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The 2012 Middle Passage Commemoration to Feature WKNO History Detectives Host, Dr. Tukufu Zuberi

MEMPHIS, TN (Aug. 21, 2012) LeMoyne-Owen College history professor Dr. Randolph Meade Walker established the Middle Passage Commemoration 19 years ago to give students and the community an opportunity to take into account the positive contributions of African American laborers throughout American history. A proper examination of the impact African Americans have had on the United States economy means going back to the Middle Passage when millions of Africans were transported to the Caribbean and America during the slave trade.

The 19th annual Middle Passage Commemoration is **Thursday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church**. This year's special guest is Dr. Tukufu Zuberi, scholar and host of the popular PBS series *History Detectives* which airs Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on WKNO Channel 10. The popular show is devoted to exploring the complexities of historical mysteries by searching out the facts, myths and conundrums that connect local folklore, family legends and interesting objects.

Commemoration participants will light candles in honor of the millions who died and those who, through indescribable strength, survived the middle passage. LeMoyne-Owen College professor of African American Studies Dr. Femi Ajanaku says the impact of those who survived is still felt today. "Our country's agriculture system exists because of the strong men and women who survived the middle passage," she said. "Dr. Zuberi's research focuses on Race, African and African Diaspora populations, which makes him an ideal guest speaker for this year's commemoration."

The Middle Passage Commemoration is free and open to the public. Go online www.loc.edu or call (901) 435-1527 or more information.

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