Elticia Buisson, Miami Union Academy Teacher, is Recipient of Excellence in Teaching Award
By: Alumni Awards Foundation

2014 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENT, ELTICIA BUISSON, Miami Union Academy Southeastern Conference Social Studies Teacher

Elticia Buisson has always been able to bring history to life using technology whether she is in the classroom or not. While on a music tour in Europe with the Alabama Gospel Choir, Buisson used social media to create geography scavenger hunts for her students. She posted pictures and videos of the locations she visited and encouraged the students...
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to use the characteristics of the cities and venues as clues to determine where she was and how far she had traveled. The assignment allowed students to see their textbooks from another vantage point and made many of them interested in traveling to experience other cultures for themselves.  Full Story

Maviean Masson wins 16th Annual SEC Spelling Bee

By: Robert Henley

Maviean Masson, 12, a 7th grade student at Ephesus Jr. Academy in West Palm Beach, Fla., emerged as the winner of the 16th Annual Southeastern Conference Spelling Bee which was held on February 22, 2014 on the campus of Miami Union Academy, located in Miami, Fla.

Full Story

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2014 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENT, ELTICIA BUISSON, Miami Union Academy
Southeastern Conference Social Studies Teacher

Elticia Buisson has always been able to bring history to life using technology whether she is in the classroom or not.

While on a music tour in Europe with the Alabama Gospel Choir, Buisson used social media to create geography scavenger hunts for her students. She posted pictures and videos of the locations she visited and encouraged the students to use the characteristics of the cities and venues as clues to determine where she was and how far she had traveled. The assignment allowed students to see their textbooks from another vantage point and made many of them interested in traveling to experience other cultures for themselves.

She is constantly seeking opportunities to make education exciting and meaningful both inside and outside of the classroom and to make learning practical for our students, said Shelley Garner, vice principal of Miami Union Academy (MUA).

During her ten years at MUA, Buisson has worked with her students to create 3D replicas of palaces, temples and tombs from ancient civilizations, set up a FaceTime video conference with an Air Force Sergeant in South Korea to inform students of the requirements necessary to become an Air Force officer, and even researched the process of Egyptian mummification in order to mummify chickens.

They actually mummified chickens, said Renee Hodge, principal of MUA. That is the type of teacher she is. Anything that can enhance the class or help advance the student, she is with it.

Buisson's use of technology and dedication to her students extends beyond the classroom. She offers free tutoring after school for students who can meet her in person and tutors those who cannot meet using Skype.

She has a passion for her students and shows it by the time she puts into working with them to help them succeed, Hodge said.

Above all, Buisson is committed to her students and calls herself the caretaker of her own mission field. Before school begins each year, Buisson prays over each desk and the student who will sit there. She prays that her relationship with them would be encouraging, patient and, most of all, loving.

Love is why I require more than average from my students, Buisson said. When they go beyond average and their success surprises themselves, our bond is strengthened. God compels me to share that love with all my students. It softens the hardest, frustrated heart.

Buisson considers her students her family, and she has never regretted her decision to become an educator.

On those days when fatigue seems like it wants to win, I remember the impact my teaching is having not only on their academic pursuits, but their spiritual accomplishments, as well, Buisson said. My reward is their success. Adventist education has made me a card carrying believer in the adage do what you love and you will never work a day in your life.

Elticia Buisson's award ceremony was on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Mt. Pigsah Church.

Alumni Awards Foundation board member, Andy McDonald, presented the award to Elticia Buisson.

This award was sponsored by Elticia's alma mater Oakwood University. AAF would like to thank Oakwood University for partnering in this year's Excellence in Teaching Awards.

View Elticia and other Excellence in Teaching Award recipients' stories on our blog. You can also see more photos in our gallery.
For more than 10 years, it has been AAF’s privilege to honor the best Seventh-day Adventist teachers with the Excellence in Teaching Awards. This program would not be possible without the generous donations of our sponsors. Please consider donating to this program.

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Maviean Masson wins 16th Annual SEC Spelling Bee

Maviean Masson, 12, a 7th grade student at Ephesus Jr. Academy in West Palm Beach, Fla., emerged as the winner of the 16th Annual Southeastern Conference Spelling Bee which was held on February 22, 2014 on the campus of Miami Union Academy, located in Miami, Fla.

After 24 rounds, Masson won the competition with the correct spelling of the word spritz.

Second and third place winners were Jean Jacques, a student at Miami Union Academy located in Miami, Fla., and Rigaud Chostel, a student at Mt. Calvary Jr. Academy, located in Tampa, Fla. respectively.

The competition featured contestants from 11 of the 15 schools that comprise the Southeastern Conference school system. To qualify for the spelling bee each student had to win a qualifying spelling bee that was held at their schools.

The other contestants were Jewel Murray, Mt. Olivet Junior Academy, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Kayla Charles, Broward Jr. Academy, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Amari North, Ephesus Junior Academy, Jacksonville, Fla; Anthony Anson, Shiloh SDA School, Ocala, Fla.; Kaitlyn Taylor, Perrine SDA School, Perrine, Fla.; Daijah Nichols, Mt. Sinai SDA School, Orlando, Fla.; Sidney Pinnock, New Hope SDA School, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Dane Witter, Bethel Elementary, Florida City, Fla.

To prepare for the spelling bee, students studied the word list provided by the Scripts National Spelling Bee.