

**Melissa Venters** has taught 8th grade South Carolina history at West Ashley Middle School in Charleston, SC for the past three years. Ms. Venters completed her undergraduate degree at the College of Charleston, graduating as a History major with a minor in secondary education in 2004. She is currently working on receiving a MA in Teaching Social Studies from Columbia University Teachers College, and expects to graduate in August 2009.

Ms. Venters has served as a presenter at both the South Carolina Middle School Conference (Feb 2008) and the International Reading Association Conference (May 2008). She has also served on the Leadership Team (2007-2008), the Charleston County Social Studies Task Force (2007), and as the Social Studies Department Chair (2006-2008). In addition to these accomplishments, Ms. Venters has also assisted Charleston County in writing benchmark assessments and creating coherent curriculum documents.