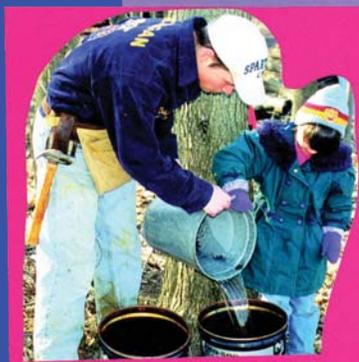


The Michigan FFA Creed

January/February 2005

Leadership is a puzzle...

Solve It!



the Creed Staff

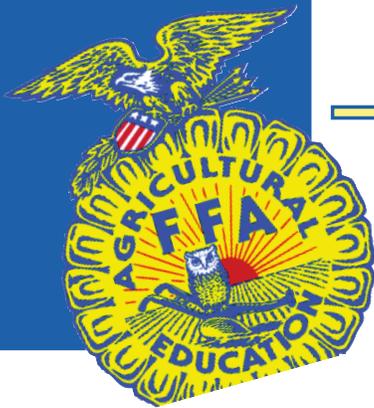
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Inside Scoop

contents

- C I believe in...**
State officers discuss service in relation to personal growth.
- D Check this Out!**
Highlights the idea of service and its place in the lives of today's American youth.
- E Convention in Review**
A week of Michigan success at National Convention.
- F Learning to Do**
The Oakland SW FFA Chapter opens a new door to the future of its chapter.
- G Doing to Learn**
Emily Wenzlik shares her beef production SAE along with her other agricultural pursuits.
- H Earning to Live**
Help celebrate the life of former Montague FFA chapter advisor, Mr. Keith Griffin.
- I Living to Serve**
The Blissfield FFA Chapter highlights its unique humanitarian community service project.
- J Member Highlights**
FFA members from across the state highlight their SAE projects and experiences.
- L Say What?**
Members share which position of leadership they would most like to hold.
- M VP Impact Challenge**
Regional Vice Presidents share six available opportunities in the FFA.
- N Alumni in Action**
The alumni highlights its administrators trip to National Convention and several other upcoming events.
- O The Cornerstone**
Learn more about the foundation's work with the Chevrolet scholarship.
- P CANR Highlight**
The MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources highlights seven former FFA members.

Important Dates

January	4	Star Candidate Interviews
	8	Regional Degree Scoring
February	1	Chapter Applications due to State Office
	2-3	District Leadership Contests
	10	Regional Level State Officer Interviews
	16-17	Regional Leadership Contests
	19-21	State Level State Officer Interviews

I believe in...



Personal Growth through Service

Nathan Baker

State Secretary

SAE: Diversified Crop and Vegetable Production

Majoring in Agribusiness Management at Michigan State University

Jake Riske

Region II State Vice President

SAE: Golf Course Management and Hydroponic Tomato Production

Majoring in Agribusiness Management at Michigan State University

officer profiler

S spoken over forty years ago, one of the most popular quotes ever has resonated through classrooms and the hearts of the young and idealistic ever since.

When President Kennedy declared his war on idleness with the simple declaration of, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," a nation embraced the idea of service. While doing so, a generation realized that they were not only helping to ensure the growth of their fellow man but also the personal growth of themselves.

Personal growth is one of the most valuable themes in the FFA Mission Statement. However, personal growth isn't easily defined nor does the process ever end.

The continuation of personal growth development lasts beyond the day we lose our Earthly ties and spurs others to achieve levels of growth unseen. It is this notion of serving others that runs deep in the FFA and the personal growth of its members.

The feeling one takes away from assisting others and possibly changing a day of

their lives is remarkable. The act can be as complex as assisting in building a home for Habitat for Humanity or as simple as shoveling the sidewalks of an elderly neighbor.

With these acts, the performer, too, is being served as he or she develops as a member of humanity.

Fellow FFA members, we challenge you to proceed with your never-ending process of personal growth through the avenue of service. In doing so, there is no telling how far we can advance as a country and as a people. ☺

Did you know...

- ☺ Production agriculture actually peaked in the United States in 1935, with a recorded 6.5 million farms.
- ☺ Elsie, Michigan is the home of the world's largest registered Holstein dairy herd.
- ☺ Michigan State University was the first institution of higher learning in the nation to teach scientific agriculture.



Jan./Feb. 2005

Lend a Hand, Help Out, Make a Difference!!!

By: Tiffany Reeser
James Madison College

What is the first thing we think of when we hear the words "community service?"

For some, community service is a large part of their lives, and they take great pride in the work they do. For others, community service is just another necessary task, and no matter how many times they groan or roll their eyes, it will still be there, waiting for them.

Whether or not we truly enjoy community service, all can agree that it is a necessary component of our society. Even just a small amount of generosity within our

communities can go a long way.

Our generation is one of the most active groups of young people America has seen in decades. This can be attributed to many factors, including the encouragement of the media, both private and government organizations and the popularity of service learning curriculum within schools.

Community service and volunteerism are encouraged today by surprising media outlets: music television stations. Networks such as MTV and VH1 have spent millions of dollars and

many long hours to launch campaigns such as Save the Music, Know HIV/AIDS and Choose or Lose (Rock the Vote) to encourage young people to become involved in local, state and national issues.

Additionally, the government has made efforts to encourage community service through the creation of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Through this council, the USA Freedom Corps was born.

The USA Freedom Corps is composed of national service programs such as AmeriCorps, Citizen Corps, Learn & Serve America, Peace Corps and Senior Corps. Their goals are to protect our homeland, support our communities and extend the idea of American compassion throughout the world.

Another organization, YouthNOISE, encourages young people to become involved in their communities through service, voting and lobbying. It strives to mobilize and encourage youth and educate them on issues affecting their lives. YouthNOISE also allows young people to interact with one another, share ideas and debate issues facing America through message boards on the organization's website.

Throughout the 1990s, the concept of service education was introduced and quickly became popular. Service education can be broken down into two main ideas or themes.

The first idea describes service learning as more of a philosophy or attitude toward education. It states that education should help students to increase their social responsibilities and encourage them to

become positive, active citizens within their communities.

The second idea considers a method of teaching, which incorporates community service activities within the regular academic curriculum. This method of teaching provides students with hands-on service experiences, in turn raising community awareness and compassion.

Overall, these organizations and practices are driven forward by one purpose: to encourage and motivate the public. We are the next generation and we have the ability to be a positive, driving force toward an even brighter tomorrow.

Now is the time to become involved, Michigan FFA members! Community service exists in many shapes and forms, and anyone has the ability to make a difference.

If there is a need or a change you want to see in your community, you can be the person to see it through! 

To Learn More...

About VH1's Save the Music and Know HIV/AIDS Campaign:
www.vh1.com

Regarding MTV's Choose or Lose Campaign:
www.mtv.com/chooseorlose

About USA Freedom Corps and its many national service projects, please visit
www.usafreedomcorps.com

YouthNOISE:
www.youthnoise.com



77th National FFA Convention In Review: Learn, Lead, Succeed

As the 77th National FFA Convention concluded, it was clear that the Michigan FFA had held true to its theme for the year to Kick It Up A Notch.

A highlight of the convention occurred when the Byron FFA Chapter was named the Model of Innovation in Chapter Development, recognizing the fact that the chapter has actively pursued the mission and strategies of the FFA organization.

With an incredibly active membership of 127 members, advisors Tate Forbush and Emily Opper were, to say the least, excited when the winner was announced. Forbush remarked, "We were all very shocked that we won. We didn't expect it at all even though the kids worked so hard. We're still shocked after all this time has passed."

The members of the chapter did work incredibly hard and diligently to earn this

award. Selling more than \$6,500 in fruit and nut sales and planting vegetables in cooperation with the Flint Urban Garden Corporation to help 75 urban families were just a few of their numerous accomplishments.

The chapter also worked in conjunction with the Roosevelt and Oakland SE FFA Chapters to hold a chapter exchange program to give their members a feel of urban agriculture.

In addition to all this, the chapter raised their membership by an incredible six percent.

Former state officer and member of the Springport FFA Chapter, Jeremy Glaspie, was recognized as the American Star in Agriscience. Currently a student at the University of Arizona, Glaspie began his agricultural endeavors in high school when he became manager of the school's greenhouse. As a student at Michigan State University, Jeremy

was also employed as an undergraduate in the Department of Plant Pathology.

Also during convention, Aaron Preston, who is currently a student at Michigan State University and serving as the State Treasurer, won the National Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event. With a speech on Country of Origin Labeling, Aaron said, "I was so ecstatic that the entire time they

were announcing my name, I was in some sort of a fog. It was an incredible experience."

As convention closed, members left with memories of an amazing convention and the people that made it so incredible – the members we met from all fifty states. Congratulations to all who participated at the 77th National FFA Convention and thank them you for continuing to Kick It Up A Notch. [2](#)

Also Recognized

Receiving Gold

Branch Area Career Center - Agricultural Sales
Laker - Agronomy
Lapeer County Vo-Tech - Floriculture
Centreville - Parliamentary Procedure

Receiving Silver

Fremont - Agricultural Communications
Breckenridge - Agricultural Issues Forum
Lapeer County Vo-Tech - Agricultural Mechanics
Greta Koebel, River Valley - Dairy Cattle Handlers
Johnny Verhaar, Laker - Extemp Public Speaking
Perry-Morrice - Farm Business Management
Mason - Forestry
Lowell - Horse Evaluation
Julie Thelen, Saline - Job Interview
Sanilac Career Center - Livestock Evaluation
Laker - Poultry Evaluation

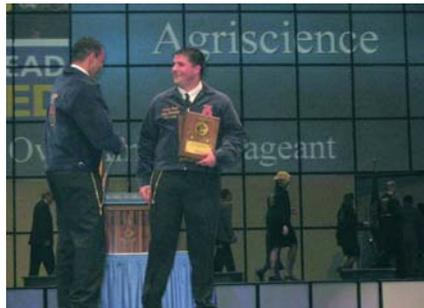
Receiving Bronze

Courtney Neubauer, Montague - Creed Speaking
Lowell - Dairy Cattle Evaluation
Corunna - Dairy Foods
Laker - Environmental/Natural Resources
Perry-Morrice - Food Science and Technology
Lowell - Marketing Plan
Bronson - Meats Evaluation and Technology
Lapeer County Vo-Tech - Nursery and Landscape

National Proficiency Award Finalists

Nathan Baker, Waldron - Diversified Crop Production
Entrepreneurship
C. Pete Bush, St. Louis - Diversified Agricultural
Production
Braidie Butters, Homer - Agricultural Services
Rebecca Titus, Dansville - Vegetable Production

For a complete wrap-up of the 77th National FFA Convention, please visit: www.ffa.org



Our Motto in Motion

Supported by the State of Michigan
Office of Career and Technical Preparation

Learning to Do

By: Victoria Holmes
Journalism

Students at Oakland Schools Technical Southwest campus have been hard at work since the beginning of the school year. These high school students from all over Oakland County travel to Wixom daily, learning what life in the real world is like.

"Being able to learn hands-on in the working field is much more interesting than traditional class work," Lakeland High School

senior Ben Russell said. Russell is one of several students who are currently working on a campus beautification project.

As a part of their agriscience and natural resources curriculum, the students are creating a common area for their fellow classmates. Once complete, this area will serve as a place for the students to hang out in a relaxing setting of which they can be proud.

This common area is being completed by students in the floral, landscape technology and heavy equipment classes. They have been working since school started in August to build a bridge, a brick paved seating area and a garden.



Corey Armstrong, a senior at South Lyon High School said the students hope they can complete the project by early 2005, as he rearranged boulders in the student-built waterfall.

While the remodeling of the common area is by far the largest project occupying the time of Oakland Tech SW students, they are also learning several other skills in many different work environments.

The floral retail students are completing pumpkin corsages and preparing for the holiday season. These students run a floral shop where their customers include community residents, local schools and even wedding parties.

"I love the competition of making the floral arrangements and the feeling of pride after I know I have completed a project," said Novi High School senior Christina Martinez.

The floral and landscaping students also work in the small animal laboratory, the greenhouse and a garden center in the spring.

All of the courses are part of the two-year program intended to prepare students for future careers in areas involving science and technology.

These students will definitely leave high school experienced and ready to take on the world. 

FFA NEW HORIZONS



Food Scientist

Food scientists preserve our food supply by assuring its flavor, color, texture, nutritional quality and safety. They use their knowledge of chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology and engineering to convert grain, livestock, fruit and vegetables into new food products.

In high school, take mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics and computer science. Communications courses are also important. While in college, one should work for a bachelor's degree in food science.

For more information, check out:
www.msu.edu/unit/fshn/

Doing to Learn

Building Skills for Life

By Nathan Baker
State Secretary

When Emily Wenzlick of the New Lothrop FFA Chapter is not busy at school keeping stats for the wrestling team or doing everything possible in the FFA, she is at home working on her SAE projects.

Somewhat of an SAE connoisseur, Emily is heavily involved in beef, sheep and forage

production. She has been showing steers at the Shiawassee County Fair since she was in third grade. Showing steers became her main SAE when she joined FFA in the eighth grade. She has continued to expand her operation to include sheep for a year.

Emily raises her animals on her family's farm where her brother and sister also maintain their projects. She helps her dad bail hay and straw in the summer, using it to feed their animals. She helps with other projects around the farm throughout the year, including an addition to a barn and cutting firewood that her family sells in the community.

Emily is also incredibly active in the New Lothrop FFA chapter. She is currently a



junior and serves as the chapter's reporter.

Emily was on the Junior High Conduct of Meetings team and the state winning Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team. She participates in numerous chapter fundraisers including nut and cookie dough sales and the New Lothrop FFA labor auction. She has worked hard with building the chapter's new greenhouse.

Emily and her family have hosted the annual chapter skeet shoot at their home for the past five years. Emily is in charge of scoring, collecting and awarding all of the prizes for the skeet shoot.

Emily is always willing to do anything possible to help her chapter. She enjoys

working on FFA activities with other members, helping them to do their best.

When Emily finishes high school, she wants to attend either Michigan State University or Central Michigan University to major in education. Eventually, she wants to obtain a job teaching younger children.



Science writers must fit their writing styles to suit a variety of materials and audiences. They write news stories, manuals and press releases for non-profit and for-profit corporations. Their main job is to describe science without using scientific terms.

In high school, you might write or edit your school newspaper and participate in science fairs or out-

of-school science and technology programs. In college, an undergraduate major such as biological science combined with a minor in English or communications is good preparation.

For more information, check out:
www.anrecs.msu.edu/

Science Writer



Jan/Feb 2005

G

Earning to Live

By: Alyn Kiel
Region V
Vice President

"Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

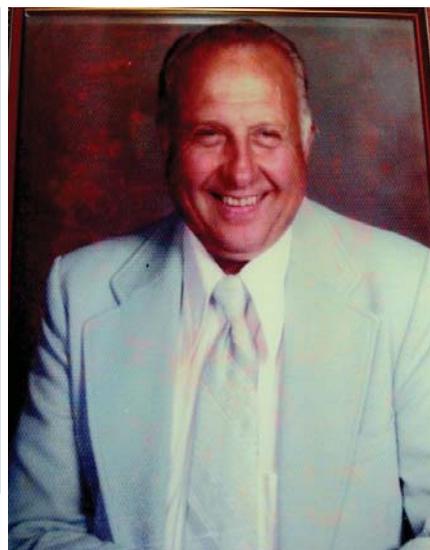
As an agriscience teacher at Montague High School, Mr. Keith Griffin - "Griff" - was an inspiration to countless students throughout his years of teaching. Mr. Griffin was also an active Farm Bureau member, a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, a father and a husband.

Most importantly, he tackled all of his activities with a great zeal love for life. He displayed an encouraging smile for every person he came in contact with and was notorious for having a funny story readily available.

To Mr. Griffin, the students were the heart of the FFA program. He encouraged every student to participate, no matter their age, ability or gender. In fact, he allowed women to join the Montague FFA in 1968, one year before they were formally admitted into the national organization.

Mr. Griffin visited students on their farms and at their homes, encouraging them to become involved with the FFA and take advantage of the opportunities offered to them. He was responsible for the creation of historical markers for the Montague area as well as a map of the markers for the bicentennial celebration in 1976.

A farmer at heart, Mr. Griffin loved the FFA and fought to keep it alive at Montague High School. He often butted heads with a school board set on dissolving the chapter, citing that the "FFA is an intra-curricular activity." Mr. Griffin also



demonstrated the success of his students at the local, state and national levels.

passionate about life, constantly touching the lives of those around him.

Mr. Griffin is remembered by all as a man who quietly aided anyone in need. He is remembered by all for his selfless gifts of time and energy, throwing himself wholeheartedly into every service project.

Although Mr. Griffin passed away on October 29, 2004, he will always be remembered. He gave of himself to a grateful chapter, community and country, serving in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Pacific theatre.

His advice to FFA members today would be to work hard for what you want to accomplish - whatever you put into something is what you'll get out. "Griff" will always be remembered as a man

His legacy of service continues as a scholarship fund was set up in his honor for the Montague FFA. He will never be forgotten. [Q](#)



FFA NEW HORIZONS

Biochemists explore the chemical events that cause biological phenomena in living organisms. The knowledge that biochemists gain in their research provides a basic understanding of the marvelous workings of the vast array of life forms.

In high school, take at least four years of laboratory science (including biology, chemistry and physics), four years of mathematics (at least through pre-calculus) and four years of English.

For an entry-level position as a biochemist, you need a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. Your college courses will include biochemistry, chemistry (general, analytical, organic, and physical), biology, genetics, calculus and physics.

For more information, check out: www.bch.msu.edu/

Living to Serve

By: Doug Albright
State Reporter

The FFA motto embodies the purpose of our organization. Members of the Blissfield FFA Chapter are Kicking it Up a Notch and living to serve with

their participation in Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child is a national program founded by Reverend Billy Graham's son, Franklin. In 2003, Operation Christmas Child collected more than 6.6 million shoeboxes and distributed them in 95 countries.

This is the first year that Blissfield has participated in Operation Christmas Child, yet they have emulated what living to serve is all about for years.

They have completed many service projects, such as working with



Michigan Farm Bureau in Traverse City schools. During Farm Bureau's state annual meeting, Blissfield FFA members work with Farm Bureau members to teach students about Michigan agriculture and what it has to offer.

They started Operation Christmas Child as a class community service project, yet they soon realized that the entire school wanted to participate. Blissfield, a school with approximately 450 students, and the chapter had a great response from the entire student body.

Wrapped shoeboxes are the "presents." There are four age ranges to choose from when packing the shoeboxes. Students can pick an entire box or just a single item. The class then gathers the items and creates boxes that fit the age ranges. The ranges are 2-4, 5-8, 9-12 and early teen. The

boxes are wrapped during chapter meetings

"Some of the members had done this kind of project at church and thought it was a great thing, so they decided to do it here," said advisor Mrs. Isley.

They haven't tallied all the numbers, but they are expecting huge returns for this community service project.

'Tis the season' and the Blissfield FFA Chapter is making it the season for everyone with Operation Christmas Child.



Environmental Scientist

Many environmental scientists protect the environment through jobs in waste management, land use and air or water quality. Their understanding of biology, chemistry and physics helps them assess environmental quality and find ways to protect air, water and land.

In high school, take mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics and computer science. Communication courses are also important. In college, you can major in soil science, water resources, meteorology or environmental economics and policy.

For more information, go to:
www.environment.msu.edu/

Member Highlights

By: Jennifer Yager
Journalism Major



Dhani Tobias
Maple Valley

Region 1: Dhani Tobias

Maple Valley

Following in the footsteps of her father and older sister, Dhani Tobias of the Maple Valley FFA Chapter originally joined the organization because of the opportunity to learn more about agriculture and livestock which she holds as one of her many interests.

A junior in high school and secretary of her chapter, Dhani began her SAE project of raising, breeding and showing beef cattle last year in her Natural Resources class. She shows at the Barry County Fair, the MSU Winter Beef Show and the State Fair. To make it to these shows, she has a daily routine that consists of feeding and watering her cattle and when show times are approaching, she also washes, blow-dries, combs and leads them around for practice. She was also appointed to be "the nurse" by her father because of her tendency to care for the pregnant cattle and give them their shots.

Besides the FFA, Dhani is also involved with cross-country, track, competitive cheerleading, weight-lifting, the National Honor Society, student council and the Equestrian team.

Dhani would like to attend Michigan State University to study Teaching or radiology and would like to earn at least a master's degree. She also says, "Farming will always be a part of my life, though. I hope to increase my herd and manage my own farm in addition to my career." [🔗](#)



Julie Thelen
Saline

Region 2: Julie Thelen

Saline

Time is of the essence for Julie Thelen of the Saline FFA Chapter. She is co-secretary of her school's National Honor Society, a member of the Students Against Destructive Decision Making organization, a Saline Family Career and Community Leaders of America member and past officer, a member of the varsity Track and Field team and a 4-H member.

Julie said, "I joined FFA because of my friends in 4-H and older FFA members who served as state officers and encouraged me to be active. I joined not really knowing anything but learned so much after competing in a Greenhand leadership contest."

Julie currently serves as her chapter president and was vice president of both her chapter and Region II last year. Her SAE encompasses diversified livestock production, ag services and home and community development.

Julie plans to attend Michigan State University next fall to major in agriscience education. [🔗](#)

Region 3: Kayla Stomack

Ubyly

Kayla Stomack is a highly motivated teenager. As a senior in high school and president of her FFA chapter, she balances high school activities and spends many hours laboring on her SAE of forage production placement with alfalfa hay.

Kayla began working on a farm alongside her brother when she was twelve years old. "When I first started," she remembered, "I had people doubting me about whether I could handle the hard work."

Typically, she starts the day by opening up the barn, cleaning the area and also fixing and setting up equipment on the field. Following this, Kayla routinely unloads hay from the wagons and moves the equipment for seven to eight hours. She then finishes the day by closing the barn.

Kayla has learned the importance of working together and relying on others. She said her SAE has "taught me to believe in myself."

After receiving her diploma, she plans on attending Michigan State University and majoring in veterinary medicine. [🔗](#)



Kayla Stomack
Ubyly

Region 4:
Stephanie Gewirtz
Perry-Morrice

Stephanie Gewirtz is a senior and president of the Perry-Morrice FFA Chapter. At a young age, she followed in her father's footsteps and began her involvement with the FFA, starting her SAE of cattle production.

As the fourth generation living on her family farm, Stephanie said, "I first got involved with cattle when my aunt gave me one heifer and I began breeding her."

She feeds and waters her pasture cows and calves along with her steer in the barn everyday. Stephanie also breeds heifers and vaccinates cattle.

This hard work has taught Stephanie an important lesson. "What you put into something is what you get out of it," she advised. "If you work hard it will pay off." Her careful record keeping and management of her cattle herd has led her to receive several awards from her chapter.

Next fall, Stephanie plans on attending Lansing Community College and concurrently take animal science courses at Michigan State University. ☺

Region 5:
Michelle Andrus
Grant

Currently a junior and vice president of the Grant FFA Chapter, Michelle Andrus is very involved with her SAE of sheep production.

Besides the daily chores of feeding and watering the animals and inspecting their bedding, Michelle is also responsible for the seasonal tasks of worming, weighing and tagging the sheep. She also inspects their fences for damage.

Four years ago when Michelle began her SAE, she was not nearly as educated about sheep as she is now. Today, she knows how to give sheep shots, identify cysts and also has just expanded her SAE to include breeding ewes.

She gives credit to the FFA for developing her assertive personality. "The FFA has taught me to be more outgoing," she commented. "I have made a lot of friends through the FFA."

For her future, Michelle aspires to attend Michigan State University and major in elementary education. ☺

Region 6:
Caitlin Lorenc
Benzie Central

Caitlin Lorenc has had a unique SAE since she was a junior at Benzie Central. Now a senior, FFA Chapter Reporter and Region VI Secretary, she is still participating in her SAE of raising bees and harvesting honey.

Caitlin has considered her SAE an awesome experience since she first started her apiary, the place her bees are kept. She was first encouraged to raise bees by her advisor, who along with her parents helped her to get involved.

Her bees generally care for themselves; however, feeding them a mixture of sugar and water is important during the fall and winter. To go inside the hive, she must first smoke the bees, but be careful because "No one likes an angry bee," she said.

Caitlin has learned a lot from observing her bees. "Hives work together as a team and build a strong colony," stated Caitlin.

Caitlin plans on attending Michigan State University and majoring in landscape design and also studying journalism and performing arts. ☺



Stephanie Gewirtz
Perry-Morrice



Michelle Andrus
Grant



Caitlin Lorenc
Benzie Central

Submit your SAE or one of your student's SAEs!

Email Dustin Petty at pettyd@ccarrs.msu.edu

Say what?

Want to see someone you know or yourself on this page? See details below.

Regional Responses to Current Issues

The question:

What position of leadership would you like to try?



Region 1



Anthony Klingler
Bronson

I would want to be a teacher. I have always enjoyed helping others, and I would love to help students learn and become the leaders of tomorrow. ☺

Region 2



Jordan Riske
Springport

I would be a business owner. For as long as I can remember, my dad has owned his own business and that's what I would want to do. It is a leadership role and you are still well connected to the community. ☺

Region 3



Alisha Kirsch
Harbor Beach

I would like to be a teacher because I love children, and we as adults can actually learn life lessons from their innocence and outlook on life. ☺

Region 4



Corey Austin
Mason

I would want to be a business owner. All the big positions such as the president and legislator are too big. This way I would still be responsible for my actions. ☺

Region 5



Marie Hruby
Fremont

I would like to own my own business because it would be fun to have the responsibility. Also, I think it would be cool to have customers and make them happy. ☺

Region 6



Anne Nuttall
Stephenson

I think that I'd like to be a Senator. Not too many women achieve a position that high in government, and to be able to make such a large influence on people would be amazing. ☺

Share & Win!

We appreciate the input students provide for this page. If you would like to submit your thoughts on agriculture, please contact Michigan's FFA Region II State Vice President, Jake Riske at riskej@carrs.msu.edu. So come on and speak your mind, so you can strut your stuff in this stylish FFA t-shirt.



Kick It Up a Notch

Ready, Set, Go!



Leadership is an Opportunity... Take It

With people asking more and more often, "What's in the FFA for me?" The resounding answers are so powerful, they could potentially overlap each other. The truth is that the opportunities that are available to an FFA member are incredibly vast. As an organization that was chartered by Congress, we are a widespread mosaic of members that have the same chance to take advantage of opportunities provided to us.

Here are six incredible opportunities that the FFA offers each of its members. Some of them just come with the experience that is the FFA. Others, require some work to achieve.

We challenge you, Michigan FFA, to not let opportunities pass you by. Take advantage of everything that lies within your grasp. We urge each of you to further investigate these opportunities and explore everything the FFA has to offer. 1

Career Opportunities

An opportunity made available to us as FFA members is the chance to explore. It's through career exploration that we are able to discover our dream job, the one career that is truly right for each of us.

Through programs like our Supervised Agricultural Experience project, we are provided with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, preparing us for our future. The FFA also provides leadership, teamwork and interpersonal skills that give members the opportunity to be successful in any career field. Michigan FFA members, I challenge you to take advantage of the opportunities made available to you. Use the FFA to help open the door to a brighter future. 2

Academics

FFA is a perfect model of academic excellence. Classes, hands-on experiments and jobs after school are great ways to expand knowledge. They are why you as FFA members have a leg up on the competition. After high school, 86% of FFA members continue on to some type of further education, helping FFA members become elite. 3

Travel

With Michigan being such a large landmass and chapters near the borders of four other states, trips are as common to FFA as is the blue jacket. Whether it is to leadership contests within your own region or to a conference in East Lansing, the time spent in a bus or van gives you the perfect time to see our beautiful state and bond with your fellow members. However, travel isn't restricted to within Michigan. With opportunities like National Convention and the Washington Leadership Conference, you can admire the quiet beauty of the Lincoln Memorial or the awesome Indy 500 Racetrack. Take advantage of the opportunity to travel and become a richer person because of it. 4

Agriscience

FFA is not just for farmers. We've heard the reassurances time and time again when trying to recruit non-traditional members. While this is true and we are a leadership organization that stresses premier leadership, the heart of our organization will always lie within the agricultural community. This is where we draw our hard work ethic and the values we hold true. When one enrolls in an agriscience program, he or she can expect to learn in a new and exciting way - with hands-on activities and experiments that one wouldn't normally get in a physics, algebra or history classes. 5

Friendships

Upon joining FFA, many are shy and tend to keep their ideas to themselves. Eventually, members begin making friends with each passing day. Even when you first join the FFA, you may not know anyone at all, but because you and your fellow members have many things in common, it is not hard to make connections. With the long bus rides and tons of conferences and conventions offered, you can meet members from all six regions and all fifty states. It's an amazing thing to watch so many people with diverse backgrounds come together. I challenge you to make every effort to get to know your fellow members and make them your friends. 6

Scholarship

Across the country, individuals and businesses of all sizes and types understand the value of the FFA. Because of this, there are hundreds of opportunities open to members of the FFA to win scholarships. More than two million dollars is awarded each year by the National FFA Organization to graduating FFA members. More money is available in local scholarships, given by chapters, alumni and businesses. I encourage you, Michigan FFA, to look for these scholarships that will assist you in taking full advantage of your experiences in our organization. 7



ALUMNI in Action

National Convention

The Michigan FFA Alumni is honored to have the Marshall and Lowell FFA Alumni affiliates receive silver awards for being "Outstanding Affiliates" at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky this past October.

Previously, Marshall received first place at the 2004 Michigan FFA Alumni Annual State Meeting in February as an affiliate having more than 50 members. The Marshall FFA Alumni assists in many community activities and provides outstanding support of the Marshall FFA Chapter with projects, such as academic scholarship awards, leadership contests and the annual citrus sale.

Lowell was also recognized at the annual state meeting as being a top affiliate in the category of less than 50 members.

On October 28-30, a group of seven high school administrators and two Michigan State University (MSU) professors traveled by charter bus to Louisville, Kentucky for the 77th National FFA Convention. Kim Kramer, Superintendent of the Maple Valley School District stated, "The entire three days were very enlightening and enjoyable. I truly believe that every superintendent should attend."

The purpose of the trip is to expose school administrators to the FFA and its programs while watching students be recognized for their outstanding achievements. Each year, administrators personally view the opportunities that await students within their own school districts if they

become actively involved within FFA. The Michigan FFA Alumni recognizes the importance of this trip, which is the basis for providing planning and financial support.

College Scholarships

The FFA Alumni and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) at MSU are completing agreements for a scholarship program. FFA members who will be attending the CANR as freshmen will have the opportunity to apply for scholarship awards that will be matched by CANR. Plans are being made to initiate this program for the 2005-2006 school year.

The amount and number of awards will be based upon the availability of funds. All parties involved are looking forward to beginning and continuing a program that will benefit FFA members attending MSU as freshmen.

The Homer FFA Alumni has become the first donor with a pledge of \$500.



Homer has an existing scholarship program that supports graduating seniors and students in undergraduate and graduate programs. In 2004, the Homer FFA Alumni awarded \$3,200 to Homer FFA members attending college.

WLC Scholarships

The Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) scholarship applications are due on January 15, 2005. One full scholarship will be awarded along with additional partial

scholarships, as funding will allow. Students that attend WLC often say that the favorite event during their FFA involvement.

Annual State Meeting

The 2005 Annual FFA Alumni State meeting will be held at Convis Township Hall, near Marshall, on February 2, 2005. Region I will host the annual meeting this year. Each year thereafter, the annual meeting will be hosted by another region.

Funds for WLC scholarships are generated each year from the silent and live auctions held at the annual meeting. Donations of auction items are needed for both the Silent and Live Auctions. Former FFA member and FFA Advisor Rodney Evans, of Homer, will serve as the auctioneer. At the meeting, annual reports are presented as well as an election of officers.

Please mark the meeting date of February 2, 2005 on your calendar. Tickets may be purchased for \$20.00 each. To make reservations, call Matt Smego, the Alumni Executive Director, at 517-323-7000 ext. 3234. [a](#)



The Cornerstone

Michigan FFA Foundation News

The Michigan FFA Foundation was proud to partner with Chevrolet and Erickson USA in the Chevrolet FFA Scholarship Program, which provided a fundraising opportunity for the 105 Michigan FFA Chapters across the state. Nearly one-third 1/3 of the chapters participated.

The Chevrolet FFA Scholarship program allowed chapter members, at a community event, to request a suggested five-dollar donation for a ticket which allowed the donor to enter to win a 2004 Chevrolet Silverado. In addition to a chance to

win, the donation allowed the individual to visit their local Chevy dealer and get a free Chevrolet FFA Scholarship program T shirt. The program was successful in many districts with chapters collecting \$5.00 donations for more than 500 tickets in some cases.

Michigan FFA Foundation Executive Director Kate Powers stated, "The Chevrolet FFA Scholarship program was a great activity for the chapters this fall. Many teachers have provided positive feedback, and were able to form relationships within

their communities with the Chevy Dealerships."

All proceeds from the program stay within the FFA with \$4.00 out of every

\$5.00 donation staying at the chapter level, and the other funds being used at the state and national levels. [Q](#)



Honorary American Degree Recipients

The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated a long-term and outstanding commitment to the FFA. Michigan was proud to have seven distinguished individuals recognized at the 77th National FFA Convention with the Honorary American FFA Degree in Louisville, Kentucky.

Comer Skinner, from the Hopkins Alumni is among the recipients. Comer served as president of the Michigan FFA Alumni in 1990-91 and 2000-01.

Tammy Belavek, the Agriscience teacher

and FFA advisor at Lapeer County Vo-Tech, received a special Honorary American Degree for Agriscience teachers. Recipients are required to have taught for at least ten years and a high percentage of their enrolled students must be dues paying members of the FFA.

Current Michigan State Senator, Ron Jelinek also received the award. Jelinek was an FFA member from the Three Oaks High School chapter and later went on to become an FFA advisor and Agriscience teacher at River Valley. He also received his Honorary State FFA Degree in 1996.

Dr. David Krueger is a member of the FFA in

Kimberly, Idaho. In the early 1990's, Krueger became a professor at Michigan State University and also served as the first Executive Director of the Michigan FFA Foundation.

Dr. Delbert Mokma was originally a member of the Hollings FFA Chapter in Hollings, Michigan. He has continued his work with the FFA, serving as chairman of the Land Conservation contest since the late 1970's. He has been a professor at Michigan State University since 1971.

Mr. Larry Meyer is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Retailers Services, Inc. He is a man

of service, having seats on the Lansing City Council and the boards of Citizens Bank and Cadillac Shoe Products and receiving three appointments to the Michigan Department of Commerce.



Jan/Feb 2005

FFA members preparing for their future in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources



Miranda Smith, Horticulture • Mallory Koglin, Agribusiness Management
Amanda Sloan, Agriscience Education • Ryan Peterson, Agricultural Engineering
Ryan Kramer, ANR Communications • Robert Kirkpatrick, Agriscience Education • Rachel Dennis, ANR Communications

Whole new fields of expertise in agriculture and natural resources are emerging. Today, new career opportunities are available in areas as diverse as animal genetics, food packaging and marketing.

The MSU College of Agriculture

A recent study forecasts that the number of job openings in the agriculture and natural resource industry will exceed the number of qualified graduates every year through 2005.

and Natural Resources

Thus, the ANR industry is looking for skilled graduates to generate the value-added products that contribute to our country's growth. It needs trained professionals to take on the challenges of tomorrow.

has its sights set on the future.

In return, the ANR industry offers an exceptional lineup of rewarding and challenging careers. In fact, dynamic new opportunities are emerging in all sectors of the industry.

Your future.

Discover the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, and acquire the tools you need to help make the best decisions for your future.



Interested in expanding your horizons, check out: <http://www.canr.msu.edu/dept.htm>