

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC Student Named “Best Senator” at Tennessee Intercollegiate Legislature

NASHVILLE, TN—The 42nd General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) met November 17-20 at the State Capitol and elected Free Will Baptist Bible College junior Frank Thornsby as “Best Senator” for the 2011 session. The model legislature which originated in 1966 is conducted by college students from across Tennessee and provides students with an education about state government and an opportunity to express their opinions on state issues.

Mr. Thornsby, a 20-year-old History major from Kentucky, led a four-person delegation from FWBBC as the college participated in its first TISL event. Other FWBBC students in the legislative team included freshman Collin Lane (Arkansas) who served as alternate senator, sophomore Bethany Coats (South Dakota) who functioned as a higher education lobbyist, and junior Daniel Coker (Mississippi) who served as a representative.

“This was a first for all of us,” Thornsby said. “It was an exciting four days, almost magical, as we prepared legislative bills and interacted with serious-minded students from 60 colleges regarding political and ethical issues of the day, knowing that some of the legislation we prepared would be presented to the Tennessee General Assembly. Many TISL bills from previous years have, in fact, become law. What a great experience! I’m looking forward to the 2012 session and an even greater involvement by FWBBC students.”

The FWBBC administration and staff encouraged student participation in TISL. Dr. Jon Forlines, vice president for student services, arranged funding for the Thornsby-led delegation. The session days were long and full, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and extending to 9:00 p.m.

In addition to winning “Best Senator” designation by his TISL peers, Frank Thornsby was named to the Committee on Higher Education and appointed to the Election Commission. He was

aggressive on the Senate floor, speaking repeatedly, debating and discussing issues to the point that he became known as “The Face” of conservative religious colleges.

“I felt right at home confronting colleagues in open debate,” Thornsberry said, “and for that, I credit all the C-Span I’ve watched since age 14. The world of public policy needs more individuals with a jurisprudence guided by biblical truth. My greatest experience at TISL was being named ‘Best Senator’ on the Senate floor. While some self-gratification was involved, the overwhelming sense of representing FWBBC well trumped all other emotions.”

Mr. Thornsberry serves as president of the FWBBC Student Body. His plans for 2012 TISL participation include writing more bills for the legislature and leading a larger delegation of FWBBC students to the State Capitol.

“Since day one of my FWBBC Student Body presidency,” he said, “it has been my goal to build up our community domestically and to share that community of faith and learning on a local, national, and global stage. Attending TSIL is the first step in our reaching out to a lost and dying world that desperately needs to hear the Good News.”

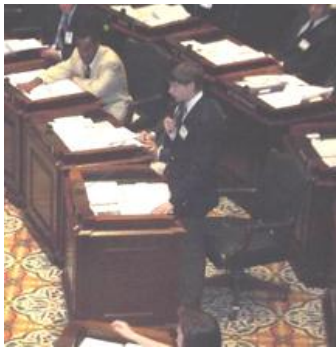


PHOTO: FWBBC Student Body president Frank Thornsberry speaks on Senate floor.