



## Emily Horton National Officer Journal

**August 15, 2005**

Greetings from the Sunshine state of Florida! Our whole team is here on our retreat. It is very hot down here, but it has been great to see some new country. The Florida FFA training center is so cool! I have had some great times this summer and being here in Florida has been a great way to end it. We have been on an air boat ride and even traveled to spend a couple days with Mickey, Minnie and friends at Disney World.

So where have I been leading up to Florida? Well everywhere from Canada to El Paso, TX (I saw Mexico.) August has been full of convention planning... national convention is coming together, and I can't wait to see all of you in Louisville in October. We will be capping off another successful year as we see what "Living to Serve" is all about. The first weekend in August my teammates and I got a special treat in Indianapolis. We went to watch NASCAR racing!! I had never been to a race before so it was really interesting to see what goes on in the great sport of racing. Lincoln Electric hosted us and we went to the Brickyard 400 practice rounds and had a garage tour which was very fun. We were at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We saw driver's cars like Dale Earnhardt, Jr. and Jeff Gordon... definitely a cool experience. Later in the evening we headed over to the Indianapolis Raceway Park and watched a Busch series race which is another branch of NASCAR. We saw the qualifying rounds and the race. We saw Tony Stewart from about 5 feet away. He didn't win the race, but we watched from the pits so that was really cool to see. It was a fun event to see before we started convention planning.

NLCSO, SPC, and state conventions filled up the rest of my summer. In early July I went to WLC for the first time as well. If you are looking for a cool experience next summer I would definitely think about WLC. I loved it, and I only got to be there for 3 days. I was there during week four along with several cool FFA members from places like: Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and South Dakota just to name a few. WLC was all about authentic leadership and while watching the FFA members craft their living to serve plans, I felt so proud to be in this organization. The staff at both Rosslyn and Eisenhower did a fabulous job so kudos to them as well.

After WLC Brian and I headed to Illinois to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and present National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) in the Land of Lincoln. The states of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin all attended. The theme of NLCSO was "Dare to Soar" they started the week as cadets in Top Gun Academy and by the end of the conference they had earned their wings. Each team had their own fun traits... Iowa and their convict shirts, Illinois with their jacket



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reflections, Missouri's musical talents (Branson is there), Indiana's great stories of communal living, and Wisconsin the home of disco and costumes. These state officers should each own an advertising firm because they gave lots of props to Mister Sketch smelly markers and Kraft foods. The state staff was also great. Mr. Craft, Mrs. Zimmerman, Ms. Werner, Dr. Brown and Mr. Spencer were all great. Big thanks are in order to all the state officers and state staff for making NLCSO in Illinois a great experience.

After our last NLCSO in Illinois it was back to farm for me. It was nice to see Dad, Mom, Grandma, and Nik and spend a few hours putting pipe together and raking hay. Then it was off to the land of the Lone Star for the Texas FFA state convention.

Upon arrival in Lubbock Texas I was so excited to see FFA members in the airport. WHAT?!?! I was thinking. It is very cool to go to state convention where members fly instead of drive to get to state convention. This year it was in west Texas (the big town of Lubbock) and trust me it was a great time!!! When I arrived in the convention arena it was awesome to see Red Raider gym (home of the Texas Tech Red Raiders) where Sheryl Swoopes once played. As a young girl she was definitely one of my role models. She was a stellar basketball player and we had matching shoes, but she didn't even know it. None the less she was a stud in my book, and her jersey is hanging in their arena. Things only got better from there. The first person I saw was the one and only "Casey Hogan" last years Western Region Vice President. Casey was a great host. He introduced me to the Randy Rodgers who was playing in the concert that evening. He is a very cool Texas country artist and it was so cool to meet him. That evening we watched the state officer's vespers program which was very good! I also spent time with the Oklahoma state officers Travis and Cale who were visiting. The next day was very fun as I got to know both the new and retiring Texas state officer teams. They did an excellent job hosting a wonderful convention! I was really bummed I had to miss fun night, but never the less I had a great time in Texas. I learned the yells from several of the areas and I hope all is well in the great Area 6! Texans are a rowdy bunch. They have a stellar convention; I can't wait to go back. Have fun next year in Corpus Christie, Lone Star FFA members.

After the Texas state convention I was headed to the board of directors meeting in Indianapolis. My teammates and I enjoy serving on the board. It is so cool to have a role in the decisions that direct FFA. We stayed in the Westin in downtown Indianapolis and that is one of the main hotels that will be used when the convention comes to Indianapolis so that was very exciting! Nice hotel! We worked on several new initiatives like LifeKnowledge that some of your teachers might use in your classrooms.

After the board meeting, three of my teammates and I headed to Pittsville, Wisconsin home of Jackie Mundt. We had a great time learning about Wisconsin and seeing the dairy farm where Jackie grew up. We ate at Culvers which was very good and we saw the ever famous cranberry marshes that Jackie talks about. Then it was off to Washington D.C. on 21st of July for State Presidents' Conference (SPC).



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I had never been to SPC before so I was very excited for the fun filled week in our nation's capital. The theme was "Cultivate the Experience" and that is exactly what happened. We started with several days of planning and shot a video. We also saw Peter Pan (the play) it was very cool and I thought it was about the coolest thing ever when Peter flew over the audience at the end of the show. Then SPC finally started. SPC is different than any other conference because not only is it where look at the delegate process, but the national officers parents get to attend SPC as well. I was very glad that I got to see my family and my teammate's families as well. Man, was it ever a fun week. We did everything from ride the ever important metro system to make great memories on mine and Jackie's bus which the state officers kindly named Shaniqua. Ninety nine delegates from fifty associations participated in this week filled with fun and excitement. We had a meeting with President of the United States and had a thirty-five minute visite with him. We also were fortunate to have Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns speak to us as well. We saw all the monuments and worked on delegate issues that will come up at national convention. What a great week to top of a stellar summer. All I can say is that we have an amazing set of state officers. Here are our teams' moms sitting in the lobby.



Thought to consider for August: What are you waiting for? Your time to influence is now!

### June 30, 2005

Greetings from the Empire State of New York! Brian and I just finished the New York NLCSO with the great New England states of Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine and New Hampshire. What a great time we had at camp Oswagotchie. Upstate New York and a super fun experience with the New England state officers made it even better. We had a blast doing everything from FFA idol to a ropes course and we had some great ice cream. These state officers took it to a higher level as they worked to help the members of their state associations. WOW! I was impressed with the dedication that they all have for this great organization. They worked really well together and it was a privilege to work with them.

The month of June has been a busy one with many great memories with state officers at National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) and many state conventions.



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Late May was filled with fun times in the Garden State of New Jersey. I had a wonderful time visiting with New Jersey FFA members at their fun filled convention in New Brunswick at Rutgers University. New Jersey had a great theme in Blue Jackets Bright Futures. I was so impressed with the jacket program that they had where several FFA members were presented their first FFA jacket. They were awarded the jackets based on essays that they wrote. The state officers Erica, Rebecca, Heather, and Mike did a great job with the convention. I enjoyed getting to know them as well as the new state officer team. I learned a lot about coastal agriculture and had a great time getting to see the state of New Jersey. Something that New Jersey did that I had never seen before was having FFA members on stage dancing before each session started, that was very cool. Here are some FFA members getting their new jackets.



After New Jersey was finished I headed to the great state of Nebraska to attend their Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT). COLT was a ton of fun the Nebraska FFA members and state officers are a truly talented bunch. As soon as I got there I was welcomed very warmly and had a nice surprise waiting in my room. As you can tell they are a fun bunch. I am sure that every Nebraska FFA member would agree as well. My time in Nebraska was filled with state officer workshops and fun in Mission: Serve. They did a great job and I had a great time getting to know all of the members from Nebraska. It was great to get to know my “neighbors” better. We played some great games of water volleyball and even did some great dance moves. The leadership center is great and I loved Runza. It’s a great restaurant in Nebraska. Husker nation is a pretty cool place I must say! After I left Nebraska I headed to New Mexico to visit friends and see the planning stages of their state convention. This kicked June off in a special way to be in southern part of the Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately, I couldn’t stay to see the convention, but the state officers had done a super job planning and Jay said he had a wonderful time. The ice cream is very good in Las Cruces.



Then I flew from El Paso, Texas where I saw Mexico and headed to Fargo, North Dakota. So it was like I traveled from virtually Mexico to Canada all in one day. The North Dakota convention was held in Fargo at North Dakota State University. I had a wonderful time with the North Dakota state officers and members. We stayed in the dorms at NDSU and that was very fun. It took me back to college. They had a wonderful Napoleon Dynamite reflections program which was quite impressive. I also was so excited when they would give out “Baby Bison” that is the trophy that is given when someone wins a





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Career Development Event. They call it that because NDSU's mascot is the Bison. We also went bowling, and had karaoke, and very cool dances. All of the North Dakota folks were great to work with! The Peace Garden State has some rock on cool FFA members who are doing great things! They even sang "My Bonnie" with me on stage, very cool. UFF DA! They are cool up north.

From North Dakota I headed east. Pennsylvania... here I come! WOAHH! COOL! Those are the two words that I would use to describe the PA convention. When I arrived I had little to no idea what would be in store for me the next few days. Initially, it was very late when I arrived and the next day I was excited to see that the Pennsylvania state officers were very busy in preparation for a very special visit. The President, yes George W. Bush, was coming to the PA state convention. I was so excited. I couldn't believe I was going to get to meet President Bush. I was so impressed by the state officers and all that they did to prepare. It was one of the coolest opening sessions I have ever seen. Not only did the president speak for 45 minutes the state officers put on a flawless performance. It was very cool. That was only the beginning. I got to see the Governor



of Pennsylvania and Joe Paterno who is a legend in the state of Pennsylvania as he is the coach of the Penn State Ninty Lions. It was very cool. I was grateful for my dear friend David Bittner who helped show me around while I was in Pennsylvania. I also was able to go to the Creamery. This is the best ice cream ever. If you ever go to Penn State I would recommend Black Cow which is vanilla with root beer flavoring or Peachy Paterno in honor of coach Paterno. I loved learning all about Pennsylvania FFA members and traditions the state officer candidates and new state officers are great as well.



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After Pennsylvania's convention it was back home for me. Well kind of home. I went to Cody, WY with Brian to the Wyoming NLC SO. It was so exciting for me to get to be part of a conference that I participated in as a state officer. We had a wonderful week with the teams from Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming. It was very cool to get to know some of the state officers that I had seen be elected. They did a stellar job learning and helping better their state associations. They Dared to Soar and challenged themselves every step of the way. We went through the ropes course with them and that



was a really good time. Each team had their own special way about them. For some reason Wyoming called themselves the "Roaches." North Dakota brought Napoleon Dynamite in full force and Montana is the best set of ropes course pros I have ever met. It was so cool to get to show Brian a piece of my home, and work with an absolutely amazing set of 26 state officers from the Rocky Mountain region and

Red River Valley areas. I want to send a great big shout out to all of the state officers from North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming for earning their wings and taking flight.

After a jam packed fun filled few days in Cody it was home to the farm overnight to show Brian the Horton compound and take him the Wyoming FFA camp. The farm was great and it was nice to see Dad, but showing Brian FFA camp is something that was really cool for me. Camp is a huge part of my FFA experience and it was very special to share it with Brian. It was also super cool to see the Wyoming state officers in action since we had just trained them at NLC SO. Brian and I presented a workshop and it was great to see everyone from back home. Camp was definitely something to smile about.

Thought to consider from June: Your spark might ignite a flame which creates a wildfire of influence.

**April 20, 2005**

Greetings from the Cowboy State of Wyoming!

It was so cool to be home and see the convention in a different light than I am used to. I have had a great week filled with fun reunions and great Cowboy pride. The Wyoming State Officers have done a fabulous job! Brendan, Donovan, Kalyn, Joslyn, Whitney, Jessie, Clayton, Crissy and Kelsey have worked very hard and put on a fun filled event for Wyoming FFA members. It was very cool that the head coach of the Cowboy Football

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team, Joe Glenn spoke to the members of Wyoming! Several chapters had an excellent couple of days. It was fun to see my home chapter of Shoshoni with our advisor Crystal and my old advisor Mr. Schilt. My two best friends from high school Hazel and Brenda were there for my keynote as well as friends Jeremy, Tyler, and Adam. My parents and grandparents Bill and Lone Craft came so that was really cool. The state officers were so nice to me and I loved the blanket that they made me. It is JOHN DEERE green and yellow and it has all the chapters in Wyoming on it. I LOVE IT!! I got to introduce FFA members to Governor Fruedenthal and we had a great turn out at the dances and BBQ. Mr. Pulse and Teresa, the Wyoming state staff, did a stellar job as well as back stage help (past state and national officers) Stacia, Andrea, Trevor, Seth, Marty, Lisa, Ryan, Brittany, and Tara. Congratulations are also in order for the new team Jessie, Eli, Kali, Lander, Cassie, Liz, Laura, Katie and Kindra good luck to all of you and I will see you at NLCSO!!

After Wyoming I headed to the Show Me state of Missouri for a super cool experience at the Missouri State Convention. Let me tell ya'll it was the BOMB! I had so much fun with all of the state officers, Dr. Brown, Dr. Heiman, and past national officer who directs the convention, Andrew McCrea. Missouri has 14 state officers. It was so cool. It was like a big FFA family who drives a corn van. They have a very cool "corn van" that they drive that the Missouri corn growers got for them. Gina, Susan, Rebecca, Erica, Gary, Jaci, Brian, Napoleon, Champ, Keva, Nate, Sarah, Hillary and Alyssa. We did a ton of cool things in Missouri. The evening before the convention started we had dinner on the stage. That was way cool. They have a potato gun that shoots T-shirts that was awesome. The Missouri members are awesome. They have the coolest talent show. Man, those folks have skills! The chapter president's dinner was very cool, and I loved the state officers reflections following the "Blue and Gold Road." Their theme was "Success in the Journey" they did a super job presenting that. The state degree ceremony was very cool and I loved being a part of it. Missouri had the largest attendance I had ever seen at a state convention. It was SO COOL, and SO BIG! The last day of convention, "Truman the Tiger" the Mizzou mascot, repelled in from the ceiling. It was sweet. The new and old state officers let me go to their pizza party, and then it was off to Wal-Mart for the new state officer "orientation." It was very fun. The new state officers are very cool too. Brian and I will have most of them at NLCSO and I am stoked about that. All of the back stage help was great and I loved all Missouri state staff. Thanks so much for being so awesome to me! I am so excited to go back to area 1 and 2 in the fall for their conferences!

After Missouri, I headed to Illinois to meet up with Jay and go to one of the coolest places on the North American Continent. John Deere's world headquarters in Moline, IL. Oh my Gosh! Going to Deere is just like Christmas for me! I love John Deere! I grew up with their tractors and anything about their company makes me want to do cartwheels! We went to Deere with Lynn Campbell from FFA and we met with several of the Deere senior management, it was amazing. Mr. Doug DeVries from John Deere is the chairman elect of the sponsor's board for the National FFA Foundation, so he was our host for the day. I really enjoyed working with him. Jay and I had a great day and we were joined by past PAS (Post Secondary Agriculture Students) national officer Carl from Iowa. It was so cool to have him there with us. I would love to work at Deere





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someday and it was so cool to meet with one of our longest contributing sponsors. WOW! After my life changing experience at Deere I was off to Central Oregon for their District Retreat. There is only word for that. FUN!!

I arrived in Redmond, Oregon anxiously awaiting being reunited with many of the FFA members that I met at the Oregon State Convention. Some very cool folks. The Bend FFA Chapter picked me up from my hotel and we headed up the mountain. We had awesome hamburgers in Sisters, Oregon and then we made it to camp. All of the Central Oregon District Chapters were there, the state officers, and Central Oregon Chapter Officers. All of them did a stellar job. I had a great time with presenting workshops, getting to know more Oregon members through recreation, officer groups, meals, and of course skits. We had a wonderful time and I can say that Central Oregon is one of my very favorite places. I was on the PPP President's team and we had a great time. I completed the "Polar Bear Swim" and became a Polar Bear. This is a society that you can only belong to if you jump into the freezing cold lake the last morning of camp. VERY COLD, but very FUN! I loved it, and I even got to sign the scroll. Thanks so much to all of the advisors and great Oregon FFA members for making your camp such a fabulous experience for me. The Great Beaver State will always hold a very special place in my heart. Thanks Mr. Crawford for being so great to work with in setting up all of my travel.



After Central Oregon I headed off to beautiful Riverton, Wy., home of the Horton Farms. I enjoyed a couple days at home preparing for the New York State Convention. I was so excited when I got home that I had received a package from Mrs. Knott's first grade at South Routt Elementary in Yampa, Colorado. I

had sent them a package with stuff from Japan for their Japan unit and I was so excited to receive letters from all of them. They even sent me pictures of them with their chopsticks. I was so excited! Thanks South Routt 1<sup>st</sup> grade!







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I boarded a plane early May 4 to journey to the far off land of the Empire State. When I arrived I was greeted very kindly by Mrs. Dottie Wilcox; what a cool woman with a caring heart. Dottie is the State Executive Secretary for the New York FFA. She is simply amazing. I was early so I watched a little of the convention preparation and I met Mr. Harrison the convention director. He was super cool. I also got to see Juleah who works as Chevrolet scholarship representative for FFA, she had been in Oregon and Wyoming as well. The New York State officers put on a great convention in Greenwich, NY. They filled the campus and auditorium with eager FFA members. I got to eat some wonderful ice cream and had a great time meeting members from rural New York all the way to New York City. My new friend Charles won the talent show with a super piano number, and he is only in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. My workshops were very fun and I had a great time talking to the delegates and watching their state officer election. Mrs. Moore the New York State Advisor was very helpful and I really enjoyed getting to work with her. They had a huge dance at the fairgrounds and chapter competitive games which were so awesome! The state officers were stellar to work with and I commend them on putting together a great state convention. I am so excited to work with the new team during NLCSSO at Camp "O."



The Empire State was very kind to me and I would definitely return any day to eat ice cream and see movies and "all the great things that come from New York!"

After New York I was off to College Station, Texas for NLCSSO dress rehearsal. I arrived in College Station to a small airport and no luggage. I had to wait for my

bags to arrive, but that did not stop me from being excited about being in Aggieland. It was such a great 10 days of growth for our whole team! First we learned all about unpacking NLCSSO out of boxes and had a great time getting acquainted with all of our "cool new stuff!" State officers will love it! Then Mr. Mark Reardon came to help us out with presentation techniques. Brian and I are partners and we learned so much from Mr. Reardon and we grew a lot as partners. Thanks Mr. Reardon for your honesty and willingness to help us succeed. After Mr. Reardon left we got to work with our students. It is a really cool set up. Texas A&M sets up a leadership class and part of it consists of us presenting NLCSSO to their students. Brian and I had an amazing class. They were all just awesome. It was kind of hard at first because the students we were teaching were the same age as us, but they were really cool about it and that made it fun. Our class had four groups: The Untitled, The Maroon 4, The Superstars, and Three Chicks and a Dude. All of the groups were great and Brian and I got to learn from them as much as they learned from us. We had also learned a lot about Aggie traditions like: midnight yells, the 12<sup>th</sup> man, The Core, Muster, and the Aggie ring. It was really cool to learn



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about how a military institution had changed so much to be one of the largest universities in the country. Manda, Nicole, and Dr. Chris were all really cool to us and helped us so much. Our T.A.'s Jenn and Ashley were also great to work with. I loved College Station and will definitely be going back to have another hamburger and Tijuana fries at the Chicken Oil. Yummy! Gig 'Em Ags!

After NLCSO Dress Rehearsal I went home to Laramie for one of my best friends weddings. It was hot outside, but very fun. I have a sunburn to prove it. It was nice to see friends from school, FFA camp, and some of my state officer team. It was a special day. Congratulations Brenda and Dan! Next week I will be in New Jersey for their state convention.

### **February 21, 2005**

Greetings from Our Nations Capitol! Happy FFA Week! What a wonderful week Jackie and I had celebrating. It all started in Nashville for an RFD-TV special and a trip to Washington, D.C. to talk about Perkins funding with our congressional leaders. We didn't see many FFA members, but we had a good time working for FFA and eating a lot of pizza in our room at night! Mr. Jay Jackman from NAAE the agriculture teachers association hosted us along with Dr. Case and Mr. Harris. We had a great week! It was very cool to tell people on "the hill" in Washington what great FFA members were doing across the country.

After FFA week our whole team headed to Cassopolis, Michigan for a week of work, growth, and fun. We worked on our convention keynotes, workshops, and learned all about the new NLCSO curriculum. We stayed at the Edward Lowe foundation. Edward Lowe invented kitty litter! We lived in boxcars that had been turned into rooms and we played in the snow. We also rode in a hummer and got to see all the work that the Lowe Foundation is doing with natural resources. It was definitely impressive. The week was long for all of us, but we definitely grew as a team and as people. We were all so excited for state conventions so working on our keynotes with Dr. Rick Rigsby from Texas A& M University was a highlight for me. After leaving Michigan we drove back to Indiana and Justine and I went with J.R. Peterson from the foundation on our second Business and Industry tour. I couldn't stay all week, but I got to be in on all of the Louisville visits and that was great! Justine and I got to have the Kentucky State President, Charlee Doom with us, which was very cool! We went to Fastline Publications and visited with Mr. Bill Howard and rode in a Corvette! It was brand new and so COOL!! We also visited UPS, Paradise Tomato, the Mayor of Louisville, Fifth Third Bank, and the Louisville visitors and Convention Bureau who have helped so much with all the conventions we had in Louisville. Those two days were very fun for Justine and me because it was the first time we had been back to Louisville since we were elected. Louisville is definitely very special to us. After our time in Louisville I had to fly home to attend a funeral so I was home with friends for about 4 days. Then I headed to the farm so we could work cows and I could get ready to head to the great Beaver State of Oregon for their state convention!

On the 17th of March I headed to Central Point Oregon for their state convention. It was my first convention as a National Officer. All I can say is WOW! I had a wonderful time, those Oregonians are fun and little crazy; their convention is so high energy it's amazing. The six state officers: Wade, Cole, Brittany, Lindsay, Jared, and Braden all did an amazing job! At one of the evening sessions they had state officers from fifty years



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earlier do the opening ceremonies because they had been the first state officer team to host a convention at Crater High School (where the convention was held). It was stellar! The backstage crew was also very nice to me and my hat goes off to the "Green Man Club" at Oregon State University. Go Beavers! (I have a lot of pictures, but my camera is being silly so I will try to get them off and put them online as soon as I can). I participated in a log sawing contest and Ruth from Central and I came in second place, it was very cool. I also went to dinner with the Days Creek FFA chapter. They were very fun! We had a great meal. Thanks so much! I got to work with the new state officers a little and I am so stoked for when I get to work with them in the future they are great. Kara, Chelsea, Katie, Tyson, Sadie, and Jeff have a great year! I am excited for all of you. Thanks Ms. Holveck Oregon Executive Secretary and Trina Lee State DECA Advisor for hauling me around and for all your help. I can't wait to go back to the Beaver state! You all rock!

After Oregon, I headed back to the Cowboy State of Wyoming for Easter weekend and I went to visit my good friend Tyler and his family in Colorado. It was very fun and his mom Deb is a great cook. After Easter it was back to Indianapolis for the photo shoot! All six of us got together to try and be models for the FFA Blue Catalog. It was a couple of long days, but it was very fun and I got to wear camouflage! We took lots of pictures, so look for the Blue Catalog when it comes out in August. After our photo debut I went back to Wyoming to brand calves and visit for a couple days and then it was right back to Indy for NLC SO (National Leadership Conference for State Officers) test pilot. We all worked very hard at making NLC SO as good as possible for state officers. The new curriculum is so cool and Brian and I are very excited to present it together. We will be going to Wyoming, New York, and Illinois for our conferences. After a fun filled week of NLC SO, Jackie and I spent spring break with our families at our Holiday Inn and water park. Jackie and I then headed off to Raleigh, North Carolina with Mrs. Ferris from the Foundation to visit Bayer, one of our sponsors. We had a great day visiting Bayer and I learned a lot about the corporate side of the chemical market. Usually I am just on the purchasing end. It was very neat to meet all of the people at Bayer and they were very kind to us. I was very impressed with how green North Carolina is it's nothing like the sagebrush and wide open space of Wyoming! Then it was back to Wyoming for me to see the cows, farm, Mom, Dad, Nikki, Grandma and all of the sagebrush that I had missed while in North Carolina.

Thought to Remember: To lead others give them your **BEST** Believe in Them... Encourage Them... Share with Them... Trust Them

**February 18, 2005**

**Where I will be this week: Washington D.C. for National FFA Week**

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The Presidential Inauguration was so amazing! During the board of directors meeting my teammates and I received the amazing opportunity to attend the inauguration. It was so neat to watch history in action. We saw both President George W. Bush, and Vice President Cheney be sworn into office. I couldn't believe that we actually witnessed the



leaders of our country be sworn in. It was super cool! It was kind cold, but cool still.

After the inauguration we went to the Cattlemen's for a get together and to watch the parade. We also attended the Wyoming State Society Party, which had a very special place in my heart because Vice President Cheney is a Wyomingite! In addition to all of that we went to the Texas Wyoming Ball where both the President Bush and Vice President Cheney spoke, and we also so Fred McClure a past national officer from Texas!

We then attended the Ag Ball Twilight on the Prairie. It was so cool because we met several agricultural leaders including the newly appointed and past Secretary of Agriculture. I think that would be such a cool job to have someday! We also met most of members of the House and Senate agriculture committees. It rocked. We also met two FFA members from Georgia and it was truly awesome to see someone we represent. Even though the inauguration was filled with long days it was so cool to see history in

action.

The board meeting was also very fun and tied the concept of service through the federal government and the National FFA Organization together. It was a great way to for our team to tie the two together. Many of my teammates and I have political aspirations and it was great to see how those can come to life. I was blown away by the number of FFA members who live and work on Capitol Hill. It is crazy! Everywhere we went while we were in D.C. we saw people affiliated in some way with FFA, and that was no exception when we saw past national officers Amy and Casey from last years team, and Amber Haugland from the 2001-2002 national officer team. We live in a small world.



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After the board meeting and inauguration we headed to Japan. You can read about all of our travels if you click on the Japan link in my journal. To sum up Japan I can say this. It was truly amazing! I loved seeing a new culture and type of people and society. Japan taught me not only about a different country it also taught me a lot about the United States and about myself. I realized that we are not all alone in this world. I didn't realize

the magnitude that global players effect us as Americans until we were in Japan. I didn't realize the true horror of war until we visited Hiroshima. It was so humbling to see what complete devastation can do to a culture. It also made me evaluate the history of WWII and why we had to make the decisions we made and why the Japanese did as well. One really neat thing was the peace memorial that someone made in honor of a young girl who died from Leukemia. There were thousands of paper cranes to symbolize the importance of peace. I was truly impressed by that.



After we returned from Japan, we headed home to spend a couple days to spend with our family and friends before we headed back to Indianapolis for Business and Industry training and then our first week of Business and Industry visits. When I went home it we had started calving so I helped with calving and spent time with Mom, Dad, Grandma, and my little sister Nikki. After a couple days filled with repacking and laundry we headed back to Indianapolis. When we arrived in Indy we went to ELANCO Animal Health which is an affiliate of the Eli Lilly Company. The people at ELANCO were very kind to us and helped us to prepare for any situation that we may encounter why we're on Business and Industry (B&I) tours. Justine and I worked together because we were Business and Industry visit partners for our first week of visits. The practice helped us and it was fun to talk to industry professionals. After our training we talked a lot about Perkins funding in several meetings at the FFA center, because during B&I we would have talk about the U.S. Senate reauthorizing Perkins legislation.

We then headed to Dayton, Ohio at the end of the week for our B&I kickoff with Dr. Dwight Armstrong the chairman of the National FFA Sponsors Board. On our way we stopped at the annual Purdue Agriculture College Fish Fry. We had pork, but it was fun to go and see the Indiana State and some District Officers, and we heard Tim Russert from NBC's Meet the Press speak. It was very fun and interesting. Later that evening we arrived in Dayton. We had dinner with Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong, and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Poeschl and their son. These two men are President and CEO of North American Nutrition Companies the company who hosted us for B&I kickoff. That evening we headed off to a Dayton Bombers hockey game. It was very fun and really it ended up being like a fight where a hockey game broke out. At the end of the game everyone on each team were fighting even the goalies! It was very fun and something that I had never experienced. The next day we went to church with Dr. Armstrong and it was really cool. Then we headed to the National Air Force Museum. It was really cool to see the history



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of flight and how it ties to the United States military. We also saw a really cool fighter pilot IMAX film. It was neat for us because it fit into our NLC SO theme really well. That

evening North American Nutrition Companies had a nice dinner for us in a Packard museum in Dayton. We talked about FFA and we got to meet the employees and find out all about their company and all of their affiliates. It was really neat because Mr.



Shininger from AKEY one of the affiliates told us that all of the kids in his family (I think their were 4 or 5) had received their American FFA Degrees. It was so cool! The next day we headed back to Indianapolis so we could leave for a week of B & I in Texas.

Justine and I set out for a fun week in the great Lone Star State. Jana Kennelly from the foundation was our fearless leader for the week. We visited all over Texas and we were lucky enough to take Brandi the Texas state president with us. We

visited several companies and made great relationships. Mr. Jim Prewitt and Mr. Marcus Hill were instrumental in making our visits in Dallas and Ft. Worth successful. Stacy and Wesley who worked with them helped as well. We went all over from dinners with former Dallas Cowboy Chad Hennings, and past national officers to Justin boots. We also went to CiCi's Pizza, the State Fair of Texas, and had lunch with several business leaders. We had a wonderful time and learned so much about the state of Texas. We went to the Texas state capital, and visited the Texas FFA State Office. It was great to meet their great state staff and I can't wait to go back for their convention in July! At the end of our trip we stayed the night in San Antonio and we got to go to the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. We got great seats thanks to Stacy, and we also got to see Clay Walker in concert!

It was a truly amazing week and I look forward to when I return to Texas in July!

*Thought to Remember: Your spark can become a flame and change everything.*

### January 25, 2005

Read all about our trip to Japan! [http://www.ffa.org/students/documents/no\\_japan.pdf](http://www.ffa.org/students/documents/no_japan.pdf)

### January 12, 2005

#### Where I will be this week: Indianapolis

Greetings from the Hoosier state of Indiana!

I am so excited to be writing to all of you. So far, this year has been a whirlwind of events, starting when my teammates and I were elected in October.

*Emily Horton is the secretary for the 2*





## Emily Horton National Officer Journal

This has been the greatest experience. Our year of service began with three days of training in Louisville, Ky., and in Indiana right after convention. We then left Indianapolis and I headed back to Wyoming and wrapped up classes at the University of Wyoming. I spent Thanksgiving at home near Shoshoni, Wyoming, and said goodbye to my family and friends.

December brought me back to Indianapolis where my teammates and I had lots of training. One of the weeks during December we went to California for an agriculture tour of the golden state. We spent a week traveling the state and seeing all types of agriculture...everything from cattle to artichokes to lettuce to orange processing. We also visited two chapters, Tulare FFA and East Clovis FFA. Both had great agriculture setups at their schools and great FFA members who were very knowledgeable.



As a true farm girl, I loved the tour. It was a great opportunity for my teammates and I to see different types of agriculture that we don't find in our states. We also were able to spend time with the California state officer team. Grace, Marcus, Colleen, Katie, Carey and Jesse are doing a great job in their state and I wish them all the best in the rest of their year! The rest of December was filled with more training in Indianapolis. The 22 we headed home to spend the holidays with our families. It was great to spend

time with my parents Dennis and Connie, my Grandma Horton, my sister Nikki, and friends Tyler, Justin, Hazel, Brenda, and of course my beloved cows.

On the 29th we headed back to Indianapolis for a couple days of training, and then it was off to Georgia for experience state. Our seven days in Georgia were such an amazing growth experience. The week began with a flight into Atlanta, which was followed by a night spent at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA Camp. On our first day in Georgia, we visited Governor Sonny Perdue's mansion where we presented him his Honorary American Degree. That evening we went to Plains, Georgia, where former President Jimmy Carter grew up. We saw his boyhood farm and the train depot where he headquartered his presidential campaign. I presented a workshop and Brian presented his keynote that night at the school that President Carter attended growing up. It was so cool. There were several chapters who attended. We stayed that night at the historic Plains Inn that only has six to rooms. Each room is dedicated to a different decade. Justine and I stayed in 1930. It was a very neat room.





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The next day we headed to Rachael's home high school Wilcox County. There we got to watch her give her keynote and it was so cool to see where she grew up. We saw her house and farm as well. Their chapter officer team did a stellar job with the program and the community was great to us. We then left Wilcox for Wheeler County High School. At Wheeler we had two great classes. Jackie presented to upper classmen and Justine to eighth graders. They have the coolest John Deere shirts. My favorite! We then went to Lyons, Georgia, and had a multi-chapter



event with Toombs County FFA. All six of us presented a workshop and I really appreciated the help of Robert in preparing for my workshop. Thanks Bob!

The next day we went to Effingham County and South Effingham County, it was my birthday and it was great to celebrate with some awesome FFA members. Justine, Jackie, Brian and I all presented during the day. We also had an awesome breakfast with Effingham County, and low country boil with South Effingham County. It was delicious! I decided that I want to go on a shrimp boat and Mr. Mock tried to convert me to Red Angus cattle. I will always be a Black Angus girl! That evening we went to Savannah, Georgia, what a beautiful place. We had a nice dinner and we walked on the riverfront. We also ran in the Atlantic Ocean. The next day we went to Macon, Georgia, where we met with Georgia agricultural leaders. The next day we went to Luella High School and Rachael presented her workshop. We spent the afternoon in Atlanta with more agricultural leaders. Georgia has great leadership. I saw my first ever agriculture education teacher hall of fame ceremony. It was so impressive. Congratulations to all the Georgia advisors who were recognized. We met the Jackson County FFA and most of the Georgia State Officers. They are a great bunch; Rand, Alex, Davis, Gretchen, Paula, Renee, Amanda and Ashley are doing a super job for the Georgia FFA Association. The next morning we met the Georgia advisors and did a team obstacle activity. The last day in Georgia we visited Athens. I enjoyed Athens; it was neat to see the school that Rachael loves so much. GO DAWGS! The campus was very nice, we had a nice dinner and we had dessert at the VARSITY. If you ever go to Athens or Atlanta, Georgia, go to the Varsity. It is a wonderful fast food restaurant where you will find nowhere else. Mr. John Wilkinson and Mr. Ben Lastly from the Georgia FFA Association were the two people instrumental in preparing our experience. Thank you Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Lastly for providing us with a great opportunity to grow!

After a great week in Georgia, we are back in Indianapolis now preparing for the board meeting next week in Washington, D.C., and then our trip to Japan. Yesterday we toured where the national FFA convention will be when it moves to Indy. As FFA members you will love this wonderful city. We went to several hotels, ran on the field of the RCA Dome where the Colts play and walked on the floor of Conseco Fieldhouse where the Pacers play. Convention in 2006 will be held in all of these places. Mark your calendars.





## **Emily Horton** **National Officer Journal**

I will write more after the Board of Directors meeting and our trip to Japan. Until then happy trails!

*Thought to consider: The more faith you have; the more you believe; the more goals you set; the more you'll achieve.*