



First Edition
September 23, 2010

will highlight extremely exceptional individuals (because every FASC council member is an exceptional leader).

If you would like to submit your project as a candidate for "Project Spotlight" please email a description and photos to chssga@gmail.com. Additionally, "Leader of the Month" nominations can be emailed to the same address. Those submissions must include a high-resolution photograph of the individual, as well as the person's SGA position, grade, school, and a short description about why they deserve the honor. Please have the included media release form on file at your school for any nominees, and email a copy to the above address.

Thank you again for entrusting Columbia High to be your FASC Vice-President. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Francis Diaz

Francis Diaz
FASC Vice-President
Columbia High School
386.755.8080 Ext. 154 or 139

Welcome to the Sun!

Welcome back FASC!

I hope everyone had an awesome summer and has returned passionate and raring to change their schools! Columbia High School is so excited to serve as the Vice President this year. This is the first time we have ever held a State Office, and it is a huge honor for our council. We are filled with ideas on how to increase the effectiveness of the Executive Board, and improve communication among FASC member schools, so look for discussion of these changes in the coming editions of the Sun!

Improvements to the Sun itself are also on the way, and some have already been made. Immediately obvious is an updated layout and bright, exciting design. These enhancements improve readability and create a more desirable publication. In future editions, you will see sections that highlight outstanding projects being performed by FASC schools. Think of this section as a miniature "Project of the Year" award! Another section titled "Leader of the Month"





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FAVORITE QUOTE:

“**Do or do not!
There is no try!**”
- YODA

For the sake of brevity, I will consider student council, student government and SGA to be synonymous in this message.

As the Florida Association of Student Councils enters its seventy-second year we, (SGA members, officers and advisors) take pause and evaluate the role of our middle and high school SGA organizations in the 21st century.

At its inception student councils were viewed as an organization that would give students the opportunity to practice democracy. It was to be a type of laboratory to give students some experience in self-government. To that end SGAs, were given authority over certain aspects of the schools co-curricular program. That authority usually extended to the planning of social activities, service projects and spirit raising events. That role hasn't changed but it is no longer as simple as it was. Student leaders can no longer simply provide activities for others and try to raise school spirit in a conventional way.

Today, Florida's drop out rate is about 40 percent however, over 90 percent of those high school students who participate in co-curricular activities graduate. Don't get the idea that this message is intended for high school student leaders only. Statistics show that most of the students who decide to drop out make that decision between the 8th and 9th grade and that students who are involved in middle school tend to stay involved in high school.

Student leaders must now seek ways to increase and maintain student engagement. Student engagement is not defined as attending events, it is defined as helping to plan, organize and work on those events. This cannot be accomplished if student government is a tight little club for the socially elite of the school. Student leaders, in order to truly help their peers, need to find way to give students ownership of various projects and events. They must think "outside the box" when considering projects. They must make sure that a large number of students have a real voice in what takes place in their school. Unfortunately, there is no "silver bullet" that can be found to promote student engagement. It is a difficult problem with no easy solution. Getting the uninvolved, truly involved is not an easy task however, historically, real student leaders have accomplished the difficult. After all, if real leadership was easy anyone could do it.

In addition to undertaking the changing role of promoting student engagement our state's student governments must begin to accept a greater degree of civic responsibility. This goes far beyond blood drives, voter's registration drives and mock elections. Those and similar service projects are important and should be continued but more is needed. Budget cuts have begun to cripple Florida's schools and, for the most part, student leaders have remained silent. It is time that student government leaders started representing their constituency, the students in their schools. Many of those students will be hurt through the loss of activities and classes. School board members and legislators need to hear from you. You are the elected voice of your student body.

As the FASC Executive Director, I hope to hear from you and about you. Good Luck.

Michael Roland

FASC Executive Director



Amanda Cacapava

el PRESIDENTE

Hey Everyone!

I hope everyone had a great summer! I would like to thank you all for trusting Spanish River High School to serve as your 2010-2011 FASC President. We have a very exciting year ahead of us and we can't wait to begin representing you.

Next year's FASC state convention will be held at Pace High School in Pensacola, Florida, from February 16-18, 2010. The FASC Executive Board Officers are working hard to make next years convention the greatest and we are all super excited to see you in February!

The state project for the year 2010-2011 is "Shine a Light." This project will focus on the members of your communities who have disabilities. We want them to believe that no matter what the disability, there are always plenty of possibilities. We as high school students have to raise awareness that citizens with disabilities can live a life with endless possibilities.

I will be posting a PowerPoint on the website soon for a list of ideas and organizations for the project. Let's reach out and help the disabled. Our help is needed now more than ever since Florida is the only state that does not help to fund most programs for disabled citizens. Let us all get together so WE can let their light shine. I want everyone to be creative, think outside the box as you begin working on your projects, and please send a short summary of them to Spanish River 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 send me or any of the other officers an email. This year FASC will be the greatest, thanks to your hard work and initiative. So get out there and "Shine a Light"! We are all eager to hear from you! See you at FASC 2011!

Sincerely

Amanda Cacapava

Amanda Cacapava
FASC President
Spanish River High School
561-241-2294



Ashley Dodson

than ONE

TWO is better



Libby Lirette

Hey guys we are really excited to be hosting the FASC Convention this year! Our convention will be held February 18-20, 2011. We picked this early date to ensure that all students, even seniors, would have the opportunity to take back all the great things you learn over the weekend and put them into action in your schools and communities. Registration is \$175 per delegate. This includes three days filled with motivational speakers, workshops, elections, dances, and so much more. Delegates will get an opportunity to tour Historic Pensacola and even see an imax film at the Naval Air Station located in Pensacola. Our theme for the convention is The Seven Wonders of Leadership. Come with us to discover the seven qualities we think every leader should have and how they pair up with the seven wonders of the world. We will also be having a special competition that will take delegates around the world! Registration packets with more information will be out soon and if you have any other questions please feel free to contact one of the people listed below. Hope to see you in February!!

Join our page on facebook! "FASC 2011 State Conference"

Ashley Dodson
Ashley Dodson

Libby Lirette
Libby Lirette

Co Treasurers/Hosts
Ashley Dodson
dodson2011@aol.com

Libby Lirette
libbyl@live.com

Pace High School Adviser

Celene Sessions
sessionsc@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us

Pace High School Co-Adviser

Claudia Cassevah
cassevahc@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us



Emily Lundy

madam SECRETARY

Hello everyone, Lake Placid High is a 2A school with almost 700 students. Our student government has open enrollment and currently has 82 members. We have also maintained the golden medallion award for 23 consecutive years! I am very proud of this achievement! My favorite SGA project that my school does is "Flush Away Cancer". This is where we send a toilet around school and students put money in it. All the proceeds go the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. We usually raise over \$500.00 per semester by doing this simple project. Go SGA!

Those of us from my high school, who attended the FASC State Convention, "The Superbowl of Leadership", utterly enjoyed it. The guest speakers were wonderful and we really enjoyed participating in Hoops of Hope. Stoneman Douglas High School did quite a phenomenal job. Now I am looking forward to attending next year's state convention hosted by Pace High School.

Because of being involved in student government my views of leadership have changed over the years, but today I believe that leadership is purely standing up for what I believe in even when the crowd doesn't, as well as I never give up. A lesson that I have definitely learned in student government is not to get upset if things do not turn out the way I expect. Life will end up taking its course and it is not in my hands to control it!

So that is pretty much my school and me in a nutshell, and I promise to do my best this year as your new FASC secretary.

Emily Lundy
Emily Lundy

Getting to know your Officers

el
PRESIDENTE

Name: Amanda Cacapava
Position: President
School: Spanish River High School
Grade: 12
Hobbies: painting, cheering and hanging out with friends
Random Fact: is a member of the varsity bowling team

co-
TREASURER

Name: Ashley Dodson
Position: Treasurer
School: Pace High School
Grade: 12
Hobbies: hanging out with friends, movies, SGA, church activities
Random Fact: used to ride horses

madam
SECRETARY

Name: Emily Lundy
Position: Secretary
School: Lake Placid High School
Grade: 12
Hobbies: dancing, and participate in a lot of church activities
Random Fact: as a kid, her worst fear was spit

vice
PRESIDENTE

Name: Francis Diaz
Position: Vice-President
School: Columbia High School
Grade: 12
Hobbies: student government activities, zumba, hanging out with friends
Random Fact: can lick her elbow

co-
TREASURER

Name: Libby Lirette
Position: Treasurer
School: Pace High School
Grade: 12
Hobbies: dance team, cross country, and traveling
Random Fact: has been in SGA for 4 years

the
PARLIAMENTARIAN

Name: Ashley Atkinson
Position: Parliamentarian
School: Bay High School
Grade: 12
Hobbies: church, hanging out with friends, reading, and relaxing
Random Fact: is afraid of birds

Keeping up with the Districts...

District ONE

District One is excited that our own Pace High School is hosting this year's state convention. The convention will be held from February 18th to the 20th and the theme is "The Seven Wonders of Leadership." We hope to see you there!

Our first district meeting will be held on September 18th at Deane Bozeman High in Panama City. The second district meeting will be held on November 20th OR December 4th at Leon High in Tallahassee. The final district meeting will be held at Booker T. Washington High on January 22nd.

District TWO

Hi FASC! Columbia High School, District Two President, is proud to be representing such a fantastic group of people this year. As a young member of FASC, we are incredibly enthusiastic about State and District matters, and wish to share our enthusiasm with others in our district. We have planned a digital campaign, along with standard paper mailings to increase district enrollment and participation. These materials will hopefully give insight into just how fun serving your school and community can be, and will provide an opportunity to learn more!

We hope everyone enjoyed our Annual Retreat, held at Camp Kulaqua. There's nothing better than spending time with your district family, especially when the famous "blob" is involved! The change in location was a break from tradition, but one that we felt enabled us to take the event to the next level. If you missed it, please email fascdistrict2@gmail.com to request the powerpoint presentation containing important district information and updates!

While on the topic of events, it is important to note the time and location of the next business meeting. That meeting will be held on November 17, 2010 at Gainesville High School. At this meeting, we will have a presentation from the District Project Committee, and we look forward to seeing what creative ideas they have developed. Also taking place will be elections for district offices, and the infamous resolutions meeting. We hope to see you there!

Jon Darby

Columbia High School

FASC District 2 President

District THREE

Hello everyone from sunny Central Florida!

As we get back into an exciting school year, District 3 has some noteworthy news we'd like to share with you!

This year, District 3 has three main goals that we are working hard to accomplish. The first goal we have is to get all the schools involved with FASC to participate in the State Project, in addition to our District 3 Project. As future leaders, we are ready to help the special needs community in any (and every) way we can. Our second goal is to increase the lines of communication between every school in District 3. Finally, our last goal is to increase membership to 25% (if not more) of all the schools in the district.

To help us increase membership, we are in the process of contacting all the schools in our district to invite them to our first District Meeting, which is September 25th at Timber Creek High School. While we still have much to plan, I can say that we are very fired up for what has already been set in stone!

Before I go, I'd like to leave you with a very special quote for us leaders by Ralph Waldo Emerson that says "Do not go where the path may lead you, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail!" I can't wait to see all of you leaders at the FASC State Convention!

Isaiah Mervin

FASC District 3 President
 Timber Creek High School

District FOUR

As the 2010-2011 school year progress for some and just beginning for most, the Student Governments in District Four have been steadily on their way to a prosperous and very successful year. The District Four President, Charlotte High School, in collaboration with the other schools in the District, have set their minds to expanding the membership and enrollment of not only the District, but FASC as a whole. With up coming District Meeting Rallies in the midst of planning and setting up, there will be no room for lack of involvement from any school in our areas! The Rally dates, locations, and host are as follows: Fall Rally, hosted by North Fort Myers High School, will be held at North Fort Myers HS on October 2, 2010. Winter Rally, hosted by Charlotte High School, will be held at the FFA Training Center in Haines City, FL on January 20 and 21, 2011. The Spring Rally, hosted by Port Charlotte High School, will be held at Port Charlotte HS on March 5, 2011.

The Fall Meeting in October will be a great introduction to this year's agenda. There, we will be informing the attending schools of ideas for the State "Shine a Light" Project, discussing resolutions on current problems on the Florida state level on education, such as extracurricular activities being cut from budgets... yes, this means Student Governments, and other ways to get involved in the State. These Rallies are filled with learning experiences, leadership skill developing, and a chance to create friendships and networks that will last a life time.

District Four is eager to try and increase the involvement of non-member schools in our District. By sending out emails to the schools, advisors and Presidents within our district, we are hopeful to receive healthy feedback and a willingness to participate in all that District Four and FASC has to offer. Some high schools, such as Palmetto Ridge High School of Naples, Florida, are creating a "Mini-Rally" in their city. They are in the process of creating a schedule and setting a date. They plan on inviting all the local high schools in their area, so that they are informed and can get a taste of what our District Rallies and FASC is all about. This is an exciting step for District Four, and we are looking forward to increasing our participation in District Four and FASC.

J. Giuliano

Shelby Edwards
Charlotte High School
District Four FASC Executive Board

District FIVE

Hello FASC!

This is Palm Beach Central High School representing District V. So far we have had a busy but eventful year planning the upcoming District V events! We have established a district project this year that will begin at the first District V meeting. We have designed this project to encourage the schools involved in District V to lead a healthier lifestyle. We plan on doing this by serving healthy breakfast options at our district meetings, along with various health and exercise projects and tips. We have also sent out our first letter to all District V schools encouraging them to become members of both FASC and District V. A FASC enrollment form was included with the letter. We have all been working hard to prepare for the first meeting here in District V! Our first meeting will be held on September 30th, 2010. The second on December 3, 2010. And finally the rally will be held on February 5, 2010. We are all so excited to be working with everyone involved in FASC and can't wait for a fun and successful year!

Hannah Eveleth
Palm Beach Central High School
District V President

District SIX

Hello my name is Lauren Perez and I'm from Everglades High School.

We are thrilled to serve as your District VI President.

This year we are determined to increase membership throughout Broward, Dade, and Monroe County. Our meeting days this year our September 25th at Everglades High School, November 20th at Stoneman Douglas High School, and January 29th at Plantation High School. Hope to see you all there. Don't hesitate to email me at perezlauren@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding District VI.

Lauren Perez
Everglades High School
District Six President

Media Release Form

1) I, the undersigned, hereby authorize Columbia High School and the Florida Association of Student Councils to use a photograph of my child in the Florida Association of Student Councils' (FASC) "Florida Sun" Newsletter. I understand that this publication is freely available online, through the FASC website.

Agreed and Accepted By:

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parental Consent

I certify that I am the parent or guardian of the individual above, _____, a minor under the age of eighteen years. I hereby agree to assume legal responsibility for his/her authorizations referred to in this General Media Release.

Signature of Applicant's Parent/Guardian

Date

Address of Parent/Guardian (if different)

Phone Number (if different)

City

State

Zip