



# HCENTRAL HISTORY

Fall/Winter 2022/23 Central Washington University History Department

## Yakima Valley Museum Opens Exhibit Featuring Work of CWU History Alumnus

William “Bill” D. Franks established himself in skiing as both a world-class international biathlon competitor and later as a scholar of the sport. Now he is focused on the world of mountaineering and its history in Washington State.

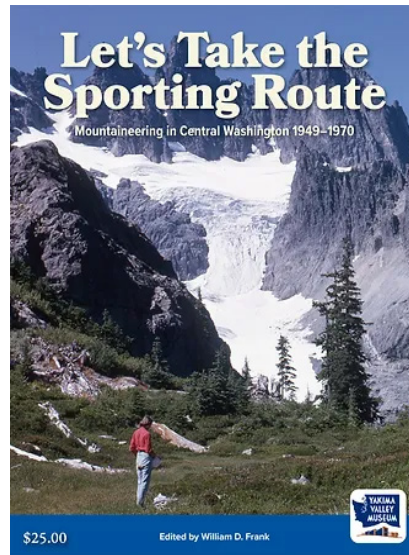
On April 5th, 2022, the Yakima Valley Museum opened a new exhibit on mountaineering in Central Washington. The display will run for two years. Focused on mountaineers from the Yakima and Ellensburg areas (and other nearby communities), the exhibit examines their innovation, teamwork and pioneering establishment of climbing routes. Additionally, it examines the history of climbing as well as the geography and aesthetic of Central Washington’s mountains.

Franks first proposed the exhibit in 2018, and after four years of research and work it is now open to the public. In addition, the exhibit comes with a book of essays Bill Franks edited titled *Let’s Take the Sporting Route: Mountaineering in Central Washington, 1949-1970*, which is available at libraries and book shops in Central Washington.

Both the book and the exhibit contain information on Ellensburg area climbers such as Fred Stanley, Fred

Dunham, Barry Prather, Gene and Bill Prater, and Erlene Anderson Schuster Reber. The exhibit also combines with presentations, and Dr. Franks already offered talks on Dave Mahre and Jim Wickwire (the first United States climber to summit K2).

Faculty, students, and alumni may remember Bill Franks for his 2013 book on Soviet biathlon published with Cornell University Press. Titled *Everyone Skis! Skiing in Russia and the Rise of Soviet Biathlon*, it was based on work started as an MA student at CWU and his later PhD dissertation at UW.



Our virtual “What Can You Do With History?” series continued this fall with a Q&A session featuring Dr. Sterling Quinn of CWU Geography. Dr. Quinn talked about how History students can combine their learning with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) tools to broaden their research at CWU and their job prospects after graduation.

If you would like to visit with our students via Zoom, or if you are interested in listening to one of the sessions, contact Dr. Jason Dormady at [dormadyj@cwu.edu](mailto:dormadyj@cwu.edu).

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# Faculty News

**Dr. Roxanne Easley** was elected Chair of the History Department.

**Dr. Josué Estrada** worked with EWU History researchers and his students in the Central Washington branch of the state archives to locate illegal deed restrictions called racial covenants. On October 12th, Dr. Estrada presented at the All the Sacrifices You've Made / Todos Los Sacrificios Que Has Hecho program looking at the work and legacy of farm workers from the Yakima and Wenatchee regions.

**Dr. Daniel Herman** published an article in *Aeon* titled "Cowboy Progressives," (<https://aeon.co/essays/a-dissenting-view-on-the-origins-of-the-uss-right-wing>). He just signed a contract with Harvard Univ. press for a new book with the working title of *Cowboy Progressives: Making, Breaking, and Remaking Progressivism in the Inner West, 1890-1988*.

**Dr. Jason Knirck** now serves as the Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at CWU.

**Dr. Marilyn Levine** published an article on two different datasets of 577 Chinese individuals in "Revolutionary Roads: An Integrative Analysis Utilizing the Chinese Biographical Database." This is a chapter in, *Knowledge, Power, and Networks: Elites in Transition in Modern China*, edited by: Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot, and Sun Huei-min (Leiden: BrillPublishing, 2022): 181-230.

She delivered two international presentations, one a tribute to a retiring colleague, Thomas Kampen, in Heidelberg, and the other at the Tsinghua University Third Digital Humanities Forum "Prosody, Network, Future" (聲律·網絡·未來 第三屆清華數字人文論壇). On Nov. 13 she presented "Network Approaches to Understanding Post-WWI Chinese Revolutionaries and Intellectual Activists" 用網絡方法理解戰後的中國革命者和知識分子活動家. In addition, 淬煉於歐中國共產黨革命領導人與旅歐中國共產主義組織 ["Forged in Europe: Revolutionary Leaders of the Chinese Communist Party and the European Branches of the Chinese Communist Organizations" has been accepted by the 數位典藏與數位人文 [Journal of Digital Archives and Digital Humanities] (Taiwan).

**Dr. Amin Mansouri** hosted two virtual programs. For the Halloween season he discussed an Iranian horror film titled "Under Shadow." In November he hosted three scholars of Iran for the Art of Global Protest series installment on the current protests in Iran regarding women's rights.

**Dr. Jason Dormady** published "Pleito y Piedad: Continuity in Religious Conflict and Identity in Rural Morelos and its Diaspora" in the edited collection *Imagining Latinidad: Digital Diasporas and Public Engagement Among Latin American Migrants*. The book is Volume III of the Brill Critical Latin America series.

## Upper Division Winter Courses

### Modern Mexico

with Dr. Jason Dormady

### Modern Germany

with Dr. Melissa Jordine

### Modern China

with Dr. Chong Eun Ahn

### Modern Japan

with Dr. Marilyn Levine

### US Military History

with Dr. Melissa Jordine

### The Black Diaspora

with Dr. Josué Estrada

## Upper Division Spring Courses

### LatinX Pacific NW

with Dr. Josué Estrada

### Youth in Africa

with Dr. Lacy Ferrell

### US Military History

with Dr. Melissa Jordine

### Digital History

with Dr. Marilyn Levine

Are you interested in getting your master's degree? Contact Dr. Roxanne Easley and find out how you can earn your MA in History. [easleyr@cwu.edu](mailto:easleyr@cwu.edu)

# Alumni News

**Sam Giordanengo (MA)** was just promoted to full professor at Hawai'i Community College. After years of teaching college-level history in Georgia and Washington State, he started teaching in Hawai'i in 2009. Sam has been exceptionally busy, and writes to say that "I have presented at two national Achieving the DREAM Conferences (Anaheim, CA and Long Beach, CA), The League for Innovations Conference (Chicago, IL), and



several Hawai'i Strategic Institutes (Honolulu, HI). I am the Achieving the Dream Coordinator for Hawai'i CC, a judge and History Consultant for Hawai'i National History Day, a Question Leader for the AP World History Exam, a former participant of the Community College League of Champions (CCLC) and the University of Hawai'i President's Emerging Leaders Program (PELP). Teaching is a passion that was started at CWU."

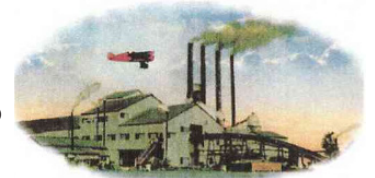
**Kirstie Magee (BA)** is the Assistant Curator at the San Diego Air and Space Museum. The Museum (in San Diego's Balboa Park) preserves significant artifacts of air and space history and technology to inspire excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. They educate the public about the historical and social significance of air and space technology and its promise for the future.

**Ryan Booth, (MA)**, is a professor at WSU who recently provided commentary for a new film titled *Buffalo Soldiers: Fighting on Two Fronts* that premiered this spring in Seattle.

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

**Karen Bailor, (MA)**, just celebrated the arrival of her first daughter in June. She runs a consulting firm that helps with records management and personal archiving services. She also works as the interim Marketing and Communications director of the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra.

**Kellie Hedgers, (BA and MA)**, completed her PhD at Louisiana State University in spring 2022 and started working as the curator at the Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum in Patterson, Louisiana. She writes to say that she is excited to be preserving the history of overlooked figures from the golden age of aviation.



**Wedell-Williams  
Aviation and  
Cypress Sawmill**

**Billy Holly (MA)**, will defend his PhD at Arizona State University this spring. He currently teaches at Northland Pioneer College serving students in Navajo and Apache counties in Arizona.

**Pablo Ledesma, (MA)**, is in his tenth year working as a history teacher in Sunnyside, WA. His spouse Ali teaches middle school art and he writes that they are raising two children, as well. Pablo says that he works to teach his students about the relationships between economic changes and broader movements in Europe. He is also including ideas of how people become agents of conflicts via social media.

**Cassie Crisman (BA and MA)**, is just about to finish her course work at WSU. Her dissertation is on family structures in communes and utopias in the US West during the turn of the twentieth-century.

**Tamara Caulkins (MA)**, received the Society of the Cincinnati Scholars Grant to work on her project "Military Drill and Geometry in Revolutionary America." As part of the grant, she attended The American Revolution Institute in Washington, D.C.