

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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FKC Convention 2016

Upcoming FCIS Events

Prospective Heads'

Institute I, II & III

January 13-14, 2016

Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Academy for High Performing Educators

January 24-26, 2016

Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

Winter Symposium: Financial and Legal

February 2, 2016

Technology Workshop

February 3, 2016

Pine Crest, Ft Lauderdale

Evaluation Academy

February 17, 2016

Lake Highland
Preparatory, Orlando

from the executive director...

Happy Holidays to everyone as we prepare to say goodbye to the year of 2015!

During the 2015 year, our FCIS schools have faced various challenges, but have also been positively impacted by a strengthening economy. The aggregate student enrollment stands at 73,624 students with a 3% increase of 2176 students. Fifty-nine percent of our schools have grown over the past five years, exceeding growth of independent schools nationally. Sixty-one of our 157 schools have decreased in enrollment over the past five years with elementary schools and religiously based schools facing the greatest challenges. On a more positive note, only 14 of our schools had a head transition for this school year, compared to 23 changes in the 2014-15 school year.

Continuing to strive to meet the needs of our member schools, FCIS has responded with providing multiple professional development opportunities. Nine new heads attended the FCIS New Heads' Institute in late July. The Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance continues to draw board chairs and heads, seeking to strengthen their relationships and knowledge of independent school governance. To date, 42 schools have participated in this two-day seminar since its inception in October 2013. This year, the Prospective Heads' Institute will be adding a third track and has a record high of participants at 29.

News

FCIS. The 60th Annual FCIS Convention was held in Orlando on November 5 and 6. The theme "Inspiring Greatness" resonated throughout the Convention with presentations being given by nationally known keynoters, Dr. Tony Wagner and Christian Long. The Thursday and Friday sessions featured not only regional and national educational leaders, but also educational leaders within our state. I want to personally thank our co-chairs, Cindy Moon, Head of Park Maitland School, and Dr. Mike Sligh, Headmaster of Lakeland Christian School, as well as their steering committee with untold hours being dedicated to this worthwhile event. We are already making plans for the 61st Annual Convention, which will

be held at the Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel on November 3 and 4, 2016.

At the FCIS Annual Business Meeting, new Directors and Officers were elected. The new officers include: Robert Stephens, Head of St. John's Parish Day School, President; Kevin Plummer, Head of Tampa Preparatory School, Vice President; Dr. Dana Markham, President of Pine Crest School, Secretary; and Palmer Bell, Head of Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Treasurer. David Mahler will move to the position of Immediate Past President. New Directors include: Edward Ellison, Headmaster of St. Johns Country Day School; James Milford, Head of Maclay School; Joi Robertson, Head of St. Mark's Episcopal Academy; Dr. Robert Tennes, Headmaster of Boca Raton Christian School; and Dr. Steve Whitaker, Head of The First Academy. We extend congratulations to our new officers and a special welcome to our new directors.

CAPE. According to the recently released data from ACT, private school students are more likely to be prepared for college than their public school counterparts. In the area of English, 85% of 2015 private school graduates met or exceeded the benchmark for college readiness, as compared to 61% of public school students. Sixty-six percent of private school graduates met or exceeded the reading benchmark, with only 44% of public school graduates achieving the same. In the area of mathematics 60% of private school graduates met or exceeded the benchmark with only 40% of public school graduates attaining the same level; achievement of the science benchmark included 55% of private school graduates and 36% of public school graduates.

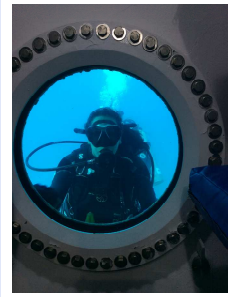
NAIS. We were all saddened by the passing of John Chubb, President of NAIS, on November 13, 2016. We extend our sympathy to his family and the NAIS staff.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

School News

Melissa Norelli, a Middle School Science and Math instructor from **Unity School** in Delray Beach, enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Melissa and four other teachers were excited to join the Teacher Under the Sea Program at FIU's Medina Aquarius Reef Base. These brave teachers joined FIU's science team as they studied the impact sharks

have on coral reef ecosystems and set out to answer the question, "Will the presence of sharks impact the grazing patterns of herbivorous fishes?"



held at the University of Central Florida (UCF) November 6th-8th. Model United Nations is a club where students roleplay delegates representing different countries and committees in a competitive UN simulation. Fourteen MVA students, representing 6 different countries attended the conference. Topics ranged from human trafficking to global terrorism.



Congratulations to Mr. Bill Jablon, Retired Head of School from **Maclay School**. Bill was honored at a special ceremony as the FSU College of Education Distinguished Alumni for K-12 Education.



Montverde Academy Upper School students competed at KnightMUN, the Model United Nations conference

Carrollwood Day School elementary students raised money to build three houses for the flood victims in South Carolina. Over the last several weeks they have collected nearly 200 toys for the kids and planned a Christmas party in SC complete with Santa, games, a choir and WWE Wrestler Chris Jericho. But these kids didn't stop there. They have partnered with God's Pit Crew (an emergency relief team) and Chideo.com to raise money and provide three homes for families who have lost everything. On Dec. 10, they traveled to SC with the gifts and presented two mobile homes to families that lost theirs in the storm...complete with furniture. Now, the kids are working to raise money to build a house for a family in need. They have raised nearly 18k and need to reach the goal of 35k.

Heads' Luncheons

Save the date cards and/or invitations will be sent for the following area Heads' Luncheons. Please feel free to contact another "area host" if you are unable to attend your area luncheon.

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Jacksonville Area

Hosted by: Palmer Bell

Riverside Presbyterian Day School

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas

Hosted by: Kevin Plummer

Tampa Preparatory School

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Tallahassee/Panhandle Area

Hosted by: James Milford

Maclay School

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Orlando Area

Hosted by: Craig Maughan

Trinity Preparatory School

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Miami Area

Hosted by: Greg Blackburn

St. Philip's Episcopal School

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas

Hosted by: Tane Bonham

Christ Church School

Thursday, May 5, 2016

North Palm Beach Area

Hosted by: Bob Goldberg

The Benjamin School

FCIS Convention

Inspiring Greatness

November 4-6, 2015

Thank you to all the schools, speakers and sponsors who participated in the annual FCIS Convention at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport in November. Convention Committee Chairs, Cindy Moon, Head of Park Maitland School, and Dr. Mike Sligh, Head of Lakeland Christian School, designed a program that emphasized the importance of developing the capacities of our future leaders in an innovation-driven economy to become the change makers and global citizens of tomorrow.

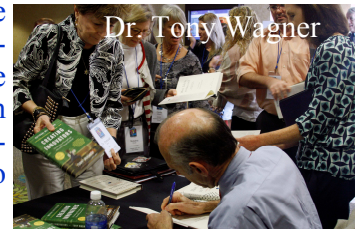
ISM kicked off the Convention with a pre-conference workshop, *The Effective Advancement Team – Self Knowledge and Team Building*. Nearly 40 participants spent the day focused on their advancement programs and how their admission, marketing, communications, and development professionals work together as a team. Dr. Paula Schwartz presented current research and framed the important questions to ask as school teams develop unity of mission, trust in each other's capacity, and create clearly assigned roles and valid measures of success. Participants examined the ISM Advancement Core Values, which provide a set of standards and metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of advancement efforts that serve as a foundation for schools as they develop their own action plans for advancement teamwork.



Christian Long

Over 2,000 educators from 137 independent schools attended two energizing days filled with innovative sessions on topics targeting educational leadership, design thinking, creating makerspaces, differentiated learning, and the diverse uses of evolving technologies to enhance teaching and engage learners at any level and in any discipline. Dr. Tony Wagner, Expert in Residence at the Harvard Innovation Lab, and Christian Long, Founding Partner of *Wonder (By Design)* delivered outstanding keynote addresses. In his presentation, Dr. Tony Wagner identified the capacity to solve problems creatively and to innovate as the

most important set of skills that will guarantee our students and our country a prosperous future. He outlined what we need to do to better prepare young people to bring the skills of innovation to whatever they do. Mr. Christian Long captivated classroom teachers and administrators with his presentation on design thinking mindsets, emerging technologies, and innovative school design practices. Later, he delved deeper into these topics with a smaller group during his post-conference workshop.



Dr. Tony Wagner



Dr. Sandy Shugart

Both the luncheons were heavily attended in anticipation of our two luncheon keynotes: Dr. Sandy Shugart, President of Valencia College, and Mr. Nishant Mehta, Head of The Children's School, Atlanta, GA. On Thursday approximately 425 administrators attended the luncheon to hear Dr. Sandy Shugart's presentation. He spoke about the character shaping experiences of leadership and identified the traits of an authentic leader. Close to 600 faculty members attended the Friday luncheon and heard a presentation by Mr. Nishant Mehta. He emphasized the need to embrace new

programmatic and financial models in this age of disruption of the traditional paradigm. He also highlighted the importance of developing a culture of innovation, while also balancing history and tradition, to provide value for families and faculty. During the luncheon door prizes were awarded, and the lucky winners went home with a number of great prizes: gift baskets, gift cards, and overnight stays at several great resorts. Dr. Barbara Hodges also delivered a "state of the association" address on Thursday, bringing members up to date on current FCIS initiatives, trends in independent schools on both a state and national level, and DASL.



Nishant Mehta

For the first time FCIS offered a mobile app for the Convention to provide participants with helpful information and navigation of the schedule, sessions, special events, hotel and exhibitors. Participants were able to give feedback on each session that they attended as well as on their overall Convention experience, which will shape the planning for next year's Convention.

Mark your calendars for next year! The FCIS Conference 2016 will take place at the Hyatt Regency Miami on November 3-4.

FCIS Convention

President's Reception

Honoring New FCIS School Heads



Special Thanks To Our Generous Convention Sponsors

Balfour Yearbooks
Independent Colleges and Universities Benefits Association (ICUBA)
Co-Sponsor of the Welcome Reception

Independent School Management (ISM)
Southern Teachers Agency (STA)
Co-Sponsors of the FCIS President's Reception

Special Thanks To Our Generous Convention Underwriters

Carney, Sandoe & Associates
Contribution to the Admission Directors' Dinner

Independent Colleges and Universities Benefits Association (ICUBA)
Contribution to the Board of Directors' Dinner

Metz Culinary Management
Contribution to the Administrators' Dinner

The Network Support Company
Contribution to the Technology Directors' Dinner

Smart Tuition Financial Solutions for Schools
Contribution to the Business Officers' Dinner

Accreditation Corner

By: Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation

Workshop: FCIS Evaluation Academy for Schools

Date: Wednesday, February 17 at Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orlando

Who should attend? This workshop will be most helpful for schools who are undergoing an evaluation in 2016-2017 or 2017-2018. Heads of School, Steering Committee Chairs, or any other faculty/staff member leading the accreditation process will benefit from this event.

Interested in serving on an FCIS Evaluation Team during the 2015-2016 school year? We are always on the lookout for educators who want to help other schools grow and improve by serving on an evaluation team. For information on how to sign up, please contact Director of Accreditation, Melissa Alton, at malton@fcis.org.

Your school's self-study: Write it right! Make sure your steering committee is using the correct template for the type of visit your school will undergo. Templates are available at www.fcis.org under "Info for School." If you are not sure which template to use, do not hesitate to contact the FCIS office for clarification.

Making a change? FCIS Bylaws require member schools to inform FCIS when they have a Change of Head, Change of Program, Change of Location, or Change of Ownership. Please inform the FCIS office of any upcoming changes in writing, either via e-mail or regular post. Need more information about what constitutes a change? Contact FCIS at (813) 287-2820 for assistance.

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

<u>January 2016</u>	<u>February 2016</u>	<u>June 2016</u>	<u>July 2016</u>
Prospective Heads' Institute I, II & III January 13-14, 2016 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills	Winter Symposium: Financial and Legal Workshop February 2, 2016 Technology Workshop February 3, 2016 Pine Crest, Ft Lauderdale	Heads' Retreat June 13-15, 2016 Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples	New Heads' Institute July 21-23, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa
Academy for High Performing Educators January 24-26, 2016 Corbett Prep of IDS, Tampa	Evaluation Academy February 17, 2016 Lake Highland Preparatory, Orlando	Evaluation Academy June 15-16, 2016 Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples	Fundraising Workshop July 23, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa
		21st Century Learning Academy June 22-24, 2016 Corbett Prep of IDS, TPA	Administrators' Retreat July 24-26, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa

FCIS Webinars

Serving on an FCIS Evaluation Team
 Jan. 21, 2016 @ 3:30 p.m.

Sex, Gender, Same Sex Marriage - What It All Means
 Jan. 22, 2016 @ 12:00 p.m.

FHSAA Update: Understanding and Operating Within the Guidelines
 Feb. 16, 2016 @ 12:00 p.m.

Florida Kindergarten Council Annual Conference

The Art of Tinkering



Keynote Speaker—Tom Pilecki

Tom Pilecki, MA is an Education Specialist for AlphaBEST, a leading provider of extended day programs around the country. Tom co-authored the best-selling book *From STEM to STEAM* with internationally acclaimed author David Sousa and conducts STEAM professional development workshops for universities, schools and school districts. His 40 plus years include being founder and principal of St. Augustine School of the Arts in the South Bronx, New York, the subject of the Sundance award-winning documentary “Something Within Me” (available on Netflix and OnDemand) as well as feature segments on 60 Minutes, World News Tonight and the McNeil-Lehrer report.

Friday, February 5, 2016

6:30-8:00pm Meet and Greet
Complimentary Beverages and Hors D'oeuvres

Saturday, February 6, 2016

7:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30am - 3:30pm General Meeting/Sessions/Lunch

The DoubleTree Sea World Orlando

10100 International Drive
Orlando, FL
800-327-0363



Registration Deadline: January 15, 2016
www.fkconline.org



We wish you a happy and safe holiday season!
From: The FCIS Office
Dr. Barbara Hodges, Melissa Alton, Alison Carlson,
Keara Danger and Tam Nguyen

