

Bianca Gawencki

## Tradition Within Boston

A long standing debate concerns tradition and change. Both photographs I chose consist of one, or possibly both, of these opposites.

The BU Beach acts almost as a safe haven for Boston University students. Being one of the few green spaces on campus, this location radiates the life and energy needed in the midst of a concrete-ridden city. It provides a break from the nearby bustling Commonwealth Avenue. On days with blue skies and higher temperatures, it's essentially tradition for students to lounge, get fresh air, and soak up the sun. When I pass here I think of how I resort to this spot when I need to feel happier, or get work completed. It's remarkable to observe the effects of such a simple space on us college students, especially with the new decorated lounge areas. Since it's a huge morale booster, this spot on BU's campus is and has been a fan favorite.

The Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial commemorates the first all African American regiment in the Civil War. Therefore, the beautiful, bronze sculpture honors and represents a group of individuals that broke the racist tradition of having all white soldiers in war. Having this memorial presented nearby the Massachusetts State House and the Granary Burying Ground – with former founding fathers and revolutionary soldiers – further illuminates a changing view of equality. However, this monument still holds some form of racial sentiment through its prominence of Colonel Shaw. Him being displayed more prominently in the forefront as a white man shows remaining thoughts of superiority and inferiority. This was because African-Americans were still unable to hold officer positions.



CGS Team D Professors, Interdisciplinary  
Walking Tour, April 2, 2021