

**Melissa (“Missy”) Janczewski Jones** is a Visiting Instructor in the Department of History and Political Science. She holds a Master’s Degree in History and Political Science and a Bachelor’s Degree in Paralegal Studies from MC. Missy previously taught as an adjunct instructor and teaching assistant in the department for many years before being named Visiting Instructor in 2015. In 2016, she was named the Distinguished Alumna of the Year by her colleagues.

Currently, Missy teaches United States History I and II, Western Civilization I and II, and Mississippi History. Since joining the department, Missy has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to develop an internship program for qualifying history majors. In addition to academic course credit, students gain invaluable work experience and professional supervision in a variety of fields, such as public education, archival research, preservation, museum display, historic interpretation and commemoration, archeology, and public relations.

Missy also serves as the editor of *Mississippi History Now*, an online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society. Created in 1990, *Mississippi History Now* publishes scholarly articles and accompanying lesson plans on various aspects of Mississippi history. Additionally, Missy is a member of the Civil Rights Education Committee of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, a member of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Historical Society, and a faculty sponsor of the Mississippi College History Club.

Missy’s area of historical focus includes the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Historical Memory. In 2012 and 2013, she served as a Park Ranger at Vicksburg National Military Park during the park’s sesquicentennial. She wrote and created the park’s first interpretive talk and tour for the 1874 Vicksburg Riot (the bloodiest race riot in state history). A year later, the park publicly recognized and commemorated this event on its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

However, it is Missy’s graduate research on a similar Reconstruction tragedy in Clinton (the Clinton Riot of 1875) which has captured the most attention, both locally and nationally. In 2015, Missy worked with many groups and individuals to bring attention and awareness to the Clinton Riot on its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary: the City of Clinton held a two-day symposium and unveiled a new historical marker, an interracial dialogue was established among three local churches of differing racial backgrounds, and a Historical Unity Celebration was held between two historically black churches from Hinds and Holmes counties. In September of 2015, Missy’s article, "Thawing Frozen History: The Clinton Riot of 1875," along with a lesson plan for social studies teachers, was published by the Mississippi Historical Society. The article and accompanying lesson plan can be accessed here: <http://mshistorynow.mdah.state.ms.us/articles/399/the-clinton-riot-of-1875-from-riot-to-massacre>.

In April of 2016, Missy served as a keynote speaker at the Civil Rights Literacy and the Past, Present, and Future of the Common Good Conference sponsored by the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has also presented papers at six other conferences in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Virginia, receiving the “best paper” award twice. Her work has been highlighted by Mississippi Public

Broadcasting, Teaching For Change, Washington, D.C., the *Jackson Free Press*, the *Clarion-Ledger*, and the *Clinton Courier*.

Missy has recently served as a film consultant on an upcoming documentary film project, and she is currently working on an article for the *African American National Biography* sponsored by Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African American Research and the *Journal of Mississippi History*. She has been accepted as a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi and hopes to begin her doctoral work in the fall of 2018.

Missy is a native of Lucedale, Mississippi. She is married to Paul ("Trey") Griffin Jones, III and just celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Missy has two amazing children, Evan Griffin Jones (a sophomore political science major at Millsaps College) and Erin Gabrielle Jones (a senior at Jackson Academy). Missy is a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Jackson, where her husband serves as pastor.

### **Missy's Other Leadership Activities**

**2015-present** *Civil Rights Education Comm./William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation*

**2014-present** *Member of Executive Committee of the Mississippi Historical Society*

**2016-present** *Member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church*

**2014-2015** *City of Clinton's Historical Committee – 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clinton Riot*

**2013-present** *Faculty Sponsor of the Mississippi College History Club*

**2014-present** *Member of the Mississippi Council for the Social Studies*

**2010-present** *Member of the Mississippi Historical Society*

**2011-2016** *Vice President, Clinton Arrow Swim Team*

**2008-2013** *Member of the Quisenberry Public Library Advisory Board*

**2005-2008** *Deacon, Northside Baptist Church (Chairman of Deacons, 2008)*

**2002-2004** *Member of the Board of the Clinton Community Nature Center*

**1991-present** *Pi Alpha Theta (history), Phi Alpha Delta (law), Pi Gamma Mu (political science)*