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Faculty Profiles

J. Crawford Crowe

If you walk down the hallway of the second floor in Cherry Hall for any length of time, you're apt to spot a member of the history faculty who smokes what is undoubtedly the strongest pipe tobacco in the world; Old Cornstalk is a name frequently given to it. Now if you should ask this person a question, in all likelihood he'll pull out an empty match booklet, see if he has any notes written on the back of it, look you straight in the face, and begin, "Confidentially..." And then you'll know that you've met The Chief, J. Crawford Crowe.

As his legions of friends know, Crawford is a great collector: barrel staves, stamps, cigar wrappers, old books, coins, and just about anything that doesn't move too quickly.

Crawford's penchant for collecting and cataloguing placed him in an excellent position in 1972 to become the university archivist. (Before that, he was head of the WKU history department, and in that capacity greatly encouraged his faculty to become research oriented.)

As archivist, Crawford put his love of collecting out in the field; the result was that WKU received many manuscripts from famous authors, a lot of first edition books, a mass of Kentucky memorabilia, and a large amount of good-will. He became a well known figure around the Commonwealth as he traveled its length and breadth, spreading the word that there was something here in Western Kentucky worth the attention of its citizens.

Even today, when WKU history profs attend a convention, very often the first question someone asks is: "Say, how is old Crawford Crowe these days?" (Sometimes the first name is omitted, conjuring up images of endearment for yet another venerable Kentucky institution.)

The Chief has had a long and distinguished career of teaching history and other subjects. He took his early degrees from Western, and did his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt, subsequently becoming a member of the history faculties at Middle Tennessee State University and Kentucky Wesleyan before coming back to WKU.

Though he grumbles sometimes about lackadaisical attitudes toward coursework and nonchalant views of reading, Crawford is, and always has been, a student-oriented person. More than one undergraduate has gone on to higher things because of encouragement and gentle proddings by The Chief. There are literally dozens of Ph.Ds and M.A.s around the country, to say nothing of teachers on the primary and secondary levels, who will tell you very quickly that they got their academic start because of a class they had with Crawford or because of something he said to them in his office or, maybe more importantly, in the hallway.

Last year, Crawford rejoined the history department full-time, leaving his job as university archivist. That doesn't mean, however, that he's quit traveling. On the contrary, he and Sarah have been "trailing," or as the English would put it, "caravaning," around the country in their new Air-Stream trick-named the "Silver Bullet," with a CB handle of "Raincrow." They are as apt to show up at a camping convention as at Churchill Downs on Derby Day. (Recently, a faculty member reported that he thought he saw Crawford and Sarah heading north out of Birmingham. He passed to get a good look at them. It wasn't the Crowes; it was just another elderly couple returning from Florida.)

In addition to all his other qualities, The Chief is also a great raconteur. If you're lucky, when you meet him in the hallway or in his office he might tell you about his World War II days in the Aleutians; the time he shook hands with Olivia de Haviland, or, if it's really your day, when he became the only person in the world, other than the trainer, to put the bridle on Man-O-War.

Crawford, then, in endearing himself to generations of students and literally hundreds of faculty members, has indeed become an institution at WKU. Here at Cherry Hall, it is certain that everyone will continue affectionately to call him what he's always been and will be: The Chief.

David Lee

Hailing from Ohio State, Dr. David "Buckeye" Lee joined the history department staff in 1975. Although he is the youngest member of the department, Lee's list of publications and papers is lengthy, and includes articles and book reviews in several regional journals and a book, Tennessee In Turmoil with Memphis State University Press.

Currently he is preparing a manuscript on Sergeant York and the American Heroic Tradition. In addition, he serves on a number of university committees and acts as the departmental adviser for undergraduate students as well as Crowe-Carraco's Caesar in Phi Alpha Theta.

Although the 20th century South is Lee's first love, he continues to teach courses in Russian History and Western Civilization. Isn't the Parthenon in Nashville? On a more serious note, because of his outstanding teaching performance, Dr. Lee received the Potter College of Arts and Humanities Faculty Excellence Award for 1981.

Recently, Lee, his wife Laura Harper, and dog Blizzard purchased a turn-of-the-century home which they are restoring. In addition to teaching, research, and writing, Dr. Lee is becoming proficient at plastering, painting, and refinishing floors. Perhaps a book on these exploits will also be forthcoming!
Faculty News

The past year has been both busy and productive for members of the Department of History. In addition to carrying full teaching loads and participating actively in college and university activities (members serve on 40 college and university committees and groups), they have produced five books, 30 articles, 33 book reviews, and have presented papers or given speeches to 34 different audiences.

Professor Jim Baker, our Renaissance specialist, serves as acting director of the University Honors Program and was director of the Honors Project in the spring of 1981. His most recent book, Eric Heffer (G.K. Hall), will be published in June, 1982.

Professor Jim Bennett, whose work is primarily in the areas of the American West and twentieth century United States history, continues to direct the department's Oral History Project. His spring, 1982, sabbatical will be used to further his work on John Ledyard, Colonial America's greatest traveller and an early advocate of Western exploration.

The department's unofficial social director, Professor Carol Crowe-Carraco, continues to amaze us with her peripatetic activities. She is our faculty advisor to Phi Alpha Theta and a member of the board of the Phi Alpha Theta Student Journal, on the editorial staff of Folklore Record, and a member of the University Center Board. She recently has read papers before such diverse groups as the Mid-South Humanities Workshop, the Popular Culture Conference, the British Studies Conference, and the Russellville Friends of the Library. She was co-planner of the Kentucky Studies Workshop program, "A Family Affair: The 19th Century Family in South Central Kentucky," and produced "A Salute to the Theatre in Bowling Green," the Capitol Arts Theatre souvenir program for the theatre's September, 1981, opening.

J. Crawford Crowe, former department head and now more recently university archivist, has returned to full-time teaching in the department. In recent years he has contributed articles to Presbyterian Historical Quarterly, The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, and the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and has reviewed books for The Historian and the Kentucky Folklore Record. Former students will recall Crawford as an avid and interesting lecturer, and will not be surprised to know that he has given more than 300 speeches since he came to the department in 1964.

J. Drew Harrington continues as a member of the University Committee on Credits and Graduation and serves as advisor for Master of Arts in Education with history major or minor. Professor Harrington was on sabbatical the fall semester, 1980, and in October presented a paper, "Cassius Dio's Portrait of Cicero," at the Third Annual Conference of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies at St. Joseph's College, North Windham, Maine.

Professor Lowell Harrison continues his traditional heavy schedule of speaking and writing. Outstanding among these were his speech, "The Governors of Confederate Kentucky," at the re-dedication of the Jefferson Davis Memorial in June; "Kentucky Slavery: A Civil War Casualty," given at a special program at the University of Kentucky in honor of UK Professor Tom Clark; and "The President without a Party," American History Illustrated (April 1981).

Harrison also is on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Public Documents and represents Western on the Executive Committee of the University Press of Kentucky. His hobbies—reading, jogging, tennis—are much curtailed by his work as University Historian (his history of Western will appear soon) and by the fact that his tennis arm has collapsed.

Professor Carlton Jackson continues to represent the department in the capitals of the world, his arrival often seemingly the signal for outbreaks of violence and revolution. Jackson returned to campus this fall following a sabbatical which took him to England, Germany, Austria, Romania, Mexico, and Butler County. In some of these places he lectured for the United States Department of State on American social and cultural affairs. His recent work, The Great Lull, is off the press, and he has completed work on two other books: a history of the Greyhound Bus Company, and the coal mine disasters of the early 1900s.

Professor M.B. Lucas, whom students will remember as a brilliant raconteur, is immersed in research for his book-length project, "A History of Kentucky Blacks from Colonial Times to 1891," funded by the Kentucky Historical Society. In addition to book reviews, he has an article, "Forget? Never!" for Scrapbook: The Magazine of South Carolina, M.B. Serve as a consultant for Kentucky Educational Television.

John D. Minton, former President of Western, now is Vice President for Student Affairs and is in charge of Scholastic Development. John serves as chairman of the University Athletic Committee, member of the Jesse Stuart Foundation, and member of the Board of Directors of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce. His The New Deal in Tennessee, 1929-36 recently was published in Frank Freidel, ed., Modern American History Series.

Professor Fred Murphy continues to display his ability to cram 10 hours of work into each eight hour day. Fred directs the

The history faculty recently assembled for chili at Carlton Jackson's cabin in Butler County. Jim Bennett, above, patiently awaits service, while Carol Crowe-Carraco (above right) holds on to her friend, Casey. At right is Lowell Harrison, enjoying his chili.

Drew Harrington attends to the cooking while Jim Baker (opposite page at top) looks on. Helen Crocker, Richard Salisbury, Jim Thompson, Jim Baker, Carlton Jackson, and Jim Bennett (opposite page at bottom) all seem satisfied.
conducting research in Mexico on a Summer Faculty Research Fellowship. It seems obvious that he is able to accomplish so much only because of his major hobby, running for physical fitness.

Professor Richard Stone enjoyed a productive sabbatical during the spring 1981 semester. One result of the sabbatical is completion of Kentucky Fighting Men, 1861-1865, to be published by the University Press of Kentucky in 1982. Another result was the opportunity to enroll in photo-journalism courses. This will lead, probably to more and more slide programs in his Colonial America classes, but also to better and better quality.

Professor Jack Thacker spent much of the past summer at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York where he was an active participant in a Military History Workshop. Jack is a member of the (continued on page 4)
Faculty News
(continued from page 3)

department's Curriculum Committee, the
ROTC Advisory Board, and the University
Library and University Research committees.
In recent years he has been editor of the
Faculty Research Bulletin.
Professor Francis Thompson continues as
co-ordinator of the annual History Contest
sponsored by the department. Begun in 1974,
and continuously run under Jim's direction,
the program now attracts hundreds of high
school and middle school students to our
campus, many of whom have decided to major
or minor in history. Many of the ideas which
have made this program so successful have
been developed by Jim while pursuing his
favorite hobby, fishing, in which he indulges
every chance he gets.

Professor Richard Troutman continues
head of the department. Much of his "free" time
recently has been devoted to the
editing of the "Browder Diaries," kept by the
Rev. and Mrs. George Richard Browder, a
Methodist minister in the Louisville Annual
Conference from 1852 to 1886. The diaries are
to be published in 1982 by Zondervan Press.
This century's leading religious publisher.
Richard had given many speeches, based on
the diaries, to literary and civic groups in
Bowling Green and Russellville. He has also
served as vice-chairman of the selection
committee to select the new dean of Potter
College.

Associate Professor Charles Bussey, on
sabbatical during the fall, 1981, semester, is
devoting much of his time to completing a
book-length manuscript on American heroes,
a topic on which he lectured last year at the
Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New
York. Charles also has taped "From Roosevelt
to Reagan," in which he attacked President
Reagan's economic policies, for Kentucky
Educational Television. Last year he received
a fellowship which permitted him to write an
article, "The Grapes of Wrath in Historical
Perspective," and he lectured on the same
topic at Florida State University. He
continues to teach in the University's
American Studies inter-disciplinary program.

Associate Professor Paul B. Cook is not
teaching in the Department at present. As
Assistant to the President for Resources
Management and Director of the Budget,
Paul works in the Wetherby Administration
Building. Recently he has addressed meetings
of the Civilian Club, the Kiwanis Club, and
the Kentucky Women Administrators
Organization. He is a member of the board
directors of the Medical Center at Bowling
Green and of Junior Achievement. His book,
"The Growth of Anti-British Attitudes in
Kentucky Prior to the War 1812," was
published in 1980.

Edward Lee Pippin, Jr., "The Influence of
Turner's Frontier Thesis Upon American Religious
Historiography," Bennett.

William Riley, "The Influence of Turner's
Frontier Thesis Upon American Religious
Historiography," Bennett.

Harlan Woods, Jr., "The Restriction of
European Immigration, 1915-1921: A
Social Analysis," Bennett.

Nancy Baird, "Asiatic Cholera in Kentucky,
1832 to 1878," Harrison.

Doris Brenner, "Glover Cary: A Political
Biography," J. C. Crowe.

John L. Kelly, "The Constitutional Union
Party in Kentucky," Harrison.

Helen Bartter Crocker, "Green River
Steamboating: A Cultural History, 1828-
1931," Jackson.

Timothy A. Cantrell, "A History of Baptists in
Clinton County," J. C. Crowe.

William E. Day, "Jeremy Bentham:
Syncretistic Utilitarian," Thacker.

Irene F. Strange, "The Haven of Harmony,
1814-1824," Jackson.

Helen Barnett, "A History of Baptists in
Clinton County," J. C. Crowe.

Academicians in Government from Roosevelt to
Roosevelt, to be published in Spring, 1982.

Associate Professor Helen Crocker's 1980-
81 sabbatical was devoted to research for
her current project on Abraham Lincoln and his
Kentucky background. This work took her
to the Library of Congress and to libraries and
manuscript depositories in Indiana, Illinois,
and Pennsylvania. Her public service
activities include a number of speeches on
"Lincoln's Kentucky."

Associate Professor George A. Dillingham
divides his time between this Department and
the College of Education, where he is engaged
in training history and social science teachers.
Recently George has served as a reviewer of
grant proposals for the National Endowment
for the Humanities, as well as on the Faculty
Advisory Committee of the Student National
Education Association.

George devoted his Spring, 1980 sabbatical
to an investigation of the "Influence of the
Political-Social Climate on the Artistic
Expression of the Nineteenth Century" within
a portion of his research being conducted at the
Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Associate Professor David D. Lee, our
specialist in twentieth century Southern
history, was simply too busy to be named
recipient of the 1981 Potter College Faculty
Excellence Award. David is Proposal
Evaluator for the National Endowment for
the Humanities, Department of History and
Co-ordinator of Potter College Advisors on
the advisory committee to the Learning
Assistance Center, and a member of the
Faculty Institutional Exchange Progam.
Several of his book reviews have been
published during the past year. He read a
paper, "Herbert Hoover and the Development
of Commercial Aviation, 1921-1928," before
the American Historical Association/Pacific
Coast Branch, Los Angeles in August, and in
April he served as chairman and
commentator for a session on "Herbert
Hoover: Reformer or Reactionary," at the
Missouri Conference on History.

Associate Professor Richard Weigel,
newest addition to the faculty, is co-author of
Richard spent the summer of 1980 at the
American Academy in Rome, where he
studied Roman colonies under the auspices of
the National Endowment for the Humanities.
He is vice-chairperson of the Faculty Senate,
director of the Humanities Seminar, a member
of the Potter College Curriculum Committee,
and served on the search committee to select
the new Dean of Potter College.

Karen, the Dean's peripatetic grandmother,
is teaching part-time this year, often
commuting from her plantation in
Alabama.

History Theses
1968-81

1981
Denise Ruth Baker, "Thomas Jefferson and
the West," Harrison.

Walter L. Hixson, "The 1938 Ky. Senate
Election: Allen Barkley, The New Deal, and

Roy Houck, III, "A Unit History of the 94th
Pursuit Squadron, March 3, 1917 to May
5, 1918, with Emphasis on the Importance of
Technology," Thacker.

Randy W. Ream, "The Public Career of
Maurice Hudson Thatcher," Thompson.

Paul Thomas, "Cincinnati Theater, 1918-1919:
A Season of Burlesque, Vaudeville, and
Legitimate Entertainment," Bennett.

1980
Kenneth W. Russell, II, "Mordecai F. Ham:
Southern Fundamentalist," Thompson.

1978
Vernon Gipson, "Ruby Lafayette: A Political
Biography," Harrison.

Marketta Vincent Wood, "Robert Worth
Bingham, Ambassador to the Court of St.
James, The Productive Years, 1839-1894."
Murphy.

1977
Gary Donaldson, "Kirby Smith in Kentucky:
The Invasion of 1862," Lucas.

Charles G. Norbert, "Passage of the Women's
Property Act of 1879," Thacker.

1974
Nancy Baird, "Luke Pryor Blackburn, the
Good Samaritan," Harrison.

British Folklore
and History
May 29 - July 2, 1982

Spend almost five weeks in England,
Wales, and Scotland studying 20th
century British life from the perspectives of
history and folklore. The tour includes visits to
Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford, the
Scottish Highlands, York, and the Welsh Folk
Museum, as well as residencies in Bristol,
Perth, Durham, and London (Croydon). The
fee is $1795, and six credit hours,
undergraduate or graduate, can be obtained.