Hiring Season in Full Swing

With 200 teachers serving our children, there is always a lot of action in the Florida Conference, says Frank Runnels, Superintendent. And this is the time of year when things really ramp up.

As our current teachers indicate their plans for next year, the Office of Education invariably discovers that there are a number of positions to fill. Teachers retire. Re-locate. Go on extended mission trips. Pursue full-time study. Prayerfully, our team begins to make contact with Adventist universities, pour over resumes, set up interviews.

“Our goal is to maintain the high quality of teachers that Florida Conference is known for," says Arne Nielsen, Vice President for Integrated Youth Ministries. "We have an outstanding team here. Each opening must be filled by someone whose skill, faith, and compassion equal that of the teachers that are already in place."

This year, Rachel Torres (right) has the distinction of being our first new hire for the 2013-2014 school year, filling the position of first- and second-grade teacher at Forest City Adventist School in Altamonte Springs. Hailing from Forest Lake Academy (2008) and Southern Adventist University (2012), Rachel lives her life by one of her favorite quotations from the book, Education, by Ellen White.

The heart of the child is tender and easily impressed; and when we who are older become "as little children" (Matthew 18:3); when we learn the simplicity and gentleness and tender love of the Savior, we shall not find it difficult to touch the hearts of
the little ones, and teach them love's ministry of healing.

As each day passes, new names appear beside Rachel's on our list of new hires. We wish our departing teachers God's richest blessings and pray that God will continue to guide as we find just the right match for each school, classroom, and child poised for new learning in the 2013-2014 school year.

**Superintendents Plan New Direction**

At the last Board of Education meeting, Dr. Sandra Doran reported on the Office of Education's strategic planning session which set the direction for some major upcoming changes. With a foundational belief that "all children have the right to reach their God-given potential," the Office is committed to "grow teachers, nurture children, and live Christ's love," reports Arne Nielsen, Vice President for Integrated Youth Ministries. This year's thematic goal is to find a way to create a "differentiated professional growth model," Nielsen says. "We need to get our teachers connected with one another and working on goals that matter to them."

In order to accomplish this task, the Office is investigating various technology solutions, including such things as virtual learning communities. The goal is to tie evaluation, professional development, study groups, and inservices together, resulting in meaningful experiences that are tailored to the needs of each teacher.

View the Board of Education presentation here: [http://prezi.com/pi_5w6-wwvvk/board-of-ed-february-2013/?kw=view-pi_5w6-wwvvk&rc=ref-5512991](http://prezi.com/pi_5w6-wwvvk/board-of-ed-february-2013/?kw=view-pi_5w6-wwvvk&rc=ref-5512991)

**Florida Teachers Join Carolina Conference in Teachers of Excellence Project**

Valmae Lowry, first- and second-grade teacher at Orlando Junior Academy and Dr. Eudora Stephens, fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at Beryl Wisdom Adventist School in Orlando have recently become part of a pilot project leading to the Southern Union Teachers of Excellence Award. Created by Dr. Pam Forbes of the Carolina Conference, the "test pilot" has invited teachers from Carolina, Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic Conferences to share expertise, coach one another via Virtual Learning Communities, and develop expertise in six components: Integration of Faith and Learning, Determining the Learners' Instructional Needs, Delivering Instruction, Planning Curriculum, The Learning Environment, and Exhibiting Professionalism.

Valmae and Eudora began their involvement with the project in February, attending the kick-off meeting at the Carolina Conference, where they completed an initial self-assessment; listened to presentations by Dr. Bernice McCarthy; participated in brainstorming sessions; and became part of a virtual EDGE coaching group. "I am always looking for ways to grow as a teacher," states Valmae, a 20-year veteran to the Florida Conference. "This is a great opportunity to discover new ideas that are unique to my own needs."
Professional Development and Recertification Credit Close to Home!

Whether you are brand new to Florida Conference or have been here for awhile and want to "sharpen the saw," you have a menu of training opportunities right within our conference. Call or e-mail Betty Jean Mader or Alejandra Torres to sign up today! The following trainings will be offered in Orlando this summer:

- Responsive Classroom - Grades K-5 - June 3-7 (Required for new employees)
- Developmental Designs - Grades 6-9 - June 3-7 (Required for new employees)
- Stepping Stones Unit Planning - single grade or combination kindergarten programs - June 3-7
- Grades 5-8 Curriculum Planning (Suitable for single and multi-grade teachers) - June 3-7
- Writers' Workshop Clinic - Grades K-5 - June 10-21. (This training will help you fine-tune your writing program. Teachers will practice what they learn while working with real students during this two week course.)
Around the Conference...

TECHNOLOGY REIGNS! Three of our schools have recently replaced textbooks with IPADS, eliminating the weight of the proverbial backpack and rendering the phrase "The Dog Ate My Homework" obsolete. Congratulations to Forest Lake Academy, Greater Miami Adventist Academy, and Miami Springs Adventist School.

IRON CHEF COMPETITION. On March 13, Orlando Junior Academy invited local celebrity chefs and community leaders to serve on a panel of judges for their 5th - 8th grade Iron Chef competition. Students worked in teams to create healthy and tasty dishes from recipes using fresh ingredients harvested from the school's own garden. The competition was the final exam for the students' 9-week Nutritional Science Lab unit.

SCHOOLS UNITE! William A. Kirlew Jr Academy middle school students, their teachers and principal were guests for the Sawgrass Adventist School's Valentines' Day Friendship Banquet. Students were judged on traits discussed in their Life Skills after school groups, including their ability to hold polite conversation, proper table manners, and appearance befitting a young woman or man of God. After judges' scores were tallied, an Etiquette King and Queen were chosen. "We have had a number of exciting events at our school this year," Principal Kathy McCullough reports. "In the past few weeks, we had an awesome Social Studies Fair and a great Multi-Cultural Banquet. Our Valentine's Friendship Banquet was especially meaningful since we invited guests from our sister school in Miami."

'TIS THE SEASON....FOR CLASS TRIPS! Students from Florida Conference Schools and their teachers are traversing the state and beyond as they expand their knowledge of the world around them. Pictured (above) in front of the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. are Jesse Benton and his 9th grade students from Z.L. Sung Seventh-day Adventist School in Gainesville. "It was a little cold for their Florida blood, but we had a great time," says Jesse. In addition to the Capitol, the students visited the Supreme Court, Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Korean War Memorial, several Smithsonian Museums, Antietam Battlefield, Harpers Ferry, and much more.

FAMOUS GROUP PERFORMS. The internationally noted Yale University "Spizzwinks" presented a concert for the James E. Sampson Memorial Seventh-day Adventist School in Fort Pierce at the Indian River State College's Fine Arts Theater on March 15. The performers followed up by visiting the school and praying with the students in each classroom. "It was a truly inspiring and entertaining concert," reports Principal Deborah Dahl, who planned the event. The "Yale Spizzwinks" are known as America’s first and oldest underclassman a cappella group. Since 1914, they have entertained audiences around the world with a unique blend of sweet harmony and tongue-in-cheek humor.
Teacher Resources from Southern Union

At a recent Education Council in Rome, Georgia, the Southern Union shared the following information for our teachers:

Emergency/Crisis Response Plan Template

With the need for increased safety in today's schools, it is crucial that each school have a clear plan to be followed in an emergency/crisis situation. Need a head start in getting your school prepared? Use the "Rackley School Emergency" template, uploaded to the opening page our Florida Conference wiki to get up and running. Here is a sample of the wording in the extensive document:

(Insert School Name) is committed to the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on its campus. In order to support that commitment, the School Board has asked for a thorough review of (Insert School Name) emergency mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery procedures relevant to natural and human caused disasters. The School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan that follows is the official policy of (Insert School Name). It is a result of a comprehensive review and update of school policies in the context of its location in (Location) and in the current world situation.

Common Core

With the new nationwide emphasis on "less is more," the Common Core defines what students should know and be able to do in each grade level. Initiated by the National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) the following principles provide the framework for the voluntary Common Core Standards, which have been been adopted by 45 states:

• Result in College and Career Readiness
• Based on solid research and practice evidence
• Fewer, Higher, and Clearer

We have uploaded a presentation given at the Union on the Resources section of our website. (Scroll down to Presentations.)

What one thing can you take away as a teacher? There is a new emphasis on reading, writing, and speaking in the content areas. Core subjects, such as science and social studies, are important in teaching vocabulary, comprehension, and technical writing. In the coming years, there will be less emphasis on narrative and creative writing, and more emphasis on writing to convince, persuade, and explain.

CIRCLE

Circle is your one-stop shopping area for Adventist teaching resources! They have now added two new features:

Parent Newsletters:
Wished you had time to write newsletters to help parents better raise their kids? Or comprehend what Adventist education is? Select from 50 FREE digital newsletters, ready to print or link to, featuring four series: Why Adventist Education, Character Education, Parenting Teens, and Parent Inspiration on Academics and Health.

E-Clips:
Share a character development or faith integration idea, classroom management tip, or a difficult to teach subject in a one-minute video clip. Watch How To Create E-Clips to learn how. $25 honorarium for each accepted video. Email apryl.maloon@circle.adventist.org

LEARN360

North American Division has purchased a subscription of Learn360 for every school in North America through the end of May. Learn360 is an excellent standards-based video streaming service from Infobase Learning. With Learn360 teachers and students can stream or download over 9,500 full educational videos and over 70,000 video clips and other resources. Content is from BBC, National Geographic, A&E History, Sunburst, Reading Rainbow, Scholastic Audio, BBC Motion Gallery and more. The videos are correlated to State and Common Core Standards.
**ANGEL**

It is time once again to register a contact person with ANGEL and begin requesting books for next school year! Registration will be open from April 1 – June 30, 2013. You will find that ANGEL has two new lists this year: “Best Books of 2012” and “Recommended DVDs.” More information on the opening page of our [wiki](http://www.learn360.com).
Hiring Season in Full Swing

With 200 teachers serving our children, there is always a lot of action in the Florida Conference, says Frank Runnels, Superintendent. And this is the time of year when things really ramp up.

As our current teachers indicate their plans for next year, the Office of Education invariably discovers that there are a number of positions to fill. Teachers retire. Re-locate. Go on extended mission trips. Pursue full-time study. Prayerfully, our team begins to make contact with Adventist universities, pour over resumes, set up interviews.

“Our goal is to maintain the high quality of teachers that Florida Conference is known for,” says Arne Nielsen, Vice President for Integrated Youth Ministries. “We have an outstanding team here. Each opening must be filled by someone whose skill, faith, and compassion equal that of the teachers that are already in place.”

This year, Rachel Torres (right) has the distinction of being our first new hire for the 2013-2014 school year, filling the position of first- and second-grade teacher at Forest City Adventist School in Altamonte Springs. Hailing from Forest Lake Academy (2008) and Southern Adventist University (2012), Rachel lives her life by one of her favorite quotations from the book, Education, by Ellen White.

The heart of the child is tender and easily impressed; and when we who are older become "as little children" (Matthew 18:3); when we learn the simplicity and gentleness and tender love of the Savior, we shall not find it difficult to touch the hearts of the little ones, and teach them love's ministry of healing.

As each day passes, new names appear beside Rachel’s on our list of new hires. We wish our departing teachers God's richest blessings and pray that God will continue to guide as we find just the right match for each school, classroom, and child poised for new learning in the 2013-2014 school year.
Superintendents Plan New Direction

At the last Board of Education meeting, Dr. Sandra Doran reported on the Office of Education's strategic planning session which set the direction for some major upcoming changes. With a foundational belief that "all children have the right to reach their God-given potential," the Office is committed to "grow teachers, nurture children, and live Christ's love," reports Arne Nielsen, Vice President for Integrated Youth Ministries. This year's thematic goal is to find a way to create a "differentiated professional growth model," Nielsen says. "We need to get our teachers connected with one another and working on goals that matter to them."

In order to accomplish this task, the Office is investigating various technology solutions, including such things as virtual learning communities. The goal is to tie evaluation, professional development, study groups, and inservices together, resulting in meaningful experiences that are tailored to the needs of each teacher.

View the Board of Education presentation here: http://prezi.com/pi_5w6-wwvvk/board-of-ed-february-2013/?kw=view-pi_5w6-wwvvk&rc=ref-5512991
Florida Teachers Join Carolina Conference in Teachers of Excellence Project

Valmae Lowry, first- and second-grade teacher at Orlando Junior Academy and Dr. Eudora Stephens, fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at Beryl Wisdom Adventist School in Orlando have recently become part of a pilot project leading to the Southern Union Teachers of Excellence Award. Created by Dr. Pam Forbes of the Carolina Conference, the "test pilot" has invited teachers from Carolina, Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic Conferences to share expertise, coach one another via Virtual Learning Communities, and develop expertise in six components: Integration of Faith and Learning, Determining the Learner's Instructional Needs, Delivering Instruction, Planning Curriculum, The Learning Environment, and Exhibiting Professionalism.

Valmae and Eudora began their involvement with the project in February, attending the kick-off meeting at the Carolina Conference, where they completed an initial self-assessment; listened to presentations by Dr. Bernice McCarthy; participated in brainstorming sessions; and became part of a virtual EDGE coaching group. "I am always looking for ways to grow as a teacher," states Valmae, a 20-year veteran to the Florida Conference. "This is a great opportunity to discover new ideas that are unique to my own needs."

We look forward to future reports as these teachers gain valuable skills that will benefit our conference.
Professional Development and Recertification Credit
Close to Home!

Whether you are brand new to Florida Conference or have been here for awhile and want to “sharpen the saw,” you have a menu of training opportunities right within our conference. Call or e-mail Betty Jean Mader or Alejandra Torres to sign up today! The following trainings will be offered in Orlando this summer:

Responsive Classroom - Grades K-5 - June 3-7
(Required for new employees)

Developmental Designs - Grades 6-9 - June 3-7 (Required for new employees)

Stepping Stones Unit Planning - single grade or combination kindergarten programs - June 3-7

Grades 5-8 Curriculum Planning (Suitable for single and multi-grade teachers) - June 3-7

Writers' Workshop Clinic - Grades K-5 - June 10-21. (This training will help you fine-tune your writing program. Teachers will practice what they learn while working with real students during this two week course.)
Around the Conference...

TECHNOLOGY REIGNS! Three of our schools have recently replaced textbooks with IPADs, eliminating the weight of the proverbial backpack and rendering the phrase "The Dog Ate My Homework" obsolete. Congratulations to Forest Lake Academy, Greater Miami Adventist Academy, and Miami Springs Adventist School.

IRON CHEF COMPETITION. On March 13, Orlando Junior Academy invited local celebrity chefs and community leaders to serve on a panel of judges for their 5th - 8th grade Iron Chef competition. Students worked in teams to create healthy and tasty dishes from recipes using fresh ingredients harvested from the school's own garden. The competition was the final exam for the students' 9-week Nutritional Science Lab unit.

SCHOOLS UNITE! William A. Kirlew Jr Academy middle school students, their teachers and principal were guests for the Sawgrass Adventist School’s Valentine’s Day Friendship Banquet. Students were judged on traits discussed in their Life Skills after school groups, including their ability to hold polite conversation, proper table manners, and appearance befitting a young woman or man of God. After judges' scores were tallied, an Etiquette King and Queen were chosen. "We have had a number of exciting events at our school this year," Principal Kathy McCullough reports. "In the past few weeks, we had an awesome Social Studies Fair and a great Multi-Cultural Banquet. Our Valentine’s Friendship Banquet was especially meaningful since we invited guests from our sister school in Miami."

'TIS THE SEASON....FOR CLASS TRIPS! Students from Florida Conference Schools and their teachers are traversing the state and beyond as they expand their knowledge of the world around them. Pictured (above) in front of the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. are Jesse Benton and his 9th grade students from Z.L. Sung Seventh-day Adventist School in Gainesville. "It was a little cold for their Florida blood, but we had a great time," says Jesse. In addition to the Capitol, the students visited the Supreme Court, Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Korsan War Memorial, several Smithsonian Museums, Antietam Battlefield, Harpers Ferry, and much more.

FAMOUS GROUP PERFORMS. The internationally noted Yale University "Spizzwinks" presented a concert for the James E. Sampson Memorial Seventh-day Adventist School in Fort Pierce at the Indian River State College’s Fine Arts Theater on March 15. The performers followed up by visiting the school and praying with the students in each classroom. "It was a truly inspiring and entertaining concert," reports Principal Deborah Dahl, who planned the event. The "Yale Spizzwinks" are known as America’s first and oldest underclassman a cappella group. Since 1914, they have entertained audiences around the world with a unique blend of sweet harmony and tongue-in-cheek humor.
Teacher Resources from Southern Union

At a recent Education Council in Rome, Georgia, the Southern Union shared the following information for our teachers:

Emergency/Crisis Response Plan Template

With the need for increased safety in today's schools, it is crucial that each school have a clear plan to be followed in an emergency/crisis situation. Need a head start in getting your school prepared? Use the "Rackley School Emergency" template, uploaded to the opening page our Florida Conference wiki to get up and running. Here is a sample of the wording in the extensive document:

(Insert School Name) is committed to the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on its campus. In order to support that commitment, the School Board has asked for a thorough review of (Insert School Name) emergency mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery procedures relevant to natural and human caused disasters. The School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan that follows is the official policy of (Insert School Name). It is a result of a comprehensive review and update of school policies in the context of its location in (Location) and in the current world situation.

Common Core

With the new nationwide emphasis on "less is more," the Common Core defines what students should know and be able to do in each grade level. Initiated by the National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) the following principles provide the framework for the voluntary Common Core Standards, which have been been adopted by 45 states:

•Result in College and Career Readiness
•Based on solid research and practice evidence
•Fewer, Higher, and Clearer

We have uploaded a presentation given at the Union on the Resources section of our website. (Scroll down to Presentations.)

What one thing can you take away as a teacher? There is a new emphasis on reading, writing, and speaking in the content areas. Core subjects, such as science and social studies, are important in teaching vocabulary, comprehension, and technical writing. In the coming years, there will be less emphasis on narrative and creative writing, and more emphasis on writing to convince, persuade, and explain.

CIRCLE

Circle is your one-stop shopping area for Adventist teaching resources! They have now added two new features:

Parent Newsletters:
Wished you had time to write newsletters to help parents better raise their kids? Or comprehend what Adventist education is? Select from 50 FREE digital newsletters, ready to print or link to, featuring four series: Why Adventist Education, Character Education, Parenting Teens, and Parent Inspiration on Academics and Health.

E-Clips:
Share a character development or faith integration idea, classroom management tip, or a difficult to teach subject in a one-minute video clip. Watch How To Create E-Clips to learn how. $25 honorarium for each accepted video. Email apryl.maloon@circle.adventist.org

LEARN360

North American Division has purchased a subscription of Learn360 for every school in North America through the end of May. Learn360 is an excellent standards-based video streaming service from Infobase Learning. With Learn360 teachers and students can stream or download over 9,500 full educational videos and over 70,000 video clips and other resources. Content is from BBC, National Geographic, A&E History, Sunburst, Reading Rainbow, Scholastic Audio, BBC Motion Gallery and more. The videos are correlated to State and Common Core Standards.

URL: www.learn360.com

User ID: (email address)

Password: learn360

ANGEL

It is time once again to register a contact person with ANGEL and begin requesting books for next school year! Registration will be open from April 1 –
June 30, 2013. You will find that ANGEL has two new lists this year: “Best Books of 2012” and “Recommended DVDs” More information on the opening page of our wiki.