



We at Everglades High School are extremely excited to be your FASC vice president this school year. We hope you are enjoying the beginning of an all new school year and truly hope that you're all making the most of it by staying involved.

This issue of the Florida Sun is being sent to every Middle and High School in the state of Florida. However, the next issues will be sent electronically to FASC member schools only. To insure you receive your copy and become a member, please visit <http://www.fasa.net/fasc>.

We would love for every single middle and high school in Florida to remain connected. This newsletter is our way of ensuring that you receive news from other districts as well as important information regarding our state convention being held in Parkland, Florida in April of 2010.

In this first issue of the Florida Sun you'll be getting to know your 2009-2010 State Officers, district reports, receive membership information, receive a letter from the president school, West Florida, and the FASC Executive Director, Michael Roland.

Until next issue,

*"It's easy to follow; life gets interesting when you begin to lead."*

Joanna Joseph

FASC Vice President

Everglades High School

## From the President's Desk...

Hello, FASC!

Thank you for trusting the leadership abilities of West Florida High School to serve as your 2009-2010 FASC President. We have a very exciting year approaching.

Next year's FASC state convention will be held at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, from April 16-18, 2010. The FASC Executive Board Officers are working hard to put on a memorable and enjoyable conference.

The state project for the year 2009-2010 is "Literature for Little Ones." Currently Florida is the state with the third highest illiteracy rate in the country. The "Literature for Little Ones" project is aimed at promoting reading among today's youth to help solve the shocking illiteracy problem in our state.

There is a PowerPoint presentation available on the FASC website which contains project ideas and resources. As you complete your state projects, please send a short summary of them to West Florida High School. The contact information for both sponsor and student officer can be found under the "State Officers" tab on the FASC website. These projects will be posted on the website and used as a resource for other schools.

On behalf of the FASC Executive Board, I would like to thank you for being student leaders. If you have any questions, feel free to shoot me or any of the other officers an email. This year in FASC will be a great one thanks to your initiative and hard work. See you at FASC 2010!

*Sincerely,*

*Max Castillo*

*FASC President*



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

I wish I could write to members of the Florida Association of Student Councils and those who would become members in better times. As you should be aware, education in our state faces unprecedented challenges. Massive budget cuts have put school programs, both curricular and co-curricular, under a great deal of stress. Teachers have been surplussed, classes cut, activities cut, field trips eliminated and the list goes on and on.

It is a pretty bleak picture. However, with challenge usually comes opportunity. The current crisis gives our student elected leaders (that's you) an opportunity to represent your student body (your constituents) in ways you never imagined. Yes, you will still sponsor a large number of activities that will get students involved. You will do those things that make your school a better place for students on a daily basis. But now you can do more.

At last year's state convention, the FASC unanimously passed a resolution opposing cuts to education. Your president, Max Castillo, will take that resolution to Tallahassee and present it to state legislators. It's a good first step but, you, Max's constituents, must step to the plate as well.

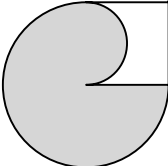
This is the year that student leaders could make a big difference in our state. Most people don't know how the cuts have impacted your school. You can let them know. Just as important, you can let our legislators know what is going on in your school. It's called putting a "face" on the problem. Make an appointment with a state legislator and share your concerns and opinions. Don't allow yourself to be patronized, remember, our state legislators work for you and your parents, you are their employer. If the current crisis in education doesn't activate you, find a cause that does. There are certainly plenty of them around.

As for your state organization, the FASC, we continue to be on sound financial footing. Your leadership team held a very productive Fall meeting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the site of our 2010 state convention. District presidents reported on the activities of their respective districts and the president emphasized the FASC state project, combating illiteracy.

I truly hope that our state's student leaders step up in this time of challenge. I know you can make a tremendous difference. I have been involved in student government as an advisor, director or coordinator for my entire career in education. In those 43 years I have never ceased to be amazed at the things that Florida's students can and have accomplished. I've seen schools and clinics built overseas, I've seen hundreds of thousands of dollars raised for medical research, I've tons and tons of food and supplies collected and sent to victims of natural disasters. I've seen students do things that make me very proud to be associated with them. I know you will continue in that tradition.

I will not wish you a good or easy year but I will wish you a challenging one because I believe that you can rise to meet any challenge. Good luck!!

Sincerely,  
Michael Roland  
FASC Executive Director



# Meet Your Officers

## Highlight on West Florida...

Name: Max Castillo

Grade Level: 12

Leadership position: FASC President

Future Aspirations: Attend Georgia Tech or Auburn  
to study Architecture

## The Swamp at Everglades...

Name: Joanna Joseph

Grade Level: 12

Leadership position: FASC Vice President

Future Aspirations: Become a JC at CEALTC & SFTLC;  
go to Duke University & work for the Broward County School Board

## Pompano Beach High School

Name: Veruska Gonzalez

Grade Level: 12

Leadership position: FASC co-secretary;  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP @ Pompano

Name: Monique Blake

Grade level: 12

Leadership position: FASC co-secretary;  
1<sup>st</sup> VP @ Pompano

## State Host, Majory Stoneman Douglas...

Name: Shane Randel

Leadership position: FASC co-treasurer

Interesting Fact: This will be my 10<sup>th</sup> SGA convention

Name: Zach Fertel

Nickname: Zippy

Leadership position: FASC co-treasurer

## Liberty's Parli Pro...

Name: Corey Grey

Leadership position: FASC Parliamentarian

Interesting Fact: I'm the first student to have a state office in  
Osceola County

# District News

## Meeting Dates

- I: December 4-5 in Tallahassee  
February 27, 2010 @ Pace HS
- II: September 22 @ Columbia HS  
January 29-30, 2010 @ Camp Crystal
- III: September 12 @ West Orange HS  
November 14 @ Colonial HS  
February 27, 2010 @ Boone HS
- IV: October 17 @ Booker HS  
January 22, 2010 @ FAA Leadership Camp  
March 6, 2010 @ Clearwater HS
- V: September 17 @ Royal Palm Beach HS  
December 1 @ Palm Beach Central HS  
February 19-20, 2010 @ Lake Placid HS
- VI: September 26 @ Plantation HS  
December 12 @ Everglades HS  
March 6, 2010 @ Coral Springs Charter HS

## District II

Greetings from District Two, the small district with the big voice! Our District had an eventful time at the FASC state convention last April; Estero really did a fabulous job! We are ready to make this year the most exciting year yet. This year, we plan on placing a special emphasis on getting small, private schools to join FASC and branch out their student councils. Our first meeting was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Columbia High School. The theme was "District Two Boot Camp!" and we had many exciting activities including the inspirational video "212: The Extra Degree." Gainesville High School and Columbia High School reported on their adventures at NASC and also had a round table discussions on the categories in the medallion notebook and the state project to promote literacy.

We will be practicing our tactical maneuvers at our next district meeting. This meeting will be our annual retreat to the beautiful Camp Crystal Lake. We plan on conducting our resolutions meeting, as well as electing new officers and making s'mores! Hopefully all of our training will get us another win at the District Olympics!

See you in April at State Convention!

Respectfully,  
District II President  
Ann Musselman, Buchholz High School

## District VI

Greetings from District 6!

District 6 is holding a district wide book drive; in which each member school donate a minimum of 10 books to Plantation High School in conjunction with the state project. We, as a district, adopted the statewide project "Literacy for Little Ones." The project aims to promote literacy among today's youth. Please bring the books to the next District 6 meeting on December 12 at Everglades HS. Keep in mind this does not replace any school project planned.

Our main goal this year is to increase middle school involvement at the district and state level.

We will hold our annual FASC tee shirt design contest on December 12. The winning school will receive five free shirts; each additional shirt will be \$10. Please bring your design to that meeting.

If you would like to hold a workshop at the upcoming meeting, please contact Everglades High School at [jdrivas92@yahoo.com](mailto:jdrivas92@yahoo.com) or [lisa.gould@browardschools.com](mailto:lisa.gould@browardschools.com).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at Plantation High School at 754-322-1907, or email us at [neal.cain@browardschools.com](mailto:neal.cain@browardschools.com) or [mychithivan@gmail.com](mailto:mychithivan@gmail.com).

Chi Van  
District VI President  
Plantation HS

## District V

Greetings FASC!

Start your year with our first meeting on September 17, 2009.

Our first meeting is the "Worst to First...One Last Step" led workshop.

Conference in February, and a keynote address from Mr. Geoff Chiles, grandson of the former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles, from the "Worst to First" movement. Nationally, Florida is ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in education. "Worst to First" is a statewide movement committed to taking education from worst in the nation to first. It is a response to the politicians who refuse to invest in our future – education. We hope that this meeting encouraged our district to go out and not only create solutions, but put them into action. Palm Beach Central High School will be hosting our second District V meeting on December 1, 2009, and our annual Leadership Conference will take place at Lake Placid High School in Lake Placid, Florida from February 19-20, 2010. We hope that these meetings will allow us to come together as a District and work toward achieving our common goals:

1. Recruitment – reach out and encourage schools within your county to join our district, and furthermore FASC.

2. Community involvement – make a difference! Go out into your local neighborhoods and lend a helping hand. Even the smallest action has a ripple effect.

3. Political involvement – do something bigger than your school.

Best of luck,

Karlie LaCroix  
District V President  
Royal Palm Beach High School