

**College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences  
Minutes of the Faculty Meeting  
September 21, 2011**

Dean Virginia Sapiro called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 4:04 p.m. She welcomed the faculty back to campus.

Dean Sapiro made announcements regarding the organization of the College. The BU Humanities Foundation has changed its name to the Boston University Center for the Humanities (BUCH). The new name places BUCH in the good company of nearly all member organizations and affiliates of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, across the nation and in 24 countries.

There is one fewer department in the College — Cognitive & Neural Systems. The department had made a major, pioneering impact. Faculty members formerly affiliated with CNS have moved to tenure homes in other departments and colleges. However, there is a newly chartered research center at 677 Beacon Street, called CompNet (Center for Computational Neuroscience and Neural Technologies). Directed by Professor Barbara Shinn-Cunningham (ENG BME) and co-directed by Professor Nancy Kopell (CAS Mathematics & Statistics), the Center includes faculty from Psychology, Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Biology.

Dean Sapiro also discussed plans for a new building, nicknamed “BK1,” to be located on the site of the old Burger King. This will be a state-of-the-art Computational Sciences Center, housing the departments of Computer Science and Mathematics & Statistics, the computational neurosciences, and the Hairi Institute for Computational Science & Engineering. This building will not have wet labs. Two floors will be devoted to smart classrooms, of sizes (e.g., large lecture, 20-seat) where the current classroom inventory is inadequate. Occupancy of BK1 will free up space on the Cummington Street corridor for expansion of other departments such as Psychology. A BK2 building will eventually house other CAS units. At least one more major gift is needed before BK construction can begin.

Dean Sapiro then discussed the budget for FY 2013. She has the budget from the Provost, which includes \$1.2 million “new dollars” to add to the continuing dollars that fund current salaries and operating expenses. In addition, CAS was allotted \$3.5 million in “one-time money,” which pays for start-up costs, minor renovations, etc. Dean Sapiro explained the process by whereby the amounts of continuing and one-time monies that can be earmarked for faculty searches is determined by subtracting other necessary expenditures from total available funds in the College budget.

The Dean said that in the coming weeks there would be definitive word on the searches. Some renovation issues related to searches have still to be resolved. She hopes that all the searches approved by her office will go through; however, one or two may be dropped. She was pleased with the process and earlier notification now in place for decision-making about the budget.

The University's new eight-year cycle for review of all departments and programs has been discussed in previous faculty meetings. For now, we are moving ahead with reviews of Economics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Anthropology, History of Art & Architecture, and the American & New England Studies Program.

Workshops are being set up for senior faculty who serve as official mentors of junior colleagues under the auspices of the College mentoring program. Thus far, there have been workshops for new tenure-track faculty, but not for their mentors. In the past, senior faculty have often not been proactive; they have assumed that junior faculty will just come for advice to the seniors. However, junior people need a nudge. One such workshop for mentors will be held on October 29, from 8-9:30 a.m. Recruitment workshops are also being set up for chairs of search committees as well as chairs of departments where searches are being conducted.

### **Presentation of New Faculty by Department Chairs**

[See Appendix A, for "New CAS Faculty on Campus, Academic Year 2011/12."]

An impressive group of new faculty were introduced by their department chairs.

### **Phase 3 of Signage Project**

Dear Sapiro then called on Prof. Christopher Ricks (Editorial Institute/Core), who introduced his document entitled "Phase 3 of Signage." [See Appendix B for the handout, dated 14 September 2011, from Prof. Ricks.]

Prof. Ricks reported that he has attempted to schedule a meeting with the person making the decisions regarding signage on University buildings, but so far has been unsuccessful. President Brown has now apologized for the delay in responding to Prof. Ricks' request for a meeting, and Prof. Ricks has been assured that he would have an appointment with President Brown during the week of October 3.

Discussion ensued regarding Prof. Ricks' statement and the general response from CAS faculty about the new signage.

Prof. William Skocpol [Physics] noticed a red sign on a "Custodial Closet," but three classrooms in the Physics building were missing signs. "Phase 4" of the signage project will introduce two kinds of signs in the interiors of the buildings: 1) directional signs, and 2) internal directories. Right now the maroon of the interior signs clashes with B.U. red.

Prof. Jay Samons (Classical Studies) stated that faculty should be involved and give input to Marketing. Dean Sapiro commented that deans at least should be involved in the signage project.

Prof. Andrew Bacevich (International Relations/History) noted that a faculty colleague, Prof. Ricks, had been treated with disrespect. Dean Sapiro said that [Assistant Vice-

President of Marketing and Communications] Amy Hook is the point person for the signage project. Prof. Linda Heywood (History and African American Studies) said that the faculty should take an autonomous, unified stand.

Prof. Ricks observed that, whoever the point person, President Brown is ultimately responsible. Dean Sapiro noted that at MIT, where President Brown had been the Provost, only numbers were used on buildings. At BU at least the buildings have names. Prof. Kim Sichel (History of Art & Architecture/American & New England Studies) reported that the new signage at 226 Bay State Road, where AMNESP is located, now has no sign to designate the program's location. This has been confusing to incoming students, visiting scholars, delivery persons, etc.

### **Faculty Council Report**

Prof. Michael Danti (Archaeology) gave the report from Faculty Council. For the upcoming election, there are three CAS representatives and two alternates needed. There will also be an upcoming Faculty Council vote on eligibility requirements for membership in the Faculty Assembly, including the question of membership for lecturers with at least 0.5 FTE appointments. To learn more about the ballot question, see Faculty Council meeting minutes from March 22, 2011 at <http://www.bu.edu/fafc/meetings/minutes-of-faculty-council-meetings/>.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Hills  
Professor of History of Art & Architecture and  
Secretary of the CAS/GRS Faculty



# **The CAS Faculty Meeting**

**Welcoming the New Year and  
New Faculty**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011  
4:00 p.m.**

**Stone B50  
(685 Commonwealth Ave.)**

## **New CAS Faculty On Campus, Academic Year 2011/12**

### **Anthropology**

#### **Assistant Professor Kimberly Arkin**

Kimberly Arkin is a socio-cultural anthropologist with a PhD from the University of Chicago. She has done extensive fieldwork with North African Jewish youth in Paris. She has worked on the intersection of race and religion in contemporary Europe, focusing on how the inclusion of certain kinds of "multicultural" difference may help produce the self-racialization and exclusion of national minorities. In future work, she will examine the reconstruction of diasporic consciousness among European minorities who have returned to their putative "homes," but hardly feel at home.

#### **Assistant Professor Joanna Davidson**

Joanna Davidson is a cultural anthropologist focusing on rural West Africans' responses to environmental and economic change. She has conducted long-term ethnographic research in Guinea-Bissau among Diola rice cultivators. She is writing a book on the changing notion of "sacred rice" in this region, and she has published several articles on this and related topics. One important aspect of her work highlights the gaps between the goals of development programs and of local peoples, and helps explain the mixed success of new food technologies in Africa. She received her BA from Stanford University and her MA and PhD from Emory University.

#### **Assistant Professor Kevin Langergraber**

As a primate molecular ecologist, Kevin Langergraber uses molecular genetic techniques to investigate numerous features of primate social systems that are not easily observed in the field. At the local scale, he combines field- and laboratory-based analyses to address questions about the behavioral ecology of chimpanzees. At the broader scale, he uses samples collected from multiple chimpanzee communities to characterize patterns of chimpanzee genetic variation. This combination of field observation and comparative genetic analysis creates unique opportunities to answer evolutionary questions. He received his BA from the University of British Columbia and his PhD from the University of Michigan.

### **Archaeology**

#### **James Wiseman Professor of Archaeology Andrea Berlin**

Andrea Berlin is a distinguished scholar of the archaeology of the Classical East from the Achaemenid Persian period through the Roman Empire (c. 500 BCE to 640 CE). She specializes in the study of ancient pottery and has developed ceramic typologies for several regions in the Near East, including northern Israel, central Cyprus, the region around Troy, and ancient Lycia in

Turkey. She currently is co-director of the excavations at Tel Kedesh in Israel, a site with important Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman remains. Berlin has received numerous honors, including the Award For Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from the Archaeological Institute of America and a Samuel H. Kress fellowship to the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. Her research is contributing important new information about the social, economic, and historical interactions among the diverse peoples of the ancient Eastern Mediterranean. She earned her PhD in classical art and archaeology at the University of Michigan.

## **Astronomy**

### **Assistant Professor Merav Opher**

Merav Opher studies magnetic field processes in space physics and astrophysics, particularly how magnetic fields affect the interstellar medium, disks around young stars, solar and stellar winds and jets and the early universe. She does this by using sophisticated numerical modeling as experiments in conjunction with new theoretical approaches and observational data. Opher also is interested in developing new computational models (such as coupling Kinetic-MHD models; PIC Codes-MHD; new AMR techniques, etc). She has a BS in physics and a PhD in physics and astronomy from the University of Sao Paulo.

## **Biology**

### **Assistant Professor Ian Davison**

Ian Davison is a neurobiologist who uses the mammalian olfactory cortex to explore fundamental questions about how the brain processes sensory information, associates it with past experience, and produces appropriate behavioral responses. His past research on frogs and mice has involved technologically challenging studies of neurons within functioning neural networks. In recent work on mice, Davison used innovative combinations of optical, optogenetic and electrophysiological techniques to show that different odors stimulate highly specific sets of glomeruli in the olfactory bulb, and that these sets are in turn connected to specific cortical neurons that fire only when the corresponding sets of olfactory glomeruli are activated. His future work will apply these highly innovative methods to behavioral experiments involving learning and memory. Ian earned his PhD in biology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. He comes to BU from Duke University, where he completed his postdoctoral work.

## Chemistry

### **Assistant Professor Xin Chen**

Xin Chen's research interests include organic electrets, vibrational sum frequency generation (SFG), nanoconfined water and membrane dynamics, and microbead hauling of biomembrane interactions. He looks forward to leading courses ranging from introductory chemistry to physical chemistry to quantum mechanics and molecular spectroscopy. Chen received his PhD at Stanford University with Professor John Brauman and completed postdoctoral studies at Harvard University in the lab of Professor George Whitesides.

## Classical Studies

### **Assistant Professor James Uden**

James Uden's scholarly interests extend from Roman love elegy (ranging all the way from the classical period to obscure poets of late antiquity) to the satires of Juvenal, on whom he wrote his dissertation. Uden's work demonstrates a superb understanding and sensitivity to literature, where he focuses on the intersection of the written word with cultural, political, and social phenomena. He already has published more than ten articles or book chapters in the top, peer-reviewed journals in his field, including *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*, *Classical Quarterly*, *American Journal of Philology*, and the *Transactions of the American Philological Society*. He also has been invited to contribute an article on late antiquity to the prestigious *Blackwell Companion to Love Elegy*. His current research involves the conversion of his dissertation on Juvenal into a book manuscript. Uden earned his PhD this spring (2011) at Columbia University.

## Computer Science

### **Professor Ran Canetti**

Ran Canetti is a leading expert in cryptographic protocols and computer security. Canetti served as an Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Director of the Checkpoint Institute for Information Security at Tel Aviv University and played an important role in the development of algorithms and Internet standards for such tasks as key agreement and message authentication. His HMAC authentication algorithm (co-developed with Bellare and Krawczyk) is built into every modern operating system from mainframes to handhelds, and is used billions of times a day. On the theoretical side, his seminal work on protocol composition (which has been cited thousands of times) has improved our understanding of how secure components can be put together to produce a secure result. His current research agenda includes the problem of program obfuscation, which could be used for a host of applications including secure cloud computing and privacy-preserving data mining. Canetti received his PhD from the Weizmann

Institute of Science. Before joining the faculty of Tel-Aviv University, he was a researcher at IBM's T.J. Watson Research Center and a visiting scientist at MIT. In addition to his faculty appointment in Computer Science, Canetti will also serve as the Associate Director for Research in the BU Center for Reliable Information Systems & Cyber Security (RISCS).

## **Earth Sciences**

### **Professor J. Lawford Anderson**

J. Lawford Anderson's research lies in the origin of the Earth's crust. Much of his work has focused on the growth of the western margin of the North American continent during the past 200 million years. He has supervised over two-dozen graduate students; all of his PhD students have gone on to tenured academic positions. Anderson is an environmentalist with long-term interest in educating students about Earth's resources and environment. He has received over a dozen teaching awards, including the USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989 and the Professor of the Year Award from the Gamma Sigma Alpha National Honor Society in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2006. Anderson comes to the College of Arts & Sciences from the University of Southern California, where he taught and conducted research for more than 30 years. He received his BA from Trinity University and MS and PhD degrees from the University of Wisconsin.

### **Professor and University Provost Jean Morrison**

Jean Morrison, Boston University provost and chief academic officer, is a metamorphic petrologist whose research explores the evolution of the Earth's crust. Morrison describes herself as a stable isotope geochemist: "What we do is measure the stable isotopic composition in rocks and minerals. That tells us a great deal about their origin." Morrison has served on several National Science Foundation panels, as an editor of the *Journal of Metamorphic Geology*, and as an associate editor of *American Mineralogist* and the *Geological Society of America Bulletin*. In 2000, she was named Sigma Chi Professor of the Year, and she received Sigma Gamma Epsilon's Excellence in Teaching Award. She earned a BA from Colgate University, an MS from the University of Georgia, and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Morrison became Boston University provost in January 2011.

## **Economics**

### **Assistant Professor Kehinde Ajayi**

Kehinde Ajayi's research interests are in the areas of economic development and the economics of education. Her current research examines whether school choice programs reduce educational inequality and evaluates the effect of school quality on student performance. Kehinde was a Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellow and a Fulbright Fellow. She received her PhD



in economics from the University of California, Berkeley and her BA in economics from Stanford University.

**Assistant Professor Carola Frydman**

Carola Frydman's research interests are in economic history, corporate finance, economics of organizations, and labor economics. She has studied the long-run evolution of executive compensation, income inequality, and the labor market for managers. Her current project examines the history of corporate governance and corporate performance with a specific focus on the impact of financial markets and government regulation on the growth of big business in the early decades of the twentieth century. Frydman received her PhD in economics from Harvard University and is a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Prior to joining Boston University, she was an Assistant Professor of Finance at MIT's Sloan School of Management.

**English**

**Assistant Professor Joseph Rezek**

Joseph Rezek just completed a Barra Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He has published essays in *Early American Literature and English Literary History*, and is currently writing a book titled *Tales from Elsewhere: The Aesthetics of Provinciality and the Book Trade in Ireland, Scotland, and the United States*. Rezek's scholarship focuses on the relationship between the transnational circulation of texts and English-language literature of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. He shows that both rivalry with England and the ambition to succeed in London shaped Irish, Scottish, and American literature of the early nineteenth century. Rezek has a BA in English from Columbia University and a PhD in English from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Geography & Environment**

**Assistant Professor Edward Cunningham**

As a Fulbright fellow, Edward Cunningham was a visiting scholar at Tsinghua University's School of Public Policy and Management, where he studied China's energy challenge. Fluent in Mandarin, he wrote a chapter for the first "Let's Go" travel book for China and has worked in Beijing for *The Economist*. Cunningham majored in Chinese at Georgetown University, received a MA from Harvard and a PhD from MIT, both in East Asian Studies. He was a research fellow at the MIT Industrial Performance Center and at Harvard's Asia Pacific Policy Program.

## History

### **Assistant Professor Philip Haberkern**

Czech religious leader Jan Hus was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake in 1415, but his movement lived on. Phillip Haberkern's research focuses on the creation of a Czech national church by Hus's followers and ways in which commemorations of "St. Jan Hus" influenced both this church and Martin Luther's movement a century later. He spent last year as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center of the Study of Religion at Princeton, where he worked on finishing his first book and beginning a new project comparing four European cities that underwent radical religious transformations in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Haberkern earned his MA in "Christianity and Culture" from Harvard Divinity School and PhD in History from the University of Virginia.

## History of Art & Architecture

### **Assistant Professor Rebecca Martin**

Becky Martin has published on classical Greek sculpture, painted Attic pottery and Hellenistic mosaics, and excavated at the site of Tel Dor in Northern Israel, where East and West intersect in the ancient Mediterranean. At ease both with the latest theoretical work in art history and with the latest developments in field work, and also knowledgeable about ancient literature, she is already the author of three articles, two in leading peer-reviewed journals, and she expects to submit a revised version of her dissertation for publication as a monograph within the next three years. She has extensive teaching experience, ranging from introductory survey courses to specialized courses in Greek, Islamic, Renaissance, and Modern art and architecture. She received her BA from Smith College and her MA and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley,

## History of Art & Architecture / American & New England Studies Program

### **Associate Professor William D. Moore**

Will Moore is a well-established scholar of American material culture. His published work includes the book *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes* (University of Tennessee Press). A second book is well underway with the working title *Not-So-Simple Gifts: Shakers, Nationalism and Modernism, 1925-1965*. Moore also co-edited *Secret Societies in America: Foundational Studies of Fraternalism*, which is scheduled to be published within the year. Moore's scholarly articles have appeared in his field's leading journals, including *Winterthur Portfolio*, *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*, and *The Public Historian*. Moore's other scholarly interests include vernacular architecture, nineteenth-century spiritualism, the culture of surfing, and the contemporary reinvention of

Roller Derby. He earned his AB from Harvard College and his PhD from Boston University's American & New England Studies Program.

## **International Relations**

### **Assistant Professor Michael Woldemariam**

Michael Woldemariam is a specialist on African politics, international security, political violence and conflict, and post-conflict governance and institution building. His doctoral dissertation focused on African insurgencies in Ethiopia and Mozambique and sought to explain the dynamics of factionalism and fragmentation in rebel organizations, building on fieldwork in those two countries and in refugee communities in Europe and North America. He has had numerous fellowship awards, including serving as Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation fellow, an Africanist Doctoral Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and as an American Political Science Association Minority Fellow. He also has conducted field studies in Somaliland, South Africa, and India. Woldemariam earned his BA at Beloit College in political science and sociology and his PhD from the Department of Politics at Princeton University.

### **Assistant Professor Manjari Chatterjee Miller**

Manjari Chatterjee Miller works on foreign policy and security issues in international relations, specializing in South and East Asia. She particularly focuses on the rising powers of India and China. Her first book, the manuscript of which is currently under review, examines the influence of the different experiences of colonialism in India and China on their contemporary foreign policy decisions. She is interested in ideational influences on foreign policy and conceptions of state security and currently is working on the concept of loyalty in military units. She also is researching conceptions of China's grand strategy and the role that India plays in it and is surveying current Chinese "official" attitudes towards India. Her research has been supported by fellowships from the US Department of Education, the Fairbank Center and South Asia Initiative at Harvard University, and the United Nations Foundation. She has an MS in international politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and a BA in political science from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi, India.

## **Mathematics & Statistics**

### **Assistant Professor Henry Lam**

Henry Lam's research focus is in applied probability. He is interested in the mathematical modeling and analysis of stochastic systems that arise in queueing, insurance and finance, and operations management. The methodology he uses draws from both analytical and statistical viewpoints, such as asymptotic approximation and the construction of efficient Monte Carlo algorithms, as well as the interplay in between. He received a BS in

actuarial science from the University of Hong Kong and MA and PhD degrees in statistics from Harvard University.

**Assistant Professor Jared Weinstein**

Jared Weinstein, who earned his AB in mathematics, *magna cum laude*, at Harvard University and his PhD in mathematics at the University of California at Berkeley, has held a postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA and is currently a visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. His research is a blend of arithmetic geometry, representation theory, and algebraic number theory, with a special emphasis on the Langlands program.

**Philosophy**

**Assistant Professor Russell Powell**

Russell Powell specializes in the philosophy of biological and biomedical science, with a particular interest in the evolutionary dimensions of bioethics broadly construed. However, his academic interests are wide-ranging and highly interdisciplinary. Powell is an Arts and Humanities Research Council Fellow on the Science and Religious Conflict Project at the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, a James Martin Research Fellow for the Program on Ethics and the New Biosciences, and a member of the Oxford Centre for Neuroethics at the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, all at Oxford University. He has published in areas ranging from the philosophy of science to political and legal philosophy, in journals such as the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, *Biology and Philosophy*, and *European Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. Before commencing his graduate work in philosophy, Powell worked as an attorney in the New York office of the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP, where he practiced complex product liability litigation. Prior to his appointment at Oxford, he was a Greenwall Postdoctoral Fellow at Johns Hopkins University and (simultaneously) Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Senior Research Scholar in the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University. Powell holds a BA in philosophy, *summa cum laude*, from Binghamton University, a JD with honors from NYU Law School, and an MS in evolutionary biology and PhD in philosophy from Duke University.

**Political Science**

**Assistant Professor David Glick**

David Glick's research interests sit at the intersection of judicial politics, law and society, and public policy. He already has published "Conditional Strategic Retreat: The Court's Concession in the 1934 Gold Clause Cases" in the highly ranked *Journal of Politics*, in which he developed and tested a theory of when the Supreme Court will defer to presidential policy preferences. Glick's work draws on archival evidence, personal interviews,

formal theory, statistical analysis and even laboratory experiments. Before coming to BU, he was a post-doctoral fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor at the Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences at Dartmouth College. Glick earned his BA in astrophysics and political science from Williams College and his PhD in politics from Princeton University.

## **Psychology**

### **Associate Professor Marc W. Howard**

Marc Howard researches topics centered on episodic memory, the ability to remember specific events situated in a particular spatiotemporal context. This involves developing mathematical models of cognition and evaluating them against both behavioral and neurophysiological data, providing a bridge between cognition and systems-level neuroscience. Howard uses a combination of mathematical, computational and behavioral tools to evaluate his hypotheses. At present, his efforts are focused on developing and evaluating a unified mathematical framework to describe how the brain constructs the spatial and temporal context believed to underlie episodic memory. This model appears to have far-ranging implications, leading to research interests in statistical learning, semantic memory, time perception, and reward systems. Howard holds a BA in physics, *magna cum laude*, from Rutgers University and a PhD in neuroscience from Brandeis University.

### **Assistant Professor Amanda R. Tarullo**

Amanda Tarullo's research focuses on the effects of early experiences on the neural and behavioral development of infants and young children. In particular, she examines how early life stress shapes the developing brain as well as the neurodevelopmental mechanisms that link early life stress to child outcomes. Using electroencephalogram (EEG) measures, Tarullo identifies patterns of infant brain activity that predict socio-emotional and cognitive functioning in early childhood and studies both typically developing and at-risk populations in order to explore both normative and atypical neurodevelopmental processes. One aim of this research is to understand why some children who experience early life stress are resilient and fare quite well while others have enduring developmental problems. Tarullo has a BA in psychology, *summa cum laude*, from Yale University and MA and PhD degrees in developmental psychopathology from the University of Minnesota.

## **Romance Studies**

### **Assistant Professor Luc Baronian**

Luc Baronian's research focuses on morphology and phonology, both from formal and historical perspectives. He also is interested in the cognitive principles that guide linguistic change, while at the same time acknowledging the importance of social factors. His recent formal linguistic research centers

on paradigm gaps of defective verbs. He recently published an analysis of French defective verbs, where the gaps are explained by phonological conditions constraining the insertion of verbs in generative rules of conjugation. Baronian's other interests include the dialectology of North American varieties of French and Creole, particularly from Québec and Louisiana. He has demonstrated in several publications that there exist pre-Acadian features in Louisiana French, some of which that may even trace their origins to Québec. Baronian received a BS in mathematics and a MA in linguistics from the Université de Montréal, and a PhD in linguistics from Stanford University.

## **Sociology**

### **Assistant Professor Japonica Brown-Saracino**

Japonica Brown-Saracino's is an expert on urban and community sociology. She comes to BU from Loyola University Chicago, where she served as Assistant Professor of Sociology from 2007. Brown-Saracino earned her undergraduate degree from Smith College and her PhD from Northwestern University. She is the author of *A Neighborhood That Never Changes: Gentrification, Social Preservation, and the Search for Authenticity*. Last year as a Research Affiliate at the Five College Women's Studies Research Center, she studied the development of lesbian communities in urban spaces. Brown-Saracino earned her PhD in sociology at Northwestern University.

## **Appendix B**

### ***Phase 3 of the Charles River Campus signage project***

14 September 2011, for the agenda item at the CAS Faculty Meeting, 21 September

#### **Christopher Ricks**

At the specific urging of a small body of Boston University alumni and students (I have not canvassed opinion) who deplore “Phase 3 of the signage project”, I requested on 26 August a meeting with President Brown, and again at their urging, am bringing the matter before the Faculty. I have also been asked by them to seek, if need be, a wider public discussion.

Proceeding exactly as advised by a secretary to President Brown, I sent an e-mail on 26 August to his Executive Assistant, Elizabeth B. Green, requesting a meeting (something that I have not hitherto done), say a quarter of an hour, and specified the matter that I wished to raise. I judged it a courtesy to give President Brown notice of my intention to promote discussion of the new signs.

As of 9 September, I had not received an acknowledgment, and I therefore re-sent the request to the Executive Assistant, adding only that the signage is an item on the agenda of the Faculty meeting of 21 September.

The immediate prompting was the new sign outside 143 Bay State Road. This might seem to be no more than one particular instance, but what has been perpetrated here is representative of current practice when it comes to Marketing in relation to the Faculty, so that more is at issue than an individual case.

Outside 143 Bay State Road, the new notice has these words, these words only, in upper and lower case, all three items in the same size:

College of  
Arts & Sciences

School of Management

Undergraduate Research  
Opportunities Program

What had been a handsome, ample, informative sign, in the traditional gold-on-red of Boston University, has been replaced with this small red sign with white lettering (not at all easy to read from a distance) – a sign that violates the first principle of graphic design: that there be a clear and meaningful hierarchy. The College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Management are misleadingly represented as on the same level of an information hierarchy as the subordinate Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Program.

The sign is uninformative and misinformative. Misinformative, for 143 Bay State Road is not the location of either the College of Arts & Sciences or of the School of Management, let alone both of them within one house. Uninformative, in that the notice no longer lets anyone know that the Editorial Institute is at 143 Bay State Road.

The Dean of CAS has recently told us all that the new signs “list the major entities within each building”. The College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Management, however, are not *within the building*, though the sign unthinkingly puts it that they are. On the other hand, the Editorial Institute, given that it occupies two and a half floors of the building, might have been thought to qualify as an entity and even perhaps a major entity within the building: under the Graduate School, it has for more than a decade granted M.A.s and Ph.D.s in Editorial Studies, and over the years it has received \$100,000 from two Foundations as well as \$1,500,000 (a major sum in the humanities) from the Mellon Foundation.

What, please, were the criteria that were used to justify the allocation of “major entity” status? Who made these decisions? Were any of the entities or non-entities given an opportunity to make a case as to their being graded or de-graded? Were the actual occupants of any buildings ever inquired of?

There have been puzzlement and confusion for visitors from outside BU, and even for some from within BU, and the Dean of CAS found herself obliged to e-mail all the Faculty on 6 September:

In the next few days especially you will find quite a few of them [incoming undergraduate and graduate students] looking just a little lost. They might be glancing nervously back and forth from a piece of paper to a door, or staring intently at a building trying to figure out whether this is the right one, or wandering in and out of any building now labeled “CAS” or “SMG” looking for the actual buildings with those names. . . ask whether they need help. They’ll be much relieved!

And welcome to our new faculty. Some of them might be doing the same thing!

At the Editorial Institute our continuing doctoral students, like the incoming master’s and doctoral students who were at the orientation that we held on 30 August, expressed themselves not only surprised but uneasy. (What are they to make of the non-appearance/disappearance of the words “Editorial Institute”? Does this portend something like the fate of the University Professors Program?) In any case, the semester has begun with the Editorial Institute having to welcome its graduate and undergraduate students in a markedly unhelpful way. My colleagues and I are teaching several courses at 143 Bay State Road this semester, including undergraduates from many parts of the university (for instance, a Core seminar, and Literary Editing, a course in which undergraduates have enrolled). Meanwhile we can expect visitors who will reasonably



and wrongly suppose themselves to be stepping into the College of Arts & Sciences or the School of Management.

There needs to be some explaining and justifying of the ways in which these Marketing and “branding” insistences are imposed, without adequate warning and without respectful discussion with the parties who are most concerned, being concerned every single day.

The traditional signs were not locked into Marketing’s conviction that any such signs on Bay State Road must all be of the same small size. The traditional signs were at one with the buildings’ dignity of stone and brick; and because they were ample and unstinted, there was never any need for them to issue public pronouncements – divisive, invidious, and tendentious – as to which BU “entities” are entitled to being graded as “major”. Why is it wise to impose such arbitrary, unnecessary, and peremptory distinctions, dictated as they are by nothing but a wish to lessen what previously characterized the university’s history and tradition? This, in the name of what is sure to prove to be ephemeral branding since branding is ephemeral by nature. It was branding that sold us the slogan *Forging the Future* – like a check? “Cool” today, tepid tomorrow.

Whether authorities ever mean it or not, and whether they like it or not, signs are marks of power, and will always powerfully convey judgments, the more potent prejudicially in that they simply stand there, directing us, without argument. Next to 143 Bay State Road there is 141, which used to inform the passerby or indeed the visitor that, among other things, it housed the African Presidential Archives & Research Center. In the last week of August, the sign was changed to read, and only to read, this:

#### Administrative Offices

This information was honorable but not very helpful, being signally underdescribed, but in any case why was the sign no longer permitted to inform anybody that the building also houses (as a “major entity”, one might have thought, since it has rooms on two or three floors) the African Presidential Archives & Research Center?

One week later, the new sign has itself been annulled, with a return to the previous information (though not a return to the previous handsome gold-on-red): in the first week of September, “Administrative Offices” disappeared (though the building still includes such offices), having been in its turn replaced by this:

African Presidential  
Archives & Research Center

Military Education

Major entities. The right decision, or change of decision, yes indeed, but who please was the decider and then the re-decider?

Whatever else this may be, it is not an economy. I ask myself, and have tried asking

others, how much it has cost – at a time when BU has to turn down many responsible requests from the Faculty, and when it is set to launch a capital campaign – to replace with cheap-looking invidious signs the old assuredly informative unprejudicial ones. The traditional signs not only looked distinguished and distinctive, they were so. The Vice President who oversees the signs at Simmons College recently expressed her admiration of the enduring identity realized by our gold-on-red signs – “You know immediately that you are at BU”. I trust that the nearby Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies is going to be allowed to retain its two full-size gold-on-red signs, and I even hope that the new UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE will not have to give up its two *very* recent gold-on-red signs, likewise a few doors down from 143 Bay State Road.

Larger questions come to mind. Since the College of Fine Arts has a distinguished Graphic Design Faculty, and since it has in Alston Purvis an internationally esteemed scholar-practitioner, just what consultation was there between Marketing and all such gifted, experienced, and visually-literate colleagues of ours? None, I’d be willing to bet. Likewise as to our colleagues in the History of Art. “Consultation”, for I am not suggesting that the decision should simply have been made by our colleagues, rather that their trained experience in matters of taste, in sensibility, in visual imagination, and in sustained practice, might be held to constitute a rich resource of which the signage decision-makers would do well to inquire and even perhaps avail themselves.

“The BU signage project is an ongoing collaboration between Marketing & Communications, Facilities, Space Planning, the Provost’s Office and administrators from across the University”. Good to know, but it would be no less good to know that the university Faculty formed part of this collaboration. “My office has worked with the leaders of the project over the past year to provide assistance and perspectives from the College of Arts & Sciences”. And where does this leave those of us who are not administrators, not an office, and not leaders?

As an immediate concern, the Editorial Institute would like to be recognized by the sign on our building, but I find myself unable to act upon the prudent warnings that I have been receiving: that I really had better limit myself simply to getting our existence recognized again, there on the sign in front of the building (a building which, like many others, is now uglily scarred by the wall-marks from taking down the previous signs – which were larger and which were built to remain). But I believe that President Brown has been very ill-served by his advisers, and that the case for believing so should be made, courteously but directly.

For the present change to the signs is unreassuringly in tune with other practices that cannot but look like repudiation. The present administration has removed the Boston University seal from our stationery and from many other public manifestations of three realities that both deserve and reward our faith: our traditions, our history and our continuity. By way of contrast, spending money on “the brick” (or Lego-logo) meant a wasteful subservience to the self-assurances of Marketing, seemingly oblivious of the very opportunities that are offered not by the brand-new but by tradition, history and continuity. Dismissed as “the meat ball”, the university seal rightly values our having

been founded more than 150 years ago, our pleasure and pride in the sky-lined city of Boston, and our not being embarrassed by, let alone ashamed of, a few enduring words of Latin. At Matriculation on 4 September, it was thrilling to hear Dean Patricia Johnson not only herself utter Latin but rouse the Class of 2015 to chorus, in Latin, *We will learn*. The new stationery has no place for Latin. Yet the university seal, happily figuring at the podium and in daily use on writing-paper and label and envelope and folder, has gone to the making of the 25 years of respect for Boston University that I have enjoyed.

Signs are taken for wonders, and so they should be, for it is the power not only of information but of imagination that signs have a responsibility and an opportunity to exercise. "Phase 3 of the signage project" is branding itself a failure not only of information but of imagination.