



CENTRAL HISTORY

WINTER 2018

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Students on the Move: Presenting research in New Orleans

This winter three students from the History Department travelled to New Orleans, Louisiana, to present at the national Phi Alpha Theta conference. With full funding from the university, undergraduates Holly Fleshman, Jessica Jamtaas, and graduate student Luke Pearsons presented their original research in early January.

Holly presented “New Spaces to Act: Women’s Participation in the Chinese Communist Revolution of the 1940s,” a paper originally written for Dr. Ahn’s Historical Methods course. In this essay she drew on accounts from China as well as recent scholarship to highlight the centrality of women’s efforts to the Communist revolution. Jessica Jamtaas presented

“Abolitionist Feminists: The Grimké Sisters and the Anti-Slavery Struggle in 1830s America,” the early results of her research for her Honor’s thesis, which she’s writing under the mentorship of Dr. Herman, on the civil rights work of the Grimké sisters in the antebellum period. Finally, Luke Pearsons presented “Borscht Belt Boot Camp: Tracing the Origins of Success of the Writers and Performers of *Your Show of Shows*,” a revised version of his award-winning essay on the early years of sketch comedy and the formative influence of Jewish comedians.



Jessica Jamtaas, Holly Fleshman, and Luke Pearsons in New Orleans

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The students attended other presentations as well, and took full advantage of being in New Orleans, visiting museums, touring the historic areas of the city, and partaking of its culinary delights. We are very proud of their hard work, and we’re looking forward to the upcoming Northwest Regional Phi Alpha Theta conference in Spokane this April. The History Club has already secured enough funding to support the trip, and we’re hoping to take at least twenty students to present their original research to an audience of their peers and faculty from around the region.

NEWS

FACULTY

Chong Eun Ahn published “Surviving the Second World War in Manchukuo: memories of Korean experiences of the war in Manchurian farming villages” in the *Journal of Modern Chinese History*, an examination of the experiences of Korean migrant peasants who negotiated their power in everyday practice by positioning themselves ambiguously in relationship to the Japanese colonizers and to other colonized peoples. Her work, which relies heavily on the use of memories, challenges the simplistic binary between the colonized and the colonizer and sheds light on the moments when the weak exercised their power.

Marilyn Levine has drafted an article, “Leninist Legacies and Revolutionary Life Histories in the CCP: A Comparative Case Study of Cai Hesen and Zhao Shiyan” for presentation at the upcoming Association for Asian Studies meeting in Washington DC, and published a piece on “The Rise of the Diligent-Work Frugal-Study Movement” in the Chinese journal *Studies on Marxist Theory in Higher Education*.

Jason Knirck is currently braving the winter tempests of the northeast as the Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies at Boston College. He is researching and writing his current monograph project, *A Loyal Opposition?*, which focuses on the development of parliamentary democracy in the Irish Free State in the 1920s and 1930s. We miss him desperately but have found some solace in lighting candles by his portrait in the library, which was recently hung to honor his achievement as the recipient of the Distinguished Research Award.

Jason Dormady continues his own research on sabbatical in Guadalajara, Mexico, analyzing petitions from neighborhood groups and women for a project on the intersection of hygiene, gender and community identity with urban planning. In January he presented some of his research on public health and religious disputes at the American Society for Church History in Washington, D.C.

History Club

History Club meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, and have hosted film nights and lectures by faculty.

We are also hosting a **Book and Bake Sale** the week of February 20-23 to help raise money for the program. Books will be \$1! Come support the club and program and add to your library.

The club has also, through the hard work of its officers, raised enough money to cover the transportation, registration, and accommodation for the upcoming **Phi Alpha Theta** conference in Spokane in April.



Pining away for a missing colleague



HANDS-ON HISTORY: INTERNSHIPS

During the past several years, increasing numbers of history students have been completing internships. These hands-on learning experiences off campus provide our students with opportunities to apply their history knowledge and skills, test their affinity for particular jobs, connect with professionals, and gain exposure to research materials. To meet the growing demand for internships, the History Department has forged connections with the **Central Washington Regional Branch of the State Archives**, the **Kittitas County Genealogical Society**, the **Kittitas County Historical Museum**, the **Douglas Honors College**, **Washington State Parks**, and the **Ellensburg Rodeo Hall of Fame**.

In Fall, undergraduate history major **Max Graham** and graduate student **Thomas Hull** worked together at the Genealogical Society. They compiled birth and death announcements from Kittitas County newspapers published between 1890 and 1920 into a digital database. In the process, they encountered fascinating bits of social and cultural history, including ads for the “health benefits of beer” and comments about the “manly” women who wanted the right to vote. They also encountered Genealogical Society patrons, and saw ways in which people both explore and deny their genealogy. Max and Thomas developed a greater appreciation for the importance of local history as a valuable lens through which to study regional and national history.



Kittitas County Historical Museum

Graduate student **Alex Odocino** and undergraduate major **Scarlett Young** got a taste of what museum and archive work is like. Our Kittitas County Historical Museum is a repository of both material culture and local history manuscripts. As a museum intern, Alex cataloged manuscripts that included everything from business and industry paperwork to personal and family papers. The recently established Ellensburg Rodeo Hall of Fame gave Scarlett an opportunity to help organize the archives as well as an exhibit of rodeo support people, and to help create a booklet of museum policy.

We are committed to promoting excellent internship experiences for our history majors. The interns get to apply the history skills they’re learning to real-world projects, and community organizations get to mentor students doing work that helps the organizations achieve their goals.

**If any of you who
work at sites suitable
for history interns
would like to host an
intern, please don't
hesitate to contact us!**

The department loves connecting with alumni, so please let us hear from you! Send updates of your current whereabouts and activities to lacy.ferrell@cwu.edu

Teaching Assistants, 2017-18

Thomas Hull
Liz Seelye
Robert Moser
Sophia Andarovna
Luke Pearsons

Graduate MA Defenses

Robert Moser, Examination Defense, American Indian History (Advisor: Dan Herman)

Liz Seelye, Culminating Project, "Everything is going according to plan": Russian Punk Rock (Advisor: Roxanne Easley)

Cody Lolos, MA Thesis, American Indian History (Advisor: Dan Herman)

Thomas Hull, MA Thesis: The Silver Years: The 1937 strike at America's Richest Silver Mine (Advisor: Steve Moore)

PLANT CORNER

The History Department outshines other departments for its commitment to our green friends. In this newsletter, we're highlighting the contributions of the door-side peace lily to our well-being and oxygen levels. The peace lily greets students who are visiting professors during office hours, and offers calming greenness to support faculty and staff. Thank you, peace lily.



Loyal and steadfast Peace Lily

ALUMNI NEWS

History Major **Joseph Rockne**, now a commercial and real estate attorney in Seattle, will return to campus this spring to meet current students and mentor a student interested in pursuing the law.



Alumnus Joe Rocke, Attorney at Law

Upper-Division Spring Courses

Food and Drink in Global History with Dr. Morgan

Renaissance and Reformation with Dr. Easley

Vietnam: Revolution in Full Circle with Dr. Levine

Pacific Northwest History with Dr. Moore

20th Century US History, 1919-1945 with Dr. Moore

