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Meeting of the Waters: The Making of a Great River

Robert Meade spent decades studying rivers for the U.S. Geological Survey, and he calls them “the greatest hydrologic spectacle on the planet.”¹ The birthing of the Amazon River at the Meeting of the Waters (Encontro das Aguas) is where he estimates that “Six Mississippi’s worth of cafe-au-lait-colored water are converging . . . with two Mississippi’s worth of black-tea-colored water . . . a volume of water at least a dozen times greater than the total of the water falling over the Niagara, Iguassu, and Victoria Falls combined.”²

The warmer, slower Rio Negro is nearly sediment-free. The faster, denser Rio Solimões carries sediment harvested during its more-than-18,000-foot descent from the Andes. When they meet east of Manaus, Brazil, they remain distinct, running side-by-side within the same channel for miles. The difference in temperature, density, and speed eventually churn the two into one river—the greatest on earth, discharging some seven million cubic feet of water per second into the Atlantic Ocean. On a recent visit to Brazil, I saw for myself how the two rivers run side-by-side. I also saw an unexpected and fanciful surprise: a pink river dolphin!

After almost 43 years with THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION, Beverly Robinson-Rumble will turn over the helm of the English edition to Faith-Ann McGarrell. During these years, Beverly has worked with authors to infuse the JOURNAL with pedagogical wealth from the peaks and tributaries of the world. She has garnered 13 awards and finalist designations for the publication from what is now the Association of American Publishers. More importantly, she has managed a flow of ideas that continues to nourish the length and breadth of Adventist education. Educators, schools, and students have been blessed through her work with the JOURNAL.

During her tenure, we have also learned about her love of butterflies and her photographic skills, which are every bit as good as her editing (see her prize-winning article “Creating a Butterfly Garden at Your School”³). Alongside the articles on teaching and learning and classroom management that one might expect for the JOURNAL, such an

article was as delightful as seeing a pink dolphin.

It’s hard to imagine the JOURNAL without Beverly—or prepublication manuscripts without her well-placed editing marks. Fortunately, she has agreed to work side-by-side with Faith-Ann through the summer and even do some editing thereafter. We salute Beverly for her unstinting efforts that have made THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION the great professional publication that it is. She leaves with our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for a much-deserved retirement. We also thank her husband, Lynn, who has tirelessly supported the work of the JOURNAL all these years.

You will come to know the new editor, but a brief introduction is in order. Dr. Faith-Ann McGarrell has taught at the primary, secondary, and tertiary level. Her doctorate is in curriculum and instruction, and she has experience with traditional and online education modalities. As a faculty member in the School of Education at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, she supervises student teachers and has served on doctoral dissertation committees. Dr. McGarrell has undergraduate and graduate degrees in English, and hails from the “land of many waters,” Guyana, South America. She has published and presented in the areas of academic service-learning, reflective practices in teaching writing, and approaches to teaching writing.

For me and my colleagues in the Department of Education, it’s a bittersweet moment. The JOURNAL is losing a dear and trusted friend, but her legacy continues in what the JOURNAL has become because of her. We look for good things to come. Please join us in saying farewell to Beverly and welcome to Faith-Ann!



Beverly Robinson-Rumble



Faith-Ann McGarrell

REFERENCES

1. “Meeting of the Waters: Image of the Day” (September 7, 2012): <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=79111>. Accessed February 25, 2014.
2. Ibid.
3. February/March 2009, pages 26-29: <http://circle.adventist.org/files/jae/en/jae200971032604.pdf>.