

Record Luckyday Study Abroad Scholarships Awarded at Southern Miss

Contributed by David Tisdale - 601.266.4499
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Twenty-five University of Southern Mississippi students will have the opportunity to participate in the university's study abroad and exchange programs thanks to a generous gift from the Luckyday Foundation.

The scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, will aid students studying abroad in the program of their choice through the fall 2010 semester. It is the largest number of study abroad scholarships awarded by the foundation to Southern Miss students since the Luckyday Citizenship Scholars Program was established at the university in 2002.

The Luckyday Citizenship Program promotes education both inside and outside of the traditional classroom experience, said Dr. Larry Sparkman, director of the Luckyday Citizenship Scholars program at Southern Miss. "The Luckyday Foundation has given generously to Southern Miss students, allowing them to dream new dreams through real life experiences abroad."

The scholarships were awarded by a review committee through a competitive scholarship competition that included sophomore, junior and senior Luckyday Citizenship Scholars. Students will study in programs such as the Caribbean Studies Program, the Abbey Program in Pontlevoy, France and the British Studies Program, among others.

To date, the Luckyday Foundation has enabled more than 120 students from The University of Southern Mississippi to study abroad in the program of their choice.

"We're grateful for this generous gift from the Luckyday Foundation, and for its continued support of international education opportunities for our students," said Dr. Susan Steen, director of Southern Miss International Education.

Students selected and their hometowns include: Ross Baylis, Courtney Guess, Kimberly-Joy Lockley, Megan McPhail, Ashley Prine, and Britny West, Hattiesburg; Bonnie Lucas, Petal; Chelsea and Carlee Lewis, Brooklyn; Alicia Augustine, Gulfport; Kirsten Cooley, Katherine Love, Haley Massey and Chelsea Townsend, Brandon; Tamara Doyle, Biloxi; Jennifer Flint, Batesville; Weston Harwell, Poplarville; Alexia Heard, Tupelo; Monica Labit, Lucedale; Christopher Ladner, Picayune; Kayla Moorner, Laurel; Jordan Randall, Ocean Springs; Carlos Stallworth, Moss Point; Jordan Towne, Vicksburg; and Tonya Yancey, Jackson.

Founded by the late Frank R. Day of Jackson, the Luckyday Foundation initiated funding for 400 scholarships annually worth \$1.6 million at Southern Miss beginning in 2002 to assist Mississippi high school seniors who demonstrate leadership skills; academic potential; are involved in their communities; and demonstrate a need for financial assistance to pursue a degree at Southern Miss.

In 2010 the scholarship will provide 100 entering freshmen with \$4,000-per-year scholarships, with up to four years renewable. Each year, 100 freshman scholarships will be added and the previous scholarships renewed, provided recipients continue to meet eligibility criteria. To provide an extra incentive for recipients to excel, the program awards study abroad scholarships.

Luckyday Scholars also receive support and encouragement to help assure their academic success through a Luckyday Citizenship seminar; a study skills course; designated housing assignments to encourage a living/learning community; community service learning requirements; and many other opportunities. For more information about the Luckyday Program at Southern Miss, online visit www.usm.edu/luckyday/program. For more information about Southern Miss International Education programs, online visit www.usm.edu/internationaledu

About The University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi, founded in 1910, is a comprehensive doctoral and research-extensive university

fulfilling its mission of being a leading university in engaging and empowering individuals to transform lives and communities. In a tradition of leadership for student development, Southern Miss is educating a 21st century work force providing intellectual capital, cultural enrichment and innovation to Mississippi and the world. Southern Miss is located in Hattiesburg, Miss., with an additional campus and teaching and research sites on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; further information is found at www.usm.edu.