“A Pig at the Fair”

Friday morning, you’ll enjoy Donya’s humorous, heartfelt message of how her 4-H experiences with a pig have shaped her career!

A northwest Georgia native, Donya was active as a youth in 4-H, focusing on livestock projects and livestock judging competition. She earned her bachelor’s degree in animal science from Georgia and her master’s degree from Virginia Tech in animal breeding and genetics.

She has worked as the director of performance programs for the International Brangus Breeders Association; as the development officer, ag student recruiter, and coordinator of the Ag Alumni Association for the University of Georgia College of Agriculture; and now serves as the executive secretary of the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association. Her duties include coordinating the association’s local alumni chapters and their many activities, including the production of the group's annual Purdue Ag Fish Fry.

Since December, 1995, she has been privileged to see Indiana agriculture "up close and personal" from the perspective of a farm wife. She is married to Daniel Gwin, a Montgomery County grain farmer. They reside on their farm in Linden.

"Leadership Isn't for Cowards"

Tom Turpin, Ph.D., shares a fun look on Friday afternoon at what it takes to be a leader. He’ll discuss attributes of good leaders which just happen to be similar to being a good parent or a good teacher. According to Professor Turpin, it isn’t easy to be good at any of these endeavors. But a sense of humor helps.

A Kansas native, Tom earned his undergraduate biology degree from Washburn University and his Ph.D. in entomology from Iowa State. He has been a Purdue Entomology professor since 1971 and has a partial appointment with Purdue’s Center for Instructional Excellence.

Tom has taught several courses at Purdue, including "Insect Friend and Foe," "Insects in Prose and Poetry," and "The Heritage and Issues of Agriculture." His introductory entomology course is among the most popular courses at Purdue with over 400 students each semester.

Professor Turpin created Purdue’s "Bug Bowl," a celebration of insect science which draws over 25,000 visitors and attracts worldwide media attention. He has been featured in Time and People magazines; has been quoted on major TV and radio programs; and has appeared on the Guinness World Record Show, Good Morning America, Prairie Home Companion, Whad’Ya Know, and Across Indiana.
“An Evening at the Indiana State Fair”

Friday evening, the Forum delegates will travel to the Indiana State Fairgrounds to enjoy a special evening of food, fellowship, and entertainment. Our evening will be held in the beautifully renovated 4-H Education Complex, including the Exhibit Hall and Centennial Hall.

First, you’ll enjoy a “Taste of Indiana” buffet meal. Then you’ll be entertained by Indiana 4-H members and groups and have the opportunity to interact with local artisans who’ll be showing you their crafts and trades. Winners from the Silent Auction will also be announced. The group will travel in shifts by bus from the hotel to the fairgrounds.

Saturday morning’s speaker at the North Central Region Volunteer Forum is Indianapolis native, Kevin Wanzer. Kevin lives a very unique life that may be hard for others to understand. As an adult, he still goes to high school. And middle school. And even elementary schools. As a matter of fact, he visits about 300 schools a year, sharing his assembly that has been noted as one of the most effective programs for young people today.

Since 1983, Kevin has been noted as being able to “reach the unreachable” with a style unlike most audiences have ever dreamt possible. Superintendents and principals, teachers and counselors, parents and adult leaders, and most importantly, young people, are living examples that Kevin’s program delivers in a way that is hard to believe. His “Got A.L.O.HA?” message has moved, touched, and inspired hundreds of conferences, thousands of schools, and millions of young lives in nearly all 50 states, Canada, Europe and China.

Kevin has appeared on numerous television programs including The David Letterman Show. He has also addressed the United Nations and has presented at the White House spreading the ALOHA spirit. You won’t want to miss Kevin’s unique and humorous presentation!

You can learn more about Kevin and his presentations by visiting his Web site: http://www.kevinwanzer.com.
James Whitcomb Riley, by Don Hill

Join us for a trip down the memory lane of Hoosier Folklore, following Saturday’s lunch, as the “Poems & Stories of James Whitcomb Riley” are told by Don Hill. Mr. Hill, a retired school teacher and associate director of the Southern Indiana Center for the Arts, passes on southern Indiana history through his readings of Riley’s poems, which include “Little Orphant Annie,” “The Raggedy Man,” “Lizabuth Ann,” and “The Nine Little Goblins.”

Mr. Hill has performed hundreds of times throughout the State of Indiana, including at Mr. Riley’s home town festival in Greenfield. He performed at the Indiana State Museum on the anniversary of Riley’s 150th birthday. He received the Sagamore of the Wabash from Indiana Governor Frank O’Bannon for his services to the State of Indiana.

James Whitcomb Riley was born in Greenfield, Indiana, on October 7, 1849, and wrote many of his hundreds of poems around that area. He spent his later years of fame on Lockerbie Square in Indianapolis. Riley was honored as the “Hoosier Poet” by the State of Indiana, and the governor proclaimed that all schools should celebrate Riley’s birthday.

Mossburg Strings

Saturday evening during the Hoosier Banquet, you will be serenaded with strolling dinner music and an on-stage performance by Indiana’s own Mossburg Strings.

The Mossburg Strings are comprised of the oldest five of eight Mossburg children: Caleb (14), Aaron (13), Rachel (12), Jacob (10), and Jared (8). There are also three younger brothers. They enjoy playing many different musical styles including classical, fiddling, oldies, patriotic, and Christian. They perform in a variety of venues including churches, businesses, weddings, schools, reunions, dinner theaters, and festivals.

The Mossburg family children have performed with many groups, including the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Muncie Symphony Orchestra, Huntington College Orchestra, New World Youth Symphony, and the Indianapolis Youth Orchestra. They have won numerous awards and talent competitions. All Mossburg children are also Indiana 4-H members. We know you will enjoy their performance at the 2004 Forum!