



UTLOOK

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Oklahoman Elected National President

by Holly Blakey



Riley Pagett, a member of the Woodward FFA Chapter, was elected National FFA President at the 2010 National FFA Convention.

"I didn't even hear my name! All I heard was 'Oklahoma' and I felt so proud for our state to be represented on this level" said Pagett, a junior agricultural communications student at Oklahoma State University. "I felt like I was finally getting the opportunity to give something back to this organization in a big way."

Pagett will spend this year travelling nearly 120,000 miles in about 40 states speaking to FFA members, visiting companies who support FFA and will also travel to Japan. His official duties also include representing the members to the National FFA board of directors.

"I am most looking forward to getting on the chapter level and serving as an advocate for agriculture," Pagett said. "The chapter level is where it all begins for each of us and I'm anxious to be at that level to accomplish the most possible."

FFA members are encouraged to follow Pagett's travels and experiences by following his blog at ffa.org.

Top: Riley Pagett joins his fellow officers following their introduction. **Bottom Left:** Pagett wears his new National Officer jacket with pride. **Right:** Pagett returned to OSU to complete the Fall semester before reporting to Indianapolis in November to begin his official duties.

Go to ffa.org for more about your national officer team.



Katie McCauley

Central District Vice President

Growing up, I loved doing two things more than anything else – showing pigs and playing basketball.

Showing pigs was a natural choice for me. I was an Ag-Ed teacher's daughter, and all my older siblings showed pigs. I simply followed in their footsteps. However, basketball was different. My sister would literally drag me out of the house and into the driveway to make me play basketball with her. At the time, I didn't like it much because she always won. But the older I got, and the more she made me play, the better I got. Eventually, I was beating her!

Everything has always been a competition between my sister and me. She ended up playing college basketball, but I was still determined to be a better player. However, by my senior year of high school, I had had three knee injuries which required me to wear a brace. But I didn't give up.

The morning of the district championship game, I found myself in Oklahoma City, in Official FFA Dress, awaiting the start of the State Officer Nominating Committee. As soon as I was finished with the process, my FFA advisor drove me to my basketball game, where I arrived with just enough time to put my suit on and run onto the floor. The game went well until two minutes before halftime when I felt my knee snap for the fourth time. I knew I was done.

My dreams of basketball were over. But my plans weren't nearly as important as the plans God had for me. I had been focused for some time on the goal that I wanted. It was now obvious that my goal wasn't taking me where I was supposed to be. A leadership role in the FFA was.

At the time, I just couldn't see it. But the more I put into basketball, the more God was trying to take it away. Perhaps you've heard this saying before: "If you want to hear God laugh, tell him your plans." It's so true!

Today, at this moment, I truly believe I am doing what God intended for me to do all along. FFA members, I hope you can see better than I could. Don't get so caught up in your plans that you are blinded to what your true purpose is.



Katie's Favs

Orange
color

90 Minutes in Heaven
book

Mexican
food

Livestock Showing
FFA activity

Sweet Tea
drink

Ted's
restaurant

Classic Country
music

Hot Rod
movie

Delorian
vehicle

Trevor Lucas

State FFA Reporter

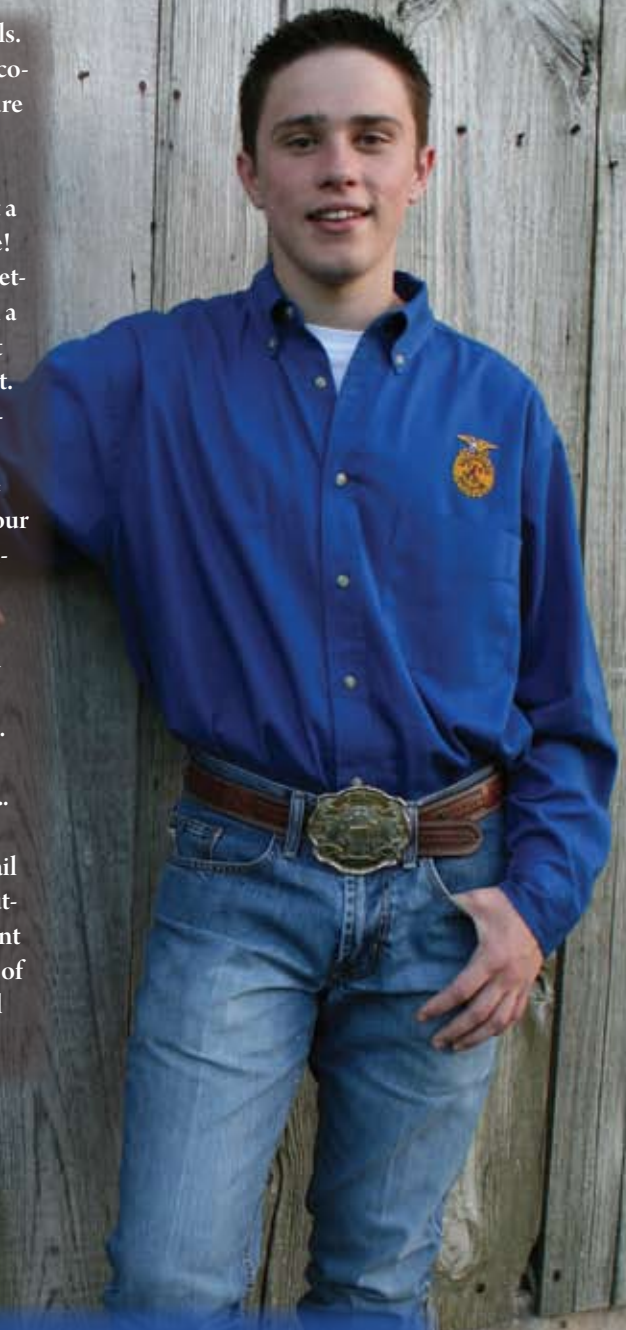
At 211 degrees, water is hot. At 212, degrees water boils. With boiling water comes steam, and steam can power a locomotive. That is the difference that one degree in temperature can make.

I read a book called *The Extra Degree*, that points out that many of life's successes and failures are decided by just a slim margin. A little extra effort can make a huge difference! Whether it's putting in another hour of shooting after basketball practice, studying an extra 30 minutes to make an A on a history test, or just spending a little extra time walking that show pig, spending a little extra effort can have a big impact.

I have always regretted not advancing to the state competition with a prepared speech, because I know if I would have "prepared" just a little more, I could have done it. Like me, have you ever felt like you could have reached one of your goals if you would have given it a little bit more? If so, I challenge you to catch the "And-then-some syndrome."

An essay written by Carl Holmes explains the spirit of service is summed up in these three little words ... and then some. Always do what is expected of you ... and then some. Do everything you can to help somebody ... and then some. Be considerate and kind to others ... and then some. Give everything you have to the thing you are passionate about ... and then some.

FFA members, every day we have a choice to either avail or deny opportunity. The actions we take now affect the outcome of our future. It all comes down to how much you want something. Are you willing to put in that little extra degree of effort it takes to be successful? Just one degree can make all the difference.



Trevor's Favs

American Pickers

TV show

Football

sport

Where the Red Fern Grows

book

Public Speaking

FFA activity

Forrest Gump

movie

Blue

color

Dr. Pepper

drink

Billy Simms BBQ

restaurant

Playing Sports

hobby

2010 National FFA Convention

National FFA President

Riley Pagett

Woodward FFA Chapter
Riley is the 8th Oklahoman to serve as national president, the most of any state – and our 3rd national officer in the past five years.

American Star in Agribusiness Winner

Rusty Kenner

Cheyenne FFA Chapter
Oklahoma has had a national star winner four years in a row! Rusty is the 4th Oklahoman to win this award, and the first since 1984.

National Agriscience Teacher of the Year Winner

Alan Smith

Cushing Ag-Ed/FFA Advisor
First Oklahoman to win!

National VIP Award Recipient

Dr. Phil Berkenbile

State Director, Oklahoma
Department of Career Tech
Dr. Berkenbile is only the 14th Oklahoman to receive this honor.

National Prepared Public Speaking Winner

Tara Newton

Kingfisher FFA Chapter
The Kingfisher chapter has won this event two years in a row! Tara is the 6th Oklahoman to win.

National Extemporaneous Speaking Winner

Ashton Mese

Kingfisher FFA Chapter
Oklahoma had a top four finalist in all three speaking divisions – winning two!

National Livestock Evaluation Team Winner

The Kingfisher FFA Chapter
Kingfisher also won this event in 2006!

Team Members:

Kyle Mueggenborg – 1st

Place High Gold Individual

McKenzie Walta – 3rd Place

High Gold Individual

Josh Lippoldt – 7th Place

High Gold Individual

Audrey Gruntmeir – Gold

Individual

National Proficiency Award Winners

Oklahoma had 22 national proficiency award finalists – the most of any state for three years in a row! Oklahoma had eight national proficiency award winners – the most of any state for three years in a row!

Diversified Livestock Production Placement

Kassandra Pfeiffer

Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter
Kassandra won a national proficiency award area two years in a row!

Emerging Agricultural Technology

Taylor Runyan

Atoka FFA Chapter

Forage Production

Brandon Folger

Ringwood FFA Chapter

Nursery Operations

Joshua Conaway

Ringwood FFA Chapter

Sheep Production

Madison McGolden

Fairview FFA Chapter

Swine Production

Entrepreneurship

Austin Kindschi

Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter

This is the second year in a row that M-O has had two national proficiency winners!

Turf Grass Management

William Maltbie

Burlington FFA Chapter

Veterinary Medicine

Emily McCullough

Lone Grove FFA Chapter

FFA's Premiere Event
National



Highlights



Agri-Entrepreneurship

William Maltbie

Burlington FFA Chapter
One of 10 students to receive a \$1,000 cash award.

National Three Star Chapter Awards

Oklahoma had 25 Three Star Chapters – the most of any state for three years in a row!
Achille FFA Chapter
Alva FFA Chapter
Bethel FFA Chapter
Blair FFA Chapter
Broken Bow FFA Chapter
Canadian FFA Chapter
Cashion FFA Chapter
Central High FFA Chapter
Chattanooga FFA Chapter
Claremore FFA Chapter
Crowder FFA Chapter
Cushing FFA Chapter
Duncan FFA Chapter
Glencoe FFA Chapter
Kingfisher FFA Chapter
Luther FFA Chapter
Porter FFA Chapter
Prague FFA Chapter
Sequoyah FFA Chapter
Texhoma FFA Chapter
Tipton FFA Chapter
Webbers Falls FFA Chapter
Wellston FFA Chapter
Wetumka FFA Chapter
Woodward FFA Chapter

FFA Creed Speaking Event

Tyler Schnaithman

Garber FFA Chapter
3rd Place High Gold Individual

Horse Evaluation Event

The Oklahoma Union FFA Chapter 2nd Place Gold Team Team Members:

Emily Handke – 2nd Place High Gold Individual

Gold Individuals:

Whitney Gibson

Rebecca Gagan

Dylan Hammons

Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity

Sarah Mattheyer

Ripley FFA Chapter
Gold Individual

Agricultural

Communications Event

Chacey Schoepel

Fairview FFA Chapter
Gold Individual

Agricultural Sales Event

Paige Hargus

Amber-Pocasset FFA Chapter
Gold Individual

Poultry Evaluation Event

Levi Mitchell

Watts FFA Chapter
Gold Individual

Farm Business Management Event

The Afton FFA Chapter –
Gold Team

Dillon Johnson – Gold Individual

Austin Johnson – Gold Individual

Aaron Wheeler

Kody Leonard

Parliamentary Procedure Event

The Kingfisher FFA Chapter –
Gold Team

Team Members:

Taylor Stucki

Taylor Sweeney

Peyton Yeoman

Kaitlin Pritchett

Beau Kloepfel

Spencer Struck

National Risk Management

Essay Contest Winners

Oklahoma had three of the 10 national winners.

Emily Fanning, Laverne

Denton Lowe, Amber-

Pocasset

Zachary Weichel, Cordell

American FFA Degree

169 Oklahoma FFA members received their American FFA Degree.

Honorary American FFA Degree

Kevin Brewer, Ag-Ed Instructor Dover Public Schools

Bryan Kennedy, Ag-Ed Instructor Hennessey Public Schools

Kathie Short, FFA Secretary

Okla. Dept. of Career Tech

Mike Spradling, President Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Terry Peach, Commissioner

Okla. Dept. of Agriculture

Tom Gilliam, President

Stockman Okla. Livestock, Inc.

Ed Cunnius, STEP Coordinator Okla. Dept. of Wildlife

National FFA Committees

Emily Beanland

State President

Committee Chair -

FFA Degree Expansion

Marty Jones

State Secretary

Committee Vice Chair –

At Large Election of

National Officers

Josh Goff

Past State Vice President

Committee Member –

National Officer

Nominating Committee

FFA Fan Gifts for Leaders' Futures

by Holly Blakey

Martha Burger - FFA Champion

She may be Oklahoma FFA's biggest fan. She physically shutters with pride when her blue corduroy jacket is mentioned. And yet, Martha Burger has never been an FFA member.

"I grew up in the city in Delaware," Burger said. "I'm sure they had FFA chapters around there, but I didn't know anything about the FFA until I got to Oklahoma City."

The impression made by the thousands of students wearing blue and gold jackets in the streets of Oklahoma City got the Chesapeake Energy executive's attention.

"I was intrigued for years by the blue jackets I would see all over downtown during the art show," Burger said. "These were the most clean-cut, all-American students I had ever seen."

It took several years before Burger was introduced to an FFA member and she began to learn what the jackets were all about.



Burger received her FFA jacket at the 2008 state FFA convention. She was the third Oklahoman to be presented with the commemorative jacket. Gov. Brad Henry and Bob Funk were given jackets previously.



Martha Burger, right, accepts a plaque from state FFA president Emily Beanland. The presentation helped recognize Burger for her donation to scholarships for future state officers.

"Chesapeake is a company whose presence is largely found in rural communities," Burger explained. "When we began investigating who and what we should support as an organization we were led to the FFA. It was a match made in heaven. We began to see the tremendous leadership capabilities of FFA students, and it was easy to decide this is who we wanted to support."

And support they do!

Chesapeake gives annually to the Oklahoma FFA Foundation to support scholarships for state officers and speech winners and to help fund the state FFA convention. The company's support of the 2011 convention will be \$55,000, according to Kendall Brashears, Oklahoma FFA Foundation executive director.

Soon after Burger began meeting with state officer teams, she asked Brashears how she could get an FFA jacket of her own. Brashears gave her the surprise of her life on stage at the 2008 convention.

"I was speechless! It means so much to me," Burger said. "I am blessed to be given a lot of recognitions in my position, and occasionally I clean off my shelves and send items to the Chesapeake archives. My FFA jacket is the one thing I will never, ever send away. I am so proud to have it!"

Burger explained what she believes sets FFA leaders apart from other young people.

"[FFA members] are incredibly poised, self confident, knowledgeable, personable, well spoken, forward thinking — they have such great potential," she said. "It's their personal interaction and ability to verbally connect with adults that are remarkable skills. FFA leaders can engage in meaningful conversations."

The leadership abilities of FFA members also have been noticed.

"In any endeavor, leadership is vital," Burger said. "I have never seen an organization do it better."

Burger attended her first state convention in 2005. Since that time she ensures she meets with the state officer team during their business and industry tour, and she makes plans to attend the convention annually.

Career Advice

from Martha Burger

Chesapeake Energy's Senior Vice President of Human and Corporate Resources

"I tell everyone I can to think of [the FFA] beyond what it once was," Burger said. "I had it in my mind that people in the FFA were at home raising animals. They were 'future farmers,' and I believe that is great, but FFA is really so much more.

"I found it fascinating the tremendous leadership development and the wide range of degrees these students are pursuing. It's just fascinating!"

Burger recently has channeled her enthusiasm and made a personal investment in Oklahoma FFA leaders. She has gifted \$250,000 to the OSU Foundation designated for Oklahoma FFA officers who pursue an academic major in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The gift qualifies for the Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match, which will provide a one-and-a-half-times match from Boone Pickens' estate. Thus the fund will be worth \$625,000 once fully endowed, producing \$31,250 annually for scholarships.

"This is my message, and the purpose behind my gift," Burger said while speaking to former and current state officers. "When you are suc-

cessful — and I know you will be — remember that someone came before you and helped you, then you turn around and help others. Giving back is a part of success. You've just got to do it."

Burger started her career with Chesapeake Energy 16 years ago after a short career as a lab technician at University Hospital utilizing a medical technology degree she earned in 1973 from Oklahoma State University. Upon deciding she wanted to change career paths, she earned a bachelor's in finance from the University of Central Oklahoma and then a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University.

"I was employee No. 85 for Chesapeake," Burger said. "We now employ almost 10,000, and about 500 of them directly report to me.

"Meeting students is the very best part of my job," she said. "Through my experience with FFA, I have great hope for the future of our country. Just knowing our state and country are in the hands of leaders like FFA students makes me very hopeful.

"This organization is the greatest!"

Q: What skills do you see that young people need in today's workforce?

M.B.: "In a world of electronic communication, people need to develop soft communication skills — face-to-face and eye-to-eye — and the FFA is so good at developing that. It's absolutely imperative. Also, to think critically. To be able to assess all the information that is thrown at us in this electronic age and evaluate what is put in front of you is important.

Q: What do students need to know to get a job, to set themselves apart?

M.B.: "I was encouraged by hearing Jack Welch, former chairman of GE. He said, 'Over deliver! Whatever you're asked to do, do more.' I've adopted that as my personal philosophy, and I think it is the best advice I can pass onto young people. If your boss asks for something Friday at noon, deliver it Thursday by the end of the day. Always strive to over deliver."



Former state FFA officers who are currently students at Oklahoma State University gathered to show appreciation for Burger's gift. From left top: Cody Ott, Tara Burchfield, Kassie Houston, Cody Nieman, Evan Newpher. Front row: McKenzie Clifton, Burger, and Riley Pagett, National FFA President.



You will always find teaching and learning happening here.

Oklahoma FFA Association
www.okffa.org

