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## Summer Odysseys Energize Houston Teachers for New School Year

### *Fund for Teachers Grants Bridge Teacher Learning With Dynamic Classrooms*

Houston (August 31, 2010) – Students returning to many Houston area classrooms may confuse their teacher with an explorer, researcher or scholar. They're actually one and the same, thanks to Fund for Teachers grants that sent 55 Houston teachers on summer learning odysseys this summer.

Tapping their inner-student, these teachers individually designed and experienced fellowships to engage and inspire both themselves and, subsequently, their students. As a result, their teaching and curriculum will now reflect insights, experiences and primary sources collected from around the world.

For example:

- **Scotty Graham's** students at **Glenda Dawson High** will integrate music with the school's alternative energy driven digital pipe organ using techniques obtained at Juilliard's School of Organ and by visiting the Las Piñas Bamboo Organ in the Phillipines.
- Students with learning disorders at **The Parish School** will create three-dimensional designs enhanced by **Mitch Pengra's** study of Antoni Gaudi's architecture in Spain; and
- Students working in the student-run restaurant at **Miller Career & Technology Center** will learn enlightened culinary techniques **Patricia Kenjura** picked up while learning Italy's Slow Food concepts, cuisine and cooking methods.

After navigating the globe on \$14.2 million in Fund for Teachers fellowships over ten years, these and 4,000 more "Fellows" daily inspire school communities with experiences and insights only attainable by "being there." Each fellowship is as unique as the teacher who designed it; and regardless of the destination or discipline, our Fellows have returned to more than 2,500 schools inspired by their pursuit of ideas, terrains, and cultures on all seven continents.

Teachers interested in pursuing 2011 summer grants may apply online beginning October 1 at [fundforteachers.org/apply](http://fundforteachers.org/apply). Deadline for applications is January 28, 2011.

Fund for Teachers has awarded \$2,828,591 in grants to 749 Houston area teachers since 2001. To learn about their adventures, visit [www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch](http://www.fundforteachers.org/fellowsearch), or visit [facebook.com/fundforteachers](http://facebook.com/fundforteachers) to follow all 2010 Fellows' summer odysseys.

Fund for Teachers is a national, donor-supported organization celebrating its tenth year of awarding teachers the chance to pursue learning opportunities that have the greatest impact on themselves, their students and their communities. For more information, visit [fundforteachers.org](http://fundforteachers.org).

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