



SUMMER, 2013

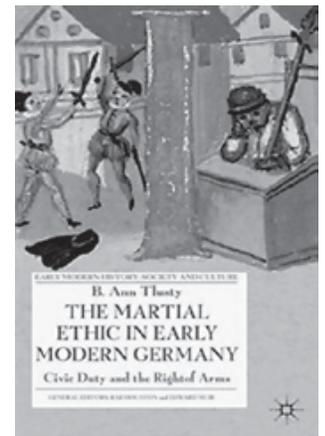
A HISTORY LUMNI NEWSLETTER

James T. Baker, Editor • John Hardin, Photographer

Selena Sanderfer and Phi Alpha Theta Students—Reporters



*Professor B. Ann Tlusty With WKU host
Beth Plummer*



MASCULINITY AND the MARTIAL ethic

Harrison Legacy Continues

On April 2 Professor B. Ann Tlusty of Bucknell University delivered the annual Lowell Harrison Lecture on the topic "Keeping and Bearing Arms in Renaissance Germany: Masculinity and the Martial Ethic." Dr. Tlusty is a former officer in the U.S. Air Force, serving for eight year in the field of military intelligence, and in her lecture she compared early modern European military attitudes and practices to those of our own day. Once more the past illuminates the present. Two hundred faculty and students attended her lecture.

EMERGENCE OF THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA

GIVEN A PERSONAL TOUCH

On September 19, 2012, the History Department joined the African American Studies Program to host Eddie Daniels, a native of South Africa. Of mixed parentage, classified as “colored” by the former government, Daniels joined the Liberal Party and worked to abolish the system of apartheid. For his radical activities, including sabotaging government utilities such as power stations and railway lines, he spent 14 years in prison on Robben Island. While there he became

a close friend of Nelson Mandela, who brought him into his inner circle. Over 160 faculty, staff, students attended the Daniels presentation.



Eddie Daniels, appropriately seated on the far left, enjoys a meal with WKU students and faculty



The coat of arms for South Africa

New Faces On The Old Hallway

Time brings change. Our faculty is constantly adding new talent. Here are our latest hires.

Eric Kondratieff joined our faculty in 2012. Eric was born in Oakland, California. He earned his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 2003 and taught at Temple for 8 years. As an Ancient Historian and Classicist, he will teach Greek and Roman history and continue his research in Roman history, literature, and material culture. He has already proven to be a popular teacher, much respected by both faculty and students.

Marko Dumancic arrives in August. Marko was born in Tripoli, Libya and grew up in Zagreb, Croatia. He arrived in the United States in 1996, at the end of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. He earned his B.A. from Connecticut College and both his M.A. and Ph.D. from North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will teach Russian and Soviet history, and his varied research projects will focus on the Cold War.



*Above:
Eric Kondratieff*



*left:
Marko Dumancic*

A WORD FROM THE BOSS

Greetings Fellow Historians:

As Tennyson wrote, “The old order changeth, yielding place to new.” With WKU’s new general education program starting in Fall 2014, the History Department prepares to shift from our old Western Civilization survey to a new course on World History. This transition has stimulated a great deal of discussion and group planning within the department. One thing that will not change is the central role History plays in WKU’s undergraduate education.

Another constant is the department’s financial support for our students. Over the past year, alumni generosity allowed the department once again to award over \$12,000 in History scholarships. We also were able to provide \$2,000 for undergraduate and graduate research projects.

As a result of recent budget cuts at WKU, departments now have to finance their own classroom renovations and equipment purchases. Alumni donations have allowed the History Department to spend over \$18,000 on needed upgrades to classroom equipment, from turning Cherry Hall 211 into a Smart classroom with computer and audio-visual equipment to replacing worn-out student desks.

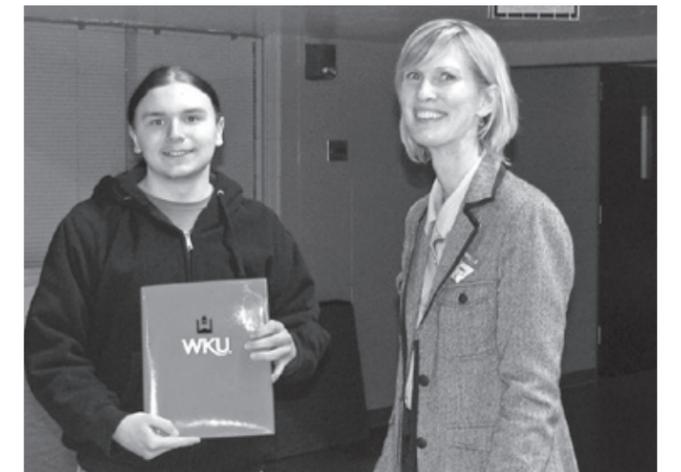
As always, your continuing support will make it possible for the History Department to meet whatever new challenges lie ahead.

Thank you,
Robert Dietle

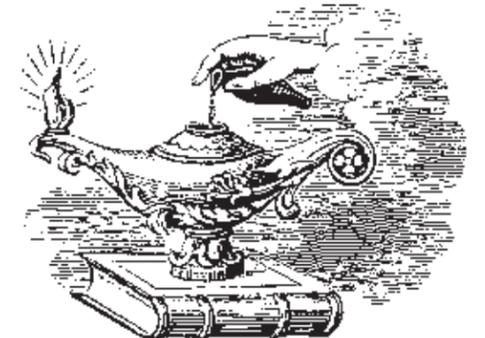


Another in the Long Line of Successful High School History Contests

On March 22 the History Department hosted its annual contest for area public school students. Seven hundred students from 30 schools participated. The winners were: Senior High American History—Margaret A. Foster, North Oldham High School; Senior High World History—Caleb T. Johnston, Muhlenberg County High School; Middle School American History—Elizabeth Foster, North Oldham Middle School; Middle School World History—Jacob Morris, St. Raphael Junior High School.



WKU historian and contest coordinator Tammy Van Dyken with Senior High World History winner Caleb Johnston





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Phi Alpha Theta Busy Bees Buzz

Selena Sanderfer and her chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, arguably "the most active chapter in the state," made significant contributions to this year's Newsletter by doing the research for its articles. They sponsored a film series, which included *The Hatfields and McCoy's* and *Lincoln*. They started their own lecture series, which brought guest speakers from several Kentucky schools to campus. Their various sales earned over \$500 for their treasury. They held a Meet & Greet so that students could meet faculty members socially, and they held a student-faculty softball game, which is sure to become an annual event. They came away with awards at the PAT Regional Conference at Morehead. At their induction banquet at the Bistro Restaurant on April 25, Sanderfer presented awards to (left to right) Anna Helton, Ethan Morris, Teresa Jameson, Kelli Ralston, Lucas Somers, and Amber Buchanan.

