The Russian Empire in America

Professor Roxanne Easley spent last academic year on sabbatical in Sitka, Alaska, having been chosen as the inaugural “Scholar in the Park” by the Sitka National Historic Park. The goal of the program was to bring leading scholars together in order to focus increasing attention—both within the scholarly community and among the general public—on Russia’s contribution to American history and Alaska’s impact on Russian history. While in Alaska, Dr. Easley researched two key transitional figures in Russian America. One is Jacob Netsvetov, a Creole of Russian and Native Alaskan parentage. Netsvetov joined the priesthood, and was a key protégé of one of the seminal figures in Alaska’s history, Bishop (later Saint) Innocent, the first resident of the Russian Bishop’s House. Netsvetov’s linguistic and exploratory work helped to forge lasting bonds between the Russian Orthodox Church and Native Alaskans. The second of Easley’s subjects is Alexander Kashevarov, also a Creole, who was a senior manager in the Russian American Company, the Tsar’s fur trading monopoly in Russian America. Kashevarov was also a scientist, ethnographer, ship’s captain, explorer and, ultimately, one of the most articulate voices for the inherent rights of all Alaskan people. Easley’s work will soon be published in the form of two journal articles, and she has delivered numerous lectures on these subjects.

While in Alaska, Dr. Easley also guided the scholarly efforts of two graduate students who had studied under her tutelage at CWU. Coleman Rushton helped to identify and catalogue the Park’s treasure of books, correspondence, monographs and journals from the personal library of the resident bishops, with the goal of providing more efficient access for visiting scholars. Much of that material dates from the early 1800s, and offers unique insights into not only Russian America, but Tsarist Russia as well. A second of Easley’s graduate students, Jordan Bergstrom, worked with one of the seminal works on the era, The Russians in Tlingit America, by Richard and Nora Dauenhauer and Lydia Black. Their 500-page treatise draws from archival materials in both the United States and Russia, but also from the rich oral history of the Tlingit peoples of Southeast Alaska, which makes it a unique piece of scholarship. Bergstrom’s task was to produce eleven smaller extracts and summaries for historians and the Park’s interpretive rangers. His summaries highlighted the Tlingit people’s highly developed political instincts, such as keeping the various European powers in check by leveraging the acquisition of guns and other weaponry against cooperation in trading.

Dr. Easley also worked with other esteemed researchers who came to Sitka as part of the Scholars in the Park program, including Sergei Kan of Dartmouth College, as well as doctoral candidates Daria Safronova-Simeonoff of The Ohio State University and Zachary Jones of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
Student

- The CWU History Club sponsored a Halloween-themed talk by Professor Volha Isakava from the Department of World Languages. Professor Isakava discussed the genre of Russian horror films and students were treated to a showing of the 2008 Russian film "Night Watch."

![Student](image)

- Recent graduate Patience Collier, now a graduate student at the U. of Oregon, presented at the American Society for Ethnohistory conference in early November. Patience's paper was titled "Gendered Lines and Sovereignty: Understanding the Nature of the Kootenai War."

Faculty

- Marji Morgan continues her internet radio show *Lines on Wines* (www.linesonwines.com). The most recent episode features an interview with Emily Haines, the Director of Winemaking at Millbrandt Vineyards near Mattawa. The interview features discussions of Millbrandt's variety of wines, as well as the benefits Emily sees in being a millennial in the wine industry. Marji also recently presented on "Champagne, Syrah and Coca-Cola" at the Iron Horse Brewery as part of their Third Thursday series of talks.

- Dan Herman also spoke as part of the speaker series at Iron Horse. Dan's talk was entitled "Hunting the Hunters: The Origins of American Sport Hunting." Dan drew on artistic representations and passages from biographies and autobiographies to trace attitudes toward hunting and the frontier in early America.

- Brian Carroll participated in a cross-disciplinary university panel on gender and American politics. Brian talked about the forms of and ideas about masculinity that were crucial to politics in the early American Republic. The panel also included presenters from the departments of sociology, communications, and political science.

- Lacy Ferrell travels to Washington DC after Thanksgiving to attend the annual African Studies Association conference. Lacy is presenting a paper entitled "Becoming 'All the More Truly African': Curriculum and Authenticity in Early Colonial Ghana." The paper is part of a panel on education in colonial and independent Ghana.

- Jason Knirck had an essay published in Dublin as part of the Revolution Papers, a weekly print series that combines scholarly essays with reprints of revolutionary-era newspapers. The series is designed to
Last year, history faculty Brian Carroll and Lacy Ferrell received Faculty Research Appointments to work on ongoing scholarly projects. A Faculty Research Appointment releases the faculty member from teaching duties for one quarter in order to allow more time for research and scholarship. During her research leave in Spring 2016, Dr. Ferrell worked on an article, “Building for Students: School Design and Educational Priorities in Colonial Ghana,” which critically engages with an often overlooked element of the history of schooling in Africa: the role of the space of the school as an area where different understandings of education competed. The article argues that elements of school design represent different understandings of education and allowed chiefs and others to challenge British efforts to determine the content and purpose of colonial schooling.

Brian Carroll had an article published this summer in *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. The article was entitled “The Effect of Military Service on Indian Communities in Southern New England, 1740-1763.” The work is related to his dissertation, which was on Native American military service in the colonial period. In October, Brian was also invited to give a talk on vampirism and early American medical practice to the Early Americanists of the Pacific Northwest working group.

**Emeritus Professor Zoltan Kramar**

Professor Zoltan Kramar was CWU’s specialist on ancient European history, Central European history and military history from 1963 until his retirement in 1996. He developed courses ranging from the History of the Roman Empire to the History of Austria-Hungary. He was especially fond of military history and developed numerous courses, often with his great friend Dr. Raymond A. Smith, on topics such as the History of World War I, the History of World War II, and the History of Armored Warfare. Generations of students took his general education and majors courses and still speak of his unparalleled ability to lecture without notes on a wide variety of subjects. He also briefly served as department chair and dean of the College of the Humanities. Zoltan remained active as a scholar and a teacher in his retirement. Building on contacts he had developed while on the faculty at CWU, he travelled to and taught at the University of Pecs in Hungary four times after 1996. While at Pecs, Zoltan taught ten-week courses on American political and cultural history. He also delivered numerous lectures on Hungarian history to the Hungarian American Association of Washington in Seattle, and worked to bring guest speakers and guest faculty from Hungary to CWU. Zoltan and his wife Maria remained active in the Ellensburg community until they moved to Seattle in 2014.

If you are interested in hearing Dr. Kramar’s own reflections about his time at CWU, check out the interview he gave to the CWU Retirement Association’s Interview series in 2008. The interview can be found at [http://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwura_interviews/28/](http://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwura_interviews/28/).

For more news on the department, please check out our [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter](#) feed, and brand new [blog](#).
The department continues to want to connect with our alumni. We would very much like to hear from you and to add features on alumni to future editions of the blog and the newsletter. Please send us an update on your current whereabouts and activities to jason.knirck@cwu.edu.

MILESTONES AND AWARDS

Graduate Student Defenses 2015-16


Kelsee Shearer, Thesis Defense, "King James' Daemonologie and Scottish Witchcraft Trials," (Advisor: Jason Knirck)

Elliott Reid, Thesis Defense, "British Intelligence Operations During the Anglo-Irish War," (Advisor: Jason Knirck)


2016 Phi Alpha Theta Initiates

Graduate Student
Jennifer Crooks

Undergraduate Students
Khristie Eads
Ashley Ellis
McKenzie Graham
Sarah Hein
Kayette Jackson
Andrew Malone
Leo Marquez
Sidney Moser
Luke Pearsons
Kira Scharf
Kyle Scott
Amy Stewart

Congratulations to all initiates!

Graduation Reception

The history department held a reception for graduating seniors shortly after the June graduation ceremony. A good time was had by all as we said goodbye to graduating seniors and MA students. We hope to continue this new tradition in future years.

Students Visit Holocaust Exhibit

Professor Chong Eun Ahn and four CWU history students visited the Holocaust Center for Humanities in Seattle on Oct. 28th. They watched a film on Seattle-area survivors of the Holocaust, "With My Own Eyes," and had a guided tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s traveling exhibit "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1945." The exhibition demonstrated how the persecution of homosexuals radicalized under the Nazi regime in Germany, as Nazi ideology, using the "science" of eugenics, identified male homosexuality as something that would weaken "Aryan" blood. As the Nazis took power in 1933, they cracked down on homosexuality by closing same-sex bars and clubs and by ransacking Magnus Hirschfeld’s institute for Sexual Science, Berlin’s symbol of the campaign for homosexual rights. Some of the 100,000 men accused for violating the law against male homosexuality were arrested and sent to concentration camps. In the camps, the Nazis attempted to "correct" homosexuality by implanting hormone capsules or castrating homosexual prisoners. This visit was arranged in conjunction with Professor Ahn’s current course on Trauma, History, and Memory.