



# UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM  
HISTORY DEPARTMENT - WHEELER HOUSE - BURLINGTON, VERMONT

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## TORREY HALL FIRE: PRESERVATION RESPONSE



In August 2017, a major fire occurred at UVM during renovations to Torrey Hall, seriously burning the mansard roof. Although the Burlington Fire Department swiftly controlled the blaze, water damaged the interior. Fortunately the Zadock Thompson Zoological Collection and the Pringle Herbarium specimens were unharmed.

In October, historic preservation graduate students accompanied Professor Thomas Visser on a site visit to UVM's Torrey Hall. Hosted by the UVM Physical Plant Department, the historic preservation team offered technical assistance to help with planning for the preservation of surviving historic features.

Built in 1862 as the university's library and museum with classroom space for liberal arts instruction, Torrey Hall was expanded with a mansard roof in 1874 and moved to its present location in 1895, after which two additions were constructed for museum collections. In the 1970s the old Art Building was renovated and re-named to honor Prof. Joseph Torrey, UVM president from 1862-66.

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the first graduating class from the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program. Over 300 alumni have completed the program and are now employed in a variety of fields relating to historic preservation. In this issue we have profiled the recent accomplishments a few of our graduates who are making especially notable contributions to the preservation field.

*(continued on page 6)*

## GREETINGS FROM WHEELER HOUSE

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the first graduating class of University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program, we are dedicating this 2017 annual issue of the UVM Historic Preservation Newsletter to our graduates and students.

Indeed, we are very proud of the accomplishments of the over three hundred master's degree graduates as well as the hundreds of other undergraduate, graduate and continuing education students who have taken our historic preservation courses over the years.

There is little doubt that when we consider the cumulative impacts, their efforts have not only helped to shape the field of historic preservation nationally and beyond, but also have served the hopes and needs of many, many people who cherish places that matter.

Personally, this occasion prompts many wonderful memories of working with our students and colleagues over the years, especially since 1994 when I began directing the UVM Historic Preservation Program. It has been a wonderful privilege to share these experiences with so many students, alumni, colleagues, friends and supporters!

We are especially gratefully for the ongoing financial support that has been generously offered by so many alumni and friends. These gifts have become central to our ability to offer our students cutting-edge educational experiences, whether in the classroom, in the lab or in the field.

As we look to the future, we are pleased to announce two major initiatives aimed at helping to grow and sustain the UVM Historic Preservation Program.

Starting this fall 2017 semester, the University of Vermont has approved a special reduced tuition rate for non-resident graduate students in the Historic Preservation Program. This new non-resident tuition is designed to help UVM attract a broader and more diverse range of historic preservation graduate students nationally.

We are also pleased to announce that a new Accelerated Master's Program in Historic Preservation has been approved by the University. This Accelerated Master's Program will enable undergraduate students at the University of Vermont to get a head start in historic preservation studies and reduce the number of credits required for them to earn the M.S degree as graduate students.

For the latest information and news from Wheeler House, please visit us at [www.uvm.edu/histpres](http://www.uvm.edu/histpres) and at our Facebook page at [facebook.com/UVMHistoricPreservationProgram](https://www.facebook.com/UVMHistoricPreservationProgram).

*Professor Thomas D. Visser, Director  
UVM Historic Preservation Program*

## UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

**Editor-in-chief:** Thomas D. Visser

<b>Managing Editors:</b>	<b>Content Editors:</b>	<b>Layout Editors:</b>	<b>Photography Editors:</b>
Jake Collins	Barbara Bosworth	Maureen McCoy	Adrienne Dickerson
Alex Tolstoi	Gabrielle Fernandez	Austin White	Emma Haggerty
	Maureen McCoy		Alex Tolstoi

**Contributors:** Danielle Allen, Barbara Bosworth, Jake Collins, Adrienne Dickerson, Gabrielle Fernandez, William Floyd, Emma Haggerty, Timothy Henderson, Maureen McCoy, Alex Tolstoi, Austin White

## ROBERT McCULLOUGH'S PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR

BY BARBARA BOSWORTH

The UVM Historic Preservation Program congratulates Professor Robert L. McCullough on his promotion to full professor last year. In January 2017, Professor McCullough delivered his College of Arts and Sciences Full Professor Lecture, "Benton MacKaye's Appalachian Trail Regional Plan: The Forgotten Columbia Valley Cross-Section." The presentation was drawn from his 2012 book, *A Path for Kindred Spirits: The Friendship of Clarence Stein and Benton MacKaye*. Professor McCullough told his audience that Benton MacKaye was concerned about exploitation of natural resources and its human consequences.

One of MacKaye's progressive ideas for reform was a plan to construct self-sustaining, non-industrial communities throughout the Appalachian region, connected by a continuous foot trail. His proposal for the Appalachian Trail was published in 1921 by the Journal of the American Institute of Architects. MacKaye followed that up two years later with his work in the Columbia Valley of northern New Jersey, surveying, mapping, planning, clearing a new 10-mile foot path, and developing "a cross-sectional prototype" for his vision of the Appalachian Trail regional plan.

Professor McCullough has written three other books: *Old Wheelways: Traces of Bicycle History on the Land*, *Crossings: A History of Vermont Bridges*, and *The Landscape of Community: the History of Communal Forests in New England*. He has contributed to many other books, and written numerous journal articles and book reviews.

He became interested in architecture and architectural history in Minneapolis in 1974, when he clerked for the city attorney's office and was involved in urban redevelopment. Some of that work was exciting, he said, but the city was also tearing down many buildings.

At Hamline University School of Law, Professor McCullough earned a J.D. in 1976, followed by an M.S.L. at the Environmental Law Center of Vermont Law School in 1983. He completed an M.A. in Historic Preservation Planning at Cornell University five years later, and a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning in 1993 at Cornell.

In addition to his law and teaching careers, he worked for many years for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Professor McCullough is well known as a founder and manager of the Vermont Historic Bridge Program.

Currently Professor McCullough teaches History of American Architecture, History on the Land, Historic Preservation Law, Historic Preservation Practice Methods, and Community Preservation Project courses at the University of Vermont. As a teacher he enjoys "the continuous challenge to achieve both clarity and substantive content." He has tried to create courses with a substantial body of material. "I think we have an obligation to give students as much as we can while they are here," he said. "That has guided me."

"Historic preservation covers so many disciplines," Professor McCullough observed. "I'm just here to try to open windows and doors for students to as many different aspects of historic preservation as I can, and let students decide for themselves what really interests them, take what they can from the program, and investigate opportunities."

He has found that historic preservation graduate students really enjoy the topics they study and their course work, and "that makes it easy for me." One thing he most enjoys about teaching is following the careers of his former students. "That's really fulfilling," he said.



*Professor Robert McCullough (third from left) and graduate students in his HP 305 Historic Preservation Practice Methods course were provided with a special tour of historic preservation sites and projects in the Keesville, New York area by UVM Historic Preservation Program alumnus Steven Engelhart (left), Executive Director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), and Mary Cirbus (right), Program Director at AARCH. The day-long field trip included a visit to Ausable Chasm.*



## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS



**Adrienne Dickerson** (left) interned over the summer with the project review team for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation in Montpelier, which afforded her the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of preservation activities. She contributed to the Section 106 and Act 250 review process and attended site visits throughout the state of Vermont with the Division. She also assisted

with historic research of properties under review, some of which she was given the opportunity to present at the July 20 meeting of the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Adrienne also drafted a historic marker and performed an easement site visit for a building for which the State of Vermont holds an historic easement. She participated in the Vermont Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference in White River Junction and provided text for a pressed metal shingle display currently on exhibit at the Justin Morrill Homestead in Strafford.

**Jacob Collins** (right) had an exciting summer with the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park as a National Council for Preservation Education Intern. While there, he conducted research on Ashton Mill Village, 19th century workers' housing built for the adjacent Ashton Mill, in Cumberland, Rhode Island, and the Captain Wilbur Kelly House in Lincoln, Rhode Island, an early 19th century superintendent's house for one of the earliest mills in the state. The majority of his time was spent researching the alterations, from a late 19th century renovation to a 2015 tax credit funded restoration of the Ashton Mill Village. Additionally, he conducted research on the Captain Wilbur Kelly House, a well utilized and rarely investigated site, to help create an all-encompassing history of the property. He is grateful to Jan Da Silva, his supervisor, and the rest of the staff at the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park for allowing him the opportunity to expand his knowledge of an area which has always felt like a second home.



**Gabrielle Fernandez** spent the summer working as an intern with the Vermont Historic Sites Program. For her summer internship, Gabrielle worked at the Justin Morrill Homestead (above) in Strafford, Vermont, studying the agricultural activities at the National Historic Landmark during Justin Morrill's era. Justin Morrill, the famed "Senator from Vermont," designed the landscape, farm buildings, and residence at the Gothic Revival site between 1846 and 1848. Once completed, Morrill would go on to live at the residence for the next 50 years of his life with his family members, as he went from citizen to Vermont congressman to senator from Vermont. During this period, Morrill continuously traveled from his gentleman's farm in Strafford to Washington, allowing others to run the daily agricultural operations while still keeping informed. The purpose of Gabrielle's internship was to delve into Justin Morrill's activities at his farm, his level of knowledge, input, participation, yields, background and more. This involved sifting through a collection of over 10,000 documents held at the Library of Congress in microfilm edition. The data, though sparse in some areas, was used by Gabrielle to write a report on the agricultural history of the National Historic Landmark, presented to the Vermont Historic Sites Program at the end of her internship.



**Emma Haggerty** (above) interned with the National Trust for Historic Preservation at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, New York. Lyndhurst is a Gothic Revival mansion designed by Alexander Jackson Davis and completed in 1865. The house stands atop a hill, which overlooks the large property that provides beautiful views of the Hudson River, Palisades, and Manhattan skyline. The last owner of the property was the daughter of railroad tycoon Jay Gould, who kept the property fully staffed until it was donated to the National Trust in 1961. Emma's role was to perform hands-on conservation to the building and its surrounding structures under the guidance of Project Restoration Manager Tom Richmond, and fellow UVM HP graduate, Krystyn Hastings-Silver. Her duties included masonry, carpentry, painting, plastering, and living on site in the Greenhouse Service Building with six other interns. She had an amazing time at Lyndhurst and found her internship to be a great learning opportunity, discovering a great deal about power tools, historic materials, and what goes on behind the scenes to maintain a functioning house museum.

**Austin White** (below) completed his summer internship with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at the Central Office in Harrisburg. His tasks included updating truss bridge records for the state's Cultural Resource Geographic Information System, editing bridge assessments, documenting the removal and relocation of an extremely rare Henszey Bowstring pony truss, summarizing Transportation Agency Section 4(f) meetings, supporting archaeologists on project scopings, and assisting Preservation PA with the annual statewide preservation conference.

Austin also attended Section 106 consultation for Dunlap's Creek Bridge (completed in 1839 for the National Road), a scoping of a bridge proposed for use by the East Coast Greenway in the City of Lancaster, and aiding excavations of a former Native American chert quarry in State College. Austin was grateful to have worked for a state agency renowned for its cultural resource management in which he applied his studies, along with the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects.





## UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALUMNI PROFILES

BY BARBARA BOSWORTH

### UVM GRAD LEADS TEXAS PRESERVATION AFTER HURRICANE DISASTER



Mark Wolfe (1990), SHPO for the state of Texas

As a lawyer in Medford, Oregon, with his own practice, **Mark Wolfe** (1990) began volunteering for the Southern Oregon Historical Society in the 1980s. He found that he loved helping people write National Register nominations and research their buildings. He also joined the SOHS's board of directors. Soon enough he was donating more of his time as a preservationist than he was working as a lawyer. "I finally decided to go back to school to get a degree in historic preservation so that I could make a living basically pursuing my hobby," he said.

After receiving his M.S. degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont in 1990, Wolfe headed for South Dakota where he worked as a city planner for Deadwood, and then as the city's historic preservation officer. His more than six years in Deadwood were "an incredible opportunity for someone just getting out of school. We had money and the support of the entire state to do the right thing. So we oversaw the restoration of practically every commercial and public building in town."

From that success, he went on to manage Colorado's State Historical Fund for 12 years, and for nine of those years was also the state's deputy historic preservation officer. Colorado had legalized gambling, and an "extraordinary" amount of that revenue was designated for a statewide

preservation grant program. "At its peak, that program gave away about \$20 million per year to all kinds of preservation projects all over the state," Wolfe said. "After a few years, you couldn't drive down a street in Colorado without seeing the impact. Buildings were being restored, great archeological projects were being supported, education programs were happening, interpretive signs were going up, it was really something."

Wolfe's next move was to Austin. The Texas Historical Commission hired him to replace the retiring state preservation officer. Two months after he arrived, Hurricane Ike devastated parts of the Texas Gulf Coast. "We had several staff members in the field, working out of FEMA offices, every day for several months," he said. "And we continued to process Ike-related projects for another seven years."

As destructive as that storm was, though, the impact of Hurricane Harvey has been much worse. "It's a very sad situation, in Rockport and north into areas that saw more flooding," he commented. "My agency has two plantation properties in Brazoria County. Both survived the storm, but lower-lying properties weren't as lucky."

The commission has a programmatic agreement with FEMA that provides an accelerated turnaround time on project reviews, he said. "We're trying to staff up to meet the need. But that will take a Congressional appropriation." With a new electronic Section 106 review system, the staff hopes to be able to do more work from its Austin offices. "But some of this stuff just has to happen in the field," Wolfe said. Besides regulatory responsibilities, "we also have a duty to our customers in the many affected Main Street and Certified Local Government communities. In Texas we have a system of County Historical Commissions, so we need to maintain communications with them and provide as much help and guidance as we can."

Wolfe is proud of Texas's progress in preservation, restoration, and interpretation. The commission has a staff of more than 200 and oversees 22 historic sites. A current project is the construction of a visitor center at the location where Stephen F. Austin brought the first 300 American families to settle in what was then Mexican Tejas. There are plans for a new visitor center at the Levi Jordan Plantation, "where we can better tell the story of African Americans in Texas and

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST IN WASHINGTON

**Renee Kuhlman** (1992) currently works as director of policy outreach for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Since 2004, she has been assisting legislators and advocates across the country with the adoption, expansion, and protection of state-level historic rehabilitation tax credit programs. She also works on the campaign to protect and expand the federal Historic Tax Credit as well as the effort to put in place dedicated funding for maintaining historic resources in our national parks.

Kuhlman has also held two prior positions within the organization, including director of state and local policy from 2004 to 2006 and education coordinator for the National Preservation Conference (1997-2004). In her 20 years at the National Trust, she has provided advocacy training, authored the Helping Johnny Walk to School report as well as articles, blogs, and briefs on a variety of policies, and directed a three-year grant program to encourage the preservation of walkable, neighborhood schools.

While serving as executive director of the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation (1994-1997), Kuhlman successfully helped defend George Washington's Boyhood Home from an adjacent Walmart development, launched a scholarly journal, and created an annual lecture series. Prior to serving as executive director, she served as events coordinator for the Foundation (1992-1994). She earned a B.A. in History from the College of William and Mary in 1987 and an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont in 1992.

their contributions to the sugar and cotton economies, and the celebratory story of Juneteenth and subsequent achievements." Texas has one of the nation's most successful Main Street programs, a statewide heritage tourism program that is the envy of other states, and an award-winning grant program that has assisted in the restoration of more than sixty county courthouses, Wolfe said.

"I always say that in Texas you don't have to argue with anyone about whether or not history is important," he said. "It's in their blood."

### FROM FEMA TO FRA

**Amanda E. Ciampolillo** (entering class of 2004) has taken a new position as an environmental protection specialist with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). She heads to the FRA from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ciampolillo spent more than eleven years at FEMA, most recently as the regional environmental officer in Region III, Philadelphia.

While at FEMA, Amanda served as the senior technical advisor to all of FEMA's grant programs, ensuring projects complied with environmental and historic preservation laws. She led a staff of professionals who performed a variety of compliance tasks for thousands of regional projects per year, including those for disaster response and recovery.

Ciampolillo will be joining an environmental compliance team at FRA to work on large infrastructure projects for rail, to include items like improvements along the Northeast Corridor and high speed initiatives. She is excited to put her love of the railroad to use professionally, and hopes to be able to use her experience to improve the quality of projects and services throughout the country.

Amanda is still a newlywed, and is looking forward to starting a new chapter of her life in the Boston area. The New England region brings her closer to many of her interests, including industrial structures, bricks, and cider donuts. She has a fondness for smokestacks and an inherent love of lowercase letters.

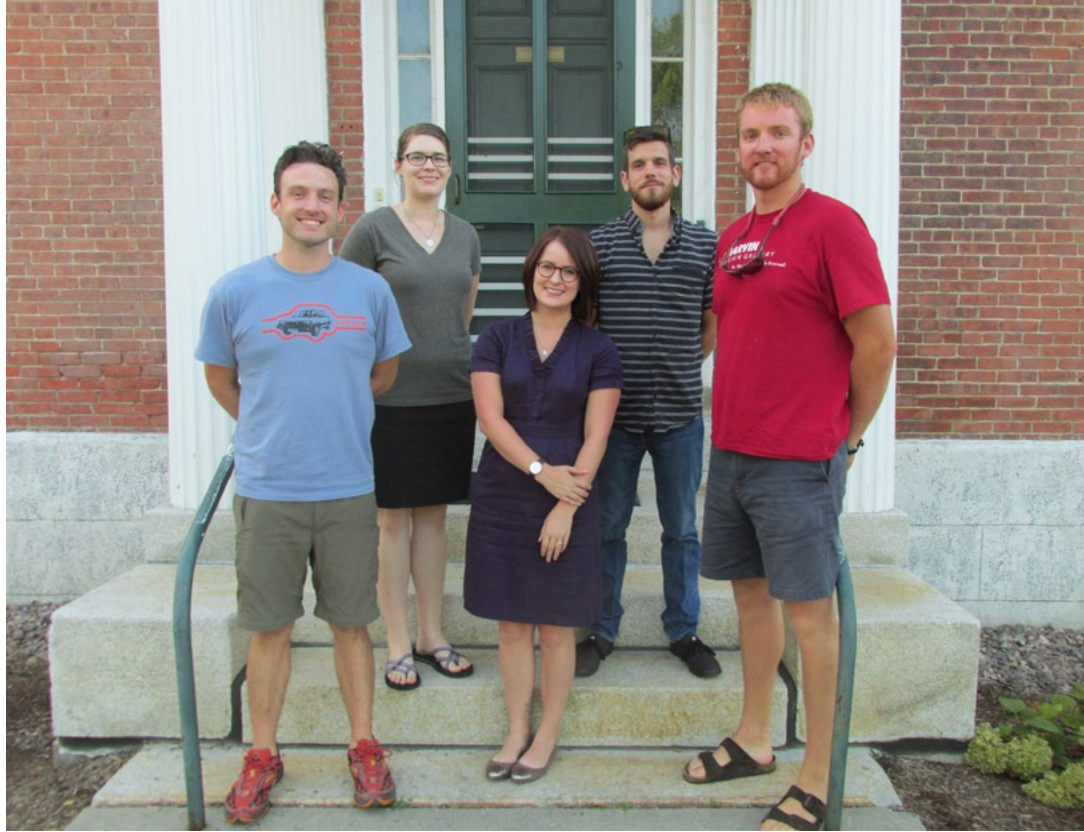
Originally from Upstate New York, Amanda holds a B.A. in History from the State University of New York College at Potsdam and an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont.



Former UVM historic preservation students met at the 2016 National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Houston, Texas. From left: Anna Mod, George Born, Dan Everhart, Thomas Visser, Renee Kuhlman, and Jim Lindberg.



## THE INCOMING CLASS



*Left to right: Will Floyd, Maureen McCoy, Danielle Allen, Alex Tolstoi and Tim Henderson*

**Danielle Allen** was born in Wiesbaden, Germany and raised in several places throughout Western Europe and the United States because of her father's career in the U. S. Air Force. Her interest in historic preservation was cultivated throughout her young life thanks to her father's occupation, many years of traveling, and a few incredibly influential mentors. Danielle graduated from the University of Missouri, St. Louis with a B.A. in History in 2016. While she was a student at UMSL, she completed an internship with The Campbell House Museum, where she was introduced to the multifaceted role house museums play in local preservation, conservation, and community outreach initiatives. Danielle also worked as a student research assistant in Special Collections for the St. Louis Mercantile Library. Her position included several projects with a focus on preservation and digital archiving. Upon graduation, Danielle hopes to continue traveling and work for a museum or an archive.

**Will Floyd** is a native of South Carolina. His passion for history and historic structures began when his parents took him to Charleston, South Carolina in the autumn of

1989 as the city began to rebuild from the devastation of Hurricane Hugo. Following this trajectory, he earned a B.A. in History from Winthrop University. During this time, he interned with a state archaeologist through the Culture and Heritage Museums of York County, South Carolina, where he worked on a comprehensive dig at a 1850s plantation. Since that experience, he has worked in various capacities as an AmeriCorps volunteer, social worker, in building and vehicular maintenance, farmer, and construction worker. Upon graduating from the Master's program, he is hoping to couple his professional and personal experiences with new skills and connections and apply them to the historic preservation industry.

**Tim Henderson** is originally from New Jersey. He graduated from Bates College in Maine with a B.A. in Classical and Medieval Studies in 2009. Tim's senior thesis was an examination of women in Augustan Rome using Ovid's poetry. Working at camps and summer schools during college compelled him to pursue a career in education. Tim taught at multiple boarding schools in New England, most recently at

South Kent School in Connecticut, from 2011 to 2017. He was a speaker at the Kent Historical Society's 2014 Veterans Day commemoration. Co-teaching a course titled "Historic Building Technologies" introduced Tim to the preservation field and, ultimately, to UVM's Historic Preservation program. Tim spent the summer of 2017 moving to Vermont and working as an installer at Windows and Doors by Brownell in Williston, Vermont. Tim's goal is a career restoring timber frame homes and barns.

**Maureen McCoy** is a recent transplant to Vermont from Louisville, Kentucky. A Louisville native, she received her B.A. in Art History and Humanities with in minor in History from the University of Louisville in 2011. During this time, she took courses in museum methods and studied archaeology, art, and architectural history abroad in Greece. In 2013 she earned a M.A. in Humanities and a Graduate Certificate in Medieval/Renaissance Studies from the same university. As part of her graduate work, she attended a workshop on the documentation and conservation of Roman mosaics at the site of Stobi, Macedonia in 2012. This experience piqued her interest in the preservation of historic sites, art in situ, and buildings. She worked professionally in higher education

for four years, where she gained experience in various leadership positions for university programs and professional organizations, before deciding to continue her education and pursue a new career. She hopes to work internationally in the field of preservation, conservation, and cultural heritage.

**Alex Tolstoi**, from South Orange, New Jersey, went to Marlboro College in southern Vermont, where he studied the creation of the Vermont Republic and the idea of the yeoman Vermonter. After college, Alex came to Burlington, where he built high-performance-custom homes and renovated Burlington houses for a local builder. While replacing rotten siding on an early 19th century Greek Revival home in Jericho, Vermont, Alex wondered why a carpenter with only hand tools and limited daylight would spend so much time and effort carving columns and notching dentils for a simple rural home. He wondered how the carpenter viewed not only his work but his country's place in world history. After six years in the trades, Alex decided to try to answer these questions by combining his love of Vermont, restoring old buildings, and studying history by entering the Masters program in Historic Preservation at UVM.



*Incoming historic preservation students were welcomed to the University of Vermont on the first week of the fall semester by returning students, alumni, guests and faculty at the UVM Historic Preservation Program's annual Wheeler House Veranda Welcome Gathering.*



## THE GRADUATING CLASS



*Left to right: Austin White, Jake Collins, Barbara Bosworth, Gabrielle Fernandez, Adrienne Dickerson, Emma Haggerty*

**Barbara Bosworth** grew up in Bristol, Rhode Island, and graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a B.A. in English. Before entering the historic preservation program, she worked for newspapers in Rhode Island, Delaware, Texas, Vermont, and New York, and for museums and other nonprofits in Vermont. She has also been a mural painter. Barbara has a strong interest in waterfront history. She researched six sites on the Burlington waterfront for HP 206 Researching Historic Structures and Sites, interned at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in the nautical archaeology conservation lab in 2015, and is conducting a conservation assessment on the Colchester Reef Lighthouse at the Shelburne Museum for HP 307 Architectural Conservation II this fall. In her spare time, Barbara enjoys hiking, photography, sailing, and kayaking.

**Jake Collins** hails from suburban Massachusetts, and completed his bachelor's degree in art history at the University of Vermont prior to enrolling in the Historic Preservation Program. He developed an early interest in curatorial work through internships at various museums, including Danforth Art and the Fleming Museum of Art, and eventually hopes

to transfer the skills he has learned during both his time in the museum world and Historic Preservation Program to a curatorial position in an historic house museum. Jake's goals are complemented by a newfound appreciation in American material culture, another field he plans to eventually study at the graduate level. In the interim, however, he would like to further hone his skills in Historic Preservation through work in the field.

**Adrienne Dickerson** was born and raised in Ozona, Texas, where her family was in the ranching industry. She attended Texas A&M University in College Station where she was an active member of the Old Main Society, a student government-run historic preservation organization. She later transferred to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where she graduated with a B.A. in History. She worked in real estate before moving to Houston where she accepted a position as a purchasing agent and assistant production manager for an electronics engineering firm. Adrienne has traveled extensively through the years, visiting as many historic sites and landmarks around the world as possible. She relocated to Winooski in August 2016 to participate in

the graduate Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont, and spent this past summer working fulltime as an intern with the project review team in the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation in Montpelier.

**Gabrielle Fernandez** has strong roots in the Green Mountain State. Born in Vermont, Gabrielle earned her undergraduate degrees in History and Art History at the University of Vermont where she gained her passion for historic architecture and the stories that buildings tell. Before her final semester in graduate school, Gabrielle interned with the Vermont Historic Sites Program studying the agricultural history of the Justin Smith Morrill Homestead in Strafford, Vermont. She now continues her passions at the University of Vermont eager to begin work in her field of study. With this passion for history and architecture Gabrielle hopes to travel Europe and study the built landscape that has been the inspirations for many great artists and architects over the centuries, before she puts down roots and begins an exciting career in historic preservation. Outside of scholarly pursuits Gabrielle enjoys outdoor photography, antiquing, and reading a good book with a cup of hot coffee.

**Emma Haggerty** grew up in southern New Jersey and attended Rutgers University where she studied planning and public policy. Throughout her courses, there was very little mention of historic preservation and during her time in New Brunswick she watched a lot of the older buildings around

her be neglected and demolished. Her unanswered questions and interests in the field allowed her to follow her passion and apply for graduate school at the University of Vermont in Historic Preservation where she is currently in her last semester. Her favorite courses have been on architectural history, preservation law, and conservation. After graduation, she hopes to end up in a city where she can combine her undergraduate and graduate passions into a career.

**Austin White** hails from Windsor, Connecticut, and spent childhood summers at his grandparents' home in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and interned this past summer with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The University of Vermont is Austin's second academic excursion to the Green Mountain State; in 2007 he graduated with a BA in History from Castleton University. Prior to the Historic Preservation Program, he served on Bloomfield, Connecticut's Wintonbury Historical Society Board of Directors and for two Northampton, Massachusetts, organizations: Historic Northampton and the Bridge Street Cemetery Preservation Committee. Between his community engagements, Austin surveyed the woods and trails of Northern Connecticut and the Pioneer Valley to document historic structures, foundations, burial grounds and dormant farmland while occasionally encountering bears, snakes, and lightning in the process. Following graduation, Austin hopes to find public or private sector work in New England or the Mid-Atlantic involving cultural landscapes, historical archaeology, and architectural restoration.



*Students and alumni of the UVM Historic Preservation Program (left), participated in a window restoration workshop at the historic Grand Isle Lake House located on the shore of Lake Champlain in Grand Isle, Vermont. The weekend program, sponsored by the Preservation Trust of Vermont, provided hands-on experience to students and others interested in preserving original features in historic buildings. The workshop, led by Ronald Wanamaker and Amy Menten of Wanamaker Restoration, focused on conserving double-hung windows on third floor of the Grand Isle Lake House.*



# UVM CAMPUS PRESERVATION NEWS

BY GABRIELLE FERNANDEZ AND AUSTIN WHITE



During the 2017-2018 academic year, the University of Vermont is undertaking several large preservation projects on its historic buildings. In addition to the renovations and repairs after the fire at Torrey Hall (next page), one of the largest campus preservation projects underway is the adaptive-reuse of the historic Billings Library (above left). Designed by one of America’s best known architects, Henry Hobson Richardson, the library was opened in 1885. Billings Library is currently being upgraded to become the new home of UVM Library’s Special Collections, as well as offices for UVM’s Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and the UVM Center for Research on Vermont.

Major repairs to the circa 1870s Wheeler Carriage Barn (above right) are being done this fall to prepare for its new use as a storage space for the UVM Theater Department. Preservation work includes replacing damaged siding, trim and sills sections, conserving wooden windows, re-painting, re-pointing the foundation, and replacing the slate roof with locally sourced slates. Historic Preservation Program graduate students conducted a finishes analysis of the exterior of the barn in spring semester in Architectural Conservation I to assist the university and its architects and engineers with planning the project. Also under construction is a new walkway across the Wheeler House west lawn. Prior to the excavation required for this new walkway and its associated landscaping and lighting, the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program performed an archaeological survey in September. A historic preservation program student assisted CAP with the screening of soil for artifacts (below).



*(Above) Torrey Hall stands under temporary stabilization after suffering severe damage from a fire that started during renovations to this historic campus building.*

*(Below) Professor Thomas Visser points out historic roofing features on Torrey Hall to UVM historic preservation graduate students with Scott O’Brien (right) of UVM Physical Plant, who discussed various technical challenges.*





## MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM: ONE YEAR LATER



Last year's newsletter provided a brief look into the 1920s Burlington landmarks that the incoming historic preservation graduate students were about to research in Professor Visser's HP 206 Researching Historic Structures and Sites course. The results of their findings now have been published online at [www.uvm.edu/~hp206](http://www.uvm.edu/~hp206).

One of the sites included in that project that has received considerable public attention over the past year is Burlington's Memorial Auditorium. The fascinating history early history of this neglected historic building was documented in the HP 206 class by graduate student, Emma Haggerty. Memorial Auditorium is a large, brick building located on the corner of South Union and Main streets that was completed in 1928. The architect, Frank L. Austin, is known for his designs of several other historic buildings in Burlington, including the Central Fire Station and the Burlington Junior High School (now part of Edmunds Middle School).

Responding to an invitation by a community group to speak about the historical significance of the building this past summer, UVM Professor Thomas Visser's ongoing research has shown that Memorial Auditorium was a key contributor to the civic growth of Burlington, Vermont. Providing the community with a publicly-owned space that could seat more than 4,000 people, Memorial Auditorium was used by generations for a wide range of civic events including concerts, graduations, dances, basketball games, boxing matches, political speeches, craft fairs, and farmers markets from 1928 until 2016. Currently, Memorial Auditorium stands empty; the last of its tenants were asked by the city to move out in December 2016.

With the building's future uncertain, community interest in preserving Memorial Auditorium has grown steadily with the creation of a citizen-run organizations and Facebook pages like "Save 242 Main" and "Save Memorial Auditorium!" Emma Haggerty's research paper has been shared broadly in efforts to further strengthen the cause that preserving Memorial Auditorium is important for the present Burlington community.

In September 2017, Professor Visser was invited to speak to a citywide meeting of Neighborhood Planning Assemblies at Burlington City Hall. At that well-attended meeting, many Burlington residents spoke movingly about the importance of preserving this local civic resource as a publicly-owned space.



## CHURCH STREET RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS



At the invitation of Champlain College's Special Collections, UVM Historic Preservation graduate student, Adrienne Dickerson and Professor Thomas Visser presented an illustrated talk at Champlain College in Burlington on May 15 to a packed room of students, faculty, guests, and Burlington residents. Entitled "Church Street: The Heart and Soul of the Queen City," the presentation combined Adrienne's Dickerson's research on the history of Burlington City Hall with Professor Visser's current research on the history of Church Street in Burlington, Vermont. Illustrated with historic images from Champlain College Special Collections and UVM Special Collections, combined with photographs taken over the years by Professor Visser, their lecture captured the magic of Church Street through its architectural history and, to the surprise of everyone, prompted many personal stories recounted by audience members. Speaking of the experience, Adrienne Dickerson called it "a remarkable opportunity to share ongoing research from the program with the greater community," and noted that it was a wonderful experience working on something so central to Burlington's history.

Later in the summer, the City of South Burlington invited Adrienne Dickerson and Professor Visser to give a follow-up presentation on the history of Church Street to a senior citizens group. The research on the history Church Street was so well received by the public that the fall 2017 student research project in Professor Visser's HP 206 Researching Historic Structures and Sites course will focus on the history of the upper blocks of Church Street.

### University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program

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*Students in Professor McCullough's cultural landscape seminar at the Robert Frost Cabin in Ripton, Vermont*

Historic Preservation Program  
Department of History • Wheeler House  
133 South Prospect Street  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, Vermont 05405

