

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST



BU HISTORY
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

SPRING
2023

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

JAMES JOHNSON, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR



Dear friends of the BU History Department,

The end of classes is at once festive and bittersweet, bringing much to celebrate and a twinge of regret. Finals are finished, mortar boards have soared through the air at Commencement, jubilant photos with family have been snapped And with it comes the realization that close friends and favorite spots may soon be miles away.

This edition of *The Presence of the Past* furnishes plenty to celebrate. In April, nearly 100 colleagues, friends, family members, and students gathered to toast the careers of six retiring History professors: Lou Ferleger, Erik Goldstein, Jim McCann, John Roberts, Jim Schmidt, and Diana Wylie. Together they contributed more than 150 years of service to Boston University. A conservative calculation reckons that they taught more than 20,000 BU students. Their scholarship is lasting and important. The department is enriched by their continuing influence. We'll also actively miss them.

We also celebrate Cady Steinberg, who has received the highest honor the college gives for administrative service, the Susan K. Jackson Award. Dean Jackson, a scholar of French literature whose work in the CAS Dean's office combined decency, wit, and a fierce attention to detail, was widely admired. Cady Steinberg's work represents the comprehensive knowledge and professional expertise Dean Jackson embodied. This prestigious award is a high honor for her, and it brings distinction to the department.

In May, two colleagues received the happy news of promotion from the Provost. Paula Austin and Andy Robichaud are now Associate Professors with tenure. Professor Austin's book *Coming of Age in Jim Crow D. C.* tells the story of a group of young African Americans growing up in the nation's capital in the first half of the twentieth century. Professor Robichaud's *Animal City* describes the ways animals helped shape the commerce, layout, and character of America's urban spaces.

The accomplishments of the department's undergraduate majors are prominent in this issue, which features prize-winners from BU's Center for the Humanities and descriptions of a student-led scholarly conference and the new undergraduate history journal *Aevum*. There are profiles as well of Priscilla Bright, winner of the department's College Prize, and Mairead Downes, winner of the department's Ault Prize.

The thirteenth annual graduate student conference, sponsored by the American Political History Institute, featured a number of participants from Boston University, which hosted the event. The department's graduate students also spoke at the conference "Space Across the Humanities" at Northeastern University.

These and other stories in this issue describe a community that is active and engaged. Its events reflect the commitment of students, staff, and faculty to shared and individual achievement. May the summer months ahead replenish the reserves with the right combination of rest, relaxation, and productivity.

James Johnson
Chair and Professor, Department of History

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HISTORY RETIREMENT PARTY

ON APRIL 4TH, 2023, THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT CELEBRATED THE RETIREMENT OF SEVERAL FACULTY MEMBERS. WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR THEIR TIME AND DEDICATION TO THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT, AND WE WISH THEM ALL A VERY HAPPY RETIREMENT. VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO [VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#) FROM THE EVENT HONORING:



LOUIS FERLEGER

ERIK GOLDSTEIN

JAMES MCCANN

JON ROBERTS

JAMES SCHMIDT

DIANA WYLIE



STAFF NEWS

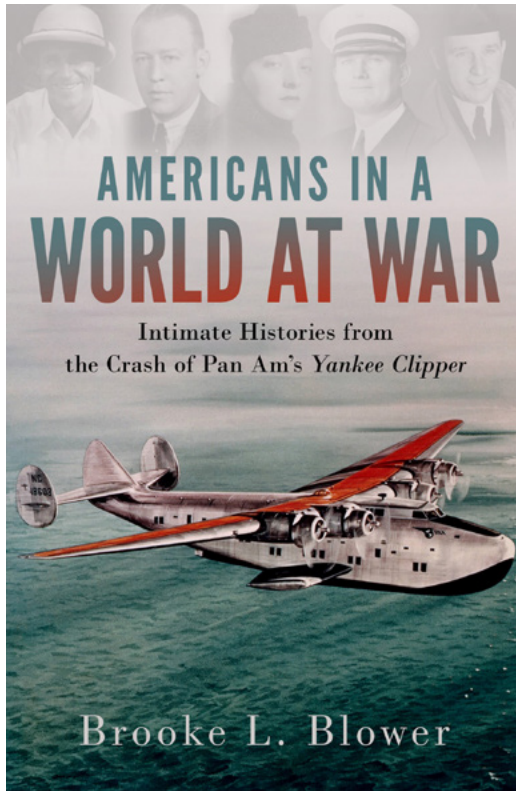
CADY STEINBERG, HISTORY'S DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR, WINS 2023 SUSAN K. JACKSON AWARD



The Susan K. Jackson Award honors the late Susan K. Jackson, who served as a professor and administrator in the College of Arts and Sciences for over 30 years. The awardees embody her spirit in their dedication to helping others and nurturing community in CAS. The History Department is exceptionally proud to announce that the 2023 staff recipient of the Susan Jackson award is our very own, **Cady Steinberg**, who manages History as Department Administrator.

Cady has been a dedicated member of the History Department for five years, and as the Department Administrator, she has deftly managed and strengthened an exceedingly complex community of faculty and students. Cady has worked to improve the day-to-day organization and operations, kept faculty in the loop about department and university procedures, and orchestrated special events that have helped to strengthen the department's culture and sense of community. She has expertly balanced her roles as an administrator facilitating processes critical to College operations and as someone who readily provides her expertise, resources, and time to ensure our community is well-informed and well-connected. Cady's nominators and colleagues effusively praised her leadership, guidance, knowledge of BU, and her ability to anticipate problems and opportunities in the History Department.

Brooke Blower gave the annual Lowell Harrison Distinguished Lecture at Western Kentucky University in March. The subject of her talk was her forthcoming book, *Americans in a World at War: Intimate Histories from the Crash of Pan Am's Yankee Clipper* (featured below), which will be released by Oxford University Press in August



Paula Austin received tenure this past May, changing her title to Associate Professor of History. Her promotion is in recognition and celebration of the exceptional contributions to scholarship, to teaching, and to service that she has made.

Cari Babitzke was accepted to the Society for U.S. Intellectual History with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (USIH-IUPUI) [Community Scholars](#) inaugural cohort. This new initiative had a highly competitive response, and Professor Babitzke will contribute her innovative scholarship in U.S. intellectual history.

Arianne Chernock published several pieces this past spring, including a piece with

WBUR entitled “Why we should care about the royals – and their scandals.” The article, which was published following the release of Prince Harry’s memoir “Spare,” can be [found on WBUR](#). In late April, Professor Chernock published an article with [The Conversation](#) ahead of the coronation, entitled “Biden’s coronation no-show is no snub – more telling is whom he sends to King Charles’ big day.” For the Washington Post, Professor Chernock published an [opinion piece](#) entitled “King Charles III’s coronation will be a site for politics.” Professor Chernock was also on NPR’s Morning Edition, interviewed about perceptions of King Charles. Listen to the interview, which poses the question, “As the U.K. prep for Charles’ coronation, what do Britons think of their new king?” [on NPR’s website](#). In early June, Professor Chernock contributed to a forum on “The Death of Queen Elizabeth II: Meaning and Media,” [published](#) in the *Journal of British Studies*.

On May 2, Professor Chernock gave a virtual talk, entitled “Why Americans Love the British Monarchy,” for the Smithsonian.

Jilene Chua accepted the offer to join our faculty as Assistant Professor of History. Jilene Chua is a socio-cultural legal historian of US race and empire, focusing on the Philippines. This fall, Professor Chua will be teaching [HI 372: Power and Pleasure in Asian America](#) and [HI 400 B1: Topics in History \(Paper Children, Tiger Parents: Capitalism and Asian American Families\)](#).

Rui Hua was a discussant at a Book Talk with Professor Zhao MA (Washington University St. Louis) about his forthcoming new book, *Seditious Voices in Revolutionary China, 1950-1953*. Professor Zhao examines the relationship between rumor-mongering and political propaganda during the Korean War campaign and offers a lens through which to study the transformation of urban informational space against the backdrop of war fever and emerging revolutionary politics in Mao’s China.

Eugenio Menegon, in a unanimous vote by the BU School of Theology Faculty on December 9, 2022, was invited to hold a secondary appointment in the School, joining Area A (an area that gathers biblical scholars, historians, and scholars of liturgical studies with a historical focus). The appointment was made in recognition of several years of Professor Menegon's partnership with STH, through his scholarship and teaching, collegiality, and support of students.

The Brink published an article about research conducted by Professor Menegon and Theology Professor Daryl Ireland. The article, "[What's behind Boom of Christianity in China?](#)" discusses the two faculty's efforts at mapping religion's history in China and explaining its rapid growth.

Professor Menegon was a visiting professor at his alma mater, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), where he gave three presentations on May 10 and 11, and June 6 (featured below). He also presented at the conference "Silk Roads: new ways to understand the relationships between East and West" in Turin (Italy) on May 17, and in Castorano (Ascoli Piceno, Marche, Italy), native town of the China Franciscan missionary Carlo Orazi (Kang Hezi, 1673-1755) on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of his birth. On May 25, Professor Menegon introduced the newly published Catalogue of Chinese Documents of the Propaganda Fide Historical Archives (1622-1830) at the National Research Council in Rome; and gave a talk on women in the early modern China mission at the Faculty of Theology of Frankfurt University (Germany) on June 1.



Simon Payaslian presented a paper entitled "A Global Forum for Restorative Justice: Armenian Lobbying at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, 1915," at the annual National Movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe ([NISE](#)) conference on "Nationalism and World Fairs," held at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, May 30–June 1, 2023, Vienna, Austria.

Sarah Phillips published an article last month with [The Journal of American History](#) entitled "The Price of Plenty: Getting Farm Policy Right in the 1960s." [Find a PDF of the entire article here.](#)

Andrew Robichaud received tenure this past May, changing his title to Associate Professor of History. His promotion is in recognition and celebration of the exceptional contributions to scholarship, to teaching, and to service that he has made.

Bruce Schulman discusses the actions of Lyndon B. Johnson and the effects of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 on his presidency in an [article for the Smithsonian Magazine](#).

Nina Silber devoted her leave of absence this spring to making progress on her new book project: a study of the mid-twentieth century "folk revival" that uses the life and experiences of my father, who was the editor of the foremost folk music magazine of the period, as a kind of springboard into the broader movement. She presented a paper on this at the BoCA LonGA conference at Stanford in March and also for a "Works in Progress" seminar in the department. She also explored her father's papers at the Southern Folklife Center at UNC-Chapel Hill and at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

John Thornton wrote an opinion piece in BU Today entitled, "POV: Florida Rejects AP African American Studies Course—Who Pays the Price?" [Read the entire piece on the BU Today website.](#)

Jonathan Zatlin was the 2023 recipient of the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Family Undergraduate Teaching Prizes in History. This award is given each year to one faculty member and one teaching fellow for excellence instructing the department's students.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

PAULA AUSTIN AND ANDREW ROBICHAUD RECEIVED TENURE THIS PAST MAY, CHANGING THEIR TITLES TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS OF HISTORY. THEIR PROMOTION IS IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF THE EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP, TEACHING, AND TO SERVICE THAT EACH OF THEM HAVE MADE.



APHI ANNUAL CONFERENCE



On Friday April 21st and Saturday April 22nd, graduate historians from the across the U.S. gathered at Boston University for the American Political History Institute’s 13th Annual Graduate Student Conference. This year’s theme was “Crisis and Catastrophe in U.S. History”, with presenters giving papers that spanned United States history from the Revolutionary Era to the 1990s. As always, there was a fascinating breadth of topics covered (including forays into equine history and to postwar Brazil). Day one concluded with an exceptional keynote speech by Chad Williams (Brandeis University) on W. E. B. DU Bois and the First World War. BU’s own Warren Dennis and Meghan Townes also presented papers.

Our organizers (Cole Parker, Henry Tonks, Meredith Barber, Tyler Quebedeaux, and Jenna Hagan) wish to thank all the presenters, commenters, panel moderators, and BU’s catering team. Crucial thanks are due to Cady Steinberg and Molly German, without whom this annual event would not be possible.

Featured: (top image) Henry Tonks, Dennis Wieboldt III, Meghan Townes, Isabella Villarinho Pereyra, and Chad Williams; (bottom image) Warren Dennis, Emily Irvine, Maya Gonzalez, and Katherine Jewell

The History Department wishes congratulations to the following PhD Candidates who completed their oral exams this spring:

**Meredith Barber
Ayushi Chauhan
Maria Koutsouris
Tyler Quebedeaux
Margot Rashba
Keara Sebold**

Seth Anderson successfully defended his dissertation on April 12, 2023.

Josh Castillo presented at the European Conference on African Studies in Cologne, Germany on June 3rd. He also had two articles published, one in *History in Africa*, and another article published in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* in December.

Warren Dennis received the 2023 Alan K. Simpson Fellowship in Western Political History. He'll be accessing their archives in the spring next year.

Elizabeth Grumer presented a paper at the University of Maryland History Graduate Student Association Conference at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her paper studies the reincarnation craze in American popular culture during the 1950s, linking the phenomenon to contemporaneous ideas about historical memory and gender identity. It was awarded the UMD HGSA Conference Best Paper Prize.

Dalia Haitayan successfully defended her dissertation on March 20, 2023.

Caryne Nichols was the 2023 recipient of the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Family Undergraduate Teaching Prizes in History. This award is given each year to one faculty member and one teaching fellow for excel-

lence instructing the department's students.

Greta Rauch was selected for the Hariri Institute Graduate Student Fellows program. The program recognizes exemplary doctoral students at Boston University who are engaged in innovative research related to computational science. It is designed to support and promote student research, and create opportunities for collaboration. [Read more about this program on their website.](#)

Courteney Smith has been awarded the Curran Fellowship by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. The grant will fund a month in London, where she'll be conducting dissertation research on local and regional press coverage of the Contagious Diseases Acts.

Tom Sojka presented his paper, "Somewhere in France with You: Interwar Sociability on the Continent" at the Britain & the World Conference at Duquesne University on April 21st. The paper, drawn from his dissertation research, showcases elite social life beyond London's West End and follows the Bright Young People to Continental destinations like the French Riviera, the Swiss Alps, and Venice.

The Department congratulates Tom on winning the 2023 Shotwell Fellowship, an award that assists History PhD students in their final year of dissertation writing. This award has been generously funded by an alum of the History PhD program.

Tom also received an honorable mention for his paper, "These Mad Englishwomen!: Bright Young Britons in Venice," in the Britain & the World Best Paper competition. The paper, which was presented at the Britain and the World Conference in April 2023, is drawn from his broader dissertation project on elite social life in the 1920s.

Henry Tonks published two perspective pieces and a review essay this past spring. The first discusses the 1980 Democratic industrial policy playbook. It was entitled “Biden is reviving a lost Democratic industrial policy playbook,” with the [Washington Post](#). The second perspective piece was [published with Made by History](#), called “25 Years Later, ‘Bulworth’ proves prescient.” Henry also published a [review essay with Public Books](#), entitled “What the 1990s did to America.”

For part of this spring semester, Henry spent time at the University of Cambridge on the APHI UK exchange program. While there, he attended the weekly Cambridge American History Seminar, presented at the graduate research workshop, and enjoyed English baked goods.

Johnathan Williams successfully defended his dissertation on March 27, 2023.

Aixin Yi was awarded First Place in the 2023 Student Paper Competition of the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium. Her paper studies American missionary in-

volvement in agricultural improvement in China in the early twentieth century. Her further research seeks to situate agricultural missions in the proliferation of contesting discourses of modernity in twentieth-century Chinese history.

Aixin also gave a presentation on research sources of Chinese Christianity in the Boston area and her own research experience regarding this topic on May 25th at the Center for the Study of Religion and Chinese Society at Shanghai University. Her trip to Shanghai was made possible by the research grant of the history department.

On behalf of Dean Jeffries-EL and the Graduate Research in the United States Fellowship (GRUF) committee, the following students were awarded GRUF Fellowships for the upcoming academic year:

Alina Amvrosova
Warren Dennis
Rachel Monsey
Tom Sojka
Henry Tonks



History PhD Candidates **Courtney Smith, Tom Sojka, Rachel Weiser, and Liam Cronan** presented at the Graduate History Conference, “Space Across the Humanities: Conceptualizing Place in Hidden Histories” at Northeastern on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

BUCH AWARD WINNERS

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT CONGRATULATES SEVERAL HISTORY STUDENTS ON EARNING AWARDS FROM THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HUMANITIES



The History Department is excited to share the news that History majors **Lauren Gotard**, **Eitan Marshall-Pinko**, **Elle Nicoletti**, and **Simone Seiner** received student awards with the Boston University Center for the Humanities! Another BUCH award in the form of a Summer 2023 internship was awarded to History major **Emma Obregon Dominguez**, who will intern with The Boston Globe!

History majors **Mairead Downes** and **Nicholas Ceus** also won BUCH awards in their double majors, Classical Studies and Philosophy, respectively.

In addition to our undergraduate student winners, graduate student awards with BUCH were awarded to **Courtney Smith**, **Caryne Nichols**, and **Henry Tonks**! Courtney was the recipient of the student award for the Academic Year of 2022/2023, and Caryne and Henry received Summer 2023 PhD Internships in the Humanities: Caryne with the Boston Athenæum and Henry with the New England Historic Genealogical Society.



Featured: (above) Professor James Johnson, Caryne Nichols, Eitan Marshall-Pinko, Mairead Downes, Simone Seiner, Lauren Gotard, and Emma Obregon Dominguez; (right) Nicholas Ceus and Professor James Johnson. Photography by Jesse Wang.

Lindsay Allebest (CAS History '23) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, an invitation only honors society that recognizes and honors exceptional academic achievements in the arts and sciences.

Lindsay also finished her term as one of the History Departments first two Writing Tutors. She assisted several of her peers with writing assignments across a multitude of History courses throughout the 2023-2024 academic year.

James Brine (CAS History '23) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, an invitation only honors society that recognizes and honors exceptional academic achievements in the arts and sciences.

Priscilla Bright (CAS History '23, *featured below, left*) was selected as the recipient of this year's College Prize for the History Department. This is awarded each year to an undergraduate who have had a significant impact in the History Department and at Boston University.

Julia Brukx was selected as one of the History Department's academic writing tutors for the upcoming academic year. In this position, Sierra will assist several of her peers with writing assignments that will be given across all History courses.

Mairead Downes (CAS History '23, *featured below, right*) was selected as the recipient of this year's Ault Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement in History.

Dina Famin (CAS History '23) finished her terms as one of the History Departments first two Writing Tutors. She assisted several of her peers with writing assignments across a multitude of History courses throughout the 2023-2024 academic year.

Sierra Wilkins was selected as one of the History Department's academic writing tutors for the upcoming academic year. In this position, Sierra will assist several of her peers with writing assignments that will be given across all History courses.



History majors **Priscilla Bright and Mairead Downes** assisted with the Q&A at our [annual Bacon Lecture](#).

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

It has been another great semester for HGSO! We hosted events on the 801 paper for first year students, oral exams, and dissertation management advice. In April, we attended the sheepshearing festival at Gore Place in Waltham where there were looms for textiles, food trucks, and sheep to be sheared! Our semester concluded with a collaborative picnic event with AMNESP and a grading/pizza party to celebrate the conclusion of the semester. We have continued to implement events like First Fridays, and we hope that next year's HGSO will continue with events both professional and social in the fall!

-- Margot Rashba

PHI ALPHA THETA

Phi Alpha Theta is a national history honors society whose members demonstrate excellence and dedication to studying history at the college level. The History Department sponsors BU's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, Delta Mu. Membership in Phi Alpha Theta requires a minimum 3.1 GPA in at least twelve credit hours of History and an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. A History major is not required. Members of Phi Alpha Theta meet regularly for discussion, guest presentations, and excursions to museums and historical sites. This academic year, BU's chapter welcomed thirty-eight new members in the Fall, and said goodbye to eighteen graduating seniors in May. If you are interested in joining the chapter for Fall 2023, send an email to history@bu.edu.

-- Professor James Johnson

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Undergraduate History Association (UHA) welcomes any and all undergraduate students with an interest in history. A student-run organization, we are a space to express and exercise members' passion for history. General weekly meetings and special monthly meetings give members the opportunity to conduct presentations, attend lectures by BU professors, participate in trivia nights and go on historical excursions.

Most recent UHA events include presentations on Espionage throughout History, Byzantine Civil Wars, Medieval Wales, and the 2004-05 NHL Lockout, as well as a field trip to Victorian Era houses in Boston. As tradition in April, we hosted our 7th Annual Conference: "Dark and Golden Ages" with four members presenting their research (read more on following page). More events have been planned for the upcoming year by the newly elected E-board, which includes Nico Iannacone, Paul Birmingham, Demian Choi, and Catherine Cassidy.

-- UHA E-Board

AEVUM: UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL OF HISTORY

Aevum: Boston University's Journal of History is proud to announce the publication of its Spring 2023 issue. This edition includes articles on Chinese women fashion's connection to discourse on Chinese politics and gender in the 20th century, an Israeli fighter jet and its symbolism of the complex relationship between America and Israel, and the rise of Tuva, a country sandwiched between two great spheres of power during an age of imperialism. To read more on these articles, please visit here.

-- Aevum E-Board

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY ASSOCIATION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On Sunday April 2nd, the Undergraduate History Association hosted their **Annual Conference: Dark and Golden Ages**. Three members of the organization were selected to conduct research and present their findings to an audience of history students and professors. Inspired by the theme “Dark and Golden Ages,” participants proposed, researched, and wrote their own papers with the help of mentors from UHA. This year’s papers were titled, *A Golden Age Ahead? The Helsinki Final Act and Its Effect on the Cold War*, by Zijian Cheng, *Peasants, Arise: An Examination of Changing Peasant Mentalities in Late Medieval England*, by Zachary Held, and *The Transformation of the Jewish Diaspora in Eastern Europe from 1881 to 1903*, by Isabelle Wolpert.



UNDERGRAD PROFILES

MAIREAD DOWNES, CAS '23



What inspired you to become a History major?

When I was a kid, my mom introduced me to period dramas and that was my gateway to history. We watched every Jane Austen adaptation and that led to documentaries and other historical films. By the time I graduated high school, I couldn't imagine myself studying anything else.

What is one interesting or fun fact about you?/ What is your favorite historical fact?

An interesting/fun fact about me is that I have never left the United States! In a few months I will be attending the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and that will be my first time ever living outside the US.

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be?

It's so difficult to choose just one! I think I would love to meet Dido Elizabeth Belle, a freed Black British aristocrat - I wrote a paper on her in fall of 2022 and she was an incredibly fascinating figure! I would ask her about the portrait of her and her cousin from the late 1700s; specifically, I would want to know if she chose her clothing or if it was from the artists imagination. Her status is something discussed by many British historians, and I would be very interested in how she navigated her way through Georgian society.

What has been your favorite History class you've taken at BU?

My favorite class has to be Fashion as History with Professor Arianne Chernock. From the evolution of the suit to Marie Antoinette's wardrobe, the class was so fascinating and one I will remember for a long time.

UNDERGRAD PROFILES

PRISCILLA BRIGHT, CAS '23

What inspired you to become a History major?

I grew up in a military family and was born in Texas, but the full list is Georgia, New York, Louisiana, England, South Korea, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts! I have always seen history as grounding, and whenever I moved, I knew I could find comfort by learning local history and visiting museums. These realizations got me into history, but it was my love of researching forgotten or misinterpreted events/people that made me stay.



What is one interesting or fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I was president of the BU Beekeepers Club!

I would definitely recommend getting involved in whatever you want because everything has a history. For example, the Magna Carta stated that common people were allowed to harvest wild honey, ancient Egyptians were the first to practice organized beekeeping, and some ancient Greek coins feature honeybees. History is everywhere and it is fascinating!

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be?

I would have dinner with Rose Valland. She was a French art historian and curator at the Jeu de Paume Museum during WWII. During the Nazi occupation of Paris, Valland feigned ignorance of German so she could secretly take note of every looted artwork. After the occupation, her notes were used by the Monuments Men to recover about 60,000 works of art, she was given the rank of Captain, and she received the Legion of Honor medal. I have had a sticker of her on my laptop keyboard throughout college so when I didn't want to finish a paper, I could look down at her and remember that my situation could be a lot more stressful.

What has been your favorite History class you've taken at BU?

I took so many exciting classes, but my number one was Fashion as History with Professor Chernock! I saw the class in the course listings when I was applying to BU and I knew I had to take it, it did not disappoint. I love classes that expand my source base for understanding history and being able to use fashion has been so helpful. I wrote my final paper on the socioeconomic implications of a dress worn to a Gilded Age Vanderbilt ball and had the time of my life figuring out how this one dress could tell me about societal economic tensions and gender expectations at this time. It was a seminar-style class, so I also got to look forward to hours of engaging conversation with my peers.

Tell us about the subject you researched in your Honors thesis.

I researched women's role in lighthouse keeping in the US in the 19th and early 20th centuries! Specifically, I looked into roles that women without titles had, such as wives, daughters, and mothers of male keepers. From finding evidence that suggested that the government purposefully hired men with families to the Boston marriage between two lighthouse women in the 19th century, the paper was incredibly fun to write. Shockingly, this was not my first idea for the paper. The topic developed from my initial idea of studying women in the Gilded Age and then spiraled (in the best way possible) as I kept an open mind to new topics, talked with my advisors, and explored archival materials. Writing a thesis will never be easy, so the best thing you can do for yourself is to make it personally exciting.

Andrew Bacevich (Professor Emeritus) has written a novel about race and Vietnam. He is looking for an agent and/or publisher.

Andrew W. Bell (GRS '20) has joined the Department of History at Oberlin College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Twentieth-Century U.S. History. His first book, tentatively titled "Excavating Empire: Archaeologists and American Foreign Relations, 1879-1945," is under contract with Oxford University Press.

Daniel Burge (GRS '18) recently [published an op-ed](#) entitled "Guaranteeing bank deposits is risky — but it beats the alternative," explaining the current banking crisis with the Washington Post.

Peyton Coel (CAS '22) completed the teaching and learning portion of her M.Sc. at Trinity College, Dublin and is currently authoring her dissertation, entitled "Conflict and the Beautiful Game: Xenophobia in the English Premier League."

Erik Goldstein (Professor Emeritus) and Professor **Cathal Nolan** held a day-long conference at BU, sponsored by a grant from the Pardee Center for the Longer Range Future, on 'How Wars End'. A dozen speakers, a mix of historians with several practitioners discussing their experiences, which enriched the historical discussion. An international effort, they had historians from Canada and Britain.

Aaron Hiltner (GRS '17) has been appointed Lecturer (the UK equivalent of Assistant Professor) in the History of the United States of America at the University of York, where beginning this fall, he'll teach courses on U.S. foreign relations, capitalism, and ecology, while continuing research on his second book project on American and British cowboys, cattlemen, and meatpackers in Latin America.

Kathryn Lamontagne (GRS '20 and CGS Professor) was interviewed for [an article in Bostonia](#) on King Charles' Coronation. She also covered the Coronation, live on Channel 7 Boston WHDH.

James McCann (Professor Emeritus) presented a lightning round paper "Reflections on Water, Watersheds and Historical Identities: A Tale of Two Rivers" to the meeting Research on Tap organized by the BU Associate Provost for Research on March 22. Professor McCann's paper is a prelude to a plenary panel for the 2024 Third Annual World Congress on Environmental History to be held in Onlu, Finland. Professor McCann serves on the organizing committee for that meeting. And will co-chair this plenary session with Admire Mseba of University of Southern California

On April 27, Professor McCann led a seminar at the American University in Rome on "Call It Polenta," a historical view of Italy's iconic staple (1619- 2023).

Professor James McCann will travel to Oxford University (St. Antony College) on June 14 to lead a seminar for the Oxford's Northeast Africa Forum: "Nature and the Supernatural: Meaning(s) of Water in Ethiopia's Upper Nile." His co-author is Dr. Izabella Orłowska from the Leibnitz-Zentrum Moderna Orient, Berlin. The paper and project are an exploration of the environmental humanities.

In the following week, Professor McCann will present a lecture to the venerable Anglo-Ethiopian Society in London on the topic "Reflections on Water and Identity in the Blue Nile and Awash watersheds", Ethiopia." That lecture will be presented in London's Ethiopian Community Centre in Finsbury Park and on Zoom.

2023 GASPAR G. BACON LECTURE

MELISSA MURRAY, NYU

“DOBBS, DEMOCRACY, AND DISTRUST”

Professor Melissa Murray of the New York University School of Law was the guest of the BU History Department on April 27, 2023 for its Gaspar G. Bacon Lecture. Her talk, “Dobbs, Democracy, and Distrust,” outlined the majority’s reasoning in the Supreme Court’s 2022 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Professor Murray focused on the argument advanced in Justice Alito’s opinion that the 1973 *Roe* decision disrupted due democratic deliberation—a conception of democracy, she observed, that is incoherent and myopic. “The most disappointing aspect of the *Dobbs* decision,” she stated, “is its cynicism.” [A recording of Professor Murray’s lecture can be viewed on YouTube.](#)

The Bacon Lecture is made possible by an endowment established in the 1940s. Its benefactor, Gaspar G. Bacon, was a Boston attorney, President of the Massachusetts State Senate, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, and a candidate for Governor in 1934. He was a lecturer at Boston University and is the author of *The Constitution of the United States in Some of Its Fundamental Aspects* (1928). He specified that this annual lecture be devoted to the U.S. Constitution.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SOCIAL SCIENCES BLOCK PARTY

September 7th, 2023

To kick off the Fall 2023 semester, the departments of BU Social Sciences will be hosting a Block Party! Celebrations will take place in the late afternoon on the 17th floor of CDS (665 Commonwealth Ave). Save the date for this welcome-back party, and look out for more information towards the end of the summer.

CAS 150TH ALUMNI WEEKEND CELEBRATION

September 21 and 22, 2023

This year's Alumni Weekend will double in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences! Alumni of the History Department are encouraged to partake in on-campus celebrations, which will include a guided tour of Boston and an after party on the 21st, with full-campus celebrations the following day.

BOOK RELEASE PARTY FOR PROFESSOR BROOKE BLOWER

September 26, 2023

History Professor Brooke Blower will publish her new book, *Americans in a World at War: Intimate Histories from the Crash of Pan Am's Yankee Clipper*, with Oxford University Press in August. In honor of the publication, a celebratory event will be held on the 17th floor of CDS (665 Commonwealth Ave) which will include appetizers and drinks, as well as a Q&A with Professor Blower and guest speaker, Chad Williams.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL HISTORY@BU.EDU TO SHARE RESEARCH, EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS, OR OTHER MILESTONES. CONSIDER FILLING OUT A [GRADUATE STUDENT](#), [UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT](#), OR [ALUMNI](#) PROFILE FORM TO GET FEATURED ON OUR WEBSITE OR IN THE NEWSLETTER!

