Summer Science Institute: Celebrating Science

2016 Program Book
Summer Science Institute: *Celebrate Science!*

The 2016 Summer Science Institute is developed by the UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training specifically for the School District of Palm Beach County in partnership with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida and funded by a Florida Department of Education Math-Science Partnership Award.

*Celebrate Science!: Sunday, June 5 – Thursday, June 9, 2016*

During the Summer Science Institute, participants will have the chance to work with UF faculty and graduate students, perform authentic research, visit laboratories and facilities, hear talks by research and industry leaders, develop classroom applications, and take several resources back to the classroom. This is an excellent professional development opportunity for teachers to increase their science content knowledge and gain valuable hands-on experience that will renew their excitement in the classroom and their comfort with their curriculum. Participation in this workshop also forms a partnership between the teachers and the University of Florida and encourages further collaboration between schools and the University.

The 2016 SSI theme *Celebrate Science!* recognizes the breadth of science by exploring many different disciplines and applications, particularly as they relate to academic and career opportunities. Participants will engage in topics from astronomy to zoology with a bit of chemistry, environmental science, geology, and physics as well. Example activities include:

- soaring the skies to view planets and constellations;
- investigating ecotoxicology using the bioindicator species *Daphnia magna*;
- visiting the insect petting zoo and discussing the great biodiversity of species on planet Earth;
- traveling back in time to explore Florida fossils; and
- following water through the complex hydrogeological features of north central Florida.

This special SSI is exclusively for grade 3-5 elementary teachers in Palm Beach County. The course curriculum is designed by UF CPET staff and UF College of Education faculty to align with the Florida Next Generation Sunshine Science Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. Participants will work together with the SSI team to translate current science and careers information into career-focused lessons for the elementary classroom.
UF CPET is the University of Florida’s “umbrella” for the articulation and transfer of current science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by linking research faculty and students with K-12 school teachers and students through a variety of campus and statewide programs. For almost half a century, CPET has offered discovery-based learning opportunities for secondary school students and, in more recent years, for teachers. The infrastructure of this University Center allows efficient and effective use of resources to administer programs on campus and throughout Florida. Its programs incorporate bridging activities that include teachers, researchers and industry professionals in preparing and delivering effective STEM education and career opportunities from middle school through graduate school. National and state science education standards govern CPET instructional programs. Activities are designed around National Research Council and Florida criteria for students to learn skills and acquire knowledge, and for developing curricula.

As a Center in Academic Affairs, CPET involves more than 300 UF scientists and engineers annually in its outreach programs. CPET also has an established history of collaborations with local, regional and state schools, and with educational and scientific professional societies. Professional development programs supported by HHMI, NIEHS, NSF, Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the University of Florida expand the content knowledge, skills, resources, and enthusiasm of in-service teachers. They also forge long-term relationships with researchers that result in converting new expertise into measurably successful new learning modules for students.
PROGRAM LOGISTICS – 2016 SUMMER SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Internet Access
A GatorLink account has been created for all program participants.

Username  SSI2016
Password  CPET2016!

UF CPET website:  http://www.cpet.ufl.edu/
UF CPET SSI website:  https://www.cpet.ufl.edu/teachers/ssi/ssi-2016/

On-Campus Dining
Many of your meals will be provided. For those not provided (two dinners), you are welcome to explore our area eateries both on and off campus. We are in Summer A, so campus choices will be quite limited. Hours for the on-campus eateries are available here: http://www.gatordining.com/hours. A map of eateries is available here: http://www.gatordining.com/meal-plan/where-to-eat-map.

Career Project
In your time with the Summer Science Institute, our expectation is that you will create a career lesson that you will implement in one or more classes in the coming school year. This lesson should be an innovative activity or module that incorporates components of the week’s institute and will apply directly to your population of students. One idea of what this could look like is provided in your folder. You will work with a group of 4-6 colleagues focusing on the careers associated with a topic we explore during the week.

Campus Bookstore
The bookstore located in the Reitz Union is open weekdays 8am-6pm, Saturdays 10am-5pm, and Sundays 12pm-5pm. The University of Florida Bookstores offer for sale the following: textbooks, trade books (including paperbound), technical and reference books, study aids, general and special school supplies, personal computers, imprinted clothing and gifts, and stationery items. They also offer a limited selection of snacks, drinks, and personal health items.
2016 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Cynthia Archer
Highland Elementary
Lake Worth
cynthia.archer@palmbeachschools.org

Leslie Fenton
Highland Elementary
Lake Worth
fentonla@comcast.net

Cari Griffith
Hope Centennial
West Palm Beach
cari.griffith@palmbeachschools.org

Susan Aspenwall
Pierce Hammock Elementary
Loxahatchee
susan.aspenwall@palmbeachschools.org

Elyse Fischer
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
fischerbound@hotmail.com

Susan Heckman
Grove Park Elementary
Lake Park
susan.heckman@palmbeachschools.org

Rebecca Blucher
Forest Park Elementary
Boynton Beach
rebjassar1@aol.com

Lara Flores
Highland Elementary
Lake Worth
lara.flores@palmbeachschools.org

Roseann Iacone
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
roseann.iacone@palmbeachschools.org

Trisha Borgen
Rolling Green Elementary
Boynton Beach
trisha.borgen@palmbeachschools.org

Maureen Flynn
Highland Elementary
Lake Worth
maureen.flynn@palmbeachschools.org

Brittany Kovacs
Poinciana Elementary School
Boynton Beach
brittany.kovacs@palmbeachschools.org

Sandra Brown
Cholee Lake Elementary
Greenacres
sanib217@gmail.com

Alicia Foy
Hidden Oaks Elementary
Lake Worth
alicia.foy@palmbeachschools.org

Alexandra Laing
JC Mitchell Elementary
West Palm
alexandra.laing@palmbeachschools.org

Camila Bulla
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
m.bullabernal@palmbeachschools.org

Sara Frankel
Poinciana Elementary
Boynton Beach
sfrankel11@gmail.com

Mara Mallek
Freedome Shores Elementary
Boynton Beach
mara.mallek@palmbeachschools.org

Kristina Carmichael
Grassy Watters Elementary School
West Palm
Kristina.Carmichael@palmbeachschools.org

Jennifer Gagnon
Rolling Green Elementary
Boynton Beach
jennifer.gagnon@palmbeachschools.org

Carolina Manjarres
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
carolina9501@yahoo.com

Rachelle Cintron
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary
Palm Springs
rachelle.cintron@palmbeachschools.org

Ashley Gempel
Crossipointe Elementary
Boynton Beach
ashley.gempel@palmbeachschools.org

Michelle Martin
Belle Glade Elementary School
Belle Glade
msmichellerena@gmail.com

Linda Cruz
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary
Palm Springs
linda.cruz@palmbeachschools.org

Mark Golzbein
Grassy Waters Elementary
West Palm Beach
mark.golzbein@palmbeachschools.org

DeAlex Martin
Pahokee Elementary
Pahokee
dealexmartin@gmail.com

Jheanell Delgado
Crossipointe Elementary
Boynton Beach
jheanell.delgado@palmbeachschools.org

Dahily Gonzalez
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
dahily.gonzalez@palmbeachschools.org

Julianne Miller
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
julianne.miller@palmbeachschools.org

Karen Dennis
Poinciana Elementary
Boynton Beach
karen.dennis@palmbeachschools.org

Amy Gorman
Crossipointe Elementary
Greenacres
amy.gorman@palmbeachschools.org

Bianca Moro
Pine Grove Elementary
Delray Beach
bianca.moro@palmbeachschools.org

Ivy Dodd
Highland Elementary
Lake Worth
ivy.dodd@palmbeachschools.org

Jonathan Greene
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
jonathan.greene@palmbeachschools.org

Patti Oltisky
Diamond View Elementary
Boynton Beach
patricia.oltisky@palmbeachschools.org

Lara Lee Evans
J.C. Elementary
Boca Raton
laralee.evans@palmbeachschools.org

Robin Griffin
Loxahatchee Groves Elementary
Loxahatchee
mrs.robingriffin@gmail.com

Kathryn Oxhorn
Liberty Park Elementary
Greenacres
kathryn.oxhorn@palmbeachschools.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email/Contact Information</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela Painter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:muffyangie@yahoo.com">muffyangie@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Rolling Green Elementary</td>
<td>Boynton Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaribel Pinero-Amaro</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mrspinero@yahoo.com">mrspinero@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Liberty park Elementary</td>
<td>Greenacres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonna Recchio</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jonna.recchio@palmbeachschools.org">jonna.recchio@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Loxahatchee Groves Elementary</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yamelete Rosa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yamelete.rosa@palmbeachschools.org">yamelete.rosa@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Northmore Elementary</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Schauers</td>
<td>tammy.schauers.palmbeachschools.org</td>
<td>Pierce Hammock Elementary</td>
<td>Belle Glade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Scott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ra_scott@bellsouth.net">ra_scott@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Rolling Green Elementary</td>
<td>Boynton Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Scruggs-Collins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beverly.scruggscollins@palmbeachschools.org">beverly.scruggscollins@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Palm Beach County School District</td>
<td>Riviera Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Sheppard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sheppardelizabeth@bellsouth.net">sheppardelizabeth@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Diamond view Elementary</td>
<td>Greenacres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Siegel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brittany.siegel@palmbeachschools.org">brittany.siegel@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Crossipointe Elementary</td>
<td>Boynton Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Sluzenski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amtink777@gmail.com">amtink777@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Grassy Waters Elementary</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karina Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karina.smith@palmbeachschools.org">karina.smith@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary</td>
<td>Palm Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Somrajit</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gary.somrajit@palmbeachschools.org">gary.somrajit@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Diamond View Elementary</td>
<td>Greenacres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittny Starr</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brittany.starr@palmbeachschools.org">brittany.starr@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Pine Jog Elementary</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Summerlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sharon.summerlin@palmbeachschools.org">sharon.summerlin@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Curriculum Department</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Turnipseed</td>
<td><a href="mailto:catherine.turnipseed@palmbeachschools.org">catherine.turnipseed@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Pine Jog Elementary</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Weeks-Hughes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.weekshughes@palmbeachschools.org">amanda.weekshughes@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Belle Glade Elementary</td>
<td>Belle Glade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Wellman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rachel.wellman@palmbeachschools.org">rachel.wellman@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Galaxy E3 Elementary</td>
<td>Boynton Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Willett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:holly.willett@palmbeachschools.org">holly.willett@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Crossipointe Elementary</td>
<td>Boynton Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dovetta Workman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dovetta.workman@palmbeachschools.org">dovetta.workman@palmbeachschools.org</a></td>
<td>Crossipointe Elementary</td>
<td>Boynton Beach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UF CPET Staff Information

Mary Jo Koroly, Ph.D.
Research Associate Professor, College of Medicine
Director, UF CPET, Academic Affairs
Email: korolymj@cpet.ufl.edu
Mary Jo is Director of the University of Florida Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (UF CPET) and a faculty member in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the College of Medicine. She served on the faculties of Bryn Mawr College and Harvard Medical School before coming to UF. Her research interests and publications are in the area of cell regulation, membrane biochemistry, and science education. Prior to joining CPET, she served as the founding director of the Education and Training Program of the UF Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, a laboratory-based workshop program to teach new concepts and techniques of DNA science to scientists and physicians, graduate and medical students, secondary school teachers, and non-science professionals. She continues to teach undergraduate and graduate courses and serves on numerous education committees on campus and throughout Florida. Since 1995, she has led UF CPET in science, math and technology programs that link UF research faculty and graduate students with in-service teachers and their motivated students in grades 6-12.

Julie Bokor, M.A.E.
UF CPET Assistant Director
Email: julie@cpet.ufl.edu
Julie joined CPET in May of 2001. She received her Bachelor's Degrees in Zoology and Microbiology and Cell Science from the University of Florida as well as a Master's in Science Education. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the UF School of Teaching and Learning. Julie has worked in both industrial and academic molecular biology laboratories. Her responsibilities include the development and implementation of workshops and educational opportunities designed to update high school and middle school science, math, and technology teachers on recent developments in their content area. Julie oversees all of the CPET programs for teachers including Bench to Bedside, ICORE, Mini Medical School, and the Summer Science Institutes.

Sven Engling, B.S.
Program Assistant
Sven has taught in an elementary school setting for two years, and is currently completing his Proteach masters in secondary science education. He is a Project Wild facilitator and has been involved multiple teacher workshops. Sven is a big proponent of inquiry based science teaching, and will be utilizing inquiry strategies when he begins teaching high school in the fall.

Steve Everett, M.S., M.Ed.
Summer Adjunct Program Instructor
Steve teaches Ecology and AP Environmental Science at Eastside High School in Gainesville, and is adjunct faculty at Santa Fe Community College, teaching Emergency Medical Care. He holds a B.S. in Zoology (UF), a M.Ed in Science Education (UF), and a M.S. in Environmental Engineering Sciences-Wetlands Ecology (UF). Steve was a CPET-TRUE participant in 1999. Since then, he has returned each summer to instruct in CPET programs including the Environmental Health Partnership, Gator Lab, Science Quest, Save the Earth’s Environment Through Knowledge, and the Summer Science Institutes. He was named Teacher of the Year in 2002 by the University of Florida Society of Research Scientists.
Bo Idsardi, M.S.
Blue Group Program Leader
Bo is currently attending the University of Georgia in Athens, GA, pursuing a Ph.D. in science education. He received a B.S. in biology and a M.S. in entomology from the University of Florida, where he also worked at CPET as a student assistant. During his master’s program, he studied how lipid membrane compositions changed in response to cold temperatures in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Currently his research focuses on how to support teachers in engaging students in authentic science practices. In his free time, Bo loves spending time with his wife, Lauren, and playing ultimate frisbee.

Lauren Idsardi, M.A.
Blue Group Program Leader
Lauren is a 3rd grade teacher in Winder, GA and recently finished her third year teaching. She attended the University of Florida, where she received a B.A. and M.A. in Elementary Education. She is looking forward to learning more about project based learning this summer, as well as new ways to integrate technology in the classroom. Lauren enjoys traveling and reality television.

Megan Joyce, B.S.
Orange Group Program Leader
Megan Joyce is finishing her first year as a veterinary student at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine hoping to pursue a career in aquatic animal health or wildlife medicine. Megan is from Naples, FL and previously worked as an environmental educator both in south Florida and coastal Oregon. Megan completed her Bachelor’s degree at the University of Minnesota with a major in Biology and minor in Spanish.
### UF Participating Faculty and Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Affiliation</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Baldwin, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor and Undergraduate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baldwinr@ufl.edu">baldwinr@ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coordinator Entomology and Nematology</td>
<td>(352) 273-3974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Gonzalez, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor Astronomy Department</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anthonyhg@astro.ufl.edu">anthonyhg@astro.ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(352) 294-1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Ivey</td>
<td>Research Scientist Center for Environmental</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dlivey@ufl.edu">dlivey@ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Human Toxicology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(352) 256-0030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce MacFadden, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor and Curator of</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bmacfadd@flmnh.ufl.edu">bmacfadd@flmnh.ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vertebrate Paleontology Florida Museum of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural History</td>
<td>(352) 273-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Sarajedini, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor Astronomy Department</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vicsaraj@astro.ufl.edu">vicsaraj@astro.ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(352) 294-1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Weeks, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Lecturer Entomology and Nematology</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jenweeks1@ufl.edu">jenweeks1@ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>(352) 273-3955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UF Participating Graduate Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Affiliation</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Lundgren, M.S.</td>
<td>PhD Student</td>
<td>School of Teaching and Learning College of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Mitchell, B.S.</td>
<td>PCP PIRE Project Assistant Florida Museum of Natural History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Moran, M.S.</td>
<td>PhD Student</td>
<td>Department of Biology Florida Museum of Natural History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Perez</td>
<td>PhD Student</td>
<td>Department of Geological Sciences Florida Museum of Natural History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2016 Participant Biographical Sketches

Ms. Cynthia Archer
Cynthia has been teaching in the Palm Beach County School District for nine years and has always enjoyed teaching Math and Science. She currently works as Highland Elementary K-5 Math Coach. Her short-term goals include helping to make Highland a STEM school and leading the charge for a STEM cultural change.

Ms. Susan Aspenwall
Susan has teaching for eight years and during the last seven years has taught 4th grade math, writing, and science. She is a very strong math teacher and would love to be able to contribute to the choice program her school will hopefully be starting in the upcoming year.

Ms. Rebecca Bulcher
Rebecca has been teaching in an elementary setting for the majority of her career. She currently works as a Science teacher and gifted coach. Rebecca is always striving to improve her teaching and likes to create a hands-on environment in her classroom. In addition to being an educator she is the mother of two college-aged children. She loves to travel, garden, and be surrounded by nature.

Mrs. Trisha Borgen
Trisha has been an educator for fifteen years and is still excited about teaching science! Trisha is currently an LTF and Science coach. She feels that through her job she is able to make students and teachers better learners. Her goal every day is to improve her teaching practice.

Sandra Brown
Sandra has been teaching for nineteen years. She currently teaches fifth grade and is a doctoral candidate at Grand Canyon University. Her favorite subject to teach is science because she loves how her students are stimulated and excited about the subject. Sandra has two daughters and a granddaughter who love science as well.

Camila Bulla
This is Camila’s second year teaching and she currently holds a position as a 1st grade teacher. She teaches science, social studies, reading, and writing at a dual language school. However, her favorite subject to teach is science.

Kristina Carmichael
Kristina has seventeen years of experience teaching and currently teaches third grade. She still loves to feel the excitement of learning something new to share with her students. Her hope is that this workshop will provide examples of ways to bring learning back to life with hands-on fun!

Rachelle Cintron
Rachelle has been an educator for seventeen years in various roles but currently teaches in the fifth grade gifted program. She loves math and especially enjoys learning how to integrate it with science, technology, and engineering. Rachelle is also pursuing a Specialist Degree for Educational Leadership. Rachelle is the mother of two children who she enjoys traveling with.

Linda Cruz
Linda has been teaching for seven years. She is currently the SECME Coordinator at her school. Her goal is to implement standards-based STEM lessons to enhance student science and math knowledge. Linda would also like to encourage more girls and women to pursue degrees in computer science, engineering, and physics.
Karen Dennis  
Karen has been teaching in Palm Beach County for over twenty-five years. Karen has worked with Kindergarteners and hearing-impaired infants in the past, but is currently teaching third grade. Teaching at Poiciana Elementary has given her fresh, new ideas for teaching. Who says you can’t teach old dogs new tricks! Karen also enjoys music and the arts and feels that we need to keep those activities integrated in our daily learning.

Lara Lee Evans  
Lara Lee has been teaching for K-6th grade for 26 years and loved every minute of it. She is currently teaching in a gifted 2nd grade classroom. Lara Lee embraces change and enjoy learning new methods and strategies that will excite students to learn. She is National Board Certified and holds Reading and Gifted Endorsements. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, gardening, and walking/running the beach. Lara Lee likes doing experiments and incorporating them in the classroom.

Ivy Dodd  
Ivy has been teaching in the Palm Beach County school system for over ten years. She has experience in a range of grade levels including an International Baccalaureate setting, but currently teaches fifth grade. It is her desire that all children, regardless of their background receive a quality education.

Elyse Fischer  
Elyse has been teaching for fifteen years and employs a multi-intelligence approach to learning. She currently teaches Kindergarten through first grade. In her classroom students are given a variety of opportunities to show what they know through: writing, drawing, moving, acting, and working with peers. Elyse is invested in promoting active education that is engaging, relevant, challenging and significant for learners.

Lara Flores  
Lara has been teaching since 1998 and currently teaches 3rd grade. She has previously worked in high school and second language adult education settings.

Maureen Flynn  
Maureen has been teaching for twenty-six years. She currently teaches 3rd grade dual language. Science fascinates her and she enjoys bringing her love of science and nature to her students.

Alicia Foy  
Alicia has taught elementary level science for fourteen years and her current position is as a fifth grade math and science teacher. She likes to go above and beyond to develop her knowledge in subject areas that she is interested in, including Science and STEM. Her math background makes her feel the need to see how math is being used in professional careers and understand how to relay that information to her students.

Sara Frankel  
Sara moved to Florida from New York four years ago. She has been teaching for four years and currently holds a position as a third grade teacher. She loves teaching science, but is interested in learning more about implementing science into her classroom.
Gennifer Gagnon
Gennifer has been an educator for three years. She teaches fourth grade, but also works as an academic counselor and tutor. Gennifer has earned a Master’s degree and is hoping to pursue my PhD in the next four years.

Mark Golzbein
Mark has been teaching for twenty-three years. He has taught various subjects including Math Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Mark currently holds a position as a third through fifth grade gifted Science teacher. When he is not teaching enjoys whaling and being outside in nature.

Dahily Gonzalez
Dahily has been teaching for nine years and currently works as a Kindergarten Dual Language teacher. She finds it fascinating how much they grow throughout the school year. Dahily enjoys doing hands on activities with her students and find it is something they enjoy as well.

Amy Gorman
Amy has been teaching for three and a half years. She currently holds a position as a 3rd grade teacher and enjoys traveling when she is outside the classroom.

Johnathan Greene
Johnathan has been teaching for eleven years. He currently works as a STEM Lab Resource Teacher and sees all students on the Fine Arts rotation. Johnathan loves Science and feels that teaching through STEM has energized his lessons. He enjoys high energy, high interest lessons that allow students to discover knowledge in a manner that best fits their learning styles.

Robin Griffin
Robin has been teaching for fifteen years and currently teaches 3rd grade Math and Science. She recently earned her master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Digital Teaching and Learning. From an online plan book, an app-based grade book, and video games, she uses digital resources in almost everything she does in her classroom. Robin utilizes STEM skills in her photography business and is a passionate artist who puts the A in STEAM.

Cari Griffith
Cari has been an educator for eight years. She is currently an ESOL Coordinator, but previously taught Dual Language. Cari is a Marzano Liaison, a Professional Development Team Member, the SAC Secretary, a Test Administration Assistant, the Business Partnership Coordinator, and a Literacy Leadership team member. Cari hopes to gain STEM knowledge correlate with common core standards for testing.

Susan Heckman
Susan has been teaching for 20 years and currently works as a Math and Science Coach. She loves to find ways to integrate content into real world activities and believe in project based learning. Susan is always looking for ways to bring excitement about learning into the classroom.

Roseann Iacone
Roseann has been an educator for sixteen years, however, this is her first year using STEM in her classroom. Although the lessons are challenging, she believes the kids are learning a lot. Her goal is to use STEM lessons in her classroom and engage students into scientific learning.
Brittany Kovacs
Brittany has been teaching for three years and currently teaches all third grade subjects. Science has always been her favorite subject to teach although she feels as though lately she has been getting away from it. She is hoping that SSI will set a science spark in her once more and is looking forward to the experience!

Alexandra Laing
Alexandra began her career as a middle school physical science teacher who focused on interdisciplinary, inquiry based learning. She is currently a fifth grade science and math teacher and a member of the STEM Committee at her school. Within a few months she will complete a graduate program in educational leadership and looks forward to a future of impacting schools with inquiry-based PBL STEM learning as the catalyst.

Mara Mallek
Mara is an educator by nature and has been teaching for seventeen years since she first came to the United States. She loves elementary school settings due to the diversity of subjects she can teach, but her favorite areas are science and math. She enjoys STEM workshops and the energy that all participants bring to them.

Carolina Manjarres
Carolina has been teaching for eleven years and currently holds a position as a Dual Language English teacher. She received her degree in elementary education and is considering going back to earn a Master’s. Carolina loves her job and the kids that she gets to help and impact in a positive way. She has always been interested in science and integrates science in any area that she can. Carolina also is an avid reader.

Michelle Martin
Michelle has been teaching for nine years. Right now she is a 3rd grade teacher. Michelle is a trained theatre professional and believes that creativity is as important to the development of the mind as strategic and logical thinking. When they all come together it proves to be something truly amazing!

DeAlex Martin
DeAlex has been teaching for eleven years and is currently working as a 5th grade teacher. He is a sports fanatic who uses the principles of hard work, dedication, and collaborative spirit to cultivate a culture of academic success within his classroom.

Julianne Miller
Julianne has been a teacher for eight years, seven of which have been at Liberty Park Elementary. She teaches 5th grade Math and Science, but her future goal is to be a Math or Science Coach.

Bianca Moro
Bianca has taught at the third grade level for five years. She loves teaching Math and Science because it is a flexible subject where the student can get invested in the content by participating in unique and creative experiments or hands-on activities.

Patti Olitzky
Patti has been an educator for twelve years and currently teaches ESE Math for 3rd-5th grade. The past year she has participated in the UF Coaching Institute and previous participated in a Thinking Math Institute. Patti found the real-life and hands-on experiences to be so powerful and encouraging. She loves to work with colleagues to learn new ways to inspire and motivate her students.
Kathryn Oxhorn
Kathryn has been a teacher for ten years and currently teaches second grade. This year Kathryn piloted the SECME program at her school and found that some of the projects can be challenging, but learned a lot. She enjoys bringing creativity into her classroom due to a background in painting and sculpture.

Angela Painter
Angela has been teaching for ten years in a range of settings, but she currently teaches 5th grade Science. She received the Rolling Green Elementary nomination for the Macy’s Teacher of the year 2017. She finds that students have more retention when they are encouraged and allowed to research and discover science concepts.

Glabriel Pinero-Amaro
Glabriel is originally from Puerto Rico, and began her teaching career there. She has spent five years teaching in the U.S. and she currently teaches fifth grade. Her goal as an educator is to help teachers understand the importance of integrating culture (language, cultural background, knowledge) into the current science curriculum.

Joann Recchio
Joann has been an educator for sixteen years, and has taught various grades including second, third, fifth, and ESOL. She enjoys using projects to enhance her students’ learning. Joann’s current ESOL position is ideal for her because she loves seeing her students learn and she loves learning about their cultures.

Yamelete Rosa
Yamelete has been teaching for three years and now serves as a STEM iLAB teacher. She introduced mechanical, packaging, biomedical, and material engineers to her students. The lessons brought real life experiences into the classroom and supported those with and without prior knowledge. Yamelete hopes to gain more knowledge concerning how to integrate STEM in Kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms at her school.

Robin Scott
Robin has been teaching for about eight years. She has always been passionate about teaching, especially teaching science, because she feels it allows students the ability to explore and think outside the box and beyond the classroom. After recently attending a science workshop, Robin was inspired to teach others how to make science interesting for both the teachers and the students.

Beverly Scruggs-Collins
Beverly is life-long learner and a lover of science and mathematics. She has been teaching for over eighteen years and currently works as a K-5 Science Specialist. In the future she hopes to become an administrator at a high needs school. Her personal goal for the future is to complete a full marathon.

Elizabeth Sheppard
Elizabeth has been teaching for twenty-one years and currently works as a Math and Science Resource teacher. Having her class as a part of the Fine Arts wheel allows Elizabeth to see every student in the school. This year she has stepped up the STEM portion of her class and has encouraged her school to participate in STEM challenges. She has also adapted the challenges for the ASD students at the school so those students could participate as well.
Andrea Sluzenski
Andrea has been teaching for seventeen years. The majority of her time as an educator has been spent teaching Math and Science. She currently teaches 4th grad and is looking forward to learning new things that can be implemented in the classroom.

Karina Smith
Karina has been teaching for 13 years and currently teaches 4th grade ESE inclusion, which proves to be challenging on a daily basis. She enjoys teaching math and science using creativity in her instruction. Karina’s goal is for each student to enjoy learning and to get rid of that “I can’t do it!” mentality. She enjoys reading during my free time and relaxing in the sun at the beach or on the boat.

Gary Somrajit
Gary has been teaching for six years and currently teaches 5th grade. He comes from a business background. He is very tech savvy, as he has experience in programing, building, and repairing computers.

Brittany Starr
Brittany has been teaching for four years. She teaches fourth grade at Diamond View Elementary. Brittany is a life-long learner and one of her current goals is to expand her “science” brain so she can bring it back to her classroom and fellow teachers. She enjoys cooking, watching Netflix, going to the beach, and hanging out with her sixty pound fur child named Zachary in her spare time.

Sharon Summerlin
Sharon has been a teacher in South Florida for nineteen years. In the past she worked as a Science and Math teacher and now works in the district curriculum office for Elementary Math. She presents PD, provides lesson resources, coaches teachers, and models lessons throughout the district.

Catherine Turnipseed
Catherine has worked at the #1 GREEN school in Florida for almost 6 years now. She has learned so much about how the outside can be brought into the classroom. Fellow teachers have shown how STEM activities can incorporate cooperative learning and high order thinking. She loves to be outside and be healthy, including visiting nature preserves and biking due to her exposure to a GREEN environment.

Amanda Weeks-Hughes
Amanda has been teaching for twelve years. She has gone from hating science to thoroughly enjoying it. She teaches STEM through the EiE curriculum and presents at symposiums and conferences in order to help teachers experience technologies that are available to use in their classrooms. She is amazed by the software and apps that are available to students and to teachers for professional development.

Rachel Wellman
Rachel has been teaching for nine years and currently teaches STEM iLab at Galaxy E3. In 2014 she completed her Ph.D. in Ecosystem Science and Management focusing on the potential effects and consequences of global change on below-ground ecosystem processes in south Texas grasslands. She enjoys learning how to teach younger students and loves sharing her knowledge of ecosystem science!

Holly Willett
Holly has been teaching for four years and she currently teaches third grade. Holly attended UCF where she played college volleyball and earned a Bachelors in Science for Elementary Education. While she does not have any children, she does have a nine-year-old dog that she considers her baby.