

The Boston Americanist

American & New England Studies Program Boston University

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Director's Message

The 2016-2017 academic year flew by with lightning speed. One moment we were welcoming new doctoral candidates and enjoying our annual trip to Pawtucket to watch the Paw Sox, and the next we were feting our newly-minted graduates with champagne at the George Sherman Union. In between, our fellow AMNESPers were busy taking classes, conducting research, presenting papers, publishing books and articles, teaching courses, and fretting about the current political situation. Throughout, I have remained amazed by the remarkable interdisciplinary collegiality and good will embodied within our community.

AMNESP continues to inspire and assist individuals in reaching lofty goals. As a community of engaged individuals, we accomplish so much more by working together than we could by ourselves in isolation. Students lift each other up while pursuing their degrees by participating in the Americanist Forum, in which individuals preview presentations and receive constructive criticism, and the "Learning the Ropes" series,



William D. Moore
AMNESP Director

Associate Professor
of American
Material Culture

organized by the AMNESP Graduate Student Association to share professional advice. The faculty eagerly pitch in by serving on the AMNESP Program Committee, participating in oral examinations, and reading and commenting on dissertation drafts. When I took a short medical leave during the fall semester, I was gratified that Prof. Nina Silber kindly agreed to temporarily step into the responsibility of serving as program director. Similarly, Prof. Hunt Howell, Prof. Daniel Bluestone, and Prof. Marié Abe, in their respective positions as Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Preservation Studies, and Director of Undergraduate Studies, make significant contributions to our scholarly community.

This has been a year of noteworthy achievements for our current

students, our alumni, and our faculty. Even before receiving their degrees, AMNESP students have contributed to the field of American Studies by presenting their research at conferences, publishing articles, and serving on the boards of regional and national organizations. Not surprisingly, after graduation AMNESP alums continue this encouraging trajectory by pursuing exemplary careers at dynamic cultural and academic institutions emphasizing both innovative pedagogy and intense research. The bonds that AMNESP builds bind our community across cohorts and generations as well as beyond disciplinary proclivities.

During the last year, the Program offered some novel opportunities to strengthen interpersonal ties. At the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Denver, Colorado, the Program sponsored the first annual BU AMNESP breakfast on the Saturday of the conference. This early morning gathering over coffee and pastries allowed participants to revisit old friendships, make new acquaintances, and share insights concerning research and methodologies. A comparable gathering is planned for this year's American Studies Association conference in Chicago, Illinois, on

Saturday, November 11th. I hope to see you there!

Similarly, in June, Hutch Hutchinson (Ph.D. 2015) and Becky Noel (Ph.D. 1999) organized an AMNESP alumni event in Plymouth, New Hampshire, in conjunction with an exhibition at the Museum of the White Mountains. Becky graciously hosted a lovely gathering in her home during which AMNESPers greeted old friends and forged new relationships. Please contact me if you would be interested in working with other AMNESP alumni to host an event or build a stronger association with our vibrant community.

The AMNESP Facebook group has evolved into a dynamic platform for sharing news and information of interest. If you have not yet joined the group, you are missing out. As we continue planning the celebration of the Program's fiftieth anniversary, we will be utilizing this social media platform to spread the word. I encourage your active participation in this forum.

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



May 2017 Ph.D. graduates

Student Achievements

Academic Year
2016 – 2017

Student Activities

Aaron Ahlstrom presented a paper entitled “Building Cabins, Constructing Identity: Cades Cove, the CCC, and Real and Imagined Log Cabins in National Parks” during Camping Con, an innovative conference sponsored by the National Council on Public History. Aaron also wrote an article about Boston’s Bromley Park neighborhood for the Fall 2016 issue of *Historic New England*. PJ Carlino was awarded a Dissertation Fellowship at the Winterthur Museum, Gardens, & Library which he will serve in 2017-2018.

Mariah Gruner’s paper entitled “Transformative Emulation: Construction and Display of the Mobile Schoolgirl Self and Sampler” was awarded the prize for best graduate student essay by the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Rachel Kirby is spending the summer of 2017 researching the lives and experience of servants on Beacon Hill at the Nichols House Museum in the museum’s Linsdell Fellowship.

Rachel Kopelman presented a paper entitled “Sacred Memories Enshrined: Memory, Fraternity and Protected Spaces in the Grand Army of the Republic” at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Denver, Colorado.

Catherine Martin presented a paper at the American Studies Association, entitled “Detecting as a Family Business.”

Samantha Pickette presented “Funny, You Don’t Look Jewish: Representations of Jewish Characters in Television Sitcoms from Buddy Sorrell to Fran Fine” at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies.

Katy Evans Pritchard presented a paper entitled “Murdered Houses: Fighting France and the Architecture of War,” analyzing Edith Wharton’s 1915 descriptions of the Western Front in *Scribner’s Magazine*, at the American Studies Association Meeting.

Sam Shupe presented a paper entitled “Pedaling Vacationland: Bicycles, Architecture, and the Leisure Landscape in Maine, 1878-1902” at the annual meeting of the New England Chapter of the Vernacular Architecture Forum.

Ian Stevenson was elected to a three-year term on the Vernacular Architecture Forum’s Board of Directors. Ian also published his article “Vacationing with the Civil War: Maine’s Regimental Summer Cottages” in the June 2017 issue of *Civil War History*.

Kate Viens was named Director of Research at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and is also now an editor of the *Massachusetts Historical Review*.

2017 Graduates

Ph.D. Dissertation Defenses

Rebekah Beaulieu: “Accounting for the Past: Historic House Museums and the American Midwest”

Paul Edwards: “Louis Douglas and Jonny Spielt Auf: Performing Blackness in Interwar Germany”

Sarah Leventer: “Beasts of the Southern Screen: Race, Gender, and the Global South in American Cinema since 1963”

Channon Miller: “Migrant Black Mothers: Intersecting Burdens, Resistance, and the Power of Cross-Ethnic Ties”

M.A. in Preservation Studies

Nathan Curwen: Concentration in Architectural History

Patrick Powers: Concentration in Architectural History

Ian Stewart: Concentration in Architectural History

Elaine Sullivan: Concentration in Museum Studies

B.A. in American Studies

Hannah Clark: Cum Laude; dual degree in Communication Studies (Magna Cum Laude)

Alumni News

- o Rebekah Burgess Abramovich (Ph.D. 2008) started a new job as Photo Archivist for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.
- o Rebekah Beaulieu (Ph.D. 2017) has a book forthcoming from Rowman & Littlefield examining financial management for historic house museums. She also led a workshop on budgeting for arts organizations at the annual meeting of the College Art Association.
- o George Born (Ph.D. 2016) has started a new position with the New Hampshire Land & Community Heritage Investment Program as Historic Research Specialist.
- o David Brody (Ph.D. 1996) had an article entitled “How the Design of Hotel Rooms Makes Housekeepers Invisible” in the March 2017 issue of *The Atlantic*.
- o Anthony Buccitelli (Ph.D. 2012) has a new volume that he edited, entitled *Race and Ethnicity in Digital Culture: Our Changing Traditions, Impressions, and Expressions in a Mediated World*, forthcoming in November from ABC-Clio.
- o Jared Champion (Ph.D. 2012) presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association and also as part of the National Council on Public History’s Camping Con.
- o Mary Cirbus (Preservation M.A. 2013) has started a new position as Program Director at Adirondack Architectural Heritage, in Keesville, N. Y. This non-profit promotes stewardship and understanding of the diverse architectural heritage associated with New York State’s Adirondack Park.
- o Paul J. Edwards (Ph.D. 2017) spoke at a symposium entitled “Scholarship in Divisive Times” sponsored by the Boston University Center for the Humanities. Paul also has accepted a position at Harvard University as a Lecturer in History and Literature.
- o Lauren Extrom (B.A. 2016) will be enrolling this fall in the Performing Arts Administration Program at New York University.
- o Mike D’Alessandro (Ph.D. 2014) has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English at Duke University.
- o Desiree Garcia (Ph.D. 2008), formerly on the faculty at Arizona State University, has accepted an appointment at Dartmouth College as Associate Professor of Latin American, Latino, & Caribbean Studies, with an affiliation in Film & Media Studies.
- o Molly Geidel (Ph.D. 2011) was featured in *Process*, published by the Organization of American Historians, in recognition of the publication of her book *Peace Corps Fantasies: How Development Shaped the Global Sixties*.
- o Niki Lefebvre (Ph.D. 2016) is serving as the Morton L. Mandel Presidential Fellow at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- o Sarah Leventer (Ph.D. 2017) will be joining the faculty at Wheaton College for three years as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Film and New Media Studies.
- o Veronica Savory McComb (Ph.D. 2010) received tenure in History at Lenoir-Rhyne University where she also serves as Director of the University Honors Program.
- o Channon Miller (Ph.D. 2017) has accepted a two-year Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the History Department at the University of San Diego’s College of Arts and Sciences.
- o Jan Seidler Ramirez (Ph.D. 1985) and her work at the 9/11 Memorial Museum were featured in an article by *BU Today* and as the cover story in the College of Arts & Sciences’ alumni magazine *Arts & Sciences*.
- o Casey Riley (Ph.D. 2015) is working as Assistant Curator at the Boston Athenæum.
- o Karen Robbins (Ph.D. 2015) serves as the Secretary of the New England Chapter of the Vernacular Architecture Forum.
- o George Schwartz (Ph.D. 2015) played a large curatorial role in the exhibition entitled “Ocean Liners: Glamour, Speed, and Style” organized by the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Ma., and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.
- o Christopher Walsh (Ph.D. 1999) has been promoted to Associate Professor at Boston University. Walsh currently serves as the Associate Director of the Writing Program within the College of Arts & Sciences.
- o Francine Weiss (Ph.D. 2012) started a new job as Senior Curator at the Newport Art Museum in Newport, R.I.



Jan Seidler Ramirez

Incoming Students

We welcome the following Ph.D. candidates to AMNESP this fall!

Gaëlle Bouaziz received both her B.A. (Upper Alsace University) and M.A. (Paul Valéry University) in English Literature and Language in her native France before taking a lecturer position at The University of Texas at Austin. After two years of teaching French courses at UT, Gaëlle comes to AMNESP to “analyze the aesthetics and politics of minority representation and representability on screen,” looking specifically to “tackle the emergence of cultural tropes, like queerness, class, trauma, and Arabness in television narratives.” Her studies here will further the research done in her Master’s thesis, entitled “The B Word: Body Politics and Queer Identities in The L Word.” Gaëlle will be working with Professor Carrie Preston of the English Department and the Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program.

Julia Carroll comes to us with an M.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she wrote a thesis entitled “The Economy of Evangelism in the Colonial American South.” Her studies at both UMass and Georgia State University, where she received a B.A. in History and Religious Studies, focus on tracing the development of religion in America and the wider Atlantic World during the 18th and 19th centuries. At BU Julia will utilize the interdisciplinary nature of our program to continue her research and further explore the origins and evolutions of American religion as they relate to colonialism, slavery, communal identities, and consumer culture, particularly among disenfranchised populations. She will be working with Professor Nancy Ammerman, Associate Dean of the Faculty for the Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology of Religion.

Aliza Greenberg received her B.A. in Religious Studies from Southern Methodist University and her M.A. in Religious Studies from Duke University. The cumulative objective of her extensive research is “to examine memorialization of genocide and mass atrocities in their own distinctive ethnic, cultural, and political contexts,” specifically in regard to African American and European Jewish histories. As a Ph.D. candidate, she plans to develop a “comparative analysis of how slavery and the Holocaust are represented in three settings; museums, memorials, and on the sites of atrocity themselves, namely, plantations and concentration camps.” She will be working with Professor Daniel Bluestone, Director of the Preservation Studies Program and Professor of History of Art & Architecture.

Jason Henson is a new Boston University graduate, having just received his M.F.A. in Film & Television Studies. Utilizing his undergraduate training in History, with a minor in Cinema Studies, at University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Jason focused his M.F.A. work on the representation of the War on Terror in American film, with his thesis exploring three specific genres: “the combat film, the returning soldier film, and the espionage film.” Upon entering the Ph.D. program, he will pull in additional film genres, and take advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of the program to analyze war and media, representations of white masculinity in Southern-themed films, and portrayals of history. Jason will be working with Professor Deborah Jaramillo, Associate Professor of Film & Television and Graduate Film & Television Studies Program Director, and Professor Roy Grundmann, Associate Professor of Film Studies.

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

Megan Hermida Lu double majored as an undergraduate in English and Literary & Cultural Studies at the College of William & Mary, and has just completed her M.F.A. in Film & Television Studies here at BU. Her M.F.A. thesis, entitled “Orientals: Representations of Asian Americans in Early Hollywood,” examines how Hollywood’s use of yellowface influenced the marginalization of Asian Americans within the United States. Megan will take advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of our Ph.D. program to examine the representation of race, nationality, and gender on screen. She will be continuing to work with her M.F.A. advisor, Professor Roy Grundmann, Associate Professor of Film Studies.

Emily Palombella completed her B.A. in Art History and Spanish Language & Literature at Loyola University followed by her M.A. in Folklore from Indiana University. Her M.A. thesis “Between Highlands and Woodlands: Iroquois Adaptations of Scottish Glengarry Hats” stemmed from participation in the Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History. This research and her experience working at the NMNH allowed Emily the opportunity to “explore [her] interests in museums through patterns of collecting and the chains of ownership of both objects and ideas.” She is eager to continue her academic career at BU, with a focus on material culture, museum studies, and vernacular architecture. Emily will be working with Professor William Moore, AMNESP Director and Associate Professor of American Material Culture.

Madeline Webster earned her B.A. in History with a minor in American Studies from Boston College. Her proposed research in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century public spaces stems from her undergraduate studies as well as an internship at the Gibson House Museum in Boston. However, Madeline wants to stray from the strict architecture and design of urban space and instead “imagine ‘public space’ as both a physical location and the collective consciousness of a community.” Her hope is to use this research to shine light on “community voices marginalized in debates about the design of public spaces and in the forces that marginalized them.” Madeline will be working with Professor Daniel Bluestone, Director of the Preservation Studies Program and Professor of History of Art & Architecture.

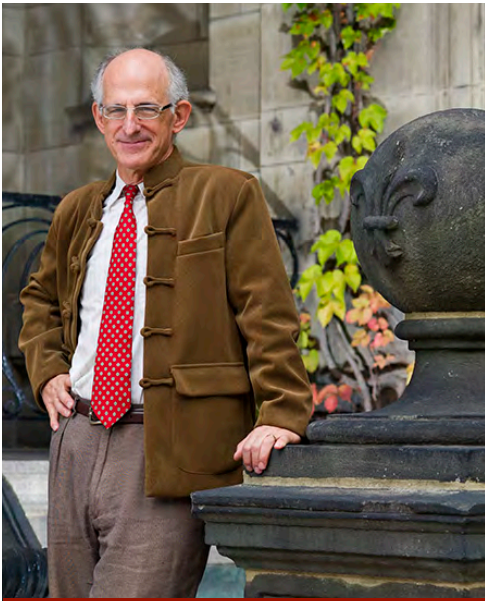
Marina Wells’ interest in the field of American Studies began while working toward her B.A. in English and Art History at Colby College. Some of her research as an undergraduate focused on gender and material culture in the nineteenth century, which forms the foundation for her future doctoral studies. Marina has worked in a variety of galleries and museums, and her long-term plans include academic and curatorial work. In these endeavors, she plans to deconstruct institutional systems of privilege and reframe heteronormative narratives. She will be working with Professor Ross Barrett, Associate Professor of American Art.

New Preservation Studies Faculty: Professor Jan Haenraets

Jan Haenraets joined our full-time faculty in January 2017 as a Professor of the Practice. He is a landscape architect and has spent years working in international heritage management, most recently focusing on developing a World Heritage designation for the Mughal Terrace Gardens in Kashmir, India. He worked previously at the National Trust for Scotland. Professor Haenraets will add an important international dimension to our strong program and focus on regional preservation within the American & New England Studies Program. He also will collaborate with people across the university interested in heritage management and stewardship. Please give Prof. Haenraets a warm welcome!



Preservation Studies Program Updates



Daniel Bluestone
Preservation Studies
Director

Professor, History of
Art & Architecture

This past year the Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop focused its research on the Brighton neighborhood. Today few people who live in or visit this dense urban neighborhood adjacent to Boston University are able to see the vestiges of Brighton's service as Boston's primary cattle market, slaughterhouse area, and meat packing district. Every year in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries hundreds of thousands of animals were killed here to provision Boston households. One of the important questions raised by Brighton's history was how the community was able to turn from slaughtering to a desirable place of suburban residence with pockets of dense urban apartment living. The answer lies partly in the area's varied topography; but it is also true that the slaughterhouse and associated business produced great wealth in Brighton, which created a prosperous residential landscape for locals that then served as a magnet for subsequent suburban residential development. The Workshop was able to explore how designers finessed the move to higher density by appropriating powerful elements of the iconic single-family house and rendering them visible in buildings intended to accommodate more than one family. In both Brighton, and in Jamaica Plain, where the Workshop focused its efforts in the previous year, it is possible to see designers of two-flats, and triple-deckers, and even six-flats disguising multiple-family housing in what at a glance might appear to be a large single-family mansion. The crafting of narratives related to buildings and places stands at the heart of preservation practice and the Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop takes advantage of Boston's storied landscape to train our students.

The planning and regulation of storied landscapes is work taken on by preservationists and we were again fortunate to have Professor Sara Wermiel teach the Preservation Studies Program's Preservation Planning course, which benefits by being able to tap experts in the Boston and Massachusetts preservation community to make presentations to the class and to have students visit their agencies. This year preservation advocacy and regulation played out right in our own backyard as the landmark Citgo sign in Kenmore Square seemed threatened with removal and demolition. Faculty and students participated in the ultimately successful campaign to preserve the sign.

Ross Barrett, Department of History of Art & Architecture, has officially received tenure and been promoted to Associate Professor. Professor Barrett also has been awarded the 2016 Frost Essay Award by the editorial board of *American Art*, published by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. This award is based upon Barrett's article "Bursting the Bubble: John Quidor's 'Money Diggers' and Land Speculation," which appeared in the Spring 2016 issue of the journal.

Daniel Bluestone, Director of the Preservation Studies Program, was active in the local effort to defend and preserve the iconic Citgo sign in Kenmore Square. His efforts received positive notice in *The Boston Globe*.

Bonnie Costello, Professor of English, has been named a William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor. The Warren Professorship is the highest recognition that BU bestows upon any faculty member.

Faculty Accomplishments

Ninja of Angola: Africa's Warrior Queen, by Linda M. Heywood, Professor of History and African American Studies and published by Harvard University Press, has received significant positive attention including a notice in *The New Yorker*.

William Moore, Director of AMNESP, joined the editorial board of *Winterthur Portfolio*, the world's preeminent journal devoted to interdisciplinary scholarship addressing American material culture.

As part of her fellowship at Harvard's Warren Center, Nina Silber, professor of History, presented a lecture entitled "'Slaves of the Depression': The Language of Enslavement in 1930s America."

Remembering Abbot Lowell Cummings 1923 – 2017

Abbot Lowell Cummings died on May 29, 2017, at the age of 94. Cummings, the preeminent scholar of 17th and 18th century architecture in New England, was one of the guiding spirits behind the founding of Boston University's American & New England Studies Program and taught within the program for many years. In 1979, Cummings wrote to James Henretta, then the director of AMNESP, that "the American and New England Studies program has been one of the most satisfying experiences of my life."

Born in Vermont in 1923, Cummings earned a B.A. and an M.A. from Oberlin College before receiving his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1950. He exhibited an early interest in the seventeenth-century architecture of Massachusetts, making it the topic of his 1946 Master's thesis. While pursuing his doctorate, he taught architectural history at Antioch College. Subsequently, he assumed a curatorial position in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.



In 1955, Cummings returned to New England to serve as Assistant Director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA), where he worked under the noted folk art collector Bertram Little. Cummings took over as Director of the SPNEA in 1970. Cummings began teaching courses as an adjunct professor at Boston University in the late 1960s, initially in the History Department. He subsequently served on a committee composed of BU faculty and representatives from local cultural institutions which proposed to the university administration the establishment of an interdisciplinary program to build upon the human and economic resources of various academic departments and local non-profits. Once AMNESP was established, Cummings became one of the nascent program's most recognized instructors. The strength of architectural history as a field of study within the program is largely Cummings' legacy.

Cummings left Boston in 1984 to serve as the Charles F. Montgomery Professor of American Decorative Art at Yale University. Upon his retirement from the institution located in New Haven, however, he returned for two years to teach as an Adjunct Professor within AMNESP and the Preservation Studies Program.

His students, many of whom have gone on to productive careers in American Studies, architectural history, material culture studies, historic preservation, and the museum field, admired both his scholarship and his pedagogy while aspiring to his intellectual and analytic rigor. The Vernacular Architecture Form, a scholarly organization which he served as founding president, annually bestows an award named after him for the best recent book in his chosen field of study.

William D. Moore



Fall 2016
Welcome Back

2016-2017
AMNESP Events



Paul "Hutch" Hutchinson (Ph.D. 2015) giving a gallery talk entitled "Rugged Communalism: Summer Camp, Education, and Democracy" at the Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth, N.H.



AMNESP at the Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

You're invited to...

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. This year's trip is scheduled for Sunday, August 27th, when the Paw Sox will take on the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, an affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. The game starts at 1:35 pm!

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.

This year AMNESP has purchased a limited number of reserved seats along the first base line so that we can be sure to sit together. Contact Julia Kline in the program office (jgawle@bu.edu) to claim (and purchase) your tickets. Don't hesitate or you may be disappointed when the seats sell out!



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