Students in the American & New England Studies Program often form lifelong friendships among the colleagues with whom they take classes, prepare for exams, draft dissertations, and approach the job market. In the process of becoming American Studies scholars, they come to the realization that they are participating in a vibrant community composed of creative, ambitious, insightful, and hardworking individuals. I have found that the ties established within the program frequently are reaffirmed over decades through scholarly communication, professional cooperation, and informal interaction at conferences and other gatherings.

As a graduate of the program who is fortunate to serve as its director, I have first-hand experience of the benefits of interaction with this special community of scholars, formed through AMNESP across decades and generations. Current students and recent graduates share many interests, perspectives, and characteristics with those who preceded them and
whom they may have never met. The potential for positive intellectual and personal bonds within our extended group is seemingly endless. One doctoral candidate recently reported to me how pleased he was to encounter, at a National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, a senior professor who also had been trained on Bay State Road. Similarly, it was a great joy for me at the recent meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum to introduce current students to former colleagues who are now nationally-recognized authorities.

As director, I believe it is in our collective best interest to nurture the social networks generated by the program’s nearly five decades of existence. For the last two years, we have sponsored a breakfast at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association so that AMNESPers can buttress long-standing relationships while hopefully forging new ones. If you are in Atlanta in November, I hope you will join us!

During the 2017-18 academic year, we were pleased to welcome back to campus some graduates and long-time friends of the program. Dell Upton, who taught summer classes in AMNESP in the 1980s, presented this year’s College of Arts & Sciences’ Silas Peirce lecture in February and the next morning over donuts provided career advice to current students. Margaret Creighton, Professor and Chair of the History Department at Bates College as well an AMNESP alumna, came to campus in October and offered valuable insights on pursuing an academic career with an American Studies doctorate. In April, Brian Sirman, who earned his doctorate in 2014, gave a talk about his book Concrete Changes which was recently published by the University of Massachusetts Press. Let me know if you are going to be in Boston, or have a new book out. Maybe we can work together to find an opportunity to welcome you back to Bay State Road!

Plans are afoot to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the program in the fall of 2020. Watch your inboxes for more details. This gathering should provide an opportunity to celebrate all our accomplishments, to reminisce about academic struggles, and to recognize the intellectual, scholarly, and programmatic ties which bind us together as a result of our journey together here on Bay State Road.

Collegially yours,

William D. Moore
Director of American & New England Studies
Associate Professor of American Material Culture
Student Achievements

Academic Year 2017 – 2018

2018 Graduates

PhD Dissertation Defenses

Megan McNamara Dawley: "Innocents and Gilt: American Satire in the Confident Years, 1873-1915"

Adrea Hernandez: "Law and Order in Latino Lives: The Incarceration and Racial Construction of Latinos in the United States, 1845-Present"

Emma Newcombe: "'A Place Rendered Interesting': Antebellum Print Culture and the Rise of Middle-Class Tourism"

MA in Preservation Studies

Gulnur Cengiz: Concentration in Architectural History

Katherine Giraldo: Concentration in Archaeology

Eunjeong Kim: Concentration in Architectural History

Rebecca Moroski: Concentration in Archaeology

BA in American Studies

Karol Montilla

Student Activities

Aaron Ahlstrom gave a public talk entitled “Rediscovering Bromley Park: Jamaica Plain’s Working Class Garden Square and the Natural City” at the Jamaica Plain branch of the Boston Public Library.

Tessa Croker joined the team at American Girl as an in-house historian. In this position, she reviews their full line of dolls, accessories, and books for historical accuracy. BU Today featured a piece about Tessa which can be viewed here: www.bu.edu/today/2017/american-girl-doll-history

Christine D’Auria received a Graduate Student Award from the BU Center for the Humanities

Mariah Gruner received a summer 2018 research grant from the Decorative Arts Trust, which she will use to investigate abolitionist needlework.

Catherine Martin had two articles published in Spring 2018. Her essay “Radio” appeared in Feminist Media Histories and “’I’ve got my eyes open and I can’t be crooked’: Race, female virtue, and national identity in Terry and the Pirates” came out in Radio Journal: International Studies in Broadcast & Audio Media

Emma Newcombe was awarded a 2018 Summer Internship from the BU Center for the Humanities and the Office of the Associate Provost

Jordan Pouliot has been appointed to serve on the newly established Plymouth County Commission on the Status of Women

Sam Shupe had an article entitled “Vacationland by Two Wheels: Bicycles and Tourism in 19th Century Maine” in the Summer 2017 issue of Strut & Axel, published by the Owls Head Transportation Museum.

Ian Stevenson received the John Coolidge Research Fellowship from the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

Christopher Stokum was awarded a 2018 Summer Internship from the BU Center for the Humanities and the Office of the Associate Provost

Emma Thomas received a Graduate Student Award from the BU Center for the Humanities

Maddie Webster received the 2018 Linsdell Fellowship at the Nichols House Museum, where she will research and write about the Warren House in Roxbury

Aaron Ahlstrom, Rachel Kirby, Maddie Webster, and Sam Palfreyman received the VAF Ambassadors Award to attend the 2018 Conference in Alexandria, VA
Conference Presentations

This academic year, over half of our PhD candidates represented AMNESP at conferences and meetings around the world.

PJ Carlino
- “To what degree do we teach material culture?” – American Studies Association (ASA) Meeting in Chicago, IL.

Julia Carroll
- “Freedom of Movements: Complicated Relationships Between Proslavery Itinerants and an Immobile Majority” – Conference in World History at Northeastern University.

Christine D’Auria

Megan McNamara Dawley
- “Is That Story True?” Charles Chesnutt’s Satire of American Innocence” - ASA Meeting.

Mariah Gruner

Rachel Kirby
- “From Maids to Mary King: Stories and Spaces of the Nichols House Employees” - Linsdell Research Fellowship Lecture at the Nichols House Museum in Boston.
- “Seeing and Hearing Frederick Douglass: Photography, Words, and Resisting Archival Silence” - ASA Meeting.
- “Painting the ‘Unenslaved’: Jonathan Green’s Visualizations of Land, Labor, and life in the Lowcountry” - Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery.

Alyssa Kreikemeier
- “Resistance or Conquest? Un-erasing Pueblo History in Northern New Mexico” - American Indian Studies Association Conference at Arizona State University.

Catherine Martin
- “How Do You Make ‘positive moral’ Blaxploitation?: Shaping the Black Female Detective in Get Christie Love!” - Console-ing Passions at East Carolina University, NC.
- “Even Female Detectives Belong In the Home: Reasserting Postwar Femininity through Domestic Space in Candy Matson and Honey West” - Single Lives at University College in Dublin, Ireland.

Kristi Martin
- “Emerson’s Circle: Literary Community in Concord” - National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks and American History and Culture Workshops for Teachers, Living and Writing Deliberately in Concord, MA.

Emma Newcombe
- “‘Invisible Danger’: Race, Authority, and Debility in Mammoth Cave” - Modern Language Association Convention in New York City.

Alex Olkovsky
- “Rhetoric and Recruitment in Immigration Guidebooks” – NEASA Conference.

Sam Palfreyman
- “Mid-Century Mormon Modern: Creating a Mormon Cultural Landscape Among the Eastern Establishment” – Vernacular Architecture Forum New England Annual Meeting in Sturbridge, MA.

Samantha Pickette
- “There’s No Such Thing as Chrimukkah, Seth Cohen: Jewish Characters in Television Christmas Episodes” - Popular Culture Association (PCA) Conference in Indianapolis, IN.
- “Art Spiegelman’s Maus as a Second-Generation Survival Story” – NeMLA Conference.

Jessica Samuel
- “Teaching While Loving Blackness” – ASA Meeting.
- “Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John” - Caribbean Studies Association Conference in Havana, Cuba.
Ian Stevenson

Christopher Stokum
- “Resources of the Race: The Degradation of Skill in St. Louis, 1856” - New England Historical Association Conference in Manchester, NH.

Walter Suarez

Frankie Vanaria

Kate Viens
- “Using Media to Develop Humanities Narratives” - National Humanities Conference, Boston, MA.

Marina Wells

American Studies Association Meeting
November 2017
Chicago, IL

New England American Studies Association Conference
June 2018
Lowell, MA

Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference
May 2018
Alexandria, VA
Rebekah Beaulieu (PhD 2017) was named Director of the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, CT. She also recently had a book published, entitled Financial Fundamentals for Historic House Museums from Rowman & Littlefield.

David Brody (PhD 1996) was promoted to Full Professor of Design Studies at The New School. He was also published in the Fall/Winter 2017 issue of WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly. His article is entitled “Painting Labor: Ramiro Gomez’s Representations of Domestic Work.”

Anthony Buccitelli (PhD 2012) was awarded tenure at Pennsylvania State University in Harrisburg, where he is an Associate Professor of American Studies and Communications and Humanities Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Folklore.

Kerry Carso (PhD 2001) has been promoted to Full Professor of Art History at SUNY New Paltz.

Elizabeth De Wolfe (PhD 1996) was featured on C-Span’s Local Content Vehicles series to discuss her book Shaking the Faith: Women, Family, and Mary Marshall Dyer’s Anti-Shaker Campaign.

Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello (PhD 2002) was elected to a second three-year term on the Board of Mass Humanities. Additionally, her book Modern Bonds: Redefining Community in Early Twentieth-Century St. Paul was released by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Paul Edwards (PhD 2017) is serving as a Lecturer on History and Literature through the Department of History at Harvard University.

Jim Garvin (PhD 1983) and his wife Donna-Belle were profiled by Antiques and the Arts Weekly about their lives and careers working in the museum and historical sector for New Hampshire.

Niki Lefebvre (PhD 2016) became Director of the Natick Historical Society in Natick, MA.

Channon Miller (PhD 2017) accepted a position of Assistant Professor of History at the University of San Diego.

Charlotte Emans Moore (PhD 1999) curated an exhibit for the Boston Athenaeum entitled “Subscription Campaigns,” which explores the impact of organized group philanthropy.

Rebecca Noel was promoted to Full Professor of History at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire. She was also interviewed by New Hampshire Public Radio as part of their series on New Hampshire’s Islands.

Brian Sirman’s (PhD 2014) book Concrete Changes: Architecture, Politics, and the Design of Boston City Hall was published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Ian Stewart (Preservation MA 2017) received the 2018 Alice P. Kenney Memorial Award from the New Netherland Institute.

Elaine Stiles (Preservation MA 2002) joined the faculty of Roger Williams University as an Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation in the School of Architecture, Art, and Historic Preservation.

Zachary Violette (PhD 2014) joined the board of the Vernacular Architecture Forum. He also won a Mellon Award from the Society of Architectural Historians.
We are excited to welcome the following students to our community this fall!

**PhD in American Studies**

**Zachary Goldhammer** holds a BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Chicago. As a PhD candidate, he plans on “tracing the early political history of left-wing radio broadcasting in the United States from 1925-1965.” His interest in various forms of documentary media goes back to high school, and includes studies in photojournalism, documentary filmmaking, newsmagazines, and experimental media styles. This expertise, acquired both in and out of the classroom, brought him to his current position at WBUR, as a producer for the radio program Open Source with Christopher Lydon. Zach plans to make use of the interdisciplinarity of the AMNESP program by additionally exploring Preservation Studies and Ethnomusicology to bolster research in audio archives. He will be working with Professor Deborah Jaramillo, Director of Graduate Film & Television Studies and Associate Professor of Film & Television.

**Grace McGowan** earned her BA in English from Oxford University, writing her undergraduate dissertation on Toni Morrison, Robin Coste Lewis, and classically influenced aesthetics. Grace’s work since graduation continues to be focused within the Morrison scholarly community, including an academic grant in Paris to study her curatorship at the Louvre and presenting at the 2017 Global Morrison conference. As a PhD student, she plans to further her studies surrounding “how the classical tradition is encountered in the writing of African-American women” and “examine how writers like Morrison and Lewis have received and responded to these literary interactions.” Grace will be working with Professor Laurence Breiner, Professor of English.

**Reut Odinak** has just received her MFA in Film & Television Studies from the Boston University School of Communication. She also holds a BA in English and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Cornell University. Her Master’s studies at BU were centered on “television’s capacity to perpetuate ideologies tied to gender, sexuality, and race,” with her thesis analyzing motherhood in Orphan Black and The Handmaid’s Tale. In seeking a PhD, Reut will continue her research on American popular culture, media, and television and the ways in which these mediums “are complicit in how we make meaning, how we construct ourselves and our identities…how they produce social structures and hierarchies, and how they tear them down.” She will continue her work with Professor Deborah Jaramillo, Director of Graduate Film & Television Studies and Associate Professor of Film & Television.

**Astrid Tvetenstrand** holds a BA in English and Art History from St. Lawrence University. She additionally earned an MA in American Fine and Decorative Arts from Sotheby’s Institute of Art, with her Master’s thesis entitled “The Capitalist-Marxist Dichotomy within the Hudson River School: Conceptualizing American Property through the Career of Worthington Whittredge (1820-1910).” Astrid’s studies are traditionally American Studies, grasping the idea that “fine and decorative arts...are indicators of the social, political, economic, theological, and environmental context of [America].” She will continue her research in this vein while a PhD student, with future plans of curatorship and museum studies. She will be working with Professor William Moore, Director of AMNESP and Associate Professor of American Material Culture.

*All quotes taken from the students’ personal statements*
**MA in Preservation Studies**

**Rose Grenier** is a longtime member of the Boston University family. She earned her BA in History and International Relations from BU, and has been working as the Program Administrator for the College of Arts and Sciences’ Core Curriculum since 2013. She has previous arts and non-profit experience, working with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Archdiocese of Boston, and the Museum of Fine Arts. Rose’s passion for history combined with “craving a more tangible element to it, one that incorporated the experiential wonder [felt] at historic sites” has led her to Preservation studies.

**Hannah Noser** graduated from the University of Missouri–Columbia with a BA in Art History and a minor in Anthropology. During her undergraduate years, she interned at the Missouri Historical Society and founded the Mizzou Undergrad Art History and Archaeology Association. Additionally, she spent two summers at the St. Anselm College excavation in Orvieto, Italy, fueling a passion for discovering and “sharing history with the people it belongs to.” Hannah’s goal is to “preserve all cultural identity through archaeology,” and hopes to achieve this through a future career in museums or preservation work for a government entity.

**Mengxi Qian** holds a BA in Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography from the University of Connecticut. Originally from China, she experienced firsthand the role urbanization has played in shifting life from a place of “peace and tranquility for instant wealth and opulence.” Unsettled by these changes and the toll they take on both the landscape and the people, Mengxi has developed a passion for heritage conservation and landscape architecture. Alongside her preservation courses, she hopes to take classes in media studies to help her “voice and advocate [her] learned theories...implementing the land and heritage conservational ideas [in her] homeland.”
Preservation Studies Program Updates

This past year the Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop focused its research on Franklin Park. At 527-acres, Franklin Park covers 1.7% of the landmass of Boston and constitutes the emerald of the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed “Emerald Necklace” of Boston parks and parkways. We analyzed the original design and the subsequent modifications of the park, for example, the arrival of links golf in the country park section of the park in the 1890s. We explored the pre-history of the park, engaging the landscape of country houses, market gardens, and extensive greenhouses growing flowers for the Boston market. Olmsted and earlier residents battled over the fate of the hundreds of apple trees on the park site. Olmsted had them all cut down; he disliked the straight rows of trees in the earlier orchards as opposed to the more picturesque arrangement of park trees he envisioned. The Workshop also researched the residential architecture that, freestanding suburban houses, and large apartment developments, that constituted the edges of park landscape. Collectively the individual and group research in the Franklin Park Project crafted an engaging narrative of place that so often stands at the center of significant preservation endeavors.

Preservation students produced capstone projects that ranged broadly both geographically and temporally. Rebecca Moroski explored native American and historic sites in Grafton and Waltham, Massachusetts; Kathering Giraldo assessed the litigation over cultural resources impacted by the Dakota Access pipelines; Gulnur Cengiz chronicled the rise of preservation protections in Istanbul, Turkey; Eujeong Kim explored historical memory and modern architecture in Seoul, Korea.

These hands-on graduate capstone projects were matched at the undergraduate level by heritage internships coordinated by Professor Jan Haenraets. The internships provided placements for students with the Chinese Historical Society of New England, Boston Harbor Now, the Boston African American Historic Site, the Museum of African American History, and Boston’s Center for Jewish Culture.

Our work in preservation and heritage continues to benefit from the vibrant preservation culture in Boston. There was palpable excitement in the city recently with the announcement that General Electric was moving its international headquarters, with 800 employees, from Fairfield County, Connecticut to Boston. General Electric thought that locating in Boston would help the company recruit the very best talent and employees, many of whom were educated at Boston-area universities who are now interested in both living and working in Boston. General Electric settled on a plan for its headquarters that reflected simultaneously the history and aspirations of the company. General Electrics adaptive re-use of two brick mill buildings constructed in 1907 for the candy manufacturing operation of the New England Confectionary Company underscored GE’s origin in industrial manufacturing. In addition, a high tech modern building, with a prominent veil of photovoltaic cells, impressively cantilevered spaces, and crisp modern lines will be built to reflect the company’s aspirations in the field of computer software and digital controls for business and industry. Professor Sara Wermiel who teaches preservation planning in the BU Preservation Studies Program led the team that designated the New England Confectionary Company buildings as part of the Fort Point Channel Historic District.

Regards,

Daniel Bluestone
Director of Preservation Studies
Professor of History of Art & Architecture
Faculty Accomplishments

Marié Abe’s (Musicology and Ethnomusicology) book Resonances of Chindon-ya: Sounding Space and Sociality in Contemporary Japan was released by Wesleyan University Press. She was also promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Brooke Blower (History) won this year’s Metcalf Cup and Prize for Excellence in Teaching, the University’s highest teaching honor.

Japonica Brown-Saracino’s (Sociology) newest book, How Places Make Us: Novel LBQ Identities in Four Small Cities, was published by The University of Chicago Press.

Robert Chodat (English) has his most recent book, The Matter of High Words: Naturalism, Normativity, and the Postwar Sage published by Oxford University Press.

Jonathan Foltz’s (English) first book, The Novel After Film: Modernism and the Decline of Autonomy, was released by Oxford University Press.

Linda Heywood (African American Studies) presented a talk on Queen Njinga, the subject of her most recent book, at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Stephen Kalberg (Sociology) was promoted to Full Professor

Susan Mizruchi (English; BU Center for the Humanities Director) was named the inaugural William Arrowsmith Professor in the Humanities.

Carrie Preston (English & WGS) was promoted to Full Professor

Stephen Prothero (Religion) was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in their Public Scholars program to aid him in writing a biography of Eugene Exman, a book editor influential in the field of American religion.

Introducing:

Professor Mary Battenfeld

Through Wheelock College’s merger with the University, Mary Battenfeld is joining AMNESP as a Clinical Professor. Professor Battenfeld has served on Wheelock’s faculty since 1993, receiving tenure in 2001. She earned both her MA and PhD in American Studies from the University of Maryland. A graduate of Swarthmore College, she was President of the New England American Studies Association from 2009 to 2010. At Wheelock she served as the Chair of General Education leading an effort to revise the college’s General Education program. Her scholarship has focused upon the role of social studies in primary education. In 2017, she published a volume entitled Notable Books, Notable Lessons: Putting Social Studies Back in the K-8 Curriculum co-edited with Andrea S. Libresco and Jeannette Balantic.
Babies of AMNESP

In the 2017/2018 academic year, the AMNESP family grew by 100 fingers and toes!

Introducing...

Ruby Ellen
April 9, 2018
To Julia Kline (Program Admin) and Zack Kline

Sailor Ray
February 1, 2018
To Sam Palfreyman (PhD Candidate) and Alyssa Palfreyman

Andie Louise
July 31, 2017
To Jordan Pouliot (PhD Candidate) and Hunt Latham

Gus Lee
March 12, 2018
To Jason Michelitch (PhD Candidate) and Lucy Colby

Meline Juliette
March 29, 2018
To Dan DeFraia (PhD Candidate) and Lise DeFraia
You’re invited to

AMNESP’s Annual Trip to the Paw Sox!

Follow us on Facebook for future events, announcements, and more!
https://www.facebook.com/groups/337971476799/

A Paw Sox game is a genuine American experience with cute kids in the stands, endearing mascots named Paws and Sox, and players in the Red Sox system struggling to make it to the majors or having been sent down to recover or improve. Most importantly, the game provides an opportunity to visit informally and compare notes with colleagues before the bustle of the academic year.

Donors to the AMNESP Gift Fund Fiscal Year 2017/2018
Thanks to all for your ongoing support!

Aaron Ahlstrom
Jessica Aither
Cheryl Boots & Bruce Weston
Gaëlle Bouaziz
William & Barbara Brennan
Frieda Carlino
Philip Carlino
Scott Carlino
Julia Carroll
Sean Case
Jared Champion
Edward Cooke, Jr. & Carol Warner
Paul D’Ambrosio
Christine D’Aura
Daniel DeFraia
Deutsche Bank AG
Jamie Devol
Joshua Dorin
William Edmonstone
Paul Edwards

Yanzhe Feng
Joshua Gee
Jere Gibber
John Gordon
Rose Grenier
Mariah Gruner
Jason Henson
Megan Hermida Lu
William Huntingt Howell
Arthur Kamya
Rachel Kirby
Julia Kline
Alyssa Kreikemeier
Amy Lashley
Megan LeBarron
Catherine Martin
Marie Satya McDonough
Casey Monroe
Karol Montilla
William & Charlotte Emans Moore

Emma Newcombe
Thomas Nunan
Samuel Palfreyman
Anita Patterson
Peyton Paxson
Samantha Pickette
Jordan Puijot
Arno Puskar
Joseph Ross
David & Susan Shaw
Earle Shettleworth, Jr.
Samuel Shupe
Charles Ian Stevenson
Christopher Stokum
Walter Suarez Becerra
Emma Thomas
Francis Vanaria
Madeline Webster
Marina Wells