2013 FJAS Annual Meeting

One hundred fifty-six FJAS members submitted research papers to the preliminary competition. The team of judges selected 90 papers for the March 9th competition. Seventy-three students presented their research at the Barry University. The state competition could not have been possible without the assistance of:

Jeremy Montague and Sanjay Sesodia of Barry University for local arrangements
Barry University for opening their facilities to FJAS and providing moderators
Sanjay Sesodia - FAS President
Judges from Florida Academy of Sciences, Barry and Nova Universities for their time and expertise
American Heritage - Presidential Chapter who provided snacks, water and assisted with awards
Spruce Creek - Vice Presidential Chapter who were unable to attend but sent a donation
Manatee High - Secretarial Chapter who prepared registration materials
Patricia Zalo for coordinating FJAS
FJAS sponsors who encourage, assist, and bring students to the competition
FJAS members who submit and present research
Parents of FJAS members for their support

During the Business meeting Pine Crest was elected as Presidential Chapter. No chapter was willing to take on role of Vice Presidential Chapter.

Special Awards

FJAS offers some very special awards. Students who compete at FJAS as high school juniors have the opportunity to present their research at the American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS) which is held at the same time at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Students who place at FJAS as juniors can apply for a full paid scholarship while other juniors who competed at FJAS can apply for nomination where they will pay their own expenses. It is an awesome experience. This past year five students attended AJAS/AAAS in Boston. During the Business meeting Miguel Paredes shared his experiences at AJAS. Rumya Raghavan had received the scholarship for AJAS but was unable to attend FJAS. I know of no other place where high school students can interact with scientists and one of the best opportunities is the breakfast that the students have with the scientists. The deadline for the application for both the scholarship and nomination are September 1st. These applications are submitted via email to expedite forwarding the applications to the judges on the FAS board who select the scholarship winner and approve nominations.

In addition, seniors can apply for an FJAS scholarship if competing their senior year and attending a college or university in Florida. The goal is to have FJAS members become members of the Florida Academy of Sciences
and present at the FAS annual conference held on the same weekend as FJAS. This year Hakeem Rhodes of Sarasota was awarded a scholarship.

Congratulations to the winners at the 2013 Florida Junior Academy of Science Competition

Middle School Biological
1st River Grace of West Shore
2nd Nithya Kasarla of American Heritage
3rd Caroline Nolan of Stuart
4th Anthonoy Cheung of Stone

Middle School Environmental
1st Cavan Masterson of Stone
2nd Jonathan Mirchandani of American Heritage
3rd Kyle Ferguson of Stone
4th Brianna Youhanna of Stone

Middle School Medical
1st Nilay Neeranjun of American Heritage
2nd Sebastien Nicolas of Stone
3rd Suganth Kannan of American Heritage
4th Giao Huynh of Stone

Middle School Physical
1st Urvesh Ashar of Stone
2nd Anna Zimmerman of Braden River
3rd Conner Bolick of Stone
4th Deven Shastri of Stone

High School Behavioral
1st Miguel Paredes of American Heritage
2nd Laura Herman of Pine Crest

High School Biological
1st Anastasia Hediger of Pine Crest
2nd Allison Belette of Pine Crest
3rd Ajay Singh of Pine Crest
4th Niki Wadwha of Pine Crest
High School Environmental
1st Bo You of American Heritage
2nd Jamie Odzer of Dr Michael Krop
3rd Preksha Bhagchandani of Pine Crest
4th Kristina Thoren of American Heritage

High School Literary
1st Olivia Sacks of Dr Michael Krop
2nd Caela Gomes of Archimedean

High School Medical
1st Alexander Forsyth of Episcopal
2nd Angelica Gousse of American Heritage
3rd Harshath Gupta of American Heritage
4th Ross Piper of Dr Michael Krop

High School Physical
1st Casey McManus of Sarasota
2nd Joseph May of Pine Crest
3rd Sameer Kailasa of American Heritage
4th Hakeem Rhodes of Sarasota

Special Awards for Outstanding Presentations
were awarded to:
Robert Bacchus, Jr. of Lincoln Park
Alexandria Brantley of Sarasota
Sophia Christodoulou-Rubakava of Archimedean
Shane Cosme of Stone
Tommy Fields of Stone
Zain Kabeer of Oak Hall
Natalie Olson of Sarasota
Alana Steinberg of Pine Crest
Elliot Whitney of Stone

We hope to see you at the 2014 competition. The plans to have the competition at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce have not been finalized. More information will be available in the Fall newsletter.