

Biographies

University of Southern Mississippi

Department of History

2009 Award Winners

Zachary Atwood

My name is Zachary Atwood and I am in my third year so technically I am a junior at USM. I transferred from Jones County Junior College after graduating from there in the May of 2008. I am a history major and I plan to change that to a double major in political science as well. I am from Ellisville, MS and I am 21 years old. My plan for the future is to graduate from USM as double major in history and political science, and to attend one of the prestigious law schools in the nation. I am heavily involved in student organization, national honor societies, and historical societies a like. I have also helped campaign for political elections for both state and national office. I was a collegiate athlete at JCJC as a soccer player and I work as a lifeguard during the warmer months of the year.

Scott Bartran

My name is Scott Bartran. I have a wife and four daughters their names are Anissa who is fourteen, Lauren is nine, and the twins, Emily and Abigail are four years old. I graduated from Mize High School in 1992, and I earned my Associate in Applied Science from Jones County Junior College in 2000. I am currently working on a B.A. in History with a minor in Spanish here at U.S.M. I am considering graduate courses once I complete my undergrad studies here at Southern Miss. My specific interests are U.S. History and Spanish. I have had an enjoyable experience so far with my studies, and the History Department staff has been especially helpful and exceedingly friendly.

Meredith Breckenridge

I am a senior from Hattiesburg, double majoring in Political Science and International Studies with a focus on Europe. I am an Honors College Student and Luckyday Scholar. In 2007, I studied in France for a semester through the Abbey Program and have enjoyed working in the Office of International Programs for the past two years. After graduating in May, I plan to pursue a Masters in International Affairs.

Colin M. Colbourn

Colin received his B.A. in History from Ball State University in 2007 with a minor in Anthropology. In the summers of 2006 and 2007, Colin interned with the Chief Historian of the Marine Corps at the U.S. Marine Corps History Division in Quantico, VA. After updating the Marine Corps's official publication database, he published three articles in *Leatherneck Magazine*, one of the Marine Corps's institutional publications. At Southern Mississippi, Colin studies U.S. History and Military Culture. Colin's thesis examines public relations and the United States Marine Corps. During his time at Southern Miss, Colin has traveled to Italy on a battlefield tour funded by the Cantigny First Division Foundation, and served as chair and co-organizer of the 2009 International Security and Internal Safety Conference. He hopes to continue his studies in the Ph.D. program at Southern Mississippi.

Elise Durant

My name is Elise Durant and I was born on November 22, 1988, to Lew and Gail Durant. I attended Brandon Elementary, Middle, and High Schools and graduated in 2006. My major is international studies and my minor is French. I am about to finish my junior year, and cannot wait to go overseas!!

Evan Elkins

Evan Elkins was born in Austin, Texas but has spent the majority of his life in Purvis Mississippi. He attended school at Oak Grove, and upon graduating, he became a student at The University of Southern Mississippi Honors College. His major field is history and his minor is classics. Last summer, he studied abroad in both London and Paris. Evan would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support in all his endeavors.

Jeff Guillot

Jeffrey Paul Guillot is a Junior Honors College Leadership Scholar from New Orleans, Louisiana. Jeffrey is a supplemental instructor and peer tutor for the Student Support Services Program and is an Honors College Ambassador. He is a member of numerous honor societies including Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Kappa Phi. Jeffrey has studied in Great Britain and France, and plans to spend the summer of 2009 studying abroad in Germany. He is on pace to graduate in May of 2010,



with a double major in History and Foreign Languages & Literatures, and plans to attend graduate school in modern European History. Jeffrey would like to thank his mother and father for a lifetime of love and support, and his girlfriend for her constant patience, affection, and companionship.

Terry Johnston

I am a forty-eight year old male, married, with three grown step-sons. I am a senior at the University of Southern Mississippi and expect to graduate in May, 2009, with a degree in History/Secondary Licensure. I have lived, gone to school, and worked from one end of the United States to the other. I was born in South Carolina, raised in Virginia, and then transplanted to Southern California when I was thirteen. I have gone to schools in Virginia, California, Wisconsin, and Mississippi. I was a journeyman Ironworker for twenty-five years until I decided to pursue my dream of becoming both a historian and also to teach young adults.

Stephanie Latza

My name is Stephanie Latza and I am a 20 year old History and Psychology double major from Hernando, MS. I am a sophomore here at USM and am a member of Delta Gamma Sorority, where I am serving as Vice President of Finance, a member of the Catholic Student Association, where I am serving on the student board as co-chair for Community Service, and most recently I have had the honor of being selected as a member of Southern Style 2009. I enjoy studying and hanging out with my friends and just trying to make my four year at Southern Miss the best experience I could ever ask for.

Whit Meeks

Whitney Meeks graduated this past December Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Spanish. As an undergraduate, Meeks served his university as the Student Government Association Attorney General, the President of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, and as a chapter officer for the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. He furthered his academic experience by submitting research to the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference in Jackson and to the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion in Atlanta. Meeks also had a paper, "Compromising Conviction: Muslim Minorities in Dar al-Harb Spain," published in USM's undergraduate journal, the *Catalyst*. Meeks currently lives in Ecuador, where he works as a Natural Resources Conservation Volunteer for the United States Peace Corps. He plans to pursue a doctoral program in history, with an emphasis on Latin American Environmental History, upon returning to the United States in 2011.

Allison Miller

Allison Miller graduated from D'Iberville High School in 2004. After receiving her high school diploma, she continued her education at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi, where she received an Associate's Degree in liberal arts. Allison continued her education at The University of Southern Mississippi; in December of 2008, she received a Bachelor's Degree in history with licensure to teach secondary social studies. She completed her teacher candidacy at South Forrest Attendance Center in Brooklyn, Mississippi, and Perry Central High School in New Augusta, Mississippi. Allison is currently living in Biloxi, pursuing her teaching career as an employee of Kelly Educational Services. Throughout her time at USM, her most influential professors were Mrs. Mary Beth Farrell and Dr. Deanne Nuwer. Both Mrs. Farrell and Dr. Nuwer taught her that the most essential characteristic of a teacher is to never stop learning.

Jessie Pennypacker

Jessie Pennypacker was born in Jackson Mississippi to Alaskan native, Candyce Womack, and Pennsylvanian native, Al Pennypacker. At a young age his grandfather, a World War II veteran, and his father instilled in him a passion for History. His loving mother gave him the heart and confidence to strive to achieve all his goals in his life. He achieved his dream of becoming the first in his family to attend college. He plans on earning a degree in History and teaching in harsh areas of Alaska after graduation.



Nabeel Siddiqui

I was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and I have one brother, Sehban. I moved to America when I was 4 years old and moved to Meridian when I was 7 years old. I have been going to Southern Miss since 2005 and plan to go to graduate school. Although I do not have any idea where I will go to graduate school, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in History.