Spring 1974

UA68/8/1 Newsletter No. 1

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A NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

I am happy for this opportunity to greet the alumni of Western's Department of History. This Newsletter is the culmination of an effort that began over a year ago and grew out of our desire to establish a closer relationship with the hundreds of graduates of Western who majored or minored in history.

We have been doing a number of new things in the Department of History and we wanted you to know about them. My ambition as Head of the Department is to encourage academic excellence in the faculty and to promote an atmosphere conducive to learning among the students. I am concerned about quality performance, personal integrity, and professional commitment—qualities that I believe have marked the Department through the years.

As alumni of the Department you are special people to us. And we like to think that we are somewhat special to you. This being the case, we ought to keep in touch with each other. Won't you please help us by filling out and returning the enclosed postcard. We hope to include a section on alumni in the next issue.

I am most grateful to Professor John Bratcher for the fine job he has done in writing this first issue of the Newsletter.

Richard L. Troutman

RENOVATION OF CHERRY HALL

The long awaited renovation of Cherry Hall began last fall. Hopefully when the building is again reoccupied in the fall of 1974, classes will not be continuously interrupted by such remarks as, "It's hot in here!" "Why can't the heat be turned off during these warm spring days," "I can't hear the teacher for the noise of the lawn mowers," or "Why can't we have class outside today?" Future students will not endure those traumatic experiences suffered by our illustrious alumni, but considering all your experiences in Cherry Hall, there must be many fond memories.

The ceilings are being lowered, new cooling and heating systems are being installed, and some classrooms and offices are undergoing minor alterations; but the basic structure will not be changed. The marble walls and stairways will be retained and for those who appreciate beauty, the "bird's eye" maple floors will remain. Unless unforeseen difficulties are encountered, renovation will be completed before the start of the fall semester in 1974.

In the interim the History Department is located in the newly constructed Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts. The Departmental office is on the fourth floor and the other offices and classrooms are on the second, third, and fourth floors. For the information of those who have not visited the campus recently, the IWCA is a modern, spacious four story building erected on the grounds of the old football field.

DR. RICHARD TROUTMAN NOW HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

For the enlightenment of those who have completely lost contact with the old Alma Mater, Dr. James H. Poteet succeeded Dr. Arndt M. Stickles as Department Head in 1955, and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1966. Dr. J. Crawford Crowe (he won't tell me what the "J" is for) succeeded Dr. Poteet and served as head of the History Department until 1972 when he was elevated to Professor of Kentucky History and assigned additional duties related to the procurement and preservation of historical materials for the Kentucky Library. He now has the official title of "Coordinator of Resource Development for the Kentucky Library." However, his primary duties are the teaching of history. Don't be surprised if someday he approaches you seeking custody of historical materials which he believes to be in your possession.

Dr. Richard Troutman became head of the Department in 1972. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Kentucky in 1958 with a major in American History. He then taught history for ten years at Houghton College in New York state. He has been a member of the Western Kentucky faculty since 1967, excluding one year (1968-69) when he returned to Houghton College for a vacation?

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

The teaching faculty has now grown to 19 full time members. Fifteen members have an earned doctorate and two others who are now putting the finishing touch on their dissertations will receive their doctorate degrees in the very near future. In addition to their achievements in graduate studies, almost all members of the faculty have studied and travelled in the geographical areas of their major and minor fields, or have other special qualifications in their major fields.

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PHI ALPHA THETA CHAPTER ETA PI AT WESTERN

Eta Pi, the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta National Honorary Society of History, was established on the Western campus in 1960. Formerly sponsored by Drs. John Minton and Preston Malone, the local chapter is now sponsored by Dr. James Bennett. Only those students who have achieved excellence in at least 12 hours of history are invited to membership in this highly esteemed honor society. Presently there are about 25 members of Western's chapter, but it is expected that from 10 to 15 new members will be added this year.

Mr. Harlan Wood represented the local chapter at the National Convention in New Orleans in 1972 where he presented a paper entitled, “American Opposition to Aliens in the United States in the 1920’s.” In his presentation Mr. Wood examined the “Red Scare” and the conservative policies of Attorney General Palmer. Paul Thomas represented Eta Pi at the 1974 National Convention in San Francisco where he served on the committee for revision of the society's constitution. In addition to its representation at the national conventions, Eta Pi sends delegations to regional and state conferences held under the auspices of Phi Alpha Theta.

Eta Pi annually selects one of its members to receive the “Robert Cochran Memorial Book Award” for outstanding scholastic achievement. This award was established in 1971 in memorial to Robert Cochran, Dean of Public Affairs and Public Relations. Last year that award was given to Mr. Harlan Wood. Mr. Robert Garfield Meade received the Stickles Award which is given annually to the graduating history major having the highest grade point standing. The Stickles Award is derived from a trust established by the initiative of Dr. Potteet upon his retirement and usually amounts to about $100. James Russell Harris, a history major, received the Regent’s Award at the summer graduation, 1973. This award is given to the graduating senior having the highest academic standing in his graduating class.

A special invitation is extended to the alumni to attend the annual Phi Alpha Theta banquet to be held in April of this year. The speaker has not been selected. This banquet is one of the year’s social highlights for the History Department. This affair presents a good opportunity to meet our history majors and minors, and your old classmates, to reestablish communications with the History Department, and to converse with your former teachers. Why not plan to attend this year. Additional details about the date and speaker can be obtained by writing the History Department, Western Kentucky University. Please don’t ask about the menu because we keep that a secret until all reservations are made.

WESTERN HOSTS A CONFERENCE FOR PUBLIC AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

The History Department recognizes the increasing need for better communications between our faculty and those who teach history in the public and parochial schools. To achieve a better understanding of our problems and to establish better communications, Western hosted a conference which convened on the Western campus December 1, 1973. The conference was attended by the Western faculty and 32 teachers from public and parochial schools in Kentucky. The program was devoted primarily to a panel discussion of problems related to teaching history in the secondary school, which was followed by a very enlightening question and answer period. Those who attended assessed the conference as both interesting and beneficial.

Western considers this initial effort a success in establishing better lines of communications with secondary school teachers and plans to continue the program. Future conferences will be announced.

WESTERN CELEBRATES NATIONAL NEGRO (AFRO-AMERICAN) HISTORY WEEK

Each February the Afro-American History Club sponsors numerous programs in commemoration of Afro-American History Week. The theme of this year’s program at Western February 11-13 was, “A Better Understanding of America through Black Achievements and Contributions.” The programs consisted of a display of the art collections of Porter Williams, John Humphrey, other black artists, and some works contributed by Western’s art majors. Three black movies were shown: “Heritage in Black,” “Civil Rights Movement (Historical Roots),” and “Civil Rights Movement (Mississippi Summer Project).” An Afro-American fashion and literary show case was held on February 11 featuring “Blacks in Fashions Around the World,” and “Between the Scenes: Black Articulation Through Poetry.” The celebration climaxed on Wednesday, February 13 with a banquet and an Afro-American dance in the Paul L. Garrett Conference Center ballroom.

The Afro-American History Club is sponsored by professors Mingo Scott and Marion Lucas.

WESTERN TO CONDUCT A HISTORY CONTEST FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

On April 26, 1974, the History Department will sponsor a contest for junior and senior high school students from throughout the state of Kentucky. The contest will consist of objective and essay tests in the fields of World and American History. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place winners in each contest. Gold medals will be presented to the top five percent and silver medals to the next five percent in each contest. As of February 1, 1974, over 300 students had entered this contest. Details about the contest were mailed to junior and senior high schools in the state, but if we missed you or you need additional information, please contact the History Department.

WESTERN RECEIVES A HUMANITIES GRANT

The National Endowment for the Humanities has given Western a grant to develop a pilot program in the
humanities area. If the pilot program is approved, a substantial sum will be granted for the development of a humanities program at Western. Dr. Drew Harrington of the History Department is the coordinator of the program, and Dr. Carol Crowe of the History Department serves as a member of the Humanities Council. If the initial grant leads to the implementation of a humanities program at Western, then other members of the History Department will participate in the programs, particularly those having special qualifications in European History.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN HISTORY

The History Department now offers graduate programs leading to the Masters of Arts in Education with a major or minor in History, the Master of Arts, the Master of Arts in College Teaching, and the Specialist in College Teaching degrees. The specialist degree is the most recent addition to the offerings of the History Department. It represents an intermediate stage between the master's and doctor's degrees. The specialist degree requires 30 hours beyond the master's level. Western expects to award the first specialist degree to a history major in 1975.

These graduate programs were made possible by a significant expansion of Western's library facilities. Book holdings have grown 57 percent over the past five years. More than 3000 journal titles, 290,000 microfilm items, and over half a million bound volumes are now available to Western's students.

CURRICULUM EXPANSION AT THE GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE LEVELS

The most significant recent changes in the History Department have involved the restructuring and expansion of the curriculum. History requirements have been standardized to assure that all history majors and minors have a broad coverage of the various fields of history at the upper division level of undergraduate studies. Variations have been eliminated from the requirements for the Master of Arts and education curricula. All history majors are now required to take a minimum of 34 hours, and all history minors must take at least 25 hours of history courses. The advanced courses must be distributed among four basic groups: United States History, European History before 1789, European History since 1789, and areas other than the United States and Europe.

To assure the student a broad choice in fulfilling these requirements, 19 new courses have been added to the Department's offerings. These new courses provide additional coverage of all areas, but the most significant additions were in Military History, Intellectual and Cultural History, Historiography, and Afro-American History. New courses in the History of Agriculture and the History of Science are in the formative stage and will soon be added to our curriculum. The Department is presently studying other fields of study in which the teaching of history can make a major contribution.

In addition to its regular major and minor programs, the Department now offers an area of emphasis in Afro-American History within the major and minor programs and a Certificate of Proficiency in Afro-American History for non-majors and minors. Continuing to recognize its responsibility to public school teachers, the Department recently added two graduate courses designed especially for those who teach history at the junior and senior high school levels. They are "European History for Secondary Teachers" and "American History for Secondary Teachers." These two new courses will be offered in the summer, 1974.

FACULTY TEACHING AND RESEARCH AWARDS

Each year faculty and staff members, alumni, junior, senior, and graduates nominate members of the Western faculty for one of the University awards which are conferred in either one or both of the following categories: (1) Excellence in productive teaching; (2) Significant research, creativity, or investigation. Final selection of the recipient is made by the University Selection Committee composed of an equal number of representatives from the Western student body, the faculty, and the Alumni Association. The History Department was honored to have three of its members receive one of these awards. In 1971 the Department made a clean sweep. Jack Thacker was given the teaching award and Lowell Harrison received the research award. In 1972 Francis Thompson was given the teaching award.

Although teaching is the primary duty of the Department, the faculty spends a considerable amount of time in research and writing above and beyond that required for classroom instruction. The continuing activity and productivity in that area is attested to by the fact that, during the past five years, members of the Department have published articles in the most widely read national, regional, and state historical journals.

The following books, written by members of Western's Department of History have either been published or accepted for publication:

DR. JAMES BAKER, Faith for a Dark Saturday, Judson Press; Thomas Merton, Social Critic, University Press of Kentucky.

DR. JAMES BENNETT, Frederick Jackson Turner, American Historian, Twayne Publishers.


DR. CARLTON JACKSON, Presidential Vetoes; 1792-1945, University of Georgia Press; Zane Grey, Twayne Publishers; J.I. Rodale, Apostle of Non-Conformity, Pyramid Books; Foundations of Freedom, Laidlaw Brothers; Challenge and Change, Laidlaw Brothers; Two Centuries of Progress, Laidlaw Brothers. (The last three books listed above were written for use as secondary school texts and have been adopted for use in the schools of Texas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Oregon, Akron, OH, and Newark, NJ. Adoption is under consideration in several other states.)
Space does not permit a complete listing of articles published by members of the History Department, but those that were published within the past year are listed below:

MRS. NANCY D. BAIRD, “The Yellow Fever Plot,” accepted for a future edition of Civil War Times, Illustrated. (Mrs. Baird is a graduate assistant).


THE KENTUCKY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

As a part of the Kentucky bicentennial celebration (1974-76), the Kentucky Historical Events Celebration Commission and the Kentucky Federation of Women’s Clubs are sponsoring a Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf. Dr. Lowell Harrison of the History Department is General Editor of the series which will be published by the University Press of Kentucky. Three members of the History Department faculty will contribute books to this extensive display of the rich heritage and colorful panorama of Kentucky as the first frontier in the building of our great nation. Dr. Harrison’s book, The Civil War in Kentucky, will examine the problems of a border state situated between warring factions during the Civil War. Dr. Richard Stone’s The Kentucky Militia develops the story of Kentucky’s own military organization from its formation until the twentieth century. Mrs. Helen Crocker contributes a panoramic study of The Green River. Mrs. Crocker’s book is the culmination of years of research and study of one of Kentucky’s most romantic natural heritages.

FOREIGN STUDIES AND TRAVEL

Dr. Carlton Jackson spent the 1971-72 school year on a Fulbright scholarship to India. During that year he taught courses in American history and historiography and conducted a seminar in the American Civil War at the University in Bangalore. He also conducted seminars in the Civil War at the American Studies Research Center at Hyderabad and in the American Prospectus for the U.S. Information Services in Bangalore. He lectured at 16 different colleges and universities in India, and on his return trip to the United States, he stopped for lectures at Pierce College and at the Greek-American Society in Athens, Greece and at the University of Thessalonica, Greece.

Dr. Carol Gowe spent the summer of 1973 doing research and study at the British museum and Oxford University in England. Dr. Jack Thacker spent the fall term of 1973 studying in London, England. Jack was accompanied by his wife, Margaret Rose. Mr. John Bratcher will spend the fall term of 1974 studying and travelling in the Soviet Union. Dr. Lowell Harrison will spend the spring term of 1975 studying and travelling in Australia and New Zealand, and Dr. James Baker will be studying and travelling in Italy during the spring of 1975.

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Richard Stone who recently received his doctorate from the University of Tennessee.

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY

During the 1960’s significant changes were made in the History faculty because of retirements and growth. Dr. Stickles retired in 1955, Miss Anderson in 1958, Miss Robertson in 1960, Miss Egbert in 1966 and Dr. Poteet in 1966. Western mourns the deaths of Dr. Stickles, Miss Robertson, Miss Anderson, and Dr. Preston Malone.

Dr. Poteet and Miss Egbert are still in Bowling Green and both are very active. Dr. Poteet can be seen almost every day about ten o’clock having coffee with friends at CDS No. 4, or walking along State Street. Miss Egbert’s European travels are second only to those of Dr. Kissinger. Since retirement she has made five trips to Europe and the Middle East and one trip to Canada. Can you imagine Miss Egbert saying to a tour guide, “Now just a minute young man, let’s get our facts straight.”

AN APOLOGY

This newsletter contains no information about our alumni. We’ve lost contact with many of you and that is bad. Help us reestablish contact with you and you with your old classmates. What are you doing? Where do you live? What do you know about other alumni? Let us know about you and we will publish the information in future newsletters. To bring our files up to date, will you please fill out the enclosed postcard and return it to the History Department (Newsletter), Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.