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GLOBAL TEACHERS SOUTH AFRICA 2017



THE TRIP

In June 2016, North Carolina teachers representing 14 counties traveled to South Africa with Go Global NC for a leadership development program designed to help them bring the world to their classrooms.

The group visited schools, communities, game preserves and areas of historic and cultural significance in South Africa's three largest cities: Durban, Cape Town, and Johannesburg.



"Transformative. Captivating. Real. Powerful. Authentic. These words describe the experience that I had in the great country of South Africa... This experience has taught me that
1. People are people; 2. We are global citizens; and
3. We have a collective responsibility to make our world a better place."

CHER VON-STONE | WAKE COUNTY



The Global Teachers - South Africa 2016 delegation stands in front of Ohlange, the school in Durban, South Africa where Nelson Mandela voted for the first time, casting his ballot in his country's first all-race elections in 1994.

GROW AND LEARN



"The Go Global NC South Africa trip was a personal pilgrimage, as well as a priceless opportunity to grow and develop as an educator. Like most African Americans, I dreamed and romanticized about traveling to Africa, the land of my ancestors. I could never have imaged how the sights, sounds, and smells would evoke emotions within my total being."

MONIQUE SIMMONS | WAKE COUNTY



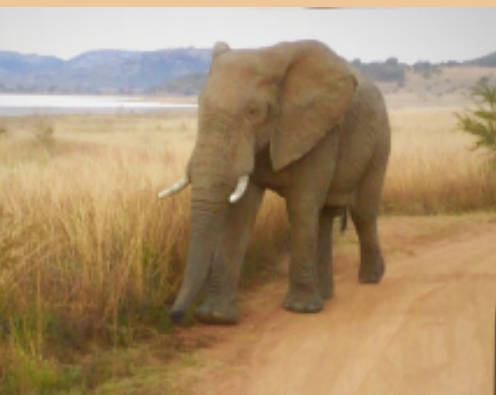
"I have been inspired by the resilience of the human spirit and the overwhelming joy and community we found in places where people have so little. This experience has grounded me in what really matters – being connected to those around me, being aware of the world more globally and striving to continually learn and find ways to make the world a better place."

LISA LANGFORD | ORANGE COUNTY

ONE TEACHER'S JOURNEY

Ninth-grade English and African-American literature teacher Matt Scialdone shared his South African adventure with the Wake County Public Schools News Blog. Excerpts from his essay are reprinted here.

"After each excursion, our bus became an impromptu professional development meeting. The Go Global NC teachers immediately wanted to discuss ways to share what we had just experienced with our kids and colleagues. Pictures of clouds rolling over the top of Table Mountain will likely be used as "inspiration material" for my students' haiku writing, and those same pictures will be put to use by the meteorology fans in the Middle Creek science department."



The Global Teachers - South Africa 2016 delegation on the Ivory Tree Safari in Pilanesburg, South Africa. On this excursion, they observed animals such as elephants, rhinoceroses, lions, and giraffes living on a reserve.

MATT SCIALDONE

"We visited sites that served as a stark reminder of South Africa's troubling past. We walked through Mahatma Gandhi's home in Durban, a home that had at one time been burned down by the imperialist oppressors who saw his message of peaceful protest as a threat. Touring the Apartheid Museum brought to mind many connections to our own nation's shameful history of slavery and segregation."



"The South Africans do not "sugar-coat" or try to hide these parts of their history. Rather, they acknowledge them as learning opportunities to remind themselves and the world, in the late President Nelson Mandela's words, "Never, never again." We had an amazing "full circle" moment when we visited the site where Mandela cast his first vote. That momentous occasion occurred in a school."



"I AM BECAUSE YOU ARE"

"There is a word from the Bantu language—"Ubuntu"—which loosely translates as "I am, because you are." It is the idea that we exist to help each other. Many point to the spirit of Ubuntu — championed by Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu — as the guiding principle that led South Africa out of apartheid towards becoming the "Rainbow Nation" of today."



"We experienced Ubuntu throughout our travels in South Africa. From the warm hospitality we were shown at every stop in our journey to the openness of the people we met. Teaching is the very essence of Ubuntu, and all of the participants of this program will carry the lessons we learned in South Africa forever."



After stopping to help a young boy recover a piece of his toy car, Matt Scialdone was amazed at his ingenuity. The young boy quickly began to fix his toy (crafted from a juice container, straws, and bottle caps) with spare parts and had it working again within minutes.

THE IMPACT



The delegation learned about South Africa's dedication to its history and future, with excursions focused on exploring topics such as biodiversity, urbanization, STEM, civil rights, and education of the whole child.

On the final day of their South Africa experience, a few of the North Carolina teachers shared initial aspirations about how they would use what they learned to transform their teaching and their community.

- 🍏 Have students consider the following question from both a U.S. and South Africa perspective: "Can we have a balance between urbanization and the conservation of resources and wildlife?"
- 🍏 Broaden science lessons about biodiversity — as with plants and animals, diversity is the foundation and strength of humankind
- 🍏 Partner with classrooms in Cape Town to engage N.C. students in critical conversations about themselves, their classmates, and the world more broadly
- 🍏 Use the large pageantry puppets of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement to tell the diverse stories the histories of the U.S. and South Africa; the only way to move forward is to truly see the past and give people a way to tell their account of their experience.

"I have continually been amazed at the parallels I have seen between the U.S. and South Africa on every level — socially, politically, and economically. Seeing South Africa fighting to establish a better future while honoring its past has made me realize that we, as Americans, could learn much from their experiences."

NANCY GOODNIGHT | ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOLS