



Dr. Otis W. Pickett

Otis W. Pickett holds a Ph.D. in U.S. History from The University of Mississippi; an M.A. in History from the College of Charleston and The Citadel; an M.A.T.S. in Theological Studies from Covenant Theological Seminary; and a B.A. in History from Clemson University.

Currently an Assistant Professor of History and Political Science at Mississippi College, Otis directs the B.S.Ed. program in Secondary Social Studies Education and the M.Ed. Program in Social Studies Education. He also teaches classes in Southern Religious History; Civil War History; U.S. History; Mississippi History; Geography; and an interdisciplinary course in the History and Literature of the New South (with Dr. J.B. Potts in the English Department).

Otis' research focuses on nineteenth-century missionaries to enslaved peoples in South Carolina and to the Choctaw and Chickasaw in Mississippi. He is also interested in the history of education, racial reconciliation and incarceration in the U.S. South.

He is the co-founder, with Dr. Patrick Alexander from The University of Mississippi, of the Mississippi Prison to College Pipeline Program, which offers for-credit college courses to pre-release incarcerated students at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

Otis currently serves as President (2016-2017) of the Mississippi Council for the Social Studies. His honors and awards include:

- 2015-2016 Student Government Association Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award, Mississippi College
- 2014 Commissioner's Distinguished Service Coin - State of Mississippi, Department of Corrections
- 2013 Outstanding Teacher of the Year - University of Mississippi, School of Education
- Best Article by a Graduate Student from 2010-2012 in *The Proceedings*,

Journal of the South Carolina Historical Association.

- 2010 Graduate Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award - University of Mississippi

Otis' published works include:

- "T.C. Stuart, The Monroe Mission and the Chickasaw Nation Prior to Removal in Mississippi: 1819-1834." *Native South*, Summer 2015.

- "Hope for Racial Healing: Rethinking Christian Missionaries Among the Chickasaw" *Oklahoma Humanities Magazine*, 2012.

- "'We are Marching to Zion': Zion Church and the Distinctive Work of Presbyterian Slave Missionaries in Charleston, South Carolina, 1849-1874." *The Proceedings*, 2010.