Marji Morgan Departs History

For anybody else, it would be retirement, but for Dr. Marji Morgan, it is just redirecting energy.

After sixteen years at Central Washington University – first as a Dean and then as a professor in the History Department – Dr. Marji Morgan is departing to follow her love of vineyards and wine. “When I came to WA in 2005 I knew I wanted to work in the wine industry when I retired, so I am following through with my plans.” On June 5, Marji started a part-time position as a Tasting Room Associate at the Owen Roe Winery south of Yakima. When she isn't in the winery, Marji will be spending time biking, hiking, travelling, and working on her house. And don't worry: she will continue to do her Lines On Wine podcast with Washington winegrowers. www.linesonwines.com

Dr. Morgan came to CWU from Southern Illinois University Carbondale where she served as chair of the History Department. She took over as the Dean of the CWU College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) at CWU and saw it through the economic crash of 2008 and large changes in the administrative structure. She strengthened ties between CAH, faculty, the local community, and the wider network of CWU alumni. "I came here because I was impressed with the faculty and the university’s commitment to students and to excellent teaching. I have grown more impressed every year. The highlight of my time here was attending student and faculty events on an almost daily basis and seeing the amazing work people were doing. It was also exhilarating to meet hundreds of alums, and to see how successful they had become since leaving Central."

After ending her time as Dean, Dr. Morgan returned to teaching History in addition to briefly serving as chair of the Communications Department. “The biggest highlight for me since coming to the [History] Department has been working closely with students, especially on research projects. I have also really appreciated being part of a supportive department of creative and productive faculty and staff. I’m grateful for the freedom I’ve had to pursue new interests in wine studies and in the history of food and drink.

Continued Page 2

CWU and Hawai‘i Honor History Alumni

CWU and the College of Arts and Humanities honored Myron Dobashi (BA) as a distinguished alumni in a Spring 2021 virtual ceremony. He graduated in 1965 in History with minors in Geography and Aerospace Studies. A veteran of the war in Vietnam, Dobashi is now a retired Brigadier General and former commander of the Hawai‘i Air National Guard.

Dobashi came to CWSC (CWU) from Hawai‘i and he recounts that the only time his mother traveled to the US Mainland was to see his graduation. This time his friends and family celebrated with Dobashi in Hawai‘i in his hometown of Lihu‘e, Hawai‘i. They were joined by the mayor, representatives from the offices of Hawai‘i’s governor and U.S. Rep. Kaiali‘i Kahele, and members of the National Guard who served under Dobashi.

INSIDE:

FACULTY NEWS........2
STUDENT NEWS........3
ALUMNI..................4
FALL/WINTER COURSES.............4
Chong Eun Ahn While continuing her book project, Dr. Ahn spent a hectic spring participating in various panels as the director of Korean Studies Seed grant. She has discussed South Korea’s #MeToo movement, Candlelight Protests, and the Brooks library’s new subscription of The Korea Times. Most recently, she organized and moderated a public lecture by Dr. Michael Hurt entitled “The Battle for Normal and the Queering of Korea.”

Marilyn Levine Dr. Levine gave a Plutarchian analysis of two early Chinese Communist Leaders at Living the Socialist Modern Symposium a year-long virtual event at the University of Heidelberg in April. Dr. Levine has three articles to be published in the spring-summer: A quantitative study of a Soviet returned leadership group of the Chinese Communist Party during the 1920s, that relies on multivariate and network analysis (Journal of Historical Network Research); another article in the JHNR on the Chinese Biographical Database that Dr. Levine created in the 1990s and is using for current research; and a Chinese article in Digital Humanities that will explore the founding of the European branch of the Chinese Communist Party, its leaders and networks. She is submitting for publication an article about one of the most eminent Chinese historians, and her book, The Found Generation has been translated into Chinese and should be published this summer.

Daniel Herman Dan’s article, “The Twining Paths of Mormons and ‘Lamanites’: From Arizona to Latin America,” came out in the Journal of Arizona History’s double issue this past fall (61, nos. 3-4, Autumn/Winter 2020, pp. 395-428). The JAZH editor, David Turpie, nominated the article for the Western History Association’s Arrington-Prucha Prize. Dan’s novel, The Feudist, has also met with some success, Readers Views having chosen it as best Mountain-West novel from a small and/or indie press (in addition to awarding it a bronze medal for historical fiction).

Josué Estrada Dr. Estrada was hired by the CWU History Department during Spring 2021 quarter and will join the Department for the Fall 2021 quarter. He will teach courses on race in the United States. We will have more about Dr. Estrada in the Fall/Winter newsletter. Welcome, Josué!

Jason Dormady The Latin Americanist published Jason’s “God, Cleanliness, and the City: Local Uses of Hygiene and Anticlerical Language in Religious Conflict-Guadalajara, Mexico 1939–1942” in January (Vol.64 (4), p.393-422). He also presented a (virtually) at the Conference on Latin American History in affiliation with the American Historical Association titled “Collective Marriage and the Quiet Secularization of Marriage and Mothers” as part of a panel on secularization in Mexico.

(Continued Page 1)

Marji shared the following advice for students:

“University studies end with graduation but learning just begins to take off and really blossom after you get that diploma. Even if you stay in the same job all your life, which is not likely, you will have to constantly learn new things for that job that your education never taught you. It is also very possible to refashion yourself for jobs you never dreamed of at the time you graduated. For example, I spent years getting a PhD in British history, but at the end of my career I taught myself a whole new field of food and drink studies that didn’t even exist when I was a student. And here I am about to retire starting a whole new job in the wine industry. You are never locked into a career or job, because you can always learn new things and go in totally different directions. The important thing is to keep an open mind, be constantly curious, and follow your passion.”
Henry Jennings successfully defended his thesis, “Sport, Kul’turnost, and Physical Culture in the Khrushchev Era Soviet Union, 1953-1964.” His thesis was chosen for this year’s History Department Graduate Thesis Award and was also the co-winner of the Comstock Thesis award at CWU. Henry will work for the upcoming year and apply for PhD programs this fall.

Kaelen Sauriol and Kendal Ridgeway will defend their theses in July 2021. Cassie Crisman, who defended her thesis last spring, taught for the History Department during AY2020-21 and will be attending WSU (Washington State University) for the PhD this fall. Max Graham passed her MA exam during the Winter 2021 quarter. Adam Robertson graduated with the MA in Fall 2020 quarter and will be teaching for CWU History at the Sammamish Center next year.

Our incoming MA students include Kevin Cassidy, Hunter Rodgers, Lilian Alcazar-Oseguera, Jazmyn Bragg, and Rachel Parrish.

Holly Fleshman successfully defended her thesis, “Gender and Conservation: A Comparative Study of the Bison and Wild Horse Conservation Movements.” Holly offers a nuanced appraisal of the life and legacy of Velma Johnston, aka “Wild Horse Annie,” who—despite being a career secretary who lacked political and social connections—created a hugely successful movement to protect wild horses in the 1950s-60s. She will continue her teaching at Cle Elum-Roslyn High School next year.

Teaching and Research Assistants, 2020-21
Lilian Alcazar-Oseguera
Jazmyn Bragg
Kevin Cassidy
Nathan Horton
Henry Jennings
Rachel Parrish
Hunter Rodgers
Kaelen Sauriol
Interested in being a graduate student at CWU and earning a MA degree in History? Send inquiries to roxanne.easley@cwu.edu.

Upper-Division
Fall Courses
Tropics & Modern World
with Dr. Jason Dormady
Africa to 1800
with Dr. Lacy Ferrell
East Asian Civilization
with Dr. Chong Eun Ahn
World War II in Europe
with Dr. Melissa Jordin
US Cultural History
with Dr. Josué Estrada
The 1950s
with Ken Munsell
Russia to 1881
with Dr. Roxanne Easley

Upper-Division
Winter Courses
Gender and Sexuality in Africa
with Dr. Lacy Ferrell
The Latin American Colonies
with Dr. Daneil Herman
Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction
with Dr. Daniel Herman
Cold War
with Dr. Stephen Moore
German History Since 1815
with Dr. Melissa Jordin
Russia Since 1881
with Dr. Roxanne Easley
As the campus reopens for face-to-face classes in Fall 2021, a new face will greet people when they visit the History Department.

Kristy Magdlin is now working as the Secretary of the History Department. She started in her position during the quarantine but working at CWU (and in L&L) is nothing new.

Kristy has 14 years of experience at CWU. She worked in the offices of Teacher Certification, the President’s Office, the Athletics Department, and until 2015 was the Secretary for Philosophy and Religious Studies. She now has big plans for the History Department, hoping to organize and update the records system, and update the Department website.

As the face of the Department, Kristy says she is “excited to get back on campus later this summer and the opportunity to meet with faculty and students face to face. The last fifteen months have been difficult for people emotionally, financially, and for some physically. My hope is to make everyone who walks through our door or reaches out to by phone or email truly feel welcome and know that we are back and ready to serve.”

Welcome to History, Kristy.

Outreach Programs

Dr. Dormady hosted several outreach programs that brought History Faculty, community college students, and CWU Students together. The programs focused on research and employment, covering the topics of: Learning about archival research, government service / employment, and the process of becoming a history professor. If you have any suggestions for future programs (virtual or face to face) that could bring together CWU students and faculty with alumni and other college students from around Washington, please contact Dr. Dormady at dormadyj@cwu.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

Nicole Mozingo (BA, MA) “visited” campus as part of a virtual alumni day hosted by the College of Arts and Humanities. Nicole visited a history class and participated in a presentation to help students use their History degrees to find employment after graduation. Nicole works with a branch of the Department of Homeland Security.

Ryan Booth, (MA), is nearing completion of his doctoral dissertation at WSU. His topic is Native Americans as U.S. Army scouts. He’s comparing the Army’s use of Native American scouts to Britain’s use of so-called “martial races” in India (Sikhs and Gurkhas). What interests him as is partly what the scouts themselves thought of their role. He’s meanwhile teaching at WSU/Vancouver.

Talea Anderson, (MA) is currently the Scholarly Communications Librarian at Washington State University. She just completed a three-year Library Publishing Coalition Fellowship focusing on accessibility. You can read her reflection on accessibility here: https://librarypublishing.org/fellows-journal-introducing-talea-anderson/

Tamara Caulkins, (MA), continues to be busy in her work for the Douglas Honors College at CWU. Her article “Co-teaching Botany and History: An Interdisciplinary Model for a More Inclusive Curriculum” appeared in the September issue of Isis. She also presented at six conferences this year.

Jonathan Eldridge (BA) sent a note to the Department sharing some of his memories of his time at CWU. “I regularly say how I use my history degree from CWU every day in my work, and credit that to the faculty of the day, who helped me to think critically from different perspectives, see connections across eons and cultures, and conduct and present research through measured communication (credit to Dr. Beverly Heckart in particular for her demand that her students boil an issue or event down to its essence so she could know we truly understood its significance).” Jonathan is Assistant Superintendent/ Vice President of Student Learning & Success at College of Marin in California.