



# The Alabama FFA REPORTER

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**SALORA WRIGHT**  
State President

“Your 2006-2007 Alabama State FFA Association President, representing the North District, from the Lexington chapter, Ms. Salora Wright!” When I heard Mr. Beasley call out these words I thought my heart was going to explode! I could hardly remember what to do! Jordan Hamilton grabbed me by the arm as we ran onto the stage and into my year as a state officer. On that stage, I joined five of the greatest people I have ever met. I have never been so excited in my life! Throughout the week of state convention, I was so nervous that it was almost insane. By the time Friday’s session rolled around, the candidates joined together for the last time in saying the Lord’s Prayer. I had grown so close to the other nine candidates, I



**The 2006-2007 newly elected State Officer Team pictured after the Nominating Committee Report during the last session of the 2006 Alabama FFA State Convention.**

could hardly imagine what it would be like not to be with them every day. The more names that were called, the more nervous I became. To hear my name called was such a relief and joy. It was nothing short of overwhelming.

It is an honor to be given the opportunity to serve this great association. My fellow state officers and I have great plans for the upcoming year. I am eagerly waiting to represent our state everywhere I go. I cannot wait to get our year started. This will be my fifth year in the FFA, our associations 78th, and I know that it will be the best ever.



**TRAVIS MCGOWIN**  
State Vice President

Brooke Head drug me from behind the scenes world of interviews and into the spotlight of helping lead the world’s largest youth organization through another prosperous year. My heart was pounding as sweat began pouring from my head. I was in front of hundreds of people and, to make it even worse, I had absolutely no sleep the night before.

## THE ALABAMA REPORTER

### STATE OFFICERS 2006-2007

*President*..... **Salora Wright**  
Clements Chapter  
*Vice President*..... **Travis McGowin**  
Billingsley Chapter  
*Secretary*..... **W. Brandon Smith**  
Slocomb Chapter  
*Treasurer* ..... **Jerika Buttram**  
Geraldine Chapter  
*Reporter* ..... **Justin Posey**  
Montevallo Chapter  
*Sentinel* ..... **Caleb Colquitt**  
Marbury Chapter

*State Advisor* ..... **Troy D. Newton**  
State Department of Education  
*Exec. Secretary*..... **Jacob Davis**  
State Department of Education

#### Staff

*Ed. Specialist* ..... **Bobby Thomas**  
*Printing*..... **Kenny Boyd**  
*Secretary*..... **Pam Kilpatrick**  
State Department of Education

All I can say is I am proud to have that memory permanently embedded into my brain.

I have lived in Alabama all of my life. I started out in a private school in Millbrook. During my seventh grade year, I moved to the public school system. That is where I became acquainted with the Alabama FFA Association. After participation in various CDE and SAEP activities, I decided to further my participation in FFA. I took a huge step when I downloaded the applications for state office and state degree from the Alabama FFA web site. I took my time in filling out each application making sure to put in the correct information. I submitted these applications and I was on my way to state. I spent an entire week in a little conference room with nine other great people who had taken a chance just as I did. Then came the night before the winners were announced. I tossed and turned all night getting barely

any sleep. When my alarm went off I was up, packed, and dressed before any other members of my chapter could crawl out of bed. I was excited!

That brings me back to my permanent memory, being drug onto that stage. That moment has changed my life forever! I will give the Alabama FFA Association my all in every moment that I serve. I am Travis McGowin, your 2006-2007 Alabama State FFA Vice President, and I am here to serve.



**W. BRANDON SMITH**  
State Secretary

With my heart racing, I stood behind the stage at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama State FFA Convention. Three offices have been announced and there were three left. Still no officer from the South District. The suspension builds. "For the office of Secretary,..." Palms sweating. "...from the South District,..." This is where I stopped breathing. "...and the Slocomb Chapter, Mr. Brandon Smith." There is only one way to describe this experience. WOW!

As you know, I am W. Brandon Smith. I am from the Slocomb FFA Chapter and Slocomb High School in Slocomb, Alabama. I will be a senior during the 2006-2007 school year.

My SAE could best be described as farm management. My



granddad has had surgery on his back and for prostate cancer, so he cannot get around his farm as he used to. I help him manage his 175 acres of pasture, 60 head of cattle, and two horses, Dusty and Daisy.

I began working with my FFA chapter in the ninth grade. Mr. Tony Watkins and Mr. Alvin Johnson, my advisors, encouraged me to run for office. I served as chapter sentinel in the tenth grade. and in the eleventh grade, I served as both chapter vice president and South District secretary. In the coming year, I will serve as your state secretary and my chapter's president.

I would like to encourage all members to take an active role in your chapter this year. If someone had told me in my first FFA meeting, "Brandon, you're going to be a state officer," I would have never believed them. You will never realize your potential until you "go for the gold". Do your best, and good luck in the coming year.





**JERIKA BUTTRAM**  
State Treasurer

"Your State Treasurer, from the North District, representing the Geraldine FFA Chapter, Jerika Buttram." Words cannot explain the excitement I felt when I heard those words. It was one of the proudest days of my life. First, let me tell you about myself.

I am a Senior at Geraldine High School where I serve as President of the Geraldine FFA Chapter. I have competed on the Geraldine FFA Parliamentary Procedure team for four years and on the Livestock CDE team for two years. My SAE is diversified livestock production. I work on my family farm where we have 14 broiler chicken houses. I also have my own cattle. I work with my grandfather by helping with his herd of more than 800 head of cattle. I look forward to working with every member throughout the state and I hope to help make this year the best year the Alabama FFA has ever seen.



**JUSTIN POSEY**  
State Reporter

"Your 2006-2007 State FFA Reporter, from the Montevallo Chapter, is... Justin Posey!" Wow! To hear those words is a dream come true. I am so ecstatic about the opportunity to serve you this year. Before we begin this exciting year I thought you might like to know a little about me.

To begin I am from the Montevallo FFA chapter. My advisor is Mr. Keith Adair. I am very active in my chapter where I serve as President. I participate in the Land Judging Career Development Event and am the chairman of our Parliamentary Procedure team. In my spare time I enjoy listening to Christian rock, checking out Myspace, and reading. I am an avid Alabama fan and enjoy cheering on the tide. ROLL TIDE! I also love spending time with my friends and Jesus.

Now, since you know a little about me, I can't wait to learn more about each and every one of you as the year progresses. I am so excited about the opportunity I have this year to share my love and admiration of the FFA with all of you. I hope and pray that each of you begin to get more active in your local chapter as the year goes on and that you will develop an everlasting love and respect for the FFA. I am looking forward to serving you.



**CALEB COLQUITT**  
State Sentinel

Everything has been a blur. The nominating committee reported and everything changed so quickly. I'm Caleb Colquitt from the Marbury FFA chapter in the great Central District. I was recently chosen as the 2006-2007 Alabama State Sentinel. It was truly breathtaking to be standing on that stage with so many great people.

Since then, so much has happened. As with any journey, when I arrived at my destination, I looked back on how I got there. Though it would be easier to attribute this accomplishment to my own actions, it is simply not true. I would never have made it without the help of other people. People from my own chapter such as Brendon, Marlin, Brittney, Corey, and last years State VP, Brooke, that taught me friendship. People I served with as District President with like Eadie, Justin, and Ashley, that taught me how to find talents

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in other people. People on the Parliamentary Procedure team such as Sarah and Gracie that taught me teamwork. People in my family like Mama, Kacey, Levi, and my Father, who is also my Advisor, that taught me to be unselfish and grateful for my blessings. Finally, Christ taught me servitude and humility. These are some of the people who made me who I am.

These are the kind of people I emulate and aspire to be like. I've heard the phrase "key to success" countless times. Most people assume that the key to success is somewhere inside them. The real key to success is in the people around you. One of my greatest desires is to improve the Alabama FFA, but I can't do it alone. I'm going to need my fellow state officers and all of you to help in this goal. The only way to improve an organization is to improve its members. If I can help you grow, as the people I stated above helped me grow, then this organization will be even stronger.



**Pictured above is Governor Bob Riley receiving his Honorary State FFA Degree and Alabama FFA Foundation Wall of Honor certificate. (L-R: Governor Bob Riley, Paul Pinyan from the Past State FFA Officers Alumni Organization, Jordan Hamilton - 2005-2006 State FFA President, and Matt Wilson - 2005-2006 State FFA Secretary.**



**Pictured above are the inductees to the Alabama FFA Foundation Wall of Honor that were present for the 1st session of the 77th Annual Alabama FFA State Convention.**

The Alabama FFA Foundation Wall of Honor reached a milestone this year in that it exceeded \$100,000 in contributions toward the Alabama FFA Foundation. This year's inductees in random order were: Doug Caddell, Jerry Newby, W.E. Cooper, M.D. "Moon" Thornton, Wayne Wortham, Tim McCoy, Mike Harrelson, James Turner, Phillip Cherry, M.H. Moses, Gene Galloway, Earl Saxon, Sandy Fields, Harold "Buddy" Pittman, Woodie Paige, Jr., Prince Preyer, Jr., Joe Parrish, Charlotte Hollis, and Bob Riley.

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