"One thing that struck me immediately, and it comes as a surprise, is Western's beautiful campus. I expected it to look more institutionalized.... General impression: an excellent history department.... Western should be proud of its history department."

Excerpts from the log of Birdsall Viault,
Faculty Exchange participant from Winthrop College, March 1979

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

The Department of History has enjoyed another good year. Enrollment has held up well. Over 2,050 students took classes on campus last fall giving the Department one of the highest student-faculty ratios in the University. For the past three years the number of history majors has remained constant, despite all the warnings about conditions in the job market. I was pleasantly surprised recently to find out that our 140 history majors during the 1978-79 school year were only ten less than the number at the University of Kentucky.

Research and writing continues apace. Six members of the Department — Carol Crowe-Carraco, Lowell Harrison, Carlton Jackson, John Minton, Richard Stone, and Jim Thompson — published books during the year. In addition, James Bennett and Lowell Harrison published a guide to the writing of history research papers. Several others have received grants from the University and other sources to support their research on forthcoming books and articles. These are exciting days for the Department.

Last fall during my sabbatical leave I had an opportunity to reflect on the Department with a bit more detachment than is normally possible. The result was a renewed and increased appreciation for my colleagues who give so unselfishly of their time and abilities to make the Department what it is. In recognizing what they do, I also hope to give to our departmental alumni and friends a sense of the range of activities in which the Department is involved:

James Baker edits the Newsletter
James Bennett directs the Oral History Program
Charles Bussey advises Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society.
Carol Crowe-Carraco has served faithfully on the Curriculum Committee.
Helen Crocker is working hard to develop a center for the study of state and local history.
George Dillingham plays an important role in maintaining contact with secondary school social studies teachers in South-Central Kentucky.
Drew Harrington advises the graduate students who major or minor in History in the M.A. in Education program.

Lowell Harrison advises the graduate students pursuing the M.A. in History. He also serves on the Curriculum Committee.
Carlton Jackson hosts a chili cook-out each spring at his rustic retreat in Butler County.
David Lee plays an important part in advising students.
M.B. Lucas is a member of the Curriculum Committee, and helps in coordinating the fall and spring registration periods. His ready wit also keeps the Department in a continuing state of good humor.
Fred Murphy coordinates departmental advisement, directs the History Honors Program, serves as chairman of the Curriculum Committee, and keeps the Department up to date on audio-visual materials.
Richard Salisbury serves as a member of the Curriculum Committee.
Richard Stone informs the outside world about the newsworthy achievements of members of the Department.
Jack Thacker, in addition to his numerous University assignments, serves as a member of the Curriculum Committee.
Jim Thompson coordinates our annual history contest. He also directs departmental recruiting efforts.
Richard Weigel's ability to secure grants from outside sources is becoming increasingly important to the Department.
Jane Brown Wilson, our departmental secretary, Carol Crowe-Carraco and Helen Crocker, do a fine job of hosting departmental receptions.

Over the past five years our Di'tinguished Visiting Lecturer in History series has been the responsibility of the following: Richard Stone, M. B. Lucas, Jack Thacker, Richard Salisbury, Drew Harrington, and Richard Weigel.

A mere listing of assignments fails to convey the generally good attitude and willing spirit with which everyone carries out his responsibilities and contributes to the well-being of the Department. I am proud to be associated with such a fine group of professionals.

Richard L. Troutman
**VISITING PROFESSOR**

During the fall term, 1978, the History Department served as host to Ahmed Ali, a Fulbright Professor from Pakistan. Professor Ali, a scholar, diplomat, and famed novelist, enhanced the department with his wit and insight before departing December 15 to spend the spring term at Southern Illinois University. Professor Ali requested Western as his host institution because of his friendship with Dr. Carlton Jackson; and perhaps his only disappointment was that Dr. Jackson was in Iran during most of the time Ali was here.

**DISTINGUISHED VISITING LECTURER SERIES**

Dr. Peter Green, Professor of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin, presented the Fifth Distinguished Visiting Lecturer program. He spoke on “Alexander the Great: Myth and History.” Besides having published two biographies of Alexander, Dr. Green has written widely in fiction and in classical scholarship. His historical novel about the Roman dictator Sulla, titled *THE SWORD OF PLEASURE*, won the W. H. Heineman Award for Literature. His historical works include, among others, *ESSAYS IN ANTIQUITY* (1960), *ARMADA FROM ATHENS* (1970), *THE YEAR OF SALAMIS* (1971) and *THE SHADOW OF THE PARTHENON* (1972).

The lecture was different from previous lectures in two ways. First, Professor Green used slides to illustrate his material. Second, it was the first lecture on a topic in Ancient History. Dr. Green’s basic point was that so much erroneous material has accrued to the person of Alexander that it is impossible to separate myth from history.

Professor Green’s lecture was enjoyed by the approximately 500 students, faculty members and others who attended. While on campus, he spoke to several groups, including Phi Alpha Theta.

**HISTORY CONTEST**

This year’s History Contest was held April 20, 1979. Six hundred eighty students from 44 schools in Kentucky, both public and private, participated. Trophy winners were:

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There were 12 medal winners and 15 others who received honorable mention.

**PHI ALPHA THETA BANQUET**

In the post-Watergate era, Dr. Mary Kay Tachau, Professor of History at the University of Louisville, has discovered that Kentuckians did not pay a whiskey tax for the first ten years that Kentucky belonged to the Union. Dr. Tachau revealed this during a fascinating presentation on the early judicial system in Kentucky given at the annual Phi Alpha Theta banquet held April 20th at the Holiday Inn Holodome in Bowling Green.

During the banquet, two annual awards were also presented. Dr. Richard Troutman presented the A.M. Stickles Award to Linda McCubbin, and Dr. Lowell Harrison presented the Robert G. Cochran Award to Nancy Holman.

President Denise Walker Baker presided during the event.

**NEWS OF THE FACULTY**

JAMES BAKER has published several articles, including a study of U.S. Presidents and their siblings, which appeared in *Christian Century* and was condensed for *Catholic Digest*. He received the $100 Robert D. W. Conner Award for his article, “The Battle of Elizabeth City,” judged the best scholarly article to appear in the *North Carolina Historical Review* during 1978. Over Christmas he visited philosopher Eric Hoffer in San Francisco to gather material for a new book. During the summer he led a student honor tour to Great Britain. He also survived a bowl of Dr. Harrington’s chili at the spring outing.

JAMES D. BENNETT has read the following papers this year: “Louis Hast, Louisville Musician,” annual meeting, The Filson Club, Louisville, January 9, 1978; “Joseph Holt and the Strange Trial of the Lincoln Assassins,” Bowling Green Rotary Club, February 14, 1979; and “The Public Career of Joseph Holt,” Daughters of the...

DOROTHY V. BOREL presented a paper in Washington, D.C., in October, 1978, and attended several Asian Studies conferences. She has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of History and Director of Non-Western Studies at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina, for the coming academic year.


CAROL CROWE-CARRACO has spent a busy year with her English History - women's history - Appalachian interests. The summer of 1978 was spent in England interviewing English nurse-midwives who once worked in Kentucky. In November she spoke to the Filson Club on “Mary Breckinridge and the Frontier Nursing Service.” Her spring sabbatical entailed five months research at the headquarters of the Frontier Nursing Service, trips to New York and Washington, and participation in a NEH International Year of the Child seminar. And for those who still remember: The Big Sandy became a published reality in 1979!

GEORGE DILLINGHAM published an article entitled “The University of Nashville, A Northern Educator, and A New Mission In the Past — Reconstruction South” in the Fall, 1978 issue of the Tennessee Historical Quarterly. He was selected as a reviewer of grant proposals for the National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Public Programs. Dr. Dillingham also attended the National Council for the Social Studies, Southern Regional Conference on Teaching History and other Social Studies, held March 29-30, 1979, at Nashville, Tennessee.

LOWELL H. HARRISON’s The Antislavery Movement in Kentucky (Lexington, 1978) came out in November; it was his third volume in the Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf. He and James D. Bennett co-authored a manual on Writing History Papers for The Forum Press, St. Louis. His articles on “The Aaron Burr Conspiracy” and “Old Man Eloquent Takes the Floor” appeared in American History Illustrated in the June, 1978, and February, 1979, issues. Biographical sketches of Kentucky governors James Garrard and Beriah Magoffin were in the Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States (Westport, 1978), and two articles were reprinted in Fred J. Hood, ed., Kentucky: Its History and Heritage (St. Louis, 1978). Book reviews have appeared in Civil War Times Illustrated, West Virginia History, and The Filson Club History Quarterly. He has spoken at the Jackson Purchase Historical Society, the Hopkins County Historical Society, West Texas State University, and the Cleveland Reserve Civil War Roundtable. During the fall semester, 1978, he was acting department head while Dr. Troutman was on sabbatical. His tennis elbow has held up well, and his notorious forehand has shown slight signs of improvement.

CARLTON JACKSON went to Iran in September, 1978, to teach in the Americanist Endowment Chair of the Department of International Studies at Shiraz, Iran. He taught two hours the whole time he was there because of strikes and violence. He and his wife and two children left Iran in November, for reasons that are well known. In April, 1979, his book The Great Lili appeared. This is a book about the famous song of World War II, “Lili Marleen.” It was published by Strawberry Hill Press of San Francisco.

DAVID LEE published “The Emergence of the Imperial Presidency” in Bussey, Carroll, MacDonald, and Storey (eds.), America’s Heritage in the Twentieth Century; and book reviews in The American Historical Review and the Kentucky Register.

MARION B. LUCAS was recently chosen to be one of the co-authors of a projected 500 page history of blacks in Kentucky from colonial times to the present. Professor Lucas was assigned the period before 1891. The research for this project is being financed by a $25,000 grant to be administered by the Kentucky Historical Society. The projected date of publication is 1983 or 1984. Dr. Lucas was on sabbatical leave last fall researching Kentucky blacks during the period 1865-1900.


RICHARD V. SALISBURY’s article “Costa Rica and the 1924 Honduran Crisis” appeared in La Revista de Historia (Costa Rica), III (January-July, 1978). He presented the following papers: “Benton McMillin and the 1920 Guatemalan Crisis” at the Southern Historical Association Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, November, 1978; “Latin American Periodicals: An Historical Analysis” at the Latin American Studies Association Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April, 1979; “The Big Sandy became a published reality in 1979! The Antislavery Movement in Kentucky (Lexington, 1978) came out in November; it was his third volume in the Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf. He and James D. Bennett co-authored a manual on Writing History Papers for The Forum Press, St. Louis. His articles on “The Aaron Burr Conspiracy” and “Old Man Eloquent Takes the Floor” appeared in American History Illustrated in the June, 1978, and February, 1979, issues. Biographical sketches of Kentucky governors James Garrard and Beriah Magoffin were in the Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States (Westport, 1978), and two articles were reprinted in Fred J. Hood, ed., Kentucky: Its History and Heritage (St. Louis, 1978). Book reviews have appeared in Civil War Times Illustrated, West Virginia History, and The Filson Club History Quarterly. He has spoken at the Jackson Purchase Historical Society, the Hopkins County Historical Society, West Texas State University, and the Cleveland Reserve Civil War Roundtable. During the fall semester, 1978, he was acting department head while Dr. Troutman was on sabbatical. His tennis elbow has held up well, and his notorious forehand has shown slight signs of improvement.

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FRANCIS H. THOMPSON published The Frustration of Politics: Truman, Congress, and The Loyalty Issue, 1945-1953, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1979; and “The Consequences of World War II,” in Europe In The Twentieth Century. Dr. Thompson was also a consultant on the writing of history papers at a workshop conducted by Kentucky Young Historians in February. RICHARD WEIGEL published the article “Carbo’s Ironic Reward,” in SAN IX (1978). SAN is the journal of the Society for Ancient Numismatics. He received a WKU Summer Research Grant to study the Roman temples of the goddess Juno Regina; and spoke to Kentucky Classical Association meeting in Louisville (September 30) on “Pompeii and Herculaneum: A.D. 79-1979.”

NEWS OF OUR ALUMNI

We include a few brief reports on our alumni in each edition of the newsletter. Please use the enclosed card to let us know any new professional or personal achievements. We will be happy to include them in a future issue.

Dorine Hawke Geeslin (1938) is an Associate Professor of Education at WKU. She is currently state President of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and resides in Upton, Ky.

Dr. William Harry Wroten, Jr., (1941) is a Professor and Chairman of the History Department in Salisbury State College, Salisbury, Md.

Dr. Benton Hines Marshall (1943) received an M.D. from the University of Louisville in 1961. He received an M.A. in Anthropology in 1962 from the University of Pennsylvania and is board certified in psychiatry. He is presently a psychiatrist in the Philadelphia State M.D. Hospital.

J. B. Sparks (1950) is President of Bardstown Optimist Club and occupies the position of an Elementary Principal.

Hugh Noffsinger (1951) is a Professor of School Administration, Murray State University, Murray, Ky. He is currently an Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the College of Human Development and Learning.

Gerald B. Claypool (1955) is an Elementary School Principal in Leitchfield, Ky.

Glenn Turner (1965) received a M.S. B.A. from Indiana University in 1971. He lives in Warsaw, Indiana, where he is Director of Administration of Donnite Corporation.

Clifton David McKee (1975) is Safety Manager of the Alston No. 4 Mine, Peabody Coal Company of Beaver Dam, Kentucky.

James Richard Gildersleeve (1975) is a Court Administrator in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Commonwealth of Kentucky in Bowling Green, Ky.

Christine E. Marion (1977) works in Public Relations for a hospital in Wooster, Ohio.

Brooks Cochran (1977) is Minister of the Winchester Road Church of Christ in Memphis, Tn.

Vernon Gibson, who received his B.A. in 1970 and M.A. in 1978 has just published a biography of Kentucky Governor Ruby Laffoon. Gibson lives in Earlington and teaches at Madison-West Hopkins High School.

Virginia Davis, a 1979 graduate from Horse Cave, has published a new book, J. Winston Coleman, Jr., a biographical sketch with a series of his writings.

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Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

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