

# Interactive Cultural Exploration

## “ICE” Project

### MICRO-MEDIA ENHANCEMENT of HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE COURSES:

#### OBJECTIVE

We recently launched our 2013 beta test between American and African teachers and students studying social sciences, history, geography, ethnography, journalism and tourism.

#### METHOD

Teams of teachers in Africa and the US will collaborate to create “micro-media” projects that actively engage students in seeking and creating their own filmed answers to common questions posed by many people about other cultures: How do they live? What’s a typical neighborhood like? What do they eat? How do they learn? How do they prepare meals? What are their grocery stores like? Do they have shopping malls like ours? How do they get married? What is the significance of cultural holidays? How do you celebrate the birth of a child? What’s it like on a farm, factory or mine?

Answering these questions with mobile devices and the Internet make the learning experience more memorable, effective and enjoyable. The resultant audio visual and multimedia “illuminators” will be short (2-5 minute) films, videos and slide shows created by participating students and teachers along mutually agreed upon narratives or other storylines.

These scalable, culturally-specific and flexible audio-visual learning solutions and tools enable teachers and groups of students on different continents to devise their own customized interactive learning experiences that focus on foreign places, people and ways of life.

These films will be initially shared live over the Internet (via Skype, You Tube, Google Phone or other compatible software programs) where they will be discussed by both groups of the authoring students and their teachers in a mediated environment. After the preliminary viewings and discussions, a live Web session will be conducted.



**Senator Obama Secondary School in Kogelo, Kenya** has been engaged with the OnLine Africa Knowledge Foundation since the January 2009 journalism and photography training we provided along with cameras, computers, notepads, pencils and printing supplies. Kogelo students and citizens are developing an ethnographic history of the village of President Obama's father and are ready to share some of their photos with American schools through ICE.

The equipment and supplies we provided are mostly depleted and we are trying to raise enough money to upgrade equipment their small computer room that will occupy the space that then-Senator Obama personally opened in 2006. We are also trying to raise funds to link the Irish ancestral village of Mr. Obama's mother. Until 2009 digital communication was impossible because Kogelo had no electrical power until the Obama Inauguration week celebrations. This is typical of the problems people in developing countries endure at the expense of their ability to communicate and educate themselves. We invite our more affluent schools to help raise funds that will enable greater numbers of well off schools to participate.



*Prof. Doris Jones leads journalism workshop, 2009*



*A block of classrooms in a lush rural setting*



*Back gate of the school*



*Assistant Principal, Mr. Raloo arrives via local taxi*



*Professor Doris lectures on visual rhetoric, 2009*



*Mr. Dalmas Raloo encourages his students*