

# Historic Preservation Program

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# Newsletter

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University of Vermont History Department  
Wheeler House Burlington, Vermont 05405

Fall 2001

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*UVM graduate students listen to the introductory presentation explaining the extensive carriage road system.*

## UVM Graduate Programs Collaborate on Innovative Interdisciplinary Field Study

By Nate Bailly and Eric Martin

This fall the University of Vermont's Historic Preservation Program collaborated with the Field Naturalist and Natural Resource Planning/Ecological Planning graduate programs in an innovative field study at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, just outside Woodstock, Vermont. The study served to foster awareness of the tension that can exist in the management of both historic and natural resources.

Members of the National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute described the issues facing management of both the park's extensive network of carriage roads and its forested periphery. Following an exploration of the historic aspects of the carriage roads led by Professors Visser and McCullough, interdisciplinary teams of students examined how the National Park Service should manage this network of roads while promoting the park's cultural, historic and ecological values. In the following weeks, the student teams developed management ideas and suggestions that they later presented to the National Park Service.

*Story continued on page 12*



## Greetings from Wheeler House

With a new class of twelve well-qualified graduate students joining a returning class of a dozen students in the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program, Wheeler House is buzzing with activity. The second year students are working on a broad range of community-based projects in their final semester historic preservation advocacy and architectural conservation courses, while the first year students are collaborating on a challenging project to document the surviving historic resources in Burlington that date from between 1830 and 1853. The first year students also recently took part in an exciting multidisciplinary study project at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont, with graduate students from the UVM Natural Resources Planning Program and the UVM Field Naturalist Program.

The program is most grateful for the generous gift contributions that have been received by friends and alumni over the past year. These special gifts have enabled the program to establish a new **UVM Historic Preservation Scholarship Fund**. Over \$11,000 was given to the fund this year, enabling the granting of eleven scholarships to historic preservation graduate students. These scholarships are a very important part of the program's strategy to recruit high quality applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds.

We are also very excited about the continued generous annual gift support from alumni and friends to the **UVM Historic Preservation Program Fund**. These gifts have enabled us to continue making upgrades to our conservation laboratory facility and to the computer equipment and software in the historic preservation studio. These contributions also help support the production costs of this annual newsletter.

Tax-deductible gifts payable to the UVM Historic Preservation Scholarship Fund or to the UVM Historic Preservation Program Fund also send very strong messages of support for the future of the UVM Historic Preservation Program and for the future of the preservation movement. Contributions to either fund may be sent to the Historic Preservation Program, Wheeler House, University of Vermont, 133 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05405.

The most exciting measure of the success of the UVM Historic Preservation Program, however, is the outstanding record of accomplishments of its graduates. Recent graduates continue to distinguish themselves in leading professional preservation positions around the nation and the world. The over 200 graduates of the UVM Historic Preservation Program are playing major roles in preserving our heritage, shaping public policy, strengthening communities and providing technical preservation solutions. As stewards of

the past, we continue to look towards the future with hope and enthusiasm. Thank you again for your continuing support.



Professor Thomas Visser  
Interim Director of Historic Preservation Program

### UVM Historic Preservation Program Newsletter

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## New Faculty Member: Welcoming Nancy Boone

by Anne Jennings

This spring, UVM's HP Program welcomes back Nancy Boone, as an adjunct faculty member. Ms. Boone will be teaching HP 305: *Historic Preservation Practice Methods*, which deals with National Register Nominations, Historic Sites and Structures Surveys and Section 106 compliance. She is no stranger to the UVM campus, having taught similar courses in the 1980s as well as being a guest lecturer for the NR segment of this course last year.

It is appropriate that Ms. Boone is teaching at UVM, as it was at a lecture given by UVM's former Director Chester Liebs one snowy evening in Middlebury, VT, which made her realize that her interest in Historic Preservation could be turned into a career.

After getting her Masters Degree from Columbia University, Ms. Boone moved to Vermont and began working at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, where she is currently the State Architectural Historian.

Her commitment to historic preservation extends well beyond her nine to five job. In her spare time, in addition to teaching at UVM, she has also participated in a number of preservation projects, most recently, as director for The Courthouse Project. This project involves putting together travelling exhibits highlighting the history and architecture of county courthouses. This project has enabled Ms. Boone to get back to doing the research she has always enjoyed, as well as delving into new areas such as designing the exhibits.

Ms. Boone also took an active role in the restoration of a vacant historic 1830s tavern in Bethel, VT. After acquiring the property, Ms. Boone worked on everything from design specifications to the management of the property and developed it into five units of affordable housing. This project won the 1997 Preservation Trust of Vermont Honor Award.

Ms. Boone is looking forward to teaching this spring at UVM, and enjoys the interactivity between the communities of Vermont and the program. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Nancy Boone back to Wheeler House, and we look forward to sharing her enthusiasm, energy and experience in historic preservation.

As the UVM Historic Preservation Program continues to grow, its home on the World Wide Web follows suit. The site can be found at [www.uvm.edu/histpres](http://www.uvm.edu/histpres).



281 St. Paul Street, a pre-1853 survivor  
Michael Goebel-Bain

## Surveying Burlington: An Ongoing Initiative

by Walter Maros

In the fall 2000 newsletter, readers were alerted to a new project of the UVM Historic Preservation Programs *Researching Historic Sites and Structures* class, in which students sought to identify surviving structures that were constructed in Burlington before 1830. The in-depth results of that project, *Burlington 1830*, can be viewed by accessing the UVM Historic Preservation Program website ([www.uvm.edu/histpres/HPJ/burl/1830](http://www.uvm.edu/histpres/HPJ/burl/1830)). The website resources include images of the first known map of Burlington, drawn in 1830 by architect-planner Ammi B. Young and an overlay of the 1830 map onto 1998 aerial photographs of Burlington, followed by current photographs and historical research text for each of the structures that survive from the 1830 map.

Building on the success of the *Burlington 1830* project, first year students are continuing the archival research and street survey of Burlington, with a focus on the next significant map of the city, which was done in 1853 by the firm of Presdee & Edwards. This project, *Burlington 1853*, will document surviving structures constructed between 1830 and 1853, a period of dynamic growth when Burlington was transformed from a village into a robust town.

When finished, the completed surveys will provide a detailed and unprecedented look into the history of the city. Furthermore, by making the information accessible to the public via the internet it will promote the most important facet of preservation, and that is public education.



## Graduating: Class of 2002



*Back Row: Michael Bowman, Jason Klostreich, Douglas Porter, Kate Burns, Lisa Ryan, Anne Jennings, Michael Goebel-Bain, Tom Visser, Bob McCullough. Front Row: Justin Cook, Mike Johnson, Andi Livi, Keats Gallagher, Mary O'Neil.*

**Michael Bowman** graduated magna cum laude from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, with a degree in History and a concentration in Public History. A member of the Phi Alpha Theta and Alpha Chi honor societies, Michael has worked at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York where he helped develop the library's website dealing with the President's secret safe files. In addition, he volunteered for the National Park Service as an historic interpreter at Death Valley National Park in California, and spent the period after graduation working as a website designer for an international stock photography agency. This past summer Michael worked for the City of Burlington Planning Commission conducting an Historic Sites and Structures survey and updating the city's database of previously surveyed buildings. In his spare time he serves as the Historian for the Village of Nelsonville in Putnam County, New York, as well as a volunteer for the Bannerman's Island Trust and numerous other non-profit organizations.

**Kate Burns** graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1997 with a BA in History. Her interest in historic preservation was first stimulated while studying abroad in the Czech Republic, after which she spent seven months teaching English in Moscow. She returned to the US to pursue a PhD in Modern European History at the University of Chicago, but decided to leave with a MA in order to study historic preservation. This past March she applied the spring research grant offered to students in Historic Preservation at UVM towards a trip to Poland. After visiting several historic districts in Warsaw and Krakow, she interviewed the head conservator at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum and documented preservation issues at Birkenau. She spent the summer as a US/ICOMOS intern for the National Trust, Wessex Region in England, where she researched the involvement of five Bristol-area properties with the slave trade. The documentation will be used in response to general inquires and for on-site

interpretation. She plans to pursue a career in research and interpretation, with a special interest in preservation strategies for the more neglected aspects of national histories.

**Justin Cook** graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 1998 with a degree in Classics. His undergraduate work centered on Roman History and included a term at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. While studying in Italy, immersion in a society that is struggling to incorporate modernization with a steep architectural heritage compelled Justin to contemplate a career in historic preservation. After completing post-baccalaureate work in Classics, History, and Urban and Regional Planning, Justin enrolled in the Historic Preservation program at the University of Vermont. Having completed an internship as a Historic Preservation Specialist at the Vermont Agency of Transportation in the summer of 2001, Justin plans to pursue a career in preservation with a state agency and would like to return to the Ohio/Western Pennsylvania area.

**Keats Gallagher** has an undergraduate degree in History from Duke University and has worked in affordable housing and housing rehabilitation over much of the last two decades. He spent the summer working for the Institutional Real Estate Department of Columbia University doing survey and project development work. He continues to pursue small rehabilitation projects such as a converted carriage barn in Montpelier, Vermont. He and Mike Johnson are working on an exciting project this semester, assisting the Solar Works corporation in the solar retrofitting of their 19<sup>th</sup> century Greek Revival farmhouse outside of Montpelier.

**Michael Goebel-Bain** graduated from Bradley University with a degree in English. After teaching high school for one year, Michael returned to construction, which had been his summer job throughout college. Having practiced as an independent contractor in Illinois for five years, Michael relocated to Greenfield, Massachusetts, where he worked for Gougeon and Locke Builders remodeling and repairing older homes. This contact with historic buildings increased his interest in preservation, but time spent as a volunteer and contractor on a variety of conservation, construction, and research projects at Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield, Massachusetts fully developed his interest in historic preservation. His architectural history of the 1841 Deerfield Town Hall has recently been incorporated into a short videotape that will aid in preservation fundraising for the building. Michael spent the past summer as an intern with the Trustees of Reservations at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington, MA. He analyzed the historic paint finishes, researched and documented the wallpaper, produced a variety of treatment recommendations for structural problems and architectural

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## Entering: Class of 2003



*From left to right: Joe Haun, Steve Levine, Eliot Lothrop, Lois Coulter, Walter Maros, Trinity Dix, Daniel Everhart, Christian Carey, Nathaniel Bailly, Eric Martin, Robert Panepinto.*

**Nate Bailly** graduated with a BA in History from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. He has always been intrigued with American architecture and cities, spending two weeks on-site studying Frank Lloyd Wright's "Fallingwater." His undergraduate career culminated with a thesis illustrating the adaptive use of a downtown St. Paul post office. He feels that learning more about Historic Preservation at UVM and throughout the surrounding area will help to prepare him for the constant challenges facing preservation planning and the management of our cultural resources.

**Christian Carey** graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. Since then, he has worked throughout New England on residential, light commercial and preservation related projects. Chris is a registered architect in Vermont and Massachusetts. He first became interested in Historic Preservation while studying architecture at the Bauhaus in Dessau, Germany. Chris plans to continue to practice architecture and advocate for historical preservation issues.

**Lois H. Coulter** is a graduate of Queen's University at Kingston School of Business and also earned a degree in Interior Design from Niagara College. She combined the two academic fields through employment in the advertising industry as a mechanical artist and graphic designer. She has also worked as a Conservation Educator through the NY State Parks and is currently employed as Curator of the Massena (NY) Museum. In her volunteer work with the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee to the City of St. Catharines (ON) she has dealt with the political realities of conservation and her association with Raquette Valley Habitat for Humanity (NY) has taught her both the business and practical aspects of new construction and rehabilitation of old buildings.

**Trinity Dix** graduated cum laude from Elmira College, NY, in June 2001 with a BA in Philosophy & Society. While in Elmira, she worked for a local non-profit organization. Her work included grant writing, requisitioning state funds and loan approvals for affordable housing applicants. During her junior year, Trinity had the chance to travel to various countries such as Cuba, South Africa, India and Vietnam. She hails from Whitingham, Vermont and is happy to return to her home state to study historic preservation.

**Daniel Everhart** is a 2001 graduate of Baylor University with a BA in Museum Studies and History and a Boise, Idaho native. Having completed an internship with the Idaho State Historical Museum as an assistant to the Preservation Specialist, he hopes to combine his interest in preservation and museum work.

**Jeff Fellingner**, raised in Williston, VT, comes to the program as a local. He received a Biology degree from Middlebury College in 1995, and proceeded to become a carpenter. Though he has spent most of his working hours swinging tools and driving a truck, Jeff was also the Mollie Beatty intern at the Vermont Natural Resources Council in 1999, and interned at the Pacific Regional Headquarters of the National Park Service last spring. His interests in the environment, construction, rural architecture and community development led him to the UVM HP program. Jeff is also a musician, a sailor and a hack Saab mechanic.

**Joe Haun** received a BA in Art and English from Bucknell University in 1998. Upon graduation he moved to Whitefish, MT, where he spent the majority of his past three years. Working seasonally for a ski resort, restaurants, and the US Forest Service provided time to travel extensively throughout the US and briefly in Europe. The urban sprawl he witnessed plaguing the States cultivated an awareness of the importance of preservation combined with proper urban planning.

**Steven Levine**, from the Boston area, has a BA in English, a MEd in Counseling Psychology and a certificate in Technical Writing. For the past twelve years, his vocation has been as a technical writer, but his avocation has been writing and giving architectural tours in the Boston area, as well as being involved with civic design, transportation and architectural issues. This included summer studies in Urban Design at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Steven enrolled in the Historic Preservation program at the University of Vermont so that he can attain the skills necessary to turn his avocation into a vocation.

**Eliot Lothrop** graduated from Hobart College this past spring with a BA in Architecture and Studio Art. A member of the Orange Key honor society, Eliot was president of his fraternity and captain of the Hobart Crew team. While working at an architectural firm in Concord, New

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## Summer Internships

The Historic Preservation Internship is intended for graduate students in the UVM Historic Preservation Program who elect not to write a thesis. Students devote a summer to preservation work within an appropriate institution or agency, allowing them to gain valuable "real world" experience in their chosen area within the field. Evaluation of the internship is based on a slide presentation given by the student, as well as on a written report describing responsibilities and accomplishments and a written evaluation from the student's internship supervisor.

### Historic Resources and Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park is comprised of 760,000 acres containing roughly four hundred historic buildings (five of which are National Historic Landmarks), thousands of miles of historic trails and roads, and hundreds of historic bridges, signs and campsites. Mike Johnson's internship supervisor, Preservation Specialist Craig Struble, oversees all of these resources and is responsible for their protection, care and maintenance. Craig's staff consists of two full-time exhibits specialists and three seasonal employees who are too busy keeping structures standing to manage the park's cultural resource inventory. Thus, the List of Classified Structures (LCS) and the Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS) databases were Mike's major summer projects.

Mike's first task was to learn the complex history of the park from its origins as the site of a number of Miwok villages to its discovery by explorers and forty-niners, to its designation as a California state park and finally its establishment (along with Yellowstone), as the first national park in the country. The park has been the subject of debate since the mid-1800s. Everyone has an interest in the park and as times have changed, so have park preservation policies. This, in addition to the regular natural occurrences of flood, fire and rockslide, has resulted in many building alterations. This tumultuous past and Mike's unfamiliarity with the park made his job interesting and frustrating by turns.

His work with the databases lasted roughly seven weeks of the twelve-week internship. About half of this time was spent on site visits and photo documentation, studying maintenance records, histories, photographs and maps to gain more complete information. The other half was spent restructuring, building and editing the databases, and downloading, editing and inserting photos. This work helped to familiarize Mike with the park and



*Parsons Lodge in Yosemite National Park.  
Mike Johnson*

This work helped to familiarize Mike with the park and gave him a basic understanding of the vast variety of its architecture: crude mining shacks, log cabins, corncrib barns, Victorian hotels, rustic-style fire lookouts and homes, and Tudor-style memorials, among others.

In addition to work on the databases, Mike joined the preservation crew on a 1940s log cabin located in a grove of giant sequoias, which was constructed as a ranger station. During the summer the Cedar shake roof and rotted sills were replaced, and the stone masonry steps and front and back stoops were rebuilt. Mike learned a great deal about Cedar shake roofing, proper mortar-mixing technique and consistency, stone-cutting, and rustic carpentry in the few weeks he was involved with the project.

A number of preservation issues came up during work on this structure. An original design flaw in the front steps resulted in the trapping of moisture at the sill base, speeding up the deterioration of the wood. Craig decided to alter the design slightly so that airflow would increase and dry the sills faster. Additionally, the cabin's location at the base of a slope caused water to drain directly into the back sill-logs. A photo from the early eighties showed a 'V'-shaped log diversion dam behind the cabin, which was no longer there. Historic photos were not available, but the group had to consider replacing the dam as a preservation measure to slow down the deterioration of the new sills. These issues made Mike consider the problem of what to do about flaws in historic designs.

He was also able to spend a few days in the backcountry conducting a conditions assessment of a circa 1900 icehouse and documenting a remote ranger station and homestead. The location of these sites required thorough photo-documentation and notes due to the difficulty and expense of accessing them. This afforded Mike the opportunity to consider the necessary preliminary work, equipment and documentation techniques for wilderness structures.



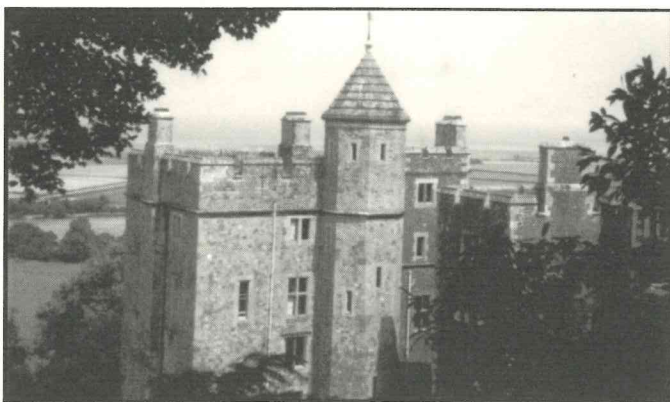
## US/ICOMOS Internship with The National Trust, Wessex Region: Bristol Area Properties and the Slave Trade

As this year's US/ICOMOS intern to the United Kingdom, Kate Burns was placed at The National Trust, Wessex Region Office under the supervision of Historic Building Representative John McVerry. The Wessex Region is located in the southwest of England, and covers the cities of Bristol and Bath as well as Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire counties.

Her project brief acknowledged the increasing public attention given to Britain's involvement in the 17th and 18th century triangular trade, in particular the African slave trade. The prosperity brought by the trade and its related industries enabled many British citizens to acquire or enhance country estates and urban residences. As it is the aim of the Trust to present an accurate historical picture of the properties it protects, Kate was asked to supply the Communications and Curatorial departments with information concerning the involvement of families associated with National Trust properties in the slave trade. Her research will be used in response to general inquiries and for on-site interpretation.

The scope of the project was limited to five properties in the Bristol area to accommodate the three-month time frame of the internship. The properties investigated included Blaise Hamlet, Clevedon Court, Dunster Castle, Dyrham Park and Westbury College Gate. The last property, it should be noted, was examined in respect to the early medieval slave trade.

Kate began her research by consulting the vast secondary literature on Bristol's participation in the slave trade as well as the brass, sugar, tobacco and banking industries. From there, she did primary research at several local libraries and record offices, as well as at the Public Record Office in London. Despite the abundance of material on Bristol and the slave trade, finding documentation on relatively minor participants in the trade proved to be a



*Dunster Castle, located near Minehead, was one of several National Trust properties investigated.*

rather elusive task. Fortunately, a very supportive staff at the Society of Merchant Venturers and a successful trip to the Public Record Office provided enough information to flesh out a picture of each family's interests in the slave trade. Sue Giles at the Bristol Art Museum, who was involved in the museum's 1999 slavery exhibit, was kind enough to offer her time and advice, and Julia Elton was extremely gracious in allowing Kate to view the Elton family papers at Clevedon Court.

The final project submitted to the Trust began with a brief introduction to the slave trade in Bristol, followed by short narratives describing each family's links to the trade. Document archives containing transcriptions and an annotated bibliography were created for each family, and a separate section of notable stories was included.

Although the majority of her internship was spent engrossed in the slave trade, Kate was able to acquire a fuller appreciation for the work of the Trust during site visits to these and other properties. The opportunity to attend orientation at the regional office was especially helpful, and Kate was sincerely appreciative of the interest shown by the regional office staff and the support of her supervisor. She lived in Bristol with region conservator Mary Greenacre, her husband Francis and their daughter Jemima. The Greenacres not only increased her knowledge of preservation in England, but also insured that she learned a great deal about Bristol and its environs.

## Advocacy Projects

Professor Bob McCullough's *Historic Preservation Advocacy* course examines the fundamental tools and methods of advocacy in the historic preservation field. Second year students enrolled in the course were presented with a portfolio of potential projects submitted by non-profit organizations and public-sector organizations. The following projects were selected this fall:

**Michael Bowman and Justin Cook** are working on a National Register Nomination for the Whiteface Veteran's Memorial Highway.

**Kate Burns** is working on a CD-ROM version of her research on Bristol area National Trust (UK) properties and the slave trade.

**Keats Gallagher and Mike Johnson** are producing a report on preservation issues involving solar energy systems and historic buildings, using the Jacob Davis homestead as an example.

**Michael Goebel-Bain's** advocacy project is a history of the Ebenezer Perkin's House and associated properties located on the Royalston, MA common. The history will help Landmark Trust USA with its restoration of the house.

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## Advocacy Projects

*Continued from page 7*

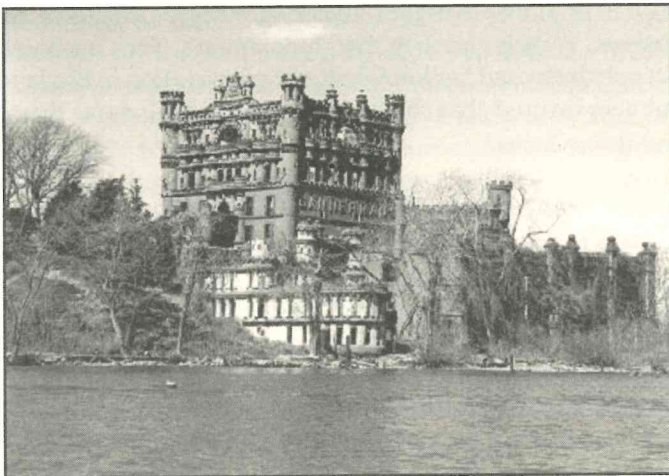
**Anne Jennings** is working with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to create a resource guide for historic homeowners.

**Jason Klostreich** is organizing last year's Sites and Structures Surveys of Burlington's North End into a complete urban survey for the use of Burlington's Planning Commission.

**Andi Livi** and **Mary O'Neil** are working on an informative brochure entitled "Historic Bakersfield," featuring some of the outstanding architecture and history of Bakerfield, VT.

**Doug Porter's** advocacy project is an assessment of the Montpelier design review ordinance.

**Lisa Ryan** is writing a self-guided historic architecture walking tour of Stowe, Vermont's downtown historic district.



*Approaching the ruins of Bannerman's Island  
Michael Bowman*

## Spring Research Trips

First-year students in the *Historic Preservation Contemporary Practices* course last semester took advantage of an additional week of spring break to study preservation efforts across America and abroad. The opportunity to travel to other areas enabled students to pursue a particular geographical interest or regional preservation issue. Spring research travel grants from the HP Program's endowment fund help to defray expenses incurred during these trips.

**Michael Bowman** traveled home to the Hudson Valley where he explored the history and ruins of the West Point Foundry and Bannerman's Island.

**Kate Burns** traveled to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum in Poland, where she investigated the preservation practices used at Birkenau.

**Justin Cook** used the spring research travel grant to study the facade restoration recently undertaken at the Palazzo Crescenzi in the heart of Rome, Italy.

**Keats Gallagher** traveled to New Orleans, LA, to review the work of the Preservation Resource Center in the area's neighborhood rehabilitation projects.

**Michael Goebel-Bain** visited the Peterborough Historical Society in New Hampshire. They are working on a major rehabilitation of their main building and restoration of several historic properties they own.

**Anne Jennings** studied the restoration of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Synagogue in Krakow, Poland.

**Mike Johnson** explored several preservation projects in Columbus, Ohio, including the Ohio State Capitol building, North Market, and the German Village historic district.

**Jason Klostreich** completed an in-depth survey of architectural styles and preservation practices in San Diego, CA.

**Andi Livi** compared and analyzed the events of a successful preservation project (the Mowry- Richardson House) and an unsuccessful one (the Masonic Temple) with the help of the Providence Preservation Society in RI.

**Doug Porter** worked on the emergency stabilization of Las Flores, a National Historic Landmark near Oceanside, CA.

**Lisa Ryan** visited several sites in New Mexico, Texas and Mexico to study earthen architecture.



*Tourists enjoy the ruins of the Coliseum in Rome.  
Justin Cook*





## Earthen Architecture in the Southwest and Mexico

Last spring, Lisa Ryan explored different methods of earthen architectural techniques in the southwest. The main focus of her research trip to New Mexico, Texas and Mexico was the preservation of a 19th century adobe mission in Socorro, Texas. She teamed up with Cornerstones, a non-profit organization committed to building community through the preservation of its historic resources, to learn about the process of documenting an historic building, adobe brick making, and mud and lime plastering.

Although the method of using mud to make bricks is thought to have arrived with the Spanish, there is evidence of earthen construction from long before the Spanish set foot on American soil. In order to gain a better understanding of the origins of earthen architecture, Lisa traveled to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century Gila Cliff dwellings located in the Gila National Forest. Pueblo Indians of this region used quarried stone and mud mortar to construct these dwellings. The walls were then plastered in mud and painted using pigments found in the vicinity. Much like the adobe dwellings of today, the Pueblo used large timber crossed with smaller branches to build a roof. These dwellings have survived strong winds, extreme cold and rain for over 700 years.

Another method of earthen architecture that Lisa studied was found at Paquime, located in Casas Grandes, Mexico. The Mogollon people of this region built an entire city using a method called "puddled mud". The buildings were constructed in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century by laying mud a handful at a time. Once the construction was completed, a roofing system similar to that of modern adobe and the Gila Cliff dwellings was employed.

Lisa found many similarities in her exploration of these different examples of earthen construction. In tracing the origins of this building method in the southwest United States and northern Mexico, it is safe to say that the indigenous people of the area have vastly contributed to the modern landscape of today.

## Wood-Preserving Technology in Nineteenth-Century America

By Douglas Porter

The practice of preserving wood through the application of mechanical and chemical preservative materials is thousands of years old. The proliferation of railroads in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century occasioned the development of systems for treating wood on a commercial scale as a result of the demand for timber required for roadbeds, bridges and trestles. Most of the significant methodologies were developed in Europe, where timber had been in short supply for centuries, but over one hundred patents were issued in the U.S. between 1830 and 1880. U.S. companies did not have the same economic incentives to preserve wood as their European counterparts, however, and interest in the processes languished. Publication of a report on the condition of U.S. forests issued as part of the 1880 Census impressed consumers of timber with the tenuousness of the resource, and attention was turned once again to the wood preservative systems developed in Europe.

During this period, decay of timber was thought to originate in the sap. Wood fiber on its own was thought to be impervious to deterioration by decay, but when combined with sap, a process of "fermentation" was begun which consumed the entire product. Nineteenth-century Europe developed four major commercial systems for the preservative treatment of timber. The first, called Kyanizing after its inventor, was introduced in 1832. The straightforward process involved steeping timbers in an antiseptic solution of corrosive sublimate, or mercuric chloride. The antiseptic was stored in masonry tanks lined with wood that were large enough to hold several thousand board feet of lumber at a time.

In 1838, John Bethell introduced his creosoting process, whereby a coal-tar distillate was forced into timbers by pneumatic pressure in enormous closed tanks. Initially, the process consisted of placing the timbers in closed tanks, partially filling the tanks with the "dead oil," and applying a vacuum to draw the sap out. The tank was then filled with creosote and pressure applied to force the oil into the pores of the wood.

The same year as Bethel's patent, Sir William Burnett introduced a process for treating wood involving the steeping of timbers in a solution of chloride of zinc. Eventually, Burnett abandoned steeping in favor of the Bethel process, substituting chloride of zinc for creosote. The antiseptic was prone to efflorescing from the wood, and various attempts were made to combine the zinc chloride with a second solution so that insoluble salts were formed inside the wood as a result of the treatment process.

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## Wood Preserving Technology

*Continued from page 9*

A fourth process, patented by Boucherie in 1839, consisted of forcing a solution, usually sulphate of copper (and occasionally corrosive sublimate), longitudinally through the cells of the wood or "tubes of vascular tissue." At first, Boucherie experimented with "vital suction," tapping the live tree and using its life processes to distribute the antiseptic. Uneven results prompted experiments with "hydraulic" or hydrostatic pressure to impregnate freshly cut logs with antiseptic. Felled logs were laid side by side with one end elevated. An iron cap was attached to each of the elevated ends, to which pipes were fastened. The pipes were connected to a wooden vat of the solution, perched high on a tower.

All of these processes were used in Europe with measured success, but in the U.S. there were notable failures. American timber was relatively plentiful and inexpensive, and the treatment of wood was costly and time-consuming. U.S. companies could afford to replace timbers when they decayed. In mid-19th century America, wood preservation needed to be inexpensive in order to be cost effective.

In 1880, Charles S. Sargent, a Harvard University professor and an agent of the Census Bureau, began compiling data on U.S. timber supplies for a report released as part of the Tenth Census. Results of his research were published in a number of journal and newspaper articles, particularly his comments regarding the supply of white pine. At 1880 rates of consumption and replenishment, the supply of white pine suitable for use in construction was not expected to last into the next century.

While the extent of the "wood famine" was debated in the press, civil engineers, architects and large-scale consumers of timber began collateral searches for wood substitutes and ways of conserving remaining timber supplies. Existing wood-preserving technologies were reviewed and re-evaluated in technical journals of the time. Increases in the price of timber and greater availability of affordable antiseptic solutions changed the price structure of wood preservation, and wood-preserving programs were implemented by several railroads.

In revisiting the issue of wood preservation technology, engineers, architects and railroad men became involved in the development of a movement to conserve forest resources. An awareness of the interdependency of timber preservation and forest preservation was developing. Appearing alongside technical reviews of wood preservation systems, articles extolling the virtues of forest management emphasized the relationship between healthy forests on the one hand, and healthy rivers and croplands on the other.

The threat of a timber shortage led to tree-planting operations, tax credits were proposed for farmers engaged in tree cultivation, and attempts were made to persuade legislatures to set aside and protect wooded areas as part of

larger soil and water conservation efforts. In the exposure of the nation's timber supply to possible depletion, railroads and other large consumers of forest products unwittingly created the conditions necessary for the emergence of American forestry.

*Editor's note: Footnotes were removed from this article due to space limitations.*

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## Entering: Class of 2003

*Continued from page 5*

Hampshire, he developed an interest in timber-framed buildings, which eventually led him to Historic Preservation. He currently works at Joint Effort Timber Framing in Cambridge and resides in Richmond. Eliot has volunteered with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and plans to do the same with the Richmond Land Trust for their Monitor Barn project this fall.

**Walter Maros** chose to enroll in the UVM Historic Preservation Program and leave a career of over fifteen years with the brokerage firm Merrill Lynch to fully commit to his long-term interest in preservation. He has a BA in English from Rutgers College, and has served on his local historic preservation commission in Franklin Township, NJ since the late 1980s. A firm believer that the surrounding landscape is an integral part of the contextual meaning of an historic site or an historic district, Walter served on the Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee, which was charged with making recommendations for the township's tax-funded land preservation program. Walter also served on the Somerset County NJ Cultural & Heritage Commission's Historic Preservation Award Committee since the inception of the award program in 1994.

**Eric Martin** graduated summa cum laude from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2000 with a degree in Honors History. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and Eta Sigma Phi, Eric volunteered at the Nicollet County Historical Society in St. Peter, Minnesota, where he helped catalog the Society's three-dimensional collection and design exhibits. Eric's foreign travel created his desire to use the preservation of America's architectural heritage to foster sustainable urban development.

A native New Yorker, **Robert F. Panepinto** comes to UVM after ten years in retail. He has worked in Pennsylvania, Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Connecticut for Borders Books, Music, and Cafe, Linens & Things, and the past two years as a store manager for The Museum Company at the Danbury Fair Mall in Connecticut. Robert graduated from Villanova University in 1991 with a BA in American History, and received his Masters, also in American History, from Villanova in 1993. Robert has come to UVM, not only to escape retail, but to return to the field of history.



## Graduating: Class of 2002

*Continued from page 4*

features, and put some of those recommendations into practice using his preservation carpentry experience. Presently Michael is working on the history of the Ebenezer Perkins house in Royalston, MA, a property owned by Landmark Trust USA and the history of the Royalston town common.

**Anne Jennings** graduated from the State University of New York at New Paltz in 1997 with a BA in English and worked in a variety of fields, from marketing to painting, before enrolling in UVM's Historic Preservation Program. Anne has used her time at UVM to study preservation in the US and abroad, using her spring research trip to travel to Poland to see first-hand the restoration project of a synagogue in Krakow, and meet with the project's conservator. Anne spent her summer working in Vermont on a joint project between the VT Department of Environmental Conservation and the VT Division for Historic Preservation assessing and inventorying dams throughout the state. Her role in this ongoing project was to document the historic and cultural significance of these dams. Anne will be continuing her work in this field, working on further research for the Division of Historic Preservation, as well as writing her thesis on the topic of the significance of historic dams and what type of preservation policy should be enacted regarding them.

**Mike Johnson** received a BA in History from Ohio State University in 1992. Since graduating, he has worked on a number of archaeological surveys and excavations throughout the United States. The opening of a Mississippian archaeological park on an abandoned Air Force base in northeast Arkansas sparked his interest in preservation. Later work in the home restoration and construction fields broadened his scope of interest to include the historic built environment and its related craftsmanship. Working at Yosemite National Park as an intern with the Preservation Specialist and crew, Mike documented numerous structures through the use of digital photography, conducted condition assessments on backcountry structures, updated and edited cultural resource databases and worked with the preservation crew repairing the sills, roof and related masonry on a 1940s log cabin. He currently works with a small restoration company in Burlington. After graduation, Mike plans to work for the preservation of cultural resources and rural open space.

**Jason Klostreich** is a 1996 Liberal Arts graduate of the Virginia Military Institute. While a cadet at VMI, he was exposed to numerous venues that raised his awareness of historically and culturally significant structures and areas. Upon graduation, Jason moved to Madison, CT to work for

Facilities Resource Management Co. (FRM, Inc.), a consulting company that contracted services to colleges and universities on the east coast, before relocating to the mid-Atlantic. For the past two years he worked in sales and marketing in the Washington, D.C. metro area as an Account Executive for an information technology solutions provider. Jason came to the Historic Preservation Program at Vermont to combine his business interests in the private sector with those of managing historically and culturally significant sites and structures. During this past summer he interned with the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies in their Personal Lines & Appraisal Division in New Haven, CT. Jason worked with senior appraisers throughout Fairfield and Litchfield Counties to document and identify features of historic homes that would then be underwritten and insured-to-value in case of a claim. Upon graduation he hopes to enter the private sector in the areas of historic property management, insurance or consulting.

**Andrea Livi**, born and raised in Paris, France, graduated with honors from Brown University with a BA in both Architectural Studies and Comparative Literature. Andi came to UVM after a year interning at the Providence Preservation Society and the Rhode Island Historical Society. She worked this summer for Slater Mill Historic Site in Pawtucket, RI, where she provided interpretation to visitors, completed an architectural assessment and window survey as well as maintained historic machinery. Andi is currently creating a walking tour brochure for the village of Bakersfield, VT.

**Douglas Porter** is a preservation consultant and tradesman living in Jeffersonville, VT. His experience includes over two decades in the building trades. For the past several years, he has been involved in the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings as a consultant and in a hands-on capacity as a contractor and carpenter. Since 1998, he has had a working relationship with the Architectural Conservation Division, National Park Service-Intermountain Region. Recent projects include stabilization of a landmark adobe ranch complex in California, a presentation of log conservation techniques at the University of Pennsylvania, and a vestibule addition to the Bertram Goodhue church in Manhattan.

**Mary O'Neil** is a 1977 graduate of the University of Vermont, where she was elected Phi Beta Kappa. Having worked in educational and athletic settings, Mary has also been a weaver, a seamstress and had a small contract woodshop. While raising a large family, Mary's commitment to early literacy prompted her to offer reading-readiness activities to a local daycare. Mary has served on the Centennial Committee of the Brownell Library, where she is a trustee, and currently serves on the Building and Grounds Committee during a major renovation of Essex Junctions community library. Passionate about old land and vital records, Mary continues her research about early Burlington

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## Interdisciplinary Field Study

*Continued from Page 1*

This project has been a wonderful way to initiate dialogue between these disciplines. The Historic Preservation Program looks forward to additional opportunities for collaboration with the University's School of Natural Resources and Field Naturalist programs on exploring such conservation management topics.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is America's only national park to focus on conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship. Opened in June 1998, Vermont's first national park preserves and interprets the historic Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller property. The park is named for George Perkins Marsh, one of the nation's first global environmental thinkers, who grew up on the property and graduated from the University of Vermont, and for Frederick Billings, a successful businessman and an early conservationist who established a progressive dairy farm and professionally managed forest on the former Marsh farm. Frederick Billings' granddaughter, Mary French Rockefeller, and her husband, conservationist Laurance S. Rockefeller, sustained Billings' mindful practices in forestry and farming on the property over the latter half of the 20th century.

The Conservation Study Institute was established by the National Park Service to enhance leadership in the field of conservation. The Institute was created in partnership with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park to share the park's mission of conservation stewardship with a national audience. In collaboration with academic and nonprofit partners, the Institute provides a forum for the conservation community and the public to discuss conservation history, contemporary issues and practice, and future directions for the field.

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## Alumni Updates

Several University of Vermont HP graduates are employed by one of the country's largest preservation firms, John Milner Associates, with offices located in Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia. A multi-disciplinary firm, JMA has participated in a wide variety of residential, commercial and publicly funded projects throughout the United States, providing services for clients in the private sector as well as government agencies. In-house resources include architects, archaeologists, architectural conservators, architectural historians and preservation planners.

For the last nine years, **Doug McVarish**, '91 has worked as an architectural historian at JMA in Philadelphia. He is presently principal architectural historian and project manager. During the course of his work at JMA, he has become the in-house industrial archeologist, and lock, dam,

*Continued on next page*

## Photos and Words: How a Preservationist Can Use the Media

by Andi Livi

Preservationists often struggle with public opinion. Getting people informed, interested and involved is usually an uphill battle. However, in this struggle, the preservationist can use the media to gain the positive public involvement needed. This was the topic of discussion when Alfred Holden, graduate of the UVM HP program and business editor at the *Toronto Star*, gave a guest lecture to the HP302 Advocacy class.

Mr. Holden started by saying "most of us are in preservation to make the world a better place. Most journalists want the same thing." He then explained the different ways that preservationists could use the opportunities afforded by the media, especially print. Through many examples and case studies, Mr. Holden showed how a potentially conflicting relationship can be changed to benefit both professions.

*"Preservationists should regularly use media to shape preservation"*

The first topic was advocacy: how a simple article, opinion column or editorial can increase public awareness and sometimes stimulate enough involvement to save a structure. Another important aspect of media involvement is print validation. On this point, Mr. Holden noted that "print can transform hated and misunderstood things." Even articles written solely for entertainment can have a positive impact from a preservation point of view: showing the fun aspects of a neighborhood, for example, can save it down the line. Mr. Holden showed how even in different fields, such as business, preservation issues can be featured. For the "lost causes" that preservationists often have to deal with, Mr. Holden encouraged the use of the "Penn Station Effect:" even if this particular building cannot be saved, having the public aware of the loss can prevent others from being destroyed.

*"Always have an extra roll of film"*

Mr. Holden's main point, throughout his talk, was to emphasize the importance of photographs. He quoted Prof. Tom Visser, of the UVM HP Program: "Slides are like wine, they get better with age." A camera should always be ready and any interesting feature should be photographed, even if its use is not obvious at the time. Mr. Holden showed many examples of cases where photos taken as much as ten years earlier became central to an article. The importance of other sources, such as historic postcards and photos, as well as other articles, was also stressed.

*"There are lots of stories to tell that nobody tells"*

Fear of copyright problems, inability to ask questions and misunderstandings with journalists may prevent the

*Continued on next page*



writing of countless preservation stories. In concluding his lecture, Mr. Holden explained that all of these problems can be avoided. He encouraged getting to know the local journalists and the use of resources, even if the paperwork is not always there: for most images, no one cares. Most of all, Mr. Holden encouraged the students to “be shameless about asking questions: ask for what you want.”

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## Alumni Update

*Continued from previous page*

bridge and airport expert. Recent projects have included an historic engineering evaluation of the Ohio River Navigation System, NHL and NR nominations for Ste. Genevieve, Missouri and historic architectural investigations at the Harrisburg International and Capital City airports (PA).

After completing her UVM degree work, **Kate Larson Farnham '99** moved to Washington, DC to work as a transmitter and historian at the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) at the National Park Service. Last November, she accepted a job as assistant architectural historian in JMA's Alexandria office. Since then, Kate has worked on a variety of projects, including research to aid in the interpretation of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century home in Stephens City, VA, Section 106 mitigation documentation of four 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in downtown Wheeling, WV and background research for rural archeology projects in Baltimore and Calvert Counties in Maryland and the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia. The ability to “read” a building's history and evolution, as well as the fieldwork and research skills she gained at UVM, have proven invaluable in Kate's work with JMA.

Following December graduation and a seven month stint with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, **Sarah Farley '01** accepted a job as a Project Architectural Historian with JMA in Philadelphia. She is completing her first project, which has entailed lots of fieldwork, photography, building surveys, deed research, historical research and report writing.

**Kerry Davis '01**, was hired in May 2001 by Historic Preservation Services of Kansas City, Missouri, as an architectural historian. Kerry's recent projects have included writing building descriptions for a 612-property National Register nomination in St. Louis, assisting with an Reinvestment Tax Credit application for the rehabilitation of a 1920s hotel in Kansas City, working on a cultural landscape survey of the Kansas University campus, and writing building descriptions for a 243-building National Register nomination for a post-World War II suburban community.



*Graduate students in the Architectural Conservation II class discuss preservation in a museum setting with Objects Conservator Nancy Ravenelle at the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont.*

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## Historic Buildings Damaged in World Trade Center Attack

By Michael Bowman

On September 11, the world watched in horror as two of New York City's most recognizable buildings were destroyed, killing thousands of innocent Americans including scores of brave firefighters, police and EMS workers. In times such as these historic preservation seems insignificant within the larger context, yet as time goes on and the dust settles the far reaching impact of the attack is becoming apparent. There are sixty-seven designated New York City landmarks and six historic districts within lower Manhattan alone. Although none of these buildings and structures were at “ground zero,” the collapse of the mammoth Trade Towers affected many of New York's historic resources both directly and indirectly.

Of those directly affected when the millions of tons of steel came crashing to the ground, the most severe damage was suffered by Federal Hall and 90 West Street. Federal Hall, the 1842 Greek Revival Customs House designed by Ithiel Town and A.J. Davis, built on the site of George Washington's inauguration and the first City Hall of New York, was used as a refuge after the collapse by more than 1,000 people. As a result the interior space and collections were left in shambles, and although the building was shielded from the WTC and didn't sustain direct damage from flying debris, the seismic shock of the collapse caused existing foundation cracks to widen considerably and new ones to form. Also, due to the enormous plume of dust and

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## Survivor!

### University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program Student Research Project Saves Local Landmark

by Mary O'Neil

The challenge was simple: Of the nearly five hundred structures that appear on an 1830 map of the town of Burlington, drawn by the nationally prominent architect Ammi B. Young, which buildings still survive? Professor Thomas Visser issued the assignment to twelve Historic Preservation graduate students in his fall 2000 *Researching Historic Sites and Structures* class. To assist the students with their research, Prof. Visser scanned the 1830 map and contemporary aerial orthophotographs of the area. Using digital image transformations to rectify distortions, he produced semitransparent overlay maps to show which buildings share the same footprints.

Using the 1830 Young map, downtown Burlington was divided into sections to be researched by each student. While some researchers enjoyed the relative comfort of well-documented high style homes and university buildings in Burlington's fashionable Hill Section, others shared more varied neighborhoods, dotted with the remnants of labor housing and vestiges of early mills, shops and warehouses. In one enclave, a block from the Lake Champlain waterfront and railroad tracks, a discovery was made that would cast new light on the early maritime history of Burlington and spark a well-publicized local preservation debate.

Using map evidence as an initial filter, several buildings were selected as potential candidates for the 1830 benchmark. The building at 43-45 King Street was of particular interest, having maintained the same distinctive footprint. After procuring an invitation from the building's owner, an interior survey was conducted by several students. They found ample physical evidence to support the theory of its pre-1830 construction, including hand hewn beams with discernable tooling, hand wrought nails and the appearance of sash saw marks. Although the building suffered from some alterations and its recent use as a tavern with a poor reputation in the neighborhood, the story-and-a-half knee wall cape did retain a Federal style fanlight over the front door, Federal style cornice returns on the gables and a beautifully constructed limestone foundation. Extensive archival research further supported the building's inclusion in the pre-1830 list, but it also revealed that "The Chicken Bone" bar was actually one of the earliest surviving buildings near Burlington's waterfront and that it was quite historically significant.

Beginning in 1815, "The White Place" (as it is called in nineteenth century city probate records) passed through the hands of at least five ship captains who plied the waters

between Burlington, Vermont; St. Jean, Quebec; and Whitehall, New York. The first residents of the White Place, brothers Lavater, Andrew, Robert, with foster brother H.B.

Sawyer, were well known for their contributions to the region's maritime history and for their involvement with the War of 1812. With Lake Champlain providing a major inland waterway connecting New York and Lower Canada, Burlington emerged as a major commercial port during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, offering transportation and a strong mercantile exchange to the north and south.

Sometimes a site also warrants special attention because of association with historic events and local lore. On the night of September 4-5, 1819, the steamer *Phoenix* left Burlington harbor at 11:00 p.m. Shortly after midnight the vessel caught fire. Author Abby Maria Hemenway reports in *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer* of 1867 that the blaze could be seen from the Burlington shore in the clear night sky and Captain Robert White and two others launched their sloops in a rescue attempt. Six lives were lost that night, but thirty-nine survived. The remains of *Phoenix*, the oldest surviving steamboat hull in the world, still sit intact on the bottom of Lake Champlain.



45-43 King Street:  
"The Chicken Bone" a.k.a. "The White Place"

Other prominent owners of 43-45 King Street included Gideon King, considered "the Admiral of the Lake." His dominance in lake trade is reflected in the anecdote that at one time he either owned or had mortgages on every vessel on Lake Champlain. Another notable owner was Henry Rolfe, agent for the Hunterstown Lumber Company. After the 1849 arrival of the railroad, Burlington emerged as the third largest lumber port in the United States.

Ironically, just as the UVM Historic Preservation Program students were documenting the historical significance of the White Place, the building faced demolition. Despite testimony from the students on the building's significance at Burlington Development Review hearings, the city approved the building's removal. The students' testimony, however, raised the issue among Vermont preservationists, which helped to put pressure on the developers to postpone demolition so that rehabilitation



*Survivor continued...*

alternatives could be explored. Preservation advocates around the state joined in the effort and with leadership and financial support from the Preservation Trust of Vermont, a rehab plan was developed. After several more months of negotiations, the original developer agreed to relinquish the property on the condition that part of the lot would be used for low-income housing. Under the current plan, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will preserve and rehabilitate the main part of "The White Place" for use by nonprofit organizations and the local Habitat for Humanity group will replace a rear wing of the building with a new townhouse.

Burlington enjoys a rich historic, cultural and architectural history. Any new information can only further enhance every citizen's understanding of how this community evolved into the dynamic city it is today. The team project of Professor Visser's class was the key to identifying this important, tactile connection to Burlington's maritime history.

## Graduating: Class of 2002

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settlement. She shared her discoveries as a guest speaker with the Chittenden County Historical Society and conducted walking tours of Burlington's waterfront with school groups. Mary submitted an article about the discoveries of surviving historic buildings in Burlington to the National Council for Preservation Education newsletter. Enjoying the detective work of using old maps, Mary is now employed at the City of Burlington Assessors Office as a research associate for land transfers.

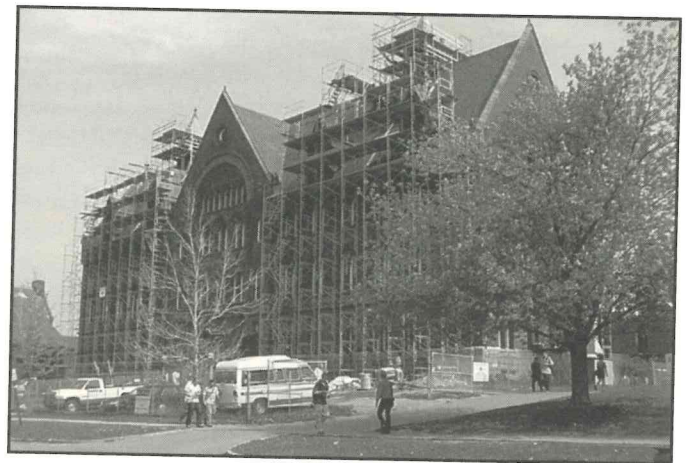
**Lisa Ryan**, a native of upstate New York, received a BA from Skidmore College and spent her first year out of school living and working in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Upon her return to the States, she spent time in Albany, NY working for Habitat for Humanity. Prior to her move to Vermont, she worked at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and The International Learning Center, Boston, as the Assistant to the Coordinator of Museum Access and an ADA consultant. Her graduate work at UVM has included an internship with the town of Stowe, Vermont preparing a National Register Amendment and researching ADA accessibility and its relationship to streetscape design and planning. For her spring research trip Lisa traveled to the Southwest and Mexico to explore the use of earthen architecture and work on the conservation of an abode mission. This fall she is designing a handbook for museum administrators and curators of historic buildings on ADA accessibility. Her interest in preservation stems from her work with historic museums on ADA compliance and her belief that creativity matched with integrity can provide viable and exciting solutions to the challenges faced by historic museums today in providing universal access to sites and structures.

## Campus Update

by Jason Klostreich

The UVM campus is the site of a major preservation project at Williams Hall, located between the Old Mill and the Billings Student Center on the University Green.

The two-phase project began last spring under the supervision of H.P. Cummings Construction, Alpine Restoration and Smith, Alvarez and Sienkiewicz, a local architecture firm in Burlington. Phase one entails major preservation and restoration work on everything above the cornice line of the building, including the steep-pitched slate roof, copper flashing, architectural terra cotta and copper sheathed cupolas. Phase two will encompass everything below the cornice line, says chief architect, Marty Sienkiewicz.



*Preservation Work on UVM's Williams Hall, built in 1896*

According to UVM HP Professor Thomas Visser, planning for the project accelerated two years ago, after a violent windstorm blew off a large area of slate shingles. Inspection of the damage revealed numerous maintenance issues, one being the puncture of copper flashing, which in turn caused drainage failures. After consultation and discussion, a more aggressive plan was accepted to address many of the issues that have allowed the deterioration of Williams Hall.

Designed by Wilson Brothers, architects and engineers of Philadelphia, PA, the exterior of Williams Hall is enriched with unglazed architectural terra cotta ornamentation. The fired clay is in remarkably good condition considering Burlington's harsh winters and the building's age. However, most of the damage is minor and only requires some repointing. Phase one is scheduled for completion this winter at a cost of over one million dollars.



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smoke that followed the collapse the exterior of the building was covered in a thick layer of black soot, which further caused the failure of the out-dated 1970s HVAC system that was totally clogged and left inoperative. In total the National Park Service estimates that clean-up, replacement of the HVAC system and repair of the foundation will cost upwards of fifteen million dollars.

The most severely damaged building, however, was 90 West Street. This turn-of-the-century mid-rise office building, designed by Cass Gilbert and often called the "little Woolworth Building" sustained direct damage from falling debris and fire. The building's mansard roof was crushed by the falling steel beams and concrete while the ornate terra-cotta facade was ravaged by a secondary fire that gutted much of the interior of the building. Authorities do not yet know whether the building will need to be demolished due to structural damage or whether it is salvageable; either way the damage estimates are well into the millions of dollars. Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel also sustained minor damage with their surrounding burial grounds, sadly, taking the brunt of it.



The indirect consequences of the attack are less tangible and will be felt and measured in the coming months. These include the loss of tourism in Manhattan due to public fears, which translates into fewer people visiting the city's landmarks and historic sites, and ultimately a decrease in revenue. Despite this though, New York City as a whole is stronger and more unified than ever. Even though the World Trade Center Complex was never considered for landmark designation, its place within the hearts of Americans is assured. In the coming months and years the city will rebuild and heal both the scar of the WTC and the damage suffered by landmarks during the event.

Roger Lang, Director of Community Programs and Services for the New York Landmarks Conservancy summed it up best in a recent conversation: "Despite a horrible loss of life (approximately 6,000 people) and of Class A office space (perhaps 30 million square feet in all), New York City's historic downtown landmarks are not only alive and well, but they are open for business."

*For more information on how you can help go to:*  
[www.nylandmarks.org](http://www.nylandmarks.org)

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