

## **Teaching Africa Workshop Agenda & Break-out Session Information**

### **Friday October 5, 2012**

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.            Registration
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.            Welcome & Introductions
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.            Coffee Break
- 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.            Workshop I (5 break-out sessions)**
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.        Lunch Break

**Keynote Speaker : Dr. Akanmu G. Adebayo, Professor of History and Director, Center for Conflict Management, Kennesaw State University.**

**Topic: “Revisiting and Reinvigorating African Studies Epistemology and Methodology”**

- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.            Workshop II (5 break-out sessions)**
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.            Coffee Break
- 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.            Dr. Dan Paracka, Director of Education Abroad, Institute for Global Initiatives, Kennesaw State University.**

**Topic: Bounce Island Exhibit: A Tool for Teaching African and African Diaspora History**

- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.            African Dinner, KSU Main Campus, Student Center, University Rooms
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.            Performance by Osun State Arts & Cultural Performance Group

### **Saturday October 6, 2012**

- 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.            Plenary Discussions: Reports from break-out sessions**
- Lessons learned
- Take-aways
- Feedback
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.        Closing Remarks and Follow-up – What next?**

**Break-out Session I**  
**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Session IA**

**Title: "Africa in History: Stereotypes, Causes, and Explanations"**

This highly interactive lesson addresses Georgia Performance Standards in 7th Grade World Geography, 9th Grade World Geography, and World History (9-12). A guided presentation using historical sources as part of the process to foster competitive plausibility in the classroom will be modeled to debunk African stereotypes, and to examine historical causes related to modern conflict in Africa.

Presenter: Malik Bostic, Ed.D

**Session IIA**

**Title: "STEM for Social Change: The Story of Kwame's Sound"**

This session will focus on will focus on Kwame, a young man from Ghana who attempts to follow in his father's footsteps of becoming an acoustical engineer. Teachers will learn how to integrate science, technology, and engineering in a way that may lead to students becoming agents of social change within their own communities.

Presenter: Dr. Neporcha Cone

**Session IIIA**

**Title: "A Contemporary Chronicle of the Osun Festival in Oshogbo, Nigeria "**

This workshop session highlights the Osun Festival, held annually in Oshogbo, Nigeria. It is a Yoruba tradition that honors Osun- the Yoruba diety of the arts as well as of the river that runs through the town. It also honors all people who have ever lived or will live in this city. It is attended by those who follow the traditional religious practice, but also by Christians and Muslims who honor the ceremony as a part of their cultural heritage.

Presenter: Dr. Sandra Bird

**Session IVA**

**Title: "Africa in the World, The World in Africa: Africa and the Contemporary Global Political Economy"**

In this session, we will explore the political and economic challenges and opportunities African countries confront in their relationships with each other, and between them and the outside world. Issues for discussion will include domestic economic development and political transformations; regional cooperation, security and conflicts; and bilateral/multilateral relations with non-African actors. An interactive, hands-on simulation method will be utilized.

Presenter: Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi

## **Session VA**

### **Title: "A Student-centered Approach to Teaching African Literature"**

Our presentation is informed by Ayers' proposition that good teachers empower their students by finding ways to activate them, for they know that learning requires discovery, invention, and active engagement between the subject and the object matter. Good educators, Ayers argues, know when it is necessary to push or to pull just like midwives. We have also taken into account Vygotsky's view that for teaching to be effective, learners must be met at their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), which he defines as the distance between what the learners know and can do by themselves and the next learning that they can be helped to achieve with competent assistance. Once the students internalize the basic content and/or process, they can gradually deal with more complex structures.

Based on Ayers' and Vygotsky's considerations, we have articulated our pedagogy in the African literature module around the three dimensions that we adapted from Lea Chapuis's Productive Pedagogies: critical intellectual engagement, demonstrable relevance and connectedness, recognition of diversity. These three dimensions of classroom practice are deployed through the following three stages:

- Tuning in –determining students' prior knowledge and preparing them;
- Finding out –discovering new content, concepts, and new experiences;
- Making connections –providing points of comparison and various perspectives.

Presenters: Oumar Cherif Diop & Lucie Vaikinaou-Brinson

## **Break-out Sessions II**

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

## **Session IB**

### **Title: "Africa in History: Stereotypes, Causes, and Explanations"**

This highly interactive lesson addresses Georgia Performance Standards in 7th Grade World Geography, 9th Grade World Geography, and World History (9-12). A guided presentation using historical sources as part of the process to foster competitive plausibility in the classroom will be modeled to debunk African stereotypes, and to examine historical causes related to modern conflict in Africa.

Presenter: Malik Bostic, Ed.D

Location: Room 181

## **Session IIB**

### **Title: "Urbanization / modernization"**

"Teaching African history prior to European colonization is a crucial activity, as it deflates the notion that the continent's past is about two centuries old, but is also a challenging one. Focusing

on two case studies, the Bantu ‘migrations’ and Sundiata’s Mali, offers the history teacher an opportunity to explore critical African historical notions including the significance of agricultural conservatism, the centrality of social capital, and the importance of lineage politics. This presentation will focus on implementation of discussed topics in a high school classroom setting.

Presenter: Ryan Ronneberg

### **Session IIIB**

#### **Title: “Historical development of the Asante kingdom”**

Asante material—gold jewelry and kente cloth. This workshop traces the historical development of the Asante kingdom and its ties to the global economy through discussion of gold and gold objects, as well as the history of the kente cloth, tracing its shifting meaning from the 19th Century to the present day, from Ghana to its status as a global aesthetic and commodity.

Presenters: Dr. Jessica Stephenson

### **Session IVB**

#### **Title: “Africa in the World, The World in Africa: Africa and the Contemporary Global Political Economy”**

In this session, we will explore the political and economic challenges and opportunities African countries confront in their relationships with each other, and between them and the outside world. Issues for discussion will include domestic economic development and political transformations; regional cooperation, security and conflicts; and bilateral/multilateral relations with non-African actors. An interactive, hands-on simulation method will be utilized.

Presenter: Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi

### **Session VB**

#### **Title: “Making a Living in Kassumba Guinea-Bissau: How what you eat can affect a remote village in West Africa”**

This session presents an ongoing struggle to subsist in a rural community in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa through the lens of anthropology. The session objectives are to gain a new worldview, and in so doing, recognize that people everywhere have the same needs; they just meet those needs in diverse ways. In addition, we will see how what you eat can affect the livelihoods of people halfway around the world. Take-aways from this session include information about: (1) Globalization; (2) Cultural Identity; (3) Commodity Chains; (4) Livelihoods and Foodways; and (5) Cultural Similarities and Differences.

Presenter: Dr. Brandon Lundy