



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

www.paffa.org



Embrace New Beginnings

2021-2022 Pennsylvania FFA Officers

As we reflect on our past year and on everything that we have had the pleasure to be a part of, we often think of what is to come.

For us, we know what our future holds: our career paths, planned journeys, and so much more. But for seven newly elected individuals, they are just starting the newest chapter of their lives.

We encourage everyone to embrace new beginnings, because our lives are constantly changing.

Abigail O'Neill President

Throughout this year, I've gained experiences, connections, community, and a bit of knowledge, too.

The best insight I gained this year is as follows: "In this life, if you do it right, once will be enough."

As I reflect on the last 365 days of my life, I've been shown what it looks like to do things the right way. The right way means being fully present and embracing each moment.

Moments that meant the world to me came unexpectedly as I celebrated National FFA Week in Lancaster County and had a taste testing night with my friends up north. More moments touched my heart as we built community in each conference, chapter visit and banquet.

I'm reassured that embracing each moment has left me feeling fulfilled as my FFA journey comes to a close. To each member, I leave you with this. If you do it right, if you embrace each moment, your time in the blue jacket will be more than enough.

Greg Gipe Vice President

Did you know that on average every week there are at least two ships that are lost at sea?

The ocean covers over 70% of Earth's surface, so it is easy to get lost because of how large and overwhelming the ocean is.

When a storm comes, it can change the course of one boat by

miles. Well, life can be the same way. The hustle and bustle of school, work, sports and other activities that you may be involved in can feel like that storm in your life.

It is easy to get caught up in all of those things and lose yourself. When ships get lost at sea, captains look on the horizon at night for a tiny light produced from a lighthouse.

The lighthouse signals land and also gives everyone on board the hope that they will survive. Finding the little light from the lighthouse can be very difficult in the abyss of the dark horizon, but it is only possible to find the light in the dark of night.

When you are going through rough times or just feel out of place, embrace your storm and the darkness, because I promise if you look on the horizon after the storm you will find your light.

Pennsylvania FFA, never stop looking for your light in the darkness and thank you for being my lighthouse when I was lost at sea.

Nina Coolidge Secretary

You are sitting in art class, finishing a coloring project you have been working hard on. All of a sudden, the crayon you are using breaks. You automatically think to yourself, "I better throw away this crayon. It's broken and I can't use it anymore." In a split-second decision, you threw away a perfectly good working crayon with one simple flaw.

Far too often in our own lives, we become broken down by problems or difficulties in our lives and want to throw in the towel.

Our life is like a canvas and we only get one. The choices we make and the different paths we go on are like different media we paint our canvas with. Just like a crayon can break, we too as humans can break. You see, everything in life happens for a reason. We are going to have those moments where our worlds come crashing down. We can't give up when that happens.

We have to remember our worth and remember that we were put on



The 2021-2022 state FFA officer team is, from left, Ravyn Bashore, Nina Coolidge, Trevor Maxwell, Greg Gipe, Jordan Anderson, Abigail O'Neill and Molly Cessna.

New Leadership



Pennsylvania FFA photo

The newly elected 2022-2023 FFA state officer team is, from left, Callie Whiting, treasurer; Grace Benton, secretary; James Winklosky, president; Jeremy Rose, reporter; Benjamin Torrey, vice president; Delilah Morton, sentinel; and Zaleigh Wade, chaplain.

this earth for a purpose.

Remember that broken crayons can still color.

Molly Cessna Treasurer

Most of my senior year, everyone kept asking if I was going to run for state officer. Up until the end of April, I kept telling everyone there was no way and it wasn't for me. I thought there was no way that I would ever make the team and it would just be a waste of time trying.

But then the end of April came and something hit me. So many people were on my side and believed in me. They kept building me up and said they would support me no matter what.

The last day applications were due, I turned mine in and there was no looking back. I spent months preparing for the unknown. Then, on June 11, my life completely changed when my name got called and I ran up on the stage in Tyrone.

This life will throw challenges and uncertainties our ways. There will be chances to fall, but we can't worry about all the what-ifs in our lives or we will never do what we want. You will never have the chance to fly if you are too scared to fall. Embrace all the opportunities to fly instead of worrying about all the chances you have to fall.

Trevor Maxwell Reporter

As a state officer, you meet many members, but I'll never forget meeting a special woman while I was able to spend the day with the Laurel FFA chapter during its farm toy show.

She filled me in on how it was her husband's jacket, and how in his jacket he has won many achievements, traveled many plac-

es, and experienced so much more. She is a reminder to all of us that even though our jackets may never get to see another chapter visit, banquet or conference dance party, we have the opportunity to continue our future within the agriculture industry.

She wears her husband's jacket with pride and is not afraid to share her passions with anyone who asks. It reminds me that I have a community that is made up of thousands of blue corduroy jackets.

My time wearing this blue jacket is something that I will never take for granted, and I know that even though I may outgrow my jacket, I will never outgrow the memories or the experiences that shaped me into who I am today.

As you leave this arena, never forget the power each jacket holds and how much you can accomplish with that power.

Ravyn Bashore Sentinel

As many of us probably can relate to, I had the privilege to meet and interact with many ambitious, knowledgeable and hard working people involved in agriculture who inspire me.

For me, the one who inspires me most is called Sherry by name.

In November of 2021, she got sick. Shortly after, she passed away with her family by her side. Family was not allowed in the hospital to visit her, except right before she passed. As our family was mourning, people that she met when she was a kid and up to her passing days came and offered their condolences while they shared the impact she had on them.

My momma left the biggest impact on me by her love of the dairy industry and always advocating for agriculture.

This past year I have been inspired by all of you, during the most difficult time of my life. Pennsylvania FFA, thank you for making it one of the best.

Embrace the opportunities when they come. You never know who you're going to impact and inspire. As Randy Travis said, "It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you. It's what you leave behind you when you go."

What do you plan to leave behind?

Jordan Anderson Chaplain

June 11, 2021, just hours after the election. I wrote in my journal, "I pray to embrace all that this journey offers."

To explain what this journey has offered me, it only takes one word. Joy. The moments of joy I experienced include laughing with my teammates, watching first year members zip up their jackets at Mid-Winter, and seeing hundreds of members have the time of their lives while dancing at ACES and SLLC. Joy filled my heart each time I visited a chapter and connected with members.

Pennsylvania FFA, every day I am continually amazed by your kindness, spark, and the love in your hearts. Find joy in the small, simple things. Each day when you wake up, know that you are right where you need to be, with a purpose, and find joy in that. When your everyday tasks seem repetitive and mundane, I challenge you to find the joy there, too.

Thank you for embracing this journey along with me. I am grateful for the joy and inspiration I have felt this year. Go be the joy in someone else's journey, and even on the toughest days, find the joy in your journey, too.