



# The Alabama FFA REPORTER

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CONVENTION ISSUE.....



## MATT BARTON President

As the state FFA convention nears, I remember the diverse feelings of members at convention time. The anticipation of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at his or her first convention, the feeling of a job-well-done for a state winning Career Development Event team, the inspiration received from our national officer keynote address, and the nervousness of the state officer candidates are just a few of these exciting times experienced by the convention attendees. However, the most memorable feeling for me was last year at the final convention session when I joined my newly-elected state officer team on stage. For some of us, we were joining officers that we had served with previously. As for the others, we had only known them for a few short days, but before we left Auburn, it was already evident that our team would get along very well and grow very close. Little did we know how important our role would be.

For most of the remaining summer, we attended and presented numerous leadership workshops and conferences. Most importantly, we learned exactly what our new duties entailed as well as a little more about each other. It wasn't until later that we realized we were accomplishing the theme for the National FFA Convention—Learn, Lead, Succeed. We came out of these conferences with a better understanding of what it means to be a leader. Our purpose is to serve the members. Service to the members can be attained in several ways such as befriending a younger member, motivating local chapters, and living an example that anyone would be proud to live. We serve in this capacity, not because of our accomplishments, but because of our passion for agricultural leadership. What an awesome feeling it is to watch FFA

members grow and learn through our organization!

Members, take advantage of any opportunity that you have to participate in FFA leadership activities. John C. Maxwell stated, "Leadership is influence. Nothing more; nothing less." Through my experiences while meeting with business leaders and elected officials from all across our nation, I have learned that FFA already has a wonderful reputation of influencing strangers to our organization. FFA is renowned for developing premier leadership skills through its members and will continue to supply future leaders for all aspects of our nation.

By providing so many opportunities to learn and lead through FFA, it is easy to understand why FFA members succeed. Throughout all of my travels across this state and nation, my favorite subjects to talk with other members about are SAEs and CDEs. I have truly enjoyed learning how members across the nation are already finding career success in their everyday lives. I have been inspired by the excitement of Ashley from Spring Garden

and Andrea from East Limestone as they told me about their SAEs, and sharing the pride for Amy from West Point as she was named high individual in the State Livestock Judging CDE last year. These are only a few examples of the thousands of members who are discovering the power of the FFA.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve you as President of the Alabama FFA Association, and I look forward to seeing you at the State FFA Convention. I encourage you to participate in every opportunity that FFA throws your way, and if you do, I know that you truly will "Learn, Lead and Succeed!"

## KATIE GANN Vice-President

As I think about the convention theme for this year- "Learn, Lead, Succeed"-many thoughts come to mind. I ask myself, "what does "Learn, Lead, Succeed" really mean?" My thoughts take me back to the first years of being a FFA member. That very first year, I found out that Ag



2004-2005 STATE OFFICER TEAM

L to R, President – Matt Barton, Vice-President - Katie Gann, Secretary – Marc Manning, Treasurer — Alicia Butts, Reporter – Bradley Camp, and Sentinel — Michael Roach

## THE ALABAMA REPORTER Spring 2005

### STATE OFFICERS 2004-2005

<i>President</i> .....	<b>Matt Barton</b> Gaston Chapter
<i>Vice President</i> .....	<b>Katie Gann</b> Cherokee Chapter
<i>Secretary</i> .....	<b>Marc Manning</b> Billingsley Chapter
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	<b>Alicia Butts</b> Leroy Chapter
<i>Reporter</i> .....	<b>Bradley Camp</b> Geraldine Chapter
<i>Sentinel</i> .....	<b>Michael Roach</b> Spring Garden Chapter
<i>State Advisor</i> .....	<b>Troy D. Newton</b> State Department of Education
<i>Exec. Secretary</i> .....	<b>Jacob Davis</b> State Department of Education
<b>Staff</b>	
<i>Ed. Specialist</i> .....	<b>Bobby Thomas</b>
<i>Printing</i> .....	<b>Kenny Boyd</b>
<i>Secretary</i> .....	<b>Pam Kilpatrick</b> State Department of Education

students learn in many different ways-though classroom instruction, workshops given by district, state, and national officers, and hands-on activities such as CDE's and SAE's. Some of these are learning experiences unique to our organization. The learning experiences have convinced me that the "Doing to Learn" line of our FFA Motto is true.

Learning the motto and mission of the National FFA Organization inspired me to want to be an effective leader. By taking advantage of the opportunities offered through the FFA, my leadership potential and abilities began to increase. Leadership is achieved through service to others and through living by example. Opportunities to lead are all around us - at school, in the community, or in FFA by holding a chapter, district, state, or even national office - but we should always lead by the principles and mission on which our great organization was founded.

I believe that learning plus leading equals success. Success is something that is sought after by many people. Though success is longed for, failure is not. During my service as a state officer, I have learned that one cannot be afraid of failure. Once the dream has been set, many adversities and hardships may come your way and go against the mark to which you are striving, but keep learning and leading and you will succeed. Success is achieved though the application of knowledge and

skills, determination and commitment, willingness to do the absolute best you can, and desiring all God wants you to be.

Fellow FFA members, we belong to an awesome organization that creates many experiences that often leave us speechless. Be proud of who you are, that for which you stand, and the organization to which you belong. I encourage and challenge each of you to continue to "Learn, Lead, Succeed".

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving you - the Alabama FFA Association.

### MARC MANNING Secretary

When I was chosen to serve as a 2004-2005 state officer, I did not fully know what to expect. All I knew was that I was with a great group of individuals and there were many exciting things to come. This statement only scratched the surface of what I would experience during my year of service.

I will never forget the activities and workshops I have gone through this summer. From training for state office at BLAST OFF and NLCSO, to helping conduct business at the National Convention, my officer team and I have grown very close. Because of these experiences, now we are all more experienced leaders. The FFA's programs and their enthusiastic presenters have impacted my life, and I could not have asked for stronger or more enthusiastic teammates.

I have witnessed countless lives positively changed through involvement in the FFA, and my own life is no exception. Through workshops, speakers, and following other members' examples, I have certainly become more outgoing, a better communicator, and a stronger leader. So now I encourage you to get involved and exit your comfort zone just as I did. This is the only way that you can grow as a leader and a person. When faced with a challenge, LEARN how to perform this task efficiently, and do not give up. When you have accomplished this, you can LEAD others by your example and encouragement. Finally, you can truly reap the benefits of your hard work and dedication when you SUCCEED!



### ALICIA BUTTS Treasurer

Since I live in a very rural part of Alabama, agriculture has always been a part of my life. Everything from breaking steers with my daddy to picking watermelons and peas with my granddaddy, but I never truly knew how rewarding agriculture could be until I became active in FFA. I found it was a wonderful organization with the power to change lives and develop better leaders for tomorrow.

Our theme this year is "Learn, Lead, Succeed," and this past year I have witnessed FFA members who have made this more than words. The three words have a common bond. You must be willing to "Learn," that is to gain wisdom and knowledge. Then you can take an active role, step up to the plate, and "Lead." You can then combine the two, all the knowledge you have gained and the leadership skills and do what we all strive to do... "Succeed."

Our team has proven that we can "Learn and Lead" and I know we will all with God's help "Succeed" in whatever we set our minds to do. This past year we have shared a lot of laughs and we have shed a few tears together. We learned to appreciate the individuality that each person brought to the team. Our team set many goals and I hope we have made a positive impact upon FFA members, the Alabama FFA, and the FFA organization as a whole.

While serving as a state officer, I have truly had a chance to "Learn, Lead, and Succeed." As my year of serving as the Alabama FFA State Treasurer is drawing to a close I hope I have done my part in the task of living before FFA members what it means to "Learn, Lead, Succeed." Thank you for allowing me to have one of the most memorable years of my life. I would like to leave you with a challenge to take full advantage of what the FFA has to offer, and find out what it truly means to "LEARN, LEAD, SUCCEED!"

### BRADLEY CAMP Reporter

When I first began my school career in the FFA, I had no idea what I was getting into. When I was in the seventh grade, there were a lot of rumors going around that next year we would be able to pick our own classes, and with that

**PROGRAM**  
**76th ANNUAL STATE FFA CONVENTION**  
**MAY 31, JUNE 1, 2, 3, 2005**

**Wednesday, June 1**

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

Presiding Officer – Matt Barton, President  
Opening Ceremony  
National Anthem  
Invocation –Brittany Beasley,  
Gaston  
Greetings – Jackie Mundt,  
National FFA President,  
Pittsville, Wisconsin  
Introduction of State & National  
Officer Candidates  
Introduction of District Officers  
Wall of Honor Inductees—  
Laina McWhorter  
CDE Awards –  
Parliamentary Procedure  
Prepared Public Speaking  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Public Speaking Winner  
Keynote Speaker –  
Jones Loflin  
Adjourn

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

Presiding Officer – Katie Gann, 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 – Jackie Mundt  
National FFA President,  
Pittsville, Wisconsin  
Proficiency Awards -  
Forest Mgmt., Landscape Mgmt.  
Fruit / Vegetable Prod., Nursery Ops.  
Turf Grass Mgmt., Floriculture, Div. Crop Prod.  
Awards – String Band Contest  
Entertainment—1<sup>st</sup> Place String Band  
Closing Ceremony

9:30 p.m. **MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us after the last session of the day for a movie  
with fellow FFA members.

**Thursday, June 2**

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

Presiding Officers - Alicia Butts, Treasurer  
Bradley Camp, Reporter  
Opening Ceremony  
Crime Prevention Awards  
100% Chapter Membership 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  
Adjourn  
Tours - Auburn University

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

Presiding Officer – Marc Manning, Secretary  
Star Farmer Ceremony  
Honorary State FFA Degrees  
Miss Alabama Agriculture –  
April Hawthorne  
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 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Quartet  
Closing Ceremony

**Friday, June 3**

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

Presiding Officer – Michael Roach, Sentinel  
Opening Ceremony  
State FFA Degree Ceremony  
State Officers' Report  
Election of Officers  
Installation of State Officers  
Entertainment –  
Straight Street  
Closing Ceremony



freedom we could take classes that were easy. This would not only take the stress off of us, (overworked middle school students), but also it would help us keep up good grades. Several of my friends and I chose to take agriscience.

When we got into class, Mr. Johnson told us all about the FFA. "It was the number one youth organization in the world", he said. Later on, that week we realized the best incentive to join... we would get out of class. I realized that football in the eighth grade wasn't for me. I began to get more and more involved in the FFA. Little did I know that this involvement was the beginning of a roller coaster ride like I had yet to experience.

Over the next two years I joined every team that I could from Parliamentary Procedure to Land Judging. My junior year, I decided to run for a district office, and to my surprise I was chosen as the North District FFA Vice President. That year soon became a blur of chapter visits and meeting people I would not have met without the FFA. My senior year, I was selected to serve as your Alabama FFA Reporter. This year I've met people from all over the country, and I've traveled well over 15,000 miles.

From my eighth grade learning experience, to my leadership responsibility as a state officer, my FFA career has made me a living testament of this year's motto: Learn, Lead, Succeed.

## MICHAEL ROACH

### Sentinel

FFA - the organization that rises above any other organization, as we are truly declared the number one youth organization in the United States of America.

I can remember when I was in the 7th grade, and I wanted to be in this great organization more than anything. I did not understand, however, just how important it really was until I decided to enroll simply to get out of my dreaded 4th block English class. Then, as I became more involved, I saw how much fun everyone was having and the activities of officers. I then chose to run for a chapter office, because I thought that it would be real cool. I was so nervous at the interviews. I was afraid I did not make the officer team. At 9:30 P.M., the interview committee was ready to make their announcement. I found out that I had made it, and of course was elated. I had a great feeling of accomplishment because I knew that I was now a bigger part of FFA. I still did not really know what FFA was all

about, until my county workshop, where I heard the Alabama State President tell me that I could become a state officer. It made me believe in myself, and then I ran for and was selected for a District office and then for a State office the following year.

FFA has really instilled one thing in my heart... that no matter what situation you have lived in or gone through, you can accomplish anything. I have noticed that FFA is about reaching your goals through leadership and agricultural education. The FFA mission states that FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education - which is also our theme this year - "Learn, Lead, Succeed". FFA is not about being a hick in an 'ole straw hat. It is about the sense of pride and knowledge of knowing that success comes only through hard work and determination to learn and to lead. That is the reason the FFA is such an awesome organization from which ideas develop that will last a lifetime. I encourage you to strive for success by growing in the education that FFA has to offer.



During the opening session, Jones Loflin will stimulate, motivate and communicate to you the importance of involvement in any organization. This former teacher knows the FFA well and will challenge students to become involved participants in their communities.



Straight Street is a Contemporary Christian Band based out of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. They will perform contemporary and southern gospel Christian music at the close of the Friday morning session.



Miss Alabama Agriculture, April Hawthorne, will be on the program Thursday evening.

**Touch the world  
one student at a time.**

**Teach Agriscience!**



Jackie Mundt is the 2004-2005 National FFA President and hails from the Pittsville FFA Chapter in Wisconsin. Her goal is to help students develop their strengths and realize their full potential. She will provide an inspiring message during the Wednesday evening session.