

Summer 2018

UA68/8 History Alumni Newsletter

WKU History

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SUMMER, 2018

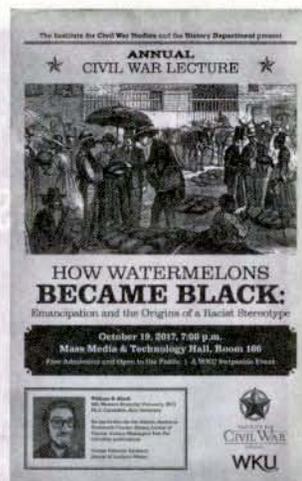
A HISTORY LUMNI NEWSLETTER

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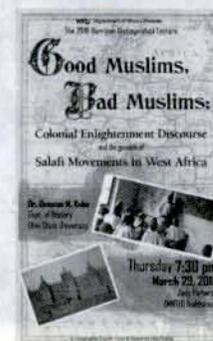


Alumnus Returns to Give Civil War Lecture

On October 19, Bill Black, one of our former graduate students, now a Ph.D. candidate at Rice University, gave a guest lecture on the topic, "How Watermelons Became Black." In his presentation he discussed the origins of a regrettable racial stereotype. Above he poses for a photo with Eric Reed, Patti Minter, and Dean Larry Snyder.



Harrison Distinguished Lectureship Continues to Bring Historical Perspective to the Campus



On March 29, The Annual Harrison Lecturer was Dr. Ousman Kobo of Ohio State University's history department. His timely topic was "Good Muslims, Bad Muslims." He discussed the effects of colonialism on the development of Islam, with particular emphasis on the genesis of the Salafi-Wahhabi Movement in West Africa and Boko Haram's

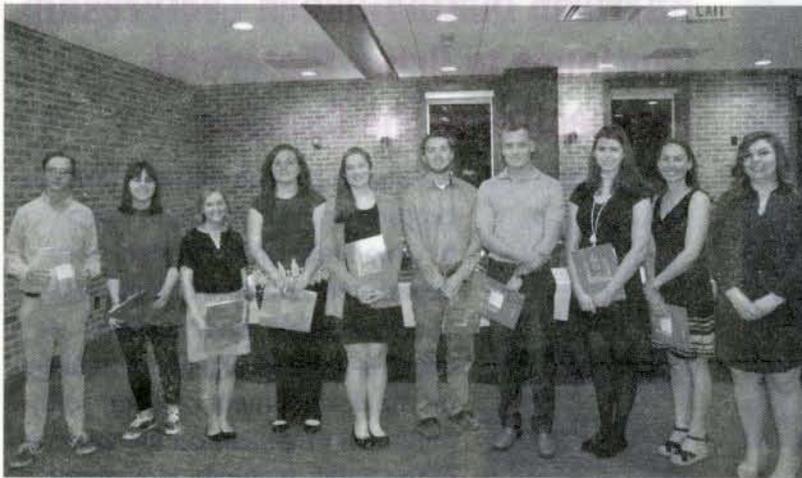
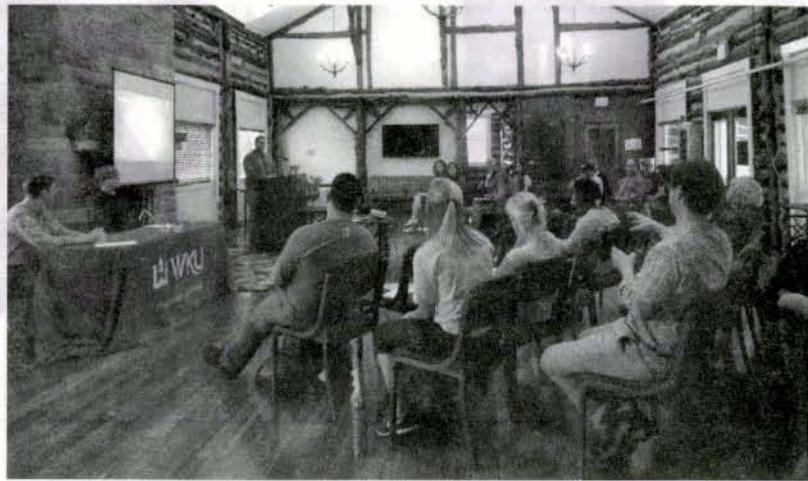
violent rejection of and departure from its principles. The Harrison Lectures, in honor of former Professor Lowell Harrison, are our effort to engage the entire campus, faculty as well as students, and our alumni in topics of current importance to the modern world.



Dr. Kobo with host Tony Harkins

The Future Is In Good Hands

On the afternoon of April 3, nine of our undergraduate history majors took early steps toward being professional historians. They formed three panels of three students each and did presentations followed by Q and A. Pictured to the right are participants gathered in the Faculty House.



The night of April 12, the History Department once more gathered with students for the annual Phi Alpha Theta banquet. The featured speaker was Dr. Suzanne Sutherland, who spoke on the use of mercenary soldiers in the Thirty Years War and today. Pictured to the left are this year's award winners. Left to right: Jake McDevitt, Laura Biggs, Hannah Simpson, Anne Mccubbin, Sadie Downs, Aaron Hosclaw, Kyle Wilson, Anna Buri, Laura Clark, and Rachel Helm.



Kate Brown Enters the Department

We welcome this year a new member of the History faculty. She is Dr. Kate Brown, a native of Buffalo, New York, and a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Virginia. She is author of a book on Alexander Hamilton and has a blind dog named Hamilton. At WKU she will teach courses in Colonial and Early United States History.

JANET HAYNES RECEIVES MUCH DESERVED AWARD



Our office associate Janet Haynes has received the Potter College "Unsung Hero" Award. In the presentation she was lauded as the "heart of the department," someone who has "never met a problem she couldn't solve."

MESSAGE FROM THE BOSS



Hello from The Hill!

I write to deliver some good news to you from the History Department.

The department works with amazing students, and we are very proud of

their successes. The faculty selected Jake McDevitt of Georgetown, KY, for the 2018 James H. Poteet Award, earned by the undergraduate student who shows the best potential to contribute to the historical profession. Graduate student Maja Antonić won the "best paper" prize at the WKU "REACH" conference for her research on *Partizankas*, female Yugoslav anti-fascist resistance fighters during World War II.

Our faculty members have been achieving great things, too. In March, peers recognized Dr. Robert Dietle's mentorship of junior faculty by according him WKU's Faculty Mentoring Award. In April, a select jury awarded Dr. Eric Kondratieff the prestigious Rome Prize, an internationally-competitive fellowship. The award will fund an entire year of his research in Rome as he finishes his book on Roman Republic politics.

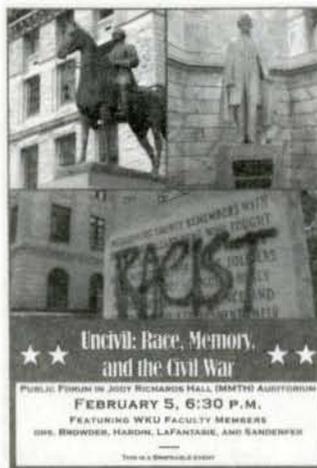
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The department's faculty sees as part of its core mission engaging and informing public debates about history. In response to the Civil War memorials controversies last fall, the department decided to host a public forum, *Uncivil: Race, Memory, and the Civil War*. Faculty members Thea Browder, John Hardin, Glenn LaFantasie, and Selena Sanderfer shared their perspectives on Civil War monuments,



the legacies of Nathan Bedford Forrest and Robert E. Lee, and the violence in Charlottesville. The forum was one of the year's highlights for the department: 200 students and members of the Bowling Green community attended, and 500

people watched on our social media live-streams and engaged in a spirited yet thoughtful conversation with the faculty.

History of course also continues to support the schools and teachers in our region. Four of our graduate students, Jesse Brewer, Kendrick Bryan, Allie Crume, and Claire Bellar, have been awarded James Madison Fellowships. This prominent fellowship, awarded to only one Fellow per year in each state, funds the award winner's graduate education. Our Madison fellows will then go on to share their understandings of U.S. Constitutional and government history in their secondary classrooms across the region and state.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our History friends and alumni, for the support you offer us. We can't succeed without your continuing generosity!

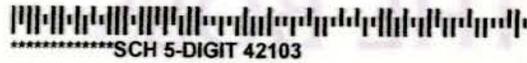
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I wish to deliver some good news to you from the history Department. The department works with amazing students and we are very proud of their success. The faculty selected James H. Foster Award, Georgetown, KY for the 2018 James H. Foster Award, and we are very proud of the undergraduate student who won the best paper to contribute to the historical profession. Graduate student Miss Anolik won the "best paper" prize at the WKU "READY" conference for her research on frontiers, female Yeocrow, and their role in the American West.

IN MEMORIAM



Former History Department Instructor Helen Crocker died on August 27, 2017. A native of Ohio, she spent her life taking on new fields of endeavor and succeeded in them all. She studied music in college, then later in life studied history at WKU and Vanderbilt, taught history at WKU for 20 years, and after retirement became a noted artist. All these things while raising six sons, all successful professionals.

Colonel (Ret.) Robert E. Spiller died on January 13, 2018. He earned his B.A. in 1949 and his M.A. in 1950 from WKU, both degrees in history. His army career lasted for 30 years, during which time he served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, was later Chief of Staff for the Berlin Brigade, and won a Distinguished Service Medal. In 1980 he returned to WKU, earned a degree in agriculture, and became director of our Agriculture Exposition Center. Quite a career.

