



The Alabama FFA REPORTER

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CONVENTION ISSUE.....

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JORDAN HAMILTON
Alabama FFA President
Sand Rock Chapter

Wow! Words cannot describe the past eleven months of my life! God has certainly blessed me with the most incredible and rewarding opportunity: serving as your 2005-2006 State FFA President. From meeting with the President of the United States, traveling to various state conventions (Hawaii, Oregon,

Georgia, and Illinois), to making new, life-long friendships with you, the FFA members and advisors. Each brings back fond memories I will never forget!

My year of service as state president is quickly coming to a close with the 77th Annual Alabama State FFA Convention in June. As I begin to reflect on this year and on our theme, "Living to Serve", I realize that this has truly been a year of service. Over the past few months, FFA members have risen to the occasion when people were at their weakest and needed help the most by contributing over \$500,000 to the "Seeds of Hope Campaign" for Hurricane Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, or hundreds of hours volunteering to help rebuild damaged agriscience classrooms. Even though with a new year of FFA comes a new theme, I encourage each of you to continue to live this year's theme. Make it a lifelong commitment to ask not what the FFA can do for you, but what you can do for the FFA!

Thank you so much Alabama FFA for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve the association this past year. It truly has been an experience of a lifetime! If I can ever be of any service to you, please remember I am just a few clicks or a phone call away.



BROOKE HEAD
Alabama FFA Vice-President
Marbury Chapter

Melodramatic, an unfamiliar word and an unfelt feeling to me, that is until June 3rd 2005. Little did I know that this feeling would continue with me throughout the entire year as I traveled across the country, met amazing new people, and built friendships with five of the greatest people on Earth.

This year, as a state officer, I expected to lead the organization, to be a living example to others, and to teach the Alabama FFA members everything I know about the FFA. My expectations were met, GREATLY; however, something happened to me along the way that was quite unexpected. While serving as a state officer, I actually learned more about myself from others, rather than teaching others what I know. Not only did I learn from my fellow state officers, but I was also taught lifelong lessons from the Central District Officers and from various members and agriscience teachers of chapters including Montevallo, Smiths Station, Robertsdale, West Blockton, Brookwood, and Citronelle.

In addition, I have learned to appreciate the gifts that life brings. For example, the lifelong friendships in which you have the opportunity to make as a state officer. I have had the privilege of meeting some of the most superb people from across the nation. I can honestly say that I have at least one friend from each state, which is something most teenagers cannot truthfully say. But most importantly, it is not only a pleasure, but a blessing to have been able to serve as a state officer with such mind blowing personalities. A few days ago, while I was writing my retiring address, I began to reminisce about the time that I had spent with my fellow state officers. This melodramatic event inspired this email:

I am writing my retiring address right now, thinking about this year- being a state



2005-2006 STATE OFFICER TEAM

L to R, Vice-President – Brooke Head, Sentinel - Kimberly Henderson, Reporter – Karen Baggett, Secretary — Matt Wilson, Treasurer – Jared Beasley, and President — Jordan Hamilton

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STATE OFFICERS 2005-2006

President.....**Jordan Hamilton**
Sand Rock Chapter
Vice President..... **Brooke Head**
Marbury Chapter
Secretary..... **Matt Wilson**
Jacksonville Chapter
Treasurer **Jared Beasley**
Gaston Chapter
Reporter**Karen Baggett**
Lawrence Co. Chapter
Sentinel**Kimberly Henderson**
Enterprise Chapter

State Advisor **Troy D. Newton**
State Department of Education
Exec. Secretary..... **Jacob Davis**
State Department of Education

Staff

Ed. Specialist **Bobby Thomas**
Printing..... **Kenny Boyd**
Secretary..... **Pam Kilpatrick**

officer with you guys and I have come to the conclusion that I wouldn't pick any other five people in this entire world that I would rather serve with as a state officer. I think that we have the best officer team ever! Really! We have a combination of so many different and diverse personalities. We always have different views with which to look at situations. Think about it. We are all so totally different and have totally opposite interests. Take Kimmey. She is a pageant girl (take no offence by that) and loves horses. She is very outgoing but isn't overly opinionated because she is very caring, unlike myself, in some instances. Not many people can be in pageant mode: dress, makeup, and hair then in an hours time be full fledged cowgirl with buckle, hat, and boots. That's amazing! Karen- greenhouses are your specialty (something that none of us really know anything about) and she is Granny B, but that isn't a bad thing. She keeps us in line and sometimes we need that. Mature is a word that describes you the most, especially compared to all of us, and you are naturally beautiful, not to mention radiant. Jared- farm, farm, farm boy, he knows more about agriculture than all of the other five put together. Pure-bred Country boy, and the diverse livestock knowledge.....enough said! Not to mention his love for Ag Ed. It moves me to know that teenagers still want to keep on family traditions, but I guess that's just the cowboy in me. I mean you, sorry I was singing! Matt-um...I know there is something good, hold on...um...*LOL*! Can you say computer GENUIS! He is by far the most charismatic guy I have ever met. He travels more than anyone I know, so mapping out directions towards anywhere in this state is a breeze to him and is such a gift to us. He's the

guy that we send in the gas station to ask for directions, if we ever need them. Maybe if it's a girl working, we might get a free coke - not to mention he's totally cute! Jordan-GrRrR...So ferocious!! Now you don't have the best Ag background ever, but you are the most determined and devoted person that I have met in a while, which puts a smile on my face :-)!!! And stylish, except for the snowflake shirt. You have the best style of any guy I've ever met and I have met a lot! Your willingness to help out Agriscience Education is inspiring and motivating. Truthfully, the past month or so has been such a tough time for me because I am getting so stressed out about stuff. I have lost motivation and for me that's bad, but granted Jordan is actually the person that has put the enthusiasm back into me

Thanks for everything guys. I truly and honestly Love each of you. You have become my best friends over the year and I want you to know that you have made such an impact on my life. Words can't even describe it!

With Love and respect,
Brooke

Being a state officer in the Alabama FFA Association has proven to be the most melodramatic experience of my life and I have enjoyed every second of it. However, I wouldn't have had this wonderful opportunity without the support from my Ag teacher, the Marbury FFA members, and of course my loving family!

I hope that everyone enjoys state convention!
Good Luck and God Bless!



MATT WILSON
Alabama FFA Secretary
Jacksonville Chapter

I often find it odd and peculiar how this year seemed so short. I never thought that it would end this way. I am sure that when I am done with my year of service, a part of me will be missing. The moment I remove the jacket for the last time as a state officer, I do not know what to expect. Will I miss all of the phone calls and the long, numerous e-mails? What will have affected me the most? Will I remember the times we were lost in Montgomery or will I reminisce about the hilarious times in Arkansas when our room flooded every time someone took a shower? Although I might someday outgrow the jacket, I will never outgrow the experience.

We have traveled thousands of miles all

over this state and nation. We have met thousands of FFA members from all across the country. Together, we have met and persuaded the individuals that make our laws. We have advocated agriculture and learned the true values of life. All in all, I have made five of the best friends I will ever have. Kimberly, Karen, Jared, Brooke, and Jordan, thank you.

I have a family that means the world to me. My mother and father have been there to teach me what is what in life, and undoubtedly, I would not have been a state officer without them. My sister who loves me exceedingly is always there too. In fact, she is working on some of my homework right now, just so I would have time to write this article. I love them. My other teachers in life, Mr. Ricky Whaley and Mr. Harold Lipscomb from the Jacksonville FFA, hold a special place in my life, also. Without them, I never would have made it to here.

My year of service was not an easy one. It took dedication and passion, but when you think about it, that is all service really takes, dedication and passion. Once we learn the concept of being there for other people and helping others when we can, we then have the experience to conquer any disaster or celebration life throws our way. Fellow FFA members, then and only then, will we be "Living to Serve"!



JARED BEASLEY
Alabama FFA Treasurer
Gaston Chapter

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." When sitting in my first Ag. Class in seventh grade, I never knew that those quotes hanging up on the back wall in the classroom would mean so much to me my senior year, but I also never knew that I would have the amazing opportunity to serve the members of the great state of Alabama as your 2005-2006 State FFA Treasurer. Serving as a state officer this past year has really taught me what it truly means to become a great leader. I've learned that being a great leader means setting the example, and making a positive influence in the lives of everyone you come in contact with, whether younger or older, by serving them whenever and however you can. I experienced an example of premiere leadership this past year when having the opportunity to spend a lot of time with a long-time friend and a North District FFA Officer, James Paul Bailey. James Paul helped me understand that it's

(Continued on page 4.)

PROGRAM
77th ANNUAL STATE FFA CONVENTION
May 31—June 2, 2006

Wednesday, May 31

2:00 p.m. **OPENING SESSION**

Presiding Officer – Jordan Hamilton, President
Opening Ceremony
National Anthem
Invocation –Matt Barton,
Gaston
Greetings – Stuart Joy,
National FFA Western Region Vice President,
Artesia, New Mexico
Introduction of State & National
Officer Candidates
Introduction of District Officers
Wall of Honor Inductees—
Jim Pate
CDE Awards –
Parliamentary Procedure
Prepared Public Speaking
1st Place Public Speaking Winner
Keynote Speaker –
Corey Flournoy, National FFA President 1994-95
Adjourn



Delegate Business Session immediately following the opening session in the Greg Pratt Room.

7:30 p.m. **SECOND SESSION**

Presiding Officer – Brooke Head, Vice President
National Chapter Awards
Honor Parents of State Officers
Future Farmer/Agribusinessman
of the Year Award
Retiring Address—Jared Beasley, Treasurer
Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
Honor Advisors of State Officers
Address – Stuart Joy
National FFA Western Region Vice President,
Artesia, New Mexico
Proficiency Awards -
Forest Mgmt., Landscape Mgmt.
Fruit / Vegetable Prod., Nursery Ops.
Turf Grass Mgmt., Div. Crop Prod., Swine Prod.
Retiring Address—Kimberly Henderson, Sentinel
Awards – String Band Contest
Entertainment—1st Place String Band
Closing Ceremony



Thursday, June 1

9:00 a.m. **THIRD SESSION**

Presiding Officers - Jared Beasley, Treasurer
Kimberly Henderson, Sentinel
Opening Ceremony
Crime Prevention Awards
100% Chapter Membership Awards
M. K. Heath Animal Health Award
Retiring Address—Matt Wilson,
Secretary

CDE Awards—

Nursery & Landscape, Floriculture, Forestry,
Land Evaluation, Poultry Evaluation,
Livestock Evaluation, Agricultural Mechanics,
Agricultural Const. & Maint., Small Engines
Safe Tractor Driving

Proficiency Awards -

Agriculture Mechanics
Agricultural Sales / Service
Quartet Contest
Adjourn
Tours - Auburn University

7:30 p.m. **FOURTH SESSION**



Presiding Officer – Matt Wilson, Secretary
Address - Bob Riley, Governor
Star Farmer Ceremony
Retiring Address—Brooke Head, Vice President
Honorary State FFA Degrees
Miss Alabama Agriculture – Melissa Moore



Proficiency Awards -

Equine Science, Beef Prod., Poultry Prod.,
Home & Comm. Dev., Enviro. Sci. & Nat. Res.
Mgmt., Specialty Animal Prod., Wildlife Mgmt.,
Special Area Proficiency Awards
Retiring Address—Karen Baggett, Reporter
Awards – Quartet Contest
Entertainment - 1st Place Quartet
Closing Ceremony

Friday, June 2

9:00 a.m. **FIFTH SESSION**

Presiding Officer – Karen Baggett, Reporter
Opening Ceremony
State FFA Degree Ceremony
State Officers' Report
Retiring Address—Jordan Hamilton, President
Election of Officers
Installation of State Officers
Closing Ceremony



important to set a positive example at all times because someone is always watching you. I firmly believe that members like James Paul, whether younger or older, are the reason our organization is so strong today. He is a constant reminder to me of what it means to serve others by setting the example for them to follow, just as he has for me this past year. As you end this year as chapter members, I challenge each and every one of you to continue carrying out our convention theme of "Living to Serve." Make an impact on someone's life today, set the example for everyone to follow, and make the most of your room here on earth as you truly LIVE to SERVE!!



KAREN BAGGETT
Alabama FFA Reporter
Lawrence County Chapter

As the end of the school year approached last year, most of my classmates were ready for senior portraits, working minimum wage jobs and planning beach trips. I, however, was nervously awaiting state convention. State convention came and went and my life was miraculously changed. I have been able to carry on a 77 year old tradition this year that means more than words could say for many former members.

Barbara Walters said: "To excel is to reach your own highest dream. But you also help others where and when you can to reach theirs." I have excelled this year, because of YOU! You were behind our team and supported us through all the things we have faced this year. You have made us the officer team that we should be. You have been the driving force behind us.

I hope that you will take this quote and apply it to your life. Reach your highest dream and LIVE TO SERVE by helping others reach their dreams. It might be something as simple as an encouraging word, or a reaffirmation that you believe in them.

Thank you for believing in our team. I appreciate all of the encouraging words and the other ways that you have helped us this year. My life has been changed because of you. You are already great examples of Living to Serve-keep it up Alabama!

I look forward to seeing you at convention and thanks for everything!!!



KIMBERLY HENDERSON
Alabama FFA Sentinel
Enterprise Chapter

Fellow FFA Members!

As the end of the year approaches I think back on my wonderful years of involvement in the FFA Organization. The FFA has taught me so much and I have truly become a better person because of this incredible organization! Just like many of my fellow FFA members, if it were not for this organization it is scary to think were I would be today. Some of the various things that I have learned are what it truly mean's to be a leader, how to effectively communicate, and how to serve others. When I decided that I wanted to be a State Officer I never imagined what a wonderful experience it would be for me. I can remember the overwhelming feeling that I had when I was called to the stage with my new fellow officers. I never knew how close you could truly get to people who are all so different but have one thing in common and that is a passion to serve the FFA. We first came to the Blast Office conference as a team, but by the end of our next conference, the National Leadership Conference for State Officers, just as Mr. Davis said, we left with five new family members! I cannot imagine life this past year without them. I have truly been blessed to have this amazing opportunity to serve you, and get to be involved and work with these wonderful people who have inspired me in so many ways!

I have had the wonderful opportunity to visit several of your chapters and have met many of you at various workshops and conferences. The best parts of serving the Alabama FFA Association this year has been to meet and learn from you, the best FFA members in the Nation! The theme for this year's convention is "Living to Serve". I have made it my own expression to try and serve the Alabama FFA Association this year to try and give back to this incredible organization that has given so much to me. I challenge you to serve in your chapter in a career development event (CDE), as a proficiency award applicant, or with chapter awards program.

This is definitely my favorite time of the year! It is so inspiring to see all of the many talents of FFA members expressed through CDE competitions, proficiency

awards, and chapter awards. The hard work and dedication that you put in everyday in anticipation for upcoming district and hopefully state competitions is proof that you have determination to succeed. I can recall the first time I got involved by competing in a CDE, which was Livestock. Even though we did not advance to the district or state level, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to just get involved! I discovered that cheerleading and dancing were no longer my place at school. I then found my niche in competitions which have included parliamentary procedure and currently, public speaking. FFA members it is time for you to find your niche! Get involved this competition season and you will not regret the experience!

Many of you are preparing for chapter, district, and/or state officer interviews. You have stepped out and are the next leaders of our incredible organization! Each of you who aspire to hold an office are already leaders because you are leading by example! The example is that you are seeking to serve others and are truly expressing this year's convention theme of "Living to Serve".

As the 77th Alabama FFA Association State Convention comes closer I can remember the wonderful feelings that are expressed while at convention which include a new FFA member attending convention for the first time, to a senior who will compete in a CDE for the final time. What a wonderful feeling it is for hardworking FFA members to receive prestigious awards such as proficiency awards and scholarships. Emotions for state officer candidates are always extremely high and positive as they await their anticipation for the nomination committee report. And finally as the current State Officer's wrap up the year by trying to express the convention theme "Living to Serve" to each one of the FFA members as we truly try to serve you this FFA convention. FFA members, let's make this Alabama FFA Convention the best convention ever! I look forward to seeing you from May 31 through June 2! I would like to challenge you once again to truly "Live to Serve". Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Alabama FFA Association Sentinel and for making this one of the best years of my life!

Touch the world
one student at a time.



Teach Agriscience!