



The Alabama FFA REPORTER

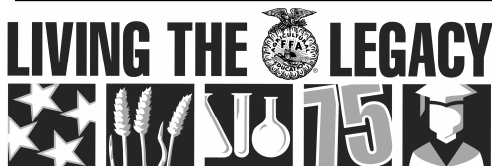
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Volume 31

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NO. 1

CONVENTION ISSUE.....



BRITTANY BEASLEY President

Since my father and grandfather were both Ag teachers, I was exposed to the FFA at a young age. I always knew that this awesome organization had the power to change lives and to develop leaders, but while serving as a state officer, I get to see this first hand.

During this year, I have witnessed FFA members achieve what they thought was impossible, such as Jeff from Alexandria who won the senior showmanship class at the Alabama State Market Hog Show. I also experienced the genuine kindness and warmth of Chase and the rest of the chapter officers at East Limestone FFA.

I believe that the most valuable lesson I learned this year was the importance of teamwork. When the six of us were elected, we did not know much more about each other than names and chapters. However, the five other officers quickly became some of my best friends. We learned to work together and equally. We realized that teams from other states had different morals and values and were thankful to be with a group of Christians. There were times during the year when we had to stand up for each other and for what we believed was right. Everything we experienced—the good and bad—strengthened the bond of our team.

One of the goals our team set was to make improvements in the Alabama FFA Association. We had witnessed first hand the decline in membership and the lack of attendance at state convention. At our activities this summer, we discussed what other states were doing to bring excitement back to their association. We returned to school ready to change the world, or at least the FFA. Unfortunately, we soon found ourselves back where we had started.

Without the support and unity of our members, advisors, and state staff there will be little or no change in our association. The young men that started our association in 1929 saw a bright future for this organization. With cooperation and positive attitudes, the future of the Alabama FFA Association can be even brighter.

As my term draws to a close, and I start to reflect on the events of this past year, I realize one thing: I can't give this up! The legacy that FFA has made in my life is one that must be passed on. This is why I have decided to pursue a career as an Ag teacher/FFA advisor. If I can make a difference in students' lives the way that my advisor and others have done for me, I will have accomplished more than I could ever ask.

WHITNEY GRIFFIN Vice-President

“Living the legacy”, what an inspiring theme we have this year as we celebrate 75 years of tradition and service. But what is

a legacy exactly? My understanding is that it is something that is handed down from the past. Given that, then to live a legacy would mean to live your life in such a way as to leave a mark, or have a lasting effect on those with whom you come in contact.

It is my sincere wish that I have done this not only in the last year having served as a state officer, but that because of my experiences in the FFA I will continue to touch peoples lives in such a way that they will know that FFA is not so much about the organization as it is about the people who populate it. I also hope that in my capacity as an FFA officer and member that I have communicated to them that the legacy of tradition and the standards of excellence conceived more than 75 years ago remain vibrantly alive. That the FFA affords the required confidence to face the acute challenges of food and fiber production, agri-science, public service and—this is the truly hard part—simple daily life.

Thank you FFA members for the opportunity to serve.



2003-2004 STATE OFFICER TEAM

L to R, Sentinel- Ashleigh Butts, Treasurer- Joanna Stewart, Secretary- Hannah Beam,
National VP- Anne Knapke, Governor- Bob Riley, Reporter- Alex Popwell,
President-Brittany Beasley, Vice President- Whitney Griffin, Central District Sentinel- Chappel Brown

THE ALABAMA REPORTER Spring 2004

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Secretary..... **Charlotte Hollis**

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Vice President **Whitney Griffin**
Lineville Chapter
Secretary **Hannah Beam**
Geraldine Chapter
Treasurer **Joanna Stewart**
Woodland Chapter
Reporter **Alex Popwell**
Marbury Chapter
Sentinel **Ashleigh Butts**
Leroy Chapter
State Advisor **Troy D. Newton**
State Department of Education
Exec. Secretary **Ben Scheierman**
State Department of Education

HANNAH BEAM

Secretary

Taking a look at the past four years of my life, it is impossible to overlook the legacy the FFA has made. The travel opportunities, new friendships, and learning experiences the FFA has given me will remain with me for the rest of my life. I have also learned many life lessons that will help prepare me for situations I may face in the future.

Had it not been for my involvement in the FFA, I probably would have never had the opportunity to travel to so many places. My travels include three trips to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky (one of which I was a national delegate), Raymond, Mississippi, and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. where I (along with about 130 other state officers and staff from across the nation) was addressed by President George W. Bush. I met many wonderful people during each of these trips.. Traveling has given me the opportunity to learn about other parts of the country.

The FFA has given me the opportunity to meet other students from across the country. I have had roommates from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska. As a district and state officer, I have become very close to my fellow officers. Now, these teammates are among some of my dearest friends. We have so many unforgettable memories of the many learning experiences we shared together.

I have had many experiences, which

have increased my understanding of servant-leadership. I have learned that to be a servant-leader, I must give back to others what has been given to me. Often, that may be giving someone a bit of encouragement or helping him or her achieve a goal. Being an officer of the state association has come with great responsibility. Responsibility is not only limited to my state officer position, it continues throughout every aspect of life. The FFA has taught me responsibility and given me self-confidence. I have developed confidence in my abilities conducting meetings, presenting a workshop, or speaking before a group. Without confidence, I would not be able to carry out many of my duties as an officer and live the legacy that is FFA.

My involvement in the FFA has given me experience in various areas of life that will continue to help me in the future. Future job interviews will be easier because of the numerous interviews I have undergone to become a chapter, district, and state officer. The friends I have made will be there when I need them in hard times or in discouragement.

The FFA has helped me to become a better person and to learn more about my capabilities. These experiences will never be forgotten. FFA has truly left a legacy in my life; a legacy I will carry with me and spread to others throughout my life.

JOANNA STEWART

Treasurer

As I began thinking about what I would write about for this article, I thought of sending my fellow members some words of wisdom, something I've learned this year, of course. Then I thought I would tell all the wonderful stories the state officer team has acquired throughout the year. Finally, I decided to combine these two.

I can hardly believe that a year ago I was studying to be a Central District state officer candidate! Now, district elections have come and gone. The "beginning of the end" has come upon this year's state officers. Although I will be serving as Central District President next year, it's very sad to see my year of being a state officer end. I look back at all I've learned, all I've been through. It's truly been a roller coaster ride! (you know, the roller coaster you can't help but want to ride over and over, no matter how scary it is at times)

I've had a great time meeting members throughout Alabama as well as the United States. Being a delegate to the National Convention was an awesome experience! NLCSO has more memories than any other week in my life! I could keep on listing all of the wonderful things I have gotten to participate in this year, but instead I want to concentrate on a more serious note. A chapter in my FFA legacy is closing. A new chapter will begin in the months to come, but it's important to take every opportunity while it's still there.

Advisors, I encourage you to make an earnest attempt to influence as many students as you can in these last days of school. Don't be afraid to take some extras to state convention instead of just your teams. You may never know what student may surprise you the most! Seniors, just because you're graduating doesn't mean your legacy is ending. Go to your last state convention, take the time to encourage the freshmen to get involved, and remember to keep up your SAE and apply for your American Degree in a year. For everyone else, GET ACTIVE! If you feel as though you don't have a legacy, now is a great time to start one! Start a SAE, find a CDE that interests you and work with the team, attend state and national convention if possible, and participate in all of your chapter's activities. I encourage members of all age and personality to either further or start your legacy!

I'm sure you have heard during various FFA activities this year the theme "Living the Legacy" It's very important to have a legacy, but it won't do you any good unless you live it! In the words of Dustin A.G. Clark, FFA National Western Region Vice President 2002-2003, "To live is to let absolutely no one's opinion dictate who you are." So, fellow members, get active! Start your legacy! Continue your legacy! Be proud of that legacy and never let anyone change your outlook on it! FFA members and advisors of Alabama, Live your legacy!

ALEX POPWELL

Reporter

Throughout the past year the FFA has enabled me to leave a legacy that has affected many lives, including mine. I have learned how to improve myself and how to become a better person. My mission in life is now more detailed and

(Continued on page 4.)

PROGRAM
75th ANNUAL FFA STATE CONVENTION
MAY 31 JUNE 1, 2, 3, 2004

Tuesday, June 1

2:00 p.m. OPENING SESSION

Presiding Officer – Brittany Beasley, President
Opening Ceremony
National Anthem
Invocation –Chris Randolph,
Jacksonville
Greetings – Casey Hogan,
National FFA Western Region
Vice President,
Arlington, Texas
Introduction of State & National
Officer Candidates
Wall of Honor Inductees—
Laymon Phillips
CDE Awards –
Parliamentary Procedure , Prepared Public
Speaking
1st Place Public Speaking Winner
Keynote Speaker –
Patrick Grady

7:30 p.m. SECOND SESSION

Presiding Officer – Whitney Griffin, Vice President
National Chapter Awards
Honor Parents of State Officers
Future Farmer/Agribusinessman
of the Year Award
Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
Honor Advisors of State Officers
Address – Casey Hogan
National Western Region VP,
Arlington, Texas
Proficiency Awards -
Forest Mgmt., Landscape Mgmt.
Fruit / Vegetable Prod., Nursery Ops.
Turf Grass Mgmt., Floriculture, Div. Crop Prod.
Awards – String Band Contest
Entertainment—1st Place String Band
Closing Ceremony

9:30 p.m. DANCE NIGHT

Join us after the last session of the day for a dance
with fellow FFA members till 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 2

9:00 a.m. THIRD SESSION

Presiding Officers - Hannah Beam, Secretary
Joanna Stewart, Treasurer
Opening Ceremony
Crime Prevention Awards
M. K. Heath Animal Health Award
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
State FFA Degree Ceremony –
Student Activities Center Stage
Closing Ceremony

7:30 p.m. FOURTH SESSION

Presiding Officer –Alex Popwell, Reporter
Star Farmer Ceremony
Honorary State FFA Degrees
Miss Alabama Agriculture –
Brittany Johnson
Proficiency Awards -
Equine Science, Beef Prod., Poultry Prod.,
Swine Prod., Enviro. Sci. & Nat. Res. Mgmt.,
Specialty Animal Prod., Wildlife Mgmt.,
Special Area Proficiency Awards
Awards – Quartet Contest
Entertainment - 1st Place Quartet
Closing Ceremony

Thursday, June 3

9:00 a.m. SIXTH SESSION

Presiding Officer – Ashley Butts
Sentinel
Opening Ceremony
State Officers' Report
Election of Officers
Installation of State Officers
Entertainment –
Closing Ceremony

**LIVING THE
LEGACY**



I have a well planned path to follow. While working with my fellow state officers I have improved my character for the better. As I have been improving myself, I know that I have also improved the lives of others by influencing them to live their lives as leaders. As my term in office comes to an end, I hope that I have left a legacy in the lives of FFA members that I have come in contact with and that they too work to insure that they leave a living legacy for others to follow.

ASHLEIGH BUTTS

Sentinel

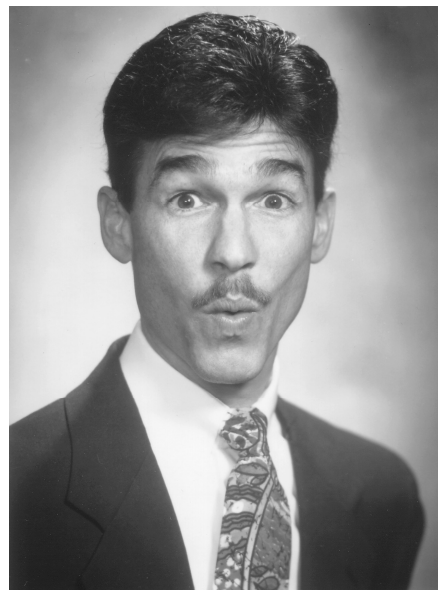
When I first entered the FFA as a sophomore, I was a little uncertain about my career as an FFA member. As the year progressed my advisor Mr. Jackie Ganus had me involved in many of our chapter's activities and embracing the legacy of leadership. That year I was elected a chapter officer, served on the land judging team, attended the State Convention, and took part in many other FFA activities. At the end of my tenth grade year, I ran for a district office position, and to my surprise, I was elected vice president. After all the events and successes of the year, I knew the legacies and opportunities of FFA were right for me. As I began my junior year, I could not wait to see what other FFA opportunities awaited me.

I began living the legacies of progress and success by improving my SAE program and my CDEs. I was able to raise the Grand Champion steer at the county show, be on the county champ livestock judging team in which I was contest high scorer, and on other top teams. As a high school junior, I had the opportunity to improve my leadership skills by attending the National Convention as a delegate. At Convention I was able to meet FFA leaders from all walks of life; it was because of this experience that I ran for a state office. At the end of my junior year, I was able to achieve one of my personal goals of being elected to serve you as State Sentinel.

While serving you as a state officer, I have truly been able to live out the many legacies that make up FFA. FFA has helped me to live the legacies of progress, partnership, service, leadership, and career success. Whether it was by making chapter visits, improving my SAE and my CDEs, or conducting workshops with the other officers, I was able to live and leave these legacies.

As my time of serving you as your 2003-2004 Alabama FFA Association Sentinel is coming to a close, I challenge you to live these legacies. They will definitely make a

difference in your life by establishing premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Thank you for allowing me to have one of the most rewarding years of my life by serving you while I was living the legacy of FFA. I challenge you to take advantage of the many opportunities in FFA and let this wonderful youth organization leave a legacy on your life as it has done for me. As you do this make sure you LIVE THE LEGACY!!!!

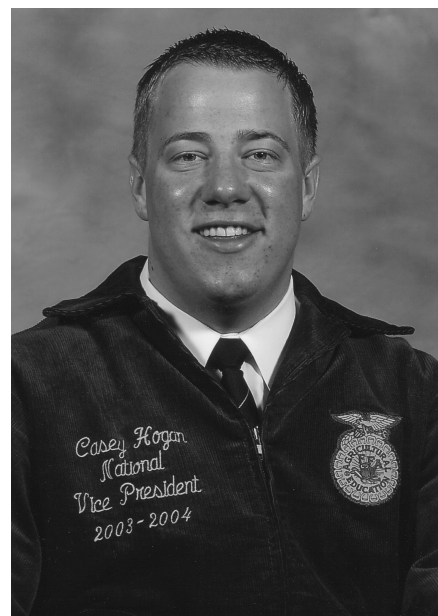


During the opening session Patrick Grady will stimulate, motivate and communicate to you the enthusiasm and excitement that we should all possess to reach our goals. This former Ag teacher knows the FFA well and will challenge students to overcome life and positively impact others.



Miss Alabama Agriculture Brittany Johnson will be on the program Wednesday evening

**Touch the world
one student at a time.
Teach Agriscience!**



Casey Hogan is the 2003-2004 Western Region National Vice President and hails from the Arlington-Martin FFA chapter in Texas. His goal is to become an Agricultural Science teacher and then a member of state or National FFA staff. He will provide an inspiring message during the Tuesday evening session.