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ILLINOIS FFA ALUMNI: "TURNING THE KEYS OF SUCCESS"

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Dear Alumni,

Spring activities have come and gone. Banquets galore, final contests, and yes, graduations---another school year completed. Four years of records for seniors have been scrutinized for the final time. Now on to summer. . .yes, the state convention is fast approaching (June 12 - 14).

Alumni will be manning the FFA supply center this year at the trade show. FFA t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other memorabilia plus alumni items will be available. If you are coming to the state convention and would like to help, please let us know. We welcome one and all!

James Shelby has included a list of all the scholarship winners within this newsletter. . . . a sincere congratulations to all. Alumni, thanks for supporting our annual auction which funds these scholarships. Your donations of items to sell and the purchasers who bid them up are all greatly appreciated.

On Thursday (June 14) at 1 pm Jim McCray will be drawing the winning ticket for this year's four wheeler. Tickets will be for sale in the trade show area up to that time. If you would like to purchase some tickets, but will not be at the convention, please contact Jim or myself. We would be happy to sell you one or one hundred!

The Alumni Council will again be hosting the dance at the Orr Building at the State Fairgrounds the first night of the convention. It provides an evening of fun for over 1000 FFA members. Pop, water and ice cream are served.

It seems so soon to already be congratulating our current FFA state officers for a job well done in their year of service and to wish them well in the future, but June will bring a new team to meet and welcome aboard. Time moves on.

Whether you are working on the state level or lending a hand for your local chapter, your efforts are appreciated. Thanks so much for supporting the best youth organization ever!

Your president,
Dean Olson

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LEADERSHIP CAMP AND WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following Illinois FFA Members were awarded Scholarships by the Alumni Council to attend Leadership Camp or Washington Leadership Conference during the summer 2007 break.

Leadership Camp: Christina Anderson (Bluffs), Shayna Bueker (Clay City), Daniel Corrigan (Southeastern), Matthew Dehlinger (Olney), Levi England (Mount Vernon), Daniel Fulton (Lincoln), Dustin Hegwood (Kewanee), Adam Herwig (Ashton-Franklin Center), Schyler Hochgraber (Warsaw), Jennifer Honnold (Kansas), Ethan Keyser (Cisne), Heather Kiner (Mendota), Steve Marshall (Cissna Park), Andrew Nelson (Geneseo), Jentzi Schumm (Wayne City), Joshua Troester (Eldorado), Cody Vogt (Nashville), Korey Walker (Patoka)

WLC: Alicia Behrends (Iroquois West), Nichole Bressner (Prairie Central), Audrey Brown (Eldorado), Dustin Getz (Warsaw), Anthony Graham (Mt. Vernon), Elliott Hasselbring (Cissna Park), Brian Hills (Tri-Point), Jenna Holm (Indian Creek), Danielle Horn (Hartsburg-Emden), Paige Isaak (Carlyle), Tyler Jiles (Leroy), Megan Klingler (Clay City), Randy Lewis (Geneseo), Jonathan Lloyd (Central/Clifton), Kelly Meyer (Nokomis), Caleb Miller (Normal) Hailey Rehberg (Newark), Jenna Richardson (Cisne), Megan Sack (Mendota), Eric Schmidt (Waterloo), Samantha Snider (Olney), Emma Talbert (Wayne City), Amanda Wadkins (Patoka), Logan White (Southeastern)

“Affiliates in Action”

Olympia FFA Alumni Holds Meeting

The Olympia FFA Alumni Chapter held their recent chapter meeting on Thursday, April 5th. They discussed recent FFA and FFA Alumni Chapter activities. In new business, the members of Olympia’s affiliate elected a new set of officers for the coming year, along with hearing a report from Matt Nordstrom on some upcoming events.

The members then heard Mr. Rod Weinzerel from Stanford, Illinois about referendums on the ballot for the Olympia School District. They also heard from Megan Ott, who is serving as Illinois FFA Secretary for 2006-2007, on her officer team’s recent trip to Spain.

The next Chapter meeting will be held May 31st at 7:00 PM.

Information Provided by Kyle Haning, Olympia FFA Alumni Reporter

Southeastern (Augusta) Alumni Affiliate Chili Supper

On January 26th, the Southeastern FFA Alumni held their annual chili and vegetable soup supper event to raise funds for the various activities of the FFA, including financing various leadership conferences. It was held in conjunction with the Homecoming Night Basketball games, making the attendance great. It proved to be the best ever and plans are under way for next year. Most of the expenses were donated by several of the Alumni Members.



State Basket for National Convention

This is a picture of the State Affiliate Basket that was auctioned off during the 2006 FFA Alumni Convention. It was graciously assembled by Sarah Myers, the wife of District III FFA Alumni Director Dick Myers.

Anyone who is willing to provide items that well represent Agriculture and Agriculture Education in Illinois, or wish to help assemble the basket should contact Sarah at (217) 222-2482.



Arctic Cat Tickets

As the Illinois Association FFA State Convention draws near, the Arctic Cat raffle is winding down. On Thursday, June 14th, in the last session of convention, the Arctic Cat 650 H1 4x4 Automatic LE will be raffled off to a lucky winner. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. 40% of all the proceeds go back to the respective chapters who sold the tickets. Any questions may be directed to the Illinois FFA Center or by contacting any Council member.

National FFA Alumni Convention

The National FFA Alumni Convention held in conjunction with the FFA Convention is just around the corner. Thursday, October 25, 2007, will be the Awards Ceremony with the Business Session being held on Friday, October 26, 2007. Silent Auction items will be open for bid starting on Wednesday, October 24, 2007.

It is imperative that Illinois be well represented with the convention being in Indianapolis. I realize it is a long drive in our busy schedules, but it is worth supporting our youth at every level of leadership development. Anyone who would be willing to serve as a voting delegate for the Illinois delegation on Friday of the Convention, please contact State President Dean Olson so we may get a count on filling our quota.

Local News

I am always interested in letting the light shine where FFA students are impacted the most, the local chapter. Please get in your local happenings to me, James Shelby at 16530 East Knox Road, Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 or via email at jshelby92000@yahoo.com. Pictures are nice, but digital pictures are the best for assembling the newsletter. Thank you for serving in the FFA Alumni.

Dates to Remember . . .

June 1	State Leaders Conference Registration Date	National Center
June 12	State FFA Alumni Council Meeting	Springfield, IL
June 12-14	State FFA Convention	Springfield, IL
July 1	Chapter Grant Applications	National Center
July 1	Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate Application	National Center
July 1	Outstanding State Affiliate Application	National Center
July 1	Outstanding Achievement Application	National Center
July 1	National FFA Alumni Council Nominations	National Center
July 10-15	State Leaders Conference	Portland, Oregon
July 25-28	Illinois FFA Leadership Camp	Monticello, Illinois
October 24-27	National FFA and FFA Alumni Conventions	Indianapolis, IN
October 26	National FFA Alumni Live Auction	Indianapolis, IN

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