005 and joined 'Iolani School in 2013, where she works in the boarding program and admissions office. Laurie previously worked in Hollywood, CA (USA) on television sitcoms and as a freelance sitcom writer, with credits that include episodes of "Married...with Children."

Outside of work, she appreciates time with her husband, Yunus, at their home in Waimanalo, Hawai'i. When not taking walks along the beach, practicing yoga, or tai chi, you will find Laurie hosting friends and family for meals prepared by Yunus. Together, they have a blended family of six children and three grandchildren.



Nadia Peer
Coordinator, TABSA
Portland, OR (USA)

Nadia has been TABSA's Media Coordinator and Program Assistant since 2014. She worked on the ground for both the 2014 and 2015 workshops in South Africa and Eswatini.

She holds a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management from The New School (New York City, New York) and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Fine Arts from the University of Portland. (Portland, Oregon) Outside of TABSA, Nadia is an avid travel backpacker, film photographer, coffee drinker, and human to two cats.

Maths Team



Brad Uy
Kamehameha Schools
Honolulu, Hawai'i (USA)

Brad Uy hails from the beautiful islands of Hawai'i, in the USA, and is a creative and light-hearted educator. He has taught maths and English for thirteen years, and has eagerly volunteered with Teachers Across Borders Southern Africa since 2014.

He currently teaches 8th grade mathematics at Kamehameha Schools, an educational institution dedicated to serving native Hawaiian children. For recreation, Brad enjoys bicycling, reading, tennis, and cooking; he also dabbles in photography.



Erick Crepsac
Cary Academy
Cary, North Carolina (USA)

Born in Long Island, New York and later raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, Erick Crepsac is a member of TABSA's maths team with more than 10 years' experience teaching middle grades mathematics, music, and computer science across the North Carolina Triangle Region as well as virtually across the U.S. Erick was also coach of the 2023 NC national MATHCOUNTS team.

Erick is passionate about education and recognizes the only solution to the current human condition exists in each individual as we collectively endeavor to become enlightened and enlighten other conscious beings to the causal factors that have led to our current condition on this planet.

In addition to teaching, Erick performs with his band, "Reel Deep," and is happily married to Nickea, and together they have one lovely daughter named Rainbow and are expecting a new member of the family this September.



Brittney Mujica
Ransom Everglades School
Miami, Florida (USA)

Brittney Mujica was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. She earned her Ph.D. in Mathematics while studying in Miami, Florida, where she taught at both the university and high school levels, before moving to Hawai'i in 2021. In 2023, she returned to Miami to teach mathematics and is now chair of her department.

She is passionate about teaching mathematics and making the subject fun, exciting, and understandable for all. Brittney enjoys spending time with her husband, Jose, and traveling to new places. She's looking forward to joining the TABSA team in South Africa for the second time this summer.



Carly Shellhammer
Thaden School
Bentonville, Arkansas (USA)

Carly Shellhammer has taught maths for the past 14 years, the past two at Thaden School in Bentonville, Arkansas. Currently residing in the northwest corner of Arkansas, she was born and raised in Ohio. Carly earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati and a MEd from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

She has three children; 18, 16, and 15 years old and a husband of 27 years who graciously gives her the time "off" to travel to South Africa for a second time! She looks forward to sharing her love and excitement about math with colleagues in South Africa. In Carly's free time she enjoys baking, reading, and taking her dog for long walks.

Science Team



Gillian Curran
San Francisco, California
(USA)

Gillian Curran has taught middle school science and maths for the last 9 years in California. Prior to teaching middle school, she spent several years teaching astronomy at Wellesley College outside of Boston, Massachusetts and loves talking about space. This is her third time collaborating with her South African colleagues through Teachers Across Borders Southern Africa.

Gillian believes that quality education is the most essential piece of a just and equitable world. When she's not in the classroom, she can primarily be found out on the water, swimming in San Francisco Bay, or enjoying the stars. She loves learning and teaching about science and is very excited to continue to work with fellow teachers in South Africa this summer!



Carol and Bob Brennan
Kailua, Hawai'i
(USA)

After more than 50 years of working with children and teachers, Carol Brennan retired from the University of Hawai'i, where she spent more than 30 years with the Curriculum Research and Development Group. She has taught K–9 students and developed an elementary science curriculum, Developmental Approaches in Science, Health and Technology (DASH), which was implemented across the USA, in Micronesia, and in Russia.

She also taught undergraduate science methods courses and worked with teachers of science in 24 states, in the Pacific Islands, and numerous countries. Carol continues to support teachers as a volunteer, in addition to pursuing her passions: snorkeling, making pottery, traveling, golfing and caring for her dog, Bogey.

Bob Brennan, Carol's husband, joined TABSA's science team in 2017 with 13 years teaching experience in high school Chemistry, Marine Science and Physical Science. Prior to teaching, Bob served as an officer in the United States Air Force for 25 years. Now retired, Bob is a volunteer Educational Guide at Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, a marine life conservation district and the most popular snorkeling destination in Hawai'i. The Brennans live in Kailua, Hawai'i, in the USA, and have two children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Their combined years of experience and wisdom are a great asset to TABSA.



Veronica Ledoux
US Peace Corps
Monrovia, Liberia

Veronica Ledoux loves creatively improvising hands-on science activities with simple materials, especially during TABSA workshops. After earning a B.S. and a Ph.D. in STEM, she started a career in academic science research but realized that most of the people she knew felt that understanding science was beyond their reach.

In hopes of improving science literacy for all people, Veronica switched to teaching high school STEM classes for 15 years. Now, she's spending 2024 training science teachers in Liberia, West Africa, as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer. She also enjoys time in nature and long-distance bicycle adventures.



Jami Muranaka
'Iolani School
Honolulu, Hawai'i (USA)

This is Jami Muranaka's second experience traveling with the TABSA team! Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i, she graduated with a B.S. in Biology from UCLA, and a M.E.T in Secondary Science Education from the University of Hawai'i. She taught high school science for 15 years, and has been teaching elementary science for the past 13 years.

Jami helps coach 'Iolani School's elementary and middle school Science Olympiad teams and incorporates many engineering design lessons within her curriculum. Some of her teaching accomplishments include becoming a National Board Certified Teacher in 2002 and being named the 2007 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year.



Michael Delligatti
'Iolani School
Honolulu, Hawai'i (USA)

Michael Delligatti is an educator who has a deep passion for teaching science. His teaching background spans across many grade levels: undergraduate Geology, high school Earth Science, middle school Earth Science and Physical Science. He also worked as a sedimentologist in university, where he developed a passion for sharing science with people.

He loves to travel around the world, where he can learn more about different cultures and generate stories to bring back to the classroom. Throughout his years of teaching, he believes that the most impactful way to learn science is by doing science! By using hands-on investigations, inquiry-based learning, and facilitating, he guides his students to drive their own education, to believe in themselves, and also supports them in finding their passions and goals.

Coding & Robotics Team



Derrick Shiroma
Kalakaua Middle School
Honolulu, Hawai'i (USA)

Derrick was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. He graduated from Chaminade University with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. After teaching sixth grade maths for two years, Derrick became certified to teach middle school. He spent 11 years teaching maths at Kalakaua Middle School in Kalihi and became the Robotics teacher in 2018.

Besides teaching, Derrick has been involved in FIRST Lego League since 2007. He started as a referee at competitions, then moved to become Head Referee for the State and joined the advisory board to assist in planning the events for the season. He also assists with FIRST Tech Challenge as a Judge and FIRST Robotics Competition as a Robot Inspector.



Bryan Silver
Kalani High School
Honolulu, Hawai'i (USA)

Bryan Silver is a teacher at Kalani High School in Honolulu, Hawai'i, where he has taught History, Special Education, Science and Engineering for 24 years. For the last 16 years, he has run the robotics program, preparing students to compete internationally and in World Championships for FIRST, VEX and Aerial Drones.

As a National Board Certified Teacher, he has been awarded the Presidential Award for Math and Science, and was recognized as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Teacher Fellow for the National Science Foundation. When not volunteering at robotic events, he enjoys time outdoors, below the waves as a SCUBA diver, and above the waves, racing sailboats.