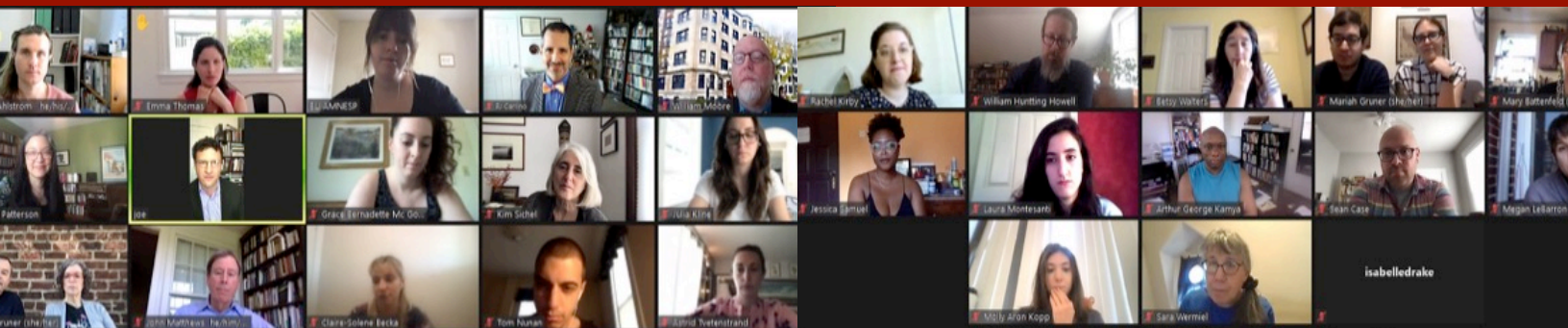


THE BOSTON AMERICANIST

American & New England Studies Program

BOSTON UNIVERSITY



CONTENTS

- 1-2 Director's Message
- 3 New Program Directors
- 4-5 Student Achievements
- 6 Incoming Students
- 7-8 Alumni News
- 9 Preservation Studies Updates
- 10 Remembering Mary Beaudry
- 11 Annual Donor List

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We all have endured a tumultuous fifteen months. In January of 2020, none could have predicted AMNESP would mark the end of the 2021 academic year with a celebration that was geographically dispersed yet mediated through an all-too-familiar electronic protocol. In an era when some believe that education should be vocational, detractors may question why a student would choose to pursue a university degree in American Studies. For perceptive individuals, the answer is clearly that our interdisciplinary curriculum teaches skills, perspectives, and habits of mind that are invaluable to both employment and a fulfilling, engaged life.

Boston University's American & New England Studies Program has been training individuals in interdisciplinary investigation of American society and culture for half a century; but there has never been a more critical year for thinking analytically about national and global dynamics. *(Continued on pg. 2)*

Follow us on Facebook for future events, announcements, and more!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3379714767>

On a daily basis, the news has unrelentingly assaulted us with reports of systemic racism, environmental disaster, immigration conflict, disparate health outcomes, governmental dysfunction, conspiracy theories, not one but two impeachments, and even politically aggravated insurrection. Issues that have animated American Studies classroom syllabi and discussions for decades including settler colonialism, neo-liberalism, white supremacy, American exceptionalism, identity politics, gender dynamics, environmental exploitation, state power, and the clout of cultural constructions belatedly have become central to national discourse.

During this last year, I watched the continuous unwarranted killing of Americans of color, the mounting death count of a pandemic unhampered by governmental policy, children separated from their parents, and the ongoing disaster of climate change; as a global citizen, I frequently despaired for our nation, mourned for our fellow Americans, and feared for the future. Yet, as the Director of the American & New England Studies Program, I am thrilled to recognize that the training our program has offered to students (past, present, and future) promotes the ability to articulate issues, think critically about multiple perspectives, and envision a tomorrow that will be better than today. American Studies training prepares one for what BU administrators have dubbed “the world of work,” but more importantly this curriculum provides intellectual tools for understanding the cultural, political, and economic environment surrounding us and for navigating the existential issues of modern life.

This year's AMNESP graduates are exceptionally well prepared for learning from the trauma of the past year while applying their hard-earned Boston University education to whatever laudatory purposes they choose. Each has already demonstrated remarkable resiliency in completing a degree during a time of global pandemic when the University campus was largely vacant and many research institutions were shuttered. AMNESP students are to be congratulated and admired for their persistent scholarly performance in the face of such adversity.

An academic program is a diverse intergenerational enterprise brought together by a shared educational mission. I relish being associated with these students and with this program which continues to have the potential to make a profound impact upon our scholarly and civic communities.



Director
American & New England Studies Program and
Associate Professor of American Material Culture
Department of History of Art & Architecture

NEW PROGRAM DIRECTORS

A new team of Program Directors will lead the American & New England Studies Program during the 2021-22 academic year. Joseph Rezek, Associate Professor in the Department of English, will take over as Director of the Program. John Matthews, Professor of English, will serve a second year as Director of Graduate Studies. Mary Battenfeld, Clinical Professor of American Studies within AMNESP, will take on the role of Director of Undergraduate Studies. Jan Haenraets, Professor of the Practice, will once again assume the responsibilities of Director of the Preservation Studies Program.

Tess McBride joined us as Program Administrator in March of 2021, following Julia Kline's resignation in January after almost five years.



Dr. Joseph Rezek



Dr. John Matthews



Dr. Mary Battenfeld



Dr. Jan Haenraets

Aaron Ahlstrom published “Wealth and Beauty in Trees’: State Forestry and the Revitalization of Massachusetts’s Rural Cultural Landscape, 1904–1919” in *Buildings and Landscapes: The Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*.

Betsy Walters, Reut Odinak, and Gaëlle Bouaziz all wowed the crowd with the papers they presented at the annual (virtual) conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.

Julia Carroll won a Short Term Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship of \$5650 from the Graduate School to allow travel to the United Kingdom to do research in the archives of Westminster College in support of her dissertation.

Mariah Gruner’s dissertation was awarded the 2021 Keith N. Morgan Dissertation Prize by the Department of History of Art & Architecture. This prize is awarded annually to the best doctoral dissertation written under the direction of a faculty member in HAA.

Arthur Kamy won a prize from the BU Center for the Humanities to support his dissertation research.

The American Society for Environmental History awarded the J. Donald Hughes Graduate Research Fellowship to **Alyssa Kreikemeier**. She also was selected as the American Historical Association and NASA 2021–22 Fellow in Aerospace History. This prestigious fellowship is offered annually by NASA to support significant scholarly research projects in aerospace history. In addition, Aly was selected as a 2021 National Humanities Without Walls Pre-Doctoral Fellow. As a Career Diversity Workshop Fellow, she will participate in a Career Diversity Summer Workshop which aims to help PhD students make the most of their humanities training and knowledge as they consider employment both in the academy and beyond it.

2021 GRADUATES

Aaron Ahlstrom (PhD)

“Revitalizing Forests: Multiple Management and the Evolving Landscapes of Massachusetts’s State Forests and Parks, 1891-1941”

Mariah Gruner (PhD)

“...Has Ever Been the Appropriate Occupation of Woman’: Crafting Femininity in American Woman’s Decorative Needlework, 1820 to 1920”

Jessica Samuel (PhD)

“From Virgin Land to Virgin Islands: Conserving ‘America’s Paradise’”

Emma Thomas (PhD)

“Art Against Docility Visual Culture and Imperialism in Late Nineteenth-Century Hawai’i”

MA – American Studies:

Grace McGowan

MA – Preservation Studies:

Mark McDonnell

Laura Montesanti

Evan O’Connor

Alise Perault

Akil Sokoli

Joseph Van Den Berg

BA – American Studies

Claire-Solene Becka

Molly Kopp

Grace Mc Gowan's essay "'I Know I Can't Change the Future, But I Can Change the Past': Toni Morrison, Robin Coste Lewis, and the Classical Tradition" was published in *Contemporary Women's Writing*. Grace also won an honorable mention in competition for the 2021 Mary Kelly Prize from the New England American Studies Association for her paper "'This Fault'ring Music Dies Upon My Tongue': Phillis Wheatley and the Classical Tradition."

Perri Meldon published a review of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in *American Quarterly*.

The Haddassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University presented **Samantha Pickette** speaking on "Suffering, Stereotypes, and Psychosis: The Representation of Jewish Femininity in the CW Series 'Crazy Ex-Girlfriend.'" The Institute also gave Samantha a 2021 Research Award noting that her work will make an important contribution to the field of Jewish Women's and Gender Studies

The Magazine of the Decorative Arts Trust published an article by **Kayli Rideout** about her research on windows commemorating the Confederacy that were created by Tiffany. She also will serve a BUCH Public Humanities internship at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Astrid Tvetenstrand was awarded a Short-Term Research Fellowship by the New York Public Library to conduct research for her dissertation, presented a paper at the virtual annual meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, and will serve a BUCH Public Humanities internship at the Peabody Essex Museum.

Maddie Webster presented a paper as part of the virtual Vernacular Architecture Forum conference.

Genna Weidner landed an internship for the summer of 2021 working in fundraising and development at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

MA CANDIDATES:

Morgan Day recently graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a degree in Art History and minors in Archaeology and History. She has worked on sites like the McLellan House and the Rebecca Nurse Homestead and been a project manager at the Pejepscot History Center's Skolfield Whittier House Museum. This past Spring, she co-curated the newest exhibition at the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Research centered on the effects of COVID-19 on travel. She is looking forward to the Preservation MA program, and is eager to further her knowledge in archaeology, preservation, collections, and archives

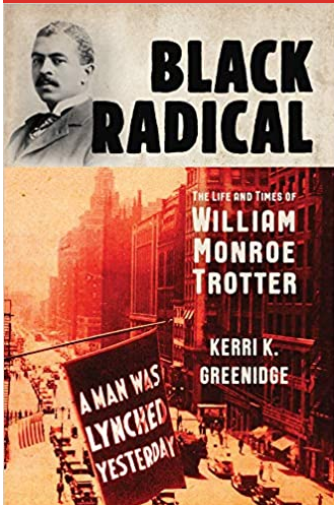
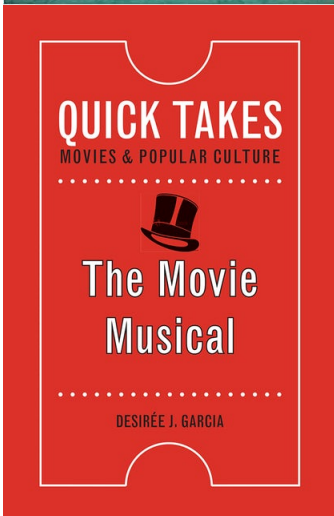
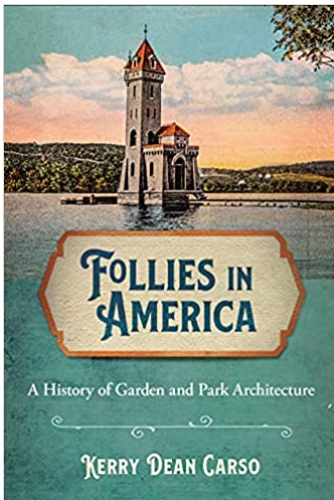


David Lewis is joining the Preservation Studies program after graduating Boston University with his B.A. in History this past May. His interests within the field include Public History and the intersection of preservation and environmentalism. Outside of the classroom, David enjoys hiking, camping, reading, and watching sports.

Kristen Dahlmann graduated from Harvard University's The Landscape Institute in 2008. She is the founder of Dogwood Design, a design firm specializing in residential landscape in children's playscapes. She is a master gardener who merged her lifelong love of horticulture and functional design. She also has a deep appreciation for history and the American story.

Laura Ashley Turner graduated from the University of Arkansas in December of 2020 earning a Bachelor of Arts in History with an emphasis on War & Militaristic Strategy. Her passion for history is tied to preserving what remains. She writes: "I believe that every thing that exists has a narrative and how we choose to present this narrative is paramount."

Caitlin Lee recently graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston with a degree in History and minor in Criminology & Criminal Justice. She volunteered at the Catherine Spalding House in 2018, working to educate visitors about culture and refugee struggles. Her historical interests are varied and deep. She looks forward to working with communities while also understanding their past in the American landscape.



Rebekah Beaulieu (AMNESP Ph.D. 2017) and her work as director of Connecticut's Florence Griswold Museum were featured in an article in the [Spring 2021 issue of Preservation Magazine](#).

Anthony Buccitelli (AMNESP Ph.D. 2012), Associate Professor of American Studies and Communications at Penn State and Director of Penn State's Center for Folklore spent the year at UC Berkeley as Visiting Associate Professor of Folklore in the Department of Anthropology.

PJ Carlino (AMNESP Ph.D. 2020) had his article "[Tied to the Desk: The Somatic Experience of Office Work, 1870–1920](#)" published in [The Journal of Interior Design](#).

PJ also landed a tenure-track faculty position at California State University-Sacramento in a new program in Design Studies charged with building a curriculum around diverse frameworks for anti-racist/-colonialist/-classist/-sexist/-gendered discourse in design.

Brian Carso (AMNESP Ph.D. 2004) was profiled in the *PSBA Bulletin*, a publication of the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

Cornell University Press will publish [Follies in America: A History of Garden and Park Architecture](#) by **Kerry Carso** (AMNESP Ph.D. 2001).

Thomas Denenberg (AMNESP Ph.D. 2001) was featured in an article in *Maine Antiques Digest* about his acquisition of a Copley portrait for the Shelburne Museum.

Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello (AMNESP Ph.D. 2002) has been selected to be the Chair of the Board of [Mass Humanities](#), a statewide non-profit that promotes civic engagement through history, literature and philosophy.

Elysa Engelman (AMNESP Ph.D. 2003) had her "Abolitionists and Seaborne Fugitives in Coastal Eastern Connecticut: Escaping Slavery in New London, Mystic, and Stonington" included in [Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad](#) published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Desirée Garcia (AMNESP Ph.D. 2007) published [The Movie Musical](#) in [Rutgers University Press's Quick Takes series](#).

Kerri Greenidge (AMNESP Ph.D. 2012) was named the winner of the Massachusetts Historical Society's 2020 Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize for [Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter](#).

Adrea Hernandez (AMNESP Ph.D. 2018) joined the administration at the University of Notre Dame as Lead Survey Researcher and Consultant in the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research.

Hutch Hutchinson (AMNESP Ph.D. 2015) was featured [Vertical Playpen](#), a podcast during which he contextualized the history of American outdoor education in the nineteenth century.

Veronica Savory McComb (AMNESP Ph.D. 2010) [was appointed the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bryant University.](#)

The cover story of the [Fall issue of the University of San Diego Magazine](#) featured an interview with **Channon Miller** (AMNESP Ph.D. 2017) who spoke powerfully about systemic racism.

The University of Massachusetts Press published [Shaker Fever: America's Twentieth-Century Fascination with a Communitarian Sect](#) by **William Moore** (AMNESP Ph.D. 1999).

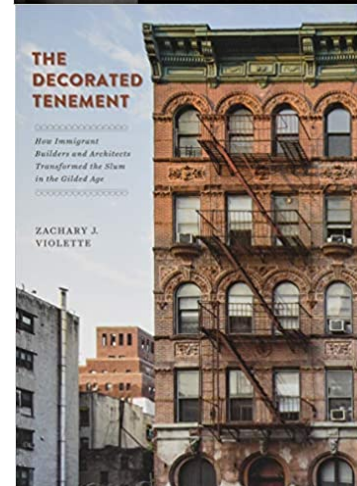
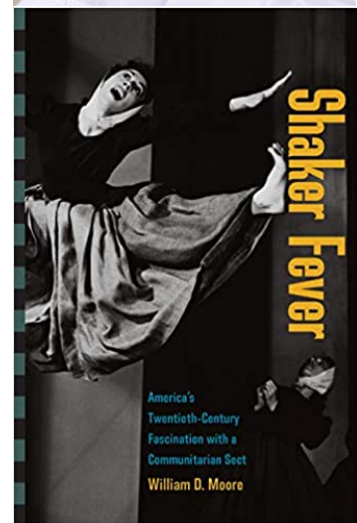
Plymouth State University presented **Rebecca Noel** (AMNESP Ph.D. 1999) with their annual Excellence in Faculty Service Award.

Kate Viens (AMNESP Ph.D. 2020) started a new job as Director of Education at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation in Waltham and welcomed her first grandchild.

Zachary Violette's (AMNESP Ph.D. 2014) [The Decorated Tenement](#) won the Society of Architectural Historians' Spiro Kostof Book Award. This award honors "interdisciplinary studies of urban history that make the greatest contribution to our understanding of the growth and development of cities." *The Decorated Tenement* also received the 2019 Fred B. Kniffen Book Award from the International Society for Landscape, Place, & Material Culture

Barbara McLean Ward (AMNESP Ph.D. 1982) joined the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire as Senior Grant Writer and Program Developer.

Gerald W. R. Ward (AMNESP Ph.D. 1983) gave a virtual lecture at the Portsmouth (N.H.) Historical Society entitled ["Color & Comfort: Quilts in Context."](#)



PRESERVATION STUDIES: “THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME”

At the end of the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy clicks her heels together and says over and over “There is no place like home.” As Boston University, and the world beyond, faced the scourge of the covid-19 pandemic, Dorothy’s line seemed particularly apt. Social distance protocols underscored the fact that home is often blessed as our most safe and familiar place. There is also no place like place. Preservation Studies aims to narrate and engage place, and home. It hones strategies for narrating place as part of a broader effort at strengthening people’s connections to locality and to each other, to build social capital in places. Site-specific, place-centered, research, exploration, and understanding is at the core of preservation and heritage conservation work. Thus, the pandemic has posed some particular difficulties for Preservation Studies. Nevertheless, it has been a particularly productive year. The Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop focused its work on Winter Hill in Somerville. Of particular interest were the builder strategies for increasing residential densities in Somerville, a city which became the densest city in New England in the late-nineteenth century. Of particular interest, were the Terrace, Court, Circle, Place and Parks—a distinct Somerville vernacular—the construction of narrow, dead end, midblock streets that permitted a notable increase in residential density. The workshop also explored three-flats, row houses, and apartment buildings and scrutinized the subdivision of single-family houses into flats and apartments. Finally, the workshop analyzed the construction, and later additions to the Mystic River and Mystic View state and federal public housing projects. Wearing masks, the class was able to do walking tours and research of Winter Hill.



The focus on place continued with a number of thoughtful individual capstone graduation projects in the fall semester: Mark McDonnell worked on a National Register of Historic Places eligibility assessment of the historic port and waterfront in Portland, Maine; Laura Montesanti scrutinized the adaptive re-use efforts in Harbor Point, an industrial district in Stamford, Connecticut; Evan O’Connor extended his internship at the Minute Man National Historical Park with research on the Old Manse in Concord; Alise Perault worked on issues arising from the demolition by neglect of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Boston’s South End Historic District; Akil Sokoli explored the possibilities for heritage adaptive re-use of the Rozafa Castle as a museum in Shkoder, Albania; and Joseph Van Den Berg explored the issue of heritage and authenticity by comparing visitor experiences at Colonial Williamsburg and Disneyland.

As we all look forward to the post-pandemic world, our students and recent graduates aim to do what they do best, help make historic places, engaging and meaningful; there is no place like home; there is no place like place.

DANIEL BLUESTONE

REMEMBERING MARY BEAUDRY

Prof. Mary Beaudry, a long-time affiliate of AMNESP, passed away in October of 2020. An historical archaeologist, she was respected and beloved by generations of students.

Mary became enamored of archaeology while an undergraduate at the College of William & Mary. After receiving a B.A., she entered graduate school at Brown University where she studied with James Deetz. Upon earning her Ph.D. in 1980, she took a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Boston University. She spent the rest of her career at BU, where, because of her interest in historic foodways, in 2010 she also became a Professor in the Gastronomy Program within the University's Metropolitan College.

In the 1980s, Prof. Beaudry worked on excavations on the Boott Mills, an important textile-manufacturing compound in Lowell, Massachusetts. In recent years, she made important scholarly contributions based upon evidence of a brothel uncovered during Boston's "Big Dig" which submerged Route 93 running through the city. Her extensive career cannot be adequately summarized in this limited space. The author and editor of five books and numerous journal articles, Beaudry was influential in her field. In 2013, she won the J. C. Harrington Medal from the Society for Historical Archaeology, the highest honor in the field.

She was renowned for her dry wit, her love of good food and fine drink, and her support for her students. She will be missed.



MARY BEAUDRY (1950 – 2020)

DONORS TO THE AMNESP GIFT FUND FISCAL YEAR

2020/2021

The following individuals made financial contributions to the American & New England Studies Program during this golden anniversary year. Their support has helped to build a firm foundation for the next fifty years.

David E. Brody
Philip J. Carlino
Sean M. Case
Daniel Defraia
Jamie Devol
Catherine L. Dossett
William H. Edmonstone
Paul J. Edwards
Austin S. Erwin
Yanzhe Feng
John S. Gordon
Mariah R. Gruner
Carol Hawrylcw
Arthur G. Kamy
Rachel C. Kirby
Grace B. Mc Gowan
William D. Moore
Charlotte Emans Moore

Keith N. Morgan
Kevin D. Murphy
Thomas W. Nunan
Samuel R. Palfreyman
Anita H. Patterson
Gretchen M. Pineo
Arno Puskar
Susan M. Reverby
Kayli R. Rideout
Katharine Riker
Janna S. Schwartz
Earle G. Shettleworth
Charles I. Stevenson
Emma P. Thomas
Astrid G. Tvetenstrand
Chris Tvetenstrand
James L. West
Paul M. Wright

THANK YOU!