For the 2014–2015 school year, seven chapters renewed their affiliation and a new chapter joined with a total of 283 members. There were also 11 individual members for a total of 294 members. Of these 128 students submitted papers to the preliminary competition. Eighty students were initially invited to present at the 2015 competition. When cancellations were received an additional 10 students were invited to present based on their scores from the judges of the preliminary competition. Once again many students did not follow the guidelines for submitting their papers which may have prevented their papers being selected. The most common problems that caused students to lose points were:

- Generic attachment name (FJAS paper is not appropriate, use a few key words of the paper title)
- Student's name, school, or mentor's name appears in the paper or in attachment file name
- Papers exceeded the 2MB size – these were sent back to be corrected, but delayed acceptance or figures were deleted from the file prior to sending it on to the judges.

Many judges and myself have limits on our inbox and large files are not always accepted.

Seventy-one students presented their research at St Leo University in Saint Leo on March 21, 2015. This competition would not be possible without the help of many people. Our thanks go to:

- Saint Leo University for allowing us to use their facilities
- Iain Duffy and Darin Bell who arranged the use of the facilities and secured Saint Leo staff and students to help with the preliminary judging, Saint Leo judging, moderating, providing the Judges' lunch and other assistance
- Florida Academy of Sciences Council members for providing judges for both the preliminary judging and a moderator for the Saint Leo competition
- Jeremy Montague, President, and Jenny Bouchard of Florida Academy of Sciences
- Patricia Zalo, FJAS Director
- American Heritage, Presidential Chapter for providing snacks for students and help with ceremony
- Pine Crest, Vice-Presidential Chapter for providing beverages and moderators
- Judges for their time and expertise
- FJAS sponsors who encourage students in scientific research and competitions
- Parents of FJAS members who support their children in their pursuits
- FJAS members for participating in research and presentations
- Volunteers who stepped forward to moderate the sessions

Business Meeting included introduction of volunteers

During last year's business meeting Patricia Zalo mentioned that she needed help and two people contacted her. Leya Joykutty and Kannan Nagarajan introduced themselves and expressed their desire to assist with the leadership of FJAS. Patricia Zalo asked for comments from the FJAS members concerning the change of leadership before the Florida Academy of Sciences meets in June. Brigitte Blanco of Pine Crest who won the scholarship to AJAS was unable to attend the FJAS competition so Ms Gordinier, the chaperon to AJAS, read her letter of appreciation. The highlights of the conference which is held in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science include a presentation similar to FJAS or participation in a round table discussion and a poster presentation for AAAS. Carson Coggeshall, Genevieve Selden, Elizabeth Feldman and Alan Koolik who were nominated for AJAS also shared their experience at AJAS/AAAS. This opportunity is available to students in 11th grade who compete at FJAS. Applications were available during the Awards Ceremony and are due September 1st.

In addition, the students attending the State and the International Science & Engineering Fairs were recognized and applauded. Patricia Zalo also gave Certificates of Appreciation to Matthew Dardet, Hunter Fields, Alec Gugel, and Nicole Maharaj of Pine Crest and Kathleen McCoy who moderated sessions. During the Business Meeting Pine Crest was elected as the Presidential Chapter and American Heritage as the Vice Presidential Chapter for the 2015-2016 school year.
2015 FJAS Competition Results

Middle School Biology
1st – Omar Shareef of Saint Edwards
2nd – Ritka Jeloka of Stone
3rd – Pooja Shah of Stone
4th – Hemangi Rajpal of American Heritage

High School Biological Sciences
1st – Dylan Burgin of Sarasota
2nd – Michael Varnerin of Pine Crest
3rd – Carly Crump of Episcopal
4th – Sana Shareef of Saint Edwards

Middle School Environmental Science
1st – Samantha Seecharan of Stone
2nd – Ally Vernich of Stone
3rd – Kim Ciarcia of Stone
4th – Trishala Kumar of American Heritage

High School Environmental Sciences
1st – Jonathan Mirchandani of American Heritage
2nd – Rebecca Elsishans of Sarasota
3rd – Nhu Le of Sarasota
4th – Andre Royce of Episcopal

Middle School Physical Sciences
1st – Rachel Dowell of Research Coast
2nd – Josiah Avery of Olivet
3rd – Brendon Harcourt of Stone
4th – Ryan Khan of Stone

High School Medical Sciences
1st – Natalie Olson of Sarasota
2nd – Rachel Levy of David Posnack
3rd – Nithya Kasarla of American Heritage
4th – James Salvador Niffenegger of Pine View

High School Behavioral Sciences
1st – Antares Tobelem of American Heritage
2nd – Kathryn Richards of Sarasota

High School Literary
1st – Andre Radensky of Pine Crest
2nd – Matthew Merrigan of Pine Crest

In addition to the place awards, the following students were recognized by the judges for their outstanding presentations:
Morgan Barney of Stone
Gauri Kasarla of American Heritage
Nicole Odzer of Pine Crest

Carson Coggeshall of Pine Crest

Congratulations to SSEF Winners

The 60th State Science & Engineering Fair was held at Lakeland Center March 31 – April 2, 2015 where 19 of the FJAS presenters also competed. Of these students 16 placed representing 84% while only 48.4% of the students with individual projects who didn't compete at FJAS won place awards. All nineteen were recognized on stage for their projects. Congratulations to:

First Place: Carly Crump of Episcopal, Elizabeth Donoway of Pine Crest, Rebecca Elsishans of Sarasota, Andre Royce of Episcopal, Omar Shareef of Saint Edwards and Sana Shareef of Saint Edwards

Second Place: Kim Ciarcia of Stone, Elizabeth Feldman of Pine Crest, Nithya Kasarla of American Heritage, and Ally Vernich of Stone

Third Place: Dylan Burgin of Sarasota, Gauri Kasarla of American Heritage and Natalie Olson of Sarasota


Honorable Mention: Nicole Odzer of Pine Crest

Recognition Awards: Jonathan Mirchandani of American Heritage and Caroline Nolan of Jensen Beach

The 2016 FJAS competition will be held at the St Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida on March 19th. We hope to see you there.