

Blaze Gaona

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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

May 2026

B.A. in History; Minor in UTeach

Cumulative GPA: 3.92 Major GPA: 3.96

Mississippi State University

Present

PhD in History (Expected May 2030)

Advisor: Dr. Christian Flow

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Galileo's Fight to Replace Scholastic Aristotelianism

April 2025

Synopsis: This project examines Galileo's *Two New Sciences* as the culmination of his goal to transform natural philosophy into a discipline grounded in objective mathematical reasoning and empirical observation. The project argues that Galileo's new framework established a longstanding foundation for scientific inquiry by protecting it from religious dogma.

Advisor: Dr. Bruce Hunt, Professor, Department of History

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Early Modern European History
- Reformation History
- Counter-Reformation History
- History of Science and Technology
- Book History
- History of Philosophy
- Antiquity
- History of Ethics

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Newberry Library Workshop: Race and Book History, Chicago, IL

Feb 2025

Scholarship Recipient

- Conducted hands-on work with medieval and early modern rare books within the Newberry collection.
- Enhanced ability to critically examine historical texts through speaker-led sessions and activities.
- Analyzed how pre-1800 book production and usage reveal the historical construction and impact of race.

24th Austin African Conference, UT Austin

Spring 2024

Keynote Speaker

- Examined the history of medical inequality in Africa and presented findings in the paper *Junior Bureaucrats and Medics in Africa*, engaging with current scholarship on African history and development.
- Consulted with faculty to refine research questions, evaluate sources, and connect course readings to current global affairs.
- Responded to questions and facilitated discussion, strengthening the skill to collaborate in academic settings.

Supervised by Dr. Toyin Falola, Professor, Department of African & African Diaspora Studies

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

ClioVis: Timemap Software, UT Austin

Spring 2026–Present

Intern

- Creating and organizing history-focused digital content for academics and authors to use.
- Developed a timeline presentation for Dr. David Igler's new publication, *All Species of Knowledge*.
- Conducting historical research to ensure accuracy and historiographical context of projects by fellow staff.

Supervised by Dr. Erika Bsumek, Ellen Clarke Temple Chair in the History of Women; Professor of History

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Reilly Elementary School, Austin ISD

Fall 2023

Student Teacher

- Organized educational social studies lessons for Mrs. Addie De Leon's 3rd grade class.
- Created curriculum on various historical events in alignment with TEKS through the integration of reading, hands-on activities, and cooperative learning to build understanding.
- Translated complex historical concepts into age-appropriate lessons, demonstrating the ability to scale academic material for varied audiences.

O. Henry Middle School, Austin ISD

Spring 2024

Student Teacher

- Assembled educational lessons for Mr. Mike Simms's 8th grade U.S. History class.
- Designed and delivered U.S. history lessons that broke down detailed political, social, and economic developments into accessible instruction.
- Helped students analyze primary and secondary sources related to major U.S. history topics.

Austin High School, Austin ISD

Fall 2025

Student Teacher

- Designed educational lessons for Mr. Max Vanderheyden's AP Human Geography class.
- Facilitated AP-level vocabulary and models using everyday examples that connected the content to current events, global issues, and local community features for better understanding.
- Supported students in developing FRQ-writing skills by modeling structure, evidence use, and reasoning.

Bowie High School, Austin ISD

Spring 2026–Present

Full-Time Student Teacher

- Developed curriculum-aligned lessons for Ms. Chloe Carr’s 9th grade world geography and 11th grade U.S. history courses.
- Managing two large classes of 30+ students by establishing routines and maintaining engagement.
- Grading student work such as quizzes, classwork, and map analyses with consistency and clear feedback to support academic growth.

HONORS & AWARDS

Dean’s List, UT Austin

Fall 2024, Spring 2025

COLA College Scholar, UT Austin

2025, 2026

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Weatherford College

2022–2023

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Technical: Canvas/Blend Formatting, Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite, PowerPoint, ClioVis

Languages: Spanish (2 years)

Certifications: Secondary Social Studies Teaching Certification (Spring 2026), Google Workspace Certification, TEALearn Dyslexia Professional Learning Certification