



# HCENTRAL HISTORY

Fall 2021

Central Washington University

History Department

## CWU History Welcomes Two New Faculty

**Dr. Melissa Jordine** joined the History Department as a full professor teaching European History during the fall of 2020. Jordine grew up in Macomb, Illinois, where she also completed her BA in History at Western Illinois University. She later finished her MA and PhD work at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Like many students of history, Jordine credits a “phenomenal undergraduate course” on Germany for her inspiration to pursue the profession.



Previously at Cal-State Fresno, she says, “I accepted a position at CWU because I was impressed by the faculty and achievements of the History Department.” Her favorite courses to teach are Historical Methods (Hist 302), WW II, Modern Germany, and the Holocaust. As a teacher, she is looking forward to helping people improve their understanding of Europe and engaging “undergraduate students while assigning projects that require historical research and the application of critical thinking skills.”

Regarding research, she is particularly proud of her work

on WW II in North Africa. “I wrote an article focusing on logistics in North Africa and emphasizing the extent to which it would have been difficult for the Wehrmacht to supply any additional forces beyond the two divisions deployed as the DAK (German Afrika Korps) under General Rommel’s command due to the lack of supplies and harbor capacity.” For future scholarship, she will continue her work on British and German intelligence and operations in North Africa in the WW II era.

**Dr. Josué Estrada** joined the CWU History Department in Fall 2021 to teach US History. Dr. Estrada grew up in Grandview, Washington, and attended both the University of Washington (BA and PhD) and Washington State (MA). He selected History as his area of focus because



it provided him, “... with the tools and knowledge to understand how our current struggles for racial equality are connected to the past.”

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## The Fred J. and Myrtle Allasina Endowed Scholarship

The History Department is pleased to announce the newest scholarship to support History students at CWU. In Spring 2021, Mike and Kathy Allasina established the Fred J. and Myrtle Allasina Endowed scholarship.

Fred Allasina was a former member and past President of the CWU Alumni Association. He worked in the coalmines and logging camps to pay for his education at Central Washington Normal School (now CWU). He later transferred to the University of Washington where he earned his B.A. and M.A. in history. Allasina taught history at Hoquiam High School for over 40 years. He passed away in 1998 at the age of 92.

The scholarship will support junior or senior students who are enrolled full-time at CWU. Students must be history majors or be studying to be History teachers.

The first award from the scholarship will be awarded in the 2023/24 academic year.

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# Department News

## History Department Marks 75 Years

History turns seventy-five years old in 2022, created as part of the College of Arts and Sciences division of Central Washington State College in 1947. By an act of the Washington State Legislature, the College and majors like History, Music and others were to

“... provide for a high level of citizenship and in the various arts and sciences characteristic of modern society.”

Currently, the Department continues that mission. Enrollment in History is the highest it has been in a decade,

and enrollment for Fall 2021 is up 17% over the last three academic years, including up 2% from pre-pandemic enrollments. With quality teaching, steady enrollment, and increasing majors, here's looking at another prosperous seventy-five years.

**(NEW FACULTY, Continued from Page 1)** Moreover, history provided me with a language to create narratives of resistance.”

Dr. Estrada accepted the position for teaching race in the U.S. because he feels that, “For us to understand our past, we must understand the genealogy of race and how it's constantly being made and remade.” He looks forward to teaching his Latino/a/x experience in the U.S. course to “...de-center the nation-state... .” He goes on to say that “Through these courses, I also want students to better comprehend how the historical struggles of racialized and marginalized peoples are connected to today's antiracist and liberation movements.”

His future plans include the creation (with students) of a voting rights digital history project, to “trace how Latino/a/x people have resisted voter suppression

in the 20th century.”

Race and politics in the United States drives Dr. Estrada's scholarship. He recently completed his PhD dissertation on how Puerto Ricans and Chicanas/os “mobilized through distinct organizational and political tactics to claim citizenship rights, specifically by invoking race strategically to reshape race and politics in the U.S.” He goes on to say that “The Latina/o/x movements for voting, I argue ultimately, contested and facilitated the emerging colorblind hegemony of U.S. racial politics.”



## Scholarship Deadlines

There are six available scholarships for history majors and minors in 2021-22. Scholarship applications are accepted from November 1, 2021 until March 1, 2022. Decisions will be made in May 2022.

To apply for the Barto, Leroy, Remak, Dewing or Mohler scholarships, visit <http://www.cwu.edu/scholarships/scholarship-central> To apply for the Olmstead award, visit <https://www.csascholars.org/olmstead/>.

## Upper Division Winter Courses

**Gender and Sexuality in Africa**  
with Dr. Lacy Ferrell

**The Latin American Colonies**  
with Dr. Jason Dormady

**Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction**  
with Dr. Daniel Herman

**Modern Ireland 1798-Present**  
with Dr. Jason Knirck

**German History Since 1815**  
with Dr. Melissa Jordine

**Russia Since 1881**  
with Dr. Roxanne Easley

# Alumni News



**Rebecca Ruiz (BA)** joined Saint Martin's University in the Masters in Teaching Program. Rebecca participated in the McNair Scholars program while at CWU.

**Alexis Daggett (BA)** enrolled in the Masters of Education program at Harvard University. She writes to say, "... for my practicum, I am teaching 9th graders Modern World History. Adjusting to the East Coast has been interesting, the pace of life and people are definitely different from the West Coast."

CWU continues to place teachers around the state. **Luke Pearsons (BA, MA)** finished his time teaching at CWU and accepted a position in the History faculty at Eisenhower High School in Yakima. **Brynne Loiseau (BA)** also teaches at Eisenhower HS. **Spencer Pfaff (BA)** began teaching Middle School in Renton.

**William Holly (MA)**, is now a PhD Candidate at Arizona State University. For summer 2021 he was awarded research grants from the Grand Canyon Historical Society and the Max Milet Family Foundation Scholarship for research in Arizona history. He will defend his dissertation, "The Mountain Is Part of Us: The Legal & Cultural Conflicts Over Development on Arizona's San Francisco Peaks, 1970-1984" in Spring or Summer of 2022.



**David (Dave) McDonald (BA)** wrote in to share some of his memories of CWU in the 1970s. From a family with pioneer roots in the Thorp Valley in the 1800s, David kept his college experience local with CWU.

He has fond memories of his professors,

some of whom were WWII or Korean War veterans who shared their experiences and language skills with their students. He also appreciated the quality of the teaching and the assigned materials. "I never had a professor try to persuade me to take sides or parrot an opinion on any source," he recalls. While it was "not easy to get a grade from the History Department," he feels the rigor got his attention and inspired him to work hard – particularly on Blue Book exams and writing papers on his Selectric typewriter.

Finally, he notes that the CWU campus generally was a positive experience. "The open (no Greek System) of CWU really fostered a fantastic social environment that I excelled at. The meeting of people from other parts of the state and from different backgrounds helped me be an excellent salesperson." Dave ran a successful wholesale food sales company and raised a family in Washington.

Thank you for sharing your fond memories of CWU and the History Department, David.

**Keith Deaton (BA)** graduated from CWU in 1965. He taught for 25 years in Washington elementary schools and served as an administrator, as well. He continues to pursue history in reading and travel, but also through his one-man Abraham Lincoln show. He is also a member of the Washington Civil War Association, presenting issues regarding the Civil War to the public.



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The department loves connecting with alumni, so please let us hear from you! Send updates of your current whereabouts and activities to [dormadyj@cwu.edu](mailto:dormadyj@cwu.edu).



## FACULTY NEWS

### **Dr. Chong Eun Ahn**

The faculty of the Asian Studies Program selected Chong Eun to as the new director for that program.

### **Dr. Jason Dormady**

Jason provided guest lectures on the Mexican Revolution and his research for colleagues at Santa Monica College in Los Angeles, California during Fall 2021. He also collaborated with the Universidad Anáhuac Mayab in Mérida, Mexico, on a virtual class exchange between his students and students in Mexico for the Mexican Cultural Studies course.

### **Dr. Lacy Ferrell**

Lacy serves on the AHA Committee for LGBTQ Status in the Profession. Because of that service, she was invited as a panelist for “Global Careers for LGBTQ Folk” hosted by UNC Chapel Hill’s Asian Center in October 2021.

### **Dr. Daniel Herman**

Dan’s new article, “How the West Won the Civil War,” will appear in the Summer 2022 Western Historical Quarterly. He argues that the Mountain West elected officials (including many Republicans) who joined Northern liberals to challenge de jure segregation as early as the 1940s and became key supporters of all five major federal civil rights acts between 1957 and 1968. This argument runs counter to current scholarship that holds Western

states found common cause with Southern States to uphold Jim Crow and other segregation laws.

### **Dr. Jason Knirck**

Jason published a chapter in an edited collection: “Confederates, Boers, or Silesians: Analogies to World History in Arguments about Partition During the Irish Revolution,” in N.C. Fleming and James H. Murphy, eds., *Ireland and Partition: Contexts and Consequences*.

Clemson: Clemson University Press, 2021. He also participated in a roundtable sponsored by the Louth County Council as part of its decade of centenaries series marking 100 years since the Irish revolution. His panel is on “The North in Southern Irish Politics 1920-1945”.



### **Dr. Marilyn Levine**

Marilyn developed a new course on digital history, History 303: Approaches to Digital History for Spring 2022. First, students will learn digital history approaches and discover teaching and scholarly digital resources. Secondly, students will create digital projects involving the processing of digital data. The course methods will include workshops and lectures, readings, group discussions and

collaborative group work. No previous knowledge of statistics or computer methods are required.

Marilyn also published several items in 2021: “Forged in Europe: Revolutionary Leaders of the Chinese Communist Party and the European Branches of the Chinese Communist Organizations” in *The Journal of Digital Humanities* in Winter, 2021; “Portrait of a Scholar: Professor Liu Guisheng,” published digitally on PEERS with the Elites, Networks and Power in Modern China Community; “Conference Report Historical Network Research in Chinese Studies - July 23-24 and July 30-31, 2021” published on H-Soz-Kult September 23. She also participated the Harvard Fairbank Center, Mini-Conference: Network Research in Chinese Studies Workshop, July 23-24 and 30-31. Panel Presentation “Post WWI Chinese Revolutionary Leaders in Europe” and Workshop Presentation on “Hierarchical Clustering and Heat Maps”.

### **Dr. Stephen Moore**

Steve’s paper “A ‘Citadel of Power’: The Place of Canada in Congressional Discourse, 1939-1941” was accepted for the March, 2022 meeting of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS). The meeting will occur in Washington, D.C.