Three Southeastern Schools Awarded School of Excellence Status
By: Robert Henley
Three schools from the Southeastern Conference were recently awarded the Southern Union School of Excellence Award. The award recognizes schools that have meet a specific criteria that has been established by the Southern Union Office of Education.

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Andrews Ranked as Overperforming School
By: Keri Suarez, Media Relations Specialist Division of No. 11 on U.S. News & World Report's Nation List Berrien Springs, Mich. Andrews University was recently ranked #11 on U.S. News & World Reports Overperforming Schools in the Nation list, with an overall score of +75. This concept measures the degree to which a university's overall position in the rankings exceeds or falls short of its undergraduate academic reputation rank.

Read full story @ http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=1126

Student Speaks Out about Sabbath
By: Ednora Francois
Zharia Watson is a fourth grader at a Christian school. One day during Bible class the teacher introduced the class to a study on the Sabbath. Which day of the week is the Sabbath? her teacher asked. A chorus of voices replied, Sunday is the Sabbath. Zharias voice was the only voice heard saying no, Saturday is the Sabbath, she replied. As she told her story, she said twenty-four pairs of eyes turned around and looked at her in disbelief.
Read full story @ http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=1124

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To submit news for eSketches and Sketches on line log onto http://www.secsda.org.

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Three Southeastern Schools Awarded School of Excellence Status

By: Robert Henley  
Date: 12/18/12

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Three schools from the Southeastern Conference were recently awarded the Southern Union School of Excellence Award. The award recognizes schools that have meet a specific criteria that has been established by the Southern Union Office of Education.

The schools that were recognized are the Mt. Olivet School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Kalisha Waldon, principal, celebration date September 9; the Daughter of Zion School in Delray Beach, Fla., Audrey Wainwright, principal, celebration date September 29; and the Mt. Sinai school in Orlando, Fla., Betty Nugent, Ed.D., principal, celebration date November 17. During the celebration program each school was awarded a School of Excellence plaque, trophy, flag and a check for $18 thousand dollars.

We are proud of the excellent job that these schools have done. The principals, pastors, teachers, staff, students, parents, school boards, church boards, and church members are greatly appreciated for the part they played in making sure these schools reached their goal in attaining this high status of School of Excellence," said Carol Byrd, superintendent of education. The ultimate aim of all schools in Southeastern is to reach the status of excellence.

To qualify for the designation each school had to complete a rigorous certification process that examined all areas of the schools operation which included spirituality, academics, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, public relations, and customer service.

The School of Excellence program is a part of the Southern Union Adventist Edge initiative. The Adventist Edge is a comprehensive school improvement program that is designed to enhance the quality of education in all areas of a school. Of the 222 schools throughout the Southern Union, 22 currently hold the School Excellence Certification.
Andrews Ranked as Overperforming School

By: Keri Suarez, Media Relations Specialist Division of

Date: 12/26/12

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No. 11 on U.S. News & World Report's Nation List

Berrien Springs, Mich. Andrews University was recently ranked #11 on U.S. News & World Reports Overperforming Schools in the Nation list, with an overall score of +75. This concept measures the degree to which a university's overall position in the rankings exceeds or falls short of its undergraduate academic reputation rank.

This was the magazine's first-ever analysis of colleges in the national universities ranking category that are overperforming or underperforming their undergraduate academic reputations in terms of their overall Best Colleges 2013 rankings.

This report appears to support the reality that small private/Christian institutions can and often do offer an environment of excellence and nurturing where students thrive and succeed, often beyond what might be expected, says Andrea Luxton, provost of Andrews University. However, it is also difficult for smaller institutions to find the resources to communicate that value widely, which inevitably leads to an underestimation of value. As far as Andrews is concerned, this report recognizes that our quality programs are very competitive with some of the best institutions in the nation.

In the study, the schools that were ranked, which include Andrews University, performed well in key academic metrics such as selective admissions, financial and faculty resources, alumni giving, and graduation and retention rates. Andrews University was the only institution in the Seventh-day Adventist educational system to be recognized as an overperforming university.

With the additional value of the element of our Christian community, we have a winning combination! says Luxton.
Earlier this year, Andrews University made a few other U.S. News & World Report college ranking lists too. With a diversity index of .73, the University tied for 4th in Campus Ethnic Diversity and with 13% of our student body composed of international students, Andrews tied for 9th in Most International Students.

Other overperforming universities include: Adelphi University, N.Y. (#1); Ashland University, Ohio (#2); University of St. Thomas, Minn. (#3); Stevens Institute of Technology, N.J. (#4); St. Marys University of Minnesota, Minn. (#5); Azusa Pacific University, Calif. (#6); Edgewood College, Wis. (#7); University of Tulsa, Okla. (#8); Yeshiva University, N.Y. (#9); Biola University, Calif. (#10); St. John Fisher College, N.Y. (#12); South Carolina State University, S.C. (#13); University of La Verne, Calif. (#14) and Maryville University of St. Louis, Mo. (#15).

For more information on the rankings, visit http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-rankings-blog/2012/11/29/which-ranked-universities-are-doing-better-than-their-academic-reputations.

Founded in 1874, Andrews University is the flagship institution of higher education for the Seventh-day Adventist church, located one-half mile east of the U.S. 31 Bypass in Berrien Springs, Mich.
Zharia Watson is the eldest daughter of Ean and Tamesha Watson. Zharia and her family are active members of the Mt. Zion SDA Church in Kissimmee, Fla.

Zharia is a fourth grader at a Christian school. One day during Bible class the teacher introduced the class to a study on the Sabbath. Which day of the week is the Sabbath? her teacher asked. A chorus of voices replied, Sunday is the Sabbath. Zharia's voice was the only voice heard saying no, Saturday is the Sabbath, she replied. As she told her story, she said twenty-four pairs of eyes turned around and looked at her in disbelief.

It was time for the year-end school exams. On the Bible test was the question, Which day of the week is the Sabbath? Her reply, again, was, Saturday is the Sabbath.

Her teacher returned their Bible Studies exam papers and she noticed the question on the Sabbath was marked wrong. In spite of this, she still received the highest mark in the class.