



The Scoop

Florida Memorial University School of Education Newsletter

Volume I Issue I

March, 2012

From the Dean's Desk



As we get ready to move from good to great, we will continue to work hard to achieve our goals and we are looking forward to achieving great things.

Mildred E. Berry
Dean

This academic year marks a new beginning for all us and I am excited about the future as we move from good to great. We ended 2011 with the knowledge that we had finally received full State approval for all ten of our initial programs. Oh what a relief! Just think in 2014 we will need to do it again. While working on State approval, we were also heavily involved with assessment for SACS and spent long hours in "lock down" to complete our reports.

Under the direction of

Dr. Riley, and with the support of all faculty and staff, we were successful.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the hard work that was done in completing both the PAB Report and the Assessment Report.

Our graduates have done well and we salute Marlon Richardson and Markecia Baker who completed their internships in St. Thomas Virgin Islands and St. Parish Public School System near New Orleans, respectively.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S VISION

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

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Women's History Month

This first issue of our SOE Newsletter marks the celebration of Woman's History Month. Despite the barriers posed by gender discrimination and gender segregation of the past, the perseverance and commitment of generations of women have contributed significantly to humanity. March is Woman's History Month in honor of women's contributions in the arts and sciences, and their endeavors to create a better world for all.

The best judge of whether or not a country is going to develop is how it treats its women. If it's educating its girls, if women have equal rights, that country is going to move forward. But if women are oppressed and abused and illiterate, then they're going to fall behind.

~Barack Obama 2008

Celebrate Woman's History Month

2012 National Women's History Month Theme:
Women's Education – Women's Empowerment

Save the Date

In Honor of Women's History Month

Brunch with the Authors

Saturday, March 31, 2012

10: 00 A.M.

Recruitment Initiatives

One of the top priorities of the SOE is increasing our student numbers. Through the initiatives of Drs. Duren & Campbell, the SOE has established a recruitment relationship with Miami-Dade College (Inter-American Campus) where faculty continues to recruit students for our various graduate programs.

SOE faculty also established a relationship with North Miami Senior High (NMSH). On February 17th 2012, SOE participated in a Career Fair hosted by NMSH, where Dr. Yvonne Campbell & Dr. Jacques Bonenfant recruited students for our undergraduate programs.



Recruiting at Miami Dade College: Dr. Yvonne Campbell, Dr. Anna-Maria Jerome & Dr. Thelma Lawton

"Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success. "

~ Henry Ford

Alumni Reflections

As a child, I've always dreamed that I would someday make an excellent teacher. However, I didn't realize how great of an impact I could make on the lives of others until I actually entered the profession. It all began when I enrolled in Florida Memorial University's Education Program in 2006. I excelled in my studies and graduated with a 3.87 G.P.A. in December 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. In 2010, I decided to re-enter college to obtain my graduate degree. Once again, Florida Memorial was my college of choice. I enrolled in the reading program where I once again excelled in my studies and graduated with a 3.94 G.P.A. in December 2011 with a Master of Science in Reading.

My first teaching experience took place during my internship at Jessie J. McCrary Elementary where I taught 5th grade Science and Social Studies. The experience prepared me mentally and professionally for a promising career that would follow. I was initially hired at Parkview Elementary to teach Kindergarten (Dates of Attendance: 01/11 – 06/11). However, due to budget cuts, I was transferred to Lenora B. Smith Elementary where I am currently employed. My initial assignment at Lenora B. Smith was teaching Kindergarten. However, after a month of teaching, I was promoted to 3rd grade for doing such an exceptional job. I've attended several workshops to enhance my professional development while affording my students the best education possible. All of my hard work and determination has definitely paid off. I am still in my first year of teaching and overwhelmed with joy as I have been named Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Who said dreams don't come true?

Nneka Folk



Alumni Reflections

Latoya Porter



I started my journey in 2002 at Bethune Cookman College, majoring in elementary education. Being in college is hard in many ways, financially, academically, personally, socially, intellectually and physically. At one time or another, during my academic journey, those areas were challenging. Like most students I questioned why I was trying so hard to receive a college degree at that point in my life. In 2006 I reached breaking point! I realized that moving back home, where I had support from both my family and my friends, was the best decision. Eager to complete my journey I applied to the GREAT Florida Memorial University and am proud to say, I started to fulfill my goals. While maintaining a 3.6 G.P.A, I earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with Reading/ESOL endorsement in December, 2010. I also had the honor of being recognized as the "Most Outstanding Student" in the Department of Education.

On January 26, 2011 I obtained a fulltime job at Fredrick Douglass Elementary as kindergarten teacher. But God was not done with me! When I first decided to attend college, I never thought of graduate school. However, as I got older, I unexpectedly developed a stronger interest in education. I was very apprehensive about starting graduate school and needed help not only academically but also personally. At times, I didn't think that I was going to make it but the wonderful and dedicated professors in the School of Education gave me the support, encouragement and confidence I needed to succeed. Within a year I earned my Masters degree in Elementary Education in December, 2012. The program's intimacy and superior instruction prepared me for life in the classroom. The School of Education provided me with a repository of knowledge and the competencies necessary to understand students.

I was recently named 2011-2012 "Rookie Teacher of the Year" by my peers at Frederick Douglass Elementary. As an affirmed believer in God, I always state that "I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence, I can reach for; perfection is God's business" (as quoted by Michael J. Fox).

Alumni Reflections

I have been an elementary school teacher for nine years. I was born in St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands and raised here in Miami, Florida by my mother and father. I graduated from Miami Carol City Senior High School with honors and then moved to Tallahassee, Florida to attend Florida A&M University where I graduated with honors, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. I started teaching in Tallahassee, Florida at W.T. Moore Elementary School, an A+ school, where I learned a lot. My family and I decided to move back to Miami, Florida in October, 2007 where I taught kindergarten at Skyway Elementary School. During the following year, I became a part of the Eagle's family at Myrtle Grove Elementary School, where I currently teach Kindergarten.

Shauna Graham



I'm also a proud graduate of the prestigious Florida Memorial University, graduating with honors with a Master's Degree in Reading Education. I am a member of the Florida Memorial Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society, the Alpha Upsilon Alpha Honor Society of the International Reading Association, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. I believe in hard work and in definitely setting an example for my own children and the students I work with every day. I believe that prayer can move mountains and that with God, all things are possible. I feel a great deal of pride in coming back home and teaching in my childhood neighborhood and absolutely love being a part of the Myrtle Grove Family.

It is truly an honor to be Teacher of the Year for the 2011-2012 school-year. I would like to say thank you sincerely to my Myrtle Grove Elementary School family and my Florida Memorial University Family. Go Tigers (and Lions)!!!

Alumni Reflections

Diane Alexander

I interned at Dr. Edward L. Whigham Primary Learning Center. Upon successful completion of my internship, I earned my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree from Florida Memorial University. My past classroom experience includes teaching second grade at Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center (2007), and fifth grade at South Dade Middle Leadership Academy from 2008-2011. I currently teach at South Dade Middle Leadership Academy. Being selected *Teacher of the Year* at South Dade Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year is a testimony to the education that I received at Florida Memorial University. As I look back over my days in college, those individuals who made a tremendous impact on me, as student teacher, were Dr. Berry and Mrs. Brown. The manner in which I carry myself as a teacher has been influenced by both of them.

Rolando Hallmon

I taught 3rd grade Science, Social Studies (for two years), and Math (for one year) at Lillie C. Evans Elementary. In addition, I taught 5th Grade Reading for half a year at Hubert O. Sibley Elementary. At Hubert O Sibley Elementary, I inherited a class that had five teachers in four months. I realized after my observation of the students that they required a different way of delivering the lessons. I implemented a game called Reading Challenge which allowed the students to learn reading in a different and exciting way. I was honored for my students' achievement at our end-of-the-year luncheon. I was also nominated Rookie Teacher of the Year at Lillie C. Evans Elementary for the 2009-2010 school-year and was then nominated Teacher of the Year at the same school for the 2010-2011 school-year. In addition, I have been nominated Teacher of the Year for the 2011-2012 school-year at my present school, Comstock Elementary. I believe "that to whom much is given, much is expected," and when we as educators help our students gain the knowledge and skills they need to make it in this ever-changing world, we have done what is expected of us.

Evelyn Lawrence

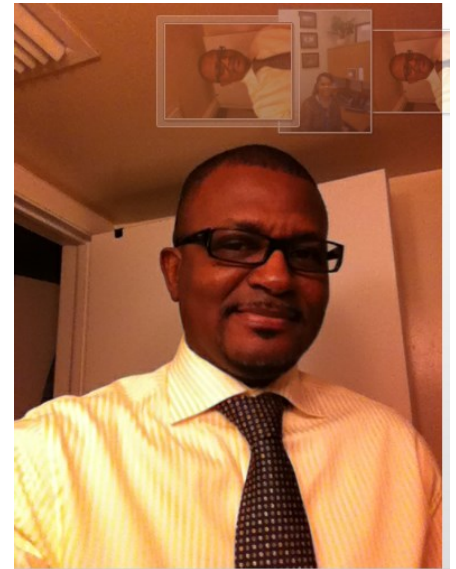
My career as an educator started at Dr. E. L. Whigham Elementary where I was an intern in a first-grade class. Upon successful completion, I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. My core experience in education began at Colonial Drive Elementary where I taught a K-1 combination class and a first-grade class for 2 years. I have taught Kindergarten at Goulds Elementary for the past 5 years. As a Kindergarten Teacher, I've learned to be firm with students in the beginning, but later show them love. In 2007, I was nominated Rookie Teacher of the Year and was named Teacher of the Year for the 2011-2012 school-year. Along with being an educator, I am also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., International Mason, and the order of the Eastern Stars where I mentor young girls and serve during holiday events for the community. In my down time, I can be caught indulging in one of my favorite pastimes, reading Triple Crown Productions Books (especially those written by Terry Woods) and attending Miami Heat Games. During the week, you can also find me lending a hand at my family's Drycleaners.

Faculty Focus

Idriss Abdoulaye, Ph.D.

Dr. Idriss Abdoulaye was born in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. Idriss first came to the U.S. from the beautiful continent of Africa to U.C Berkeley (in California) as an exchange student. He returned to the U.S. to pursue a Master's degree in English Linguistics/ESOL at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Idriss decided to further his education and received his PH.D in Language, Reading and Culture from the University of Arizona.

Idriss made a conscious decision to seek out and teach at an HBCU where he believed he could make a difference in the lives of young Black men and women seeking higher education. In August of 2004, Idriss received an offer from Florida Memorial University and was convinced, after his visit to the campus, that becoming a roaring lion was the right thing to do and accepted the position. He came on board as an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Reading Program. As a result of his hard work and dedication to the University, Idriss was asked to serve as the Coordinator of the Graduate Program from 2008 to 2010.



In 2008 he became the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Director and currently combines that role with that of Faculty Development Coordinator. Idriss is Associate Professor of Reading, and teaches courses in clinical reading (Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading Disabilities; Supervised Practicum in Reading; Administration and Supervision of Reading Programs). He also serves on the SACS Leadership Team known as “Team 208.”

Faculty Focus

Jacques L. Bonenfant, Ph.D.

Dr. Jacques L. Bonenfant holds a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics from Florida Atlantic University, a Master's degree in TESOL and an Educational Specialist degree from Nova Southeastern University and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Union Institute University. His doctoral dissertation has been published in the Library of Congress Database and in the Union Institute University Database Research Library.



Dr. Bonenfant obtained professional membership of TESOL International Association and SATESOL. He is also a member of various civic organizations including the NAACP. His plan of research places emphasis on kemetite civilization, Linguistics, culturally responsive pedagogy, Education, Sociology and Anthropology. Dr. Bonenfant is a polyglot who has developed fluency in four languages (Haitian-Creole, French, English and Spanish). His effective linguistic ability and intercultural competence and diverse background allows him to integrate culturally responsive pedagogy into his curriculum when educating learners from diverse backgrounds.

Dr. Bonenfant has published numerous French journal articles in Center for Strategic and Multicultural Studies (CSMS) Magazine. He was honored as Teacher of the Year in 2004 and received the Service Award of the year in 2011 at Florida Memorial University. He received numerous certificates from Florida Memorial University Faculty Senate Conference for his research presentations. He was nominated as an Executive Editorial Board and Reviewer Task Panel for Intellectbase Consortium. Dr. Bonenfant has also presented scholarly papers in Nashville and Daytona Beach. He was nominated as an Executive Editorial Board and Reviewer Task Panel for Intellectbase Consortium. Dr. Bonenfant has presented scholarly papers in Nashville and Daytona Beach. One of his scholarly journal articles entitled History of Haitian-Creole from Lingua Franca to Pidgin and English Influence on the Language was published in the Review of Higher Education and Self –Learning, volume 4, Issue 11, Intellectbase. His last scholarly paper is accepted by the Peer Review Intellectbase Consortium for an oral presentation in Bangkok, Thailand on March 15-17, 2012 and recommended for publication. Dr. Bonenfant's novel manuscript is accepted for national and international publication at Trafford Publishing. He has already published various poetry books and novels in French.

Dr. Bonenfant is a native of the First Black Republic in the Western Hemisphere. He married NadYah S. Bonenfant and is a proud and responsible father of two children (Ibrahim and Maika Sheba Amal Makkeda Bonenfant).

Staff Focus

PRISCILLA ADAMS-DOBBS, M.S.

Priscilla Adams- Dobbs, is a native of Miami and a product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. After high school, she continued her studies in Miami, receiving her B.S. Degree from Florida Memorial College (University). Ms.Adams-Dobbs started at Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a teacher. Shortly after beginning her career, she pursued a M.S. Degree in Elementary Education with specialization in Reading, from Nova Southeastern University. Ms.Adams-Dobbs later did post graduate work at Barry University and Florida International University completing her certification in Educational Leadership.

Her career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools spans over 34 years. Mrs.Adams-Dobbs worked in many capacities at the school, region and district levels. She worked 19 years in Title I Administration where she spearheaded programs such as *The Satellite Parent Resource Centers (SPERC)* and *The Parent Involvement Program*. She was also instrumental in the *Development of the Community Involvement Specialists (CIS)* and the development of the *Parent Advisory Council (PAC)*.

Mrs.Adams-Dobbs has presented at many local, state, and national conferences. She is an outstanding motivational speaker and has inspired and encouraged countless students, parents, and community members. She is presently working at her Alma Mater, Florida Memorial University, as the Director of Educational Internship where she continues to motivate and inspire prospective teachers. Ms.Adams-Dobbs is an exemplary educator, public servant, and community leader.



She is and has served on several committees at the university i.e., Convocation, President's Inauguration, Advisor to the Royal Court, Women's History, and Food Service, just to name a few.

She is very active in various community organizations. Some of the organizations she is involved with are Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Dade County Chapter of the Links, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa International, American Association of Curriculum Development (ASCD), and she is a past YWCA Board of Director Member.

Ms.Adams-Dobbs, is the mother of Priscilla Rashida Dobbs, and widow of Dr. David H. Dobbs, Jr.

SOE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Since 2005, the School of Education has been successfully graduating candidates from our innovative graduate programs. Our newest program, Computer Education Technology (CET), graduated its first class in May 2011 with eleven graduates! With the addition of the CET program, the School of Education now offers four fast-paced programs to assist full-time teachers in receiving their degrees in approximately one year. The graduate faculty have been working diligently to create new opportunities in course delivery as well as meeting the demands of program interest. Several of our programs have created hybrid courses to reduce in-class time while maintaining a dynamic learning culture expected for all of our programs. Additionally, two programs have restructured to allow for open enrollment to facilitate candidate program entry at any semester and one program offers a multiple cohort model to support a fall and spring program entry. We would love to share more information about our four graduate programs:

- Computer Education Technology
- Elementary Education
- Exceptional Student Education
- Reading

For information regarding requirements as well as details about our innovative programs, please contact Dr. Riley at (305) 626-3164 or tamar.riley@fmuniv.edu



Dr. Tamar F. Riley, Director of Graduate Programs and Assessment

Save the Date

SOE Graduate Research Conference
Tuesday, May 1, 2012
6:00 P.M.— 8:00 P.M.

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