The Student Government Association is proud to have served the students of the University of West Florida during the 2011-2012 academic year. SGA remained committed to its vision and its goals as SGA members worked as advocates on behalf of our fellow Argos to better the student life at the University of West Florida.

Our number one goal was visibility, and SGA increased its presence on campus. We distributed a newsletter to recap the Fall Semester and the Spring Semester. Also, popular forms of social media such as Twitter became a great way to communicate current information about athletics and SGA events. Suggestion boxes continue to shed light on students’ concerns, and SGA Distinguished Staff and Teaching Awards honored faculty and staff who go the extra mile for the students of UWF.

A major stride to improve accountability was SGA's Senate restructure. Student representatives are now elected by their academic college. Senators now have a specific set of constituents to relate to and hold them accountable for their work within the SGA organization.

Integrity and respect for SGA were improved as we focused on collaborative efforts with other student organizations and campus departments. SGA also continued its commitment to hold town hall meetings with UWF administration and other key departments that generate student questions and concerns.

As SGA moves forward, it will continue to respect the privilege of serving the students of UWF. Members are excited to implement the new structure of the senate in Fall 2012. At the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year, the passion of SGA members was apparent as many ran for elected office again, convinced they wanted to be a part of the SGA legacy.

Go Argos!!

Sincerely,
Cora Merritt, SGA President 2012-2013
Josh Finley, SGA President 2011-2012
The SGA Executive Board participated in seven leadership workshops and an overnight retreat as part of the Summer Leadership Series 2011. Students also met with University Administration to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Topics discussed focused on professional development and university knowledge and included sessions on effective communication, crisis management, and budgeting. Each workshop was designed to align with student learning outcomes developed to track student’s ability to articulate connections between professional development topics and their work in SGA. The data was used to inform an enhanced curriculum for the 2012 Summer Leadership Series.

Strength’s Quest Leadership Training Modules were held once a month in place of a senate meeting to provide leadership development opportunities for all SGA members. Strength’s Quest expert, Antron Mahoney from Florida State University, introduced the series in September 2011.

The SGA Freshmen Committee is a group of 20 freshmen selected to participate in a leadership development curriculum designed to prepare students for future membership in SGA as either a senator or cabinet member. The committee elects co-chairs and attends weekly senate meetings.

The Freshmen Committee hosted an Angel Tree during the Holiday Season and the first ever Oxfam Hunger Banquet to promote awareness about world hunger. The Freshmen Committee also established the first ever Freshmen Committee Leadership Workshop for local area high school students.

The 2011-2012 Freshmen Committee: Lindsay Brammell, Afiya Brandon, Tyler Cordell, Alex Crozier, Cathlene Del Rosario, Venise Evans, Markeitta Graham, Linda Gramminger, Randy Hightower, Zahre Jattan, Chynell Knowles, Steven Treweek, Jessica Vervoort, Tashiema Wilson, Avery Wright, Kendall Young, Alexandra Acosta, Amanda Marcanio, and Sherell Wood.

Collaborative Events

- Organized UWF Pep Rally and annual T-shirt Swap with Athletics and President’s Office
- Along with Athletics, co-sponsored a tailgate at Family Weekend
- Planned the UWF Leadership Gauntlet, a collaborative effort with Housing, UCSA, and Recreation.
- Organized Blizzard Bash with UCSA, Recreation and Athletics
  - Hosted a Parking Town Hall with Parking and Transportation Services and Auxiliary Services
  - Hosted an Administrative Town Hall with the Vice Presidents
- Hosted an Academic Visioning Town Hall with the Deans and Academic Visioning Committee Members
- Worked with various departments to plan several programming initiatives for the 2012 Summer Cohort Pilot program

2011-2012 Awards

SGA Wall of Fame Recipient: Josh Finley; President 2010-2011, 2011-2012

Senator of the Year: Larissa Oprysk

Cabinet Member of the Year: Brian Miller

Academic Committee Member of the Year: Christopher Marco

Finance Committee Member of the Year: Larissa Oprysk

Student Relations Committee Member of the Year: Alyssa Pettie

Justice of the Year: Heather Jackson
2011-2012 Programs

Academic Committee

Chair: Chloe Diehl  
Committee Members:  
Leah Courtney  
Eleanor Vernon  
Chris Marco  
Andrew Moorehead  
Jon Sigmon

The 2011-2012 Academic Committee worked to promote the first ever academic honor code at the University of West Florida, and began the discussion with the Provost and faculty of how to bring the new honor code into each classroom on campus.

In the Spring, the committee developed a new selection process for the Distinguished Teaching and Staff Awards. During the Spring, the committee deliberated and awarded four Distinguished Teaching Awards and Distinguished Staff Awards.

Those honored as distinguished faculty were Dr. David Baluch, Dr. Sheila Murphy, Dr. June Wei, and Dr. Richard Faessel. Those honored as distinguished staff were Sheila Freeman, John Barksdale, Rachel Errington, and Martha Hancock.

Student Relations Committee

Chair: Linzy Browne  
Committee Members:  
Ty Bennett, Alyssa Pettie, Jessica Schaffer, Jill Highsmith, Ryan Hirth, Jasmine Rucker, Josh Olson

The 2011-2012 Student Relations Committee worked to implement new and innovative ways to gauge student interest and concerns by using iPads to survey the student body. Topics included parking on campus, as well as dining options. The committee also created a QR code in place of suggestion boxes around campus to link directly to the SGA website where students can write suggestions/concerns.

In November 2011, the committee organized a Green Fee Referendum to gauge student interest regarding the possibility of implementing a green fee. 57% of student voters responded in favor of implementing the fee. In the Spring, the Florida Board of Governors approved the implementation of the new fee and the senate passed the legislation at UWF to implement a .75/credit hour fee.
Finance Committee
Chair: Keldrick Averhart
Committee Members:
Erica Cruz, Brian McConville, Larissa Oprysk, Christopher Thrasher, Jonathan Williams, Ryan Pichulo, and Rex Wade

The 2011-2012 Finance Committee allocated approximately $3.5 million to 79 university departments and student organizations on campus through the annual Activity and Service Fee budget process.

The committee also allocated $31,507.42 in academic travel grants, $29,403.84 in organizational grants, and $4,970.00 in tournament travel grants to students in various organizations and departments across campus.

President’s Cabinet
Chief of Staff: Amy Bueno
Directors:
Fargol Farrokhznazar, Director of Communications
Chelsea Kendrick, Director of Student Life
Brian Miller, Director of Governmental Affairs

The 2011-2012 Cabinet organized a trip to Tallahassee for 40 UWF students to lobby with students from around the state of Florida. Students were given the opportunity to tour the capital building as well as meet with legislators from the state regarding issues in higher education. In addition, the Office of Student Life helped organize and plan the annual Blizzard Bash, T-shirt Swap, and Pep-rally.

The Cabinet also partnered with the Escambia County Supervisor of Election’s Office to host a Voter Registration Dive for students.

Each office partnered to bring the CSPAN Digital Bus tour to UWF in collaboration with the President’s Office and Department of Government.

In April, Supervisor of Elections Arianna Maggard, led the charge for a successful annual election (following new restructure), in which 764 students voted.

Goals 2012-2013
• Successfully integrate all A&S processes into the SGA Office, including advising Budget and Allocations Committee, handling disbursement of funds to students, departments and student organizations and coordinating all travel and budget paperwork for the A&S accounts.

• Continue leadership development with Executive Board and Freshmen Committee. Work to find ways to better infuse intentional leadership training into all areas of SGA.

• Improve efficiency and content of meetings (especially senate) and continue to align topics and programs to goals and university/division strategic plans.

• Hold town halls for each college once a semester to engage students and establish dialogue between deans and students.

• Improve opportunities for graduate student involvement with SGA.

Looking Ahead...

• Starting in Fall 2011, a committee of SGA students and advisors researched other student senates around the state and developed a new senate structure more representative of the student body.

• A constitutional referendum was passed by the student body and the new structure was implemented during the Spring 2012 election. All senators who have been elected by their respective colleges now fill the following committees: University Outreach, Student Outreach, Budget and Allocations, and Rules and Statutes. Each committee includes an elected Chairperson.

• The total number of student senators proportionally represent the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, and the College of Professional Studies at the University of West Florida.

New Structure
SGA Vision
The University of West Florida Student Government Association will lead with integrity to build trust, promote pride and ensure a united voice for all students.

SGA Goals

Visibility
SGA commits our time and effort to promote transparency and accessibility by marketing SGA events, increasing voter turnout, and gaining the trust of every student.

Pride
SGA commits to supporting and enhancing student life by promoting a sense of spirit and tradition, helping to ensure that students become true Argonauts.

Integrity
SGA commits to leading by example in order to maintain professionalism and respect within the university’s administration, faculty, staff, and student body.

Accountability
SGA commits to leading with the spirit of our constitution and statutes by maintaining awareness of the student voice and constantly assessing our organization.

Unity
SGA commits to promoting a diverse and an inclusive environment in which students are free to express themselves and feel safe doing so as one unified body.