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# LEARNING BY DOING

ALABAMA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

## Get to know your First Year officers



Presiding Officer  
Brian Anderson



Pro Tem  
Olivia Pride



Floor Leader  
Addison Smith



Asst. Floor Leader  
Claudia Hubbard

### If you were a smoothie, what flavor would you be and why?

A tropical smoothie, because the chicks dig it

Brian Anderson, 16, is a sophomore at Montgomery's Catholic High School.

Bahama Mama, because I like the coconut, pineapple, and strawberries and that's what in the Bahama Mama.

Olivia Pride, 14, of Hoover is a freshman at Spain Park High School.

Kiwi Quencher, because I'm sour and sweet.

Addison Smith, 14, is a freshman at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile.

I would be a tropical smoothie, because it reminds me of the beach.

Claudia Hubbard, 15, is a freshman at St. James School in Montgomery.



### TomorrowTODAY staff

From left Kendall McCann, St. James/Montgomery; Ellie Cotton, Pike Liberal Arts/Troy; Anna Claire Bullard, St. James/Montgomery; Savanna Harris, Pike Liberal Arts/Troy; Hannah Harless, St. Paul's Episcopal School/Mobile; Claire Stewart, Trinity Presbyterian School/Montgomery

Sunday, February 22, 2015



# TomorrowTODAY

Building Tomorrow's Leaders TODAY



PHOTOS BY KENDALL MCCANN / St. James School Montgomery

First Year Pro Temp Olivia Pride debates Saturday at the Alabama State House.

## First Year delegates eager to take on debate

By Hannah Harless  
and Anna Claire Bullard  
TomorrowTODAY writers

First Year is for delegates who have never participated in Youth Legislature. About 40 people participated this year. First year is a learning experience where students can learn the basics so they can move to the House or Senate the following year.

First Year delegate Will McFadden of Mobile is the author of First Year Bill 23, Prison Social Media Reform. Prisoners should



Delegates debate in Capitol Auditorium

not be allowed to have any social media accounts or have any contact with people outside the prison walls, he said. The purpose of this bill is to protect people from the possibility of being harassed by any of the inmates. McFadden, whose bill passed, said Youth Leg

was one of the best times of his life.

The first bill on the First Year docket was FYG by Ashley Holcomb and LaShana Estes with the Cherokee County Student Y-Club. Their bill promotes the prohibition of smoking in vehicles while children under the age of 13 are present. The two main objections raised against their bill was its lack of reference to electronic cigarettes and the reasoning behind the age limit choice. Despite those objections, the First Year chamber passed the bill.

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PHOTO BY ELLIE COTTON /Pike Liberal Arts Troy

Minnesota Gov. Carter Jones, Alabama Gov. Cassie Sadie, Kentucky Gov. Brianna Daniel and Georgia Gov. Andrew Mitchell became fast friends at Governor's Conference in D.C.

# Ambassadors bring different perspective

By Savanna Harris  
TomorrowTODAY writer

Visiting out-of-state ambassadors and youth governors, Carter Jones of Minnesota, Andrew Mitchell of Georgia and Brianna Daniel of Kentucky traveled to Montgomery to experience the 67th Annual Alabama Youth Legislature conference. Here they discuss how Alabama's conference differs from theirs and how they got to attend this conference.

## GEORGIA

"In Georgia, we don't really have a governors Cabinet like y'all have here," said Mitchell. "I have a governor's aide, which is like an assistant that helps me, especially on the last day when the bills come in and I'm doing vetoes and signatures. Over the summer, we attended the youth governor's conference in Washington, D.C. I met Cassie there. She came to my conference in Atlanta in November and she invited me to come to hers too."

## MINNESOTA

"My conference is a lot bigger," said Jones from Minnesota. "We have about 1,600 kids with three houses and three senates as opposed to just one of each. There's a large media program with digital newspaper, TV, and radio. There's an upper and lower lobbyist program. The officer elections are always highly contested and there's a big town hall debate. Alabama and Minnesota for the past five or so years, have sent their governors along with some other delegates as part of an exchange program."

## KENTUCKY

"Kentucky has a very strict and structured debate compared to Alabama," said Daniel. "This is much more open. Kentucky's program has about four times as many students. In Kentucky, it is more of a Model United Nations, so Leg has been very interesting to me. I met Cassie at Governors Conference, and we decided we would exchange conferences."

# OPINION: You are born with your sexuality

By Hannah Harless  
TomorrowTODAY writer

Saturday morning, the Youth Legislature House of Representatives approved HB7 by Michelle Newman of Vestavia Hills. Newman's bill bans conversion therapy, which involves a range of treatments aimed at changing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, asexual or pansexual individuals' sexual identity to heterosexuality. The bill was amended to make conversion therapy legal for those who choose to partake in it. This bill is incredibly relevant at this time considering the same sex marriage rights controversy in Alabama.

In an interview after the bill's passage, Senate President Pro Temp Lewis Fitzpatrick said he favors outlawing conversion therapy. "Conversion therapy is nothing more than institutionalized torture," he said. "The way that those sessions generally function is by inducing extreme shame on the patients, which to me is highly damaging." Most of the points made

by delegates who went up to debate against Newman were about how some teens may want conversion therapy as an option because they have negative feelings about themselves that they want to change. "These negative feelings come from society, they are not innate; all the negativity comes from social pressures because people are telling these teenagers that who they are is wrong, or there is this indication that its anything but normal or anything but healthy," said Fitzpatrick. Your sexuality is something you're born with, it isn't a choice any more than heterosexuality is, your sexual preference cannot be changed, it is who you are.

Lewis also expressed concern for transgender youth and their need to be protected. "Sixty percent of transgender youth nationally are kicked out of their home or neglected and shamed by their families, and the other 20 percent of that group are subject to household violence."

The Youth Senate did not consider the bill.