



FARA VOICE

Issue No. 2

June.

Welcome to FARA Voice! As I hope you have heard by now, the FARA Executive Committee has launched this new initiative, designed both to provide frequent communication between the Executive Committee and FARA members, and to provide a forum for regular dialogue on matters of interest to FARA members. If for some reason you did not get to see issue 1 of FARA Voice, it is available on the FARA Web page. FARA members are invited to respond to items that appear in the monthly issues of FARA voice, or to submit to me new essays discussing particular issues or raising specific matters of concern to FARs. Items and concerns that are specific to one division are certainly welcome. Please contact me at: hauseraj@appstate.edu. Many thanks to Karen Cooper for her assistance in preparing these issues of FARA Voice.

In this second issue of FARA Voice, Dennis Leighton, President-Elect of FARA, discusses the initiative the Executive Committee has undertaken on behalf of the residents of New Orleans, and the theme of this year's Fall Forum, to be held in New Orleans: **Empowering the FAR**. Be sure to make your plans early for this exciting meeting. You will be receiving your registration materials in the near future.

As I noted in the last issue, the Executive Committee of FARA decided to gather among its members a collection to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to invite all FARA members to join with us in helping the residents of New Orleans recover. Dennis' letter describes in more detail the specific project we have undertaken. It would be tremendous if we as an association could raise a sizeable donation to help those who are still in need as a result of this natural disaster. You may send a check for this cause to Karen Cooper at the NCAA office (P.O. Box 6222, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206), made payable to the NCAA with "FARA Katrina Relief" written in the memo on the check, or you may designate an amount on the registration form for the November FARA meeting in New Orleans. Your donation is tax deductible.

Thanks for helping these folks.

In the July issue of FARA Voice, Robert Ziegenfus, Division II Vice President, will provide a letter describing the communication initiatives being undertaken within FARA. In a future issue, there will be a piece describing and analyzing the work of the Presidential Task Force. Members are also invited to submit letters on items of concern to them.

Enjoy the summer!

**Alan J. Hauser, Editor
Division I FARA Vice President**

Going to Bat for New Orleans

This November, the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association will hold its Fall Forum from November 16 to 18 in New Orleans. Once again, the annual meeting will be filled with programming to enhance our development as FARs, and to bring us up to date on important issues impacting intercollegiate athletics and faculty representatives. This is the one time each year that FARs can meet and focus on issues that affect us most directly, unlike the NCAA Convention that has a focus on legislative matters.

What makes this an especially important visit to New Orleans is an initiative developed by the FARA Executive Committee in support of the city. We all know of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

Many parts of the city were hit very hard, causing millions of dollars in losses. While the area of the Fall Forum, and in particular the Sheraton New Orleans, was spared major flooding, other important landmarks were nearly ruined. One of these areas was the City Park of New Orleans.

The City Park of New Orleans is a 1300-acre park situated in the heart of the city. The park hosted over 11 million visitors in previous years. Many of these visitors played on the softball and soccer fields, tennis courts, or golf course, or ran on the 400-meter track. Some of these areas have reopened, but the softball fields, track, and golf course remain closed.

As an organization of faculty who understand the importance of sport and recreation, isn't there something we can do? The FARA Executive Committee asked the same question, and has responded. We now ask for you to join us in support of the City Park of New Orleans.

At its April planning meeting, members of the FARA Executive Committee unanimously agreed to make personal donations to a FARA relief fund to support the City Park of New Orleans. The Executive Committee alone has pledged over \$1,000 to this relief effort. With over 1400 FARs across the country, this relief fund can grow significantly. Please consider making a sizable personal contribution, and consider asking your institution to provide a match. With participation from a large number of FARs, we could make a very sizable donation to the City Park.

In preliminary discussions with the development director of the City Park, we have learned that they have a critical need for general athletics equipment. The FARA relief fund could supply a wide variety of equipment that would be used well into the future. As the Park directors rightfully spend money to reopen major attractions, there is often not enough money left over for the day-to-day equipment to provide maximal use of the Park's facilities. Our contribution could help bridge that gap.

The theme of the Fall Forum this year is "Empowering the FAR". This theme was brought forward to the FARA Executive Committee by an ad hoc planning committee that reviewed feedback from previous Forums, and determined that most FARs are looking for ways to be more effective on their individual campuses. Empowering the FAR allows him or her to create channels of communication and collegiality on campuses in ways that eventually result in a better experience for the student-athlete. In the near future, you will receive your registration materials for the Fall Forum. Along with the registration materials, you will also find a donation form, with instructions on how to make your donation directly to the FARA Relief Fund.

Let's all work together to "empower" the City Park of New Orleans to offer space, facilities, and equipment to the residents of New Orleans, so that they can continue to get their lives back together. Your donations will help. The FARA Executive Committee thanks you, as do the residents of New Orleans.

Dennis Leighton, President Elect
Faculty Athletics Representatives Association

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

FARA Fall Forum

November 16-18, 2006

Sheraton New Orleans

(Registration forms available soon)

NCAA Convention

January 5-9, 2007

Orlando, Florida