

The Alabama FFA REPORTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

Volume 32

SPRING / SUMMER 2003

NO. 1

CONVENTION ISSUE.....



CHRIS RANDOLPH President

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.

TONI DEASON Vice-President

As you know by now, we six have been together for exactly one year. When we first met, I wasn't sure what we all had in common except that we all knew we wanted to change things. We wanted to make a difference in the world. I guess you could say we had One Mission: Student Success.

I've always known that I wanted to be in the lead. Playing follow the leader was my game as long as I was the one in front. So when I became a part of this wonderful state officer team I had to learn to work as a team member. We are all leaders

and it was important to establish where we were going and what we wanted to accomplish. It was awesome to find out that we were all wanting to head in the same direction, towards making a difference in student success.

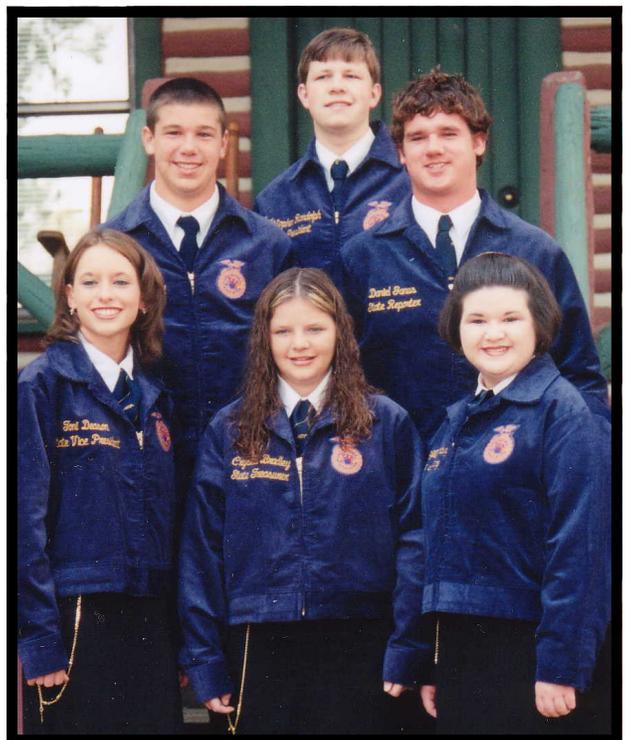
I have a short story for you about making a difference. An old man was walking along the beach, when he came upon a part of the sand where thousands of starfish had washed ashore. A little further down the beach he saw a young woman, who was picking up the starfish one at a time and tossing them back into the ocean. "Silly girl," he exclaimed. "You can't possibly save all of these starfish. There's too many." The woman smiled and said, "I know. But I can save this one," and she tossed another into the ocean, "and this one", toss, "and this one..."

You can start focusing on Your One Mission right now. Start slowly changing the world, and inspiring everyone you meet to become a success! No one may notice now what you have impacted, but it does matter. When you come to this year's convention we'll introduce you to some people who have made a difference in our lives, and are still helping us on our way, our parents and advisors. You will hear addresses from motivational leaders. And you will meet other members from wonderful chapters who will be able to share with you the hard work they have done in their chapters and communities.

If not for FFA, this officer team would never have come together to focus on One Mission: Student Success. Some people would call us crazy for

2002-2003 STATE OFFICER TEAM

The officers are:
(back row)
Christopher Randolph,
State President
(middle l-r)
Cody Eiland,
State Sentinel
Daniel Ganus,
State Reporter
(front l-r)
Toni Deason,
State Vice President
Crystal Bradley,
State Treasurer
Jennifer Himgurg,
State Secretary



THE ALABAMA REPORTER Spring 2003

Editor..... **Ben Scheierman**
Secretary..... **Charlotte Hollis**

STATE OFFICERS 2002-2003

President Christopher Randolph
Jacksonville Chapter
Vice President Toni Deason
Woodland Chapter
Secretary Jennifer Himburg
Ariton Chapter
Treasurer Crystal Bradley
Gaston Chapter
Reporter Daniel Ganus
Leroy Chapter
Sentinel Cody Eiland
Eufaula Chapter
State Advisor Troy D. Newton
State Department of Education
Exec. Secretary Ben Scheierman
State Department of Education

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 make you successful. 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 industry leaders. You're making a difference through a variety of careers from catfish production to agricultural marketing, to top CEO's of many companies in Alabama. I thank you for all you do and for supporting the Alabama FFA Association. See you at the Convention!

DANIEL GANUS Reporter

As a high school Freshman, I became very involved in the FFA organization. I served as a chapter officer, and began to participate in various career development events. These events have helped give me the opportunity to enhance my self-improvement in many areas. As I associated with other FFA members from different chapters, I decided that I wanted to better serve my fellow FFA members by running for a district office. That year, I was chosen as District FFA Treasurer. The following year I obtained the office of District FFA Sentinel. During this time I attended the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. The training that I received helped me to grow in confidence and self-motivation, I was encouraged by the things I did in the FFA to become the best I could be. Leadership workshops showed me how to obtain my personal goals by having the power and determination to achieve them.

The following year I was chosen to serve as an Alabama delegate to the National FFA Convention where I was exposed to even more FFA leaders from across the country. This experience furthered my desire to obtain higher leadership positions. At the end of my Junior year, I reached one of my personal goals, which was to become a state FFA officer. After being elected as the Alabama State FFA Reporter, I obtained a world of information as I traveled and worked with the other state officers

in 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 on 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 over the past four 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.



PROGRAM
74th ANNUAL FFA STATE CONVENTION
JUNE 2, 3, 4, 5, 2003

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)

2:00 p.m. OPENING SESSION

Opening Ceremony
 National Anthem
 Invocation –Grace Smith,
 Billingsley
 Greetings –Senator Curt Lee
 Greetings – Seth Heinert,
 National FFA Secretary,
 Hullett, Wyoming
 Introduction of State & National
 Officer Candidates
 Wall of Honor Inductees—
 Laymon Phillips
CDE Awards –
 Parliamentary Procedure,
 Prepared Public Speaking
 1st Place Public Speaking Winner
 Keynote Speaker –
 Jeremiah Castille
 Adjourn

7:30 p.m. SECOND SESSION

National Chapter Awards
 Honor Parents of State Officers
 Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year
 Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
 Honor Advisors of State Officers
 Address – National Secretary,
 Seth Heinert, Hullett, Wyoming
 “Leadership by Trust”
Proficiency Awards -
 Forest Management, Landscape Management,
 Fruit / Vegetable Production, Nursery Operations
 Turf Grass Management, Floriculture,
 Home & Community Development,
 Diversified Crop Production
Awards – String Band Contest
 1st Place String Band
 Closing Ceremony

9:30 p.m. DANCE NIGHT

Join us after the last session of the day for a dance with fellow FFA members till 11:00 p.m.

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 -
 Equine Science, Beef Production,
 Poultry Production, Swine Production,
 Enviro. Sci. & Nat. Res. Mgmt.,
 Specialty Animal Production,
 Dairy Production, Wildlife Management,
 Special Area 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



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.



The Bailey Family will entertain Thursday morning with their blend of bluegrass and gospel music during the Sixth Session.



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



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."