

EDUCATION



Sentinel Photo/DAVID BELCHER

HONORARY FFA MEMBERS — Presented with Honorary Chapter FFA Degrees at the Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet include, FROM LEFT, Rhonda McLearn, Kevin Lamczyk and JoLynn Lamczyk. Posing with the trio is Mt. Vernon FFA President David Clifton, FAR RIGHT.



Sentinel Photo/DAVID BELCHER

AWARD WINNERS — Among the top award winners at the 78th Annual Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building at Veterans Park include, FROM LEFT, John Kabat, Mt. Vernon FFA advisor; Stephen Chambliss, WMIX Outstanding Senior Award; Lacy Jo Pranga, Monsanto/DeKalb Outstanding Senior Award and Farm Credit Services "Good Ole Boy" Award; and Jason Hall, Mt. Vernon FFA advisor. Chambliss and Pranga, both Mt. Vernon Township High School seniors, plan to study agriculture next year at Rend Lake College.

MVTTHS holds 78th Annual FFA Banquet

BY DAVID BELCHER

MT. VERNON LIFESTYLES EDITOR
MT. VERNON — "Awesome" is how Mt. Vernon Township High School FFA Adviser John Kabat described the group's accomplishments during the 2007-08 school year.

Chapter members were saluted for their achievements during the recent 78th Annual Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building at Veterans Park.

A slide show featuring pictures of some of their achievements were played throughout the evening.

The chapter's accomplishments in the past year include:

- Triple Gold FFA Chapter Award/11th in Illinois;
- Four students won Section Proficiency Awards;
- Superior Chapter in Illinois;

- Gold and Second in Illinois for Heritage Program;
- Gold and Seventh in Illinois for Cooperative Program;
- Third in State in State Ag Issues;

- Century Award;
- Gold in Illinois in Student Development;

- Gold in Illinois in Chapter Development;
- Gold in Illinois in Community Development;

- One first-place state winner in Proficiency;
- Three Star Gold Chapter at State Convention.

2007-08 MVTTHS FFA membership list includes:

- **Freshmen** — Jackson Adams, Trevore Akins, Kelsey Allen, Daniel Arcuri, Jake Arnett, Jacob Beal, Jordan Bodine, Pierce Borah, Josh Bravard, David Brazell, Dylan Brown, Samuel Browning, Kole Brumley, Samuel Euffington, Kile Bullington, Guy Burton, Josh Callahan, James Clark, Clayton Conley, Seth Cox, Holden Delaney, Sean Delatorre, Jacob Dismang, Josh Donoho, Remington Ducean, Brandon Dye, Tyler Emery, Cody Ferland, Dominick Finney, Kegan Fulkerson, Cody Goza, Cameron Grimes, Mallique Hale, Patrick Hall, Jonathan Hawkins, Denzel Haynes, Matt Hays, Ryan Higginson, Corey House, Adam Hurst, Calvin

- **Juniors** — Brittany Bechtel, Perry Borah, David Clifton, Michael Cooper, Brent Daniels, Levi England, Raina Jones, Shane Kash, Dustin Keltton, Breanna Mayberry, Kenzi Mayberry, Adrien Modglin, Bryson Owens, Caitlin Owens, Dustin Pinner, Paige Pipher, Chyenne Ray, Shane Thomas, Kayla Verheyen, Ryan Wellmaker, Andrew Wheeler, Daniel Williams and Brian Workman.

- **Seniors** — Mica Bernard, Tabatha Bernard, Travis Bond, Nick Catron, Stephen Chambliss, Huston Fowler, Tim Hartung, Adam Hawkins, Rebecca Hiatt, Skyler Koch, Jed Loman, Bradley Maguin, Daniel Montgomery, Jarod Payne, Lacy Jo Pranga, Bridget Ray, Paul Robinson, Aaron Sechrest, Matthew Simmons,

- **Sophomores** — Braden Bair, Lamanda Bean, Zachery Blacklock, Shauna Brandt, Abby Bravard, Brittany Brown, Taylor Browning, Cory Coppel, Kayla Ellis, Justin Hatton, Scott Hefner, Victoria Henry, Nate Hill, Lucas Hurst, Johnathyn Ilbery, Laura Ince, Kevin Johnson, James Kramer, Shane Lowe, Felicia Marlowe, Denton McCormick, Kaitlyn McLearn, Curtis Messmore, Josh Moyer, Samuel Olinger, Cody Owens, Bethany Payne, Brandon Rathe, Drew Rawls, Lexi Scrivener, Levi Shaw, Zac Smith, Simon Taylor, Austyn Taylor, Tyler Toney, Cody Trotter, Chad Wilson, Jerome Wright and Phillip Murphy.

- **Reporters** — Jones;
- **Secretary** — England;
- **Treasurer** — Nick Catron;
- **Sentinel** — Bryson Owens;
- **Advisers** — Kabat and Jason E. Hall.

Proficiency Award winners include:

- **Ag Education** — Marlow;
- **Ag Mechanics** — Repair and Maintenance, Clifton;
- **Ag Sales** — Jones;
- **Beef Production (Entrepreneur)** — Olinger;
- **Diversified Ag Production** — Pranga;
- **Diversified Crop Production (Entrepreneur)** — Fowler;
- **Diversified Horticulture** — Pranga;
- **Diversified Livestock Production (Entrepreneur)** — Austyn Taylor;
- **Equine Science (Entrepreneur)** — Mallory Adams;
- **Food Service** — Verheyen;
- **Forest Management and Products** — Olinger;
- **Grain Production (Placement)** — Fowler;

- **Home and/or Community Development** — Mallory Adams;
- **Landscape Management** — Pranga;
- **Outdoor Recreation** — Loman;
- **Safety** — Ned Catron;
- **Sheep Production** — Austyn Taylor;
- **Small Animal Production and Care** — Jones;
- **Turf Grass Management** — Pranga;
- **Wildlife Production and Management (Entrepreneur)** — Lucas Hurst.

Section Proficiency Award winners are:

- **Electrical Technology** — Simmons;
- **Specialty Animal Production** — Austyn Taylor;
- **Swine Production (Entrepreneur)** — Kaitlyn McLearn.

State Proficiency Award winner is:

- **Aquaculture** — Pranga.
- **Monsanto/DeKalb Outstanding Senior Award** winner is: Pranga.

WMIX Outstanding Senior Award winner is:

- Chambliss.
- **Farm Credit Services "Good Ole Boy" Award** winner is: Pranga.

Mt. Vernon FFA Alumni \$400 Scholarship winners are:

- Chambliss, Pranga and



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PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME — David Clifton, Mt. Vernon FFA president, welcomes those at the recent 78th Annual Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building at Veterans Park.

Tiah Smith, Tiffany Troxel, Tomas Vasquez, Cody Wiggins, Kayla Wilson, Kaitie Wilson, Cameron Young and Nick Youngs.

2007-08 MVTTHS FFA Chapter Officers include:

- **President** — Clifton;
- **Vice President** — Chambliss;

- **Reporter** — Jones;
- **Secretary** — England;
- **Treasurer** — Nick Catron;
- **Sentinel** — Bryson Owens;
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FEATURED SPEAKER — Kaitlin Weitekamp, Illinois State FFA president, speaks at the recent 78th Annual Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building at Veterans Park.

Bridget Ray.

Rend Lake College's agriculture and mechanics program \$7,500 two-year scholarships are:

- Chambliss, Fowler and Pranga.

The evening's guest speaker, State FFA President Kaitlin Weitekamp of Raymond, recalled her family had monopoly tournaments during Christmas vacation when she was a child. Two lifelong lessons she said she learned from those games are responsibility and honesty.

She also encouraged her audience to always do their best and never give up.

Weitekamp said Albert Einstein could not talk until he was 4. He failed entrance exams to college and he was

fired from jobs. However, she said, he believed in himself and he believed in his dreams and he kept working and eventually won the Nobel Prize in physics.

"The agriculture industry is the largest industry in Illinois, America and the world," according to a Mt. Vernon FFA statement. "The agriculture industry includes over 300 careers. A recent study from Springfield, Ill., shows that 68 percent of the new jobs in Illinois will be in the agriculture industry."

"Our students at Mt. Vernon High School have an opportunity to be active in a PFA chapter and agriculture program that is in the top 10 in Illinois and in the top 150 programs in the United States."

