Special Opportunities

Allie Durham ‘14 (Collierville, TN) won first place in the 2014 Dr. James Alex Baggett History Research Paper Competition at Union University for her paper on “Rendering Freedom: The Works of Winslow Homer and the Condition of the Emancipated Slave.”

Colby Benefield ‘14 (Spring Hill, TN), Grace Morriss ‘14 (Denton, TX), Charles Snow ‘14 (Big Sandy, TN), and Zach Thompson ‘14 (Shelbyville, TN) presented papers at the Tennesee Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference at Tennessee Tech University on February 22, 2014. Morriss won the second place prize in the undergraduate paper competition.

Colby Benefield ‘14 (Spring Hill, TN), Shelby Pace ‘14 (Yuma, TN), Charles Snow ‘14 (Big Sandy, TN), Heather Stricklin ‘14 (Hermitage, TN), Lowell Van Ness ‘14 (Hoover, AL), and Gracie Wise ‘14 (Searcy, AR) presented papers at the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in January 2014.

Lowell Van Ness ‘14 (Hoover, AL) completed the Discipline-Specific Honors Program in History in December 2013. His paper was entitled “Split State: Civil War Recruitment in Tennessee.”

Allie Durham ‘14 (Collierville, TN) spent a part of her 2013 summer studying French at the Catholic University of the West in Angers, France.

Patricia Dawson ‘13 (Jackson, TN) won the Lynn W. Turner Prize of $500 given by the national office of Phi Alpha Theta for having the best undergraduate paper submitted by a student member in the 2013 nationwide competition.

Mary Ellen Poe ‘13 (Jackson, TN) spent the spring semester of 2012 in the United Kingdom studying at Regent’s College, Oxford University. She received a scholarship from Union’s Institute for International and Intercultural Studies to help support this endeavor.

Internships

Heather Stricklin ‘14 (Hermitage, TN) worked as a history intern during the fall of 2013 at the Union University Archives located in the Emma Waters Summar Library.

Patricia Dawson ‘13 (Jackson, TN) carried out an internship at the Madison County Archives in Jackson, Tennessee, during the spring of 2013.

Mary Thompson ’08 (Millington, TN) did an internship at Green Frog Historic Village in Alamo, Tennessee, in the fall of 2007.

History Majors After Union

Luke Trammell ‘14 (Leesburg, AL) is a first-year student at the University of Alabama School of Law, where he received a scholarship.

Logan Smith ‘13 (Knoxville, TN) is working on a Master of Divinity program with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Savannah German ‘12 (Whiteville, TN) is a cataloging associate at Union’s Emma Waters Summar Library.
Elaura Highfield ’12 (Culleoka, TN) is completing a master’s program in public history at Middle Tennessee State University. She received an assistantship from MTSU and the 2012 A. F. Zimmerman Scholarship from Phi Alpha Theta to help her with expenses.

Kaleb Noblett ’12 (Henderson, KY) is in his final year of studies at the University of Louisville School of Law. He was a recipient of a law school scholarship, and he currently serves on the editorial board of the school’s Law Review.

Caroline Rickard ’12 (Henderson, TN) is a third-year law student at Vanderbilt University. She has received two scholarships during her studies there.

Hunter Bragg ’11 (Birmingham, AL) is in a Master of Divinity program as a scholarship recipient at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama.

Betsy Davis ’11 (Henderson, KY) graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in the spring of 2014. She works as staff attorney for a state court judge in Lexington, Kentucky.

Noah Arnold ’10 (Geneva, AL) completed an M.A. in history at the University of Mississippi in the spring of 2012. He currently teaches at a university in Laos.

Shelby (Johnson) Baker ’10 (Memphis, TN) received an M.A. in literature at the University of Tennessee in the spring of 2012. She is now working on a Ph.D. in English literature at Vanderbilt University.

Joshua Abbotoy ’09 (Hartsville, TN) is in his second year of law school at Harvard University. He completed an M.A. in Medieval and Byzantine Studies at the Catholic University in America in 2011.

Trista (Rowland) Havner ’09 (Jackson, TN) teaches 7th and 8th grade Humanities at Northeast Middle School in Jackson, Tennessee.

Nathan Tilly ’09 (Dyersburg, TN) graduated from the law school of the University of Tennessee in 2012. He practices law in Dyersburg, Tennessee.

Cameron Armstrong ’08 (Howell, MI) graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in missiology in 2011 and a Master of Theology in 2012. He currently serves as a missionary in Bucharest, Romania.

Mary Beth (Johnson) Pavlik ’08 (Hendersonville, TN) graduated in 2011 from the law school of American University in Washington, D.C. She works as a senior management analyst at the Chicago regional office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs.

John Crawford ’07 (Jackson, TN) finished an M.A. at the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky in 2008. He works as a defense analyst for the Government Accountability Office in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jared Myracle ’07 (Pinson, TN) is the supervisor of instruction for grades 9-12 in the Gibson County Special School District in West Tennessee. He earned his doctorate in education at Trevecca Nazarene University in the spring of 2012.

Gayra (Jones) Hall ’06 (Jackson, TN) graduated from the law school of the University of Memphis in 2009. She is an attorney in Jackson, Tennessee.

David Patterson ’04 (Jackson, TN) is a marketing and communications executive for a data systems company in Palo Alto, California. He graduated from the law school of the University of Tennessee in 2007.

Joshua Moore ’03 (Dresden, TN) is the Director of Church Relations at Union University and pastor of a Baptist church in Milan, Tennessee. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2011 and completed a Master of Theology in Philosophy of Religion at the same institution in 2014.

Jeff Stehle ’01 (Bartlett, TN) earned a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2003. He serves as a chaplain at a federal prison in New York State.

The cities listed for students were their hometowns when the students were enrolled at Union University.

Printed in October, 2014.

Annual History Lectureship
With the Carls-Schwerdfeger History Lecture Series, the department every fall since 1997 has had a widely-known historian deliver a public lecture in his/her area of expertise. The lecturers of the past 13 years, along with their school affiliation, their lecture topic, and the year they spoke, are:

Elizabeth Varon, University of Virginia, “Legacies of Appomattox: Lee’s Surrender in History and Memory,” 2014.


George C. Rable, University of Alabama, “God as General: Was There a Religious History of the American Civil War?” 2012.

Pauline Maier, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Ratification of the U.S. Constitution: Why Should We Care?” 2011.


