

# The Boston Americanist

## American & New England Studies Program

### Boston University

July 2016



End-of-the-year party at Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters, Cambridge, MA

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## A Note from the Director

The 2015-2016 academic year was filled with both transitions and continuities at 226 Bay State Road. New students and colleagues entered our doors for the first time, while doctoral candidates turned into alumni and beloved mentors departed to draft new chapters of their lives. With the changing seasons, the American & New England Studies Program, which is approaching its *fiftieth anniversary* in 2020, continues to thrive.

In the fall, I became the Director of AMNESP, Hunt Howell, of the English Department, took on the responsibilities of Director of Graduate Studies, and Marié Abe, of the Department of Music within the College of Fine Arts, accepted the position of Director of Undergraduate Studies. Fortunately, Daniel Bluestone continued as Director of Preservation Studies, lending stability to our fresh leadership team.

The Departments of History and History of Art & Architecture welcomed exciting new hires this past year, thus also fortifying AMNESP's capacity. Ross Barrett, joining HAA, previously taught at the University of South Carolina and the



William D. Moore  
AMNESP Director

Associate Professor  
of American  
Material Culture

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Ross is a specialist in nineteenth-century American painting, which he approaches through novel interdisciplinary methodologies. His work on American visual culture addresses such varied themes as violence, petroleum extraction, and land speculation. Also this fall, the History Department greeted Andrew Robichaud, a specialist in American urban and environmental history. Andrew is pursuing book projects on the role of animals in American cities, including Boston, and on the North American ice trade. Both Ross and Andrew already have become active participants in American Studies at Boston University, serving on dissertation committees, attending events, teaching classes, and mentoring both undergraduates and graduates. Welcome!

As new faculty arrived, the AMNESP also reluctantly said farewell to professors who have long contributed to the character of the program. During the last year, both Marilyn Halter and Keith N. Morgan bid us *adieu* as they entered their next chapters. You will find tributes to these two venerable scholars and teachers elsewhere in this newsletter. At the end of this academic year, Claire Dempsey, AMNESP's former Director of Preservation Studies, also concluded her time at Boston University. She will be pursuing other professional activities related to New England's built environment.

The program's administration also experienced a transition this year. Benjamin Tocchi, who had inhabited the program administrator's office, left us at the end of the fall semester for a position in the College of Arts & Sciences' Chemistry Department. After an extensive search, we were extremely fortunate to hire Julia (Gawle) Kline as AMNESP's new Program Administrator. Julia, a former undergraduate concentrator in American Studies at Boston University, is pleased to be back at 226 Bay State Road. She hit the ground running, and has already found many devotees among the students, faculty, and administration. If you have not yet met Julia, please stop by her office on the first floor to say "Hello."

In spite of these personnel changes, the program remains essentially the same. Our undergraduates are

motivated and curious. Our graduate students perform at the highest levels of interdisciplinary scholarship and regularly present work at conferences around the world, publishing in both printed and digital form. Our faculty generate innovative scholarship and continue to inspire BU's learning community. Our alumni persist in their loyalty to the program, staying in touch through phone calls, email, and our active, welcoming, AMNESP Facebook group.

As the American & New England Studies Program at Boston University approaches its *fiftieth* year in 2020, we urge you to reflect upon the impact that this dynamic academic enterprise has had upon your life. If you are going to be in Denver for the American Studies Association meeting in November, please join us for the AMNESP Breakfast scheduled for Saturday morning. You will be able to network, gossip, and share news with old acquaintances and meet new friends over coffee and pastries. Also, I am seeking energetic, organized, and creative individuals to serve on the planning committee for the program's *fiftieth* anniversary gala celebration. Please let me know if you would like to participate!

Please join me in welcoming all our new associates and in saying *au revoir* to our old friends. I look forward to working together with you as we forge AMNESP's next chapter!

# Student & Alumni Achievements

Academic Year  
2015-2016



May 2016 graduates

## Ph.D. Dissertation Defenses

**Kathleen Daly:** "Fit to Mother: Women, Architecture, and the Performance of Health, 1865-1930"

**George Born:** "Home Rule: The Creation of Local Historic Districts in the New Boston, 1953-1983"

**Robert Ribera:** "Between Patriotism and Pacifism: Jacob Laurence, John Huston, Bill Mauldin, and Walt Disney"

**Niki Lefebvre:** "Beyond the Flagship: Politics & Transatlantic Trade in American Department Stores, 1900-1945"

## M.A. in Preservation Studies Recipient

**Carmen Theresa Marie De Lucia:** Concentration in Planning

## B.A. in American Studies Recipients

**Andrew Cho:** *Cum Laude*; double major in Environmental Analysis & Policy

**Lauren Extrom:** double major in Music

**Andy Ho:** *Cum Laude*

**Mackenzie Morgan:** Minor in Political Science; second degree, B.S. in Social Studies Education

## Noteworthy Accomplishments by Students & Alumni

### Current Students

**Paul Edwards (doctoral)** was awarded a BU Center for the Humanities Graduate Dissertation Fellowship.

**Andy Ho (bachelor's)** had his article "Comedic Relief in a Culture of Uncertainty: The Contribution of *Life Magazine* to 1920s America" published in the Fall 2015 issue of *New Errands: the Undergraduate Journal of American Studies*.

**Sarah Leventer (doctoral)** won the award for Best Teaching Fellow in AMNESP.

**Catherine Martin (doctoral)** was awarded a BU Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Award.

**Channon Miller (doctoral)** was awarded an MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship.

**Emma Newcombe (doctoral)** was awarded a BU Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Award, and had her article "Camping, Climbing, and Consumption: The Bean Boot, 1912-1945" published in the Spring 2016 issue of the journal *Material Culture*.

**Sam Shupe (doctoral)** won the award for Best Teaching Fellow in the Graduate Writing Program, was awarded a BU Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Award, and won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in BU's Howard Gottlieb Archival Research Center's Student Book Collecting Contest.

**Ian Stevenson (doctoral)** was chosen by the New England Chapter of the Vernacular Architecture Forum to receive the Richard E. Greenwood Young Scholar Award at its annual meeting, where he presented his paper "Fraternity, Furlough, and Family: Maine's Civil War Veteran Summer Cottages."

**Kate Viens' (doctoral)** article "For the Love of History: The Benefits of Collections-Based Research" was featured in the Winter 2016 issue of *History News*, which is published by the American Association for State and Local History.

### Alumni

**Anthony Buccitelli (Ph.D., 2012)** had his book *City of Neighborhoods: Memory, Folklore, and Ethnic Place in Boston* published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

**Desirée Garcia (Ph.D., 2008)** was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in the Program in Film and Media Studies at Arizona State University.

**Molly Geidel (Ph.D., 2011)** secured the equivalent of a tenure-track appointment at the University of Manchester in England. Her official title is Lecturer in Twentieth Century American Cultural History in the Division of English, American Studies and Creative Writing.

## What's Boston? CAS AM 202

The American & New England Studies Program has developed an exciting new undergraduate course called *What's Boston?* The course draws upon the interdisciplinary traditions of American Studies by bringing together faculty from across the university to share research and insights on Boston as a way of deepening students' understanding of the city and its environment, focusing on the "Boston" in Boston University, and introducing undergraduates to the scholarly and professional disciplines at the university. *What's Boston?* explores Boston's complex urban and natural world. University professors share cutting-edge research, focusing on Boston as a PLACE and a guiding IDEA, while introducing the perspectives of disparate scholarly disciplines. Generally each week the course has two lectures by faculty and a wide-ranging discussion among the students. For many professors the course is a welcome opportunity to collaborate with colleagues. The course draws faculty from the law, medicine, public health, the College of Fine Arts, and the Metropolitan College. It also draws upon the talents of faculty affiliated with the American & New England Studies Program with lectures by Mary Beaudry (AMNESP and Archaeology), Japonica

Brown-Saracino (AMNESP and Sociology), Hunt Howell (AMNESP and English), William Moore (AMNESP and History of Art & Architecture), Sarah Phillips (AMNESP and History), and Merry White (AMNESP and Anthropology). Daniel Bluestone (AMNESP and History of Art & Architecture) organizes and coordinates the course. The subjects explored range from foodways, to gentrification, to criminal law, to politics, to regionalism, to architecture, landscape, and urban



planning. In the past year, the BU Initiative on Cities hosted the course at the Alfred and Mary Bowditch townhouse at 75 Bay State Road. Boston University is now putting in place an entirely new system of general education for undergraduates and we, the American & New England Studies Program, will very likely be able to open this course to a broader swath of university students.

- Professor Daniel Bluestone  
Director of Preservation Studies

(Image by Currier & Ives, 1873)

# Incoming Students

We are excited to welcome the following students to our community next year!

## Ph.D. in American Studies

**Arthur Kamy** received an M.A. in English from Clark University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He has dedicated the last 15 years to the practice of law as well as matters of social and political justice in both the US and his native Uganda. Arthur is now turning towards academia to “improve [his] own grasp on the world and to help guide those who will be the world’s future citizens.” His interests include 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century American history, literature, and religion as well as American culture and civilization.

**Rachel Kirby** received an M.A. in Folklore from the Department of American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With a direct interest in the historical memory of the American South, Rachel plans to use her doctoral studies to “explore how 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century objects are imbued with intended and current meanings, and how these meanings are negotiated by and in relation to contemporary society and culture.” She also intends to pursue a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies.

**Aly Kreikemeier** will be joining AMNESP in Spring 2017 after she completes her Ed.M. at Harvard University. Aly spent three years teaching a bilingual Spanish/English curriculum in New Mexico, which continues to drive her interest in both Central and Latin American culture. Once at BU, she will study 21<sup>st</sup> century movements and projects “across the Americas that employ critical history and visual culture in public spaces through media and historical markers towards an effort of historical reconciliation.”

**Alex Olkovsky** has both a B.A. (Smith College) and M.A. (University of Alabama) in American Studies. Alex’s studies in both degrees centered on cultural memory, and their interest has since narrowed to how the nation used this memory to continually reconstruct itself during the decades surrounding the Civil War. Alex is especially fond of historically focused commemorative spaces and plans to research how those constructed in “the 19<sup>th</sup> century used the Founding Fathers in debates about nationhood, race, and identity.”

**Jessica Samuel** earned an M.Ed. from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. As a Caribbean American (specifically, a U.S. Virgin Islander) who has taught mostly students from marginalized groups, Jessica is acutely aware of and focused on the shortfalls in America, specifically within academia. She plans to use her doctoral research to “unpack domestic American colonialism, by way of the miseducation of black youth, as culturally representative of the nation and national agenda(s).” Jessica is especially interested in BU’s accomplishments in community engagement and how they enhance students’ education and experience.

**Walter Suarez Becerra** received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Maryland. A first-generation university student and Peruvian immigrant, he is interested in issues of migration, trans nationality, citizenship, and race and ethnicity. Using his background in economics and ethnic studies, Walter will focus his research on immigration laws and how they “simultaneously create boundaries of inclusion for undocumented immigrant communities in the economic sphere, while excluding these communities from the political and cultural sphere of citizenship.”

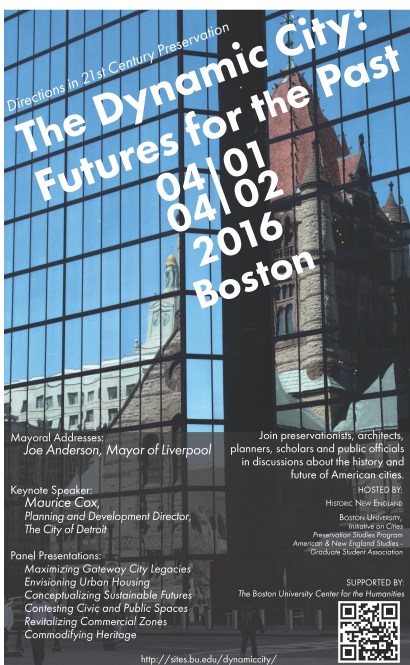
\*All quotes taken directly from the students’ personal statements.

**Kathering Giraldo** has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston and is a certified infant, toddler, and preschool teacher. Her studies in Anthropology have led her to Preservation Studies because she believes “the understanding of who built something, why, and how they built it helps us have a sense of place and significance.” Kathering is originally from Colombia, and her childhood in Medellin has shaped her into the academic she is today.

**Eunjeong Kim** received a M.S. in Built Environment: Sustainable Heritage from University College London. Coming to the Preservation Studies program from her native South Korea, she hopes to explore her interest in “how historic preservation is able to interact with or respond to the present-day historical and cultural contexts.” She has worked and done research in the field of preservation in both Hungary and South Korea.

**Rebecca Moroski** comes to Boston University with a B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology from Roger Williams University. Deeply troubled by observing the deterioration of a historic estate in her hometown, Rebecca knew that she “did not want to just stand by and see pieces of history being lost,” and is therefore looking to turn her passion for these types of sites into a career. She is eager to incorporate the rich history of Boston into her studies.

**Peilin Wu** received a B.S. in Preservation Technology for Cultural Heritage from Northwest University in China. Inspired by the rich history of her home city of Xi'an, Peilin's area of study lies in cultural inheritance. A lover of museums, she is most looking forward to studying in America because of the technological advances in preserving paper, oil, and bronze pieces, and she hopes to “combine progressive techniques with Chinese indigenous relic protection” in the future.



Cities around the world are facing the challenge of balancing historic preservation with the needs of a dynamic, modern urban economy. This spring, the American & New England Studies Graduate Student Association, partnered with The Boston University Initiative on Cities, and Historic New England, to host a two-day conference, *The Dynamic City: Futures for the Past*, which examined this challenge and explored how preservation could be a tool to create thriving, vibrant cities. Maurice Cox, Director of Planning for the City of Detroit, Michigan provided the keynote address. The conference engaged academia with practice by combining presentations from scholars, planners, architects, preservationists, developers, and public officials on the history, challenges and opportunities of urban preservation.

Twenty-four presentations were organized into panels on the topics of gateway cities, envisioning urban housing, conceptualizing sustainable futures, contesting civic and public spaces, revitalizing commercial zones, and commodifying heritage. Aaron Ahlstrom, AMNESP doctoral candidate, presented his research on the evolution of worker housing in Boston, and Preservation Studies M.A. candidate Patrick Powers

presented his research on the history and potential revitalization of a Boston brewery complex to re-purpose community heritage. Professor Daniel Bluestone, Director of the AMNESP Preservation Studies Program, emceed the conference, which drew a professionally diverse crowd of 220 registrants. The recording of the conference can be viewed at <http://sites.bu.edu/dynamiccity/>.

- PJ Carlino, doctoral candidate & AMNESP Graduate Student Association Conference Co-Coordinator

# The Dynamic City Conference

## A Tribute to Professor Keith Morgan

### Professor Emeritus of American & European Architecture

Professor Keith Morgan, who retired at the end of this academic year, has been a stalwart of both the Department of the History of Art & Architecture and the American & New England Studies Program since his arrival at Boston University in August of 1980 as an Assistant Professor of Art History and the Director of the Preservation Studies Program. During the past thirty-five years, Dr. Morgan has inspired many with his gifts for scholarship, classroom teaching, academic mentoring, institutional administration, and professional collegiality.

Keith came to the university with strong interdisciplinary academic credentials, having earned a B.A. in History from the College of Wooster, M.A. in Early American Culture from the Winterthur Museum Program at the University of Delaware, and a Ph.D. in Art History from Brown University. Before landing on Commonwealth Avenue, he worked as a Preservation Planner for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, as the Chief of Curatorial Services for the Rhode Island Historical Society, as an editor at the *Magazine Antiques*, and in the curatorial department at the Brooklyn Museum. Keith's engagement with American arts and culture is reflected in this impressive range of professional experiences which have contributed to his unique ability to positively mentor a broad spectrum of students with diverse career goals.

Keith's talents and efforts as an administrator have had lasting impact. He has consistently worked to build consensus while tenaciously pursuing professional goals that move institutions forward. During his tenure at Boston University, Dr. Morgan has served the institution as Director of the Preservation Studies Program, Director of the American & New England Studies Program, Chair of the Department of the History of Art & Architecture (assuming this responsibility on two separate occasions), and most recently, as the Director of Architectural Studies, a successful and expanding program which would not exist without his visionary leadership. Keith similarly has displayed his administrative talents in the realm of non-profit and scholarly organizations where he has served on countless boards including the Hancock Shaker Village, Historic New England, and the Art and Architecture Committee of Boston's Trinity Church. As president of the Society of Architectural Historians from 1993 to 1994, he oversaw both the relocation of the Society's office from Philadelphia to Chicago and the acquisition of Louis Sullivan's Charnley-Persky House for its headquarters.

Keith has produced a steady stream of noteworthy studies on American architecture, much of it focused upon the metropolis surrounding BU. He has published major studies of the architect

Charles A. Platt, landscape designer Charles Eliot, and the work of Frederick Law Olmstead. With his colleague Naomi Miller, he co-authored *Architecture in Boston 1975-1990*, and he served as the editor and primary author of *Buildings of Massachusetts: Metropolitan Boston*. He similarly served as architecture editor for *The Encyclopedia of New England*.

Perhaps most importantly, Keith has been a cherished teacher and beloved mentor. A gifted lecturer, he has brought new meaning to the buildings and landscapes surrounding us while depicting their creators as multi-faceted individuals grappling with the issues of their varied contexts. His students have benefitted from his professional and intellectual guidance, his friendship, and his understanding of how to prosper in the academic world. In addition to laboring over editorial suggestions on countless dissertation drafts, Dr. Morgan has consistently competed advantageously in the high-stakes game of positioning students for scholarly and professional success. For Keith, the relationship between doctoral student and dissertation advisor is an enduring bond. Former students who have benefitted emotionally, professionally, and intellectually from his gentle, insightful guidance are situated across the globe working at universities, in museums, and in a range of other professional settings. Their participation in American architecture and cultural studies serve as enduring testimony to Keith's long and distinguished career at Boston University.

- William D. Moore

## The Keith N. Morgan Dissertation Prize

To honor Keith N. Morgan's long, praiseworthy career at Boston University and to recognize his commitment to doctoral research, the Department of History of Art & Architecture has established an annual prize named for him that recognizes the best dissertation supervised by a faculty member from the department. Individuals who would like to contribute to honoring this beloved teacher and mentor may do so by donating to the University.

These donations should be designated for the "Keith N. Morgan Prize Fund." Checks should be made out to Boston University, and sent to Boston University, Gifts & Records, 595 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 700 West Entrance, Boston MA 02215. Donations, which should be similarly designated to the Morgan Prize Fund, also can be made online at the website below:

<https://trusted.bu.edu/s/1759/2-bu/giving.aspx?sid=1759&gid=2&pgid=412&cid=1044&appealcode=WEBAGC>



### A Tribute to Professor Marilyn Halter

Professor Emerita of History and American Studies  
Research Associate, Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs

Although *Matthew 6:24* claims that it is impossible to serve two masters, here at BU Marilyn Halter has been disproving the infallibility of this gospel since 1990. In her twenty-five years on the Charles River Campus, Marilyn has simultaneously amply served not two, but three academic entities: the Department of History, the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, and the American & New England Studies Program. Having been trained at AMNESP, as we lovingly call it, in accepting the job at BU Marilyn wrote to Professor Emeritus William Vance, "I am coming home." As a scholar of the history and sociology of immigration, race and ethnicity, and nineteenth and twentieth century American social and cultural history, Marilyn has been a pillar of these three units and has shaped the lives and careers of countless undergraduate and graduate students. Marilyn inspired devotees with her deftness in integrating intellectual interests with political convictions and personal relationships. As an academic who came of age during the heady days of second-wave feminism, in her service, her teaching, and her research, Marilyn has daily embodied her guiding principle that the personal is political.

- William D. Moore

This tribute was read at the final faculty meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year.



# Faculty Accomplishments

- ◆ **Mary Beaudry**, Professor of Archaeology, Anthropology, and Gastronomy, delivered the keynote address, "Gastronomical Archaeology: Food, Mealtimes, and the Materiality Aesthetics of Dining," at the 2016 Amsterdam Symposium on the History of Food.

- ◆ **Brooke Blower**, Associate Professor of History, received the 2016 Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations at the American Historical Association's annual conference. The Bernath Prize recognizes excellence in teaching and research by younger scholars in the field of foreign relations.

- ◆ Professor **Daniel Bluestone**'s article entitled "Charlottesville's Landscape of Prostitution, 1880-1950" appeared in the fall 2015 issue of *Buildings & Landscapes: The Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*.

- ◆ Professor of History of Art & Architecture emerita **Patricia Hills** has been awarded a grant by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art to support her digital humanities project, which focuses on a comprehensive database of the artistic works of Eastman Johnson.

- ◆ The American Studies Association appointed AMNESP Director **William D. Moore** (History of Art & Architecture) to the editorial board of the *Encyclopedia of American Studies*.

- ◆ University of California Press recently published Professor of Religion **Stephen Prothero**'s latest book, *Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections)*. In it, Prothero explores how competing religious beliefs have continuously molded our political, economic, and sociological discourse.

- ◆ **Joseph Rezek**, Assistant Professor of English, received a National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Fellowship for research in residence at the Library Company of Philadelphia during fall semester of 2016. He will be working on his next book, *Early Black Writing and the Politics of Print*.



AMNESP affiliated faculty member **Susan Mizruchi** of the Department of English was named the next Director of the Boston University Center for the Humanities.



The Provost recently announced that our Director of Graduate Studies **Hunt Howell**, of the CAS Department of English, and affiliated faculty member **Deborah Jaramillo**, of Film & Television within the College of Communications, have been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.

- ◆ **Nina Silber**, Professor of History, has been awarded a 2017 fellowship at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University. She will complete her book, *Fighting the Civil War in New Deal America*, which explores what the Civil War meant to various Americans during the 1930s. She also was recently elected president-elect of the Society for Civil War Historians.

Congratulations to all!

# 2015-2016 AMNESP Events



Welcome back!  
(Fall 2015)



Holiday party at the Isabella  
Stewart Gardner Museum,  
Boston, MA.



Will Moore's spring section of AM 502  
visits the Boston Masonic Temple



Farewell party for  
AMNESP Coordinator Ben Tocchi



You're Invited!



## AMNESP's Annual Trip to the Paw Sox

Join AMNESP students, faculty, alumni, friends, and family members for our annual outing to McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the birthplace of America's industrial revolution. This year's trip is scheduled for **Thursday, September 1**, when the Pawtucket Red Sox will take on the Syracuse Chiefs, an affiliate of the Washington Nationals.

In past years, we have come away with foul balls, met team mascots, and even witnessed Jackie Bradley, Jr., now the Boston Red Sox star center fielder, hit it out of the park! The Paw Sox trip is fun for the entire family, not just baseball fans.

The game starts at 7 p.m. Buy a general admission ticket, and look for friendly AMNESP faces above Section 4 behind the first base line. Contact Will Moore ([moorewd@bu.edu](mailto:moorewd@bu.edu)) for more information.



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