

AGRIZETTE

NORFOLK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

FALL/WINTER 2007



ISSUE 61

NORFOLK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL NAMED PACESETTER SCHOOL

The Southern Regional Education Board announced that Norfolk County Agricultural High School has been designated a Pacesetter School, one of only three in the Commonwealth and twenty across the country. This latest award is presented to schools who meet the following criteria: 85% or more of the students meet certain High Schools That Work (HSTW) goals, 85% have taken a rigorous academic and technical curricula, and meet State standards for graduation and Adequate Yearly Progress. Pacesetter schools serve as models to other schools in the network.

High Schools That Work is “an effort-based school improvement initiative founded on the conviction that most students can master rigorous academic and career/technical studies if school leaders and teachers create an environment that motivates students to make the effort to succeed” (SREB philosophy). More than 1,000 high schools across the nation participate in the program. NCAHS has been involved since 1998. As a result of our participation, teachers and administrators have focused on improvements in curriculum design and professional development. By creating

a rigorous academic and agricultural core curriculum, students have been challenged to prepare for post secondary study and employment.

In recent years, Norfolk Aggie has been recognized as an exemplary school: Compass School (2007), Gold Award (2006), and Vanguard School (2005). Congratulations to students, parents, teachers and administrators for continuing to raise the achievement level of our graduates!



OPEN HOUSE 2007

The Norfolk County Agricultural High School's annual Open House was held on Sunday, October 14, 2007 and once again, the weather was perfect! The crowds were amazing! Thousands of people came to see the wonderful programs Norfolk Aggie offers.

Teachers, staff and students were available to answer questions being asked by prospective students, parents, alumni and many, many visitors. Teachers and students organized displays and provided demonstrations including: computer assisted drafting and landscaping, dog obedience, floral design, plant propagation and simulated tree climbing techniques. Aggie students offered information about the school while they showed off their vet tech skills.

It was a wonderful day and it is clear that alumni and parents are spreading the word about the unique opportunities available to students who attend our school.

Open House begins the application process for new students. Students who are in the eighth grade complete applications and then are invited with their parents/guardians to attend an Admissions Program at the school. Please let your friends and relatives know that it is time for students to apply for admission in September, 2008!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society is an organization whose members dedicate themselves not only to their schoolwork, but to the community as well. Since the start of the school year, the National Honor Society has already undertaken many projects. This year's members include Katie Simmons, Kristyn McCarthy, Kim Coffey, Melanie Loughlin, Nicole Stalley, Michael Sutter, Antoinette Cogliano, Laura Mahoney, Liz Messier, Chris Kunz, Alex Merriam and James Connors.

At the beginning of the school year, new officers were elected to head the Aggie's chapter of the National Honor Society. Katie Simmons was elected President, Kristyn McCarthy was elected Vice President, Alex Merriam was elected Treasurer and Melanie Loughlin was elected Secretary.

The first community service project that the NHS chose to undertake this year was the Stepping Up Walk-a-Thon sponsored by the Sinai Hospital's Adult Health Care Program, which benefited those people who are not eligible for insurance coverage. After raising money, they walked a 5K walk as a group. Another community service project is the food drive, which benefits the Walpole Food Pantry. This began November 2, 2007. This year's holiday event is Holiday Greetings which is the fundraiser for National Honor Society. Candy Canes can be bought during the holiday season, and personalized with a special message from one person to another.

The National Honor Society recently attended a conference at Holy Cross dedicated to students in the National



Honor Society all around the state. The students attended three different workshops throughout the day. They had a few different workshops from which they could choose, including Surviving Your Freshman Year of College, Financial Aid, Cradle to Crayons and Managing Credit. This gave the students a chance to meet and interact with other students from various chapters of the National Honor Society.

The students of the National Honor Society are those who commit themselves to their school work as well as to those around them. Along with keeping up the grade point average required, these students are active members of their communities, participating in various community service projects and handling various fundraisers.

ALUMNI NEWS

For the past dozen years, the entire sophomore veterinary class from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University visits Norfolk Aggie for a class in their clinics skills. This year, October 4th, they brought a surprise visitor as NCAHS graduate Julie Wilkinson participated in the course with her classmates from Tufts.



Julie graduated in 2002 as an Equine Major. Due to being very motivated in her COOP job, she made a late decision to attend college. She was top in her class at Framingham State and is our first Aggie student to attend Tufts' Veterinary School. She is very happy in her career choice and is looking forward to entering private practice.

Julie stayed to be a guest lecturer in the Veterinary Science senior class and was a very motivating speaker aiding students making career choices and applying to college.



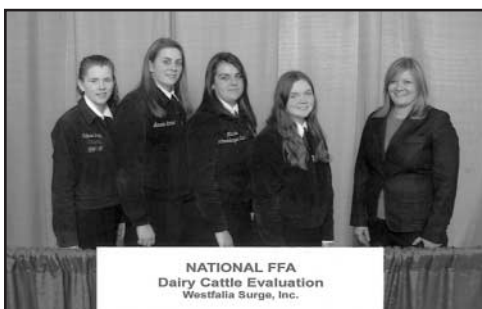
The following is a fax sent to Donald Cooper, Vice Principal from the parents of Meghan Bradley, Class of 2009:

"We are pleased to announce that Meghan Bradley did very well at the Morgan Horse Grand National Championship in her age group for Classic Saddleseat Equitation and received third place in the World Championship for Classic Saddleseat Equitation. We are very proud of Meghan, as she is very dedicated to her horses and her riding."

Congratulations Meghan!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 89

Boy Scout Troop 89 of Medfield, with Troop Leader Richard Sauro, worked on their gardening merit badge with the assistance of Plant, Environmental and Mechanical Technology Instructor Kathleen Watson, who volunteered her time to provide planting information. Here you will see the members of the troop with their projects.



2007 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Kim LaFleur, Massachusetts FFA Director, has provided the following information about the 2007 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis:

- 93 students and teachers represented 5 Chapters from across the State and the State Association
 - Bristol County Agricultural High School
 - Norfolk County Agricultural High School
 - Smith Agricultural High School
 - Essex Agricultural and Technical High School
 - Cape Cod Regional Technical High School
 - State FFA

The results by school:

Bristol Aggie	- Environmental/Natural Resources	- Bronze
	- Nursery and Landscape	- Bronze
	- Prepared Public Speaking	- Bronze
Essex Aggie	- Horse Evaluation	- Bronze
Norfolk Aggie	- Agricultural Mechanics	- Bronze
	- Agricultural Sales	- Bronze
	- Creed Speaking	- Bronze
	- Dairy Cattle Evaluations	- Bronze
	- Livestock Evaluation	- Bronze
Smith	- Forestry	- Bronze
Cape Cod	- Floriculture	- Silver

The following is an email sent to Animal Science Department Head, Dr. Albert Andersen, from Alexander Munroe, Class of 1997:

Dr. Andersen:

I ended up on the Aggie website today and saw that you had a link. I figured that sending a quick update to you would filter down to the remaining faculty that are still there since my graduation back in 1997. I am emailing you from the University of Prince Edward Island, Atlantic Veterinary College, where I'm currently in the second semester of my third year. After graduating from the Aggie, I ended up at Franklin Pierce College where I got a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a fine arts Minor. Thanks in good part to all of the hands on experience that I had while at the Aggie, I got a job as a Critical Care Tech at the Animal Emergency Clinic of Mid-Maine despite not being licensed. I left there to start vet school three years later as one of their "senior" techs with a whole lot more hands on in small animals (also with wife in tow). I've mixed that experience up with specialty work and regular day practice, because of that, I plan on heading into Critical Care and Exotics once I'm out into the world in May of 2008. Sorry to disappoint and say that I'm not going into Equine (after all, it was at the equine barn that I found out that I was allergic to horses while grooming Prince, ask Ms. McKenna), but I have since watched MANY more videos of horses running around in circles. A lot of where I am and how I got there is due to the lessons that everyone there taught me what seems like such a long time ago. We even put the lessons in Marine Science to good use in the Aquaculture and Fish Medicine (including fish surgery) courses that they put on here at the AVC (if you still hear from Ms. Hahn, tell her I said thanks as well), and thanks to the aviculture class, I'm probably one of the only students here that actually knows how to restrain a flapping, biting Macaw. Please pass on my sincerest gratitude and greetings to any of the teachers that I learned from which are still there, and if she's still around, scratch Blaze behind the ear for me. Just to watch her roll her eyes, you can also inform Ms. Pelletier that my old dog Flash is still around and much too lazy to be a grump anymore, but still remembers much of the tricks that he learned in Canine Breeds and Handling.

*Thanks and Regards,
Alex Munroe, Class of 1997 and soon to be DVM in 2008
New Dominion-Cornwall, Prince Edward Island, Canada*

ALUMNI DIRECTORY

We are pleased to unveil an Alumni Directory which is being funded by the Alumni Association and managed by school staff.

The Directory will allow graduates to register and keep track of alumni and reunion events. Alumni may also post employment opportunities, search for friends and leave messages.

This is a simple and convenient way to stay in touch with classmates and the school. Using Smart ALUMNI software, we can collect information and ensure that we have current mailing addresses.

Registering is very simple. On your computer, go to www.norfolkaggie.org. You will see a link "Norfolk Aggie Alumni – Click here to register", or to go directly to the site, <http://cfweb.smartedu.net/norfolkaggie/Alumni/>.

We believe that this generous donation by the Alumni Association will allow alumni to continue to share in the activities of Norfolk Aggie.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EMAIL

You may also contact the Alumni Association by email at: alumni@norfolkaggie.org. Steve Messinger, class of 1981, is the contact person for this mailbox.

CLASS OF 1994 REUNION INFORMATION

Amy Gardner (Boyce), Class of 1994 Reunion Committee, wrote to Superintendent-Director Angela Avery with information she wanted passed along to the Class of 1994. The Class of '94 Reunion Committee has moved from Classmates.com to Myspace.com. Myspace is a free site and you can view reunion pictures and bulletins by going to <http://groups.myspace.com/norfolkaggieclassof1994>. Any members of the Class of '94 are asked to become members of the site so the committee can reach you with reunion updates. The next Class of '94 reunion will be held at the VFW in Norwood in November, 2009. Amy's contact information is www.myspace.com/amylegacy, or by mail at 36 Hickeyhollow Lane, Whitman, MA 02382.

HELPING HANDS

As we approach the holiday season, you may want to include the Helping Hands account in your donations. Helping Hands was started by former Director Richard C. Morse, Class of 1958, as a way to help students and families who are experiencing sudden financial issues. As a result, we have purchased eye glasses, provided holiday gifts for students in need and contributed to families who have lost their homes due to fire or some other catastrophe.

If you would like to help us continue this special program, you can send your donation in care of the Helping Hands Account, NCAHS, 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA 02081.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF AGGIE ALUMNI

Norman F. Lawton, Class of 1937, died on August 18, 2007. He was born in New Bedford MA and was a life long resident of Foxboro. He was a graduate of NCAHS and Stockbridge School of Agriculture, UMass Amherst in 1939 with a degree in poultry husbandry. He raised poultry at the family farm in Foxboro from the 1920's through the 1970's shipping chicks all over the world.

Norman had been a 4-H volunteer for 66 years and was a leader, manager and judge for local fairs. The Lawton Pavilion was constructed on the grounds of 4-H's Camp Farley in honor of his and his late wife Lillie's service to thousands of young people. In 2002 he was one of the first people to be inducted into the newly formed prestigious National 4-H Hall of Fame.

Norman served for many years on the State Records of Production Committee and represented Massachusetts at the National ROP conventions. He was the State delegate to the American Poultry and Hatchery Federation and served on the Board of Trustees for the Eastern States Exposition.

Three of Norman's sons attended NCAHS; Edward and the late Russell and Steven; also his late brother Roger. He is survived by his daughter Norma Faris, his sister Phyllis Webber, seven grand children and four great grand children.

Robert "Bobby" Santos, Class of 1955. The following is from a write up in the January 4, 2007 edition of the Hometown Weekly publication:

Robert J. "Bobby" Santos, 69, of Millis where he was a life long resident, died after a courageous battle with cancer, on December 21, 2006 at his home. He was educated in the Millis public schools and Norfolk County Agricultural High School with the Class of 1955. Owner of Farm Street Auto Sales for over 50 years, Bobby Santos, also known as "Frito-Bandito" began racing in 1952, driving a '47 Plymouth at the Norwood Arena. The venture was short lived and Bobby quit racing for several years. One night, however, Don MacTavish asked Bobby if he would take his wrecked car home and repair it. He did, with the help of friends George Colwell and Ira Tucker. Santos took that car to Norwood and won 3 Sportsman races and 23 Hobby Division races between 1961 and 1967. He mounted dirt tires and drove the same car at Stafford, taking down 3 championships there. In 1968, Bobby was so dominant in the Norwood Hobby Division that he was "invited" to leave. He, Colwell and Tucker returned to Norwood, however, after building themselves a modified, which he quickly managed to park in victory lane. Over the next several years, Bobby drove for Ray Spognardi, Ray Stonkis, Bill Simon and Joe Brady, competing at Westborough, Thompson and Seekonk. He then went to work for Art Barry, driving the Preston, CT based #09 and then the #21. Santos and Barry competed at Stafford, Thompson, Claremont and Monadnock. "Bobby was the "King" up in New Hampshire, remembers Barry. There was one year nobody could touch him up there. He won 7 consecutive races up there once." Bobby took the

Barry cars outside New England and was a threat to win every time out at Trenton, Poncono, Lancaster, Malta and Utica Rome. "Win, lose or draw," states Barry, "Bobby was a ton of fun. We won a lot of races. The thing about Bobby was that he drove his heart out, from the first lap to the last. He drove for me for 7 or 8 years, and we won a LOT of races." Santos retired from racing in 1973 after he broke his neck in a wreck at Thompson. NASCAR needed his doctor's permission for him to return, and his doctor refused permission. After this set-back, he took up golfing as his passion. He leaves his wife of 33 years, JoAnn (Powell) Santos and a very large extended family. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 28, 2006 at St. Thomas of the Apostle Church in Millis. Burial followed at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Millis.



J. Avery photo

Francis "Bill" Green, Class of 1942 passed away this year. Mr. Green graduated in 1942 as president of his class. He joined the Army Air Force in 1943 and later worked for Garelick Farms. Bill was a talented dancer who owned his own dance studio. He was an entrepreneur who became involved in many ventures.

George Picard, Class of 1956 passed away October 15, 2007. Mr. Picard was a deliveryman for Hopedale Oil Co. before retiring. He previously worked for Tri-County Regional Technical High School and Dean College in Franklin. For many years prior to that, Mr. Picard operated his own poultry farm in Franklin.

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The Norfolk County Agricultural High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or handicap in its education activities or employment practices as required by Title IX of the 1972 Federal Education Amendments, by Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and by Chapter 622 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ACCREDITATION TEAM VISITS NORFOLK AGGIE

Two visiting teams spent some time at Norfolk Aggie reviewing documents, interviewing staff and students and determining compliance with State and Federal regulations.

A three member team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges visited the school in October, 2007. The visit was the five-year follow-up to see how we were addressing recommendations of the Decennial Report of 2002.

Excerpts from the summary of the report follow:

The Norfolk County Agricultural High School continues a proud ninety year old tradition of educational service to the local community.

....Norfolk Aggie's legacy is unique in that it derives from a small, personalized and relevant learning environment where students grow and flourish. The veteran staff has created an atmosphere of camaraderie and spirit which readily translates to the student body. Values of personal integrity, mutual respect and a sincere commitment to high achievement standards are the foundation lessons of lifelong learning...and students at NCAHS have learned them well. Performance on the Massachusetts assessment initiative (MCAS) has been substantially beyond schools in the local area and college placement statistics have never been better.

This transformation took place under insightful leadership which anticipated,

recognized and embraced educational roadmaps to the future which would best serve students. A crackerjack veteran faculty who maintain both a heads and hearts-on approach to daily student interaction inspire their adolescent charges to do great things. Add to the mix a well-oiled finance and organizational structure where routines /transitions appear almost seamless and it is not hard to justify a decennial finding of a healthy school on the verge of excellence.

The team indicates that attention must be paid to gender balance, safety protocols and a plan for facility improvement. Eighty-four percent of the recommendations in the 2002 report have been completed or are in progress.