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Vhat I Did on My Summer Vacation

Former state officer shares about her summer internship

F In Memoriam

A former student remembers his advisor and mentor, Michael O'Malley of the Mason FFA Chapter

H Chapter Chatter

State Reporter Dustin Grezeszak reports on what six Michigan FFA chapters have been working on lately K The Rest of the Story...

Learn more about those who are serving as your state officers

L- Alumni in Action

Read up on the upcoming events of the Michigan FFA Alumni and learn how to become involved

N The Cornerstone

The Michigan FFA Foundation celebrates many successful summer activities

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I believe in...

Courage. I believe in the style of courage that allows a person to experience anything, no matter what obstacles stand in the way. It is a courage that strengthens the weak and challenges the timid. It does not run in the face of a good confrontation, but reinforces as it meets risk head-on.

So many people in our world live their life afraid of facing the unknown. They refuse to take a chance and risk daringly. We all realize that facing our innermost fears and overcoming hardships is one of the most difficult things we do in our lives. But when we do overcome those bumps in the road, there is an even greater sense of accomplishment. Michigan FFA, you are able to conquer what lies before you if you simply set your mind to it and dare to live!

We are all able to show courage. It may

be running for a chapter or regional office, discovering a new SAE, or competing for your first time in a career development event. These things can be accomplished if you set your mind to them and divert your full will power towards each goal. Make the most of life's experiences, and reveal your true potential.

As Charles Caleb Colton stated, "To dare to live alone is the rarest courage; since there are many who had rather meet their bitterest enemy in the field, than their own hearts in their closet."

The 2007-2008 Michigan FFA State Officers challenge you to put aside your fears and show courage in overcoming them. We believe that each of you has the capability to do great things. Be courageous and risk boldly, and you will achieve things that at one time didn't seem possible.

Pates to Remember...

December		January	
4	Stars Finalist Selection	9	Star Candidate Interview
17	Board of Directors Meeting	12	Regional Degree Scoring
	- MSU	17	Proficiency Scoring
		31	National Chapter Scoring

Wyoming: What I did on my summer vacation

By: Danielle Martinez
MSU Agriscience Major

School had ended, my state officer year was winding down, and before I knew it I was on a plane to Wyoming. I was headed to a place I had never been to live and work with people I had never met for three months.

My excitement for the summer grew as the pilot came over the speaker and announced "Ladies and gentlemen we will be landing in Rock Springs, Wyoming in 20 minutes."

I peered out the window and was blown away by the beauty of the Wyoming high desert.

The plane landed, I gathered my bags and met my supervisor, Marcia. On our way to Fossil Butte National Monument, Marcia told me about the monument and what I would be doing during my three month internship. The more she talked, the more I knew this summer was going to be all I expected and so much more.

On May 20, I reported for my first day of work at 8:00 a.m.

sharp. My first visitors rolled into the visitor center around 8:45. I listened to Ranger Kelly give them background information on the monument and then direct them to the exhibits. I knew I had a lot to learn, but I was up to the challenge. After a week I was left at the desk in the visitor center by myself and the questions starting coming and didn't stop. Some days were busier than others, but always contained a new adventure with new people.

When I was not at the desk I could be found preparing fossils for the monument. I would take a chunk of limestone (the rock the fossils of Fossil Lake were found in) and, then using a small air "mini-jackhammer," I would chip away the rock until I could see an outline of the fossil. Once I saw the fossil, I would work with another small air tool known as a "mini sandblaster." This tool blasted a fine powder out at the rock that was

harder than the rock but softer than the fossil and in a matter of an hour or two I was looking at a fossil, most often a fish.

It astonished me every time I completed this task because I was the first person in 50 million years to lay eyes on that fossil. Aside from working the desk and preparing fossils, I also spent the weekends giving guided hikes to our quarry and working each Sunday in the quarry.

At times when the quarry became less than exciting, my roommate and I made the time fly by. It would become extremely hot with the sun beating down on us at 7,900 feet above sea level, so to cool down we took a rain poncho and tied it up and created shade. While sitting in the quarry we had a great view of the aspen trees where we could see wildlife jumping out from bushes because they heard visitors walking up the trail. Once when I was hiking up to the quarry we came across a moose. She was less than ten feet in front of us and we all just starred at each other and finally she decided to go the other way. I was pleased with her decision because I'd heard a lot of stories of moose attacking people and I





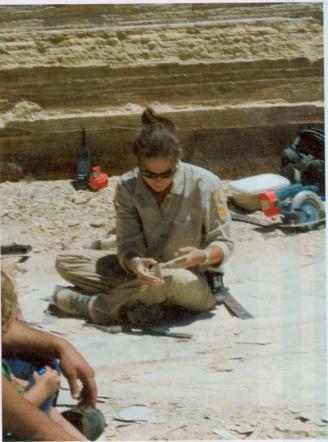
just wasn't in the mood for a moose altercation that day.

In the world of fossils, Butte and the area surrounding are well known around the world. In fact, the town where Fossil Butte is located, Kemmerer, WY, is known as the fossil capital of the world. Some of the most perfectly preserved fossils can be found here. I learned that in 100-plus years of fossil digging there had only been one snake found and the original fossil is no where to be found, only replicas. That was until this summer when a commercial quarry discovered the second. The fossil was brought into the visitor center for our paleontologist to look at and confirm it was snake. While the snake was at the visitor center I and other staff members received the honor of being some of the first people to see and touch the fossil. It was a pretty amazing feeling knowing I was witnessing history in the making.

Before I knew it, all the fun I was having was soon over and I was back on a plane headed to Michigan. I was happy to be coming home. I missed my family and friends, but I was sad to leave because I had to leave behind some pretty amazing people. Looking back, this was by far one the best experiences I have ever had and I would jump at the chance to head back to Wyoming and Fossil Butte. I gained a lot of good skills I will continue to use, along with some amazing memories and stories and best of all I came back to Michigan with so many new friendships.

Why was I lucky enough to have this experience?

At one of our LEAF (Leadership in Environmental and

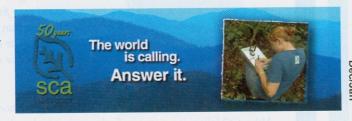


Agricultural Fields) Club meetings at MSU, a representative of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) came and spoke about all the opportunities available to students across the country in the means of internships. The SCA offers internships with national parks and monuments all around the United States to students in or entering college. These internships are all-expenses paid and they also give you a living allowance for the entire period of your service. As high school students you can get involved with the SCA by participating in a Crew program. As a member of a Crew you get the opportunity to go to several different parks in one summer and make a difference at each one. Students can travel to Hawaii, Alaska and everywhere in between through the SCA!

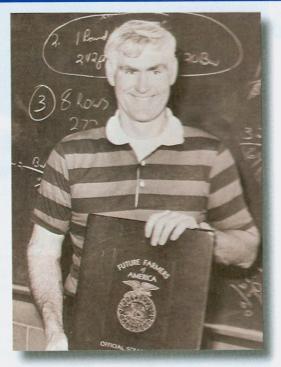
If you want more information check out the SCA's website at www.thesca.org and then follow the links.

The world is calling...answer it!

I'm glad I did.



Dec/ la



IN MEMORIUM

Michael O'Malley 1938-2007

Rick Mills By: Morning Sun Executive Editor

The community of Mason, Mich. lost a leading citizen and the FFA lost a dear friend when Mike O'Malley passed away on August 13, 2007.

An article could have been written about his successes as an advisor: the two state officers and forty state degree honorees he mentored, his Honorary American Degree in 1978 or his numerous Superior Chapter Awards.

One could also write about his love of community: his involvement with the Mason Optimist Club and support of the local football team (he did, afterall, play for MSU during his college years).

And then there was the family man. The husband of 43 years of the former Sandra Langkamp whom he met as a teacher at Milan High School and father of Michelle and Sean.

However, all of these memories about this man and his legacy are best shared by someone who learned how to live and grow from him. Rick Mills, the executive editor of the Morning Sun in Mt. Pleasant was a student of Mr. O'Malley's and wrote the following piece about his childhood mentor that appeared in the August 19, 2007 issue.

Mike O'Malley ran a sort of alternative high school and farmed and kept pigeons and owned horses.

long before the idea caught on. Those were the old days, though, before we separated kids who struggle in a normal school environment.

Back then, we all had to take the same math and English and history classes.

For some students, academic classes were enough to hold their interest, to keep them in school and to prepare them for the future. Others, though, needed Mr. O'Malley. Officially, he taught agricultural science. We just called it "ag."

These days we call Mr. O'Malley and those like him vocational education teachers. But I was long past graduation before I ever heard the term voc-ed used.

My buddies and I didn't know we were taking voc-ed classes; we took ag because, well, that's just what we did.

Others hung out in shop classes & metals, small engines, automotive or wood shop.

I was not a farm kid, but most of my friends were. We Hidden away in a far-off corner of Mason High School, shot BB guns and .22s. My friends trapped and hunted

And thus, I met Mr. O'Malley. I took his classes, and I proudly wore the blue corduroy of the Future Farmers of America.

Michael J. O'Malley, who taught at Mason High School from 1963 to 1993, died Monday at the age of 69.

It's funny how the importance of what you're learning never really hits until later in life, when you look back with a few years and a few more life experiences under your belt.

Thus it was with Mr. O'Malley. For me, his classes were fun and interesting, but I had no idea how much I'd use what I learned later in life.

And I also never really pondered, until much later, how Mr. O'Malley served as counselor, friend, business adviser, mentor and even father to so many of his students.

Some of his students had almost no interest in school, some of them would rather be home or working or anywhere else but school. Mr. O'Malley kept them interested, kept them passing, kept them coming.

Who else could get them out of class to plow and plant the FFA's fields? Who else would dismiss them to tap maple trees or run the sugarbush? Who else visited their farms, sweated alongside them at the county fair and devoted his life to their lives?

No one.

Mr. O'Malley lived and breathed his job and, in the process, earned the undying love and respect of generations of Mason's farm kids. Including me.

Yes, I was not a farm kid.

But in my first job, and my next job, and in my daily life and my homeowner life, I continually use and remember the things he taught me.

Among them:

Parliamentary procedure, which was a huge help when I began covering government meetings.

The difference between junipers and arborvitaes and all kinds of other bushes, flowers and trees.

Basic landscaping, including how to plan and prepare and sketch from different angles and views.

That hay is feed and straw is bedding - a pet peeve that comes up

around here whenever a reporter mixes them up.

That all cows are cattle but not all cattle are cows, and how a heifer, steer and bull fit into the equation.

Same with hogs and terms like sow and boar.

How to tie most any knot imaginable, and when and why to do that

Exactly how to castrate pigs. OK... so not everything I learned is applicable to daily life, but it never hurts to know.

Looking back, though, what I really learned from Mr. O'Malley was the difference a teacher can make in the lives of his students.

I learned how just one teacher can give a kid a reason to attend, a reason to belong and a reason to try.

And I learned that for so many teachers, those like Mr. O'Malley, teaching is not a job, it's their life.

I've called him "Mr." here out of respect. In truth, no one but the greenest of freshmen ever really called him that.

Count me among those who are going to miss, and always remember you, O'Malley.

He was one of a kind.



Chapter Chatter

By: **Dustin Grezeszak MSU** Animal Science Major

Region I Cassopolis FFA - Carrie George, advisor

"Members of the Cassopolis FFA took part in many successful summer activities that the members can be proud of. They were involved in the Cass County Relay for Life, where members walked 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The team's efforts really paid off, as they raised over \$2,000 to donate to cancer research. Following the Relay for Life, members kicked back for the second annual barnyard bash, a demolition derby sponsored by the Cassopolis FFA Alumni. The event was a lot of fun and a great success!"



"The Camden-Frontier FFA Chapter recently kicked off its first annual fall pumpkin and hardy mum sale in hopes of raising \$500 to be applied toward their upcoming trip to National Convention in Indianapolis and other activities that they will be doing throughout the upcoming year. At the conclusion of the fundraiser, members plan on having a pumpkin carving and painting day with the Camden-Frontier Elementary. Their members will work with elementary students, parents and teachers and have a contest for the best painted or carved pumpkin. The members are very excited and are anticipating the fun times they will have in Indy this fall."



Region III Breckenridge - Gerard Reaume, advisor

"For the 20th year, the Breckenridge FFA took part in Lorenz Day, an event set up to educate fourth grade students in Midland and Saginaw County schools about agriculture and rural life. Named for Gerald Lorenz who opens his farm for the event, the Breckenridge members lead the young students through exhibits of farm animals, crop fields and displays, examples of tractors and other heavy machinery and a corn maze.





Region IV Lapeer FFA - Tammy Hyatt, advisor Kristen Ball, paraprofessional

"The members of the Lapeer FFA have been busy undertaking numerous tasks in recent months preparing plants for their annual spring plant sale, making and executing plans to hold a petting zoo at the grand re-opening of their local Tractor Supply Store and expanding their animal program. Having recently celebrated the completion of the expansion, members have now filled all of the stalls with animals and are excited about projects that will take place throughout the upcoming year. Lapeer members also successfully competed in this summer's tractor driving contest at Ag Expo, with James Eschenburg and Patrick Ankley winning second and fifth places, respectfully."

Region V Caledonia FFA - John Schut, advisor

"This past summer, members of the Caledonia FFA hosted a Lamb Jackpot Show. This was a huge endeavor for the chapter, requiring the assistance of students, parents, 4-H volunteers, FFA alumni and MSU Extension staff. The show was sanctioned by the Michigan Club Lamb Association and it qualified as one of their Youth Challenge Programs. An educational contest and a showmanship clinic were also held in conjunction with the show. In total, 133 market lambs along with breeding stock were shown by 73 entrants from 17 Michigan counties."



Region VI Ogemaw Heights FFA - Michael Eagan, advisor

"Ogemaw Heights FFA members recently celebrated the success of their annual Tractor Day, which was held on Tuesday, September 18. Nineteen FFA members and the school's new vice principal woke up early that morning and drove a tractor to school. As the tradition goes, during lunch, the student body traveled outside to scope out the tractors and voted on their favorite. Tractor Day served as the kickoff to a series of fall activities, such as the local tri-county Project Red and the chapter's annual skeet shoot."

Advisors and students: do you want to see YOUR chapter highlighted here? It's easy! Email State Reporter Dustin Grezeszak at grezesz1@anr.msu.edu for more information.











The 2007 FFA Tractors are now on sale.

This year's FFA tractor is a 1/16 scale Farmall 806.
The first Farmall in the series! It is available at
Tractor Supply Company (TSC) stores statewide. All
proceeds benefit the Michigan FFA Foundation.



Now only \$56.98!

For more information about how you can support the FFA, contact the Michigan FFA Foundation at (517) 432-2482 or online at www.michiganffa.com

The Rest of the Story...



Kate Krepps State Treasurer

State Treasurer Kate Krepps, who is driven by her family and her community, is truly a small town farm girl at heart.

"I was encouraged to join by my father as well as my advisor, Mrs. Block," says Krepps, who originally joined the FFA in 2003 as a freshman. Since joining, she has accomplished many feats including serving as president of her chapter and region concurrently and competing in leadership contests for three years. Other high school activities include 4-H, National Honor Society, Student Council and serving as Homecoming Queen.

Her SAEs include Beef, Sheep, Swine and Pine Tree Production. Her hogs and steers are raised to be sold at the county fair, while her sheep are sold private treaty for market or pets. She plants pine trees and sells them as part of her SAE.

A freshman at Michigan State University, Krepps is an Agriscience major who plans to earn her degree and become an FFA advisor. In her spare time, she can be found hanging around with her friends watching Grey's Anatomy or working with animals and listening to music.

Krepps would like all FFA members to remember that "if you want to be somebody, if you want to go somewhere, you better wake up and pay attention!"

Bailey Albright Region I State Vice President

When Region I State Vice President Bailey Albright isn't busy in the State FFA Office or jetting off to a chapter visit, she can be found frequenting the movie theater or listening to Rascal Flatts.

Albright, a freshman majoring in Animal Science at Michigan State University, pins her motivation for becoming an FFA member on her brother Doug.

"From the first time I heard opening ceremonies at a state convention," says Albright, "I was hooked." Originally from the Branch Area Career Center, she has excelled in many FFA activities, including serving as chapter president and vice president of her region during her senior year of high school. Albright also received a silver award in the National FFA Livestock Judging contest.



Describing herself as dedicated, Albright has many plans for herself and her team throughout the next year which revolve around starting some new FFA activities in the state. She hopes to graduate from Michigan State University with a degree in Animal Science and Political Science to pursue a career as an Agricultural Lobbyist.

Albright would also like to remind the members of the Michigan FFA that "today is called the present for a reason, because it is a gift."



New Director Named for Michigan Department of Agriculture

By: Bailey Albright MSU Animal Science Major

There is new leadership in Lansing for the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Over the summer, former Senator Donald Koivisto (D-Ellsworth) was appointed to serve as the new Michigan Director of Agriculture. Koivisto, a western Upper Peninsula native, has been an advocate for Michigan agriculture in Lansing for nearly 20 years. Koivisto has served as the chair of the House Agriculture Committee and served on the senate agriculture appropriations subcommittee.

Living on a Centennial Farm in Ellsworth, Koivisto grows corn, soybeans, and hay.

Director Koivisto has also worked very closely with Michigan Farm Bureau over the past 20 years and was a consistent supporter of Farm Bureau policy.

"We are looking forward to working with Koivisto," said Dave Wyrick, the State Executive Secretary of the Michigan FFA. "As the Michigan Department of Agriculture has been a strong supporter of the Michigan FFA in the past, we are looking forward to continuing that partnership in the future."

For the past five years, Koivisto has been working as a lobbyist for the iron mining industry.

Poll Names "Farming" as Highly Prestigious Career Choice

By: Cally Hass MSU Agriscience and Animal Science Major

When children think about what they want to be when they grow up, astronauts, ballerinas and actors seem to preoccupy their adolescent dreams. But who do you think has the most prestigious career?

According to the results of the annual Harris Poll measuring public perceptions of 23 occupations and professions, a farmer has the most prestige, followed by a lawyer and then an actor.

When 1,010 U.S. adults were asked about each occupation, bankers, actors and real estate agents turned out to be the least prestigious occupations, while firefighters, scientists and teachers were seen as the most prestigious. Farming placed 9th on the

Whether it is because of the new advances in biotechnology and the ethanol industry, or the persistent tillage of the soil, those who say farmers have "very great prestige" has risen five points in the past year.

"This poll was a little surprising to me," said Michigan State Agribusiness senior Andy White. "But I was really pleased to see where farming ranked. I would have thought that in general, the majority of the public wouldn't view farming as a very prestigious profession. It's nice to know that the public realizes how important agricultural professions are to everyone's lives."

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS AT

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY!

KAZA



In the Fall of 2008, two new majors will be revealed within the CARRS Department: Environmental Studies and Agriscience & Park Recreation and Tourism Resources.

In the Environmental Studies and Agriscience major, options will include: Communication, Community Engagement and Education, Science and Policy, as well as Agriscience and Natural Resources Teacher Education.

In the Park Recreation and Tourism Resources major, options will include: Community Engagement and Education, Commercial Recreation and Tourism, Community Recreation and Zoo and Aquarium Sciences.

For more information please contact: Dr. Randy Showerman (showerma@msu.edu), Dr. David Krueger (kruege20@msu.edu) or Dr. Jeno Rivera (jeno@msu.edu).





Alumni in Action



On a recent visit to Alaska, three Marshall FFA Alumni members had the opportunity to meet Sarah Bradley, the vice president of the Alaska FFA Association. Bradley was working at the Pratt Museum in Homer, Alaska as part of her SAE in recreation and wildlife which the group was touring. The three alumni members were serving as adult leaders for a student group of 65 from Marshall schools that were studying the environment and man's effect on ecosystems. Floyd Beneker, the Michigan FFA Alumni Council President, commented, "This brought home the fact that you can meet FFA'ers all over the country preparing for career success."

Pictured, from left to right, are Steve Washburn, Beneker, Bradley and Dale Rosene

Alumni Events & Deadlines Calendar

January 15th - WLC Scholarship and Outstanding Affiliate Award applications due (applications available online) January 19th - State Executive Council Meeting (Farm Bureau Center, Lansing)

2008 Michigan FFA Alumni Annual Meeting

- Waunetta Ritter, Region IV State Alumni Council Vice President

The Michigan FFA Alumni Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, February 9, 2008. Region IV will be hosting the event at the Byron High School, located at 312 W. Maple Ave, Byron, Michigan. Please join us as we celebrate the year's achievements, recognize local alumni chapters and raise money to support the FFA members around Michigan with the silent and live auctions. The silent auction will begin at 6:00pm with the dinner immediately following at 6:30pm. Reserve the date for the meeting on your calendars now! Invitations will follow soon. For questions regarding the annual meeting, please contact Waunetta Ritter, Region IV Vice President.

If you would like to donate items for the silent or live auctions, please contact any of the Michigan FFA Alumni Executive Council. All proceeds from the auctions are used to fund FFA member activities, sponsorships, scholarships and awards throughout the upcoming year.

Call out for Alumni Affiliates!

- Nikki Dotson, State Alumni Council Secretary

We are looking for FFA supporters, past FFA members, people interested in agriculture education and people who want to make a difference! If you fit into any of those categories, WE WANT YOU!

From personal experience, almost all past members cantell you that the FFA laid a strong foundation for the development of skills they use today. Through the Michigan FFA Alumni, we are able to make the goals, dreams and aspirations of today's FFA members reachable. Through sponsorships and scholarships, local alumni chapters make a huge difference in the lives of the students.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your local alumni chapter or chartering a chapter in your local community, please contact the Michigan FFA Alumni Executive Council for information. More information is also available online at www.michiganffa.com/alumni.



FFA Race Day

The Michigan FFA Foundation and Ohio FFA Foundation teamed up once again to host the 4th Annual FFA Race Day at Michigan International Speedway. The event took place on August 18 with over 180 people in attendance.

This year's attendees received breakfast and lunch as a part of the package in response to the requests from the year before. In addition to the meals, FFA supporters received free pit passes, seating in turn four, access to the hospitality tent, the chance to meet NASCAR driver Gregg Biffle and prizes and give-aways throughout the day.

"This year's event was a huge success! The weather was great, we were able to have Gregg Biffle visit our tent, and I think everyone enjoyed the free food and pit passes," said Megan Hirschman, FFA Foundation Director.

Michigan International Speedway (MIS) donated a portion of every ticket sold for FFA Race Day totaling over \$2,900 to be shared by the Michigan and Ohio FFA Foundations. The FFA Race Day program is the only one of its kind, and MIS has been a great supporter of the Michigan FFA Foundation for over four years.

If you have a partnership program you think would be fun to participate in with the FFA contact the Michigan FFA Foundation at www.michiganffa.com/foundation or call (517) 432-2482.

FFA Masters

The 8th Annual FFA Masters Golf Outing was a "swinging success" with over 100 participants and volunteers helping ro contribute over \$27,000. The golf outing took place on August 2 at The Emerald at Maple Creek in St. Johns, Mich.

After enjoying a breakfast sponsored by Michigan Milk Producers, Michigan Agricultural Commodities and Michigan Farm Radio Network; participants began their day with the opportunity to participate in a "cream the cow" contest, hole in one, longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin contests.

This year's winning team with 14 under par was the GreenStone Farm Credit Services team with members John Pohl, Dennis McDonald, Ben Spitzley and Ju Yang. Rob Anderson took home the trophy for men's longest drive while FFA Member Patrick Merchant won the longest drive from the women's tee.

Even if the golfers didn't win a trophy, each went home with a goodie bag containing donated items such as a five dollar certificate to La Senorita's, Michigan Farm Bureau frisbees, dried cherries and other great items. Many also went home with door prizes and auction items, thanks to the support of many great vendors and donors.

The proceeds from the golf outing go to benefit FFA programs and chapters across Michigan. Thanks to the sponsors, participants and volunteers for another successful year!



Amanda Sollman (State Secretary) and Brittany Armbruster (Region III State Vice President) accept a check from the MIS FFA Race Day.

