

Keynote Address



MATT STUTZMAN

Keynote Speaker

Inexplicably born without arms in December of 1982, Matt's birthparents were soon overwhelmed with the obvious challenges that lay ahead.

He was put up for adoption and in January of 1983, Matt was welcomed into the home of Leon and Jean Stutzman.

A remarkably patient, compassionate and strong-willed couple, the Stutzman's guided Matt through a youth of seemingly insurmountable obstacles of everyday living largely taken for granted in an able-bodied world. Their philosophy was simple; Matt was permitted to try almost anything if he could do it on his own. Years later, the result is an extraordinary young man, a family man, who can do virtually anything with his feet.

Though originally fitted for prosthetic arms as a child, Matt found them cumbersome and unnatural. Today, perhaps the most remarkable thing about Matt is that he lives without prosthetics, in a completely unadapted world. His home, car and life are void of modifications of any sort. He lives in the same world you do and has found a way to do virtually everything with his feet. This includes eating, grooming and writing as well as playing the guitar, car maintenance and of course, extraordinary abilities with a bow and arrow.

Matt's original interest in marksmanship began when he learned to shoot a gun, and then taught himself to shoot a penny at 50 yards away. He took to a bow and arrow so as to join his father while hunting. Eventually it became his passion and evolved into his dream to become the world's best archer.

Though many may argue otherwise, Matt considers his physical challenges to be advantageous to archery. His necessary style of shooting with his leg provides great stability with the bow, and a lifetime of indescribable patience and tenacity are deeply ingrained characteristics that would serve any athlete, in any sport, well.

As a member of the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Archery Team, Matt competed 2012 London Games that culminated with a Silver Medal.

Dubbed The Armless Archer, Matt's remarkable story has captured the attention of the media around the world. A natural public speaker, he regularly uses humor (at his own expense) and remarkable demonstrations of his foot skills, to engage audiences of all kinds who are left entertained, inspired and believing anything is possible.

*See Matt speak during the
First General Session on
Monday, April 15th.*

Special Presenter



MIKE NAIG Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Mike Naig grew up on a family farm in the northwest corner of the state near Cylinder, Iowa and he continues to be involved in the operation today.

Mike was elected as the 15th Iowa Secretary of Agriculture in November 2018. He previously served as the Deputy Secretary at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

In a state where agriculture is a leading economic driver, Mike knows that protecting our air, soil and water is essential to our success. He works with initiatives that encourage public-private partnerships and leads efforts that will protect our natural resources.

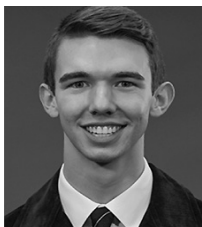
As Secretary, he is committed to lead efforts to expand economic opportunities for Iowans and is an advocate on behalf of the hard-working men and women who keep us fed and fueled.

Attracting and retaining talent in Iowa agriculture is a reoccurring topic during his 99 county visits and Mike believes we need to continue to engage young people and encourage them to pursue rewarding careers in agriculture.

Mike is a graduate of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake with degrees in biology and political science. He and his wife Jaime have three boys.

*See Mr. Naig speak
during the Second
General Session*

Special Presenter



LUKE O'LEARY
2018- 2019
National
President

Luke O'Leary was encouraged to enroll in agriculture leadership as a freshman by his older sisters. Once he was pushed by his advisors to compete in the FFA Creed competition, he was hooked. "I fell in love with the organization and all it has to offer," O'Leary said.

While attending San Luis Obispo High School, O'Leary participated in two supervised agricultural experiences –beef production and goat production.

Majoring in agricultural leadership and development, O'Leary is a sophomore at Texas A&M University. He served as the 2017-18 California FFA state president.

"This year, I hope to create small moments that have huge impacts," O'Leary says. "The little moments in every day can be used with intentionality to change the course of someone's day —or even their entire life. Whether it is a short conversation with a member or a brief meeting with a partner of the National FFA Foundation, I am thrilled and grateful to use these moments to bring light to the world around us and further the National FFA Organization."

*See Luke speak during
the Third General Session on
Tuesday*

*Join Luke at his workshops on
Monday at 1:00 PM and Tuesday
at 9:00 AM in Scheman 230.*

