History Majors Emily Adams and Clay Martinson were named Outstanding Sophomores by the College of Arts & Sciences. Both students are aspiring lawyers and hope to use their studies in history as a foundation for legal study. Emily “dove into” 200 & 300-level courses, and found that they fit her interests well. Clay enjoys studying history because it’s important for us to understand “where we come from.” Emily likes the fact that “you can just really get involved, whether it be through a public history internship or by conducting research with a faculty member.”

Emily is a Texas native who is double majoring in History and International Studies. She is a member of the University Fellows Program, the Athletic Department’s Student Recruitment Team, and the Honors College Ambassador program. She also serves as an Associate Justice on the Student Judicial Board in SGA, as the Treasurer of the Legal Research Club, and as the PR/Communications Chair for the English Majors & Minors Association. Clay is from Huntsville and serves as the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs in SGA. He is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and co-chair of the Lambda Sigma Honors Society, and has recently finished his term as Inter-Fraternity Council Chair and co-chair of the Students for Doug Jones campaign.

Blake Ball was awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award by The University of Alabama Graduate School for the single best dissertation completed at the University in 2017.

His dissertation is titled “Charlie Brown’s America: Peanuts and the Politics of Wishy-Washy, 1950-1989,” and was directed by Dr. Andrew Huebner. “Charlie Brown’s America” asks why Charlie Brown and Snoopy mattered in Cold War America. Ball argues that a major component to Peanuts’ success was the ways that the artist Charles Schulz connected his work to the fears, anxieties, hopes, and aspirations of his readers in terms with which they identified. Schulz was so successful in giving form to these public and private feelings that his characters became a regular part of a national iconography. This is why his characters appeared in political campaigns, protest rallies, college dorm rooms, psychology textbooks, Sunday sermons, and with soldiers in Vietnam. Sometimes these uses were sanctioned by the artist, but more often they were not.

“Charlie Brown’s America” is a study of the give-and-take between cultural producers and consumers and the role this relationship played in framing and shaping American political discourse in the second half of the twentieth century.
DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Frank Lawrence Owsley Memorial Scholarship for Superior Competency in American History
- David Ferrara

Albert Burton Moore Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in European, Latin American, or Asian History.
- Chase McCarter

National Awards

2017 John L. Snell Memorial Prize, European History Section of the Southern Historical Association
- Dan Bishop

Class of 1957 Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Naval Heritage at the United States Naval Academy
- Mark Folse

12th Annual Student Paper Competition (Graduate Division) of the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference
- John Young (finalist)

Outside of her Ph.D. studies, Royster is an active member of the history community, serving as the chair of the senate at the Student Government Association and serving as a graduate student resource for the Department of History.

Royster’s research interests include the African Diaspora, race, gender, and empire in the United States and South America. She is currently working on a project that examines the intersections of religion, race, gender, and empire in the United States and South America.

Royster is an active member of the history community, serving as the chair of the Senate at the Student Government Association and as a graduate student resource for the Department of History.

Royster began the Ph.D. program at NYU in the fall of 2015, with a primary field of African Diaspora and a secondary field in Modern Latin America. Her dissertation, “Of Our Stock and Blood: Empire, Religion, and Afro-Diasporic Identity, 1898-1945,” examines Afro-diasporic identity formation through the intersections of religion, race, gender, and empire in the United States and South America. After completing her doctorate, she hopes to gain a tenure-track professorship at a university.

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The Peer Mentors is a group of remarkable undergraduates who excelled in History survey courses and want to share their knowledge of how to succeed in these classes. They help teach critical skills to students enrolled in 100-level classes, including how to take notes effectively, how to study for exams, and how to write historically-focused essays. These tireless volunteers have helped many first-year and seasoned students perform at the peak of their ability.

2017-2018 Peer Mentors:
- David Bermudez
- Parriss Bettis
- Kayla Branum
- Ian Burt
- Ellie Cochran
- Matt Culver
- Bridgette Davis
- Gracie Engle
- Sarah Forland
- Alex Fries
- Rhiannon Hein
- Vann Hicks
- Savannah Martin
- Morgan Nolan
- Oliver Reed
- Kasey Stender
- Alex Voss
- Camryn Walker
- Charlotte Watters
- Heather Wilhite
- Kendell Wilson

Culver became interested in World War I when researching a relative who served in the American armed forces who died in France. When he began digging further into the war's history, he discovered that “everything changes because of this war.” He became particularly interested in how the war changed language, bringing slang phrases like ‘over the top’ into the mainstream vernacular. “American dialects start to intermix,” he explains, “because you’re putting people from all over the country into these central divisions and sending them to France, so they start talking like one another.” In addition to forming a shared language, the war also united GIs through “new music, new poetry, new film, new everything...It’s just such a pivotal moment.” Culver was also fascinated by the role the war played in helping to facilitate women’s suffrage. When conducting tours of the exhibit, he makes a point to highlight women’s contributions to the war effort.
The extent and quality of the activities sponsored by the Department of History depends in large measure on our available funds and the generous support of donors. Endowments or significant targeted donations will enable us to increase our national visibility, expand our production of nationally-recognized scholarship, and to grow History programming and events. Naming opportunities are possible in conjunction with such gifts.

For more information about any of the opportunities to support The University of Alabama Department of History, please contact our Department Office Manager, Christina Kircharr, at christinak@ua.edu or 205.348.7104.

To make a general donation online, please visit https://give.ua.edu, and enter “History Department Gift Fund” in the search bar.

Your support enables the Department to:

- Fund endowed scholarships and awards for outstanding current and prospective students.
- Support the research travel and professional development of both faculty and graduate students.
- Fund student organizations such as Phi Alpha Theta and the Graduate History Association.
- Fund student publications, such as the department’s award-winning *Southern Historian* journal.