



ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON  
TOURISM

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON  
Monday, July 29, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

Alabama Association of Destination Management Organizations  
Compass Media LLC

**AGCT Scholarship Committee**

Co-Chairmen: Todd Scholl, Ithaka Hospitality Management  
Don Dukemineer, Visit Decatur

**Committee Members:**

Christy Aitken, Alabama State Parks  
Christy Baranovic, The Lodge at Gulf State Park  
Janet Cobb, USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park  
Tyler Dolan, Visit Florence  
Amanda Donaldson, University of South Alabama  
Ed Douglas, Coastal Alabama Community College  
Morgan Mullen, Alabama Travel Council  
Alvin Niu, University of Alabama  
Tami Reist, AMLA  
Kelsey Rush, Tuscaloosa Tourism & Sports  
Pam Swanner, Alabama Black Belt Tourism Assn



**Avery Boyle - \$1,000 Scholarship**

Avery Boyle is a sophomore at Samford University majoring in sport administration with a hospitality concentration. She grew up playing elite sports in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which is why her dream is to work in the world of sport hospitality.



**Tenisha Douglas– \$2,000 Scholarship**

Tenisha Douglas is a culinary student at Trenholm State Community College. Tenisha, or Tee, is a passionate, hardworking kind woman who loves cooking for others during various church events. Tee likes to push herself to learn new skills like the guitar and also enjoys spending time with her family. She is confident in the abilities God has provided her with to make this world better. One of her mottos is “You can change the world with a smile, but you can fix the world just by taking the time.” She plans to utilize her gifts and feed the world more than food!



**Chloe Knippers - \$2,000 Scholarship**

Chloe is a current junior at the University of South Alabama pursuing a degree in the field of Hospitality and Tourism. She serves with many different groups on campus through the HTM Club, EMS Club, South Guides, and the cheerleading squad. She never meets a stranger and is always willing to lend a helping hand. She is looking forward to everything that this field has to offer.



**Adrian Brantley– \$3,000 Scholarship**

Adrian Brantley is a Mobile, Alabama native and student at the University of South Alabama earning his degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management with a minor in Women and Gender Studies . An advocate at heart, Adrian has spoken out for activism at rallies and community events like Trans-Lucent and a Youth Town Hall. He is an avid coffee lover who spends much of his time participating in local community theater, performing in productions like Oliver, Beauty and the Beast, and A Midsummer Night's Dream



**Bella Esposito – \$3,000 Scholarship**

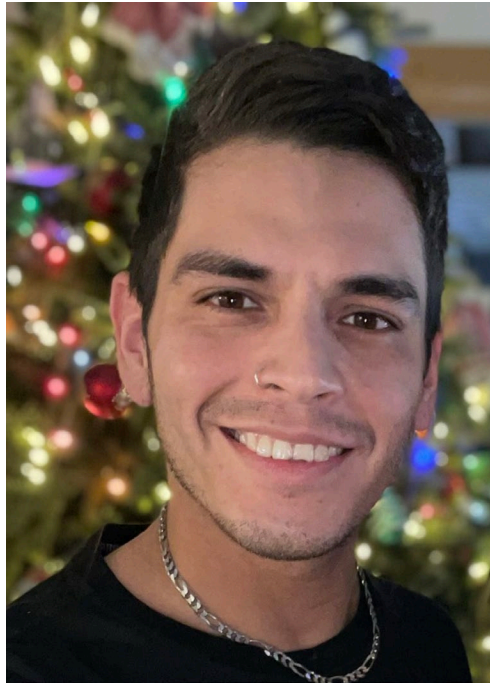
Bella is a student at the University of South Alabama as a Hospitality and Tourism Management Senior, graduating in the Fall of 2024. Within the last 2 years at South, she has held multiple leadership roles with her sorority and interned at The Battle House in downtown Mobile where she learned the physicality of event planning. With her degree, she hopes to be able to travel and work with local communities to improve their tourism.



**Nicole Kaufeldt - \$4,000 Scholarship**

Nicole Kaufeldt is a rising senior at The University of Alabama. She is majoring in hospitality management with a concentration in hotels and lodging along with a minor in psychology. She is from San Antonio Texas but has fallen in love with Alabama and is so glad to call this place her home. She plans on attending law school post-grad to pursue her dreams of becoming an attorney.

She hopes to combine her love and passion for hospitality and law by becoming an in-house counsel for a hotel chain. She feels that her hospitality background will add to her legal knowledge in the field. She is honored to be the recipient of this scholarship and to be able to use it towards furthering her education. Roll Tide!



### **Nathaniel Luis Blackmon – \$4,000 Scholarship**

Nathan Blackmon is a student at the University of South Alabama who has found his passion in creativity and inclusion. With his experience in the metal and hardcore music industry, he was able to witness firsthand the power of community and hospitality. Through his engagement with different demographics of race, age, disability, and financial standing he was able to recognize the sheer force of love, respect, and good ol' Southern Hospitality, and how it was always able to bring everyone in the room closer together. As a proud father of two young sons, he is proud to raise them right where he grew up, on the beautiful Gulf Coast. The southern culture, spectacular views, and growing diverse community have allowed him to maintain pride in where he comes from.

Nathan and his fiancée have made it a point to bask in the enriching atmosphere that Southern Alabama was blessed with. The stars certainly aligned and fell right on Alabama placing their family here on the Gulf Coast.



**Holly**

**Ann Seabridge – \$5,000 Scholarship**

Holly is a Junior at the University of South Alabama. She has worked in the restaurant and hotel industry since she was 15 years old with her first job at Little Caesars. From there, she has been a cashier, hostess, bartender, supervisor, housekeeper, food, runner and a caregiver. Holly wishes to show her son, Jackson, that you can achieve anything with hard work and dedication. As a single mother, she feels she has accomplished so many of her goals and is excited that her next one will be completing her bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. She has a heart for helping people and this industry allows her to do what she's always loved.



**Emilee Kurdziel– \$5,000 Scholarship**

Emilee Kurdziel is a rising senior at The University of Alabama, pursuing a B.S. and M.S. in Hospitality Management with a minor in Global and Cultural perspectives. She is studying with a focus in Meetings and Events and hopes to enter the events industry after graduation. Inspired by her upbringing in South Florida and semester abroad in Barcelona, Spain, she has gained interests in international business and intercultural communication. She hopes to combine these interests with her passion for hospitality by working in international events and connect with people from around the world.



**Amiaya Ross- \$6,000 Scholarship**

Amiaya is a current Senior at the University of South Alabama, majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management. She is a native of Jacksonville, Alabama. Her interest is in Sports Hospitality and Event Management Operations. Amiaya believes that she has a strong background in diverse areas of the Hospitality Industry. Her goal is to work in the event management operations department within the sports industry sector of the hospitality industry. Throughout her time in sports, she has noticed a lack of HTM representation, which she feels truly brings a different perspective to game-day events. Her ultimate goal is to work at a professional sports venue.



**Lenzie Richardson- \$6,000 Scholarship**

Lenzie Richardson is a recent graduate from the University of South Alabama in the department of Hospitality and Tourism and will soon proceed with Graduate school at the University of Alabama in the fall. She also serves as the assistant manager of the front desk at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Al. She is thankful for the opportunity that this scholarship will provide to continue her education. Lenzie devotes herself to her academic studies and career growth by maintaining a positive work ethic and healthy lifestyle. She would like to thank her mentors on campus and at Perdido Beach Resort for their motivation and inspiration in furthering her education.



In 1989, Alabama's hospitality and tourism industry created a scholarship program to recognize outstanding achievement by college students majoring in hospitality/tourism-related fields. Since that first \$500.00 scholarship was presented 34 years ago, our industry has raised over \$475,000 for this worthy cause that helps students on their way towards a successful hospitality/tourism career.

To qualify for a scholarship, a student must be working toward a degree in the field of hospitality, tourism, hotel, restaurant/food service management or culinary arts. They must be well-established in the program and must maintain a 2.5 out of 4.0 Grade Point Average, must show participation in industry functions and must demonstrate leadership both on and off-campus.

