

AFC

Florida Association of Community Colleges is now
AFC—Association of Florida Colleges

Chapter News

Dec. 19, 2010 Volume 1, Issue 2

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE



FACC is now AFC—Association of
Florida Colleges

AFC logo coming soon!

Message from chapter president by Susan Caldwell

As the end of the year approaches, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the past year's events and asking ourselves, "What did we accomplish? Did we meet our goals?" As outgoing chapter president of AFC, I find myself doing just this.

If you will recall, our focus for 2010 was to increase awareness, participation and involvement, and membership in AFC. You've heard from us through emails, Facebook, our website, and this newsletter, and membership increased from 388 to 423. Involvement increased as well. At the chapter level, we had a busy year with fundraisers, such as our annual book sale, online auction, and holiday drawing; community service activities, such as the Palm Beach Heart Walk and Haiti relief project; and various social activities. We awarded scholarships to eight AFC members and members' families. Several members attended the Leadership Confer-

ence, Membership Conference, and Region V Conference, and twenty-three members attended the Annual AFC Convention in Jacksonville!

Speaking of the Annual Convention—what fun we had there! (Be sure to read Sarah Warren's convention wrap-up below and the highlight on Professor Maria Garcia-Landry on page 2.) The Hyatt Regency, located on the St. John's River, proved an excellent location for both fun and inspiration. Many of us took the water taxi to dinner that first night, little bothered by the chill. The Convention sessions were informative, and several Palm Beach State employees returned home with exemplary awards. We were thrilled that the Palm Beach State Chapter received platinum distinction in the Chapter of the Year contest. Check out other [awards](#) the chapter won!

At the state level this past year,

AFC lobbyists and educators succeeded in convincing lawmakers to leave our pension plan alone. However, looking to the future, these same issues are expected to return in 2011. AFC lobbyists will be back in Tallahassee this legislative session, keeping an eye on legislators and their plans for [pension reform](#). Suggestions for reform range from state workers contributing to their retirement plan to shutting down the plan for new employees altogether.

We are so fortunate to have an organization such as AFC that protects our interests and offers us professional development and recognition. So, as this New Year approaches, and we set our goals for 2011, consider the importance of AFC for us as employees of a state college, and if you are not already a member, make it your New Year's resolution to become an active member in 2011!



Susan Caldwell,
chapter president

Incoming president: Susan Bierster

Convention Wrap Up by Sarah Warren

I want to share some information with all of you about the AFC conference I attended in Jacksonville.

First of all, what a great time it was. The hotel was beautiful and the conference was very well-organized and interesting. The conference started out with a first timers orientation. All of

the first time attendees were given a brief explanation about what would happen, told about the door prizes and exhibitors and encouraged to have fun.

After orientation we attended the District V annual meeting where we were introduced to candidates running for officer positions on the AFC board of

directors. Awards were given by chapter presidents and a new region director was appointed (our previous director was our own Jeannine Burgess).

I was chosen as a voting delegate for the... (con't p. 3)

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Connect with us and “like” our new Facebook page!

Engage in your chapter of AFC! The Palm Beach State College chapter encourages you to participate. RSVP to events, receive/send updates, generate discussions, post and view pictures and more! It's also a great way to keep in touch and connect with members from other campuses. The [new AFC page](#) reflects the name change. The old group page for our FACC chapter will be deleted soon.



Click the Facebook button to “like” us!

Meet our members by Diana Paliuca



Maria Garcia-Landry,

full-time faculty (Prep English II & ENC 1101), has been working at Palm Beach State College since 1993 and became an AFC (FACC at the time) member as soon as she started working at the College.

What do you like best about AFC? The convention in Jacksonville [2010] was the first one I attended. I loved seeing the Teacher of the Year finalists; all three were spectacular! Their enthusiasm for teaching really inspired me!

Do you have a favorite memory of the conventions? I will always treasure the memories of the river boat ride. Walking along the river in Downtown Jacksonville was beautiful and chilly. I loved every part of the trip, but the highlight would have to be meeting people from other colleges around the state.

What would you say to a non-AFC member for them to join? AFC is a great way to connect with your Palm Beach State colleagues from different campuses, but it is also a way to meet people from a variety of

disciplines within our state. It's a great way to connect with people from many colleges in Florida.

What did you get out of the convention this year? At the convention, I really learned a great deal about what is going on at other state colleges, and I brought back many new ideas that will rejuvenate my teaching. The three finalists (Teacher of the Year) were innovative and inspiring. I really enjoyed mingling with such a diverse group of people, not just faculty, but staff, administrators, and others. It was interesting to see what is done at other colleges and how issues are handled throughout the state. I like the people who are part of AFC; it was wonderful to meet so many nice and friendly colleagues from all over the state of Florida.

Important Dates

Feb. 10-11, 2011: Leadership Conference, Bay Pointe Marriott, Panama City

May 12-13: Joint Commission Spring Conference, St. Johns River Convention Center & SJRCC, St. Augustine

July 7-8: Membership Development Conference, Lido Beach Resort, Lido Beach

Oct. 26-28: Annual Convention, Naples Grande Hilton, Naples

Important Information

Coming soon in 2011... Palm Beach State College Supervisor/Administrator Award!

AFC logo contest: Do you have the winning design? [Click here](#) for details!

Convention Wrap Up (con't)

(from p. 1) Occupational and Workforce Education Commission. At the commission meeting, we elected new officers for 2011. In the past, this commission has only had about three to four members, all of them officers. This year, 15 people attended this commission meeting and hopefully it will grow in future years.

I also attended presentations by two groups from Palm Beach State College that won exemplary practice awards from the AFC. The first was a presentation about adjunct training modules given by Grace Kolbe and Darcy Russo from the Institute of Excellence. The presentation was about the scripted training modules that they produced and use to teach all of their courses at the Institute. The modules are very good, very thorough and organized. The second was a presentation about the Palm Beach State Resume Writing Wizard given by Gail Tomei and Jim Wallen, both from the Lake Worth campus. The presentation was about this great program used by the career center here at Palm Beach State College to help students write their resumes. There are 3 different templates and they are stored on the website for up to a year after the student graduates from Palm Beach State. This is a free service and is available for all employees on our website. It was nice that Palm Beach State was recognized with these awards.

The 61st Presidential Gala Dinner featured motivational keynote speaker Stedman Graham. Awards were given out to many chapters and the 2010 AFC president was awarded and thanked for a fantastic job. After the dinner was the PARTY with a very good band and 3 hours of dancing. Prior to the dinner was a silent auction and those prize winners were also awarded.

At the end of the conference, we voted for a new president-elect, a VP-Elect for regions and chapters, and a VP-Elect for commissions. The winners of this election will take over in 2011. The assembly of delegates were given reports and voted on proposed bylaw amendments. (All of these can be found on the facc.org website). The awards luncheon was after the assembly where the new officers were announced, chapter awards were given out (we won 2 awards including platinum distinction with AFC) and the new officers for 2011 officially took over.

It was a busy 3 day conference but it was a lot of fun and very informative. I met 23 people that I didn't know before this trip and I am very glad that I was able to go this year!

If you are not a member, I would encourage you to join. It's not a large expense, about \$35 a year which can be divided up in your paycheck and deducted automatically. AFC is our voice in the legislature. They make decisions and changes for us. Being a member gives you a vote about these decisions and changes.

View a [summary of awards](#) won.

View [convention photos](#).

About AFC

The Association was organized in 1949 as the Florida Association of Public Junior Colleges by the presidents of Florida's first four public community colleges, and changed its name in Nov. 2010 to the Association of Florida Colleges. Its mission was to unite the colleges for the purpose of helping the Florida Legislature understand the Junior College and to advocate for Florida's public community colleges in the development of the state's long-range plan for higher education. Since 1949, the Association's mission and purposes have grown in scope as has the Association itself. In 1971, the Association became the Florida Association for Community Colleges and is the most unique organization serving any community college system in the nation. Today, all 28 of the state's community colleges support the work of the Association through institutional dues as do 7,008 individual community college employees through individual memberships and the sharing of their talents, time and energy.

2011 Voting Officers:

Susan Bierster, President
Tabatha McDonald, President Elect
Susan Caldwell, Past President
Secretary, Joan Young
Treasurer, Monique King
Sandra Barrett, VP Lake Worth
Lourdes Rey, VP Boca Raton
Hamileh Shatara, VP Belle Glade
[Other non-voting, appointed officers](#)



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