Office of Education Mourns Loss

On February 8, the Adventist community lost an incredibly gifted leader. Elizabeth Hudak, 88, passed to her rest after having dedicated her life to Seventh-day Adventist education. Her mark is felt every day in the positive impact she had on educational policies that make school a better place for children. Ms. Hudak worked in the Florida Conference for many years, serving as a classroom teacher, Associate Superintendent of

New Players on Our Team!

What do George Carrazana and Betty Jean Mader have in common? Both joined our education team this year and both have Adventist education in their blood!

George, our newest Associate Superintendent, is a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist with deep family roots that value Christian education. "I was born in Cuba," he says, "but my family moved to Spain when I was 9 years old to ensure freedom and opportunity for my sister and me. The first thing my father did when we arrived on Spanish soil was to enroll us in church school."
Education, and finally as Superintendent of Education. When she "retired" in 1986, she began the Special Needs program for students in our conference which continues to this day.

Always ahead of her time, Mrs. Hudak attended Boston University in the 1950s, earning a master's degree in education. She began her teaching career in the New Jersey Conference, where she delighted students with her engaging style. In 1957 she accepted a call to Spicer Memorial College in India, traveling by cargo boat for 6 weeks to arrive at the place where she would give 8 years of service training teachers. Her life's work is best summed up by those who remember her:

"Aunt Liz was a teacher's teacher. She inspired me to become a teacher just like she was. We often talked on the phone about teaching methods. She was always interested in the children...." Ruthie Calkins, Niece

"You can imagine the joy I felt when I was told Aunt Liz was going to be my first-grade teacher. My first grade year was filled with mission stories and many adventures..." Dixie Petty Painter

"I remember my family cheering her on as she debated about taking the position offered her as Educational Superintendent of the Florida conference, where she would be the first (and only) woman to hold the position. Breaking ground again, she accepted the position from which she eventually retired. She set high standards and left big shoes to fill for those following." Cheri Kovalski, Jeff and Christopher Gilbert

As a very astute, creative thinker, Liz assisted in the development of many educational materials for grades K-8 at the union level. She became my right arm. During sessions when other committee members were ready to call it a day, Liz was ready to continue and could easily work until 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. when she stopped to take a "second breath" before beginning again! Norwida Marshall

The Florida Conference sends our condolences to her family with grateful hearts for the memories of this energizing and visionary educational leader.

That enduring value has stayed with George all of his life. Beginning his career in healthcare, George rapidly moved up to a lucrative position as a trust officer with international clients. "But even then," he says, "I anticipated something better. Ever since high school I have always had my heart set on working for the Lord."

Before joining the Office of Education, George served as business manager at Greater Miami Adventist Academy and Forest Lake Education Center. He was next offered the position of business manager at Forest Lake Academy, but George had a broader vision. "Why help just one school? Why not help all the Adventist schools in the state?" Dr. Jim Epperson, then Vice President of Education, appreciated the idea, but lacked the budget to make it happen. That did not deter George. Stepping in as a volunteer, he worked for two-and-a-half years, visiting schools, helping with budgets, and raising the bar for accountability. The first year he brought in more than $700,000.

With the retirement of Dr. Epperson, Arne Nielsen moved into the position of Vice President and Frank Runnels became Superintendent of Schools. That left a vacancy for an Associate Superintendent. It took very little time for the team to realize that the best candidate was right in our midst. George's positive spirit, energy, vision, and insight make him an ideal player, not only with school finances, but also for dealing with the administrative and personnel responsibilities that are now part of his job. "We are so blessed to have him," says Arne Nielsen. "The Lord knows how to give us much more than we ask for every time we pray."

And the education team's prayers have also been more than answered with our new Administrative Assistant, Betty Jean Mader. A native Floridian and a product of Adventist education, Betty Jean also feels that her calling is to give back. Having worked as librarian at Forest Lake Education Center (FLEC) and substitute teacher at FLEC and Osceola Adventist Christian School, she has already endeared herself to the teachers and students of our conference. Her experience in the Adventist educational arena includes secretary to the Seminary Dean at Andrews University and Florida Hospital College Learning Resource Center Coordinator.

Multi-talented, Betty Jean relishes a challenge,...

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SCIENCE, MATH AND LITERACY

Pulling it All Together

Sandra Doran's Curriculum Update

I was delighted to spend two days in California last month learning about the inquiry-based model for the new By Design science
series. The good news is that everything is coming together! Balanced literacy, science, and even mathematics are all based on the same essential points:

1.) **Start the lesson with the BIG IDEA.** The important thing to remember is that **CONCEPT AND CONTENT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. Content** is the basic information you are going to teach. **Concept** is the larger "universal truth," better known as the BIG IDEA. For example, if you are going to teach a lesson on MONEY (Content), you can begin with a class discussion on VALUE (Concept). It gets really exciting when you can tie different subjects into the same BIG IDEA. Here is an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT (or Topic)</th>
<th>CONCEPT (Big Idea)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complex Sentences (L.A.)</td>
<td>Independence/Dependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbiosis (Science)</td>
<td>Independence/Dependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Times (S.S.)</td>
<td>Independence/Dependence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.) **Ask open-ended questions.** Whatever the subject, be sure to ask GENUINE questions. How can you be sure you are doing that? Here’s the simple rule of thumb. Ask questions for which you do not already know the answer! When a teacher has the “correct answer” in her head and asks leading questions, students quickly learn that education is nothing more than a guessing game! With open-ended questions, teachers and students engage in real dialogue. Here are some examples:

**LEADING QUESTIONS**
- Who appears on the 5-dollar bill?
- What is the definition of osmosis?
- What is the formula of a triangle?

**OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS**
- Why do you think we print faces of famous people on money?
- What molecular process do you find most interesting? Why?
- What are some good uses for three-sided figures?

3.) **Let the students draw their own conclusions.** Have you ever read a book or watched a movie where the ending was obvious from the first scene? If you’re like me, you change the channel or choose another book! Nobody wants to “stay tuned” when thinking is not challenged. It’s the same with your students. The challenge is what makes learning exciting! Provide the materials, ask the questions, and then step back and watch your students get excited!

As Administrative Assistant, Betty Jean supports Mayra Rodríguez, replacing Cheryl Gold who moved into Mirtha Alvarez’s position as Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Integrated Youth Ministries.

When asked about their jobs, both Betty Jean and George respond in a similar fashion. “I’m doing my dream job!” says George. “I love the fact that I can get out there and help so many schools. Each one has a different twist. I really enjoy the challenge of finding a new model to work for each one.”

And Betty Jean? “I love my job!” she says. “The opportunity to support the teachers—those who are actually doing the front-line work in our schools—that’s really fulfilling!”
Elementary Student Outranks High School Seniors

Nick Bottomley, seventh-grader at Forest Lake Education Center, was recently invited by the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) to take the SAT, a high school test. Nick scored higher in reading than 69 percent of all high school seniors who took the test nationwide and 73 percent of all seniors in the state of Florida. To his surprise, he also scored higher in writing than 60 percent of all seniors nationwide and 67 percent of seniors in the state of Florida. During his sixth grade year, Nick also achieved the highest scores and a perfect score in the English portion of the EXPLORE, a ninth-grade test.

Behind the magnificent test scores, is a fun-loving young man who works very hard. Nick is a highly talented musician and a courteous young man. Speaking about his academic success, he credits his parents, Leroy and Carolyn Bottomley, for their encouragement and his teachers for pushing him. This year, he was scheduled to take pre-algebra, however, a perceptive teacher, Ms. Holland, believed he would be better served in algebra. She was right. He has risen to the challenge and is excelling in math.

Nick has attended Forest Lake Education Center (FLEC) since kindergarten and is a testament to the power of cooperation between the home, church, and school. His parents have supported both their son and the school. Flexible and kind, they’ve appreciated most of all, their son’s progress in music: playing the violin since kindergarten; the trombone at the end of second grade; and the Euphonium in the third grade. Nick still plays in the band and orchestra. His mom believes that his academic success is due to a well-rounded Adventist education that has been saturated in music.

Summer Trainings on Tap

With a reputation for providing the highest quality of training for our teachers, the Florida Conference will once again offer a rich array of professional development in the coming months. Teachers from outside Florida can access information on pricing, housing, and other details by contacting alejandra.torres@floridaconference.com. Here is our line-up!

**Hands On Equations, Part Two, Verbal Problems**  
May 31

**Responsive Classroom**  
June 4 - 8

**Trends in Education/Integrated Unit Planning**  
June 11 - 22

**Writing Workshop for Grades 4-8**  
Learn for half the day; then apply skills by working with actual students  
June 11 - 22

**Fundations and DIBELS**  
July 25-26

**Writing Process Portfolio Trainig**  
(online link)  
[http://marin.southern.edu/writing_process/register/](http://marin.southern.edu/writing_process/register/)

**CriSS Training**  
September 24-25

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