

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and a light-colored patterned skirt, stands with her back to the camera on a grassy hill. She is looking out over a vast, densely populated town in Ghana, with rolling hills in the background under a cloudy sky. The scene is captured from a high vantage point, looking down into the town.

The Michigan FFA Creed

Sept/Oct 2006

Caitlin Lorenc, Past State Officer, visits the poverty-stricken country of Ghana, sharing thoughts on agriculture, FFA and life with those she meets.

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The Michigan FFA Creed



The State FFA Office
108 Natural Resources
East Lansing, MI 48824
www.michiganffa.com
association@michiganffa.com
(517) 353-9221
(517) 432-5632 (fax)

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Creed Staff

Managing Editor Dustin Petty
Staff Editors Andrea Kerbuski
Emily Ries
Writers Floyd Beneker
Scott Cendrowski
Caitlin Lorenc
Dustin Petty
David Wyrick
Advising Editor Michelle Sidel

State Officers

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Sentinel	<i>Henry Reinart</i>	Region VI State VP	<i>Hannah Carruthers</i>



I believe in...

As a state officer team, we believe in the strength of the individual. You have the power to improve your chapter, community, region and ultimately, your association and state. In the spirit of this belief, the theme for the coming year is “Break the Mold.” We encourage you to step beyond the regular expectations of your family, your teachers, your boss; instead, use your exceptional personal gifts to tackle problems. If your chapter’s animal barn is in need of repairs, and your skills with tools rival those of Bob Vila or Ty Pennington—fix it! If your region is in need of a DJ for the regional camp dance and your extensive music collection ranges from Frank Sinatra to Ozzie Osbourne—play it! The 2006-2007 State Officer team believes that

focusing upon improving and developing the confidence, power and conviction that each member invests in their particular talents will lead to stronger chapters, stronger regions and a stronger state. In the next year, it is our goal to explore and reaffirm the power of the individual member at every workshop we host, speech we give, and chapter we visit. The Michigan FFA is in need of confident individuals who are willing to put forward their talents to improve our entire association. “Break the Mold” is a call to enthusiastic, individualized service, as well as a reminder that each person plays an original, distinctive role within the FFA. We look forward to meeting you and celebrating the abilities that make you unique!



Dates to Remember...

September

- 8 Deadline for ordering Broilers
- 11 MFE/Fall PDI registrations due
- 15 Deadline for ordering Cornish Hens
- 26 Start date for Broilers
- 27-28 MFE/Fall PDI conferences

October

- 10 Start date for Cornish Hens
- 20 Broiler and Cornish Hen entries due
- 25-28 National FFA Convention - Indianapolis, Indiana



At the End of the Rope...

As the end of oil approaches, which medium will rise to take its place?

By: **Dustin Petty**
MSU ANR Communications Major

The summer of 2006 garnered headlines which, while not welcome, did not come as a surprise. The Middle East, America's oil supplier, was, as always, in disarray. Fighting broke out between Israel and Lebanon, Iran worried the world and Iraq appeared to be anything but "mission accomplished."

And with these headlines comes the knowledge that our most valuable resource – oil – is in danger and we are reminded that the days are numbered for that resource. Leading sources agree that the use of oil is going to peak in 2007 and the supply will be in extreme limitations within 40 to 50 years – and that timeline is a conservative one.

The question then arises – which medium will rise to take the place of oil? There are three contenders that are distinct possibilities: ethanol, biodiesel and hydrogen fuel cells.

The most obvious choice – the one that we hear the most about – is ethanol. This is an option that has excited much of the agricultural community due to the fact that corn can be used for the production of ethanol. The USDA has released reports, most notably, a study released in 2004 that claimed that ethanol produced more energy than what it took to make the substance in the first place. Unfortunately, these statements have been proved wrong.

In a study completed at the University of California in Berkley, numerous downfalls to ethanol as an alternative fuel source were pointed out. For starters, the energy balance (producing more energy than is required to produce the ethanol) is not equal. In fact, it was shown that to produce a liter of ethanol, it requires 29% more energy than is produced. Scientists must work to overcome this obstacle.

Right now, 70% of the corn grain is fed to U.S. livestock. For ethanol to truly make a difference (forgetting about the energy deficiency), production would have to be doubled or

tripled which would cause corn prices to go up. Beef prices would have to follow (along with whatever other livestock depended on corn).

There is also an ethical issue that must be addressed. For more ethanol to be created, more farmland must be given to growing corn (the crop that causes more total soil erosion and uses more herbicides and insecticides than any other crop grown in the U.S.). This farmland could instead be used for food production. So as corn goes to ethanol production, 852 million people around the world go hungry and a child dies every five seconds from hunger-related diseases.

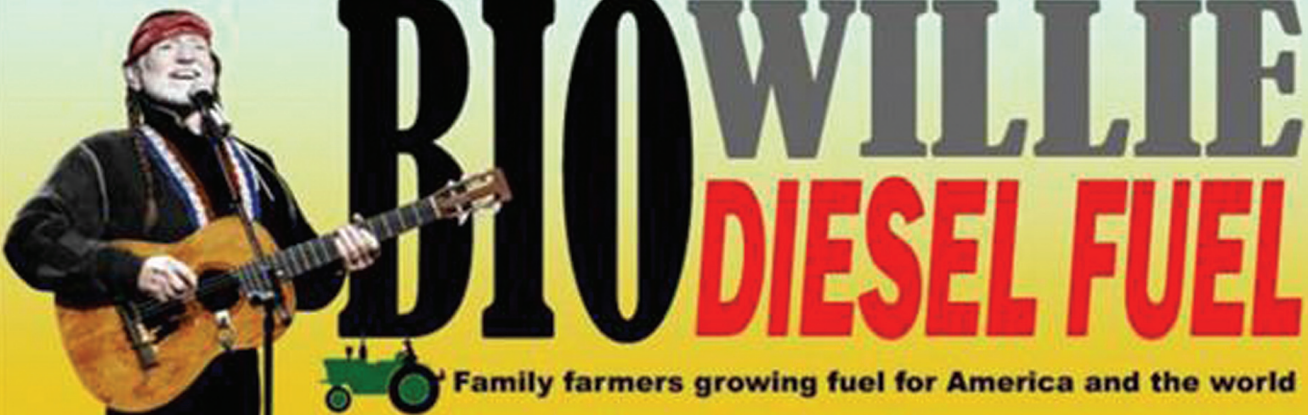
None of this has stopped ethanol from being hailed as the savior of modern society from the foreign oil. The product E85, a combination of 85% ethanol and 15% petroleum, has already been on the market for years and has been embraced by both Ford and GM auto companies. Many of their vehicles are compatible with E85 and there are those that have been created for the express purpose of using E85. However, there are only 15 stations in Michigan that carry the alternative fuel.

Another energy possibility is also agriculturally-derived. Biodiesel comes from straight vegetable oil that has been altered to reduce the oil's viscosity. Vegetable oil was first used as a fuel in 1895, when Dr. Rudolf Diesel created the first engine to be powered by the substance. Animal fats can also be used in the creation of Biodiesel.

There are pluses to running an automobile on Biodiesel. Carbon dioxide exhaust emissions are reduced by up to 80% and the fact that a diesel engine vehicle does not need to be modified in any way to run on Biodiesel are just some examples.

Biodiesel has even gained celebrity endorsement. The red headed stranger, Willie Nelson, is one of four business

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partners that formed Willie Nelson's Biodiesel to market the substance that has been dubbed BioWillie.

Nelson, a longtime champion of the American farmer, said, "There is really no need going around starting wars over oil. We have it here at home. We have the necessary produce, the farmers can grow it."

But Biodiesel is not without its own downfalls. First, it seems to be, like ethanol, only an extender of the oil supply (Biodiesel is mixed with petroleum before going to the gas pump). The fuel must also be stored in heated tanks to avoid the substance gelling.

And then there's hydrogen. Environmentally, hydrogen is far superior, releasing zero pollutants compared to the approximately six tons of carbon dioxide released into the air from a gas-powered car. In fact, the only byproducts are heat and water vapor. Additionally, a study done by Stanford University discovered that if all vehicles within the United States converted to hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles, 3,700 to 6,400 deaths attributed to pollution would be prevented.

The only downfall – yes, that little nugget – is the fact that it

still takes more energy to produce hydrogen than the amount of energy that hydrogen puts out. Scientists are working towards changing this energy output problem.

Michigan is gearing up for the day hydrogen fuel cells are the main energy component of transportation. On August 31, 2005, Senator Cameron Brown (R-Fawn River Township) introduced Senate Bill No. 705, an initiative to direct the Michigan Department of Transportation to take steps toward identifying what is necessary to create a "hydrogen highway" by 2010. The bill states, "A hydrogen highway is a highway that provides fueling stations at designated locations no farther than 20 miles apart along the length of the highway." The bill was passed in the senate (37 to 0) on March 1, 2006 and presented to the house for their approval on the same day. It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

In 2003, alternative energy sources provided six percent of the U.S.'s energy source. For we as a people to reach the point where we no longer rely on potentially corrupt foreign powers for our energy, this number obviously has to increase. The end of oil is within the lifetime of the FFA members reading this story and it is the charge of that generation to see that their energy needs are met. The only question is how.

Check this out...



Paul Robert's *The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous New World*, is now available in paperback.

O u r M o t t o

L e a r n i n g t o D o ... D o i n g t o L e a r n

By: Scott Cendrowski
MSU Political Science Major

If you follow Aaron Preston's big brown eyes in conversation, whether it's about his trips to hurricane-ravaged Mississippi or his upbringing on a farm in Quincy, Michigan, you see them twinkle ever so slightly.

Then you notice that the Michigan State University junior talks with his hands, moving them up and down, from side to side, rhythmically, to articulate his points. They could double as the hands of a speech writer. Nimble and strong, they never rest during a conversation for more than a few seconds.

Preston might work at the Department of Natural Resources or in politics when he graduates from MSU. He's not sure yet.

"I like environmental issues," he said. "I guess it's kind of weird for a conservative farm boy like me."

Career direction became even more of a guessing game on April 29 when Preston earned a spot as Michigan's FFA nominee for national office. Last year, Preston received the coveted American Degree, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an FFA member.

The degree and the national nomination reflect years of hard work. The FFA national elections come in October. If Preston emerges victorious, how does that affect his career goals?

"I would lean more toward politics I think," Preston said.

The 21-year-old has learned much about serving the public. For most of the last academic year, Preston interned for Rep. Fulton Sheen, R-Plainwell. As the West Michigan lawmaker became deeply involved in aiding Hurricane Katrina victims, Preston did too. The young farmer with the friendly face has been to Mississippi four times since last fall to help with the cleanup.

After Preston visited D'Iberville, Mississippi for the first time in December 2005 he saw firsthand the need for volunteer efforts. He still recalls the high school teacher who taught classes in her house, even though it lacked a roof or clean drywall. And Preston remembers the burly man's home on the Gulf of Mexico beachfront missing a first floor, only left standing because of supports that survived the flood.

"It looked like an entire town got bombed; then they took

bulldozers to the roads so people could drive," Preston said. "We drive down the road and ask people, 'Can we help you?'"

The photos on Preston's laptop chronicle the wreckage in Mississippi. Aaron pointed to one image of a highway bridge's 70-ton supports crashing into each other like dominos. One after another, until they drifted out of the picture, the slabs of concrete were barreled over by a combination of water and wind.

In another photo, a church is outlined by the scrap metal and wood of abandoned houses and trucks. Preston smiled lightly at this, then turned and said, "It's amazing how many churches are still standing down there."

In yet another, Preston, complete with outdoorsman's facial hair, can be seen helping others hauling overturned trees and brush to a collection area.

But Preston doesn't like to talk about himself, so he shifts conversation to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, and what more he plans to do.

Preston, along with others, wants to start a nonprofit organization to help with disaster relief. It would be his lasting legacy, one far more important than the size of his salary or where he works after graduation.

"We want to be the organization that FEMA calls on, like AmeriCorps," he said. "We want to help."

The faith-based relief group will be called Isaiah 58:12, after the Old Testament verse that reads: "Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and raise up the age old foundations; you will be called repairer of broken walls, restorer of streets with dwellings."

Preston is part of His House, a Christian student organization with two member buildings near MSU's campus. Many students have positive comments about Aaron.

"You really know he's going to change lives," said Laura Lund, an MSU finance junior.

"When he says, 'How's your day?' he really means it," said Matt VanderHulst, a dietetics senior. "It's not just another, 'Hey, what's up?'"

i n M o t i o n

E a r n i n g t o L i v e ... L i v i n g t o S e r v e

VanderHulst praised Preston for organizing a trip of students to help rebuilding efforts: "That is awesome," he said. "That is like his personal ministry; that's his strength."

After three journeys to the South with lawmakers, Preston organized a separate effort in early May when he led 23 MSU students south to help with the cleanup. He's attracted so many friends who are equally philanthropic that he might never get himself out of his 'giving cycle.'

Patrick Spitzley is a member of His House and friend of Preston's who traveled with him to Pass Christian, Mississippi. Spitzley, like Preston, said volunteering for Hurricane Katrina cleanup is a perfect opportunity for doing something he's always wanted to do.

"I've got this thing for people, I love hearing their stories," said Spitzley, who still remembers the looks on victims' faces when they said: "Why are you here? To help me?"



And help they did, in addition to everything else on their young and busy itineraries. For Preston it was a hectic spring. There were classes at MSU, an internship at the state capitol, and plenty of preparation for the FFA nomination.

Preston's efforts have garnered the attention of several state lawmakers including state Senator Cameron Brown.

"Aaron has made many sacrifices to help others, especially those in the hurricane-ravaged South," said Brown, R-Fawn River Township. "He's an outstanding leader with great compassion for those in need. And whether it's at the State Capitol or MSU or an FFA event, he always makes extra time to get involved. This willingness to serve speaks volumes about his commitment. Aaron always walks the extra mile."

While he might be a special product from the Quincy farm, it's Preston's humility and concern for others that are so lasting. Those same characteristics may eventually lead him into a career.

"You can still see where houses used to be, and where the debris needs to be cleared," recalls Preston of his journeys to Mississippi. "It still needs so much work done."

And Aaron Preston will always keep his big brown eyes focused on the important jobs. He is someone you can count on to stick around until everything is finished.

Sept/Oct 2006

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The 2005 FFA Tractor

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The 2005 FFA tractors are on sale. This year's FFA tractor is a 1/16 scale John Deere model 6410. It is available at Tractor Supply Company (TSC) stores statewide. All proceeds benefit the Michigan FFA Foundation. **Now only \$46.48.**



For more information about how you can support the FFA, contact the Michigan FFA Foundation at (517) 323-6569 or online at www.michiganffa.org

Here by the Owl



After his first year as the Michigan FFA Project Consultant, David Wyrick reflects on the events that have passed and what lies ahead.

By: Mr. David Wyrick

By: Michigan FFA State Project Consultant

Twenty-nine years in one location is a long time but, all good things must come to an end. When the position of Michigan FFA Project Consultant was posted, I made the decision that it was indeed time to end my career as an educator in a high school and return to the organization that I first became associated with in 1968 as a high school freshman. I had flirted with the idea of applying for a position on the state staff prior to this but, the timing had not been right. This time, I decided it was the right time and so I applied, was interviewed and was fortunate enough to be chosen.

Starting a new job is always a challenge and there is always what I call a “discovery” period. In my case I had to discover the difference between a two mile, five minute drive to work compared to my new 35 mile, 45 minute drive. I also had to discover many new responsibilities, get used to a new office, new people to work with and a new protocol for getting things done. I discovered that many reams of paper are needed to get ready for the district, regional and state leadership contests and that nearly 80 judges are needed to judge the contests at the state convention. I also discovered that if even one of these people cannot be there, it can make for a very long morning if back-up judges are not available. I discovered that there is a definite difference in how I used to view Ag. Skills contests and the way I view them now. As a student many years ago (the state officers tell me this was in pre-historic times) I had to focus on one contest per year and only one. During my years as a teacher, I had to focus on only the teams I was training, which was probably no more than ten contests per year. As the Michigan FFA Project Consultant, I discovered that there was “more to the story” and that the Ag Sales contest took nearly twenty judges by itself!

While many activities and policies continue to be effective, I discovered that there is a need to review our policies, activities and procedures to ensure that we are meeting our FFA member’s needs. As we continue to plan for the future, it is important that we continue to plan for a way to keep our Michigan FFA Foundation and funding process stable while looking to increase funding in

the future. I feel that we need to continually review our present contests and add contests such as Turfgrass Management in the future to better serve our members.

While things have changed for me in the last year, they are also very much the same. Just as the people were at Byron High School, I have discovered that the people here at MSU are committed to helping students and making sure that FFA members have a memorable and profitable experience. I have had the opportunity to meet many good people who are dedicated professionals and have had the pleasure of working with the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 Michigan FFA State Officer teams. It is indeed a pleasure to be re-associated with the Michigan FFA and all those who are involved. While I have experienced my share of frustrations during this year of transition, I have had many rewarding moments and look forward to even bigger and better things as we look to the future.



David Wyrick with former State FFA Advisor Rich Karelse

Sept/Oct 2006



OUT OF AFRICA

With her days as a state officer coming to an end, Caitlin Lorenc traveled to Ghana to learn about that nation's culture and agriculture. At the request of the Creed, she kept a journal.

June 22nd

My trip to Ghana began Tuesday night. Traveling with me is my sister Nicole, and Mrs. Gardner (who is a math teacher at Benzie Central and taught in Accra last year via a teacher exchange program). We had a 45 minute flight to Detroit, seven hour flight to Amsterdam, and then six hour flight to Accra, Ghana. I arrived last night and was picked up by three teachers who worked with Mrs. Gardner: Mr. Samuel Asomoah (whom we called Kasa), Mr. Samuel Osei Owusu (whom we called Osei), and Mrs. Betty Osei (who taught in Mrs. Gardner's place at Benzie).

The ride back to Achimota Secondary School was a learning experience. It was humid when we got off the plane and there were a ton of people coming to greet the travelers. The temperature is about high 70s to low 80s but it's the humidity which makes it feel hotter. The greeters have to wait outside the airport behind gates because of security measures. The city is busy all the time. Accra is the capital of Ghana and about the size of Chicago. Cars are everywhere and so are the people! Drivers are constantly honking but no one seems to get mad. The country is not dirt poor but it's not entirely rich either. Cars are obviously foreign but most of them look pretty worse for the wear. The economic difference in the cars is astounding! It's not uncommon to see a BMW driving right alongside a car that should be in the junkyard.

Driving by houses or corporations, I noticed that there are fences all around with barbed wire, nails, or broken glass at the top. The people are pretty much in charge of their own safety. Traffic is so horrible so it takes police and emergency vehicles a while to get to their destinations. The roads are surrounded by vendors so you can just pull off to the side and buy whatever you need. There are children selling things on the street and they yell at you and run after your vehicle as well, kind of like paparazzi. However, everyone here is very friendly. They are

so surprised that my sister and I came over. Greetings are a big ordeal in Ghana and they greet everyone via handshake, hug, or something else. To have them yelling at you is not uncommon either. But if you really want to upset or offend someone, just ignore them.

Ghana is a very peaceful country of many ethnic backgrounds. There are virtually no fights between the different cultures



because everyone always stresses the similarities and rarely if ever, the differences. We hope to travel more tomorrow. We toured a small amount of the school and met a dozen teachers as well as the Headmistress and several heads of departments. I'm tired, but I'm safely in Ghana. Today Ghana is playing the U.S.A. in the World Cup which results in a lot of joking and teasing.

June 23rd

Today was an experience. First, we took an entire tour of the school grounds, at least on this Achimota campus. To cut grass, the people use a machete. The speed bumps are vicious and will ruin the undercarriage of a car if you don't go over them slowly. There are no sidewalks, you just walk on the side of the road or down the middle of it until a car comes and beeps at you. Chickens, dogs, and children are given free roam.



The sewers are lined with garbage and there are garbage piles everywhere adding to poor water conditions and diseases. I have realized that as Americans, we waste so much and it's despicable to see how these people live while we're lounging in the lap of luxury. There are no work relief programs. It's sad and horrible and is something one must experience for themselves in order to get the full effect.

While also touring the city, we had a tire blow, so we pulled off to the side of the road up on a sidewalk (in richer part of Accra). We had no jack so a taxi pulled up alongside us to help. This resulted in having a confrontation with the policeman who was going to arrest the taxi driver for parking on the sidewalk. The officer wanted us to pay him a \$20 dash (bribe), which he would pocket, and then we could leave. Most officers cheat the system.

June 26th

We started out today with doing laundry. You wash clothes by hand, in a bucket, but with no scrubbing board, rinsing in another bucket and then hanging it out to dry. Underwear though, you have to hang inside because there's a bug that will lay eggs in your wet clothes, and when the eggs hatch, it can get into your bloodstream. Tomorrow we will have to iron the clothes that were outside so we kill the bugs.

Osei took us to the market today for textiles. We walked through the market which is indescribable. There are people everywhere! There are so many stalls and things are jam packed and sometimes there is no room to move! It's kind of dirty and smelly but what a cultural experience. We are almost famous here it seems. Kids follow you around and wave, saying "O'Brooney," which means white person.

We went to the food market as well. It is surprising how one cannot describe things. The food market is packed as well. It

smells too, but that's to be expected. Most people would have turned their heads and left. It is such a cultural difference. The stalls, although poorly built, are arranged in a hasty order. Our government would have readily condemned it, but it was the nicest place I've been to. All the foods are fresh, there are no preservatives added. They only use cows for dairy for ice cream (which is delicious) and rarely eat beef. Goats, fish and chicken are the main entrées. The food in the market sits out all day, but I never once got sick from it. I think, sometimes as Americans, we worry way too much about things, especially our food.

July 1st

Today was the safari. It was a walking safari that started at 7:00 am and took 2 hours. The difference in the vegetation is astounding! Everything is so vividly green. There is nothing to compare it to, it's so lush. First you have coastal plains, then mountain forest, rainforest and savanna grassland. There is no desert in Ghana. The hike was so exhilarating! We saw baboons, warthogs, green monkeys, black African elephants that weighed 1,300 pounds and some fast creature known as the flying red tiger giger.

Seeing all the animals was so cool!! Being close to them in their natural habitat was the best. After that it was off to Tomale. The northern part of Ghana is mostly under Muslim influence. This was the only place I didn't feel entirely comfortable. I think that I didn't feel comfortable because I know how some Muslim's feel about women and how those women are treated in some countries. However, nothing was said or done when I was there to foster this feeling, it was just there.

Read more about Caitlin's Africa trip in the coming issue of the Michigan FFA Creed

In Recognition

Bill Wheeler

By: Dustin Petty
MSU ANR Communications Major

On May 26, 2006, the Webberville Community High School Regional Agriscience Program, Barn and Greenhouse were dedicated in honor of Bill Wheeler. Wheeler, a man of determined leadership, had been a teacher of agriscience education for 34 years – all but three of those years spent in Webberville – and was thanked by a community for inspiring two generations of young minds to achieve premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

But it might not have ever happened if Wheeler had taken the advice of his high school principal. Attending high school in Manchester, he said, “I was not in FFA as our farm was too small. The principal felt I should do something else such as [becoming] an undertaker or preacher.”



Janice and Bill Wheeler

Luckily for those of us who have come to know him as an educator and friend, Wheeler went into agricultural education at MSU. Upon finishing college, he taught at Ubyly High School for three years before making the move to Webberville. Almost immediately, he set about building not only the young people he found in his classroom, but also support for his program in the community. It's evident to all that he accomplished his mission.

Wheeler said, “When I broke my neck in 1989, the students, parents and community took over classes and FFA, ensuring that the students would go forward.”

The influence that Wheeler had on the hundreds of young lives entrusted to him for 34 years cannot be denied. Lori Chamberlain, a former student of Wheeler's and the Executive Director of the Michigan FFA Alumni, said, “Mr. Wheeler is a very caring and hard working individual who genuinely cares about students, community members and others from across the state. It is his confidence, guidance and knowledge, that helped me have great learning experiences in FFA - experiences that continue to benefit me today.”

Wheeler retired from teaching in 1997. His involvement with education and FFA, however, did not end. He has long served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators (MAAE), a position always held by a revered elder statesman in the agricultural education community. He is also a member of the Retired Ag Teachers group and the Webberville FFA Alumni and volunteers his time whenever it is asked of him.

When it's all said and done, Bill Wheeler is a humble man who gives much accolades to his family, including his wife of over 40 years, Janice, and the couple's two sons. He said, “Time needs to be set aside for family every day. It takes a very understanding partner...” He gives this as a solution to any family difficulties: “eat together, play together, pray together and go together.”

Mr. Wheeler may be out of the classroom, but the lessons we can learn from him will never cease.

The Rest of the Story...



Emily Ries State Reporter

Emily Ries pays great attention to detail. “In the movie *Hoosiers*,” she says, “If you look really closely, you can see that some of the boys sitting in the bleachers at the games have FFA jackets on!”

Ok, maybe that wasn’t the best example, but this girl must be doing something right. Just look at her list of accomplishments: State Winner in Creed Speaking, State Runner-Up in Prepared Public Speaking (two years in a row), State Proficiency Winner in Diversified Crop Production - just to name a few.

The MSU freshman (majoring in Agriculture and Natural Resource Communications) grew up on a farm and joined the FFA in the seventh grade, adding “I knew that I had a passion for agriculture, so joining the Sand Creek FFA Chapter seemed to be a perfect fit.”

Emily describes herself as “enthusiastic” and likes to say that she lives her life with passion. This passion is obtained through the strength and guidance of God. “I pray a lot and it is through this that I let God be in control and can feel confident about my life.”

When not busy with chapter visits or homework, Emily can be found reading the Berenstain Bears, watching the *Price is Right* or mowing the lawn (what?!) Her favorite meal is pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes and green beans.



Nicole Schaendorf Region I State Vice President

Nicole Schaendorf likes to quote her dad. He once told her, “We’re not here for a long time, we’re here for a good time.” And Miss Schaendorf is trying her best to live up to that motto.

Joining FFA as a sophomore, Nicole says, “I was basically just signing up for clubs, FFA being one of them. In the back of my mind, my family, contest ideas and the opportunities were clinking around. I went to all of the conferences, met lots of people and took second in state for my contest. I was hooked and couldn’t get enough.”

She was indeed hooked. But that didn’t stop Nicole from taking part in other high school activities. She was active in Student Council, National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Spanish Club and more.

When asked if any particular FFA member has ever impacted her, Nicole answers with a resounding “yes!” She said, “Wade Shields is someone I met at STEP and every time I think of his name, a smile comes to my face. His spirit is something I would love to capture, even an ounce, because it would probably keep me happy for the rest of my life.”

Nicole likes to watch any romance or comedy movie and *What Not to Wear* on TV and will eat anything by that grand chocolate man himself, Willie Wonka. She is also a scrapbooker and painter.



Alumni in Action

Meet Members of the 2006-2007 Michigan FFA Alumni Council



Name
Helen Gill

Office
Region II State VP

Home Chapter
Springport

Career
Produce Manager of Felpausch of Leslie

Activities
Springport FFA Alumni Treasurer, Calhoun and Eaton County 4-Hs



Name
Jim May

Office
Region V State VP

Home Chapter
Sparta

Career
Farms about 900 acres; raises dairy heifers, apples and other crops

Activities
Farm Bureau



Name
Charles Snyder

Office
Region VI State VP

Home Chapter
Alcona

Career
Retired Ag teacher and State FFA Project Consultant

Activities
Serves as the Eastern Region Representative on the National FFA Alumni Council



Name
Cass Fortin

Office
Delegate-at-Large

Home Chapter
Caledonia

Career
Nursing home caregiver/ office work; student at Grand Valley State University

Activities
Caledonia FFA Alumni President



Name
Brian Martindale

Office
PSO Representative

Home Chapter
Corunna

Career
Area Manager of Stine Seed/Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer

Activities
PSO Alumni President

School Officials National FFA Experience

The Michigan FFA Alumni Association will once again be coordinating a trip for school administrators to the National FFA Convention to be held this year in Indianapolis, Indiana. The dates for the School Official's National FFA Experience are October 26-27, 2006. The trip agenda includes learning about Michigan agriscience programs in Michigan, attending National FFA Convention sessions, meeting with local FFA members and networking with other Michigan school administrators. Also included in the trip is transportation from Lansing to Indianapolis, one night lodging, convention registration and some meals. This trip is a great opportunity for school officials to learn more about agriscience education and FFA programs in Michigan, network and share ideas with other school administrators. For more information, go to <http://www.michiganffa.com/alumni/> or contact Lori Chamberlain at 517-323-7000 ext. 3234.

Marshall FFA Alumni Milestone

As of February 1, 2006, the Marshall FFA Alumni entered a new era in their history. As of that date, 103 lifetime members had paid their dues and an additional yearly membership for good measure. The Marshall Chapter was established in 1974 with 20 charter members. Six of those members are still currently active members of the group. Charter president, Steve Washburn, is one of those members. He commented, "I never ever thought this group would get this large. We knew there was much we could do to support the FFA and the agriscience program and after 32 years that has continued."

One of the benefits of the going over 100 members is that the chapter will have its own WLC Scholarship to award beginning in 2007. The Marshall FFA Alumni hopes to continue to grow and add activities that will benefit all Marshall FFA projects and programs.



MSU FARMHOUSE FRATERNITY

...the Builder of Men

Want to be a leader in the vast fields of agriculture and natural resources? Contact 517-332-8635 or haketye@msu.edu for more information.

The MSU Chapter of FarmHouse is celebrating its 70th year of transforming young men of agriculture into leaders of tomorrow. As one of the top fraternities on campus, with members like National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Ryan Peterson, FarmHouse's characteristics of brotherhood, cooperation and service strive to ensure that each of our members grows as a result of their membership.

Sigma Alpha Sorority - MSU Gamma Chapter

Dedicated to the motto Women Excelling in Agriculture, Sigma Alpha promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship among its members. Membership helps create the bond of sisterhood and friendship while promoting your career development in the areas of agriculture and natural resources.

To learn more about this premier sorority for young women leaders, contact Jen Walsh at walshje9@msu.edu



She Thinks His Tractor's Sexy

Jake Brindley and Kayla Lehman of the Ogemaw Heights FFA Chapter attended Jake's senior prom on May 10th, 2006. Jake said, "We decided to take a tractor to make an unforgettable entrance and show off our farm backgrounds."

"I couldn't wait to see the look on people's faces when we rolled up in style in a big John Deere that night," added Kayla, a junior in high school and also the Region VI Treasurer. "Farming is a big part of our lives and our town so we thought it just made sense."

Sept/Oct 2006

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