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— Spring Report —

By Claire Hampton

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Hello IASC! State convention is officially here and it is time to bid farewell to our 2025-2026 IASC officers



Grady Simpson

Since May 2nd, 2025, I have spent every single day of my life in awe. Not of my own accomplishments or abilities, but of the people whom I have been surrounded by. From the advisors who took a chance on me to the young leaders that I strive to inspire, every single person in this room has become part of my story forever.

I have been imagining this week and this convention since my freshman year of high school, and it is nowhere close to how I imagined it. While the stage and the applause continue to feed my ego, it has been proven to me over the past year that my value is not in my title, but in the relationships I have built in the pursuit of it.

My first Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Tiffany Lyons, has transformed me into someone who knows the importance of fairness, inclusion, and looking beyond first impressions. Thank you so much, Mrs. Lyons, not only for believing in me but also for being someone I can now call my friend. I would also like to thank our current Advisor, Mrs. Rhiannon Bridgeman, for stepping up when we did not know if anyone else would.

The group of people who have left me the most wonderstruck is my executive board. These girls are the most intelligent and hardworking people I have ever been around, and each one of you, Zoey, Molly, Alana, Ava, Claire and Karlee, have made my job feel like a piece of cake. There is not a single person on this earth who could replace any of you, and from the very bottom of my heart, and of my hokas, I deeply love you all and will never forgive you if you let our group chat go silent.

During the times within my presidency when it all seemed to be too much, my family, and the people close enough to be considered so, kept me sane through it all. To my parents, thank you so much for supporting me through this journey, even if you never understand exactly what it is that I do here, (This is their first ever Stu Co event guys, be nice). To my right hand, Anne Kelly, we may fight like siblings, but your dedication has not gone unnoticed, and I would not be here without you. And to the promising young man who has been the closest I will ever get to a brother, Maxwell Rinehart, keep your head up, you're going to do big things, kid.

Finally, to you all. The people brave enough to step up and take charge. The young leaders that remind me why I am here. Continue making connections, continue fighting for what you know is right, and continue dreaming. My deepest thanks go out to every person in this room for allowing me to serve as your 2025-2026 IASC President. Wherever life takes you, remember, that your youth is your superpower, and one dream is all it takes to change your life, thank you all so much.



Zoey Michl

Fellow members, advisors, and friends,

It's hard to believe this day has come. It feels like just yesterday I was nervously attending my first IASC board meeting, wide-eyed and eager to make a difference. Now, as I stand before you today, I'm filled with gratitude and a touch of bittersweetness as I retire from my role as First Vice President.

Serving on the IASC board has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I've learned invaluable lessons about leadership, collaboration, and the power of student voice. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible impact we can have when we come together to advocate for positive change in our schools and communities. I'm incredibly proud of what this executive board has accomplished together this year.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported me along the way. To the IASC board, thank you for your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to our mission. For those that don't know, I served on my district board, shoutout to the EIDASC, before running for this position. I had the blessing of being on this executive board with two members of my district board. Claire and Grady, we have had an amazing run together and I will always hold in my heart getting to know you both so well, and working alongside you both since my sophomore year. To my advisor Mrs. Will, thank you for your guidance, mentorship, and always pushing me to be the best version of myself. To my Mom, Thank you for always supporting all the work I do, looking over every board report, and especially listening to all of my MANY rants along the way. And to each and every one of you, the members of IASC, thank you for your passion, enthusiasm, and for making this organization so special.

As I move on to new adventures, I know that IASC will continue to thrive under the leadership of the talented individuals who will follow in my footsteps. I'm excited to see what the future holds for this incredible organization, and I'll always be a proud supporter of IASC.

This is Zoey Michl the '25-'26 1st Vice President signing off, Thank you.



Molly Federici

Dear IASC,

It was about a year or so ago that I stood up here and with borrowed prose from Frank Ocean declared that I had been “thinking bout you”. I ran from the floor, excited for the challenge of being a state officer, and hoping to make an impact.

What I didn’t know was the true extent of the impact that you all would have on me. From reviewing honor delegate applications, to marveling at their creativity and arts-and-craftiness, I can’t speak enough on the privilege it has been to work with this group of honor delegates. I can’t wait to see what you all do as you move forward with the IASC.

After a year of serving as your second vice president I can safely say that every thought, memory, and minute spent on the duties of my office and with this executive board have been such an honor and a blessing.

I want to thank the student council, campus activities board, and council for campus equity at the Illinois math and science academy for keeping me on my toes and for always striving to make a difference. I’m glad to say that the past three years, hours of meetings, and even more hours of dedication and preparation have all been worth it, and student leadership in all its wonderful forms has been the most transformative experience of my high school career.

Thank you to my friends from all across the state for all of the laughter, support, and dedication to student leadership.

And a special thanks to Mount Vernon township high school for being my school away from school, and my lifelong friends. It was my freshman year on Mount Vernon’s student council that ignited my passion for leadership, and encouraged me to take every chance.

A final thank you to my family for being my biggest cheerleaders and always pushing me to be my best, I wouldn’t be where I am today without all of your support.

And to the 25-26 IASC executive board— what a year. A year of creativity, innovation, and most notably changes. The IASC this year had to adapt, but instead of just adapting— we pioneered; I am so endlessly proud of our teamwork and motivation this year. None of this would be possible had we not been such an organized, unified, and more importantly— fun – group, and I can’t thank you guys enough for all of your hard work this year.

Nothing inspires me like the IASC. Seeing such a large and diverse state like Illinois unite under a passion to serve your school and statewide community shows me that the future of student council in Illinois is bright, and I can’t wait to see how you all carry the torch into the coming years.

It is a bittersweet goodbye, and for the sake of the full-circle moment, I’ll leave you all with some words from, once again, Frank Ocean. IASC, I’m wishing you Godspeed, glory, and I am hopeful to see all the mountains you move.



Alana Andersom

Hello IASC,

I'm truly pleased to be standing here with you today. It's especially meaningful to share this moment again. Looking back to last year, when I ran for office and delivered my campaign speech, I remember how much I hoped for this opportunity. Now, I'm incredibly grateful to have lived it. Being part of IASC has meant more to me than I can fully express. Serving on this board has been an honor and a defining part of my high school career. The friendships I've built and the experiences we've shared have helped me grow not only as a leader, but as a person, and I will carry those lessons with me into the future.

Thank you to my fellow officers for your teamwork, dedication, and the unforgettable memories we've shared. Thank you to our advisors for your guidance, patience, and unwavering support. What makes this journey even more meaningful is that I wasn't involved in student council my freshman year. I never imagined I would one day serve on the state board and become my school's Student Body President. I especially want to thank my council, Mrs. Besant, and Dr. VanZandt. Your encouragement and belief in me have truly meant everything.

And finally, thank you to my family for always supporting me and for making the trip to be here. I wouldn't be standing here without you.

Thank you IASC for allowing me to be your secretary, and for an amazing year!



Ava Reeves

Hello, IASC, as I stand before you today, I am happy to tell you that we have had an incredibly successful year. Thanks to you guys, we broke the school membership record by 10 schools.

There are a couple of people that I wanted to thank for helping me through the course of my time on this board. First, I would like to thank my family. Both my dad and sister have done so much to support me. My family has been there through every challenge, and I am incredibly grateful for the patience and love that they have shown me. Next, I would like to thank my fellow board members. I am so grateful to work with a team that is so hardworking and dedicated. This role is a very big commitment, which all of you have successfully fulfilled. As a group, we have accomplished so many of our goals, and it has been an honor to be a part of it. Another person I would like to thank is my advisor, Mr. Gordon. As both a teacher and an advisor, you have taught me lessons that will continue beyond the classroom. The countless hours going through paperwork or driving to different events have given me memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. You have changed my life, and the lives of so many others for the better.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to all of you in the audience who trusted me enough to elect me to the office of Membership Director. It has been an incredibly fun and rewarding position to be able to step into this past year. I am so excited to see what the future board will be able to do for the IASC. So again, thank you everyone!



Karlee Rexroad

it's hard to believe this moment is already here. serving as your state convention secretary has truly been a meaningful experience of my high school career.

This role has taught me so much about leadership, not by being the loudest voice in the room, but by listening, and trusting the people around me. from planning and problem-solving to see everything come together at convention, I've learned just how powerful a team can be when everyone cares and works together.

I want to take a moment to thank the people who made this journey so special. First to my advisors, Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Crowe, thank you for your guidance your support, for always believing in me, and pushing me to take this role. I couldn't have done it without you two.

To my convention crew that came in whenever I needed, gabby, Hope, McKenna and Josephine along with others thank you for your hard work your ideas and for always stepping up when it mattered most. I'm so grateful for each of you. And to the rest of the council, thank you for your dedication and for helping make this convention, such a success.

I also want to thank Taylorville high school for the opportunities they've given me and for supporting me throughout this journey. I will always be thankful for the memories and experiences I've gained here.

A special thank you to Mr. Gordon and Tyler for playing a huge role in planning the convention, and to everyone else who played a role in this convention officers, advisors, and volunteers thank you for your time your energy and your heart.

And of course thank you to my parents, even though they may not know exactly what my role is here they always give me all of their support and love.

Lastly thank you to my IASC board, You have made this experience unforgettable for me and so many students.

As a senior, this is a bittersweet moment. While, it's hard to say goodbye. I'm excited for what's ahead and I know this organization will continue to do amazing things.

Thank you for trusting me, supporting me, and making the final year one I will never forget. Thank you!



Claire Hampton

When you Google the word family, the definition you are given is: “a group of people related by blood or marriage.” But I’ve learned over the past four years being a part of the IASC that family can also be found in hotel conference rooms, district meetings, and car rides across the state.

I have served as your Public Relations Director over the past 10 months, and I vividly remember sitting in the audience of the state convention my sophomore year, and telling my advisor I was going to run for that board one day. Now, here I am, standing in front of all of you, saying goodbye to the board I once dreamed of being a part of. A board that has now become a family to me.

First, I would like to thank my biological family. Mom and Dad, without you, I would not be where I am today, literally or figuratively. Thank you for always supporting me in everything I do and staying by my side throughout this process. Next, I would like to thank Mr. Vinnie Walk, my advisor. We might drive him crazy sometimes, whether it's loud karaoke in the car or McDonald's ice cream and driving around the lake after district meetings, but I truly am forever thankful for your patience, guidance, and belief in me and my ideas. You pushed me to have courage, and so without you, I would not be standing on this stage tonight. Thank you for being the glue that holds together our Mattoon Student Council family. To my fellow board members. You are some of the best people I have ever had the honor of working with, and you are all destined to do big things. I truly couldn't have asked for better people to work alongside, and each of you has become family to me.

I also need to give a special thank you to Grady and Zoey, who have been my family since we first ran for our eastern district board positions. You will both forever hold a very special place in my heart, and I would not be standing up here if it weren't for the Eastern District, and so because of that, you are all my family now, too.

Finally, I owe a huge thank you to each and every one of you in this room.

Throughout the year, I was able to stay connected with all of you through our social media pages, and seeing everything you do in your home councils has been amazing. You are the future of our generation, so keep on being a light for those around you. Whether we speak every day or have never shared a conversation, I truly do consider you my family.

To close, I would like to leave you with a quote by Michael J. Fox. “Family is not an important thing. It’s everything.” And all of these people make up my everything.

Thank you, IASC. You have given me a truly unforgettable experience, and most importantly, you have given me a family. One that may not share the same blood, but shares the same passion, the same purpose, and the same heart.