

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT



HISTORIC PRESERVATION Newsletter

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Greetings from Wheeler House Veranda!



I am delighted to announce that Devin Colman, currently Vermont State Architectural Historian, has accepted an appointment as Director of the University of Vermont's Historic Preservation Program, beginning in the fall semester of 2024. Colman brings a strong academic background in art and architectural history, having earned a BA in Art History and Sculpture at Colby College in 1998, and a Master of Science Degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont in 2006, where he completed a groundbreaking thesis documenting modern residential architecture in Chittenden County.

Greetings from Wheeler House Veranda (continued)

Devin began working for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation in 2007 and has expanded his educational background with an International Course on the Conservation of Modern Heritage from Getty Conservation Institute; a Certificate in Classical Architecture & Art from the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art in New York City, and participation in the New England Studies Program offered by Historic New England.

Devin has served as a frequent guest lecturer and instructor for courses in UVM's Historic Preservation Program, and he has served as an instructor for Boston Architectural College's Design Studies Program as well as a guest lecturer at Yestermorrow Design Build School in Warren, Vermont. In addition, Devin speaks widely to preservation and community groups, has forged alliances with Vermont's key preservation partners, and has been a diplomatic but forceful advocate for protecting Vermont's historic resources. Devin's writing accomplishments extend to publications in a notable range of journals including the Society for Architectural Historians Archipedia, as well as ongoing research regarding Vermont's twentieth century architects.

With Devin's appointment, our program enters its third generation on solid footing and with great promise, strengthened by support from Dean William Falls of the College of Arts and Sciences, and further bolstered by generous alumni donations to the Historic Preservation Program Director's Endowment. Since last fall, we have raised \$14,650 for that endowment, which will be matched, bringing the total figure to nearly \$230,000. Our crucial goal is to reach \$250,000, when the director's position will become a Green and Gold Professorship and gain additional standing. Thus, we will be circulating fundraising materials with this current newsletter, adding a reminder to make donations specifically to the Historic Preservation Program Director's Endowment to qualify for the matching funds. I would very much like to reach that goal before concluding my role as director early in August. I will officially retire from the university on December 31st of this year.

Much Cheer,
Bob McCullough
Professor and Director of Historic Preservation



Second-Year students in HP302, *Community Preservation Projects*, meet with Walter Poleman, Director of UVM Field Naturalist Program, at UVM's Jericho Research Forest to read the built and forested landscape. Preservation, conservation, rehabilitation, age, structure, and alteration / disturbance are all terms that apply equally well to buildings and forests.

Meet the First Years

Aidan Kyle

Aidan spent much of his formative youth in Historic Deerfield, Massachusetts, where both his parents worked at Deerfield Academy. There, he developed an interest in history and how it shows up in everyday life. At 8 years old, his family moved across the country to Seattle, where he lived until returning to the Northeast to attend UVM in 2019. He graduated in May of 2023 with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in Sports Management. Interested in historical research while also looking to do something more hands-on, Aidan was drawn to the Historic Preservation program. After spending the summer working two jobs on Martha's Vineyard for the Trustees of Reservations and the Martha's Vineyard Museum, he has developed an understanding for what it takes to preserve historic landscapes, artifacts, and buildings. Recently, he began working closely with Ron Wanamaker and Chip Stulen at the Shelburne Museum, building experience in the hands-on aspect of preserving the historic buildings on the campus, as well as the restored historic boat, *The Ticonderoga*. He hopes to begin a career working in the National Parks service, helping preserve historic landscapes and structures across the country. In his spare time, Aidan enjoys playing drums, soccer, watching hockey, and hiking.



Daniel Vasquez

Daniel Vasquez grew up in Miami, Florida, and received a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Mississippi. After graduating he worked in the field of archaeology, completing surveys in Mississippi, Alabama, Michigan, Georgia, and Florida. For a period of time, he took a break from archaeology and joined the Peace Corps, serving as a Linking Income Food and Environment (LIFE) volunteer in Zambia, Africa. After his return and a couple more years of working as an archaeologist and other miscellaneous jobs, he started a job with the State of Florida's Department of Historic Preservation (DHP). While with Florida's DHP he branched out his passion of studying cultures to preserving what these cultures have made. He looks forward to studying Historic Preservation at the University of Vermont.



Denise D'Abramo

Denise D'Abramo arrives with a long-held hope of joining the Historic Preservation Program at UVM, prompted by her background in historic textiles. She began her career in the craft publishing industry in New York City, working for Butterick Patterns Co. and Vogue Knitting Magazine, before earning a BFA in Fibers from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Following this, she spent a year in India studying textiles and art on a Fulbright Scholarship. While raising two children and a motley crew of farm animals with her husband in Plainfield, Vermont, she operated Vermont Wool, a small business producing naturally dyed knitting yarns from Vermont farms. She has conducted wool spinning demonstrations, indigo, and other natural dye-related workshops around the state, most recently teaching Handwork classes in Waldorf K-8 schools. Denise now rents rooms from her historic home in Hartland, where she earnestly researches the property and its previous occupants. She can often be found running the local roads, either on horseback or on foot.



Keiran Reynolds

Keiran grew up in Cedar Falls, Iowa. In 2022, he graduated from the University of Iowa with a BA in Anthropology and History and a Museum Studies Certificate. While studying at Iowa, he worked at university museums, conducting collections and site research and digitizing exhibits. Keiran's lifelong interest in the material past and public history led him from courses in material culture studies to an undergraduate architectural history survey, where he learned about the field of historic preservation. At UVM, he looks forward to developing his skills as a researcher and communicator. In his free time, Keiran enjoys reading and hanging out with his cat, Frankie.



Meg Eaton

Meg Eaton has spent the last several years working as an archaeologist for UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program, where she conducts excavations throughout Vermont. Prior to her time at UVM, she received a BA in anthropology and geography from the University of Southern Maine, and later earned her MA in museum studies at Syracuse University. Her academic research centers on untold histories of marginalized communities and examines power dynamics in curatorial practice. Meg's passion for historic preservation began in Manchester, NH, where she grew up in a third-floor apartment of a triple-decker, just a few blocks away from one of the largest historic textile mills in the country.



Researching Trinity Campus

HP206 Surveys Trinity Campus and Surrounding Neighborhoods

In Fall 2023, preservation students in HP206, taught by Devin Colman, Vermont State Architectural Historian and program grad ('06), conducted historical research and architectural surveys of UVM's Trinity Campus and surrounding neighborhoods. The survey includes structures north of Colchester Avenue, bounded by Mansfield Avenue to the west and Nash Place to the east.

In May 2022, the university presented a development and rezoning plan to the City of Burlington Office of City Planning detailing construction proposals for new student housing units. Trinity Campus, the former main campus of Trinity College, a private Catholic university, is located within the bounds of this proposal.



Students survey UVM's Trinity Campus under the direction of Devin Colman.

The campus retains its architectural character from the early Trinity College era to its contemporary use by UVM for student housing, classrooms, and offices. The architecture, reflecting Art Deco, International, Brutalist, and Late Modern influences, reflects an institutional impulse of educational and religious innovation throughout the 20th century.



McAuley Hall, 250 Colchester Avenue. Image by Denise D'Abramo.

Preservation Classes at Historic Sites

Addison County

HP305 tours the Samson Memorial Building in Cornwall to practice writing tax credit applications and National Register nominations. On the way back to Burlington, Professor McCullough and students stopped by the Vermont Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge to tour the main barn and learn about the visitor-outreach work of program grad, Emily Baker ('22).



Students survey the Samson Memorial Building.

Shelburne Museum

HP306 discusses collections conservation and building systems at the Shelburne Museum with Nancie Ravenel, Director of Collections, and Ron Wanamaker, Lead Carpenter.



Students learn about building systems of Shelburne Museum's Stagecoach Inn.



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Flooding and Framing

On-Site in Montpelier and Richmond

In early September, first and second-year students met in Montpelier to learn about historic property recovery and resilience after the Great Vermont Flood of July 2023.

On July 11, 2023, The Winooski River crested at 21.35 feet, inundating the downtown district along State Street. At the time of the visit, the city was still in the early stages of recovery. The flooding in Montpelier rivals the destruction of Hurricane Irene in 2011 and is exceeded only by the Great Vermont Flood of 1927.

As weather patterns change and extreme weather events become more frequent, many historic resources face increased flooding risk.



Vermont History Museum, 109 State St., Montpelier, VT.
Image by Keiran Reynolds.

In Richmond, students met with program grad, Elliot Lothrop UVM HP 2002), of Building Heritage, to discuss the rehabilitation of the East Monitor Barn, a “bank barn” built in 1901. Over time, the northerly hillside shifted southerly, destabilizing the northerly retaining wall and causing the entire structure to list forward. At the time of the visit, the barn had been lifted on cribbing towers and steel I-beams and was accessible from the hillside behind the bank barn. The foundation and timber sills were being restored.



First and second-year students en-route to Essex, New York (left) on the last day of classes, with a tour by Steven Engelhart, UVM HP '85



Second-Year Internship Presentations

Will Gansle and Josie Talerman: Survey of Historic Interiors, University of Vermont Campus

Lucas Newton: New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and Preservation Timber Framing, Inc.

Zachary Salman: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Mary Cate Mosher: Richard Grubbs and Associates, Nashville, TN

Caitlin Teare: Maine Preservation



In Memoriam: Betsy Bouton (UVM HP 1979)

Courtesy *Vermont Digger* and Chester Liebs

Betsy Ann (Bigelow) Bouton passed away on August 12th. She was born on July 4th, 1928, to Drs. Nelson S. and Elizabeth (Freeman) Bigelow. Her family bought a farm in Landgrove, Vermont, where they moved during World War 2, and where she met her future husband, Edward Lane Bouton. They married in 1949. Betsy graduated with honors with a degree in Horticulture from UVM in 1950. She believed in education and considered herself a life-long learner. She also loved the Arts in all forms and passed down her appreciation for them to her children and grandchildren. She raised three children and became “Mom” to three German students and a Zambian student whom she hosted, cared about, and took pride in throughout her life.

After her children were grown, Betsy cultivated a growing passion for the built environment (especially Vermont’s), and obtained a Master’s Degree in Historic Preservation from UVM in 1979. Betsy and her friend Lillian Owre pioneered efforts to save the Barre Opera house after enrolling in Chester Liebs’ continuing education course in 1972, which marked the birth of preservation studies at UVM and eventually the HP program. Betsy became curator of the Kent Museum in Calais, conducted field surveys and photography, engaged in research about the Vermont State House, and served on the Board of Friends of the VT State House where she was a guide and member of the restoration committee. She worked as a docent at the Shelburne Museum and was author/co-author of several publications including: *A Walk Through Montpelier*, *East Montpelier Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet*, *The Vermont State House: A History and Guide*, as well as slide shows of opera houses in Barre and Randolph. After retiring professionally, she became an avid hooker (as in rugs)! One of her creations, “Tumbling Cats,” was chosen as a cover of the AFHA Newsletter. She hooked rugs for each of her grandchildren.



Mary Hotaling (right) with Amy Worden

In Memoriam: Mary Hotaling (UVM HP 1991)

by Amy Worden (UVM HP 1991)

UVMHP graduate Mary Hotaling devoted most of her career to preserving the late 19th and early 20th century architectural legacy of the Adirondacks from the lakefront Great Camps of millionaires to the sprawling campus of the Trudeau Sanitarium, where hundreds went in hope of a tuberculosis cure. When Mary died on Sept. 1, the residents of Saranac Lake lost a champion of the region's rich heritage. Those of us in the UVMHP class of 1991, lost our dear classmate and friend. We were a gang of seven, so tightknit we dubbed ourselves 'the amoeba.'

Mary, who returned to graduate school at 50, commuted to Burlington every week, spending weekends at home with her two daughters and her architect husband Jim. Mary and sometimes Jim joined us on many preservation adventures from Montreal and Boston to Washington D.C., and all corners of Vermont. In the days before the internet, we all wondered about her obsession with this TB doctor, Edward Trudeau, and his cure cottages. It was Mary's devotion to the rich history of her community that led to the creation of not one but two groups aimed at saving the built environment of Saranac Lake, including the sanitarium, long after it closed.

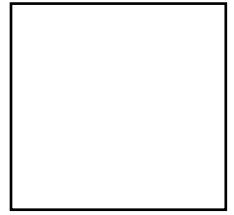
She was a co-founder of Historic Saranac Lake and Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), which is a very active non-profit involved in education and advocacy, as well as hands on preservation, in the region. AARCH was instrumental in saving Camp Santanoni, regarded as the grandest of the Great Camps - a project still underway. Historic Saranac Lake is a preservation advocacy and education group and rehabilitated the 1894 Saranac Laboratory, the first lab in the U.S. for TB research. It was opened as a museum in 2009, the same year Mary retired as executive director.

Mary also served on the New York State Board for Historic Preservation from 1993 to 1999, an appointee as Gov. Mario Cuomo. At her first meeting of the board she moved the nomination of the Adirondack Railroad to the state and National Register of Historic Places. (It's listed!) She wrote her graduate thesis on the work of architect William Coulter, who designed many of the famed Adirondack Great Camps. Mary would go on to author the book, "A Rare Romance in Medicine: The Life and Legacy of Edward Livingston Trudeau," published in 2016.

She was involved in writing and editing other publications, among them "Cure Cottages of Saranac Lake, Architecture and History of a Pioneer Health Resort," and several films and TV documentaries. I remember the surprise and delight while tuning into PBS American Experience to see Mary providing expert commentary for "The Forgotten Plague: Tuberculosis in America." I was fortunate enough to tour the grounds of the Trudeau sanitarium with Mary in the summer of 2022, and I can report she left her organization in good hands.

Anyone interested in making a memorial contribution may do so at the Historic Saranac Lake website, www.historicsaranaclake.org/in-memory-of-mary-hotaling.html or Historic Saranac Lake, at 89 Church St., Suite 2, Saranac Lake, New York 12983.

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Alumni Views

Students in HP306 learn to restore windows from program grad, Will Gansle ('23), at Ron Wanamaker's workshop in South Burlington.



UVM HP Class of 1991. Left to right: Douglas McVarish, Stephanie (Jakin) Luton, Jim Lindeberg, Ann Cousins, Mary Hotling, Amy Worden, and Nadine Miller with Eric Gilbertson (tie) on the Bollman truss bridge at Savage, Maryland. The bridge, erected in 1869 and designed by engineer Wendel Bollman for the B & O Railroad, became the country's first National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, as designated by the ASCE. Relocated to its existing site in 1888, the bridge is also a National Historic Engineering Landmark recognized by the National Park Service. Courtesy Amy Worden.