The FFA has made a positive difference in my life and in the lives of millions of other agriculture students as we live by the theme “One Mission: Student Success”. My FFA experience began over four years ago when I joined the Jacksonville FFA Chapter. As a Greenhand, I thoroughly enjoyed my introduction to the FFA and discovered the power of the FFA after attending the 1999 Alabama State FFA Convention. Through my classroom instruction and my involvement in my SAE, I expanded my knowledge of agriculture. My FFA advisors, Mr. Harold Lipscomb and Mr. John R. Whaley, encouraged me to become active in the FFA and take advantage of all the opportunities afforded to FFA members.

In ninth grade, I participated in additional activities above the chapter level. I attended the first national convention held in Louisville, Kentucky, and participated in the county and district forestry judging competitions. At the state convention, I had the opportunity to serve on the Courtesy Corps with future state reporter Daniel Ganus. After seeing the impact the FFA has made on the lives of other members, I decided, with encouragement from my advisors, to run for a district office. I remember traveling to Eclectic for my district officer candidate interview where I had the opportunity to meet many of the rising leaders in the FFA including Thomas Hall, Grace Smith, and Lybbi Stieffel. I sensed these members’ enthusiasm for the FFA, and I feel that their inspiration helped me become a more effective member. Although I was not selected as a district officer, the interview process strengthened me as an individual. It also challenged me to become more involved in the FFA and strive to become a district officer the following spring.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as Central District President my Junior year of high school. From this position, I was better able to learn about the FFA and enjoy the thrills of serving as a national delegate. I also had the privilege of visiting several area FFA chapters and participating in prepared public speaking events. This year I am honored to serve as State FFA President. My experiences in the FFA have been most rewarding as I have interacted with advisors and members across the state. This year I have seen firsthand how the FFA has enriched the lives of members of the Alabama FFA Association. I know that the FFA has helped to “Make It Real” for over 460,000 members by giving them opportunities to strengthen leadership skills and develop talents that will help them succeed in future careers. I am thankful to the FFA for all the wonderful experiences it has given me and hope that future generations of students will continue to benefit from all that the FFA has to offer.

2002-2003 STATE OFFICER TEAM

The officers are:
(back row)
Christopher Randolph,
State President
 middler 1-r)

Cody Eiland,
State Sentinel

Daniel Ganus,
State Reporter
(front 1-r)

Toni Deason,
State Vice President

Crystal Bradley,
State Treasurer

Jennifer Himburg,
State Secretary
thinking we could change the world in such a short time, but the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.

JENNIFER HIMBURG
Secretary

Achieving the goals you have set is the measure of success! As you go through life you will find people and organizations that will provide opportunities to help you in achieving success. FFA is a great example of one of these organizations.

FFA helps each of its 460,000 members achieve success each year. The opportunities that FFA offers help you to achieve success. FFA offers many different possibilities, CDEs, leadership conferences, worldwide travel, and other endless possibilities.

However, you have to put forth the effort to attend and participate in these opportunities to become successful. Arthur Ashe once said, “Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is usually more important than the outcome.”

When asked, “Do I consider myself successful?”, the answer is always YES! One thing that has aided the most in my success is the FFA. FFA has provided many opportunities to help me succeed. Through some of the opportunities offered I was able to see my potential and decide what would be beneficial for me.

In the fall of 2001, I was given the opportunity to attend National Convention as a delegate. I boarded the plane that October morning with 14 other individuals that impacted my life forever. While at the 74th National FFA Convention I decided then to not only run for a district officer, but a state officer as well. I returned home with a different outlook for my future.

In April of 2002, I began district and state officer interviews at the district level. I was then selected to continue and run for state office at the state convention in June. I worked hard and knew that I had done my best. I was overjoyed when my name was called as your 2002-2003 State Secretary. Had I not been given that first opportunity to attend National Convention, I doubt that I would have run for a state office. This past year has given me some awesome opportunities. I have met hundreds of friends from across the nation. I was able to travel to Washington D.C., where I had the chance to meet with our nation’s leaders, including President George W. Bush. I have also attended numerous leadership conferences that have helped me to become a better leader and become successful.

Had FFA not given me that first opportunity, none of these experiences would exist. It reminds me of one of my favorite quotes by Walt Disney. “All of our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

You can choose to take advantage of the opportunities that FFA gives you, or you can choose not to. However, remember these opportunities could help you succeed. When asked the question, “Do you consider yourself successful?” how will you respond? Only you can decide what success is to you, and only you can decide if you are successful.

CRYSTAL BRADLEY
Treasurer

The theme for this year is “One Mission: Student Success” and it could not be more true. Over and over again, whether it is in my own experiences through the FFA or if it is my observation of other members in chapter visits, leadership workshops or conventions, one thing holds true: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. It is an awesome organization and I am so thankful that I was given the opportunity to serve you as a state officer.

You as members, by living according to the motto during the past 74 years, have developed into the leaders of tomorrow. You are the ones who will run our future and help give us a better world. Now you as FFA members have the potential and decide what would be beneficial for me.

In the fall of 2002, I began district and state officer interviews at the district level. I was then called as your 2002-2003 State Secretary. Had I not been given that first opportunity to attend National Convention, I doubt that I would have run for a state office. This past year has given me some awesome opportunities. I have met hundreds of friends from across the nation. I was able to travel to workshops throughout the year. This experience with the FFA has greatly encouraged me to work diligently to prepare myself for the future. I have learned to communicate and interact well with people from all walks of life.

Joe Barker said, “Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world”. As I embark on my journey to my future career, I have a vision. Thanks to the FFA, I plan to make this vision an action. I feel that this organization has encouraged me to not merely dream, but to obtain.

CODY EILAND
Sentinel

This year’s FFA slogan, One Mission: Student Success, has really impacted my life. I have noted this year that this slogan holds true, FFA has changed the lives of young people as well as my own life. I started FFA in the ninth grade, and it was then that I found a love and desire for something. Throughout my ninth grade year I was always looking for something I could do. At the end of the year, I was elected to be a chapter officer my tenth grade year. That next year was a good start for me. Working with older FFA members on our officer team gave me something to look forward to, and at the end of that year I was re-elected a chapter officer. My eleventh grade year I took an enormous responsibility being our chapter Vice-President. That was quite a job, and it was there that I really began to feel that I was helping to make decisions to change our chapter to further student success. At the conclusion of that year, I made a life-changing decision, to run for a state office. Through the whole process, I have seen what FFA means to other people and the expectations FFA members had to fill. Being elected State Sentinel was great and unexplainable; also, at the end of my Junior year, I was elected to serve as our chapter’s President. So far my Senior year has been jammed packed with activities; it’s been great, working with peers and adults in my chapter and community, and growing my leadership and speaking skills. Now that I am a graduating Senior, I look back on my high school years and truly see how the FFA has shaped my life. I owe much to the FFA and am forever indebted to the program. Sometimes I try to think of my life without the FFA, and it often scares me. All the memories made during those years can never be replaced. Whether it was a day in the shop or a day at National Convention, I can say those times were priceless.
**Monday, June 2**
9:00 a.m. Livestock CDE (Auburn)
9:30 a.m. Small Engines CDE (Auburn)
10:00 a.m. Forestry CDE (Auburn)
11:00 a.m. Nursery/Landscape & Floriculture CDE (Montgomery Civic Center)
Agricultural Mechanics CDE (Prattville)
Poultry CDE (Auburn)
12:00 p.m. Agricultural Construction & Maintenance CDE (MCC)
1:00 p.m. Parliamentary Procedure CDE (MCC)
6:00 p.m. State FFA Officer Candidates Interviews Begin (MCC)

**Tuesday, June 3**
8:00 a.m. Registration (MCC)
9:00 a.m. Safe Tractor Driving Contest (Montgomery)
Public Speaking CDE Finals (MCC)
String Band Contest Finals (MCC)
11:30 a.m. Courtesy Corps Meeting (MCC)
1:00 p.m. Delegate Business Session (MCC)

**Wednesday, June 4**
9:00 a.m. **THIRD SESSION**
Opening Ceremony
Crime Prevention Awards
M. K. Heath Animal Health Award
CDE Awards—
Nursery & Landscape, Floriculture, Forestry, Land, Poultry, Livestock, Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Const. & Maint., Small Engines, Safe Tractor Driving
Proficiency Awards -
Agricultural Mechanics
Agricultural Sales / Service
Quartet Contest
Adjourn

1:30 p.m. **FOURTH SESSION**
State FFA Degree Ceremony – Civic Center Auditorium
Leadership Workshops
Seth Heinert, Room M
Devin Dotson, Room N

7:30 p.m. **FIFTH SESSION**
Star Farmer Ceremony
Honorary State FFA Degrees
Miss Alabama Agriculture – Melissa McCord
Proficiency Awards -
Awards – Quartet Contest
Entertainment - 1st Place Quartet
Closing Ceremony

**Thursday, June 5**
9:00 a.m. **SIXTH SESSION**
Opening Ceremony
State Officers' Report
Election of Officers
Installation of State Officers
Entertainment – "The Bailey Family"
Closing Ceremony
The Bailey Family will entertain Thursday morning with their blend of bluegrass and gospel music during the Sixth Session.

Seth Heinert is the National FFA Secretary from Hullett, Wyoming. He will be providing a keynote address entitled “Leadership by Trust” during the Second Session, as well as a leadership workshop on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. called “Reaching the Summit.”

Miss Alabama Agriculture Melissa McCord is a student at Troy State University and hails from Andalusia. She will appear on the Wednesday evening program.

Jeremiah Castille played college football at the University of Alabama and as a professional. He is a very gifted and dynamic preacher and currently works with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He will provide a keynote address during the opening session.