

## Professor Nathan Alexander Remembered

---

*The following story was provided by Steve Alexander, Nathan's father.*

In April of 2005 Nathan called his mother and said that he had found a position in a history department that had just opened up in Troy, Alabama. He asked, "Mom, should I apply? I'm not even sure where Troy, Alabama is." His mother and I both encouraged him and said we would pray for God's will. To make a long story short, Nathan contacted Troy U. and Dr. Bryant Shaw, head of the History Department at Troy, and an interview was arranged. Nathan flew into Montgomery and was met by Dr. Shaw. They became instant friends ... and Nathan became a finalist for the opening in the History Department. Nathan was not an automatic first choice, as the current head of the History Department, Allen Jones, relates: "The last Harvard graduate to work in Troy's history department stuck it out for a single semester before bolting. I remember wrestling with this fact as I sat on my back porch, pouring over candidates' files. The best candidate was a fellow from Harvard, and I recall finally convincing myself to throw caution to the wind. What's to say another guy from Harvard won't like Troy? So we hired Nathan. And I was wrong. He didn't like Troy; rather, he flat out loved it! Nathan's fondness for Troy arose from something bigger, a love for life."

Thanks Nathan.