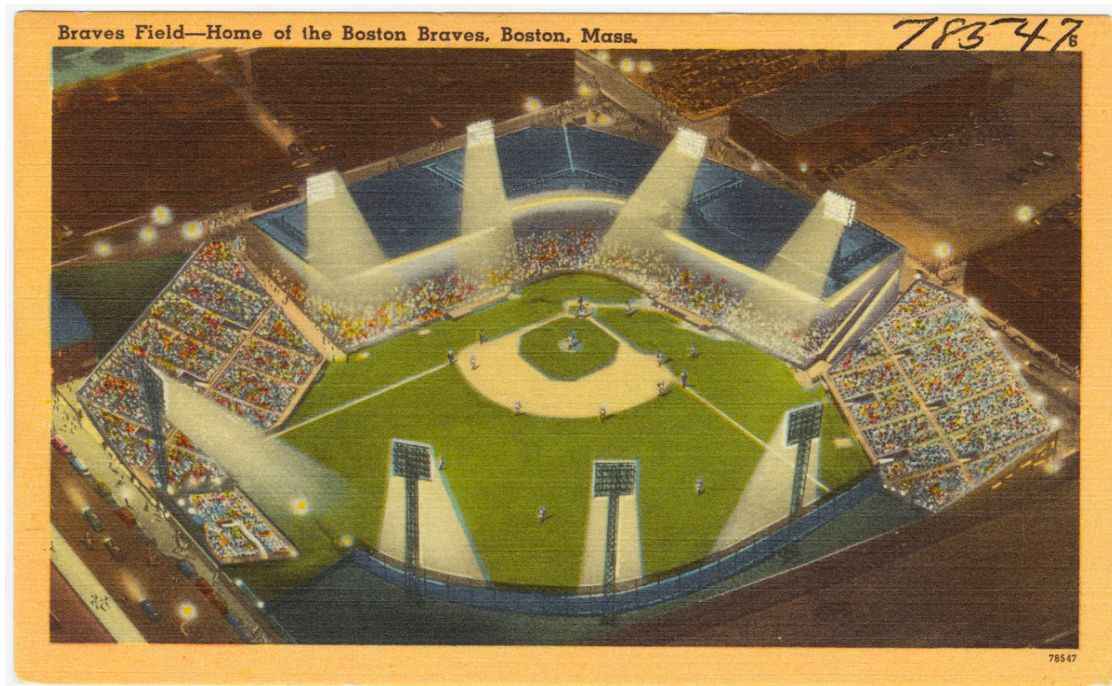


The Boston Americanist



July 2015

American & New England Studies Program

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Boston University

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The past academic year marked a time of impressive student achievements, exciting public programs, and important programmatic developments for the American and New England Studies Program.

Professor Daniel Bluestone, newly hired as the Director of our Preservation Studies Program, began a significant re-tooling of that program, both in terms of curriculum and the place of the program in the Boston preservation community. Professor Bluestone launched an active outreach campaign designed to start conversations with alumni of the program as well as preservation professionals around Boston. That campaign began with a hugely successful program, “Sert Sunday”, a public event in October 2014 in which renowned architect Henry Moss discussed the preservation of the Sert Law Tower on the BU Campus. Through these kinds of events, Professor Bluestone seeks to remind us of BU’s long-standing commitment to preservation in Boston and to help the university re-claim a central place in discussions about Boston’s urban landscape. You can read more about Professor Bluestone’s ideas and his vision for the Preservation Program in BU’s Arts & Sciences Magazine: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/spring15/tear/>

Professor Bluestone also introduced another important innovation to the AMNESP curriculum. In Spring 2015 he launched a new multi-disciplinary course, *AM 202: What’s Boston?* Drawing on the expertise of faculty in a wide range of disciplines – from history to geology to sociology – AM 202 is designed to introduce students both to many of the disciplines offered at BU as well as to the rich resources of the Boston area.

The PhD program continues to flourish as our students have been writing and defending outstanding dissertations, presenting fascinating papers at a wide range of conferences, winning important prizes and awards and, not least importantly, getting jobs. You can read more about specific accomplishments below. You can also read more about the outstanding students who will be joining both the PhD and MA programs in the fall.

During 2014-2015, AMNESP hosted a series of public programs focused on the theme “New England and the World”, a rubric that drew on the interests of a broad range of students and faculty across the university. This included

three public lectures, including one by prize-winning historian **Greg Grandin**, of New York University, which was taped for WBUR's "World of Ideas" program. Listen to the full lecture here: <http://worldofideas.wbur.org/2015/05/10/grandin>. Our PhD students also, as part of this theme, organized a successful graduate student conference in October 2014 that drew together participants from across the country and abroad.

This past spring saw the first of what we anticipate will be an annual lecture series on fraternalism and American culture. Thanks to **Professor William Moore** who has built a close relationship with the Boston University Lodge, we secured generous financial support from the Lodge and were able to sponsor a lecture by **David Hackett**, Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Florida.

Finally, the end of June will mark the end of **Nina Silber**'s term as the Director of AMNESP. While director, Professor Silber spearheaded efforts to remake the Preservation Program and bring Professor Bluestone to BU. She encouraged the development of a range of new courses including team-taught interdisciplinary courses on Boston and baseball, as well as a new undergraduate course on internships in public history. She worked closely with the Director of Graduate Studies to improve advising of PhD students, to strengthen connections with PhD advisees, and to recruit high-level PhD students. And she organized exciting public programs for AMNESP, including a year of events devoted to "Political Culture/Cultural Politics" and a second year on "New England and the World." On July 1 **Professor William Moore**, an Associate Professor in the History of Art and Architecture department and an expert on US material culture, will take the helm.

Achievements in the PhD Program:

The following students successfully defended their dissertations during the 2014-2015 academic year:

Evan Barros: "Sonic Utopia and Social Dystopia in the Music of Hendrix, Reznor, and Deadmau5"

Paul Hutchinson: "Crafting an Outdoor Classroom: The Nineteenth-Century Roots of the Outdoor Education Movement"

Mary Potorti: "For Food, For Freedom": The Black Freedom Struggle and the Politics of Food"

Casey Riley : “From Page to Stage: Isabella Stewart Gardner’s Photograph Albums and the Development of her Museum, 1874-1924”

Karen Robbins: “Discipline and Polish: Designing the ‘Family System’ at the Connecticut Industrial School for Girls, 1868-1921”

George Schwartz: “‘Collecting and Arranging...a History of the Globe’: A Reconsideration of the Salem East India Marine Society and Antebellum American Museology”



In May, we celebrated the graduation of students in both our BA and PhD programs.

Other noteworthy accomplishments, from both current students and recent alums, include:

P.J. Carlino won the award for best Teaching Fellow.

Tessa Croker won a GRS Summer Research award.

Jamie Devol presented her paper, "The Romantic-Pragmatist: Louis H. Sullivan and The Autobiography of an Idea Reconsidered" at the American and New England Studies Program GSA Conference.

Paul Edwards received a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service to conduct research in Germany next year.

Niki Lefebvre won a GRS Summer Research award and a BU Humanities Center dissertation fellowship.

Sarah Leventer won a BU Humanities Center award.

Amanda Mayo presented her paper, "A Suitcase Full of Kimchi: Korean American Identity Formation through Food Gifts" at the ASDA/AFHVS Conference at the University of Vermont.

Channon Miller won a BU Humanities Center award and the Whitney Young Fellowship for 2015-2016.

Emma Newcombe won the David Hall prize and a GRS Summer Research award.

Matt Noferi presented his paper, "'White Line Fever' to 'East Bound and Down': the Trucker in Popular Culture and the 'Southernization' of America, 1963-1978" at the National Popular Culture Association-American Culture Association Conference" in New Orleans.

Mary Potorti presented her paper, "Coming of Age Hungry in Mississippi" at the Southern Foodways Conference at the University of Mississippi.

Rob Ribera presented his paper "Asleep to Believe it: George Carlin's American Dream" at the American Humor Studies Association 2014 Quadrennial Conference in New Orleans.

Casey Riley has been appointed as Curatorial Research Fellow at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. She also presented her paper, "Self-Assembled: Isabella Stewart Gardner's Photographic Albums and the Development of her Museum, 1903-1924," at the American Studies Association meeting in Los Angeles.

George Schwartz has been appointed as Curatorial Scholar at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. George was also this year's graduate student speaker at the GRS hooding ceremony. He also presented his paper, "Collecting and Arranging...a History of the Globe': The Salem East India Marine Society Museum and the Formation of American Identity" at the American and New England Studies Program GSA Conference.

Ian Stevenson presented two papers: "Contesting Dams: Cultural Preservation vs. National Conservation" at the Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting in Chicago and "The American Underground Frontier: Boston Subway Construction and Photography, 1894-1897" at the American and New England Studies Program GSA Conference.

Jared Champion (PhD 2013) received a tenure-track appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Young Harris College.

Mike D'Alessandro (PhD 2014) received a Mellon Foundation fellowship to conduct research at the Harry Ransom Center at UT Austin.

Patricia Stuelke (PhD 2013) received a tenure-track appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Dartmouth College

Achievements of AMNESP Undergraduates:

Thomas Pelkey was awarded the CAS College Prize, given to graduating CAS seniors.

Andy Ho received funding from CAS to present his paper on *Life* Magazine in the 1920s at the Eastern American Studies Association Conference at Rowan University in New Jersey.

Achievements of AMNESP Faculty:

AMNESP Director **Nina Silber** delivered two endowed lectures: the Lampros lecture at Weber State in Ogden, Utah and the 53rd Annual Fortenbaugh Lecture in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Both lectures looked at aspects of Professor Silber's new research on remembering and commemorating the Civil War in 1930s America. A revised version of the Fortenbaugh lecture will be published in the *Journal of the Civil War Era* in September 2015.

Marilyn Halter published two books this year: *African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America* with Violet Showers Johnson (NYU Press) and her co-edited collection, *What's New about the "New" Immigration? Traditions and Transformations in the United States since 1965* (Palgrave Macmillan). She gave several invited lectures in conjunction with the publication of *African & American* including at Harvard University, Texas A & M University, University of Texas, Austin, The New Bedford Historical Society and The Sippican Historical Society. She was also a Project Scholar for the Organization of American Historians and the National Park Service at the Lowell Historical National Park.



*Marilyn Halter and Violet Showers Johnson, co-authors of the book *African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America*, cut the cake at their book party in March.*

Keith Morgan was inducted as a Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians at their annual meeting in Chicago in April. He has announced that he will retire from Boston University in June of 2016, but he will be on leave of absence during the spring semester of 2016. His essay titled "'The City of Ideas: the 1965/75 Boston General Plan'" will appear in the anthology, *Heroic: Concrete Architecture and the New Boston, 1960-1975*, expected from Monacelli Press later this year. He has given public lectures this academic year at the Museum of Fine Arts; Massachusetts Historical Society; the landscape history chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, Chicago; the ABX conference in Boston; the Arsenal, Central Park, New York City; and at the Boston Society of Architects.

Anita Patterson will serve a three-year term on the T. S. Eliot Society's Board of Directors.

Bruce Schulman co-edited two books: *Faithful Republic: Religion and Politics in the 20th Century United States*, co-edited with Andrew Preston and Julian Zelizer, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015) and *Recapturing the Oval*

Office: New Historical Approaches to the American Presidency, co-edited with Brian Balogh, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, forthcoming August 2015). He also published two articles: "Inventing the Media Presidency," *Reviews in American History* 43, (March 2015): 110-115 and "Farewell to the 'Smoke-Filled Room': Parties, Interests, Public Relations, and the Election of 1924," in Gareth Davies and Julian Zelizer eds., *America at the Ballot Box*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015). Finally, he was also named National Semifinalist for the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teachers.

Kim Sichel received the Henderson Senior Research Fellowship, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2015-16. She also published: "'Contortions of Technique': Germaine Krull's Experimental Photography" in Mitra Abbaspour, Lee Ann Daffner, and Maria Morris Hambourg, eds. *Object:Photo. Modern Photographs: The Thomas Walther Collection 1909-1949; an Online Project of the Museum of Modern Art*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 2014, <http://www.moma.org/interactives/objectphoto/assets/essays/Sichel.pdf>; "Germaine Krull: Fotografien im Auftrag der Freien Französischen Streitkräfte 1942-1944 [Germaine Krull's Photographs for the Free French Forces, 1942 to 1944]," *Fotogeschichte* 134 (2014), 45-54; and "Lee Friedlander, *The American Monument*, and Eakins Press," *Exposure* 47.1 (Spring 2014): 40-54. Her lecture and conference presentations included: "Making Strange: French Modernist Photographic Books," Cooper Union, New York, February 2015; "Labor in a Single Shot" Conference, Respondent, Goethe Institut, Boston, November, 2014; "Found Photos in Detroit," Boston University Art Gallery, October 2014 and "Photography on the Road," Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, March 2014.

New Students in the MA and PhD Programs:

We are excited to welcome the following students to our PhD Program this fall:

Megan LeBarron received an MA in English in 2014 from Boston College, and has been working as an adjunct instructor at Boston College. She is interested in regionalism and urban space in American literature and material culture, particularly in the Midwest, in often overlooked cities like Detroit, Milwaukee, and St. Louis, and has written on the cultural importance of overlooked sites such as the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Cleveland, her hometown.

Sean Case received an MA in English from Boston College in 2011. Since 2011, he has been an instructor of English at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and has served in the military for eleven years. He has written on the perpetuation of Cold War narratives in the television series *24*, and on Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep* as the author's World War I memoir. He is interested in the relationship between the U.S. military and American culture in contemporary American texts, visual culture, and history.

Mariah Gruner received a BA in Anthropology in 2013 from Tufts University, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and won the Department of Anthropology Prize and the Class of 1942 Prize Scholarship. She has been living in Richmond, Virginia, working as an academic advisor at the University of Richmond. She is interested in American material culture, and in the connections between embroidery and the construction of femininity, both in earlier American culture and in contemporary culture.

Samantha Pickette received her MS in Journalism from Boston University's College of Communications in January 2015, and holds a 2013 BA in History from Harvard University where she studied the history of science. Expanding on her masters thesis on Holocaust-related humor by Jewish-American comedians, she plans to study the experiences of American Jews during the 20th century and ways in which literature, film, television, and other art forms reflect the social and political atmosphere of Jewish life in America.

Thomas Nunan received a BA in History and Literature from Harvard University in 2015. He is interested in the early years of the Republic, and in 19th century literature and history both before and after the Civil War, and in the culture of religion in America, both in primary texts and in literature. His senior thesis studies the death of early Massachusetts religious leaders through a close and contextual analysis of elegies written for them. His interests span literature, history, and religion.

Frankie Vanaria received an MFA in Film Studies from Boston University's College of Communication in 2014. He wrote an MA thesis on the Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro and the image of the body. This year he has been a writing tutor in the College of Communications Writing Center. He is interested in theories of psychoanalysis and ideology and their intersections with formal film analysis, and in the effects of embodiment and the representation of children

in the media.

We will also be welcoming the following students into our MA Preservation Program:

Aleen Stanton arrives from Acadia University in Nova Scotia where she majored in history and completed a thesis project on William James and the Gilded Age. She is a guitar player and songwriter and follows a special path to Boston blazed by many former residents of Nova Scotia.

Nathan Curwen arrives from Pennsylvania State University where he majored in history. He was inspired to pursue training in preservation after serving public history internships at the York County Heritage Trust and the Huntingdon County Historical Society. He brings to Boston University a special eye for landscape, having worked as a country club greens keeper in Hershey, PA.

Patrick Powers arrives from Pennsylvania State University where he majored in the history of art and architecture. He has a special interest in Georgian and Federal styles of American architecture. During his studies at Penn State he worked on a team as a member of a team that explored the restoration of parts of the University President's 1920s Tudor Mansion. He also enjoyed his work as an amateur artist.

*Finally, the AMNESP community is thrilled to welcome Hazel Jane Dawley, born on May 10 2015, and daughter of PhD student **Megan Dawley**.*



Looking Ahead to 2015-2016:

Stay tuned for new developments coming next year including a new lecture series, a graduate student conference that is being planned in conjunction with Historic New England and the BU Initiative on Cities in March 2016 on the theme of “The Dynamic City: Futures for the Past”, and more! Aside from welcoming Will Moore as the new Director, we’re also excited to have Professor **Hunt Howell** on board as the new Director of Graduate Studies and Professor **Marie Abe** as the new Director of Undergraduate Studies.

And, of course, don't forget to join us for our annual **AMNESP at the Paw Sox** event – Tuesday September 1 at 6:05 PM at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket!