



The Michigan FFA

Creed

May/June 2005

Leadership is Eternal...
Live It

the Creed Staff

Managing Editors Dustin Petty
Scott Smalley
Staff Editors Nathan Baker
Ryan Kramer
Writers Nathan Baker
Leyna Dussel
Ryan Kramer
Dustin Petty
Aaron Preston
Tiffany Reeser
Jake Riske

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The State FFA Office

108 Natural Resources
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
www.michiganffa.com
association@michiganffa.com
517.353.9221
517.432.5632 (fax)

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Important Dates

May	6	Lansing Lugnuts Game
	15	Applications proceeding to National competition due to FFA office
July	12	Livestock Judging Contest
	14-15	SLCCO/SLCRO
	20	Dairy Judging and Showmanship Contest



I believe in...



Doug Albright

State Reporter

SAE: Swine Production

Majoring in Agricultural Business at Kellogg Community College

Melissa Smith

Region V State Vice President

SAE: Dairy Cattle, Sheep and Poultry Production

Majoring in Animal Science at Lansing Community College

Dustin Petty

Region VI State Vice President

SAE: Ag Communications

Majoring in Ag Communications at Michigan State University

officer profiler

The Times, They Are A-Changin'

Without change, man would still call the cave his home, fire would not yet be harnessed and American agriculture would be nothing more than subsistence farming. It is change that makes our society evolve and allows us as a people to prosper and continue to dream the big dreams and reach for the heights.

Just imagine for a second that those original 33 farm boys that ushered in our organization were to have come to our state convention as special guests. They would have been amazed and scared to death all at the same time! In the first place, they

would be surprised to find women in the ranks since they weren't even allowed to be members until 1969. They would be amazed at the diversity that exists within our membership. Oh yeah, they probably wouldn't even recognize our trademark blue corduroy jackets since they came into existence years after the FFA's establishment.

Many of us would be just as shocked if we found ourselves at the 1929 National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Would we even recognize the organization our forebearers were working so hard to establish for us? Chances are, we wouldn't.

Despite this, it is because our organization has continued to evolve over the years and keep up with the changes in American agriculture and society that we are alive today and will continue to thrive for generations to come.

We therefore challenge you, Michigan FFA, to not be afraid of the change that is occurring within your personal lives. As you grow older, hold onto the memories of times past but take them with you as you stride into your future lives. As it was once said, "We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are." o

Did you know...

- o The Michigan FFA was home to eight regions up until 1995.
- o Collectively, FFA members earn \$4 billion through their hands-on work experience.
- o There are 236,269 farms operated by women in the United States.



A Convention to Remember: Michigan FFA Kick's it Up a Notch!



As nearly 2,000 FFA members, advisors and guests descended upon the Wharton Center on March 9-11, it was clear to all present that the spirit of FFA that unites us all is alive and well. In those short three days, we not only competed and attended session, but we also laughed, celebrated and marveled at a year gone by. We succeeded in our mission of totally Kicking it Up a Notch!





Stars Over Michigan

Star Farmer

Julie Thelen

Saline

As the highest recognition in the state for an aspiring young production agriculturalist, the Star Farmer award recognizes achievement in both career and leadership development.



Star in Agribusiness

Greg Harvey

Branch Area Career Center

The Star in Agribusiness award winner should possess a successful agribusiness career and exceptional leadership skills.



Star in Placement

Johnny Verhaar

Lakers

The Star in Agricultural Placement award recognizes a student who has an outstanding SAE in placement within the agricultural industry and is active in FFA.



2005-2006 Michigan FFA State Officer Team



- President - Jason Smith, Lakers
- Vice President - Julie Thelen, Saline
- Secretary - Kylee Zdunic, Corunna
- Treasurer - Tony McCaul, Lakewood
- Reporter - Andrea Kerbuski, Ravenna
- Sentinel - Erin Koglin, Port Hope
- Region I State Vice President - Sarah McCurley, BACC
- Region II State Vice President - Alan Gust, Lenawee Vo-Tech
- Region III State Vice President - Zac Ruthenberg, Lakers
- Region IV State Vice President - Kevin Gadd, Corunna
- Region V State Vice President - Ashley Stickler, Chippewa Hills
- Region VI State Vice President - Caitlin Lorenc, Benzie Central

Our Motto in Motion

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

Learning to Do

By: Aaron Preston
State Treasurer

Each spring students from across Michigan both FFA members and those that are not, gather in order to make a difference in their communities and also in the environment. The Branch Area Career Center is amongst those chapters that take part in this event.

Each of these students comes as participants in a contest known as

the Envirothon. This is a competition in which students spend time studying all aspects of agriculture and the environment. Members of the Envirothon work on teams of four to five students from their school. The Envirothon is designed to challenge students' knowledge and their skills in judging environmental quality and use by testing them in six areas, these are forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils/geology, energy, and sustainable agriculture. Each of these areas is centered on one main current issue that changes each year.

In 2004 the issue topic was on the urban environment and how each of these areas can exist in a balance with the growing urban environment. At the competition, teams travel around an

environmental location to different sites where they are tested on each of the five areas of specialization and how they would relate and best be utilized at that site. The day before the state competition all members of the contest spend the day going through training in the specific fields of research in order to help them understand the physical, social, and even economic demographics of the area and how each of these can impact the environment.

But you won't win the Envirothon by just being knowledgeable about the environment and agriculture. In addition to all the tests that teams must go through, each team in the state must develop and complete a community service project that relates to the environment and preservation of it, and write a comprehensive report about their project. Then at the state competition each team builds a display describing their project and must give a presentation centered on how they have impacted their community through their service project. Each year service projects range from river clean-ups, wildlife habitat rehabilitation, used tire recycling, battery and chemical collection and proper disposal, and many more.

The winning team of the state Envirothon has the opportunity to advance on to the North American Envirothon competition sponsored each year by Canon. This is a week long competition that focuses on wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils/geology, and sustainable agriculture and how each of these plays into a current issue, which this past year was the urban environment. However, at the national competition there is no service project, rather each team is locked in a room together for a grueling ten hours and must develop a plan to solve an environmental challenge they are given and then go present their plan to a panel of judges. All of this is done in hopes of winning the grand prize of \$3,500 to each member of the winning team. Also each member of the winning team at the state competition is given a \$24,000 scholarship over four years to Albion College in Albion, MI if they choose to attend that college, which is a big sponsor at the state level.

For more information about the Envirothon, or how to become involved in the Envirothon, visit the website at www.macd.org/envirothon.html.



Horticulturist

Today horticulture is more than garden plant culture. Horticulturists work in crop production; plant propagation; plant breeding; genetic engineering; plant physiology; plant biochemistry and so much more. They improve crop yield, quality, nutritional value, and resistance to insects, diseases, and environmental stresses. They make plants more adaptable to different climates and

soils and better fit for food uses or processes. And they grow and improve plants used for medicines or spices.

In high school take basic courses in mathematics, chemistry and biology.

For more information, check out: <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/>



Doing to Learn

Building Skills for Life

By Nathan Baker
State Secretary

What is that one thing that you have an extreme passion for? Is it sports, the FFA or some other activity that you really enjoy doing? For Allison Hill, a senior at Lapeer County Educational Technical Center, her life revolves around her horses.

Allison owns four of the nine horses that are on her family's farm. She developed a love for horses when one of her neighbors let her help with the daily care taking of a gelding. Soon after, she was caring for the horse on her own and eventually, Allison's neighbor gave her the gelding. Allison cared for this animal for about

five years before she decided that she was ready to start a business. Allison is responsible for breaking and training all of the yearling horses that area horse owners bring to her. She and her family work together to manage everything from marketing to scheduling veterinarian visits, to nutrition of the horses.

Allison shows her yearlings through the American Paint Horse Association. This is her reward for all of the hard work she puts in throughout the year training and breaking her horses. She has also shown beef steers through 4-H for the last 6 years and at four other major shows across Michigan.

Another part of Allison's SAE program is forage production. Every summer Allison and her family bale enough hay to feed their horses and steers through the winter.

When Allison is not busy working with her many SAE's, she is active in her school and community. She is the Young Farmer Chair Representative of the Lapeer County Farm Bureau. Her responsibilities



include planning fundraisers and social events, as well as informing young farmers of current political events and assisting the board in giving out scholarships to students.

Allison has been in the FFA for five years. She is serving as her chapter vice-president and loving it. She has competed in the public speaking contest as well as other contests. Her favorite thing to do in FFA is to try and get inactive members more involved in the FFA. Allison said, "It's a great feeling when they finally realize what

they had been missing out on."

Allison is home schooled when she is not at the tech center. Next year She plans on attending Mott Community College to get an associates degree in business. Then transferring to either Michigan State University to get a bachelors degree in equine science or attending a horse training college in Oklahoma. o



Agricultural Engineer

Agricultural engineers apply basic science and engineering principles as they design solutions to engineering problems in agricultural production. Agricultural engineers design agricultural machinery and facilities such as tractors, implements, animal confinements, storage and handling facilities, irrigation and

drainage systems, and soil conservation measures.

In high school, take mathematics, physics, chemistry, English, and computer science.

For more information, check out:
<http://www.egr.msu.edu/age/BE/>



May/June 2005

Earning to Live

By: Dustin Petty
Region VI State
Vice President

Jim Schiller joined the FFA at a time when John F. Kennedy was in the White House and American idealism was at an all time high. Since that time, Mr. Schiller, the FFA and our country has gone through numerous changes but

through it all, he still carries the same ideals for American agriculture that he did in 1961 when he joined the Chelsea FFA Chapter. Now the president of the Michigan FFA Foundation and the CEO of GreenStone Farm Credit Services, he has continued his service to the agricultural community from which he came.

Born and raised on a farm in Washtenaw County, Mr. Schiller worked on the family farm from an early age. Joining the FFA as a sophomore, he was named the State Star Farmer at the 1964 Michigan FFA State

Convention, competing in Parliamentary Procedure at the state level and coming in second the same year.

After graduating high school, Mr. Schiller attended Michigan State University where he participated in the Ag tech program, graduating after two years with a degree in general agriculture. Returning home to farm with his father, he soon left to serve three years in Vietnam as a First Lieutenant in Field Artillery. Returning from active duty, he reenrolled at MSU, this time graduating with honors and a degree in Agricultural Business.

When his time at MSU came to a close, Mr. Schiller began to work with Farm Credit in Charlotte. From there his work would take him to Bay City, Adrian and countless other places until in 2001 he was made the CEO of GreenStone Farm Credit Services, an organization that provides credit and financial services to over 16,000 customers throughout the state of Michigan and northeast Wisconsin.

Besides his impressive work with GreenStone and the Michigan FFA Foundation, Mr. Schiller is also a member of the MSU Stakeholder Advisory Board and has served on many national, state and district agricultural organizations.

When all is said and done, Mr. Schiller's commitment to agriculture and its keepers started with a small boy from the Chelsea FFA. Kate Powers, Director of the Michigan FFA Foundation, sums up his service by saying, "The Michigan FFA is blessed to have Jim Schiller at the helm of our Foundation. His dedication to the FFA is stellar and he is quite an asset to every facet of our program. In addition to his responsibilities with the Foundation, Jim has a strong dedication to Agriculture and the future of the industry, both personally and professionally. This is exemplified by his hard work on behalf of all the FFA members in the state." ○



About the Foundation...

The Michigan FFA Foundation was founded in 1984 at Michigan State University. In 1995, Michigan Farm Bureau and MSU created a contractual agreement for management of the Foundation. In 2004, the Michigan FFA Foundation raised over \$250,000 to provide sponsorship dollars to Michigan FFA members and the Association. The Michigan FFA Foundation administers the Glassbrook FFA Endowment, which provides grants to Kindergarten through 12th grade agriculture and natural resources programs. That same year, the Foundation and grant committee granted over \$50,000 to both agriscience and non-traditional ag ed programs. The Michigan FFA Foundation works for YOU! We are interested in your comments and feedback. Please feel free to contact us at Foundation@michiganffa.com.

Individuals trained in agricultural economics develop skills that prepare them for a vast array of careers. Agricultural economists use communication, analytical, and business skills to find success in sales, marketing, management, and finance careers.

Agricultural economists are hired by food and agribusiness firms, financial institutions, government agencies, and a variety of industries.

In high school take advanced courses in mathematics, science, economics, accounting, and computer skills.

For more information, check out:
<http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/>

Agricultural Economist



Living to Serve

By: Leyna Dussel
Student Teacher

Alma FFA is growing more than flowers in their greenhouse; their students are growing into young adults. Students enrolled in the Alma high school greenhouse course gain valuable life skills that help prepare them for real world experiences. "I want to be a police officer when I finish school, but the work ethic, and communication skills I have gained from the greenhouse class will transfer to any profession," says senior, Luke Strong.

Students will get a chance to showcase their skill at the annual mother's day sale, and bedding plant sale. Students will be doing more than class work to prepare for these occasions; students will be spending their time in a 30' X 48' greenhouse located at the north end of the school.

Students begin the course by learning the functions of nutrients in plant growth, this information aids the students in the ability to grow and maintain crops of poinsettias, Easter lillies and bedding plants. Seed germination and transplanting also play an important role in raising bedding plants as the class progresses.

After the plants have reached maturity, students sell their products to the public. This activity allows them to learn how to calculate the cost of the product they have produced. Customer relations skills are also gained from the marketing of their greenhouse crops to local community members.



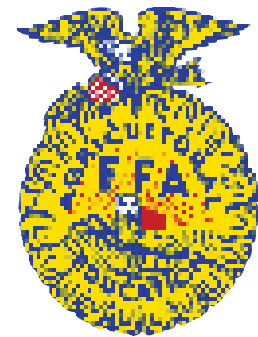
So far this year students have produced 200 poinsettias, 100 Easter lillies, 700 hanging baskets, and 600 flats of annual bedding plants.

For Christmas, greenhouse students donated approximately 100 poinsettias to community facilities for the elderly, and the local hospital. Students also presented each teacher at Alma high school with a poinsettia to show their appreciation for their support of the program.

Other activities taking place in the greenhouse include the production of cucumbers and tomatoes with a hydroponics system. Hydroponics allows students to grow plants without soil. Students use only water and a nutrient solution to grow the plants. When these vegetables are ready to harvest, students will get to "taste the fruits of there labor" by making healthy snacks in class. Cucumbers and Tomatoes will also be made available to the public for sale.

"I am really glad I took this class," proclaims Alma sophomore Danielle Giles, "By taken greenhouse I have discovered something that I have a passion for, now I know that when I go to college I want to major in horticulture, so that I can be a greenhouse manager."

The members of the Alma FFA Chapter competed at the Spring Skills Contests in April, demonstrating how to care for plants and completing a plant identification quiz. o



Hydrologist

Hydrologists help assess and protect our water supplies and water quality. Hydrologists concerned with water supplies manage surface and ground water to avoid problems caused by floods, droughts, population growth, and the impact of human of human activities.

In high school take mathematics (algebra, trig, and calculus), physics, biology, and chemistry. It helps to get experience with leadership skills, natural resources, and public speaking through organizations like 4-H, FFA, or scouting.

For more information, go to: www.agriculture.purdue.edu/USDA/careers/hydrologist.html



May/June 2005

Member Highlights

By: Dustin Petty
Region VI State Vice President

Region 1: Victoria Sikorski Bronson

As a junior at Bronson High School, Victoria Sikorski has a busy schedule. Besides being involved in the FFA, she is also very active in Students Against Drunk Driving, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Varsity Club, basketball, softball, volleyball, her church and the 4-H.

But when it comes to the FFA, Victoria devotes much of her time to her chapter and SAE. She dabbles in areas like Vegetable Production, Outdoor Recreation and Landscape Management, Forest Management and Small Animal Care Production, each keeping her busy at some point in the year. During her summer breaks, she pulls weeds from her garden and waters and tends the plants. When fall rolls around, she works with her brother and grandfather to clean the woods by her home. Throughout the entire year she cares for her animals, watering them daily.

From the FFA, Victoria has learned valuable life lessons. "It has taught me to speak up for what I believe in...and how to manage my time better. It's made me learn to have patience because things take time."

After she graduates high school, Victoria would like to attend Ferris University to major in English in hopes of one day becoming an editor. ○

Region 2: Liza Dyer Springport

Liza Dyer, a junior at Springport High School, is currently her chapter reporter and the Region II Sentinel. Her principle SAE of Ag Communications has inspired her to one day enter the field professionally.

Liza writes an article for her local newspaper each week in addition to making flyers for every meeting and event. She writes a bi-weekly newsletter and maintains her chapter's website as well.

She says, "The most useful skills my SAE has taught me are how to properly write a press release...Each time I hand in a paper, [my advisor] Ms. Burgess takes her deadly red pen to it and I have to fix my mistakes. Naturally, these mistakes have become fewer and fewer as I continue writing. I have even worked on critiquing the work of others for the paper during National FFA Week, when everyone in our chapter is required to write an article."

Outside of Ag Communications, Liza also takes the time to raise pigs and compete in broiler contests. When she isn't busy with her many agricultural pursuits, she participates in soccer and track events and is also a member of the Jackson County Teenage Republicans

After graduation, Liza would like to attend either Jackson Community College or Michigan State University and major in either Ag Communications or Agriculture Education, perhaps dual majoring in both. ○

Region 3: Katie Drake Ithaca

Joining the FFA as a freshman, Katie Drake was shy and didn't enjoy meeting new people or having her picture taken. Fast forward three short years later and she is known leader in the Ithaca FFA Chapter and to all those who know her.

Since the age of eight Katie has shown at her county fair. Whether it be feeder calves, chickens, sheep or pigs. This dedicated involvement has prompted her to learn all that she can about her animals. "I want to know what they need to grow and be healthy. I have learned that no matter how bad I do one year, I can learn from the experience and make changes in my methods to change the outcome for the following year," she remarked.

Katie says that she has been taught responsibility through caring for her animals and she insists that the FFA has made her a better person and a superior public speaker.

Besides her work with the FFA and her SAE, Katie is the reporter for her 4-H group "Barnyard Bunch," and is heavily involved with her school choir and her church's youth group.

When she graduates, she would like to attend Michigan State University to major in agriscience so she may become an Ag teacher one day. ○



Victoria Sikorski
Bronson



Liza Dyer
Springport



Katie Drake
Ithaca

Region 4: David Sheridan Mason

Now a junior member of the Mason FFA Chapter, David Sheridan has followed in the footsteps of his parents and older brothers by becoming part of the FFA extended family. In his home chapter, he has served as both chapter sentinel and reporter.

David raises steers for the Ingham County Fair as his SAE, which requires him to do feedings twice a day and take care of things on the family farm like watering machines and the gates. From all of this hard work and dedication, David says, "My SAE has enabled me to keep up to date on what is going on in the industry. It has also taught me that you can't put things off till you want to do them, you need to do them when they need to be done."

He goes on to say, "FFA has taught me many things over the years. I am fortunate that I have a good advisor who is always around to answer questions. The main thing FFA has taught me is that you can't always be the lead, sometimes you don't know something and you will have to look up to someone else for the answer."

Following high school, David would like to attend a two-year vocational technology program and he would eventually work in some area of construction. ○

Region 5: Jessica Johnson Montague

Junior Jessica Johnson of the Montague FFA Chapter first joined our organization when she heard about it from upperclassmen and was told how the FFA teaches its members about leadership and what other good things can come out of the experience. Two years into the future and she knows they were right.

Jessica's SAE takes place in the classroom. There she works on the Montague hydroponics system, ensuring a healthy output of the lettuce crop. On an average day, Jessica reports that "We check the pH of the water that is being filtered into the system. If it is too low or too high, we have to make the correct adjustments to correctly set the pH level. We also have to make sure that each day our hydroponics system is getting the right amount of needed sunlight." Through the work she and her chapter did with the hydroponically grown lettuce, observations and comparisons were made between their product and normal soil grown lettuce in the area of taste and flavor.

In addition to the FFA, Jessica is her school's varsity basketball and soccer teams. She is also an active member of the Montague Students Against Drunk Driving program.

When she graduates, Jessica would like to attend a four-year college and plans on majoring in social work. She also hopes to play soccer at the collegiate level. ○

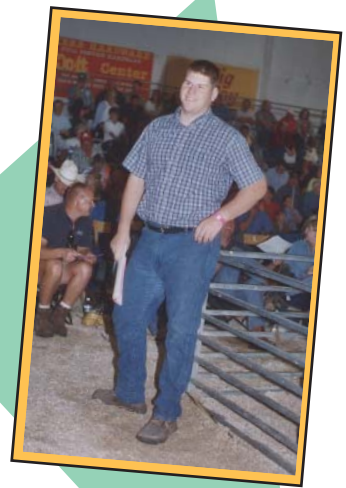
Region 6: Tim Zybowski Alpena

Tim Zybowski is a junior in high school and a member of the Alpena FFA Chapter. He has held the office of chapter vice president in addition to raising 4-H hogs for the county fair and working on Whispering Pines Dairy, the family farm.

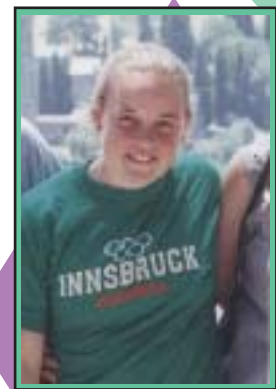
Tim's SAE is raising steers. He says that his daily routine isn't complicated at all. When he gets home from school, he goes out to the barn and washes the milk tank to get ready for milking. He feeds his three calves, getting them their water, grain and hay.

Tim says, "My SAE expanded my views on agriculture. Even though I was raised on a farm, I didn't know how much different it is when you own the animals and it's your money that is feeding them. My SAE has also shown me how to make the animals have as little stress as possible, which is important when working with and around the animals because they will be much friendlier and less likely to ram or kick you."

After high school graduation Tim would like to continue expanding his SAE into a small scale feeder cattle and replacement dairy heifer operation. ○



David Sheridan
Mason



Jessica Johnson
Montague



Tim Zybowski
Alpena

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

Email Dustin Petty at pettyd@carrs.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:

Have you ever made a decision that was unpopular even though you knew it was for the best?



Region 1



Katie Eldred
River Valley

Going out to breakfast on days that we had history tests was always a tradition. They always wanted me to join them, but I always used that time to study for the test. It wasn't the most popular of decisions, but I think I made the right one. ◦

Region 2



Janell Lashaway
Waldron

Some of my friends really enjoy partying on the weekends. I like to have fun, but I don't like getting into trouble and there are other things one can do to have fun. ◦

Region 3



Katie McClintic
Breckenridge

When I was getting ready to join the FFA, a lot of my friends said that it was just for farmers and that it was stupid, but I had heard so many great things from others, so I joined FFA and look where today, it has made me what I am today! ◦

Region 4



Mason Barker
Mason

I was working with a group on a school project and I made the decision to work late on a Friday night to get our project done. They wanted to go out and were mad at my decision. That weekend it snowed so much that we couldn't meet and they thanked me. ◦

Region 5



Wade Schields
Saranac

When we were practicing for district contests, I helped out a nearby competing chapter and some of my teammates were kind of mad at me, but I felt better because that is what FFA is all about - learning to do. ◦

Region 6



Leah Eland
Standish-Sterling

Once after a school dance, my friends wanted to go out and have a good time but at church the next day, my brother was getting confirmed so I made the decision to be there for my family. ◦

Kick It Up a Notch

Ready, Set, Go!



Leadership is Eternal... Live It!

Helen Keller once said, "I believe in the immortality of the soul because I have within me immortal longings." She was right. Forty years after her death, Keller is still hailed as a pillar of strength and courage for the blind and deaf. It is through her leadership that millions of people can live normal lives.

It is through the leadership of those who have now departed from our ranks that we have the lives we have. Where would we as a society be without the likes of Winston Churchill and Susan B. Anthony? The pains, trials and tribulations that they endured during their lifetimes paved the way for our times.

So the next time you are called upon to step into the light and lead, whether it be for planning a chapter banquet or watching your younger siblings, don't think of it as a chore. Instead, think of it as a chance to impact the lives of others, - maybe you will plan a chapter banquet that is so awesome it will inspire other members to become more involved or maybe the extra time you spend with your little brother will show him how much he is loved. Michigan FFA, take the leadership traits you possess and never stop paying it forward, you'll never know the impact you can make. ◦

Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong uttered the famous words "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," words that were heard around the world and with one step came a huge advancement for all of mankind. This event marked the beginning of a new era in space exploration and started a new era of knowledge and understanding for all mankind. And although these famous words were uttered over 35 years ago, their meaning and power have never aged. ◦

Ernest Hemingway

If you have ever said, "Live life to the fullest" you should know that credit goes to a man by the name of Ernest Hemingway, one of the greatest writers of all time. Also, you might like to know that Hemingway lived some of the greatest adventures in Northern Michigan hunting and fishing. In tribute to him I will not bore you with my writing, but rather infamous quotes of his.

"Never mistake motion for action."

"All things truly wicked start from innocence."

"Every man's life ends the same way. It is only the detail of how he lived and how he died that distinguishes one man from another." ◦

Mother Teresa

Before she died, Mother Teresa had a dream that she had gone to see St. Peter at the gates of heaven and when she got there, St. Peter told her to go back to Earth, "for there are no slums here." Mother Teresa lived her entire life in strict poverty so that others could be better cared for. She worked as a caregiver to the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, India, giving love and comfort to all she met. In the late 1970's, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her years of work. When asked what she would like served as the dinner honoring her (a dinner which would be host to kings and presidents, dignitaries and people of world industry), she simply asked if the food could be given to those she cared for. The world has never seen such a selfless woman. ◦

Jackie Robinson

An African-America child growing up before the time of Jackie Robinson who wanted to play professional baseball could only aspire to play in the segregated "Negro leagues." When he was drafted to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, he was sent thousands of death threats, warning him not to take the field. But, as any good player does, he left his worries and stresses in the dugout and played his heart out. Because of him, a new era in athletics was ushered in and another roadblock to equality was torn down. ◦

Walt Disney

Growing up on a farm in Missouri was a very artful and talented man by the name of Walt Disney. Talk about someone that planned and made their life exactly what they wanted. He worked hard, going to art school and being the first person for many things such as the first film of any kind to be in Technicolor, the first to make a color animated cartoon series and the first to make a full length cartoon feature, which was Snow White. Walt Disney once said, "It's kind of fun to do the impossible." I agree with this completely and believe that many of Michigan's FFA members will have fun while they make the impossible happen. ◦

Bobby Kennedy

Upon his death, it was said of Bobby Kennedy, "Some men see things that are and ask 'why?' He dreamt things that never were and asked 'why not?'" Even though he was not given the gift of longevity, Bobby Kennedy worked to give the gift of optimism to his fellow man. At a time when our country seemed to be tearing apart at the seams, he dreamed of a better tomorrow, when men and women of all colors and creeds could walk together. Sometimes all we need is for someone to tell us it will all be all right. ◦

On the Banks of the Red Cedar...

By: Tiffany Reeser
James Madison College

As you know, spring is coming, and it is that time of year again. It is that time of year where seniors get anxious, tying up loose ends before graduation, and finishing their plans for the fall. It is that time of year where juniors in high school prepare for their ACT and SAT tests, and begin to choose which colleges and universities to apply to.

The main point of focus during this time should be narrowing down what characteristics you are looking for in a college or university. Are you interested in a large school, with hundreds of majors and thousands of students? Maybe a school that specializes in a certain area of expertise? Or maybe you're interested in a small school, with or without a religious affiliation.

Whatever the case, it is important to find the college or university that corresponds with the characteristics you are looking for.

Once you find the college or university you are interested in, you may request an application to be sent to your house via mail, or you may apply online.



For example, at Michigan State University, many potential students find it simpler and less stressful to apply online. In order to do this, you can go to www.msu.edu. Upon getting to the website, you can choose the "Admissions" icon. From there, you can follow the directions to the application.

When applying for college, there are a few helpful tips and tricks that can make the process a little less painful. To begin with, keep in mind that this application is the college or university's only impression of you.

This means that it is okay to "toot your own horn," or brag a little bit. It is important to make sure that all

awards and honors you can showcase make it into your application, so take the time to dig through your records and remember the achievements and honors you have received.

Additionally, it is important to make your application the best that it can possibly be. This means that it could be useful to have another person, such as a parent or teacher, edit your application.

If you apply online, it is possible to save and print your application before sending it in, or, if you use a mail-in application, make copies of each page before beginning to complete it. This allows you to make sure that your



application is the best it can possibly be.

Some college applications include a written portion, or essay. Though your college or university of interest may not require this, it is important to complete the portion of the application, even if it is listed as optional.

Most importantly, you must remember to enjoy the process of choosing and applying for colleges and universities. This experience is just the beginning of your adventure into who you're going to be for the rest of your life. Above all, enjoy it! As Dr. Seuss once wrote, "Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting...so get on your way!"



Did You Know about Michigan State University?

There are more than two programs of study offered by fourteen degree-granting colleges and an affiliated law college.

MSU sits on 5,200 lush, green acres and there are currently 2,000 acres in development.

MSU is ranked third in the country in its Study Abroad Program.

The largest resident hall system can be found in East Lansing, Michigan.

MSU has more than 500 student organizations, including 53 Greek life organizations.

4.5 million volumes of books can be found within the shelves of the MSU library.



ALUMNI in Action

Annual Meeting

The Michigan FFA Alumni elected several new officers at the Annual Meeting and Banquet on February 5, 2005 at the Convis Township Hall near Marshall. Over 120 people attended the meeting and banquet making it the largest in several years. Hosted by Region I this year, the event is rotated by the regions, making Region II the location of the Annual Meeting in 2006.

The 2005-2006 Michigan FFA Alumni Council are as follows:

President, Floyd Beneker

Vice President, Jim Armbruster

Secretary, Leslie Donovan

Region I Vice President, Randy Butters

Region II Vice President, Ann Brooks

Region III Vice President, Nikki Beattie

Region IV Vice President, Brad Cesal

Region V Vice President, Jim May

Region VI Vice President, Charles Snyder

At Large Board Member, John Schut

Administrative Director, Matt Smego

The alumni welcomed two new members to its council, Miss Nikki Beattie and Mr. John Schut.

Nikki Beattie is currently a senior at Michigan State University in the College of

Agriculture and Natural Resources majoring in Ag Communications. She is interning with the Eaton County 4-H and Extension Service and hopes to pursue a career in Event Coordination with 4-H and County Extension. The Michigan FFA Association was served by Nikki in 2001-2002 as Secretary on the State Officer Team. She is a member of the Bailey Scholars Program at MSU and has served as a Resident Mentor in the West Akers Dormitory Complex.

John Schut will serve this upcoming year as Board Member at Large for the Michigan FFA Alumni and brings valuable experience and guidance abilities to the Alumni as we serve and support the Michigan FFA Association of Michigan. He is currently the Agriscience teacher and FFA Advisor in Caledonia Michigan and has been as FFA Advisor in the Lowell School system as well as the Montague School. While Advisor at Lowell, the chapter's FFA Alumni Affiliate

received National FFA Alumni recognition as an outstanding affiliate with less than 50 members. John served as President of the MAAE board and remains active in an advisory role for that Association.

Alumni Scholarship

The Michigan FFA Alumni recognizes the need to encourage and assist FFA members in setting and meeting goals related to education and career development. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) at Michigan State University (MSU) provides the necessary facilities and resources to meet the educational and career development needs of students. The Michigan FFA Alumni, hereafter referred to as the Alumni, and the CANR, are participating in a matching scholarship program designed to help and assist FFA members achieve their goals while attending the CANR at MSU.

To be eligible, one must (1) be an FFA member, (2) be accepted and attend the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as freshmen, (3) apply for the award according to MSU and alumni regulations and (4) one must be in their freshman year.

The Alumni will form and appoint a committee, which will review applications and make determination of awards and nominations to be submitted to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the selection and approval process.

Scholarship recipients shall be selected according to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources procedures for selecting recipients. Nominations will be made by the Alumni along will amount of awards for each intended recipient.

Michigan FFA Alumni Local Affiliates may make scholarship award donations and nominate students that may qualify for matching College of Agriculture and Natural Resources funds provided that the students application is selected by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and that available funds exist.

The administration of the scholarship program will be handled by the Alumni Executive Director and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Alumni and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is responsible for publicizing the existence of this award program, rules, applications, nomination procedures and deadlines.



FFA RACE DAY 2005

Michigan International Speedway



FFA has developed a fun-filled hospitality day for everyone during the NASCAR Busch Series race on

Saturday August 20

Brooklyn, MI • Event & pit tours begin at 8 a.m.* • Race time TBD

HOSPITALITY PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Reserved grandstand seat for race
- FREE pit passes to everyone 18 and older
- Access to FFA hospitality tent in Chalet Village
- Breakfast and lunch (served before the race in the FFA hospitality tent)
- Hear from and meet NASCAR personalities
- Prizes and give-aways all day long

All for \$70 per person**

(Estimated value of package \$175)

Tickets available until Aug. 5. Members, parents, teachers and supporters call

(800) 354-1010

Just say, "I'm with the FFA" to receive this amazing package!

You do not have to be a member to attend.

Proceeds support the Michigan
and Ohio FFA Foundations.

