WKU's History Department Honors Campus Authors

In October, 1975, the History Department held a reception to honor four of its faculty who have distinguished themselves as authors. In the above picture they are (from left) Carlton Jackson, Department Head Richard Troutman, James Bennett, Lowell Harrison, James Baker.

History Contest for Junior and Senior High Students

The second annual history contest for senior and junior high school students was held on campus in April, 1975. Over six hundred students from throughout the state participated. Competitive objective and subjective examinations were given in three categories: American History and World History for senior high school students; and American History for junior high school students. First and second place trophies were awarded in each category and silver and bronze medals went to the runners-up.

Greg Fitzgerald of Ballard County High School won first place in the American History category for high school students and Carolyn Cardwell also of Ballard County received the second place trophy. In the World History category for high school students, Donna Hammer of Cumberland County High School took the first place trophy and second place went to Stephen David Hawke of Larue County High School. In the American History category for junior high school students, Daviess County's Craig Miller took the first place trophy and Steve Goodrum from Franklin-Simpson Middle School was awarded second place.

The History Department is very pleased by the broad participation in these contests and has expressed its thanks to the participants and congratulations to the winners. A tabulation of advanced registration for the April 30, 1976, contests indicate that between four and five hundred students will participate. A hospitality room will be provided for sponsors while the students are engaged in the competition.

REASSESSMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC SERVICE ROLE

The History Department actively participates in the University's Public Service Programs. Departmental activities are often extensions of the faculty's function of scholar and teacher. The History Department is now re-examining its community and public service role to determine the most appropriate programs and methods for improvement in these activities. Particular attention is being given to expansion or extension of present programs, but it is anticipated that in the future more innovative programs will be adopted.

Presently the History Department serves the public through (1) special courses by newspaper, television, and continuing education courses related to community interests; (2) extended campus classes to meet degree requirements; (3) adult education classes; (4) availability of guest lecturers for civic clubs and other organizations; and (5) participation in various programs where the expertise of a historian is desirable. Many of these programs are initiated by requests from interested persons or organizations whose requests are carefully considered and fulfilled whenever feasible. If the History Department can assist you or your community please contact us.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES

Dr. George V. Taylor, Chairman of the History Department, University of North Carolina, presented the second annual lecture in the department's Distinguished Lecturer Series. Although Dr. Taylor has served in numerous administrative and faculty positions at the University of North Carolina, his greatest achievements have been in historical research and classroom teaching. In recognition of his command in the classroom he was awarded the Tanner Award "for excellence in undergraduate teaching," and the Nicholas Salgo Award "for distinction in teaching upper class students." Results of his historical research have been published in the most prestigious historical journals and his criticism of the Marxist interpretation of the French Revolution has brought him international recognition. Dr. Taylor denies the existence of a true class struggle in the Marxian sense as a cause of the French Revolution.

Dr. Taylor's theme was in the form of a question—"Was the French Revolution an Accident?"—which he answered in the affirmative. He supported his position by contending that chance brought together a group of dissatisfied aristocrats, influenced by liberal enlightenment thinking, and an economic crisis that moved the masses to violence. He warned his listeners that the apparent incipient disintegration (of American society) which present economic theory cannot explain is similar to the situation in France in 1789. He also cautioned his audience that if these forces are not reversed, we may expect a series of movements to reorganize our society.

A standing-room-only crowd of about three hundred fifty persons found him to be both informative and entertaining. Western was honored by the presence of Dr. Taylor and greatly appreciates his having interrupted a busy schedule to visit our campus.
PHI ALPHA THETA

Western’s Eta Pi Chapter of the National Honorary History Society continues to be active. Officers elected for the 1975-76 school year were: President, David F. Smith; Vice-President, Judy Bussell; Secretary-Treasurer, Susie Vincent; and Historian, Michael Puckett. Sixteen new members were initiated into Eta Pi during the past year.

Speakers at the monthly meeting this year included Dr. Lowell Harrison, Department of History, who presented a history of American football entitled “Punts, Passes, and Prayers,” and Dr. James Spiceland, Department of Philosophy, whose topic was “Philosophy of History; a Definition and Some Problems.” A special meeting was called in February, 1976 at which the chapter’s members met and chatted with Dr. George V. Taylor on the occasion of his visit as Distinguished Lecturer in History.

The chapter plans to continue publication of The Student Researcher, a journal of historical papers written by Western students. First published last year, the journal’s premier issue contained papers by Nancy Baird, Christopher Belcher, Ronald Daly, and Mary O’Sullivan.

Social activities of the chapter included a Christmas party held at Susie Vincent’s home. The party was planned by a special committee whose members were Susie Vincent, Nelda Wyatt, Jan Hite, Janet Estes, and Judy Bussell. Another social highlight of the year for the chapter was the Phi Alpha Theta Spring Banquet. This year’s banquet was held on April 22, and the speaker was novelist James Sherburne whose topic was “Fiction as History, and History as Fiction.”

Nancy Baird read a paper, “The Transplanting of James Monroe,” at the 1975 Kentucky Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference held at the University of Louisville. Two members of Western’s Eta Pi Chapter read papers at the 1975 Tennessee Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference held at Middle Tennessee State University. Russell Harris presented “Faces of War: the Battle of Perryville,” and Susie Vincent’s paper was entitled “From the Heaven of the West.” Students from Eta Pi participated in these regional conferences again in 1976. Russell Harris read a paper, “The Private War of Samuel Starling,” at the 1976 Kentucky Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference which was held at the University of Kentucky. Participation in these conferences is by invitation and Western’s participation reflects the high quality of scholarship possessed by members of the Eta Pi chapter.

This year’s A. M. Stickles Award for a graduating history major for excellence in scholarship was presented to Karen Marie Wilkins, of Paducah, Kentucky, who achieved a 3.86 grade point average for her four years of study. Sarah Urrozado Vincent, of Owensboro, Kentucky, received the Robert G. Cochran Award for excellence in scholarship in history. A. M. Stickles History Scholarship Awards were given to Hoy P. Hedges of Bowling Green, Kentucky; Gayla Ann McClary, of Scottsville, Kentucky; Kathleen M. Nelson, of Owensboro, Kentucky, and Karen Marie Wilkins.

The numerous achievements of Western’s Eta Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta reflect the tremendous energy and capabilities of its sponsor, Dr. Charles Bussey, for which the History Department is grateful.

HONORS PROGRAMS IN HISTORY

The History Department will inaugurate an Honors Program in history beginning with the fall semester of 1976. This program is designed to challenge and intellectually stimulate superior students, primarily history majors, but it is also open to other superior students whatever their major field of study. If successful, this program will serve as a pilot for the development of similar honors programs throughout the University.

Recognizing that there is a universal concern about “grade inflation” the Department of History vows that it will demand excellence from its honors students. Students are cautioned that the work will be hard; but it will be challenging, and the rewards, both tangible and intangible, will be great.

To participate in the program students must have and maintain a minimum grade average of 3.3 with a 3.3 grade average in history courses. The program requires the completion of forty hours of history courses; only thirty-four hours are normally required of history majors. In addition to the thirteen hours of survey courses required of all history majors and minors, students participating in the honors program will take five four-hour upper division courses. These will be the usual three-hour courses with special one-hour honors sections. The additional hour of credit will be granted for a more detailed study of certain topics. An Honors Thesis will be required in the course in Historiography for which the student will receive additional credit.

The transcript of those who complete the Honors Program will indicate the University’s recognition of “Honors Graduate in History.” The Department has been very encouraged by initial responses from students who have been invited to participate in this new program.

ORAL HISTORY

A special funding grant made this year by President Dero Downing has made possible the beginning of a program in oral history, a project long considered desirable by the Department. The oral history project will have offices in Cherry Hall, where much of the interviewing will be done, but will also have equipment for taping interviews off campus. The first interviews will deal with the history of Western Kentucky University, the Western Kentucky coal industry, river and steamboat history in this region, and general regional history. Both faculty and students will be used to conduct the interviews.

Alumni are invited and encouraged to suggest persons who would be suitable for interviews; alumni interested in conducting interviews in their area should contact the chairman of the oral history project.

Members of the committee conducting the project are James D. Bennett, chairman, Helen B. Crocker, J. Crawford Crowe, Ritty Handy, Lowell H. Harrison, and Calvin Jackson.

CURRENT NEWS OF THE FACULTY

While conducting research at the Library of Congress and Howard University in Washington, D.C., Dr. Francis Thompson suffered a heart attack. At the time of the attack Dr. Thompson was at the home of his sister-in-law in Bethesda, Maryland. Luckily, immediate aid was given by the local rescue squad after which Dr. Thompson was transferred to the Suburban Hospital in Bethesda following an extended period of intensive care, he returned to Bowling Green where he is still recuperating. He expects to return to his teaching duties for the summer session, 1976. Dr. Thompson sends his heartfelt appreciation to his many former students and friends for their expressions of concern during his illness.

Dr. Donald Neat resigned his position with the Department in 1974 for reasons of health. Dr. Neat served on the history faculty since 1964 and the Department will surely miss a man of his capabilities. Courses in English and European history formerly taught by Dr. Neat have continued under the direction of Dr. Carol Crowe, who received her doctorate from the University of Georgia where she majored in English History and is equally qualified in these areas. Dr. Crowe has been a member of the history faculty since 1970.

Mr. John Bratcher is currently on leave of absence from the University for health reasons. During his absence Russian and Soviet History courses are being taught by Dr. David Lee.

Mr. Paul Kramer who teaches Latin American History has resigned from the University effective at the end of this semester to enter private business.

Dr. Neat and Mr. Kramer have made outstanding contributions to Western’s history programs and the University community. We wish them God-speed.

Dr. David Lee joined the history faculty at Western in 1975. A native of Westchester, Ontario, Dr. Lee received his doctorate from Ohio State University in 1975. Although Dr. Lee began his teaching duties only recently, his scholarly credentials are already impressive. The University of Tennessee Press is now examining the manuscript of his book, Tennessee in Turmoil; Politics in the Volunteer State, 1920-1932. He has published two articles in scholarly journals. His “Attempt to Impede Governor Horton” was published in the Tennessee Historical Quarterly and “Jesse Waugh: West Virginia” was published in West Virginia History. Dr. Lee received great satisfaction from writing the article about
Jesse Waugh who was his great-great-grandfather. Waugh, a nineteenth century farmer, kept detailed diaries of his agricultural activities.

During his first year at Western, Dr. Lee has established a remarkable rapport with his students, and his addition to the History faculty is a great asset to the University.

In the fall of 1976, Dr. Richard V. Salisbury, who received his doctorate from the University of Kansas in 1969, will assume the duties of Latin American Historian at Western. The Department is very fortunate to have attracted a man with Dr. Salisbury's qualifications. He has had ten years' experience in higher education at universities in Kansas, Arizona, and New York. From 1965 to 1965 he served as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching secondary Physical Education and English in Venezuela.

Dr. Salisbury has delivered scholarly papers at nine American or Latin American Conferences, published seven articles in professional historical journals, and published one book, Costa Rican Relations with Central America, 1900-1934. In 1975 he received a Faculty Research Fellowship from the State University of New York for research in Costa Rica and in the same year he received the “SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.”

Because of his evident scholarly ability and dedication to his profession, Dr. Salisbury will be a great asset to the History faculty. The Department proudly welcomes Dr. and Mrs. Salisbury and their two children to the University and to the city of Bowling Green.

Dr. Lowell Harrison was recently appointed by Governor Carroll to a four year term on the Kentucky Historical Records Advisory Board. This board works with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Dr. Harrison was recently appointed to a four-year term on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Governor's Documents. While this Newsletter was being written, the University was informed that the Governor had also appointed Dr. Harrison to the Kentucky Bicentennial Oral History Commission.

Dr. Richard Troutman, Dr. Jack Thacker, and Dr. Lowell Harrison participated in the first Annual History Conference held at the University of Kentucky on April 13, 1976. Dr. Troutman chaired a session on "New Approaches to Instruction in History," and Dr. Harrison served as a panelist on the session "Collection and Preservation of Documents in Kentucky."

Dr. Richard G. Stone read a paper at the Duquesne History Forum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1975. His paper, "The South Carolina Governor's Council, 1776-1790," was a part of the session, "The Impact of the American Revolution."

Dr. J. Crawford Crowe, Professor of History and Coordinator of Resource Development for the Kentucky Library, assumed the duties of University Archivist in 1975.

FACULTY

Many members of the Department were invited as guest lecturers during the past year by civic clubs and other organizations. Because of the interest in the Bicentennial and the history of Kentucky, those in most demand have been Dr. Crawford Crowe, a recognized authority on the history of Kentucky; Dr. Lowell Harrison, who recently published his book, Civil War in Kentucky, and has another book in the process of publication about the life of George Rogers Clark; Dr. Carol Crowe, who has made an intensive study of areas of the Big Sandy and Eastern Kentucky; and Mrs. Helen Crocker, who will soon publish the best available study of steamboats on the Green River. Unrelated to the Bicentennial, but because of a growing interest in the United States' role in the Middle East, Dr. Richard Troutman has given over a dozen lectures about his recent trip to the Middle East. Mr. Bratcher has given three audio-visual lectures about his trip to Russia.

Because of the competency of the individual members of the History Department, lecturers can be provided for topics related to past and contemporary developments in almost every geographical and political area of the world. The knowledge and understanding of our faculty members results from intensive study complemented by study and travel within the various world areas of their competency.

The editor of this Newsletter feels that it is proper to inform our alumni briefly about some of the faculty activities which have been accomplished during the past five years.

Dr. James Bennett, (Twentieth Century U.S., American West) has spent the past several summers travelling through the American West. In 1974 he toured Europe and spent the summer of 1975 conducting research at the Library of Congress. This summer he plans to tour the Scandinavian countries. Dr. Bennett recently celebrated the publication of John Turner Turn, a book he has written on Scandinavian Turner.

Dr. James Baker, (Renaissance and Reformation), spent six months of 1975 travelling and studying in Italy and Greece. In Italy, he studied at the Biblioteca Berenson in the Villa I Tatti near Florence. While living in a villa near Florence, Italy and spending some time in Athens, Greece, Dr. Baker gained an intimate knowledge of Italian and Greek customs and traditions. Dr. Baker is the author of two books: Thomas Merton—Social Critic, and Faith for a Dark Saturday.

Mr. John Bratcher, (Russia and the Soviet Union), is a graduate of the Naval Intelligence School (Soviet Language), Washington, D.C. During his 20 years in the U.S. Navy, he travelled throughout the world. In the fall of 1974 he travelled to the Soviet Union and studied briefly at the Lenin Library and the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. He has published numerous articles on Russian and Soviet themes in scholarly journals.

Dr. Charles Bussey, (Urban History, History of Science), has spent a considerable time travelling through the Northeastern United States while studying the administration of President Millard Fillmore. His studies took him to many local archives and libraries in upper New York State.

Dr. James E. Calloway (Diplomatic and United States History), was formerly Head of the History Department at Arkansas State University and joined the Western Faculty in 1964. Although his primary interest is in American diplomacy, Dr. Calloway spends considerable time researching historical events of a state and local nature. The results of that research have appeared in state historical journals. He has spent the past five summers visiting the battlefields of the American Civil War and the Revolutionary War. In 1975 his travels took him through the New England states and beyond them to Quebec, Canada. His book, Tobacco Frauds and Colonial Virginia, is under consideration for publication.

Dr. Carol Crowe, (History of England, The Far East), spent the summer of 1973 studying at the British Museum and Oxford University Library in England. Most recently she has been researching materials related to the culture of the Big Sandy Valley as a microcosm of the national fluvial developments which she considers a mirror of much of the history of Kentucky. Her book, The Big Sandy, will soon be published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Mrs. Helen Crocker (Kentucky History, American History), has been virtually buried in the county and state archives of Kentucky where she has found much material never before published. From her research she has published several articles and has a forthcoming book, The Green River. She is in great demand by civic clubs for her outstanding lectures on Kentucky History.

Dr. Drew Harrington (Ancient Greece and Rome), has acquired a vast knowledge of his subject and a mastery of the Greek and Latin languages. Dr. Harrington's classes are among the most popular in the History Department. In recognition of his scholastic ability and devotion to his craft the University has used his services in organizing and developing a program in the humanities at Western funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Lowell Harrison (Early National Period, Civil War, Kentucky), is nationally recognized for his historical research, dedication to education, and ability to communicate his ideas. He now serves on numerous state and national historical commissions. His publications are far too numerous to list in this Newsletter, but his two most recent books are John Breckenridge: Jeffersonian Republican, and The Civil War in Kentucky. In 1975 his search for historical materials took him to Australia where he dug into the Civil War activities of the Confederate commerce raiders Shenandoah and the treatment of those activities in the Australian press. Having travelled throughout the "land down under," Dr. Harrington then spent three weeks in New Zealand. He is a recipient of the Award for Outstanding Research at Western.
Dr. Carlton Jackson (U.S. Social and Cultural, Age of Jackson), is Western's most experienced lecturer on the foreign circuit. He has given 52 lectures and conducted seminars in Pakistan, India, Greece, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Iran. During the summer of 1976 Dr. Jackson will travel throughout South American on a lecture-seminar tour sponsored by the United States Information Agency. Jackson's most popular lectures on these tours are: "The American Character," "Explaining the American West," and "Contributions of the U.S. Indians to the American Colonial Period." Dr. Jackson is the author of seven books and numerous articles that have appeared in scholastic journals.

Dr. Marion Lucas (Civil War, New South), has spent most of his time immersed in the archives of the southern states and the Library of Congress. His command of southern and Civil War history and the ability to communicate with students have made him one of the most popular members of the history faculty. The forthcoming publication of his book about the burning of Charleston, South Carolina, will undoubtedly bring him national acclaim.

Dr. Frederick Murphy (Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation), has achieved an expertise in ancient history that is amply attested to by the quality of his students. His articles have appeared in the Faculty Research Bulletin. Each summer Dr. Murphy and his wife pack their camper and head for some yet unvisited area of the United States or Canada. If the day comes when that camper can reach Rome or Athens, Dr. and Mrs. Murphy will surely be there.

Dr. Richard Stone (Colonial America, Military History), has become an authority on military history, but his major field of interest is the South. Having received his master's degree from the University of North Carolina and his doctorate from the University of Tennessee, he is also an authority on historical materials stored in southern state and national archives. His book on the Kentucky Militia from its origin to the present will be published soon. To broaden his historical vision, Dr. Stone will spend this summer in France, Italy, Austria, and Germany.

Dr. Jack Thacker (French Revolution, Military History, Germany), spent a semester of study and travel throughout Europe in 1974. Most of his research and study was conducted at the Louvre in Paris, the British Museum and Oxford University. Accompanied by his wife, Dr. Thacker lived in these countries and gained a first-hand knowledge of their national, cultural, political, and economic customs and traditions. Dr. Thacker is a recipient of the University's "Outstanding Teaching Award." Dr. Francis Thompson (Recent America, the Roosevelt and Truman Era), served on military duty in various countries of Europe during the 1940s. He has conducted research at the Truman Library, the Library of Congress, and the City Library of New York. His manuscript about the Truman Administration and the Red Scare will undoubtedly be published soon. Dr. Thompson is a recipient of the University's "Outstanding Teaching Award."

Dr. Richard Troutman (Colonial America, African History), is a native of New York state but he has admirably adapted to our southern ways—country ham, red-eye gravy, and burgoo. Now in his fourth year as Head of the Department, Dr. Troutman makes the entire department "tick." In addition to his administrative duties, he is presently editing the diaries of George R. Browder, a nineteenth century Methodist preacher from Holmesdale, Kentucky. During the summer of 1975, Dr. Troutman was invited by the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education to spend six weeks of travel and study in Egypt. He spent about three weeks in Cairo, 10 days in Alexandria, and one week on a trip up the Nile visiting Abu Simbel, Aswan, and Luxor. He also took one day excursions to the Suez Canal, El Alamein, and Fayum. During his stay he attended a number of lectures by governmental, educational, industrial, and cultural leaders of Egypt.

After reading the very briefly described qualifications of our faculty, you may wish to use our services. We are happy to serve you whereever and whenever possible. Address all inquiries to the individual concerned or to the Head of the History Department.

ALUMNI NOTES

Stella Elkins, (34), is now retired and resides in Amarillo, Texas. She received her master's degree in history from Peabody Teachers College and taught history at the high school level until 1949 when she moved to Pikeville College where she taught until her retirement.

M. Meece O'Leary, (38), is Superintendent of Public Schools in Somerset, Kentucky. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Somerset Community College; member of the Board of Directors, Kentucky Education Association; member of the Board of Advisors for Kentucky Educational Television; Chairman, Region five ESEA Title Three; and President of the Somerset Rotary Club.

Francis K. Beeler, (40), received his masters degree from the University of Louisville in 1951. He is now Principal of the Kenwood Elementary School, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Raymond P. Hazelip and his wife Mertha (Alford) Hazelip, (50), both graduated from Western with double majors in history and chemistry. Formerly pharmacist and surgical supply dealers in Bowling Green, Kentucky, they are now semi-retired and assist their daughter Linda in the same kind of business. Since semi-retirement they have fulfilled their life-long dreams of traveling all over the world.

Alton O'Neil Shenton, (51), received his Master's Degree in Divinity from Emory University and is now a United Methodist Minister in Louisville, Kentucky. He is listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1975-1976.

Brenda (Smith) Martin, (60), received her master's degree from Western in 1965, and specialist degree in education from George Peabody College in 1968. A charter member of Western's Eta Pi chapter of Alpha Theta, Brenda was awarded the Outstanding Young Educator Award (Bowling Green, Warren County) in 1964. She was president of the Third District Council of Teachers of English in 1970 and 1971 and now is an Assistant Professor of English at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

William D. Strickland, (60), received his master's degree in divinity from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University in 1963. He is now the Chaplain at Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Russell Estes (61), received his master's degree in history from West Georgia College. He is now a realtor in Edmonton, Kentucky, where he is also Chairman of the Board of Directors, Edmonton-Metcalf County Chamber of Commerce.

Elizabeth (Rhea) Babcock (62), received her master's degree from the University of Louisville. She now teaches history and government at South Euclid High School in Louisville, Kentucky.

Galelyn (Alexander) McCray (70), teaches Social Studies at North Bloomington High School in Bloomington, Indiana.

Betty (Mount) Berger, (71), was promoted to Assistant Personnel Officer in December, 1973 at the First National Bank of Louisville, Kentucky. She describes her present job as "Banker, Exempt and Non-exempt Personnel Interviewer and Placement."

Miss Susan (Syndor) Caroli, (71) graduated from Western with a double major in history and English and is now a legal secretary in Louisville, Kentucky.

George L. Franklin, (71), received his master's degree in special education from the University of Louisville in 1973. He is now working toward his doctorate in community development/police administration. He is a narcotics detective with the Jefferson County, Kentucky Police Department. He graduated first in a class of sixty-three from the Jefferson County Police Academy.

Mary Jo Morrison, (71), graduated from Western with a double major in History and English. She teaches English at Grayson County High School, Leitchfield, Kentucky.

Edward M. French, (72), graduated with a double major in history and government. He was promoted from Director of Education to Director of Personnel and Member of the Administrative Board of St. Anthony Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky.

William S. Depp, (72), is a commercial forecaster for the Western Telephone Company in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Harlan Michael Ferry, (72), is now serving in the United States Air Force in Texas where he is a Second Lieutenant and the Electronics Warfare Officer.

Miss Mickey Gordon, (72), is the Personnel Director, Netherland Terrace (Hilton Hotels) in Covington, Kentucky.

Karen L. Munoz, (72). When we last heard from Karen in 1975 she was a third year law student in the School of Law, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.