

## History Department Awards Policies

Approved September 30, 2016

### I. Outstanding BA Award

This is not designated as an annual award but will be awarded in order to recognize the exceptional accomplishments and contributions of a History B.A. student.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this award is to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments made by graduating students with a degree in history. Each year, one to three students will be selected. The award is given to students who excel in scholarly achievement and evidence extraordinary contributions to the campus and surrounding communities. Students selected would be role models in representing the values of scholarship, commitment, and integrity that exemplify the History Department's expectations.

#### Qualifications:

1. Must be a graduating senior in the academic year that the award is given.
2. Must complete all coursework by the summer of the year the award is given.
3. Must be in good academic standing at the university

#### Criteria

1. Academic Excellence:  
Nominee must
  - a. have a GPA of 3.4 or higher in course work completed in History at CSUSM.
  - b. have completed at least one outstanding research project/paper in either History 301 or 400.
2. Extraordinary Achievements and/or Contributions at CSUSM:  
Nominee has
  - a. made a significant contribution to the department and/or campus and/or the surrounding community; and/or
  - b. had challenging life experiences that make their achievements and/or contributions (noted as Criteria 2.a., above) particularly exceptional.

#### Selection and Recognition Process

1. Students will be nominated by faculty in the department of history. The nominator should submit a short nomination letter to the department chair by the last week before Spring Break.
2. The faculty as a whole (or at least three faculty members) will discuss the nominations and select award recipient(s) by the end of the first week after Spring Break.
3. The name(s) of the award recipient(s) will be forwarded to the Dean of CHABSS for inclusion in the Student Recognition Ceremony on the last Sunday of April.

Award recipients will be acknowledged at the Department of History's graduation reception and will receive a certificate from the department.

## II. Outstanding MA Thesis Award

This award will be given in order to recognize the M.A. thesis that is genuinely outstanding. Only students whose work has been consistently excellent in the M.A. program will be eligible for consideration.

An outstanding M.A. Thesis must have the following characteristics:

1. A significant depth of research: The thesis must
  - engage "state of the field" scholarship relevant to the student's thesis and demonstrate familiarity with the major debates, past controversies, or key issues in the topic area; and
  - be based on extensive primary-source research that exhausts a particular body of relevant sources; and/or
  - employ particularly innovative and/or original analytical approaches to research, resulting in particularly insightful or original conclusions.
2. Outstanding writing
  - Prose is fluid, coherent, and well organized; may be particularly powerful or otherwise engaging in style;
  - Prose should be free of grammatical and typographical errors and incorrect use of words;
  - Thesis must be properly formatted according to Chicago Manual of Style standards.
3. The thesis makes a substantial contribution to the historical field and can serve as a model of sound methods of analysis and compelling, evidence-based argumentation.

## III. Distinguished Alumnus Award

This is an annual award to be given to an individual who graduated from CSUSM History department. Criteria for this award may include having

1. served/acted as an exemplar and role model to history students and/or other community members;
2. achieved exemplary accomplishments in her/his professional career;
3. made an exemplary positive impact at CSUSM and/or communities beyond the university; and/or
4. provided exceptional support for the History Department at CSUSM and/or has helped promote public interest in studying history.