



2015-16

Pioneering the
future
of Florida's education system



Developmental Research School
at the University of Florida

Developmental Research School
at the University of Florida
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Reflections on 2015-16

We are so proud of the many accomplishments made by our students and faculty during the 2015-16 school year. Our back-to-back State Championship Girls' Volleyball team was awarded a national trophy for their top ten finish in the nation! Our athletic program was recognized once again as the top performing overall athletic program in the state. Our 6th and 9th grade students (along with their teachers and families) piloted policies and procedures for assigning personal learning digital devices to students as they took their Chromebooks from class to class, and home each night. Elementary students hosted a literary tea party and became talking wax museum characters from history, learned to code, and undertook community service projects. Our school is a busy place!

Student achievement continues to excel and our school was once again awarded an "A" by the Florida Department of Education for the 16th year in a row! Numerous P.K. Yonge teachers were recognized with state and national awards for their workshop presentations, teaching contributions, and research studies. Five P.K. Yonge teachers completed their doctorates while focusing their research on improving student learning at P.K. Yonge. Our classrooms were visited throughout the school year by educators from Florida, across the nation, and around the world. And the Florida legislature requested a presentation about developmental research schools that was recognized as one of the most engaging committee presentations during the 2016 legislative session.

OUR VISION

P.K. Yonge students are positioned to be creative, dedicated, and resilient learners who embrace the power of diverse ideas, talents, and cultures to improve our world.



Leading *the* Way

We have been on a multi-year journey to move away from the “factory model” of schooling. An approach designed over 100 years ago where a bell moves same-age batches of students during the day, to memorize and forget content, as they are sorted and weeded out over time. At P.K. Yonge we are redesigning school to embrace learner variability as we seek to support and challenge each and every learner—no matter who they are, or where they come from, or their age. It will take many more years to fully achieve a successful transformation in our K-12 system, and our state and nation are depending on us. The unique mission of our school is to design, test, and share innovations in K-12 education through serving a diverse student population. We are developing a school model to enable students to believe in themselves, discover their passions, nurture their talents, and develop critical thinking skills, as we inspire creativity and prepare future leaders and problem solvers. We are continuing to develop and test our multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS), and our teachers are acquiring new skills and insights as they begin to transform the core educational experience of our students. Our teachers are learning to apply key principles associated with universal design for learning and standards-based grading. They are designing and testing strategies that provide greater personalization and support for our varied learners, and creating new report card systems for communicating student progress in mastering essential skills and knowledge. The transformation of the student learning experience is just beginning, and together we can improve the K-12 experience for students both at P.K. Yonge and beyond.

Fast Facts: P.K. Yonge DRS 2015-16

53

colleges and universities accepted P.K. Yonge Class of 2016 graduates

580

personal devices were allocated to students from 6th-10th grades

31

P.K. Yonge 'lifers' graduated in the Class of 2016

18k

hours of community service were contributed by the Class of 2016

72

conference presentations (15 local, 45 state, 10 national, 2 international) were given by P.K. Yonge faculty



Honoring *Our* Past

P.K. Yonge is a family that spans many generations. In our 81st year, we are still connected to some of our students who started when the school opened in 1934. This connection is special. It speaks to a sense of community not commonly found among alumni in most public schools. We celebrate the P.K. Yonge family at large and appreciate the contributions alumni make to our school in fund, word, and deed.

P.K. Yonge's Past Supports Our Future

As a school that prides itself on the unique opportunities offered to its students, we could not provide such without the generous support of our alumni community. Activities supported by our alumni are many and varied. During the 2015-16 school year, activities and expenditures supported by our alumni included:

- Athletics uniforms
- Band instruments and equipment upgrades
- Spring musical
- 4th-5th grade trip to Washington D.C.
- Creek School
- 6th grade rain barrel project
- Travel to national competitions for athletic teams and clubs
- 3D printer
- Kiln for the visual arts department
- Lighting upgrades for the Performing Arts Center
- Rosa Rabell scholarship for Spanish language immersion travel
- Teacher training, development, and conference attendance
- Hosting international partners

Our Graduates – Class of 2016

We celebrate the many accomplishments of our graduating seniors. Each year we are impressed by our graduates' work, service, and contribution to the school and the community at large.

Our 81st graduating class of 109 students boasts 31 P.K. Yonge 'lifers' and 8 STEM scholars. This Class of 2016 was offered more than \$1,005,350 in scholarships, including 11 Bright Futures and 4 athletics scholarships. This group of impressive young men and women completed close to 18,000 hours of community service.

Congratulations graduates! We wish you well in all future academic, career, and military endeavors.

P.K. Yonge's 2016 graduates were accepted to:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Agnes Scott College | 19. Iona College | 37. University of California, San Diego |
| 2. Bethune Cookman University | 20. Jacksonville University | 38. University of Central Florida |
| 3. Columbia University | 21. Johns Hopkins University | 39. University of Florida* |
| 4. Dartmouth College | 22. New College of Florida | 40. University of Idaho |
| 5. Eckerd College | 23. Northeastern University | 41. University of Kentucky |
| 6. Edward Waters College | 24. NOVA Southeastern University | 42. University of Miami |
| 7. Emory University | 25. Oxford at Emory University | 43. University of North Florida |
| 8. Florida A & M University | 26. Plymouth State University | 44. University of North Georgia |
| 9. Florida Gulf Coast University | 27. Pratt Institute | 45. University of South Florida |
| 10. Florida Atlantic University | 28. Rice University | 46. University of Tampa |
| 11. Florida International University | 29. Rollins College | 47. University of West Florida |
| 12. Florida Polytechnic University | 30. Saint Leo University | 48. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg |
| 13. Florida State University | 31. Santa Fe State College | 49. Valdosta State University |
| 14. Georgia Southern University | 32. Savannah State University | 50. Valencia College |
| 15. Guilford College | 33. School of the Art Institute of Chicago | 51. Wake Forest University |
| 16. Haywood Community College | 34. St. John's University | 52. Worcester Polytechnic Institute of Technology |
| 17. Hillsborough Community College | 35. Stetson University | 53. Youngstown State College |
| 18. Long Island University Brooklyn | 36. University of California, Berkeley | |



*
23
students
were accepted
to the University
of Florida!

By the Numbers

This year's state assessments included Florida Standards Assessments (FSAs) and Florida End-of-Course assessments (EOCs). Tests were administered in the following areas: FSA Math (grades 3-7), FSA English Language Arts (reading and writing for grades 4-10; reading only grade 3), FSA Science (grades 5 and 8). State End-of-Course assessments were

administered in Civics, Algebra 1 (includes all 8th grade students), Biology, Geometry, Algebra 2, and US History.

Satisfactory performance on these exams is defined as a score of 3 or above. Last year's scores, originally reported as quartiles, have been since updated and are reported below.

FSA Math	2014-15*	2015-16
P.K. Yonge — satisfactory performance	64	67
State — satisfactory performance	56	57

*Math FSA (gr 3-8) was first administered in the 2014-15 school year

FSA ELA Reading/Writing	2014-15**	2015-16
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	71	68
State – satisfactory performance	52	52

**ELA FSA (gr 3-10) was first administered in the 2014-15 school year

Science	2014-15		2015-16	
	5th	8th	5th	8th
P.K. Yonge—satisfactory performance	48	73	40	71
State — satisfactory performance	53	49	51	50

Our middle school students and teachers have benefitted tremendously from our six-year partnership with Dr. Rose Pringle, UF science educator, and our choice to implement the IQWST curriculum (**I**nvestigating and **Q**uestioning our **W**orld through **S**cience and **T**echnology). Next steps for P.K. Yonge include developing and refining a learning goals driven, inquiry-based, cohesive elementary science curriculum.

Course Enrollments in STEM

Our school's commitment to developing the "STEM pipeline" by increasing student participation in science, technology, engineering, and math courses is reflected by a 15% increase in STEM course enrollment from the 2014-15 school year. Our growth in student participation in STEM is significant as we have maintained the *same number and diversity of randomly selected students* for admission to P.K. Yonge over the years.

Student Enrollments in STEM Courses				
School Year	Mathematics*	Science	Tech/Eng	Total
2011-2012	251	248	11	510
2012-2013	250	247	28	525
2013-2014	484	364	67	955
2014-2015	517	445	75	1037
2015-2016	756	452	93	1201

*Includes 8th grade students taking high school Algebra 1

State High School End-of-Course Exams

FSA Algebra 1 EOC (8th – HS @ PKY)	2014-15	2015-16
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	59	71
State satisfactory performance	56	54

Biology EOC (9th grade @ PKY)	2014-15	2015-16
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	83	73
State satisfactory performance	65	64

FSA Geometry EOC (9th – 10th @ PKY)	2014-15	2015-16
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	88	78
State satisfactory performance	53	51

US History EOC (11th grade @ PKY)	2014-15	2015-16
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	90	91
State satisfactory performance	66	66

Civics EOC (7th grade)	2014-15	2015-16*
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	87	86
State satisfactory performance	65	67

* During the 2015-16 school year P.K. Yonge transitioned from offering a full-year Civics course to a one-semester course to be able to add a semester of geography

Algebra 2 EOC (10th -11th @ PKY)**	2015-16
P.K. Yonge satisfactory performance	73
State satisfactory performance	40

** Omitted from print version

Advanced Placement Results

P.K. Yonge offers 19 Advanced Placement courses to include mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, world languages, and visual arts. We continue our commitment to offer as many AP opportunities as our school community can support beginning with AP Human Geography in 9th grade.

Advanced Placement	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
AP School Scholars Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams	22	27	31	40
AP Scholars with Honor 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	7	10	10	5
AP Scholars with Distinction 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	13	16	23	19
National AP Scholar 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	1	2	3	4

Scores	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of AP students	182	201	217	216	197
Number of students with a passing score on at least one AP exam	102	128	133	138	124
Percentage of students with a passing score on at least one AP exam	56%	64%	63%	64%	63%

The Year *in* Review 2015-2016

Athletics

P.K. Yonge takes great pride in the achievements of our athletes! We love winning games and trophies, and we celebrate the commitment to good sportsmanship that characterizes the athletes of the Blue Wave Nation. We had much to celebrate in 2015-16, not the least of which was a second state championship by our girls' volleyball team! Our athletics program enjoys such success thanks to the commitment of our coaches and athletes, the support of our families, and the generous donations of time, money, and deed from our parents, alumni, and local business sponsors.

2015-16 Athletic Accomplishments:

- Cross Country – Girls District Runner-Up
- Swimming – Boys District Champions, Girls District Champions
- Golf – Boys District Champions
- Girls Volleyball – State Champions (back-to-back in two different divisions)
 - Jac'cara Walker
 - Florida Dairy Farmers Class 3A Player of the Year
 - Runner-Up All-classes Player of the Year
 - Chad Davis
 - Class 3A Coach of the Year
 - All-classes Coach of the Year
- Girls Basketball – District Champions
- Boys Basketball – District Champions
- Girls Soccer – District Runner-Up
- Track & Field – Boys District Champions
- Tennis – Boys District Champions, Girls District Runner-Up

Awards:

- Florida Athletic Coaches Association Carey E. McDonald Award (4A) 2015-16: High school in each classification achieving the highest degree of success during the school year
- FHSAA Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All Sports Award 2015-16: Best overall program in each classification based on success of boys and girls teams
- National Guard National Ranking Trophy (Girls Volleyball): awarded to the 10 best teams in the country

Performing and Visual Arts

Each year the P.K. Yonge community enjoys the talents of our dedicated students and faculty in our Performing and Visual Arts departments. The concerts, shows, performances, and exhibitions continue to underscore the importance of the arts in education and the talent and commitment of the students and faculty in our school community.

Performing Arts Highlights

- 12 students selected to perform with the All-State Chorus (1 elementary, 7 middle, 4 high)
- All high school choirs were selected to perform at the EPCOT Candlelight Processional
- Marching Band ended the year 6th in the state
 - 1st place/Best in Class at all district and regional competitions
 - 24 superior solos at Solo and Ensemble Festival
 - 2 students accepted to the All State Band
 - 6 students accepted to the Alachua County Honors Band
- 16 students participated in the State Thespians Conference; student thespian competitors were awarded 7 superiors and 8 excellents
- Beauty and the Beast spring musical boasted a cast of 40 and had a sold out show!
- Madrigal Medieval Musical Dinner Theatre: a new tradition is born!

Visual Arts Highlights

- Tumblin Creek Spring Art Festival exhibited work from elementary, middle, and high school artists
- Portfolio and Photography Show exhibited student work in the Blue Wave Gallery
- Second Annual Honors, AP, and Senior Art Show was held at the UF Harn Museum
- Middle school visual arts students collaborated on a mural with Gainesville Sister City artists from Jacmel, Haiti
- Visiting artist program hosted Michelle Barnes – a writer for a poetry workshop connected to the completed work from the Sister City visit
- Student Surrealist Art Exhibit “Between Dream and Reality” at the St. Petersburg Dali Museum of Art, and “Transfiguration of the Work of Andrew Thomas” at the Gainesville SOMA Art Media Hub featured the work of student artist Andrew Thomas
- Miranda Barnes won first place in the Alachua County Library District Teen Art Show
- Juliana Holsbeck won a blue ribbon at the Alachua County Youth Fair Art Contest





Clubs, Awards, and Internships!

Our school thrives on all the incredible extracurricular activities in which students can engage. These activities range from robotics to Key Club to international cooking and everything in between. Students are busy and engaged in exploring interests and learning new skills. Below we share some of the highlights.

During the 2015-16 school year the P.K. Yonge Roaring Riptide FIRST Robotics (FRC) Team #4118 achieved a final ranking of 19 out of 63 teams at the quarter-final play off at the highly competitive Orlando Regional competition. Odyssey of the Mind teams took first and third place in the state high school competitions, finishing out the year by competing in the World Odyssey of the Mind competition in Iowa where our teams finished 15th and 21st in the world. Our Speech and Debate team won first place in the Valdosta, GA Wildcat Classic, the Raider Regal Speech and Debate tournament at Santa Fe High School in Alachua, and the Tidal Wave Tournament at P.K. Yonge in January 2016. The team took second place in the Saint Augustine Catholic Forensic League of North Central Florida, and 12 P.K. Yonge students qualified to compete at the National Catholic Forensic League Speech and Debate Tournament in Sacramento, CA.

We continue to excel in world languages and are always looking for ways to expand our school's global perspective. This year's National Spanish Examinations saw great performances from our students with 4 gold, 12 silver, and

13 bronze medals, along with 23 honorable mentions. The Hispanic Honor Society competed in a number of events during 2015-16 including the Volusia County World Language Festival, Northeast Florida Language Festival, the Euro Challenge, North Central Florida Language Festival, and the Florida State Spanish Conference where students took 2nd place in their division.

Executive internships are an opportunity unique to P.K. Yonge and offer firsthand experience of the working world to our juniors and seniors. During the 2015-16 school year, 20 students completed executive internships in a broad range of work environments. We are grateful to our community partners for their support of this important opportunity for P.K. Yonge students.

2015-16 Community Partners

1. GRU
2. Expressions Learning Academy
3. O2B Kids
4. Orthopaedic Institute
5. Avera & Smith Law Office
6. Alachua County Humane Society
7. Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
8. Gator Lab
9. SharpSpring
10. Newberry Animal Hospital
11. UF/Shands Hospital
12. Public Defender's Office
13. Cary S. Torres Law Office
14. City of Gainesville

The Year *in* Review 2015-2016

Research, Outreach, and Partnerships

Through serving the 1155 students on our campus, P.K. Yonge makes an important contribution to the state as one of four developmental research schools in Florida. Our mission to design, test, and disseminate innovations in education can only be fulfilled by sharing the work we do in classrooms with students. We extend the impact of our work by engaging in research partnerships and by sharing best practices from our classrooms with educators on our campus, in our state, and around the world.

Research: Inquiries, Investigations, and Innovations

Teacher Inquiry (classroom-based teacher research) is essential to enacting the mission of our school: to design, test, and disseminate innovations for K-12 education. Over the past year, every P.K. Yonge teacher participated in some aspect of inquiry—either assisting a colleague, collaborating with a colleague, or designing and executing an individual inquiry. Embedded in the work of our teacher inquirers is a strong commitment to improving student achievement, embracing learner variability, and supporting the success of every student. Areas of investigation common among teachers during the 2015-16 school year included:

- motivating individual students to improve performance and achievement
- improving and using rubrics to better inform learners
- grouping students for instruction more effectively
- challenging advanced learners
- shifting instructional pacing to improve student learning
- increasing student diversity in advanced coursework
- transforming report cards
- using technology to improve student engagement and learning
- motivating reluctant learners
- assessing individual students in performance-based courses
- engaging multiple points of view during literature discussions and analysis
- enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of reassessments

P.K. Yonge teachers are sharing new strategies and what they learn at an increasing rate with educators across the state, around the country, and throughout the world. For more details about teachers' projects visit <http://inquireinvestigateinnovate.pkyonge.ufl.edu>.

Outreach

Designing and testing educational innovations has real-world impact when outcomes are shared. Outreach activities at P.K. Yonge are the avenue through which work on our campus is shared, discussed, analyzed, and enhanced. Research in Action, Summer Institutes, lesson studies, customized programs, and informational tours (<http://outreach.pkyonge.ufl.edu>) are ways we enact our mission to share what we learn from the work we do in our classrooms.

Through our work with pre-service teachers and sharing best practices and innovations with educators and school leaders beyond our campus, our work impacts more than 30,000 students throughout the state each year.

During the 2015-16 school year, outreach events were attended by more than 300 educators from more than 25 school districts. Online consultations were held with schools in Slovakia and Colorado; a custom program was designed for school developers from India; and international visitors from Australia, Belgium, China, Japan, and Norway spent time with leaders on our campus to learn about P.K. Yonge.

Areas of focus for outreach activities respond to emerging questions in education as we work to underscore our relevance to the state and the education community at large. In 2015-16, our outreach programs focused on digital classrooms and blended learning, collaborative literacy, multi-tiered system of supports, universal design for learning, and project-based learning. Custom programs addressed innovative school design, and teaching and learning in 21st century spaces.

In addition to activities hosted on our campus, faculty are encouraged to share their research and findings in the professional education community at local, state, national, and international conferences. In 2015-16 more than 70 conference presentations were given by P.K. Yonge faculty.



Partnerships

Emerging questions in education inform how we choose partners for work we undertake. Current questions center around math and science education, intervention programs in early childhood education, the impact of behavior on student success, literacy, technology in education, and the influence of architecture and interior design on teaching and learning.

The 2015-16 school year was full of activities connected to partnerships with the University of Florida, other universities, and education organizations. These activities ranged from science education research focused on inquiry-based science in middle school (Rose Pringle, UF) and science assessments (Brian J. Reiser, Northwestern University) to teacher preparation activities focused on writing feedback in high school (Jane Townsend, UF), real world technology challenges in education (Kathryn Caprino, UF), school psychology training and field experiences (Diana Joyce-Beaulieu, UF), in-depth literacy training (Holly Lane, UF), and foundational reading methods (Caitlin Galligane, UF). Eight year-long internships in elementary and special education were supported at P.K. Yonge for students in the ProTEACH program, 6 secondary ProTEACH interns were mentored by our secondary teachers, and observations and field experiences were carried out for Chinese students pursuing Master's degrees in education.

Language Arts and Literacy activities in the 2015-16 school year focused on assessing morphological awareness in 3rd-5th grades (Anne Corrine Huggins-Manly, UF), comparing high school writing and literature instruction between American

and Chinese cultures (Danling Fu, UF), training educators in how to design effective reading/writing modules (Literacy Design Collaborative), implementing elementary reading and writing curriculum (Center for the Collaborative Classroom), and developing fluency in beginning reading, math, and handwriting skills (NeuroNet).

Technology-focused partnerships during the 2015-16 school year included 3D digitization of fossils in middle school (Pasha Antonenko, UF), uses of technology across grade levels and disciplines (Kara Dawson, UF), and touch screen interaction and design (Lisa Anthony, UF). Math-focused activities included developing a digital application for helping students prepare for the Algebra 2 EOC (Christina Gardner-McCune, UF) and improving elementary fractions instruction (Robert C. Schoen, FSU).

Other partnerships included those focused on how students evaluate and determine the credibility of online content and resources (Tara Tobin Cataldo, UF) and how teachers teach students about the credibility of online resources (Angela Kohnen, UF), strategies for implementing Positive Behavior Support (Ashley MacSuga-Gage, UF), the HealthSmart School Initiative (Carolyn M. Tucker, UF), as well as the impact of furniture and space on student engagement (Steelcase). Nancy Fichtman Dana, Ph.D., Professor, School of Teaching and Learning, University of Florida continues to support our work to engage in school-wide teacher inquiry as a strategy for school improvement, professional learning, and teacher renewal.

Partnership *and* Project Spotlight — Chromebook Initiative



Educational leaders around the nation recognize that today's students will graduate into a world where technology is ubiquitous. In schools, technology has the capacity to enhance and extend learning in a digital context, as well as broaden the scope of face-to-face engagement in classrooms. With this in mind, P.K. Yonge launched the 1:1 Chromebook initiative with a long-term goal of providing every student at P.K. Yonge with a personally allocated device. At the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, all 4th and 5th grade students were assigned a personal Chromebook for use at school, 6th and 9th grade students were issued school-purchased devices for use at school and at home. By the end of the year, the take-home initiative had extended to all students from 6th-10th grades. A partnership with Kara Dawson at the College of Education investigates how learning is supported by this level of technology integration.





Back-to-back State Champions!

The P.K. Yonge girls' volleyball team won the 2015 state championship under the direction of coach Chad Davis. In addition to their incredible winning season (31-1), Jac'cara Walker was recognized as the Florida Dairy Farmers Class 3A Volleyball Player of the Year and runner-up for all classes, and Coach Davis won the Class 3A and all-classes Coach of the Year awards.

P.K. Yonge Girls Volleyball can now claim four state championships and two of them back-to-back. The team is only one of four in FHSAA history to win back-to-back state titles in different classifications: the 3A state title in 2015 and the 4A state title in 2014. MaxPreps, in partnership with the Army National Guard, awarded the team the prestigious National Guard National Ranking Trophy to recognize their achievements, hard work, and final No. 4 national ranking. Congratulations and go Blue Wave!



Elementary – a Hive of Activity!

The 2015-16 school year was a hive of activity in our elementary school — from a Thanksgiving Feast in K/1 to a 4th-5th grade trip to Washington DC. The 2/3 learning community invited visitors to play in Caine's Game Arcade and 5th graders wowed the judges with their end-of-year presentations. STEAM clubs saw students participating in all areas of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. K/1 students explored careers and the 2/3 Wax Museum introduced guests to historical figures talking about their daily lives.

This year, students from kindergarten through 5th grade were introduced to the wonders of computer programming and engineering design thinking. Specially designed robots or “bots” introduced the concepts of programming, problem-solving, and engineering design thinking in an age-appropriate manner to students in the elementary school.

Final Wave Walk

P.K. Yonge's graduating Class of 2016 donned their graduation caps and gowns and performed the first ever senior walk, or “Final Wave Walk” through the P.K. Yonge elementary school to inspire younger students and take a walk down memory lane. Graduating seniors put on their graduation regalia and took a formal tour of the school as they were met by the cheers of younger students celebrating their successes and encouraging them in future endeavors.



Faculty Accolades

Faculty at P.K. Yonge are dedicated teachers characterized by their hard work and commitment to the success of all students. Their commitment is evident in the classroom, in their relationships with students and families, and in the many unsung things they do. Many faculty members are recognized publicly by the school and by other national entities. We recognize all faculty for the unique roles they play in supporting the development of the children and young men and women on our campus.

The creative, seemingly inexhaustible Grisell Santiago was named Teacher of the Year. Señora Santiago encourages her students, nurtures their curiosity, and seeks opportunities beyond the classroom to provide experience and motivation for her language learners. She was awarded best of the Florida Foreign Language Association 2015 presentation with Señora Rodriguez, and served as President of the Florida Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). Next year, Señora Santiago will add Portuguese to her teaching repertoire — a great addition to secondary program offerings in word languages.

We congratulate faculty members who received promotions and graduated from doctoral studies programs this year. Carrie Geiger (Assistant Principal of Instructional Practice), Eric Lemstrom (11th grade language arts), and Kate Yurko (10th grade language arts) were promoted to Assistant Professor and Cary Kirby (4-5 learning community leader) was promoted to Associate Professor. Advanced degrees were conferred on five faculty members this year: Melanie Harris (high school performing arts), Mickey MacDonald (high school biology), Kristin Weller (geometry and statistics), and Ross Van Boven (6-7 learning community leader) were all awarded Ed.D. degrees, and Kate Yurko (10th grade language arts) graduated with a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. All doctoral degrees were conferred by the University of Florida's College of Education.

2015-16 was a banner year for recognition of our teachers locally and nationally. The Florida Department of Education named four faculty members to an elite group of High Impact Teachers: Cody Miller (9th grade language arts), George Pringle (7th grade mathematics), Bill Steffens (6th grade mathematics) and Kate Yurko (10th grade language arts). This recognition is based on statewide ranking of secondary language arts and mathematics instructors on state assessments during the past three academic years.

Dr. Jon Mundorf (7th grade language arts) received a UF Outstanding Young Alumni Award and was also selected as one of 40 educators for the first Florida Teacher Leader Fellows cohort. Cody Miller (9th grade language arts) was honored this year as a recipient of the Southern Poverty Law Center's National Teaching Tolerance Award. Dr. Ross Van Boven received the American Education Research



Association's (AERA) Teacher as Researcher award recognizing preK-12 instructors for research on their own practice. George Pringle (7th grade math) was named one of four Florida finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence.

Dr. Cathy Atria (K-12 Principal; selected as a FDOE facilitator-in-training) and Dr. Carrie Geiger (Assistant Principal of Instructional Practice) participated in the Commissioner's Leadership Academy — a rigorous professional development program for Florida principals, principal supervisors, and education leaders. The academy is a collaboration between the Florida Department of Education, the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership and the Council for Educational Change.

Each school year we welcome and bid farewell to faculty. This year, we say farewell to Kelly Haynes (elementary) and Penny Chou (library). Ms. Haynes has been a member of our teaching faculty for 31 years and Ms. Chou has been with us for 28 years. It will be quite a change to shepherd in the new school year without them. We wish them every happiness in their lives beyond P.K. Yonge!

Staff

The hustle and bustle of the school year often overtakes us and we neglect to take the time to recognize all who commit themselves to keeping our ship afloat during the Blue Wave school year. Our staff serve parents, faculty, and students in myriad ways: maintaining our network and computers, admitting new students, staffing our front desk, entering critical data, tracking attendance, taking payments, making purchases, cleaning and maintaining our campus, administering medications, scheduling subs, delivering packages, engaging alumni, managing our finances, planning events, and keeping us paid! They carry out their duties, share kind words, take an interest in our students, and are pillars of the community we call P.K. Yonge. We also thank our Alachua County Food Services staff for preparing meals and our lawn crew for maintaining our grounds.

This year, we bid farewell to Janice Nelson and Ellen Greenstein. Both were a part of the fabric of the P.K. Yonge community for 30 years. Farewell Ms. Nelson and Ms. Greenstein! You will be sorely missed.

Looking Ahead to 2016-2017

School Facilities

P.K. Yonge has been designing, testing, and disseminating educational innovations since 1934 on the campus of the University of Florida. Over the past year we fielded inquiries from school designers and educators near and far interested in visiting a school where the architecture and teaching and learning have been transformed.

Interest in our elementary building continues to grow as our secondary facilities continue to fall apart around our exemplary teachers. Of the 13 buildings that the Florida Department of Education recommended replacement in 2007, six have leaky roofs, one is condemned, one was replaced, and three are riddled with structural cracks. While our beloved gym has hosted numerous state championship teams, it is perhaps the only remaining high school gym with no A/C. The 14 “temporary buildings” (several installed more than 15 years ago in response to the class size amendment), are beginning to deteriorate and leak as well. We have loved our 1950s buildings for decades, but they are in desperate need of replacement.

Our sewage and plumbing systems are deteriorating and the number of working stalls in men’s restrooms has decreased due to obsolete infrastructure. Our electrical grid cannot be repaired as needed, with a temporary solution designed by Gainesville Regional Utilities getting us by until support for new construction is secured.

Presently we do not have a legislated pathway to funding our new construction needs. The University of Florida continues to work with the Board of Governors, the Florida Department of Education, and the Governor’s office to find a resolution to our facilities funding challenges. Here’s hoping that the 2017 legislative session brings about progress on behalf of our exemplary developmental research school known throughout the nation and across the world.

Leadership 2015-16

- Lynda Fender Hayes, Ph.D.
Director
- Catherine G. Atria, Ph.D.
Principal K-12
- Russ Froman, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal Student Life and Behavioral Support
- Mary Jordan, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal Academic Advisement and School Counseling
- Carrie Geiger, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal Instructional Practice
- Willie Powers, B.S.
Dean of Students
- Kent Johnson, M.Ed.
Dean of Students



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