



THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

Volume 40

SUMMER 2012

NO. 2

SUMMER ISSUE

www.alabamaffa.org



Josh Williams
State President

A Summer of Blessings

WOW! What a summer it has been. The one and only God has definitely poured out his blessings on me, and I could never thank him enough. It's hard now to even imagine that three extremely short months ago I was diligently preparing to what ended up being one of the biggest events in my life. It's safe to say that being a state officer has changed my life. In just three months, one of my major goals of being a state officer became a reality. I have met five of the most wonderful people in my entire life, and they have had one of the largest influences on me. My officer team has become one really close family. We have been through a lot this summer already, and it's sad to face the fact that a

quarter of our one year together is over. However, we all learned this summer that we only get to serve one time, and it's this time that we have that we will be remembered by. We have one chance to positively influence the Alabama FFA Association and its members, and that one choice will forever leave an impact. If I had to share one experience that I have had as a team, it wouldn't be hard to choose. It would be the ride to Mississippi for NLC SO; the first time that we, as the Dominate Family, were all together since state interviews. That week we became exactly what our name describes, a dominate family. Since that week, I have considered my team the closest and best friends that anyone could ask for. If I could share another experience that I have had as State President, it would be about one focused

word that I have meditated on since state convention. That word is ONE! In the passage above, the word ONE appears to describe eleven different things: ONE God, ONE life, ONE goal, ONE influence, ONE family, ONE year, ONE time, ONE chance, ONE choice, ONE experience, and ONE focus. This one word not only describes my year as a state officer so far but will continue to be the guide for my year of service.



2012-2013 STATE FFA OFFICER TEAM

L to R, Dawn Turner—Vice President, Abby Himburg—Treasurer, Nikki Giba—Sentinel, Lucinda Daughtry—Secretary, Luke Knight—Reporter, Josh Williams—President

THE ALABAMA REPORTER

STATE OFFICERS 2012-2013

President	Josh Williams Douglas Chapter
Vice President	Dawn Turner Enterprise Chapter
Secretary	Lucinda Daughtry Smiths Station Chapter
Treasurer	Abby Himburg Ariton Chapter
Reporter	Luke Knight Wadley Chapter
Sentinel	Nikki Giba Cherokee Chapter

Alabama Department of Education

State Superintendent	Thomas Bice
Deputy Superintendent	Sherrill Parris
Career/Tech Ed Director	Philip Cleveland

Agriscience State Staff

State Advisor	Jacob Davis
Exec. Secretary	Philip Paramore
Ed. Specialist	Jacob Davis
Ed. Specialist	Chris Kennedy
Graphic Arts	Kenny Boyd
Admin. Asst.	Pam Kilpatrick



Dawn Turner
State Vice-President

The Story of a Corduroy jacket

This summer has been more than I ever imagined it would be as a State Officer. I've been fortunate to be able to spend the past two months with my team and without a doubt they have become a second family to me as we have shared many laughs, joys, and everything in between. At several conferences that we attended I heard the phrase "Where has your FFA jacket taken you?" I began to think not about the places that my jacket has taken me but about the experiences and people I have met while there. To me the FFA jacket resembles a diary that is kept by each person who wears it. Just like each person has a journal that

cannot be matched by anyone else, each person's jacket tells a different story. My jacket tells a story of growth in several areas such as public speaking, interviews, music, responsibility, and friendships. Without the experiences that taught me these things, I would not be anywhere near the person I am today. Spending time with my team this summer showed me that every person's jacket tells a unique story of their experiences in the FFA. When these stories are intertwined is when the FFA Organization truly starts to make a difference in the world. I challenge you to think about where your FFA jacket has taken you and the experiences that have made you the person you are today. By letting your jacket tell your story, you will be growing in the FFA.



Lucinda Daughtry
State Secretary

Six Individuals, One Purpose.

This summer. Wow. That is the only word that comes close to describing this past summer. While my other peers were out going to the beach, going to amusement parks, and just enjoying their last summer as a high school student, I was traveling. This summer has been the best summer of my life. I could not have chosen five people to spend most of my days with. I have learned so much this summer. I have learned to be an effective leader, a better speaker. I have even learned how to give the cheesiest power claps. Most of all this summer, I have finally realized that whenever six different

personalities, six different daily routines, six different perspectives, six different people come together it can make one beautiful team. Never in my life have I been so amazed as to how six different people can love and support each other through the good times and the bad.

I have truly had my eyes opened to what the word humble means. Spending time with Ryan Best, National FFA President, I learned that humility is not something that can be faked. It is something real that comes from your heart. Everyone I met at State Officer Leadership Training, National Leadership Conference for State Officers, BLAST OFF, District Officer Leadership Conference, Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops, and Washington Leadership Conference has really opened my eyes to how diverse FFA really is. From each of these places, I have experiences, memories, and friendships that will last a life time, and these things no one can take away. I am so excited to get the school year started. I cannot wait to see what is in store. My summer has been great, and I am sure my year is only going to get better!



Abby Himburg
State Treasurer

The Best is Yet to Come

My summer as State FFA Treasurer was AMAZING. I could not have asked for any better teammates to represent Alabama with. My team and I have shared countless memories

together; whether it was fussing about doughnuts, finding coffee, or making fun of each other, we have shared so many laughs. Over the course of the summer, I have learned that FFA is truly where my heart is. While I was in Washington D.C. for WLC I learned the true meaning of "Living to Serve." The last day of WLC, I had the honor of packing over 41,000 meals that were sent to Nicaragua. This experience touched my life and is something I will always remember. In Raymond, Mississippi, we all learned that Dawn is now "Delta Dawn." Then, in Birmingham, we learned that Josh resembles Scotty McCreery. I can't wait for National Convention to share more memories with my team. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to serve as State Officer this year.



Luke Knight
State Reporter

The Moment of Impact

First Off, I would Like to say that this summer has been the absolute best summer of my life! I could not have asked to be surrounded by five better people than the ones I am surrounded by. I consider them a second family of mine, and I can't wait to experience the rest of my year with them. I want to share a little about my experience as the State FFA Reporter. If there was one thing, more like one word, that I have learned this year it's impact. As state officers we have gone through hours

of training, and if there was one word that kept popping up, it was impact. How was our State Officer team going to make an impact? The more and more I asked myself this question, the easier the question was to answer. I like to think of impact as a car crash. No one knows when it will happen, why it happened, or how to maneuver around trying to make it happen or trying to keep it from happening. I learned this summer that the way to make an impact on people is just how you, as an FFA Member, present yourself. What you do in your life can impact people in a positive or negative way. As FFA members we are constantly making an impact on people whether we realize it or not. We must always represent the "brand" with pride, respect, and honor because we may never realize who we are making an impact on.



Nikki Giba
State Sentinel

One Summer—Family for Life

This summer? How do I put it in words that give it justice? The officer team traveled to Birmingham to start off our summer. We were introduced to many other state officers in Alabama and discovered information about other career technical programs. Those two days began our relationship as an

Alabama FFA State Officer Team. We instantly bonded. This summer was packed full of traveling and learning! We had intense training in leadership and workshop development. We were exposed to much and formed bonds with so many incredible people, but I have to say my favorite part of the summer was our trip to Mississippi for the National Leadership Conference for State Officers. We were privileged to spend almost a week with past and present officers from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Nebraska. We also spent time with a past national officer and the current National President. That week we trained hard, but we experienced the true meaning of a team. We were exposed to leadership, conflict, exhaustion, and even extreme laughter, the things a dedicated officer team are made up of! To sum this summer up, it was the best two months of my life. I will never forget the skills I have learned, the people I have met, and the memories that we made.

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



Teach Agriscience!



The new state officers were elected on June 8, 2012, and ever since then they have been extremely busy trying to make the state association better than ever! They started their summer off at SOLTS (State Officer Leadership Training Seminar) at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center on June 12-14, 2012. They learned the proper skills to be excellent state officers. They attended this seminar with the other Career Tech State Officers in the State of Alabama. They then traveled to Raymond, Mississippi to attend the National Leadership Conference for State Officers. The Conference lasted from June 18-22, 2012. The State Officers attended this Conference with other FFA State Officers from Mississippi and Louisiana. The workshops were facilitated by current and past National Officers, as well as, past state officers. The State Officers then went from We to Me and attended BLAST OFF! (Building Leaders and Strong Teams of Officers). The conference was held in Auburn, Alabama. The Conference was held from June 24-29, 2012. After three weeks of training the State Officers were officially prepared to train the District Officers at DOLC (District Officer Leadership Conference) at the 4-H Center in Columbiana, Alabama that was held July 12-13, 2012. COLW (Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops) were next on the list, and the District Officers were able to take what they learned from the State Officers into action! The final destination, Josh Williams (State President) and Dawn Turner (State Vice-President) attended SPC (State President's Conference) on July 23-28, 2012 in Washington D.C. They learned leadership development, and began the initial phase of the national delegate process. The State Officers have had a great summer, and they can't wait to serve this year as the 2012-2013 Alabama FFA State Officers!



The State Officers at NLC SO.



The State Officers at BLAST OFF!



Josh and Dawn at SPC.



State Officers at SOLTS.



State and District Officers at DOLC.

