

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST



Arts & Sciences
History

**DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER**



2024
SPRING

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

JAMES JOHNSON, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR



Dear Friends of the Department:

The end of classes brings much to celebrate. Just outside my window today on Bay State Road, small groups in red robes with wide smiles gather in front of the Castle for photos. Inside 226, slightly less bright-eyed colleagues, a little dazed from figuring final grades, share the contentment of another semester now finished. As I write this, the promise of Commencement this weekend at Nickerson Field brings a festive mood to all.

This edition of *The Presence of the Past* brings its own happy news. You'll read of awards for faculty and students, retirements to note, and a set of important milestones for our graduate students.

The department's top two awards for excellence among undergraduates go to **Lauren Gotard**, a reader of Shakespeare and writer of screenplays, and **Eitan Marshall-Pinko**, who is headed to the University of Virginia for a PhD in American History. The newsletter also details the successes of the department's teachers and scholars. **Alexis Peri** was selected from among all BU faculty as the winner of this year's prestigious Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching. **Deeana Klepper** was promoted to full professor and named Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. **Brooke Blower's** recent book [*Americans in a World at War*](#) continues to draw wide acclaim, and **Ronald Richardson's** book [*Being-in-America*](#) is just out with Peter Lang Publishing.

The year 2024 brings the retirement of two History colleagues. **Charles Dellheim** joined the department in 2001, where he served as chair for eight years before launching and directing the BU's Honors College. He is the author of three important books, including most recently *Belonging and Betrayal: How Jews Made the Art World Modern* (2021). **Cathal Nolan** joined BU in 1995 and soon had affiliations with both History and International Relations. The author of twelve books—most recently *Mercy: Humanity in War* (2022)—and the editor or co-editor of seven more, he helped found BU's International History Institute and was its Director from 2012 to 2023.

The BU History community continues to flourish beyond the classroom. The History Book Club took up a history and a memoir this Spring: David Grann's *Killers of the Flower Moon* and Tara Westover's *Educated*. The Undergraduate History Association's annual student-faculty conference featured papers on topics ranging from Social Darwinism to the lives of Poland's Jewish population in the late nineteenth century. And members of the History honors society Phi Alpha Theta worked alongside historians at the Massachusetts Historical Society to mentor and judge high-school students in this year's National History Day competition.

I wish you a good summer break. May it be productive and restoring.

James Johnson
Chair and Professor, Department of History

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FACULTY RETIREMENTS



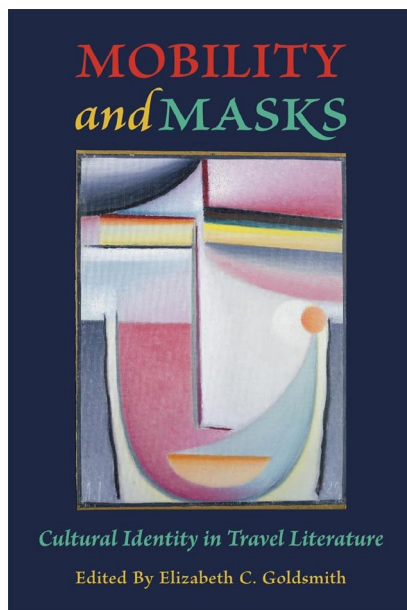
The History Department celebrates the retirements of **Charles Dellheim**, Professor of History and founder of the Kilachand Honors College as well as **Cathal Nolan**, Professor of History and International Relations. We are so thankful for their time and dedication to Boston University, and we all wish them very happy retirements.



Paula Austin was recently interviewed in an article written by BU's *Arts X Sciences Magazine*, entitled "[The Quotidian of Black Life.](#)"

Brooke Blower published an article for *Time Magazine's* "Made By History," entitled "[The World War II Stories Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg Should Tackle After Masters of the Air, According to a Historian.](#)"

Research related to Professor Blower's recent book release, *Americans in a World at War*, was featured in a [video with Faculti Streaming Platform](#). In the discussion, she breaks down dramatic stories of passengers on the ill-fated Pan American flight during World War II and analyzes the impact of Americans' global connections. Professor Blower also gave book talks this spring at Northwestern University and the University of Missouri.



Arianne Chernock published an opinion piece in December with the *New York Times*, entitled "[What 'The Crown' Teaches Us About Power and How to Wield It.](#)" She also contribut-

ed to another *NYT* article, entitled "[A Very Royal Scavenger Hunt.](#)"

Jilene Chua taught a course this semester that inspired coverage in a [BU Today article](#). Professor Chua, who joined our department this year, designed her new course "Fashion & Beauty under War & Empire," which "unite[s] her research interests of history, fashion, and empire."

Deeana Klepper was promoted to full professor this semester. As of January, she was also elected Fellow of the [Medieval Academy of America](#), one of the most prestigious honors bestowed in her field. Election to the Academy recognizes her "major long-term scholarly achievement within the field of Medieval Studies."

Eugenio Menegon contributed an essay on Westerners' adoption of Ming and Qing clothing in a recently published edited volume (featured left), *Mobility and Masks: Cultural Identity in Travel Literature* (Harvard University Press, 2024), a book gathering chapters by faculty of the BU Travel Studies research group and prefaced by History Chair James Johnson.

In January, he gave an online presentation on his new research, "Center and Periphery: Propaganda Fide's Accounting Practices in the 18th-Century China Mission," at a conference organized by the Swiss Institute and the Department of Political Science of Università Roma Tre in Italy. In April, he presented "Whose Empire Were the Missionaries Serving? The Last Portuguese Embassy at the Qing Court (1753)," at a *(continued next page)*

conference hosted by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Professor Menegon also chaired and was discussant for junior scholars at two panels: the first on “Global Mobility and New Knowledge: East–West Encounters and Cross-Cultural Production, 1500–1900,” for the American Historical Association Meeting in San Francisco; and the second on “Power Dynamics, Authority Structures, and Collaborative Endeavors in Sino-European Interaction Hubs in Early Modernity,” at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Simon Payaslian presented a paper, entitled “[Nationalism and the Pathologization of Diasporic Existence: The Thanatology of the Armenian Diaspora](#),” at the conference on “Armenian Diaspora(s) in Motion: Places, Stakeholders and Practices in the 21st Century,” held at Campus Condorcet, Paris-Aubervilliers, March 14-15, 2024.

Alexis Peri won the 2024 Metcalf Award for excellence in teaching. The Metcalf Awards were established in 1973 by a gift from the late alumnus and Boston University Trustee, Dr. Arthur G. B. Metcalf, to create “a systematic procedure for the review of the quality of teaching at Boston University and the identification and advancement of those members of the faculty who excel as teachers.” Read more about Professor Peri and the accomplishments that led to her nomination on page 7.

Ronald Richardson published his [newest book](#) with Peter Lang on February 26, 2024, entitled *Being-In-America: White Supremacy and the American Self* (featured right). A blurb from Henry Louis Gates, Jr. states, “In this provocative, personal, and engaging volume, so timely in its intervention, Ronald

Richardson gives us a new way of looking at ourselves, how we came to be, and the inescapable role white supremacy has played in the unfolding.”

Bruce Schulman wrote an article, “[The \(New\) American Political Tradition](#),” which appeared in the March 2024 issue of *Modern American History*. It is inspired by Richard Hofstadter’s 1948 original.

Professor Schulman also published a piece in *Time Magazine*, entitled “[The Biden-Trump Rematch May Mark the End of an Era](#).” He notes that the results of the recent primaries confirmed what many long expected (and many dreaded): the 2024 presidential election will feature a second contest between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. In his article, Professor Schulman suggests that this re-run, however, might prove more interesting than expected. Over the course of U.S. history, presidential rematches have signaled momentous political upheavals by revealing instabilities in the electoral system and exposing tensions in the coalitions of the major parties.



2024 METCALF AWARD: ALEXIS PERI



The Department of History congratulates Professor Alexis Peri on winning the 2024 Metcalf Award for excellence in teaching. [The Metcalf Awards](#) were established in 1973 by a gift from the late alumnus and Boston University Trustee, Dr. Arthur G. B. Metcalf, to create “a systematic procedure for the review of the quality of teaching at Boston University and the identification and advancement of those members of the faculty who excel as teachers.”

Alexis Peri is an associate professor of history and director of graduate studies at Boston University’s College of Arts & Sciences. She inspires her students to develop their powers of “historical imagination” and creative problem-solving. As she put it: “A creative mind is a resilient mind. It can solve challenges. It can build bridges. It can cultivate compassion.”

For a decade, Professor Peri has helped students understand history by immersing them in the intimate details of everyday life, especially in Russia and the Soviet Union. Through a combination of lecture, discussion, and creative projects, she brings the past to life and helps instill in students an attitude of empathy for those who came before.

Professor Peri’s colleagues and students laud her as a patient educator and passionate expert. Students frequently praise her “thought-provoking” approach to history. Using diaries, letters, literature, and even food, jokes, and fashion from the period, students explore how people lived, thought, and felt in their day-to-day lives as they experienced monumental historical moments. Students describe her as “honest, caring, and influential” and “a true teacher who puts students’ learning first.” According to her department chair, “her view of education is capacious, and it includes individual growth, intellectual independence, and the future lives of her students.”

Professor Peri’s first book, *The War Within: Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad*, won the Pushkin House Book Prize and the Wall Street Journal called it one of the ten best books on the Soviet home front. Her latest book is *Dear Unknown Friend: The Remarkable Correspondence between American and Soviet Women*. She is a Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellow at the Boston University Center for the Humanities and a recipient of the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Family Undergraduate Teaching Prize in History. She earned her BA in history and psychology and her MA and PhD in history from the University of California, Berkeley.

APHI ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The American Political History Institute (APHI) held its fourteenth annual Graduate Student Conference this spring. The thought-provoking theme, “Secret Histories,” attracted submissions from all over the country — and several from overseas!

The participants enjoyed feedback from distinguished scholars in their fields, including several BU faculty members. **Brooke Blower, Nina Silber, Sarah Phillips, Andrew Robichaud, Bruce Schulman**, BU History alumnae **Katherine Jewell** and **Jeanna Kinnebrew**, and **Abigail Chandler** (University of Massachusetts Lowell) provided thoughtful commentary to their panels. Eminent historian **Kidada E. Williams** (Wayne State University) delivered a keynote on “Lessons from Black Studies for Public Facing Work and a Fulfilling Academic Life.”

This year, the \$1,000 prize went to **Conor Hodges** (Yale University) for his paper “‘Paradise Lost’: South Florida Elite Politics and the Militarized War on Drugs.” A fascinating case study of law-and-order politics, “narco-capitalism,” and Cold War foreign policy, the paper was described by Professor Schulman as exciting enough for an HBO true-crime miniseries.

Our organizers—**Cole Parker, Henry Tonks, Meredith Barber, Tyler Quebedeaux, Jenna Hagan, and Germaine Eaton**—wish to thank all the presenters, panel moderators, commenters, and BU’s catering team. Special thanks are due to **Cady Steinberg** and **Molly German**, without whom this annual event would not be possible. We look forward to another successful Graduate Student Conference next year.

Warren Dennis published an article with *Time's* "Made by History," entitled "[What Critics of the EPA's 'Good Neighbor' Regulations Get Wrong About the Clean Air Act's History.](#)"

Maria Koutsouris is the winner of the GRS Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award.

Margot Rashba published an article in *Time Magazine* with "Made by History," entitled "[Galliano's Return Revives the 1990s—and the 19th Century.](#)"

Keara Sebold is the winner of the Gitter Family Prize in teaching.

Courteney Smith was awarded a Huntington Library Travel Grant, for research in overseas archives whose collections complement the Huntington's own. Through this grant, she will be conducting research on the connections between Welsh nationalism and women's higher education at the Cardiff University archives, the Glamorgan Archives, and the National Library of Wales.

Chenguang Zhu attended several events about World's Fairs and the Olympics this semester. On March 23, Chenguang joined a roundtable discussion as one of the panelists at Washington University in St. Louis. This discussion is a special event for the exhibition "Gateway to the East: China at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair" at John M. Olin Library of WUSTL (January 27–April 21, 2024), a project Chenguang has participated in.

In Olin Library, Chenguang was also interviewed by middle school students in St. Louis to trace China's participation in St. Louis World's Fair and introduced some exhibition sections in a recorded virtual tour of "Gateway to the East."

On May 1, Chenguang gave a guest lecture entitled "Faces of the Olympics, Faces of Histories: Performance and Historical Memories in Olympic Opening Ceremonies" at the College of the Holy Cross (*featured below*) at the invitation of Dr. Ke Ren (Assistant Professor, College of the Holy Cross).



CONGRATULATIONS!

Several groups of students in History deserve huge congratulations for their accomplishments this semester...

Three PhD Candidates who completed their oral exams:

Caryne Nicholas

Aixin Yi

Maria Zabeneh

Five graduate students who earned research Graduate Research fellowships for travel and residence both nationally (GRUF) and abroad (GRAF):

Meredith Barber, GRUF

Ayushi Chauhan, GRUF

Warren Dennis, GRUF

Rachel Monsey, GRAF

Courteney Smith, GRAF

Eight graduate students who successfully defended their dissertations:

Charley Binko

Josh Castillo

Jeanna Kinnebrew

Jason McCleod

Tom Sojka

Rachel Weiser

James Williams

Chenguang Zhu



Featured above: Meredith Barber and Henry Tonks at the BU Center for Humanities Award Ceremony

Lastly, three graduate students and one undergraduate won BU Center for the Humanities Awards and Fellowships:

Alina Amvrosova Summer Internship in the Humanities at the Institute of Contemporary Art

Meredith Barber Summer Internship in the Humanities at the Boston Athenæum

Margaret McNeir Summer Undergraduate Internship at the Brattle Film Foundation

Henry Tonks, Graduate Dissertation Fellowship

The History Department congratulates the following students selected for Phi Beta Kappa, an invitation only honors society that recognizes and honors exceptional academic achievements in the arts and sciences:

Nathaniel Ceus
Nicholas Speranza

We also send thanks to the following students for serving as History Department Writing Tutors. They assisted several of their peers with writing assignments across a multitude of History courses throughout the 2023-2024 academic year

Julia Brukx
Sierra Wilkins

Lily Connor presented at BU's Center for Innovation in Social Science 2023-24 Undergraduate Research Internship Showcase. Lily, a double major in History and Political Science, worked on her project, *Using Constitutional Ethnography to Understand U.S. Democracy* with Political Science Professor Amber Vayo. Lily's presentation investigates the possibility of viewing America not as an "established constitutional democracy," but "as a new country that needs to reform our democracy," then "the public may be more amenable to changes to the Constitution."

Lauren Gotard was selected as the recipient of this year's Ault Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement in History.

Kaitlin Howlett presented at BU's Center for Innovation in Social Science 2023-24 Undergraduate Research Internship Showcase. Kaitlin worked on her project, *Collecting Data for a Critical History* with History and African American & Black Diaspora Studies Professor Paula Austin. Kaitlin's presentation focused on "innovative and creative methods historians like Dr. Austin use to establish histories about folks who often find themselves between the lines of history text that is commonly read."

Eitan Marshall-Pinko 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.

Camryn Millett won the 2024 Gregory Hudson Award for Writing Excellence in the Humanities. Each Spring, the College of Arts & Sciences accepts nominations for its annual Alumni Awards for Writing Excellence. This year, alumni donors recognized four outstanding student writing projects. Camryn was nominated by History Professor Jonathan Zatlin.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

During the spring semester, HGSO hosted several great events. Recent PhD graduates **Josh Castillo** and **Rachel Weiser** generously donated their time to a panel on the academic job market. This well-attended event provided valuable insight into their experiences on the market, from the application process to the campus visit. In addition to professional development, HGSO also hosted community-building events, including a celebratory end-of-year potluck and trip to Level 99 in Natick to cap off the semester.



After the Boston University Grad Workers Union (BUGWU) voted to strike in late March, our graduate students began organizing to support each other. Crucially, some grad students volunteered to develop and administer a [mutual aid](#) plan. Thanks to this effort—and the generous contributions from other members of the History community—all our striking graduate workers have been able to cover their basic needs. In addition, many grad students in the department devoted significant time to other organizing activities, and History has continued to show up in force at the picket line. We're looking forward to some much needed rest this summer and more exciting events next fall!

– *James Brueckel, HGSO President*

PHI ALPHA THETA

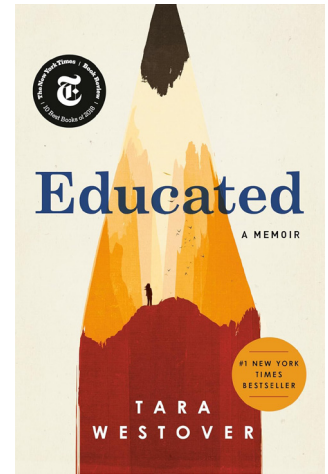
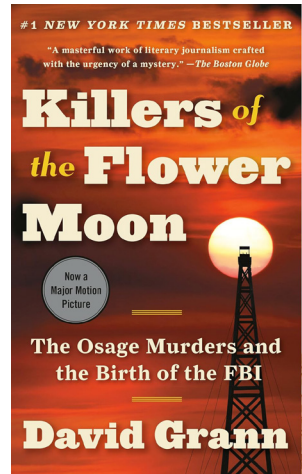
Phi Alpha Theta is a national history honors society whose members demonstrate excellence and dedication to studying history at the college level. The History Department sponsors BU's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, Delta Mu. Members of Phi Alpha Theta meet regularly for discussion, guest presentations, and excursions to museums and historical sites. This academic year, students in PAT worked alongside historians at the Massachusetts Historical Society to mentor and judge high-school students in this year's National History Day competition. If you are interested in joining the chapter for Fall 2024, send an email to history@bu.edu.

– *Professor James Johnson*

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

HISTORY BOOK CLUB

Members of the History Book Club met in February and in April to discuss two best-sellers (featured right): **David Grann's *Killers of the Flower Moon*** and **Tara Westover's *Educated***. Grann was this year's guest in the University's ongoing series Conversations in the Arts & Ideas, and two lively discussions of the book and film adaptation were the right preparation to hear him speak in person.



Conversations about Westover's growing-up years and her eventual PhD in History from the University of Cambridge included the many strands she tries to untangle in this harrowing account. These include home-schooling by her survivalist parents, an abusive older brother, her closeness to nature, religious fundamentalism, the freedom academic study offers, and the ghosts that stubbornly remain.

– 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, they 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.

– UHA E-Board

UHA 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Undergraduate History Association hosted their annual conference this April. The conference consisted of five papers based on original research that ranged in topic from Ancient Egypt to contemporary American politics. **Isabelle Wolpert** kicked the day off with an exploration of antisemitism in the Russian empire. **Reagan Shelbourn** then discussed the emergence of Social Darwinism in the United States. **Liya Savasman** examined the Old Kingdom Sixth Dynasty of Egypt, while **Haoliang Ni** analyzed the Canton System of Qing China. **Ellen Moth** was awarded the best paper prize for her work on desegregation and magnet education in Nashville. Thank you to all the presenters for sharing their work with friends and faculty and to the UHA for organizing an engaging conference!

UNDERGRAD PROFILES

EITAN MARSHALL-PINKO, CAS '24

Tell us a bit about yourself. What inspired you to become a History major?

My name is Eitan Marshall-Pinko and I'm a graduating history major. I'm also very flattered and excited to be asked to answer some history related questions. A little bit about me:

I was born in Chicago, raised in the suburbs. My grandmother earned a PhD in music history in the 60s, and, along with my grandfather, she kindled my love for history. That love for the stories and characters of the past led me to major in history.

What advice do you have for students considering a major or minor in History?

If I were to give one piece of advice to students considering a major or minor in history, I would say they should listen to whatever's telling them to get involved in history and try out a class or two and really dive into the history. There are fantastic teachers in this department who have created some great classes.

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

One particular class I highly recommend is HI 301: "Women and Gender in U.S. History." Dr. Silber taught the class when I took it, and I learned so much from her that I never learned from high school A.P. U.S. History.

What is your favorite historical fact?

Recently, I wrote a term paper for HI 506: "Whales, Witches, and Warfare" on Myles Standish, the controversial namesake of one of our dorms. In doing primary source research, I found that multiple different people, from Indigenous persons to Pilgrims to other Europeans, made fun of how Standish was short. I think it is some sort of cosmic justice that those records of height-ridicule survive.

What will you be up to after graduation?

After graduation I'll be beginning the history PhD program at University of Virginia, so if you're an undergraduate with questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out!



UNDERGRAD PROFILES

LAUREN GOTARD, CAS '24



Where are you from?

Raised on Long Island, I grew up in the radius of many fascinating historic sites from Teddy Roosevelt's home to the Met's Cloisters in nearby New York City. This exposure to history as a child awakened an historical consciousness in me, noticing from an early age that historic monuments are not just the sepulchers of ideas we once held true, but places visitors return to again and again to learn about who we are. I came to learn that history is an active meaning system shaping how we perceive the here-and-now.

How have you applied your interest in history?

When I got to BU, I followed this inclination, deciding to study both history and film. I began examining the persistence of old stories in our current explanations of the world. I asked: Why are film adaptations of Macbeth still being made hundreds of years later? Why do certain stories retain cultural relevance? Ever since, I have been writing

screenplays which toy with classical stories, changing the period, setting, or characters, to expose the ways we might see the past differently, and tell the same stories in another way. Often, I invert the heroes and villains or even highlight groups traditionally left out, forcing the audience to reexamine narratives we once held as canon.

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

Dr. Blower's class HI 300: "American Pop Culture" made me wonder: how did I not think about history that way before? Instead of being undergirded by an emphasis on the memorization of dates or monumental court cases in U.S. history, this class focuses on the cultural changes in between. Not the nouns of history, but the verbs. I learned how American minds have to change before linchpin events like enacting new legislation can even occur. Dr. Blower revealed to me that it is in these liminal spaces between major historical moments where our work as historians really gets interesting.

Tell us about your favorite essay/project from one of your History courses.

One of the most rewarding projects I have worked on is my latest feature film script I am writing which is set in modern-day Peru. In line with my mission to reimagine classical stories, this film resurrects the story of Francisco Pizarro's destruction of the Incan empire. My script exposes the way this story of conquest is not just an abominable past, but a story which recurs today, just disguised in a different form. This film is a black comedy exploring the ways imperialism continues to affect historically colonized spaces, a witty kick-in-the head which exposes a more insidious kind of othering, not as physical colonialism but righteous moralism in today's academic spaces.



Allison Blakely (Professor Emeritus) attended this year's annual celebration of awarding the National Humanities Medals (*featured above*), for which the National Council plays a prominent role in the nominations process. Read about Professor Blakely and his fellow Council Members on the website for the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#).

Since retirement in 2013, Professor Blakely has served on the National Council on the Humanities, to which President Obama appointed him in 2010. His appointment was for six years, but continues until his successor is confirmed by the Senate and sworn in. He states that the extended service “has been a godsend for me because the high quality and depth of creativity reflected in the proposals dealt within the Council meetings constantly reassure me of the vastness of the constructive work in the humanities that continues unabated in this country and its various territories despite all the destructive negativity that dominates public attention.”

Priscilla Bright (CAS '23) has a publication in the [spring 2024 edition](#) of *Nineteenth Century* magazine. Her paper, entitled “Sparking Controversy: The Electric Dress in Gilded Age Society,” was originally written for a class at BU History with Professor Chernock,

HI 451: “Fashion as History.” It discusses the dress that Alice Vanderbilt wore to the Vanderbilt's 1883 costume ball in New York.

Patrick Browne (GRS '22 and BU History lecturer) has accepted the position as Director of the Plymouth MA Historical Society.

Kathryn Brownell (GRS '11), now Professor of History at Purdue University, won that university's highest faculty research prize—the Lu Ann Aday Award. Read about her achievements [here](#).

Jeanna Kinnebrew (GRS '23) led a seminar with the Massachusetts Historical Society on February 8th as part of their History of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Seminar. Her lecture was entitled “[‘A New Witch Hunt in Salem’: The Rise & Fall of Low-Cost Birth Control Clinics During the Great Depression](#).”

Kathryn Lamontagne (GRS '20 and BU lecturer) was nominated for a spot on the board of the [New England Historical Association](#) (the only NTT out of 8 candidates) and was interviewed for articles in *Time*, *USA Today*, *AP*, and appeared on all the Boston TV stations delivering commentary on the Royal Family. Her POV piece also appeared in [BU Today](#).

2024 GASPAR G. BACON LECTURE

REVA SIEGEL, YALE UNIVERSITY “GUNS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND THE CONSTITUTION OF MEMORY”



This year’s Bacon Lecture on the History of the U.S. Constitution was delivered by Reva Siegel, the Nicolas deB. Katzenbach Professor of Law at Yale. Her topic was “Guns, Domestic Violence, and the Constitution of Memory.” The talk focused on arguments before the Supreme Court last November in a case involving Zacky Rihimi, who went on a shooting spree while under a domestic violence restraining order.

Professor Siegel spoke about arguments before the Supreme Court on whether the right to bear arms extends to those guilty of domestic abuse. Her comments focused why the Roberts Court has seen more appeals to history and tradition, particularly when a major reversal is under consideration.

Tailored to her audience of historians and legal scholars, the talk discussed what Professor Siegel called “levels of generality” in the historical examples judges write into their opinions. Such specificity, she noted, coupled with extensive “granular analysis,” gives the appearance of objectivity when the intent is in fact to justify partisan positions. “What appears to be factual,” she asserted, “is therefore often a normative claim.” She said this has occurred increasingly on the both the left and the right.

The April 16th lecture was attended by numerous faculty and students of the History Department and the BU School of Law. The annual series was endowed in the 1940s by Gaspar G. Bacon, a state senator, lieutenant governor, and constitutional scholar who lectured at Boston University.

FALL '24 COURSE SPOTLIGHT

HI 372: POWER AND PLEASURE IN ASIAN AMERICA

How have Asians and Asian Americans endured and survived US empire, war, and anti-Asian discrimination? Ranging across law, politics, and culture, this course reveals the complicated position of Asian Americans in the US racial order since the nineteenth century.



Girls in Christmas costumes in Jerome concentration camp, 1944, Denson, Arkansas, Courtesy of Densho.



Classroom of Asian American children saluting the American flag while reciting the Oath of Allegiance. New York, 1940. July 3. [Photograph](#).



Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee members picketing in front of Filipino Community Hall as part of the Delano Grape Strike on September 24, 1965. © Harvey Richards Media Archive

KEEP IN TOUCH

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!

