



The Scoop

Florida Memorial University School of Education Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

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From the Dean's Desk



EDITORIAL STAFF:

EDITOR

Yvonne Campbell,
Ph.D.

CO-EDITOR

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It has been a great experience to reflect on our journey, both as an institution and as a school over the past year. I am reminded that, as a team, we were able to overcome serious challenges but we succeeded, nevertheless.

Changes will continue to occur as the Florida Department of Education mandates changes in how we prepare our students. Just when we reached a level of comfort with the 12 Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs), we are once again faced with making changes to our core curricular and assessment systems using the newly mandated 2010 FEAPs. But true to the lyrics of an old song, I know we will "do it again."

Our colleagues, from Freshman Studies, have joined the SOE team and brought with them a different and fresh perspective. It is a pleasure to have them on board.

Congratulations to Dr. Abdoulaye on a job well-done with our QEP. We will be "Facing the F. A. C. T. S." for the next several years. Thank you to Dr. Riley, Dr. Mobley-Bellinger,

and Dr. Saffici who were all part of the SACs Team. Congratulations are in order for Dr. Bonenfant for having his paper "Misusage and Misinterpretation of Basic Interpersonal Communication (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)" presented at the March 15-17, 2012 Intellectbase Academic Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Bonenfant was also selected to serve as one of the conference chairs. Hats off to Dr. Riley, Dr. Torulagha, and the Social Studies Department for their hard work and dedication in resubmitting the revised Secondary Social Studies *Folio* to the State for approval. We anxiously await the outcome.

Thank you to Dr. Duren and the Woman's History Month Committee for arranging the "Brunch with the Authors" event in honor of Woman's History Month. I would also like to express my appreciation to Dr. Campbell for providing the leadership on our SOE Newsletter and for initiating and organizing our First Summer Reading Institute. Let me not forget to thank Dr. Mobley-

Bellinger for her "90-Day Fitness Challenge" initiative. Some of us have no rhythm but still



attempt to line-dance without turning the wrong way, while others do Zumba in a manner that is probably very different from its original design. But, who cares, we are following first lady, Michelle Obama's, advice "Let's Move."

As we prepare to go our different ways during the summer, please remember not only to enjoy your much-needed break, but to also be careful. Paraphrasing Michael Jackson, "We want you back."

Mildred E. Berry
Dean, SOE

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S VISION

*Continuing the Heritage, Legacy and Tradition of Florida Memorial University:
Preparing Constructivist, Competent and Compassionate Educators.*

The Scoop

Women's History Month Celebration

BRUNCH WITH THE AUTHORS

The 2012 Women's History Month theme is "Women's Education Women's Empowerment: Recognizing the Pioneering Leadership of Women and Their Impact on the Diverse Areas of Education."

In celebration of Woman's History Month, the School of Education held two successful events. The first event was a special Freshmen Year Experience assembly held on Thursday, March 29 from 9:25 A.M to 10:40 A.M. featuring Mahogany Woodland, motivational speaker and author of "Freshmen Honeys" and "Sophomore Blues." Ms. Woodland navigated the Freshmen on how to plan their "Blueprint of Success." Following the question-and-answer session, a line of eager freshmen awaited the purchase and signing of her books.

On Saturday, March 31, the School of Education's Woman's History Month Committee hosted a "Brunch with the Authors" event. Seven of the SOE's alumnae were honored at the Brunch.

These alumnae are teaching in the Miami Dade County Public School System and are making their mark in the teaching and learning arena. They were either named Rookie Teacher of the Year or Teacher of the Year at their respective schools (for the 2010-2011 and 201-2012 school years). The honorees included Diane Alexander, Nneka Folk, Shauna Graham, LaQuinda Johnson, Evelyn Lawrence, Latoya Porter, and Natara Tisdol.

The main speaker, our own Dr. Rose Stiffin, author of "Walk in Bethel," described the creative writing process in superb detail, enlightening the aspiring writer and enriching the experienced writer. Ten additional authors "had their say" as they described their individual writing experiences and/or read excerpts from their respective books. These authors included Ms. Cheryl Dusek, "Maybe One Day What Do You Want To Be?"; Dr. Carolyn Edwards, "I Can Be Anything, I Dream" and "Fun with Money"; Ms. Lourdes R. Florido, "White Trees"; Co-

Author Dr. Cheryl Holder, "Pumpkin Soup is for Sunday"; Ms. Tina Lombard, "Animal Skins"; Dr. Alda Noronha-Nimmo, "Read Your World"; Ms. Deborah Pollock, "Laura Woodward: The Artist Behind the Innovator Who Developed Palm Beach," Ms. Avis P. Raines, "Occasionally Yours," "Family Bond," and "Give Me One Good Reason"; Dr. Tonette S. Rocco, "The Handbook of Scholarly Writing and Publishing"; Ms. Cuore-e Sippio, "9-1-1 Lifestyle Change"; and Ms. Mahogany Woodland, "Freshmen Blues," and "Sophomore Blues."

Attendees expressed positive comments in appreciation of the authors' wide range of genres, the appropriateness of the material, and the usefulness of the information shared. Several attendees noted the expertise of the panel, including those who discussed the publication of e-books.

Stay tuned for next year's Author's Book Panel, "Romancing the Novel," to include romance and other categorical authors.



Dr. Rose Stiffin



Mahogany Woodland

"Women's Education Women's Empowerment: Recognizing the Pioneering Leadership of Women and Their Impact on the Diverse Areas of Education."

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Research, Publications, Projects

Research & Publications

Dr. Jacques L. Bonenfant

Dr. Jacques L. Bonenfant, Assistant Professor of Education, traveled to Bangkok, Thailand on March 13, 2012 to present his scholarly and peer-reviewed journal article entitled "Misusage and Misinterpretation of Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) in Teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) in First and Second Grades." The paper is recommended for publication in the Review of Higher Education and Self-Learning Scholar Journal.

Dr. Christopher Saffici

During March, Dr. Saffici, Associate Professor of Physical Education, traveled to Boston, Massachusetts to present a paper at the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Annual Conference. Dr. Saffici has also been invited to participate in the Physical Education K-12 Standard Setting Meeting for the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE) to be held in April. In addition, Dr. Saffici has submitted a presentation paper to the 19th Annual HBCU Faculty Development Network Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida this coming fall.

Dr. Saffici is co-author of a peer reviewed article due for publication in the Florida Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance, and Sport (FAHPERD) Journal this spring. In addition, an article submitted by Dr. Saffici and Dr. Robert Pellegrino (from the School of Business) has been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed, *Sports Journal*.

Projects

Dr. Yvonne Campbell

Dr. Campbell is currently organizing the SOE Summer Reading Institute. This initiative of hers will be held June 12-14, 2012. The theme for the meeting is: "Sharing Best Practices in Literacy Instruction". The primary goal of the institute is to bring together practitioners and researchers in literacy education who share their best practices with K-12 teachers during 55-minute presentation sessions. A secondary goal is to make Florida Memorial University more visible to its surrounding community.

Dr. Mobley-Bellinger

Dr. Abigail Mobley-Bellinger is Associate Professor of Physical Education. Under Dr. Mobley-Bellinger's direction, the Florida Memorial University Wellness Committee is conducting a Faculty and Staff 90-DAY CHALLENGE. Fourteen teams of 5 members each began the 90- Day Challenge on February 6, 2012. The teams are presently competing and accumulating points in the following areas:

- Human Resources Health Fair (participate in Health Screenings)
- FMU Wellness Committee Survey (HR Health Fair)
- Weight Loss (Bi-weekly weigh-ins)
- Pre-, Mid-, and Post- Physical Fitness Assessments
- Physical Challenges
- Various Health Seminars

Upon completion of the 90 days (May 6th), the team with the most points will be declared the winner, with runner-up teams winning 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes. Additional prizes will be awarded for (1) Overall Female, (2) Overall Male, and (3) the Biggest Loser.

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Research, Publications, Projects

Projects

Dr. Mobley-Bellinger (from page 3)

The program also includes a no-points workout program called "PROJECT FIT." Workout classes are offered at the gymnasium Monday through Friday. Faculty, staff, and students may attend these classes. For those who like to walk, the program also includes a walking program, "Walking Lions," Mondays through Fridays from 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. in front of the gymnasium.

The 90-DAY CHALLENGE was created in an effort to promote an active, healthy lifestyle at Florida Memorial University amongst our faculty and staff members.

PROJECT FIT WORKOUT SCHEDULE



Monday

Walking Lions	12:00-1:00	Gymnasium
Yoga	5:00-6:00	Dance Classroom
Afro-Caribbean Dance	6:00-7:00	Dance Classroom

Tuesday

Walking Lions	12:00-1:00	Gymnasium
Water Aerobics	5:00-6:00	Pool
Body Sculpting	**Inclement Weather	Dance Classroom
Boot Camp	6:00-7:00	Gymnasium

Wednesday

Walking Lions	12:00-1:00	Gymnasium
Zumba	5:00-6:00	Dance Classroom

Thursday

Walking Lions	12:00-1:00	Gymnasium
Line Dancing	5:00-6:00	Dance Classroom
Boot Camp	6:00-7:00	Gymnasium

Friday

Walking Lions	12:00-1:00	Gymnasium
Kickboxing	5:00-6:00	Dance Classroom
Body Sculpting (Body Sculpting Starting Date TBA)	6:00-7:00	Dance Classroom

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Research, Publications, Projects

Projects

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Director, Dr. Idriss Abdoulaye

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires member institutions to develop a university-wide QEP to enhance student learning. FMU's QEP is designed to enhance undergraduate students' critical thinking skills and to prepare them to function effectively in a highly competitive technological and global society. This focus is derived from FMU's Statement of Purpose, which recognizes that "education contributes to the quality of life and expects that students will leave its community of scholars and traditions prepared to participate fully in a global society".

The critical thinking skills will be implemented in five freshman courses in the General Education Program and will be reinforced throughout the undergraduate courses in students' major areas of study.

The QEP will be implemented in three coordinated phases:

1. **Introductory Stage:** Five courses in the General Education Program will include a focus on teaching and developing of critical thinking skills.
2. **Reinforcing Stage:** These skills will be reinforced in the undergraduate courses in the major areas of study.
3. **Mastery Stage:** The knowledge and skills developed will be applied in a mastery level activity addressing practical issues.

Faculty development forms an integral and important part of the QEP. Therefore, the plan includes a sustained and substantive plan for faculty development throughout the phases of the QEP implementation. The first of a series of QEP professional development workshops for faculty was held on March 31, 2012.



**F.A.C.T.S@FMU: Fostering and Applying
Critical Thinking Skills at Florida Memorial
University**

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Undergraduates

Sherika Hyacinth

I am from Dominica, one of the many islands in the Caribbean. It was there that my educational foundation was shaped. Education has always been a major focal point for my family. Being educated was not a choice; it was an obligation. My parents saw the importance of education long before I did. I soon caught the vision, and after graduating from high school, I became a freshman in college majoring in Exceptional Student Education.



“You will become as small as your controlling desire; as great as your dominant aspiration.” – James Allen

Exceptional Student Education is more than a Bachelor’s degree for me; it is my teaching philosophy. I recall gaining inspiration from the movie “I am Sam.” Sam, though mentally challenged, fought for the right to raise his daughter in a society that deemed him an unfit parent. It was then that I knew I wanted to be an advocate for Special Education (SPED). I am not only working towards being a SPED teacher, but would also like to venture into curriculum development for the mentally challenged. My goal is to help my Caribbean people gain better special education opportunities.

I enjoy being a student at Florida Memorial University. I am a member of the Honors Council where I serve as the editor of the honors’ Newsletter, “The Vanguard.” I am also a member of the e-board. I have participated in the “Model African Union” at the National Association of African-American Honors Program Conference and in different regional and national honors conferences. I also serve on FMU’s “Relay for Life” committee, an event sponsored by the American Cancer Society. In addition to that, I am a member of the Senior Class Cabinet. I also volunteer at a private school for the mentally challenged in Miami where I assist the teachers with their lessons and other classroom activities. Most recently, I had the opportunity to volunteer for the Special Olympics in Miami Dade -County.

Ashton Wright

As I sit and reflect on my educational journey over the years, I stop and think about how one never knows where life might take you. I started my “college journey” in 2004 after graduating from Hialeah High School, home of the Mighty Thoroughbreds. I have always had aspirations of touching the lives of people, so when I entered Florida Memorial University, I selected Psychology as my major. Little did I know that, when I walk across the stage in less than two months, I will be a proud alumna of the School of Education and will be graduating with a Bachelor’s in Elementary Education with a Reading/ESOL endorsement.

This has not been an easy journey. However, the staff and faculty at Florida Memorial University have tried to make it as enjoyable and as memorable as possible. My professors were always open and willing to answer any questions or concerns I had about the coursework. I also view some of my professors as mentors and with whom I have built relationships that will continue long after I have graduated from FMU. It’s amazing how I still stop by their offices to discuss my difficult classes and some of the problems I experience in my personal life.

Time stands still for no one. There were many distractions that detoured me from my educational goals like having to relocate, withdrawing from college for two years, marriage, children, and unemployment. I can now say, through the grace of God, that I’m realizing my dreams through Florida Memorial University that truly offered me “A Promise. A Future.”



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Our Students

Undergraduates

Ashley Donaldson



I was born and raised in Miami and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Miami Norland Senior High. Before my grandmother became ill, she often pressured me to study medicine. Despite her continued persistence, she eventually realized it was a battle she would not win as I began my studies at Florida Memorial University in the fall of 2008, majoring in Elementary Education.

I am currently doing my internship at Carol City Elementary in a first grade classroom. Words cannot fully express the overflow of emotions I experience while teaching. I find myself smiling ear to ear as my ambitious students raise their hands when they have solved a math problem.

First, I am beyond thankful to God from whom all my blessings flow. Then there's my mother who has been my biggest supporter and shoulder to lean on during this journey. I am eternally grateful for every professor that has positively impacted my learning and my life. It goes without saying that the School of Education at FMU has certainly prepared me to take the teaching and learning world by storm!

Graduate Student

Cassandra D. Holmes

My college career began at Bethune Cookman University in 1988. But life happened and I postponed my studies. I did not give up on my dreams and later graduated with honors from Florida Memorial University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. I am currently in the Master of Science in Reading Program at FMU. I trust that this experience will help me develop the skills, knowledge, and techniques that will benefit all students in my classroom, and ultimately, my community as a whole.

I have been blessed to be a part of the most wonderful profession on earth for the past 16 years. I am currently a Kindergarten teacher at Eneida M. Hartner Elementary (EMH). I hold a Birth-Primary Grades Teaching Certificate with the ESOL endorsement. My past accomplishments include Grade-Level Chairperson (Kindergarten and fourth grade) at EMH, Rookie Teacher of the Year

(EMH), Economic Representative (UTD), Alternate Steward (UTD), Steward of the Year for Access Center IV, and Education Summit Facilitator (UTD). I am currently Department Chairperson for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First grade (EMH), Designated Steward (EMH), Steward of the Year Finalist, Region III (UTD), Executive Board Vice-President for Elementary Schools (UTD), Teacher Evaluation Oversight Task Force member (MDCPS/UTD), Early Childhood Task Force Co-Chair (MDCPS/UTD), Coordinator for Children Ministry ages 2-9-year-old (New Birth Baptist Church) and a DEAF and Hard of Hearing Interpreter (NBBC).

Teachers are the foundation of society. I view my profession as a calling. Teaching is not simply something I do, it is who I am. I am extremely proud to be an educator.

I have a lovely daughter, KeUndra, a student at Florida Agriculture & Me-

chanical University (FAMU). I am married to the love of my life, Keith Holmes Sr. and we have been blessed with a handsome son, Keith Holmes Jr. KeUndra recently gave birth to our first grandchild, Harmoni.



"In teaching others, we teach ourselves." Proverb, Proverbs Quote

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Our Students

Alumni

Jonte Myers

I was born in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 1982, but moved to the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in summer of 2000 where I began my career in the field of education. During my 9-year career in the BVI, I taught general science at Elmore Stoutt High School during the daytime and mathematics at the Alternative Secondary Education Program in the evenings.

I recently earned a bachelor's degree in Exceptional Student Education (Summa Cum Laude 4.0 GPA) from Florida Memorial University. While a student in Lion County, I served as executive board member of the Student Government Association and worked in the Office of Institutional Research as a student-assistant. I was also President of Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society and was also actively involved

in the community-based Upward Bound Program.

In the fall of 2011, I had the distinction of being one of only eight Educational Testing Services (ETS) HBCU Presidential Scholars in the entire nation. This scholarship is awarded annually to scholars who have an exemplary academic record, actively participate in co-curricular activities, and receive excellent recommendations from the president and a faculty member at the student's university. ETS is a non-profit agency that develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually including the GRE and the Praxis Series, in more than 180 countries.

I am currently employed in the Freshman Studies Department at Florida Memorial University and hope to attend graduate school in the spring of 2013 to continue my studies in the field of education.



LaQuinda Johnson

It was best stated by Whitney Houston in her song entitled "The Greatest Love of All", "I believe that children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way." This has been a motto of mine since the tender age of five.

As a child, my fondest memories included playing with my dolls and teaching them the alphabet and how to count. It was my parents, Mr. Anthony K. Johnson and Mrs. Ruby J. Johnson, who believed in me and gave me every opportunity to fulfill my dream of becoming an educator.

Teaching is a career for some, but for me, it is a gift that has been bestowed upon me. I am a 2005 graduate of Florida Memorial University

(B.S. Secondary English Education, Cum Laude). I began my internship at Miami Lakes Middle School (MLMS), and towards the end of my internship, was offered a position at the school.

I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated and a mentor to various local youth. As an educator and a leader, I have assumed different roles and coordinated various projects that involved parents and the community at large. These include the MLMS Annual Spelling Bee, Black History Month student performances, field trips to the Gusman Performing Arts Center, National Junior Honor Society Advisor, and Community Service Coordinator. I have also showcased my "Hollyread Hall of Fame Incentive Reading Program/Club" that rewards students for meeting or exceeding their reading goals.

In conclusion, as a result of hard work and dedication, my peers have recently selected me as the 2011-2012 "Teacher of the Year" at MLMS. I was



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Our Students

Graduate Students in Our Reading Program

Our recruitment efforts are coming to fruition. The SOE received several requests from teachers in our surrounding area to also start the Master of Science in Reading Program in the spring. Consequently, our first cohort started the program this spring.

Fall 2011 Cohort



L-R: Anel Rodrigues, Deneen Neilly-Johnson, Cassandra Holmes, Melissa Everett, Roanna Richardson

Spring 2012 Cohort



L-R: Darrius Watson, Jonell Studstill, Stephanie Pierre, Luisa Herrera, Felicia Jackson-McCollough, Trevis Hart

Graduate Students in Our Exceptional Student Education Program



Front Row: (L-R): Hakim Mujahid, Michael Hampden, Jona Owens
Back Row: (L-R): Adrienne Hill, Towanda Tharpe, Marquis Harvard

Save the Date

SOE Graduate Research Conference

Smith Conference Center

Tuesday, May 1, 2012
6:00 P.M.— 8:00 P.M.

Come join us as our graduate students showcase their Action Research Projects.

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Faculty Focus

Mildred E. Berry, Ed.D., Professor and Dean SOE

For Dean Mildred Berry, the most important aspect of her work is ensuring that our students are prepared to reflect our vision of becoming competent, constructivist, and compassionate educators.



Dr. Berry was influenced by several people in her decision to become a teacher. The first person was Miss Brown (who later became Mrs. Freeman). Miss Brown was pursuing a bachelor's degree at what was then known as Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University). During the summer, Miss Brown attended college to finish her degree. "I still remember that Miss Brown asked my aunt to send her my notebook, which was required for her class, so that she could share my work. I was very proud that, out of all the students in my class that year, she selected my notebook to share in her class. In junior high school I was influenced by Mrs. Kelly, my eighth grade teacher, Miss Habersham, my ninth grade algebra teacher and Mr. Kelly, who taught Biology where I had the opportunity to do real science labs. I had a serious crush on Mr. Hudson who was my geometry teacher," Dr. Berry says.

Dr. Berry's first teaching position was at Miami Northwestern Senior High. She was later transferred to Alla-pattah Junior High School. In 1970, Dade County Public Schools desegregated faculty throughout the school district and Dr. Berry was transferred to the mostly white Horace Mann Junior High School. She later obtained a position as a Regional Science Coordinator, followed by a return to the classroom. She then became the facilitator for the District's Human Growth and Development Program. She later worked as District Science Supervisor, the first person of color to assume this role, and remained in that position for nine years. Later she became the Director of the Department of General Education and was then transferred to the Magnet Program where she directed several schools that were part of a Federal Desegregation Grant. After 31 years in various positions within Miami-Dade Public Schools, Dr. Berry assumed the position of Chair of the FMU Education Department (in 1995) and later became the Dean of the School of Education. In addition to her duties as Dean, she continues to teach two courses to students majoring in education.

Fun Facts

Favorite activities: "I enjoy reading, walking, and traveling. I have had the opportunity to visit every continent except Antarctica. This summer, I will be joining the Honors Program on a European tour."

Greatest risk ever taken: "Being part of an African Safari."

Most important lesson growing up: "To be appreciative and thankful for every opportunity life has to offer."

What's in her fridge: "Fruit, water, and chicken."

When the going gets tough: "I pray and talk to people with whom I have developed close personal relationships."

Best time of the day: "Early morning."

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Faculty Focus

Yvonne C. Campbell, Ph.D.

Dr. Campbell was born and raised in South Africa where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Psychology and Afrikaans and her BA Honors degree in Psychology (University of Pretoria). She holds an MS.Ed. in Counseling (Marriage and Family Therapy) and a Ph.D. in Teaching & Learning (with specialization in Reading) both from the University of Miami. She also holds a teaching certificate in Reading (K-12) and is ESOL-endorsed.

Dr. Campbell began her teaching career at Broward County Public Schools as a 10th-grade Intensive Reading teacher, soon becoming the school's Reading Department chair. She briefly worked at Miami Northwestern Senior High School as Reading Coach. Other work experience in the US includes that of adjunct professor and research associate at the University of Miami.

Dr. Campbell joined the SOE team in the fall of 2010 as Assistant Professor of Reading and became Graduate Reading Program Coordinator during the spring of 2011. She teaches reading courses to graduate and undergraduate students.

Dr. Campbell is co-author of a book chapter "Practice makes permanent: Working toward fluency", a peer-reviewed journal article; "Effects of a student-reads-aloud accommodation on the performance of students with and without learning disabilities on a test of reading comprehension", and author of two entries in the Encyclopedia of the Social and Cultural Foundations of Education.

Dr. Campbell's is currently organizing the SOE's Summer Reading Institute. This initiative of hers, will be held June 12-14, 2012. The goal of the institute is to bring together practitioners and researchers in literacy education who share their best prac-

tices with K-12 teachers during 55-minute presentation sessions. The theme for the meeting is: "Sharing Best Practices in Literacy Instruction".

Dr. Campbell has been married to her soul mate, Aubrey Campbell, for 36 years. They have 3 sons and 6 grandchildren who all live in South Africa. "Half of my heart is always back home in South Africa" Dr. Campbell says.



"Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts, it is acquiring understanding."

Althea Beneby-Duren, Ed.D.

One of the few native Miamians, Dr. Duren is Assistant Professor of Reading in the School of Education. She obtained her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction: Reading Edu-



cation from Florida International University. Dr. Duren holds the following teaching certificates: Elementary Education, (grades 1 - 6), Guidance And Counseling, (Prekindergarten - Grade 12), Primary Education, (grades K - 3), and Reading (grades K - 12).

Dr. Duren is committed to making FMU more visible to the surrounding community. This is evident in the Annual School of Education Reading Mini-Conference and the Annual Children's Authors' Book Panel Discussion she organizes. The recent "Brunch with the Authors" event hosted on March 31 was another of Dr. Duren's successful initiatives.

Dr. Duren's work experiences include employment with the Miami Dade County Public School System as classroom teacher and Reading Coach. She was also adjunct instructor at Miami Dade College and Florida International University for several years.

Dr. Duren has conducted Reading MATTERS and CHAT with Parents' workshops at public and private schools, churches, Headstart Programs, and neighborhood centers throughout the Miami-Dade County area.

Her proudest accomplishments are being the wife of O.W. Duren II for over 30 years, the mother of Obie Duren III, Douglas Duren, and Christina Duren, and the grandmother of 2-

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Staff Focus

Katrenia Alford Blue

Ms. Katrenia Blue is an Academic Service Assistant in the School of Education. She recently returned to work after surgery in February. The SOE family is very happy to have her back!

Ms. Blue was born and raised in Miami. She began her school career at West Dunbar Elementary School and obtained her high school diploma from Miami Carol City Senior High. She attended Florida Memorial University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Business) in 2009. She is currently pursuing an MBA at FMU and expects to graduate in 2013.

“School was very important to me until I reached Junior High and the rebellious stage set in. Because we were not allowed a lot of freedom, as a teenager, I started to act out. I just did enough in school to get by. However, when I graduated from high school and was advised to attend a Junior College, instead of Clark University, I realized how important school was. I started working and earned my own money while attending Junior College on a part-time basis. Making more money became more important than school. After several good jobs, I realized that I needed a real career. That’s when I decided to go back to school to complete my education. Ten years later I have my Bachelor’s degree in Business and am two classes away from earning an MBA degree. My children are able to see how important it is to be educated”.



Ms. Blue has been married to her husband Thaddeus L. Blue (Sr.) for 16 years. They have two children. Their son, Thaddeus L. Blue II, is 21 years old and a junior at the University of Florida. Their daughter, Tyra, is a 15-year-old ninth-grader at Miami Carol City Senior High School.

Dr. Gwendolyn Robinson

Gwendolyn Julius H. Robinson earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Bethune Cookman College, and her Masters and Doctoral degrees in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Northern Colorado.

She started her teaching career as elementary school teacher in Dade County Public Schools (DCPS) where she continued to work until her retirement. During her tenure in DCPS, she served as Title I Elementary Counselor, School Social Worker, Exceptional Student Teacher, Art Teacher and School Liaison between the Courts and the Public Schools for the Juvenile Justice Support Program (Alternative Education). Upon retirement, Dr. Robinson relocated to Germany for 9 years where she worked for the United States Army as Director for Family Advocacy programs. Upon her return to the US, she worked in New Mexico for two years in Family Advocacy.

Dr. Robinson derived her passion for education from her parents. She always urges young people to strive to be the best they can be. She can always be seen talking to students; her facial expressions telling it all. When students have erred, you’ll hear “What is this?” or “Before you come in here, you’ll have to pull that skirt down.” She will walk a mile to tell young men to pull up their pants.



Dr. Robinson is a Florida Hall of Fame nominee. She has served on the Viscaya Trust and Bethune Cookman Alumni. Her service at Florida Memorial University includes membership of Women’s History Month Committee, Assistant Advisor to the FMU Royal Court, and Teacher of the Year for Education at FMU. She is also very active in the community and is a member of Church of the Open Door United Church of Christ, Links of Dade County Chapter, Top Ladies of Distinction, JUGS (Justice, Unity Generosity and Service Inc.), Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, for which she has held state, local, and national offices. Presently Dr. Robinson serves as Director of Pre-Student Teaching & Field Services, and is advisor to Mu Mu Sorority Sigma Gamma Rho.

Dr. Robinson, is the mother of Lisa C. Wallace, a grandmother of five, and great-grandmother of one.

The Scoop

Announcements

From the Director of Assessment, Dr. Tamar Riley

The School of Education has received word from the Florida Department of Education that ALL of our 2010-2011 Teacher Education Program completers achieved a 100% PASS Rate on the Florida Teacher Certification Exams. These exams include the General Knowledge Test, Professional Exam, and Subject Area Exam. Way to go LIONS, you make us proud!

Birthdays Celebrated This Semester

February 15: Dr. Campbell

February 15: Mr. Ford

February 23: Mr. Henry

March 4: Ms. Smith

April 7: Dr. Riley

April 8: Dr. Mobley-Bellinger

April 22: Mrs. Katrenia Blue



SOE Summer Reading Institute (for DCPS teachers)

June 12 - 14, 2012

**16 Master Plan Points Awarded for
Full Attendance & Completion
of Follow-Up Activity**

*****FREE ADMISSION*****

***Pre-register on the Dade County Public
Schools' PD Menu & Registration System**

SOE Standing Committees

The following committees are charged with incorporating the SOE's core values as identified in the Mission Statement :

African-American Education Day:

Dr. Berry, Mrs. McKinney, Dr. Mobley-Bellinger

American Education Week:

Dr. Campbell, Mrs. Dobbs, Dr. Duren, Dr. Lawton, Mrs. McKinney

Black History Month Committee:

Dr. Abdoulaye, Dr. Bonenfant, Mr. Henry, Ms. Lewis, Dr. Mobley-Bellinger

Hispanic Heritage Committee:

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Homecoming:

Mrs. Dobbs, Dr. Jerome, Dr. Riley, Ms. Smith

Woman's History Month Committee:

Dr. Campbell, Mrs. Dobbs, Dr. Duren, Dr. Kirsch, Dr. T. Liu, Dr. Robinson, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Williams

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**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you
can use to change the world.”**

Nelson Mandela

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