



ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2021

Editor: Gail Alford



HAPPY LABOR DAY



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Congratulations to Dr. Mac Alford, AAFA #1271

Alford Earns Second Fulbright Scholar Award, will Teach, Conduct Research in Africa in 2021-22

Mon, 08/23/2021 - 15:08pm | **By: David Tisdale**



A University of Southern Mississippi (USM) faculty member will be supported by a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to conduct research, teach, and complete descriptions of a plant species in south-central Africa that could have important environmental implications related to the improved understanding of plant diversity in that region of the continent.

Dr. Mac Alford, a professor of biological sciences and curator of USM's herbarium, will teach botany, tropical ecology, and conservation biology at Mulungushi University in Kabwe, Zambia, and do research on tropical species of the willow (Salicaceae) and spiderwort (Commelinaceae) families over the next year as part of a project to better understand the plant diversity of Africa. As a Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Alford will share knowledge and foster meaningful connections across communities in the U.S. and Zambia as a result of this program.

Mulungushi University has also requested Dr. Alford's assistance in helping develop its botany and conservation biology programs, as well as a garden/arboretum of useful trees.

"I'm honored and thrilled to earn a second Fulbright, and to get another chance to continue my research abroad, this time in a place I've never been, where I believe I can expand my knowledge base and also share what I've learned to date to benefit the research enterprise at Mulungushi University," Dr. Alford said.

Dr. Alford joined the USM faculty in 2005. His areas of expertise include botany, plant systematics, evolutionary biology, tropical biology, floristics, and environmental science; his research focuses on the plants of Mississippi and the tropical relatives of willows and cottonwoods. He has published more than 40 journal articles, been awarded three grants from the National Science Foundation, served as President of the Faculty Senate 2017-2019, and received the University Excellence in Teaching Award in 2017.

The [Fulbright Program](#) is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program; this year marks its 75th anniversary. Named for the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright, its purpose is to develop connections and understanding between U.S. and International scholars and citizens. Faculty selected for the program have demonstrated leadership, communication abilities, and academic experience that make them outstanding ambassadors abroad.

This is Dr. Alford's second Fulbright Scholar Program award, with the first coming in 2011-2012 to the University of Novi Sad in Serbia, where he conducted research and taught tropical biology and theoretical aspects of botany.

As part of his work in Zambia, Dr. Alford will collaborate with Dr. Bob Faden at the Smithsonian to complete the descriptions of all the species of one plant family [Commelinaceae] in south-central Africa. In 1997, Dr. Alford had an internship at the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution) in Washington, D.C., working with Dr. Bob Faden describing new species of spiderwort relatives from eastern Africa.

"The first new species of plant I ever described, *Commelina polhillii*, was from Africa, even though I've never been there," Dr. Alford said. "We were doing all of the work from museum specimens and from plants cultivated in the greenhouse from seed. Dr. Faden has been trying to complete a treatment of that family of plants (Comelinaceae) for the *Flora Zambesiaca* for years, and I'm looking forward to assisting him in concluding that important project."

Dr. Alford will also be working on a treatment of the entire willow and cottonwood family (Salicaceae) for the series *Families and Genera of Vascular Plants*. "Due to my extensive field work in the Americas, Europe, and Asia, I have a good handle on those genera and species, but I've never been to Africa, so this trip provides me an opportunity to get to know some of those groups in the field."

"We want to send our best and brightest academics who have the interpersonal skills and cultural understanding to build relationships around the world, and the fact that Dr. Alford has been selected for his second Fulbright is recognition that he possesses these qualities at the highest level," said Dr. Chris Winstead, dean of the USM College of Arts and Sciences. "He will represent the U.S. and the University of Southern Mississippi extremely well, and will have a host of new experiences to bring back to our students at Southern Miss."



Birthdays of the Month



#0738s	Jessie Marie Scott Adams	Tulsa, OK	#0028	Nancy Alford Dietrich	Westport, WA
#0035	Weston Adams	Columbia, SC	#0552	Richard Wayne Fadness	Chico, CA (*)
#0648	Charles Knowles Alford	Houston, TX	#1372	Hilda Ann Alford Fennell	Dublin, GA
#0170	Daniel Lee Alford, III	Caldwell, TX	#1139	Cecila Ann Gossman	Diamondhead, MS
#0910	Danny Ray Alford	Seagoville, TX (*)	#0747	Janice Boyd Gould	Bellevue, WA (*)
#1502	David Tanley Alford	Brentwood, VA	#1103	Ann Alvord Groves	Blacksburg, VA
#0463	Fred G. Alford, Jr.	Chesapeake, VA	#1275	Rebecca A.M. Harmon	Mammoth Springs, AR
#0880	Gene Mascho Alford	Lakeside, CA	#1009	Judith K.A. Haselton	Clapham, 5062 S Austra, AS
#0129	George Chester Alford	Ogden, UT	#1182	Marilyn Myrick Human	Brookville, FL
#0821	Jack Allen Alford, Jr.	Austin, TX	#1081	Diane R. Hunt	Kalamazoo, MI
#1262	Jacob Harris Alford, Jr.	New Orleans, LA	#0248	Ernestine L. Jackson-Humphrey	Galveston, TX
#1345	James Ellis Alford	Biloxi, MS	#0467	Deann M. Alford Landers	Austin, TX
#0703	James Little Alford	Dillion, SC (*)	#0062	Faye M. Lawes	Burlington, VT
#1308	Jason Alan Alford	Grand Prairie, TX	#0045	Andrew L. Leath	Tyler, TX
#1398	John Kenneth Alford	28224 Madri, SP	#0718	JoLynn Alford Long	Georgetown, TX (*)
#1517	Lynn Clinton Alford	Cordova, TN	#0930	Elmyra Elizabeth McWhinney	Myrtle Point, OR
#0075	Michael Morris Alford	Kentwood, LA	#0362	Patricia B. Mead	Dallas, TX (*)
#1563	Paul Henry Alford, Jr.	Horn Lake, MS	#0506	Wendell A. Meggs	Springfield, TN
#0071	Raymond Alford	Kilmarnock, VA (*)	#0409	Katherine M. Miller	Port Lavaca, TX (*)
#0828	Rebecca J. Alford	Harrisburg, PA	#0622	Ruth Eager Moran	Oklahoma City, OK
#0208	Roy L. Alford	Hemphill, TX	#1112	Ida May Niegel	Fairfield, CA
#0163	Royce W. Alford	Ward, AR	#0962	Robert Stanley Orrell	Port Orange, FL
#1121	Sylvester J. Alford, II	Dallas, TX	#0336	Willard S. Perry	Raleigh, NC
#0712	Tom Lee Alford	Noblesville, IN	#0524	Evon Alford Ratliff	Foxworth, MS
#0588	William Lewis Alford	Squaw Valley, CA	#0145	Oliver S. Robinson, III	Baton Rouge, LA
#1202	Lynne Alvord	Selah, WA	#0056	Mary Alford Schilling	Panama City, FL
#1495	Lindon Alford Baker	Yorba Linda, CA	#1276	Sherry L. T. Schlereth	Gainesville, GA
#1138	Deloris Jean A. Bitting	Baton Rouge, LA	#1459	Brenda Kay Sisco	Locust Grove, VA
#0499	Doris J. Blackshear	Montgomery, AL	#1201	Patsy W. Springer	Kokomo, IN
#0663	Betty Bowman	Newark, OH (*)	#0909	Dick D. Staley	Diamond Bar, CA
#1235	Sandra Alford Bray	Forney, TX	#0904	Helen W. Steele	Lakewood, CO
#0399	Shirley Alford Brilleaux	Essex England, UK (*)	#1334	Lorraine Kay Wilson Tallent	The Hills, TX
#0764	Mary Cates Brockwell	Loretto, TN	#0069	Dolores M. Thrash	Rutledge, GA (*)
#1115	Grace S. Brown	West Jordan, UT	#1029	Edward Atkinson Twining, III	Wichita Falls, TX
#0329	Richard B. Cardell	Jacksonville, FL	#1109	Robert Leslie Walker	Mabank, TX
#1371	Opal Dean Alford Coy	Statham, GA	#1239	Elizabeth A.A. Walters	Mount Hermon, LA
#0203	Patricia Alford DeGrofft	Pendleton, OR	#1423	Barbara Tate Whitehead	Vicksburg, MS
#1533	Madison Jude Berthelot	Gonzales, LA	#1524	Carolyn Lucille Magee McElveen	Franklinton, LA
#1540	Gail E. Vogel	Lafayette Hill, PA	#1491	Robert Alford Gilchrist	Jackson, MS
#1287	Bobby L. Jernigan	Bells, TN	#0868	Frank M. Pangburn	Chico, CA
#0733	Curt Arthur Miller	Greenville, SC	#1496	Wiley Yandell Rogers, Jr.	Houston, TX

(*) = Need current contact information (address, e-mail address, etc.) Please notify AAFA if you know any of these members.



In Memoriam

*AAFA Members
who recently passed away*



#1142 Mildred Joana Brock Breeland

Tylertown, MS

October 11, 1933 – July 8, 2021

Family: JOH807LA/JAM687VA



#0470 William "Billy" Cutter Alford, Jr.

Nashville, TN

August 6, 1930 – July 29, 2020

Family: JOH790VA/JOH696MD



WEEK 35: AUG 22 - AUG 28

- Updated the **AAFA MEMBER LIST** for:
 - AAFA #0885, **Jerry Don Alford**
Updated for his death.
- Updated the **MEMBER MEMORIAL** with obituary for:
 - **AAFA #0885**, Jerry Don Alford
- Created the **MEMBER MEMORIALS** with obituaries for:
 - **AAFA #0470**, William "Billy" Cutter Alford, Jr.
 - **AAFA #1142**, Mildred Joana Brock Breland
- Updated the **OBITUARIES** for:
 - **Mississippi, A-J**
Mississippi, K-Z
The last update included a total of 880 obituaries, with 23 AAFA members, posted in in January 2020. This update has a total of 920 obituaries, still with 23 AAFA members.
- Updated the **AHNENTAFEL** for:
 - **AAFA #0470**, William "Billy" Cutter Alford, Jr.
Added his birth, death and marriage information.
 - **AAFA #1142**, Mildred Joana Brock Breland
Added her birth, death and marriage information.
- Created the **AHNENTAFEL** for:
 - **AAFA #1502**, David Tanley Alford

WEEK 32: AUG 1 - AUG 7

- Updated the **MAIN (INDEX) PAGE**
 - Added a Note Box containing the CANCELLATION of the 2021 AAFA Annual Meeting/Reunion.
- Updated the **NEWSLETTERS**:
 - Added the **August 2021** Newsletter - 6 pages.



AAFA needs volunteers. The volunteer positions do not require election. Any interested member (or their spouse) may volunteer by emailing the AAFA Staff at Alford_Staff@AlfordAssociation.org.



AAFA Monthly Newsletter

Note: For anyone who wants a printed copy of a Monthly Newsletter mailed to them, the cost is \$1 per newsletter or a 12-month subscription for \$10 which covers printing (paper & printer ink) and mailing (envelope & postage). Please mail your request and check, for the desired Monthly Newsletter(s), to the AAFA Treasurer, 11115 Fall Breeze Drive, Houston, TX 77064-4817. Please make the check payable to AAFA and include For Monthly Newsletter on the memo line. If you know someone without a computer who would enjoy receiving a printed copy of the Monthly Newsletter, please let them know of this offer. Also, any AAFA member with an email address who is not receiving an emailed copy, please send an email to Alford_Staff@AlfordAssociation.org. Thank you for your help in spreading the news.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.alfordassociation.org>

