

# The Chronicle

The Newsletter of the North Carolina FFA Alumni Association



## Mission

The mission of the National FFA Alumni Association is to secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.



## 2011 North Carolina FFA State Convention

Members in blue jackets and FFA supporters took over Raleigh when almost 3,000 people attended the 2011 North Carolina FFA State Convention. This year's convention was held June 21<sup>st</sup> through June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Raleigh Convention Center. Students competed in numerous career development events, were recognized for their achievements, enjoyed inspiring speeches and even enjoyed music at the block party. Teachers, alumni and supporters attended convention sessions, the annual Alumni State Meeting, participated in the Alumni silent auction, and networked.

Each year the alumni sponsors the State Convention Keynote Speaker to help kick off the beginning of convention. This year's speaker was Mr. Brandon Lee White. Brandon was a hit and all of the students were engaged and enjoyed his message. He even brought a few FFA member volunteers onto the stage to participate in activities.

Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> was a day filled with career development events. Hundreds of FFA members strived to give their best as they competed in 17 CDEs. During the day the NC FFA Alumni held their annual meeting at the convention center where they recognized outstanding alumni affiliates and heard words from retired Admiral Benny Suggs, the Executive Director of NCSU Alumni Association. That evening, during the fourth general session, the two lifetime achievement award winners, Mr. Marvin Rountree and Mr. David Harris, were recognized. Also recognized were those individuals who received their Honorary State FFA Degree. After the session, the FFA took over downtown at the music block party where everyone enjoyed sounds from Southbound 85.

The last day of the North Carolina FFA State Convention ended on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students were recognized for their achievements and top scores from the previous day and as the end of convention approached, members enjoyed the FFA year in review. Finally, as the 2010-2011 State FFA Officers retired, FFA members welcomed the new 2011-2012 State FFA Officer Team. The 2011 North Carolina State FFA Convention came to an exciting end and now students are preparing for the National FFA Convention and the next 2012 North Carolina FFA State Convention.

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## National FFA Alumni Convention

The National FFA Alumni Convention will be held from October 19th to 22nd in Indianapolis, Indiana! Get ready for Alumni development workshops and celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association!

The week will begin with the kick off of the Alumni Silent auction, followed by the Alumni Nation and a workshop focusing on Agriculture Career Network Training. Come join the alumni for an action packed first day!



Thursday and Friday will be devoted to celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association, while offering a wide array of alumni development workshops. The workshops will cover topics such as: Increase Member Recruitment, Advocacy in Action, Inside Look at the National FFA Alumni Council, and Agriculture Career Network Training. The workshops will provide great information and resources that we can bring back and utilize in our North Carolina FFA Alumni Affiliates. Thursday night will be devoted to celebrating the anniversary, so make sure you attend the celebration at Union Station, Grand Hall.

When the convention is coming to a close, everything must go at the Silent Auction. Saturday morning will begin with the Alumni Auction Load out and end with the Mini Auction. Don't miss out on the opportunities offered at this year's National FFA Alumni Convention!

### 2011-2012 NC FFA State Officer Team



**Congratulations** to our new and reactivated North Carolina FFA Alumni Affiliates! NC FFA Alumni is excited to welcome these new affiliates and is looking forward to great things to come.

North Buncombe

Longview

Community Christian

Southern Wayne

Millbrook

## What is one way that NC FFA Alumni gives back to NC FFA Chapters? Chapter Grants!!

### **NC FFA Alumni Chapter Grant Program & 2011 Recipients**

The North Carolina FFA Alumni Chapter Grant Program is designed to provide special program/project funding for FFA chapters with alumni affiliates.

Also, a wonderful option is that the grant funds may be used for ANY type of chapter activity. Ten FFA Chapters in NC with Alumni Affiliates were awarded with an Alumni Chapter Grant. Listed below are the ten chapters and what their Chapter Grant was used for.

**Community Christian FFA**  
Chapter Development Essentials

**Granville Central FFA**  
Chickens and Coop

**Midway FFA**  
Gold Emblem Exchange

**North Stanly FFA**  
FFA Jackets

**Northside FFA**  
Chapter FFA Jacket Program



**Smoky Mountain FFA**  
State Convention

**South Granville FFA**  
MEGA Conference Scholarship

**South Rowan FFA**  
Strawberry Jam

**West Carteret FFA**  
Newport Heritage Day Dinner

**West Rowan FFA**  
FFA Banquet

## **South Granville FFA Alumni in the Spotlight!**

The South Granville FFA Alumni has been working hard on fundraising to create an endowment fund. This endowment will be used to make the Phil Grady Scholarship a permanent resource for students. We are getting closer to our goal of making the dream of the late Phil Grady a lasting reality. Mr. Phil Grady served Granville County Schools for over thirty years and continued to help South Granville FFA after he retired. He was trying to get an alumni started when God called him home. In August, we hold an annual Pancake Supper to support the scholarship each year. We look forward to seeing this scholarship fund support future FFA members at South Granville.



# Gold Emblem Exchange

Midway FFA Chapter benefits from a  
2011 Alumni Chapter Grant



On July 4, 2011, the Midway FFA Chapter headed to the North Carolina FFA Center at White Lake to attend the State Leadership Conference. On the third day of camp, three eagerly anticipated guests arrived to join the group from Spivey's Corner. Anne Krueger, Emily Selner, and Eric Kraynik from the Denmark FFA Chapter in Denmark, Wisconsin had arrived in North Carolina to learn about the state's agricultural commodities as a part of the Gold Emblem Exchange Program in which their chapter participates annually. These three students were respectively partnered with Michaela Slatniske, Caroline Clement, and Brandon Honeycutt, three senior FFA members from Midway, who would serve as their host families.

Upon arriving at White Lake, the three Denmark FFA members were instantly engaged in the ongoing camp activities. They participated in various workshops to develop teamwork and communication while also meeting NC FFA members from across the state. When camp ended, the six students involved in the exchange program traveled to Topsail Island, NC, to spend the weekend at the beach. While this was a routine summer experience for the locals, it was the first time the students from Wisconsin had ever seen the ocean. Without hesitation the three Wisconsinites began to collect seashells and wade out into the water farther than even the North Carolina students would have dared.

After a weekend of surf and sunburn, the FFA members began a week of agricultural tours in Southeast North Carolina. The members from Wisconsin learned about the cotton industry by touring Nate Honeycutt's farm, the Corner Cotton Gin, and Wesley Barefoot's Carolina Picker Repair Services. The students also learned about tobacco production by visiting Fann Farms, turf grass management from Tri-State Turf, hatching chickens from Case Farms in Goldsboro, and were able to compare the differences in dairying practices after a visit to Koopman's Dairy. The students also toured Martin Meats and the Mt. Olive Pickle factory to get an in depth understanding of local agricultural businesses.

Ten days in the NC heat and humidity did its damage on the cool-natured Wisconsin students. Looking forward to more favorable temperature, the six FFA members boarded a plane at RDU. With a connecting flight in Minneapolis, the group headed towards Green Bay. After missing their second flight due to weather conditions, the students finally made it to the Badger State eight hours later than expected.

While in Wisconsin, the NC students became very familiar with the dairy industry. Each student's host family owned a small dairy operation where they worked for the ten days they were in the state. The NC FFA members were able to participate in milking, feeding, and even helping with the birth of a few calves! Additionally, the students visited an alpaca farm, a twenty-two acre greenhouse, and a Land O'Lakes cheese factory. The FFA members also visited Lambeau Field, Miller Park, and the Harley-Davidson Museum while in Wisconsin.

Without the assistance of the North Carolina FFA Alumni Association, this opportunity would have never been possible. The grant given to the Midway FFA Chapter by the Alumni alleviated much of the traveling expenses the agricultural students had while in North Carolina. The Gold Emblem Exchange allowed FFA members to engage themselves in a variety of new experience while exploring the diversity of American agriculture.

*Written by Brandon Honeycutt*

# 2011 NC FFA Alumni Awards Recipients

Outstanding Affiliate: West Rowan

Outstanding Achievement Award: Mr. Mac Hodges

New Affiliate Award: Trinity, Spring Creek, RS Central, Wilkes, Community Christian, Southwest Edgecombe

Reactivated Affiliate Award: Starmount, Cape Fear, Southeast Guilford

Highest Membership Growth Award: West Rowan

Highest Percent Membership Growth: Smoky Mountain



Above: 2011 NC State FFA Convention  
Keynote Speaker, Brandon Lee White with NC FFA

Join NC FFA Alumni on February 25, 2012 for the NC Alumni Development Conference at Charles D. Owen High School!

Right: The 2011 Alumni Basket Contest Winner goes to Sun Valley. Sun Valley FFA will send their basket to the National FFA Alumni Silent Auction to represent North Carolina. Congratulations to Sun Valley



## Connect with Us!

[http://ncffa.org/alumni/Alumni/  
Home.html](http://ncffa.org/alumni/Alumni/Home.html)

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