

LEARNING BY DOING

ALABAMA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

ALYIG media program gives you a way to connect

By Anna Claire Bullard
2016 Editor in Chief

I am more than honored to have the privilege of being this year's editor in chief for the Alabama Youth in Government program. I have learned so much from this opportunity, and I look forward to applying what I have learned in everything I do. Most of all, I am always excited to reconnect with the people I have met through Youth and Government.

The purpose of the media program is to give you a glimpse of what the weekend has to offer. If you're not sure what a particular part of the program does, the media team will have it covered! You will see us walking around taking pictures and writing down notes so we can have a good coverage of what this weekend has in store.



ANNA CLAIRE BULLARD

Be sure to follow our Instagram and Twitter page — @alyigmedia, like our Facebook page, and keep up with our blog so you can stay informed of the current events this weekend (see how to connect at right). Let's all work together to make this weekend the best Youth Legislature yet!



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Connect, raise your placard and let your voice be heard, governor says

By Noah McNelley
2016 Youth Governor

Welcome to Alabama's 68th Youth Legislature! I ran for youth governor with the goal to inspire. I wanted to see change. I wanted to connect with people in the age of disconnection. I wanted people to understand that this privilege should not be wasted. Delegates, this weekend we, as a team, can make this dream a reality.

This weekend, you will have your beliefs questioned and your opinions challenged. You will acquire skills and spark friendships that will span the duration of your life. Do not waste a single moment of this conference because within a blink of an eye this weekend will be gone, and we will be wondering where all the time went. Do not be afraid of this weekend — wholeheartedly accept and experience the opportunities the conference will bear. Do not hesitate to raise your



Noah McNelley of Montgomery takes the oath of office after winning the governor's race in 2015.

placard. Do not hesitate to swing debate. Do not hesitate to extend your hand and introduce yourself. Do not hesitate for your voice to be heard. Do not hesitate to experience Youth Legislature.

Youth Legislature provides an opportunity for students to model the Alabama Legislature. This is accomplished by the stage being set for students to voice their opinions — but it is just

as important for students to voice their opinions as it is to listen to others as well. Do not close yourself off with preconceived notions and squander an opportunity to broaden your horizons and learn something new.

I look forward to a great weekend with each of you and cannot wait to see you all excel as we experience the best Youth Legislature yet! Have a great weekend!

Q & A with 2017 gubernatorial candidates

The TomorrowTODAY staff asked each candidate the same three questions. Read their responses below:



JOHN DARBY

If you could prevent one presidential candidate from running in/winning the election, who would it be and why?

James Courtney: Hillary Clinton. Two things make her the worst candidate in my eyes. The first is her flip-flopping on the issues. There have been numerous issues where she has taken a stance and then reversed it, so it seems as if she has no substance on the issues. The second is her email scandal. I think that it should be entirely resolved, with no questions lingering, before she should even think about becoming president.

John Darby: Donald Trump. He is underqualified, has a horrible temperament and could destroy the Republican ticket. I don't think that if he won the GOP nomination he would be able to defeat the Democrats in the general election. Plus, he is cheapening the ACTUAL debate between candidates and thus hurting the political process.

Ford Cleveland: Chris Christie. He is bombastic, divisive and vindictive; he closed down a roadway because he was angry with someone. He is not a legitimate candidate outside his own state and is simply taking votes away from the stronger candidates. There are already too many candidates. Removing Chris Christie would focus the campaign on pivotal candidates. (Cleveland answered this question before Christie withdrew from the race)



JAMES COURTNEY

If you could give one tip to yourself two year ago, what would it be?

Ford Cleveland: Technology is great; it's crucial to the success of our daily lives, but nothing beats a face-to-face meeting or phone call. Too many people resort to a simple text message, snapchat or email to communicate. Calling or face-to-face conversations with someone are much more personal and show more appreciation than a text. So, I'd tell myself to stop texting and go talk to someone.

James Courtney: I would tell myself to be even more active in the Youth in Government program. During my freshman year, I had the opportunity to run for an office at the district meeting, but passed up on it, because I was afraid and did not know exactly what it entailed. I would advise myself to put myself out there more, so I could've been more involved at an earlier age, rather than not truly getting involved until my sophomore year.

John Darby: Be yourself. Two years ago, I was always worried about what people thought of me. I often would act differently out of fear that people wouldn't think I was cool. This applied to Youth Leg as well. I had good ideas, but I was afraid to share them. I've since overcome this fear, and I have grown so much as a person both in day-to-day life and in Leg. If I hadn't made this growth, I wouldn't have had the courage to run for governor.



FORD CLEVELAND

What was one of your most awkward or funny YIG experiences?

John Darby: Before I had ever been to any YIG event or even knew what Leg was, my name somehow ended up on the list for the Officers' Training. I rode with three seniors from Mountain Brook whom I had never met before, and ended up sharing a bunk with a then-senior guy from Mountain Brook named Ben Tucker. After keeping to myself for an hour and generally avoiding any and all eye contact, I forced myself to go up to Ben and his friends and talk to them. They immediately accepted me. I learned from that to not be intimidated by new experiences.

James Courtney: As a freshman, brand new to the program, I really had no experience with any sort of public speaking. Those nerves were multiplied when seconds after the First Year chamber was called to order, my bill was called down to the Supreme Court. I went in, and was completely annihilated by the attorney general. While it was a great learning experience, and actually really opened my eyes to the many aspects of Youth Legislature, at the time I was mortified.

Ford Cleveland: Last year at Youth Judicial, my team decided to try Railyard for the first time. I later threw up. Once Leg came around, I tried to convince my friends not to go back to Railyard, but they dragged me back there anyway. I threw up again. Don't eat at Railyard.

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