

Fall 2001

# UA68/8/1 History Alumni Newsletter

WKU History

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## NEW HISTORY DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Since the last *Newsletter* appeared, Dr. Richard Weigel was named Chair of the Department of History. Rich is a graduate of Dickinson College (B.A. 1966) and received his M.A. (1968) and Ph.D. (1973) from the University of Delaware. He became a member of the WKU History Faculty in 1976. He teaches Greece,

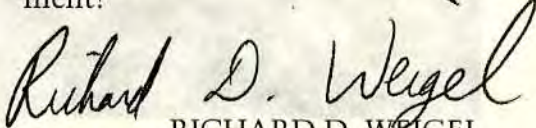
Rome, and the Middle Ages; and he has published 30 scholarly articles in addition to the books *Lepidus, the Tarnished Triumvir* and *Peace in the Ancient World*. He has won WKU awards both for scholarship and public service. He edits the Book Review Page for *The Park City Daily News* and as a hobby collects coins.

### Dear History and Social Studies Alums:

Western's History Department really appreciates hearing from you. We want to know what you are doing and hear your views on how we can improve the educational experience that our program has provided. I invite you to visit our web site at <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/AHSS/History/> and to click on Faculty and get to know the current members of the History

Department. My e-mail address is [Richard.Weigel@wku.edu](mailto:Richard.Weigel@wku.edu) and I urge you to contact me or other faculty members with your ideas. I also hope that you will fill out and return to us the enclosed questionnaire so that we can implement changes in the programs that we offer. I also want to thank you for the many donations that you have made in the Department's name. These have

enabled us to give awards and scholarships to deserving students and have supplemented departmental funds used to purchase equipment to bring more technology into our classroom instruction. We deeply appreciate your continuing support for the History Department!

  
RICHARD D. WEIGEL



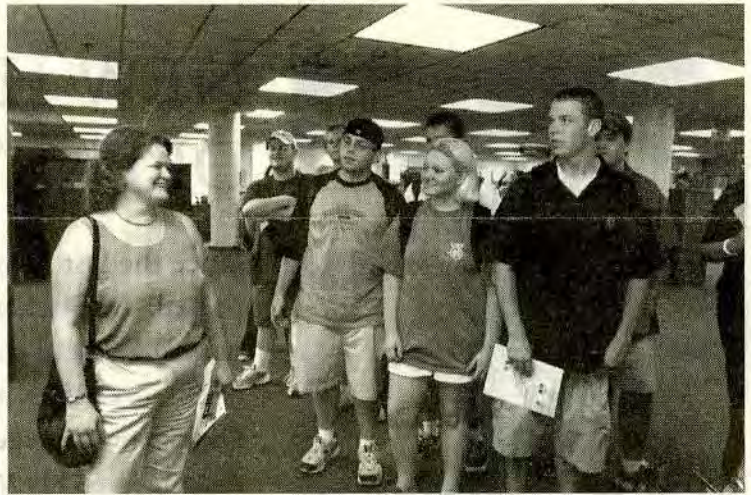
# HISTORY DEPARTMENT RETURNS TO THE 3 R'S

To encourage more students to major in history at WKU, we have adopted a tried and true formula for academic success, the three R's: Recruitment, Retention, and Reward.

## *Recruitment*

### History Contest for High School Students

Each spring middle and high school students spend a day at WKU participating in our history contest and getting acquainted with the campus and our history faculty. In 2001 twenty-five schools brought 333 students to the competition. First and Second Place prizes are awarded each year to winners in High School American and World and Middle School American History. The two First-Prize winners in the High School Division are offered Regents Scholarships (full tuition waivers) to attend WKU. In the photograph below, director of the contest Dr. Marion Lucas congratulates recent winners Kelli Geegan, Will Carraco, and Anna Jones.



## *Retention*

### History Department's Freshman Seminar

A two-credit course called University College 101 (Freshman Seminar) is offered to WKU students in hopes of providing them with information and skills needed to succeed in college. Recently we tailored a section specifically for those who plan to major in history and social science. Dr. Kathryn Abbot, shown above in a library tour with this year's group, has conducted the class for the past two years. In addition to helping her students cope with college life, she encourages them to develop critical thinking and writing skills. Last year her theme was Vietnam, and this year it is the Civil Rights Movement.





## Phi Alpha Theta Activities

Membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the honors society of historians, provides still another opportunity for us to reward our high achieving students. One of our newer professors, Dr. Malia Formes, serves as faculty advisor to the WKU Phi Alpha Theta chapter. This year members will sponsor a book sale, conduct a lecture series, and help with the Ohio Valley History Conference and the High School History Contest. Here Dr. Formes discusses projects with officers Amanda Stout, Joel Thomas, Jennifer Patterson, and Luke Harlow.



*Reward*

## History's Awards and Scholarships Program

History shows its appreciation to a select number of seniors each year with awards in the names of former department chairs A.M. Stickles, James Poteet, and Richard Troutman. In addition, three Stickles Scholarships, funded by alumni Virginia McAlister and Charles R. Martin, go to juniors for use during their last year of school. Above Dr. Richard Weigel presents plaques to recent award and scholarship winners Mindy Farmer, Luke Harlow, and Emily Carey.



## Former Chair of History Dies

The History Department was saddened on February 3, 2001, to learn of the death of Dr. Jesse Crawford Crowe. A native of Ohio County, Dr. Crowe earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from WKU as a non-traditional student after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. He received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt in 1954 and taught at Middle Tennessee State and Kentucky Wesleyan Colleges before returning to WKU, where he chaired the Department of History from 1966-1972 and was University Archivist from 1977-1980. A scholarship in his name has been created.



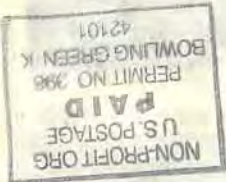
## Western's Optional Retirement Program

Several of the professors you remember from your days as a history major have taken advantage of WKU's Optional Retirement Program, which allows them more free time for hobbies and research while they continue to teach part time. The four men shown here, George Dillingham,

Carlton Jackson, Richard Troutman, and Richard Stone, have taught at Western for a combined total of over 130 years; and students born in the 1980s will still benefit from their rich accumulation of knowledge.



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## From Our "Separated at Birth" File

At a recent cookout, History's own longtime (and longsuffering) Dr. Carol Crowe-Carraco posed for a snapshot with WKU Provost Dr. Barbara Burch. We invite all of you who remember C.C.C. to contact her and tell her that you know which one she is—and Which Twin has the Toni.

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