

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

4-22-2021

Seven UM International Studies Students Named Boren Scholars

Edwin B. Smith

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews>

Recommended Citation

Smith, Edwin B., "Seven UM International Studies Students Named Boren Scholars" (2021). *University of Mississippi News*. 4644.

<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/4644>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Mississippi News by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Seven UM International Studies Students Named Boren Scholars

Arabic and Chinese Language Flagship students among those selected for prestigious award

APRIL 22, 2021 BY EDWIN B. SMITH



The 2021 David L. Boren Scholars from the University of Mississippi are (top, from left) Brantley Damon, Mille Greene, Ivy Gerrell and William Bradford, and (bottom, from left) Jordan Evans, Ella Lawson and Isabel Spafford.

OXFORD, Miss. – For the second time in three years, seven accomplished students at the **University of Mississippi** have been named as recipients of the prestigious **David L. Boren Scholarship** from the **National Security Exchange Program**.

All either are or have been enrolled in the university's **Croft Institute for International Studies**.

The recipients are Brantley Damon, of Madison; Miller Greene, of Columbus; and Isabel Spafford, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, all of whom will go to Meknes, Morocco; William Bradford, of Tupelo, who is going to Tanzania; Jordan Evans, of Geneva, Illinois; and Ivy Gerrell, of Gainesville, Georgia, both of whom will go to Taiwan.

Ella Lawson, of Dearborn, Michigan, was planning to study in Indonesia but has decided to join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps instead.

All but Damon and Ivy are also members of the **Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College**. Five of the six remaining students will use their Boren scholarships to complete their capstone – or fifth-year – programs in cities in their respective countries. Their Boren terms are scheduled to run August 2021 through May 2022.



William Bradford

Bradford is a senior international studies and Spanish major. He plans to learn Swahili, enjoy Tanzanian culture and climb Mount Kilimanjaro. After returning to the U.S., Bradford said he will look for a job using the connections he made through Boren with the U.S. Department of State.

Damon is an Arabic major with minors in teaching English to speakers of other languages and education. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career as a foreign service officer.

Evans is a dual English and Chinese major. He will be attending the Chinese Flagship program at National Yang-Ming University in Taipei, Taiwan. While there, Evans will be interning as well as refining his language and intercultural communication skills. After he returns, Evans hope to work for the State

Follow us on social



Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)

Thank You To Our Donors

Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)

Ole Miss In the News

Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith's Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

Department, with a goal of becoming a foreign service officer.

Gerrell is a senior Chinese and international studies major with a minor in aerospace studies. Next year, she will attend the Chinese Language Flagship's capstone program in Taiwan at National Yang-Ming University. After graduation, Gerrell will commission as a second lieutenant through Ole Miss' Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program.



Brantley Damon

Greene is a joint international studies and Arabic major. After returning from Morocco, he hopes to attend graduate school and eventually work as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development.



Jordan Evans

Spafford is a senior majoring in Arabic, Swahili and international studies. She will study Arabic, attend classes with Moroccan students at a local university and attend an internship. After graduation, Spafford plans to work in sustainable development and/or peace building.

Lawson would have been the first Ole Miss student to be awarded a prestigious Indonesian Fellowship Language Initiative Boren award. A senior Arabic, international studies and classics major, her plans are to join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps this fall to volunteer with Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly in Chicago.



Ivy Gerrell

"Five of the seven are members of the SMBHC, and we salute all who took the risk to apply and invested in the effort to put our university on the national map with their potential win," said Douglass Sullivan-González, dean of the Honors College. "Our winners demonstrate once again that our undergraduates compete successfully with the best schools in the nation."



Miller Greene

Oliver Dinius, executive director of the Croft Institute, commended all seven students for their accomplishment in achieving this scholarship.

"They all stayed committed to the study of foreign language to expand their horizons, even if some of them decided to leave the international studies major along the way," Dinius said. "Five of the seven winners will complete the B.A. in International Studies this May."

"This serves as testimony to the unique opportunities that Croft offers to students with an international outlook, and it also confirms that combining international studies with the Flagship programs in Arabic or Chinese is a

winning formula."

This year, the Institute of International Education, which administers the awards on behalf of NSEP, received 851 applications from undergraduate students for the Boren Scholarship, from which 244 were awarded; 273 graduate students applied for the Boren Fellowship, and 106 were awarded.

Boren scholars and fellows will live in 39 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. They will study 30 different languages. The most popular languages include Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, Portuguese, Swahili and Hindi.



Isabel Spafford

"This year, we co-hosted a workshop with a Boren representative to provide details and tips on applying for the scholarship," said Vivian Ibrahim, director of the university's **Office of National Scholarship Advisement**. "This was both a fantastic recruitment event and opportunity for the students to know that ONSA and my office are tools they can draw on."



Ela Lawson

"Last year we had two recipients; this year we have seven! The Boren is a great feeder award that fast tracks successful students into careers in federal government. I'm thrilled for the students and hope that their success will encourage others on campus to consider applying to the

Boren through the Office of National Scholarship Advisement."

Students interested in applying for the Boren Scholarship are encouraged to contact the Office of National Scholarship Advisement at vibrahim@olemiss.edu.

"James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier," a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)

