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of Florida's education system



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Developmental Research School  
*at the University of Florida*

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# Contents

## Reflections on 2014-2015

- Leading the Way
- Fast Facts
- Honoring Our Past
- Our Graduates
- By the Numbers

## The Year in Review 2014-2015

- Athletics
- Performing and Fine Arts
- Clubs, Awards, Internships, and Exchanges
- Research, Outreach, and Partnerships
- Renovations and Replacements
- National and International Spotlights
- New Course Offerings
- Faculty Accolades
- Staff

## Looking Ahead to 2015-2016

- School Facilities
- Leadership 2014-15



## Reflections on 2014-15

At P.K. Yonge, we dedicate ourselves to knowing and supporting each learner as an individual. We strive to provide differentiated instruction in every course with the knowledge that students' areas of strength and need may vary. With our mission in mind, we work collaboratively to examine our instructional practices and commit ourselves to improving our students' educational experiences.

Beginning fall 2014, eleven secondary teachers collaborated to investigate and test practices associated with standards-based grading. These teachers hypothesized that current grading practices disrupt students' focus on learning and emphasize activities that may not always result in mastery of concepts and skills. Together, these teachers tested and analyzed the impact of new methods for calculating course grades. Their intent was to provide individualized feedback focused on learning goals to ensure greater learning opportunities for all students.

In the first year of a three-year collaborative inquiry, P.K. Yonge teachers learned much about the unintended impact of participation grades — masking student need for more challenging content and inhibiting a teacher's ability to identify students in need of more learning support. Teachers learned that once participation grades are eliminated, more accurate information regarding student mastery of learning goals is available to teachers, parents, and students. Teachers also identified that individual feedback and coaching has a much greater impact on student learning and mastery than grades.

The standards-based grading project is another way that we focus our work on supporting all learners. Work undertaken in the 2014-15 school year lays groundwork for improved outcomes for all students for years to come.

## OUR MISSION

P.K. Yonge's mission is to design, test, and disseminate best practices in K12 education through serving a diverse student community.





## Leading *the* Way

After successfully piloting the use of Chromebooks in several classrooms toward the end of 2014-15, P.K. Yonge will be making a bold move during the 2015-2016 school year to further our use of technology to support teaching and learning. Beginning fall 2015 we will provide each student in 6th and 9th grades with a Chromebook as a personal learning device; spring semester all 7th, 8th, and 10th grade students will be issued a personal device.

Over the past several years, we have taken steps to creatively integrate digital resources to supplement our cutting-edge, face-to-face teaching practices. We have strategically promoted and offered summer professional learning and curriculum development opportunities for our teachers to redesign courses to blend digital and face-to-face classroom teaching and learning activities. We are fortunate that our state legislators have prioritized funding to support digital classrooms and that the University of Florida has assisted with increasing our internet speed and bandwidth and updating the wireless access points on our campus.

As a K12 developmental research school serving randomly selected students that mirror the student demographic profile in our state, we are charged with preparing students for their lives beyond school. Technology offers us the opportunity to deliver content in a more creative and interactive manner, which not only helps to meet the needs of all learners, but also prepares students for the technology-rich world into which they will graduate.

## Fast Facts: P.K. Yonge DRS 2014-15

P.K. Yonge class of 2015 graduates were accepted to 69 universities and colleges throughout the nation.

In 2014-15 P.K. Yonge ranked

- in the top 10% of the US News and World Report High School Ranking List
- in the top 3% of the Washington Post America's Most Challenging High Schools

87 conference presentations (61 local, 15 state, 8 national, 3 international) were made by P.K. Yonge faculty and administrators.

P.K. Yonge was awarded a \$50,000 Active Learning Center Grant from Steelcase Education in partnership with the UF College of Education and College of Design, Construction & Planning.

Planning began in 2014-15 for a 1:1 personal digital device initiative for 6th and 9th grades for the coming school year. Pilot classrooms were set up with Chromebooks and systems were tested in 2014-15 with promising results.



P.K. Yonge was first integrated in 1965. In 2014-15 P.K. Yonge proudly celebrated 50 years of diversity. Events in this celebratory series were characterized by alumni returning to school to share their life experiences, offer advice to current students, and share their own experiences as P.K. Yonge students.

We are grateful to the many participants in 50 Years of Diversity events for taking the time to connect with our students today. We thank Larry McDaniel, Vivian Cook, Joyce Cosby, Arnett Hall, Barbara Jackson Williamson, Terry Jackson, Karen O'Quinn, Kiwana Buie, Wantanisha Morant, Kelly McGill, Dawn Girtman, and (our own) Coach Willie Powers.

## P.K. Yonge's Past Supports Our Future

Many opportunities for students and faculty are possible thanks to the financial and hands-on support of our generous alumni, emeritus faculty, and retired staff. (See the announcement about the new P.K. Yonge Globalization Fund)

A sampling of activities supported by P.K. Yonge alumni and friends during the 2014-15 school year:

- Professional development activities for faculty including the Harvard Institute for Leading 21st Century High Schools, the Buck Institute Project-based Learning Conference, and the Haitian American Caucus for Haitian Teacher Training
- Alumni Activities — 50 Years of Diversity events, All School Reunion
- Re-branding and logo development, support for fundraising and the P.K. Yonge capital campaign
- Student Activities:
  - Travel to national competitions for student clubs
  - Band instruments
  - Enrichment programs
  - Materials to support new student programs
  - Computers, iPads, projectors, document cameras for the arts program
  - Musical and drama productions
  - College scholarships
  - International travel scholarships — China, Spain
- School spirit
- Club sponsorships



# Our Graduates

There is much to be celebrated for our 113 graduates in the Class of 2015. This graduating class is characterized by hard work in academics and a commitment to a wide range of extracurricular activities. A total of 67 scholarships were awarded to our 2015 seniors, including 30 Bright Futures scholarships, 29 academic scholarships, and 8 athletic scholarships for swimming, volleyball, cross country, women's basketball, softball, and soccer.

We congratulate Class of 2015 salutatorian Dominique Erney on being accepted to Harvard University with a \$215,000 Harvard Faculty Scholarship and a \$16,000 National Merit Scholarship. Dominique, a P.K. Yonge 'lifer', is a dedicated student who engaged in many school-related activities. She completed 150 hours of community service and participated in the vocal ensemble; key club; school musical theatre productions; student government; Students Against Drunk Driving; and was named to the National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society.



P.K. Yonge's 2015 graduates were accepted to:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College | 24. Georgetown University              | 47. Southeastern University                     |
| 2. Adrian College                       | 25. Georgia Institute of Technology    | 48. St. Andrews University                      |
| 3. Auburn University                    | 26. Hampshire College                  | 49. St. John's River State College              |
| 4. Benedict College                     | 27. Hampton University                 | 50. Stetson University                          |
| 5. Bentley University                   | 28. Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College   | 51. Thomas University                           |
| 6. Brandeis University                  | 29. Harvard University                 | 52. University of California-Davis              |
| 7. Brigham Young University             | 30. Hillsborough Community College     | 53. University of California-Merced             |
| 8. Columbia University                  | 31. Jacksonville University            | 54. University of California-San Diego          |
| 9. College of Central Florida           | 32. Johnson and Wales University       | 55. University of Central Florida               |
| 10. Emerson College                     | 33. Kennesaw State University          | 56. University of Florida*                      |
| 11. Emory University                    | 34. Mary Baldwin                       | 57. University of Maryland                      |
| 12. Edward Waters College               | 35. Methodist University               | 58. University of Memphis                       |
| 13. Flagler College                     | 36. Miami Dade College                 | 59. University of Miami                         |
| 14. Florida A & M University            | 37. Michigan State                     | 60. University of Mississippi                   |
| 15. Florida Atlantic University         | 38. Morehouse College                  | 61. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| 16. Florida Gulf Coast University       | 39. Mount Holyoke College              | 62. University of North Florida                 |
| 17. Florida Keys Community College      | 40. North Carolina Wesleyan University | 63. University of South Florida                 |
| 18. Florida International University    | 41. Purdue University                  | 64. University of Washington                    |
| 19. Florida Polytechnic University      | 42. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute   | 65. University of West Florida                  |
| 20. Florida State College               | 43. Rollins College                    | 66. Valencia College                            |
| 21. Florida State University            | 44. Santa Fe College                   | 67. Virginia Tech                               |
| 22. Florida Southern College            | 45. Savannah College                   | 68. Wesleyan College                            |
| 23. Full Sail University                | 46. Simmons College                    | 69. Wilmington College                          |



\*26 students  
were accepted  
to the University  
of Florida!

# By the Numbers

During the 2014-15 school year students successfully completed their first year of Florida Standard Assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts, which replaced assessments known as FCAT and FCAT 2.0. In addition, students demonstrated their learning through statewide End of Course assessments in 7th grade Civics, U.S. History, Biology, Geometry, Algebra 1, and Algebra 2.

Math	2012-13	2013-14
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	79	79
State – satisfactory performance	58	61

Math – FSA (grades 3-8)	2014-15
Top Quartile	31
3rd Quartile	30
2nd Quartile	23
Bottom Quartile	16

Science	Grade	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	5th	52	54	48
	8th	70	59	73
State – satisfactory performance	5th	43	54	58
	8th	47	49	48

\*This administration of ELA FSA includes reading and writing for grades 4-10 and reading for grade 3.

The Florida State Board of Education will determine passing scores for the new assessments in January 2016. On these pages you will find the percentage of P.K. Yonge students at each quartile as compared to all students in the state completing the same assessment. At this point we know that overall, P.K. Yonge student performance exceeds state performance.

Reading	2012-13	2013-14
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	79	72
State – satisfactory performance	59	58

English Language Arts* Replaces FCAT Reading and Writing (Grades 3-10)	2014-15
Top Quartile	36
3rd Quartile	31
2nd Quartile	22
Bottom Quartile	11

## Course Enrollments in STEM

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are critical skill areas for the future. The growing success of P.K. Yonge’s efforts to develop a “STEM Pipeline” is evidenced by enrollment increases in STEM courses as reported in the table shown.

Most importantly to P.K. Yonge as a developmental research school, these increases are accomplished while maintaining our diverse, lottery-based student population that reflects the student demographics of the state of Florida. This year’s increases of note are in Chemistry (56%), AP Environmental Science (205%), AP Calculus AB (126%), and Introduction to Information Technology (77%). Overall, the 2014-15 school year resulted in an 8% increase in STEM enrollment from the 2013-14 school year and a 119% increase over the past five years.

Student Enrollments in STEM Courses				
School Year	Mathematics	Science	Tech/Eng	Total
2010-2011	200	259	14	473
2011-2012	251	248	11	510
2012-2013	250	247	28	525
2013-2014	484	364	67	955
2014-2015	517	445	75	1037

## State High School End-of-Course Exams

Algebra 1	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
8th Graders 3+	100%	99	100
9th Graders 3+	76%	85	83
All Grades 3+	89%	94	96
State Average 3+ (Spring Session)	58%	64	66

Biology	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
9th Graders 3+	82	93	95
10th Graders 3+	61	N/A	N/A
All Grades 3+	75	93	95
State Average 3+ (Spring Session)	59	67	68

Geometry	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
9th Graders 3+	100	100	99
10th Graders 3+	86	78	86
All Grades 3+	93	89	94
State Average 3+ (Spring Session)	56	64	64

US History	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
11th Graders	N/A	86	78
All Grades	N/A	85	80
State Average 3+ (Spring Session)	N/A	57	65

Civics*	Higher 33%	Middle 33%	Lower 33%
7th Graders	58	30	12
State Average 3+ (Spring Session)	35	32	33

\* 2013-14 was the first administration of the Civics exam. Scores were reported in thirds.

\*\* 2014-15 was the second administration of Civics exam. Scores were reported as achievement levels.

FSA Algebra 1 EOC	2014-15
Top Quartile	15
3rd Quartile	38
2nd Quartile	28
Bottom Quartile	19

Biology EOC	2014-15
9th Graders 3+	83%
10th Graders 3+	N/A
All Grades 3+	83%
State Average 3+ (9th grade Spring Session)	79%

FSA Geometry EOC	2014-15
Top Quartile	48%
3rd Quartile	36%
2nd Quartile	11%
Bottom Quartile	5%

US History EOC	2014-15
11th Graders 3+	90%
All Grades	N/A
State Average 3+ (Spring Session)	67%

Civics EOC**	2014-15
7th Graders 3+	86%
State Average (Spring Session)	65%

## Advanced Placement Results

Enrollment in AP courses for the 2014-15 school year remained steady while numbers in achievement categories increased. Sixteen AP courses were offered in high school in a wide range of subject areas, from Language Arts to Calculus, Statistics to Human Geography. We continue to investigate possibilities for broadening the range of courses offered and diversifying student participation.

Scores	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of AP students	182	201	217	216
Number of students with passing scores	102	128	133	138
Percentage of students with passing scores	56%	64%	63%	64%

Advanced Placement	2014-15
<b>AP School Scholars</b> Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams	31
<b>AP Scholars with Honor</b> Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams	10
<b>AP Scholars with Distinction</b> Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams	23
<b>National AP Scholar</b> Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on five or more of these exams	3

# The Year *in* Review 2014-2015

## Athletics

Our athletics program continues to be a source of school pride. The recognition of our program is the result of hard work and dedication from our coaches and athletes, and support and commitment from families who devote time, resources, and energy to P.K. Yonge athletics. All of this work results in a quality program that supports the development of great young men and women.

### 2014-15 Athletic Accomplishments:

- District Championships — Volleyball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Swimming, Boys Cross Country, and Boys Track and Field
- Regional Semi-finalists — Boys Basketball
- Regional Finalists — Girls Basketball
- State Champion — Track and Field Triple Jump
- State Championship — Volleyball
- Class 4 A Miss Volleyball — Jac'cara Walker (nominated)
- Coach of the Year — Chad Davis (Volleyball)

### Program Awards:

- Florida Athletic Coaches Association Carey E. McDonald Award (4A) — Presented to the high school in each classification achieving the highest degree of success in athletics during the 2014-15 school year

- FHSAA Class 4A Public Athletic Program of the Year — Presented in recognition of the most successful high school athletic program in each classification in the State of Florida
- FHSAA Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All Sports Award 2014-2015 — Awarded to the best overall program in each classification based on the success of both boys' and girls' teams

## Performing and Fine Arts

The quality of our Performing Arts and Fine Art programs is underscored by each concert, show, performance, and exhibition. We are fortunate to have talented, creative faculty who encourage and challenge our students to perform and create at a high standard.

### 2014-15 P.K. Yonge Performing Arts and Fine Arts Accomplishments:

- 7 students participated in the All State Chorus (2 elementary, 3 middle, 2 high)
- Women's Ensemble competed at Festival Disney receiving Superior Ratings, Best in Class Award, and a Bronze Mickey
- Marching band placed 8th in the state
- Two students from the P.K. Thespian Troupe participated in the State Thespians Conference
- Spring musical West Side Story was a hit!
- Art Portfolio students exhibited their work at the University of Florida Harn Museum of Art







## Clubs, Awards, Internships, and Exchanges!

P.K. Yonge students are characterized by the wide range of activities in which they participate each year. In addition to academics, students participate in extracurricular activities that broaden their school and life experiences, and bring recognition to our school.

The P.K. Yonge Roaring Riptide FIRST Robotics Team #4118 won the nationally competitive Orlando Regional Competition and received the Gracious Professionalism Award for assisting a team in crisis. The team competed in the World Championship in St. Louis, formed an alliance, and competed in the quarterfinals. Team #4118 ended the year in 11th place out of 75 highly competitive robots in the World division. To add to the team's accomplishments, president Logan Hickox was named to the FRC Dean's List — one of 20 winners from around the world.

Two high school Odyssey of the Mind teams competed at the World Final at Michigan State and finished 9th and 27th out of close to 60 highly competitive teams from across the country and around the world. Six students qualified to compete in the National Speech and Debate contest in Ft. Lauderdale.

With more than 157,000 students participating in the National Spanish Exams in 2015, P.K. Yonge students performed to a very high standard — our students earned 4 gold, 21 silver, and 12 bronze medals. They also added 32 honorable mentions to the 36 medals they brought home from state competitions.

Seventeen seniors completed executive internships 2014-15. This opportunity, unique to P.K. Yonge, provides students with real world experiences in a broad range of work environments. Our 2014-15 work place sponsors, to whom we are indebted, included: Newberry Animal Hospital, Milam Funeral Home, Veterans Health Administration, Alachua County Humane Society, University of Florida College of Medicine, Emerging Pathogens Institute, USDA Wildlife Services, University of Florida Fisheries, Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, UF Health/Shands Hospital, Expressions Learning Academy, Alachua County Public Defender's Office, Girls Place, Gainesville Prosthetics, Keith Watson Events, Flower Pot Bakery, Frankel Media Group, and the Orthopedic Institute.

Our Chinese partners visited again in the fall of 2014 and P.K. Yonge students and faculty made a return visit to Nanjing in the Spring of 2015. This year, 23 students from the Nanjing Experimental International School (NJEIS) and three faculty spent 5 days at P.K. Yonge gaining a deeper understanding of our school community and American culture. Our visitors spent time in St. Augustine, participated in classes on campus with Coach Kelly Barrett, Ms. Melanie Harris, and Mr. Cody Miller. They visited the Florida Museum of Natural History and spent time with P.K. Yonge students and families. Our students and families made global connections and friends that change how they think and view their place in the world. In March 2015 nine P.K. Yonge students traveled to China and were profoundly impacted by their visit to NJEIS, and weekend stays with Chinese families. For more information and notes from the journey visit: <http://pkyglobal.pkyonge.ufl.edu/>.

# The Year *in* Review 2014-2015

## Research, Outreach, and Partnerships

As we support P.K. Yonge's 1155 students on campus, we also carry out our legislated mission to research, design, implement, and share best practices from our classrooms with other educators, both on our campus and beyond. These practices are shared with the professional education community through outreach activities designed as professional learning opportunities for educators throughout the state and nation.

### Research: Inquiries, Investigations, and Innovations

For more than 10 years P.K. Yonge faculty have engaged in Teacher Inquiry. This long standing partnership between P.K. Yonge faculty member Mickey MacDonald, and internationally recognized UF College of Education professor Dr. Nancy Dana, has resulted in strengthening the culture of teacher research among the faculty at P.K. Yonge.

Teacher Inquiry is a practice integral to the mission of developmental research schools and serves as a model of school-based research undertaken by teachers in their classrooms. In 2014-15 the one-teacher-one-project model of Teacher Inquiry changed dramatically with a rise in the number of collaborative inquiry projects, the largest an 11-member collaborative inquiry group investigating standards-based grading in a variety of grade levels and disciplines. This collaborative project model expands the reach of a single project outside the bounds of a single classroom experience and offers many opportunities for sharing outcomes beyond the confines of one classroom and even one campus. In an effort to further extend the impact of Teacher Inquiry, the 2014-15 inquiry cycle was incorporated into K-12 faculty meetings where all faculty collaborated and provided input on projects taking place during the 14-15 school year. For more Teacher Inquiry project and presentation details (2011-2015) see: <http://inquireinvestigateinnovate.pkyonge.ufl.edu>.

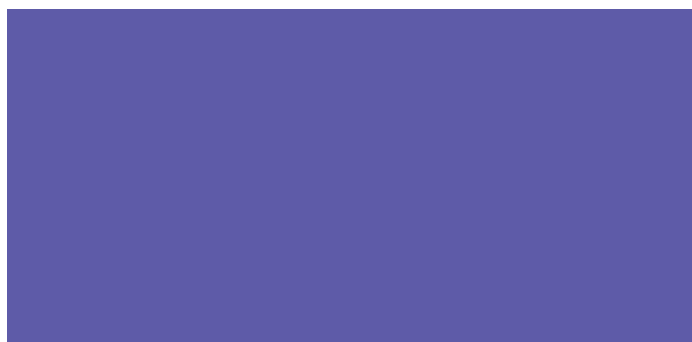
### Outreach

Outreach events hosted at P.K. Yonge are designed to share the work taking place on our school campus, and include workshops, lesson studies, customized programs, and informational tours. P.K. Yonge's professional learning events are one way Florida's developmental research schools provide leadership, guidance, and support to Florida's schools: (<http://outreach.pkyonge.ufl.edu>).

During the 2014-15 school year, P.K. Yonge's outreach activities were attended by more than 500 educators and 25 school districts. In addition to face-to-face events, initial efforts were made to extend the reach of our work into the online arena by live-streaming portions of professional learning workshops. Outreach areas of focus in 2014-15 included Digital Classrooms and Blended Learning, Writing and the Florida Standards, Inquiry-based Science, Connecting Teacher Observation to Collaborative Literacy, and Multi-tiered System of Supports. In addition to large events, smaller groups from across the nation and around the world were hosted on our campus. This year, we welcomed and shared our work with groups from California, Colorado, Belize, China, Israel, and New Zealand.

For the second time, P.K. Yonge hosted the annual Developmental Research Schools Best Practices Drive-in Conference in partnership with Florida's other three laboratory schools. In June 2015, close to 200 educators from around the state of Florida attended 30 sessions, many of which were led by P.K. Yonge teachers sharing their work carried out during the 2014-15 school year. Topics included: Digital Portfolios, Questioning Strategies, Vocabulary and Critical Thinking, Using Chromebooks, Standards-based Grading, and more. For more details: <http://drsdrivein.pkyonge.ufl.edu>.

Another means by which P.K. Yonge faculty members share their work is by presenting at state, national, and international conferences. In 2014-15, P.K. Yonge faculty members gave 87 conference presentations — 61 local, 15 state, 8 national, and 3 international. These events are opportunities to share findings and to learn from others committed to improving education for all children.







## Partnerships

P.K. Yonge's partnerships with University of Florida researchers continue to focus on important educational questions of our time — critical issues in science education, intervention programs in early childhood education, assisting struggling male students in high school, improving math education, reading interventions, technology supported teaching and learning, and the influence of architecture and interior design on teaching and learning.

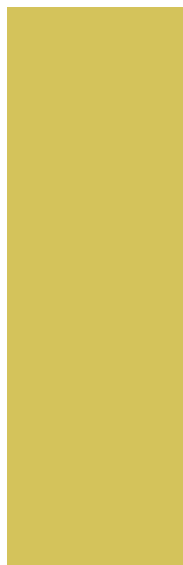
During the 2014-15 school year, P.K. Yonge engaged in 40 research projects on the school campus. The critical, ongoing partnership with the UF College of Education School Psychology program provides training for future school psychologists and contributes to the evolving research on our Multi-tiered System of Supports framework. This partnership, in addition to informing the work of school psychologists on our campus and around the state, has supported an \$800,000 leadership grant and 5 dissertations, and has produced 12 national conference presentations, 2 national and 2 state workshops, and 21 publications in the past year.

Our partnership with the non-profit Center for the Collaborative Classroom has expanded P.K. Yonge's reach and provides deep professional learning for our own faculty in elementary literacy. With the Center's support, participants

from three different states and six districts in Florida attended Research-in-Action days on our campus where P.K. Yonge faculty served as exemplars with deep knowledge of best practices in reading and writing.

UF partnerships combined with nonprofit and innovative curriculum providers support our continued focus on science and mathematics education. Implementation of the IQWST middle school science curriculum continues to demonstrate how inquiry-based approaches are critical for deep understanding of science. Our partnership with Dr. Rose Pringle (UF science education professor) as part of the U-FUTuRES grant (National Science Foundation MSP #1050166) continues to support our work with 11 school districts in Florida to transform 6th-8th grade science education. Dr. Tim Jacobbe (UF math education professor) continues his work with us focused on new ways of learning math and the implementation of the Investigations elementary math curriculum, and CMP3 (Connected Mathematics Plus, Third Edition) in grades 6-8.

These partnerships allow us to more effectively carry out our mission — to design, test, and disseminate innovations for K-12 education. Our partners bring expertise and perspectives that push us to work smarter and more creatively for the benefit of the students on our campus and beyond.





# Partnership *and* Project Spotlight — Steelcase Active Learning Center Grant

A collaborative research partnership between P.K. Yonge, Jason Meneely (Associate Professor, UF College of Design, Construction, and Planning) and Kara Dawson (Professor, UF College of Education) resulted in the receipt of a \$50,000 Steelcase Active Learning Center Grant. Funds from the grant refurbished an 11th Grade English Language Arts classroom with state-of-the-art furniture and technology. The research team, which includes Dawson, Meneely, and P.K. Yonge faculty member Eric Lemstrom, is investigating how furniture informs the optimal learning environment by supporting more active engagement with content and learning activities. The team hopes to generate new theories about active classrooms and high school experiences in the 21st century.

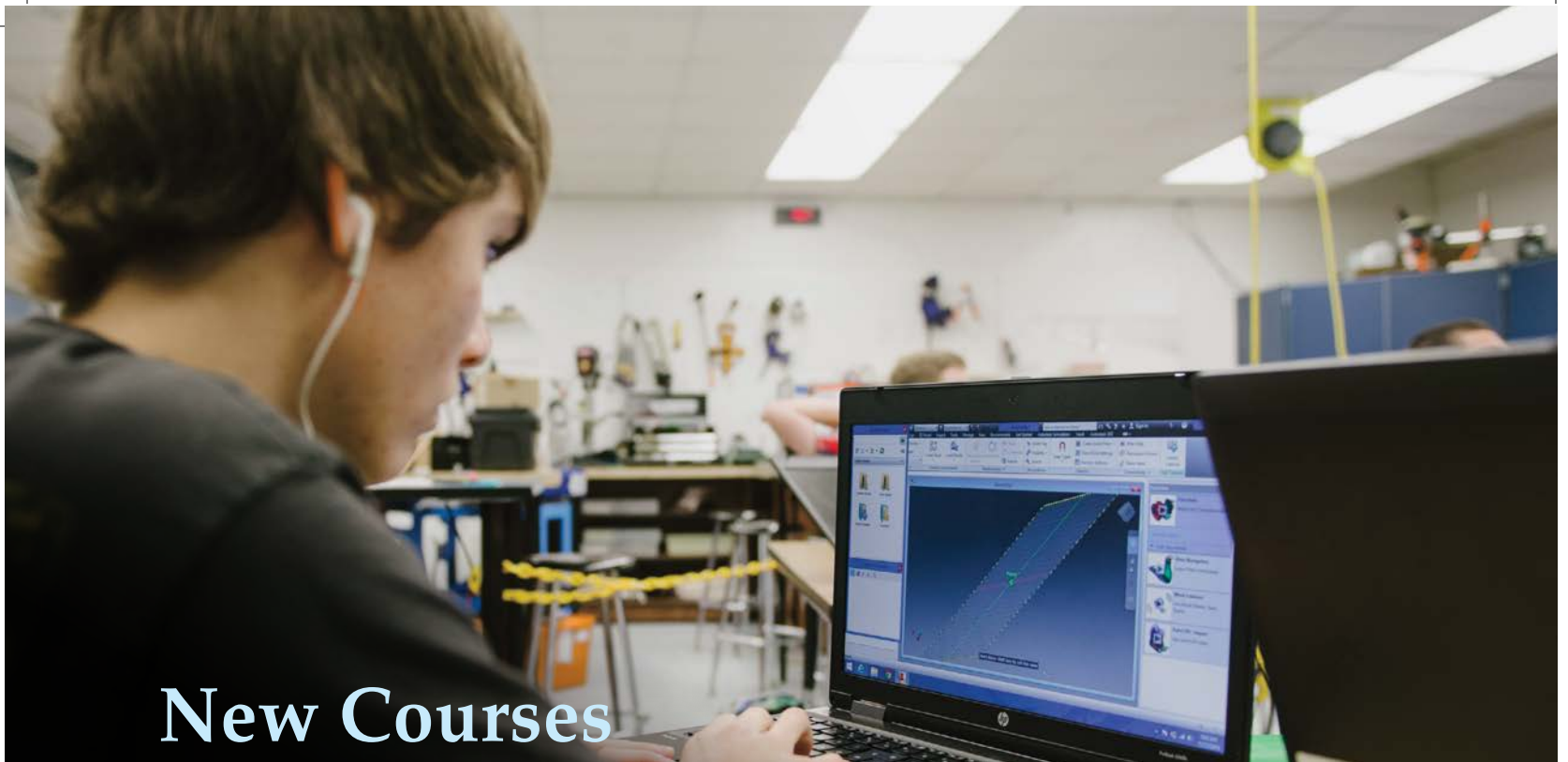






## New Endowment Established — P.K. Yonge Globalization Fund

This year, a generous P.K. Yonge alum established the P.K. Yonge Globalization Fund. The fund supports global research/travel grants for P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School faculty and staff to promote a global focus in P.K. Yonge's curriculum and approach. The endowment will also support international travel grants for talented students with demonstrated financial need. We are grateful for the opportunities that the establishment of this fund will provide for our students, faculty, and staff and look forward to realizing the impact of these activities on an increasingly globally minded school community.



## New Courses

In 2014-15 new courses were offered, further broadening opportunities for students to explore new areas and apply growing skills at higher levels. Advanced Placement course offerings expanded to include AP Photography and French 3 was added to the world languages course selection.

Our engineering courses have enjoyed significant interest and we were pleased to add Principles of Engineering in the 2014-15 school year. This course is the second in the Project Lead the Way — Gateway to Engineering series that begins with Introduction to Engineering for high school students.

## Thank You Blue Wave!

Every school year we are awed by the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff — impressed by their willingness to pursue new endeavors, and respect the courage with which they approach inevitable challenges. All of it, with its success and challenges, comes together to form our shared experience as members of the P.K. Yonge community. We continue to welcome new faculty members, provide support to teachers who take risks with curriculum, and applaud those who challenge students both academically and in their extracurricular pursuits.

The Blue Wave nation is an incredible community whose support we feel as we commit ourselves to educating this “nation’s” children. We share our gratitude for the support and look forward to crossing paths with many of you at our concerts, games, shows, competitions, and events!





## Faculty Accolades

Our faculty members are hardworking, committed teachers who are recognized for their achievements by the school and by national entities.

We celebrate our Teacher of the Year, Dr. Mayra Cordero (6th Grade Science) for her commitment to students and to inquiry-based science. In addition to her promotion to University School Assistant Professor, Dr. Cordero is a key player in the proposed 1:1 device initiative for 6th grade in 2015, and spent the summer of 2015 in Panama digging for fossils with a National Science Foundation professional development initiative supported by the Florida Museum of Natural History and the University of Florida.

Congratulations to faculty on recent promotions to University School Assistant Professor: Jim Bice (High School Math), Tonya Kort (10-12 Learning Community Leader), and Holly Wall (5th Grade). Dr. Marisa Stuke (Program Development and Outreach) was promoted to University School Associate Professor.

Dr. Paige Allison (High School Math) was named Florida Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators Teacher of the Year. George Pringle (7th Grade Math) was selected as a finalist for the 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, grades 7-12. Grisell Santiago (Spanish) received one of three Governor's awards for Excellence in Education during Hispanic Heritage Month 2015 and served as President of the Florida Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. In Summer 2015, Sra. Santiago and Sra. Lizzie Rodriguez hosted the Second Annual Sharing Best Practices for the World Language Classroom (Grades 6-12) that brings world languages educators from around the state to P.K. Yonge for professional development.

The number of international opportunities are growing for our faculty and we recognize Brian Moody (High School Art) for serving as the P.K. Yonge faculty delegate for the P.K. Yonge — Nanjing Experimental International School China exchange. We also recognize Angie Flavin and Macy Geiger (Elementary) in partnership with Dr. Patricia Jacobs (UF) for professional workshops they carried out with educators in Haiti during the summer of 2015.

A number of our faculty are continuing their studies and we congratulate our faculty scholarship recipients: Cody Miller (9th Grade ELA) — Robert B. Primack Memorial Foundations of Education Endowment, Kate Colantonio-Yurko (10th Grade ELA) — Dr. Hannelore Wass Endowed Scholarship, Mickey MacDonald (Biology) and Ross Van Boven (6-7 Learning Community Leader) — Stephanie Kornprobst Webster Endowed Fellowship.

Congratulations to Dr. Cathy Atria (K-12 Principal) on being named to the Commissioner's Leadership Academy. This year-long rigorous professional development program for Florida principals, principal supervisors, and education leaders focused on increasing knowledge and skills to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement. The project is a collaborative effort between the Florida Department of Education, the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership and the Council for Educational Change. Dr. Atria was one of a group of 147 state educational leaders who were accepted into this program.

Along with celebrations this year, we bid a fond farewell to Ms. Kathy Robertson (Elementary Art). Ms. Robertson's tenure at P.K. Yonge saw many students and their children in her art classes. She made a mark on the children and families and will be missed by the faculty, staff, students, and parents of P.K. Yonge.

## Staff

Running a school is a large undertaking with many roles and responsibilities that are often in the wings as the production of school takes center stage. We are in the debt of many of those people in the wings who keep our school running — they keep our lights on, our classrooms clean, and our facilities in good repair. We are grateful for those who enter critical data and manage attendance, who maintain our network and deliver packages, who make our purchases, manage our finances, and welcome families and visitors to our campus. Without our staff our school would be a good idea but not an organized community focused on supporting the success of all the children we serve. Thank you P.K. Yonge staff for your hard work and commitment to the students, families, and faculty in the P.K. Yonge community.



# Looking Ahead *to* 2015-2016

## School Facilities

We are proud of the many accomplishments by our students, faculty, and staff that filled the 2014-2015 school year, despite our pressing need for new facilities. In 2007 the Florida Department of Education determined that it would be more cost effective to replace rather than renovate P.K. Yonge buildings that were constructed in 1957. Since 2007 a Master Plan has been completed, our cutting-edge elementary building opened fall 2012, our new elementary music and art rooms were designed and installed during summer 2014, and construction plans for a state-of-the-art 6th-12th grade building are “shovel ready.” This year, our Florida Department of Education 5-year facilities plan was updated and once again noted the imperative necessity to replace our 58-year-old buildings. Additionally, the plan highlighted our condemned school counseling building, and commented on the decaying “temporary buildings” we have had in place for close to 15 years.

During the 2014-2015 school year the Florida Board of Governors reviewed the University of Florida’s request for capital funding for our 6th-12th grade building. The need for a new building was immediately recognized as the Board better understood the current state of our facilities. We continue to work with the University of Florida and the Florida Board of Governors to resolve the funding challenges for the much needed new facilities, and have organized a Capital Campaign Task Force comprised of some of our most distinguished Blue Wave alumni. It is our hope that the Board of Governors and the Florida Department of Education will identify a state funding source for our new buildings in the upcoming legislative session scheduled to begin in January 2016.

## Leadership 2014-15

- Lynda Fender Hayes Ph.D.  
*Director*
- Cathy Atria Ph.D.  
*Principal*
- Russ Froman Ed.D.  
*Assistant Principal Student Life and Behavioral Support*
- Stella Arduser, Ed.S.  
*Assistant Principal Academic Advisement and School Counseling*
- Carrie Geiger Ed.D.  
*Supervisor of Instructional Practice*
- Willie Powers, B.S.  
*Dean of Students*
- Kent Johnson, M.Ed.  
*Dean of Students*



[www.pkyonge.ufl.edu](http://www.pkyonge.ufl.edu)



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### **P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School**

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Gainesville, FL 32601

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# P.K. Yonge Alumni Association



## Buy a Brick!

Our special Commemorative Brick Program offers you and your family the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy at P.K. Yonge.

Purchasing an engraved brick makes a thoughtful gift for the holidays, birthdays, or graduation. Honor a family member, teacher, a classmate or business, or pay tribute to a loved one. Now is your chance to become part of P.K. Yonge's history! Proceeds from your gift will help support the Alumni Association and alumni events.

For more information:

[typesofgifts.pkyonge.ufl.edu](http://typesofgifts.pkyonge.ufl.edu)

## Join the P.K. Yonge Alumni Association

The Alumni Association is an active group open to all members of the P.K. Yonge Family — alumni and their families, faculty, staff, and supporters. All P.K. Yonge graduates are considered Loyal Members and maintain this status throughout their lives. Supporting Members are family, friends, staff, and alumni supporters who donate \$25 annually. Lifetime Members make a one-time donation of \$500.

Donated funds help support yearly alumni events including the All School Reunion, Sports Hall of Fame, and other events and communications. All members receive periodic newsletters, special event invitations, and updates about the school and alumni community.

### Become a member of the Alumni Association today!

- **DONATE ONLINE:** [give.pkyonge.ufl.edu](http://give.pkyonge.ufl.edu)
- **DONATE BY CHECK:** make your check out to University of Florida Foundation and mail to:  
P.K. Yonge Alumni Association  
1080 SW 11th Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Pioneering the  
**future**  
of Florida's education system.



# P.K. Yonge Alumni Events



## Class of 1955 Celebrates their 60th Reunion!

On Friday, May 15th, the Class of 1955 held their 60th Reunion weekend at the Paramount Plaza Hotel in Gainesville. Alumni enjoyed a formal dinner in the private dining room while reminiscing about their time at P.K. Yonge. In attendance: Sammie Gray, Roger Foote, Kay Taylor & Reese Glatzer, Paul & Sally (Jones) Hunter, Dottie (Douglas) Swilley & Bob Pacetelli, Rachel (Gunn) Black, George & Betty Brabham, Floyd & Pat (Halverson) Thomas, Fletcher & Barbara (Lewis) Lindsey, Hayes & Norma (Sherouse) Basford, Jerry & Katie (Constans) Mitchell, Don & Margo (Reitz) Cooke, Fred & Ann (Harris) Hunter; with "Ms. D" Babs Dalsheimer, and Shirley Ann Beazlie.

## All School Reunion 2015

The 2015 All School Reunion BBQ was a huge success! With over 100 guests, this family-friendly event was enjoyed by all. Children played carnival games provided by our Parent Teacher Organization and parents enjoyed live music courtesy of the Alumni Band. If you weren't able to attend in 2015, we hope to see you next year on June 25, 2016!

## Class of 1965/1995 Dual Reunion

Ms. Shirley Ann Beazlie and her daughter JJ Lewis, graduates of P.K. Yonge in 1965 and 1995 respectively, hosted a dual reunion on Friday, June 26th at Ironwood Club House. It was a smashing success with over 80 graduates attending. It was wonderful to see how our P.K. Yonge families have grown and great to reconnect with one another.

Are you hosting your own class reunion? Let P.K. Yonge know so that your event can be featured in our annual newsletter!

Alumni Relations Coordinator:

Julia Neal

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Developmental Research School  
at the University of Florida